

"Paradise Lost" headlines U of M Bell Museum's newest exhibits and programs exploring climate change on northern ecosystems

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/02/2008) —Paintings, photography, pub gatherings and poetry mark a four-month exploration of the effects of global warming on northern ecosystems in "Seeing Climate Change" beginning January through April 2008 at the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Anchoring the suite of events is "Paradise Lost: Climate Change in the North Woods," a multimedia exhibit -- opening Saturday, Feb. 16 -- of paintings, drawings, sculpture, journals and music by 20 regional artists, seven scientists and six teachers from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. From the stark beauty of a snowy, moonlit forest, to dramatic ice melts on Lake Superior, the exhibit's more than 36 original works of art poignantly capture the fragility and beauty of northern climates. Lively, expert narrative offers a framework for the artwork, as well as encouraging advice on actions that can be taken individually and collectively to preserve the northern environment.

Other "Seeing Climate Change" offerings include a four-day film festival of original and award-winning films; a live webcast to kickoff Focus the Nation's nationwide "teach-in" on climate change solutions; an evening of poetry featuring Twin Cities-based Laurel Poetry Collective; a series of Café Scientifiques on the subject of alternative fuels, climate policy and changing landscapes; gallery talks with artists and ecology experts; and upbeat and educational children's programming ranging from creating mini-habitats to growing gardens.

The opening reception for "Paradise Lost" is scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 16 with speakers from the University of Wisconsin, Madison's Center for Biology Education and Forest Landscape Ecology Lab and contributing artists and musicians. Admission is \$10; free for museum members. For tickets call (612) 624-9050.

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.

University of Minnesota receives \$2 Million gift for learning technologies chair

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/03/2008) —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, 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."

Modern day explorers featured in U of M Bell Museum's new "Adventure Science" series

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/03/2008) —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 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.

U of M physicist reads the history of the solar system in grains of comet dust

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/03/2008) —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 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.



U of M to hold briefing on legislative priorities for State Capitol press

What: U of M briefing for Capitol press

When: 9 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 10, 2008

Where: State Office Building Room 500 North

Who: Kathleen O'Brien, vice president, University Services

Karen Himle, vice president, Office of University Relations

Donna Peterson, associate vice president, Government and Community Relations

Daniel Wolter, director, University News Service

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

January 4, 2008

Officials from the University of Minnesota will hold a briefing for the Capitol press corps at 9 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 10, in State Office Building Room 500 North.

Items to be discussed include the university's state bonding request, the proposed biomedical science bonding authority and the university's position regarding the route of the proposed Central Corridor light rail line.

Professor Deborah Dillon Awarded Guy Bond Chair in Reading

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/04/2008) —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 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.

U of M to hold annual Martin Luther King Jr. Concert

When: 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20

Where: Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S. Minneapolis

Who: The Steeles

Contacts: Ami Berger, Office for Equity and Diversity, (612) 625-0498
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

January 7, 2008

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.

U of M Good Neighbor Fund now accepting applications for grants

Surrounding neighborhoods can request funding for community projects

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/07/2008) —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.

Internationally acclaimed "Life: A Journey Through Time" premieres Feb. 14 at the U of M Bell Museum

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/07/2008) —“Life: A Journey Through Time,” the internationally acclaimed exhibit that traces the evolution of life on Earth through photos by Frans Lanting, makes its North American premiere Feb. 14, at the University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St., S.E., Minneapolis.

Lanting’s lyrical photos interpret Earth’s history from the beginnings of primordial life to the ascent of mammals through otherworldly landscapes and breathtakingly intimate portraits of animals and plants engaged in million-year-old rituals. Many of the exhibit’s 62 photographs are matched with real animal, fossil and plant specimens from the Bell Museum’s collection.

Lanting, whose work has appeared in National Geographic, frequently portrays wild creatures as ambassadors for the preservation of complete ecosystems. Born in the Netherlands, Lanting serves on the National Council of the World Wildlife Fund and is a columnist for Outdoor Photographer and has received the BBC Wildlife Magazine’s Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award and the Sierra Club’s Ansel Adams Award for Conservation Photography.

The exhibit’s opening reception, coinciding with the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin’s birthday, is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12. The opening event will feature top university biologists, each giving a rapid-fire, six-minute-and-forty-second multimedia presentation relating their newest research on evolution to Lanting’s breathtaking photographs . Tickets to the event are \$10; free for museum members and university students.

Get an even closer look at Lanting’s work and the science behind it with David Fox, an associate professor and paleontologist in the department of geology who teaches about ice age extinctions, and Franklin Barnwell, a professor of ecology, evolution and behavior, during exhibit walkabouts scheduled for Sunday, March 8 and Sunday, April 5. The walkabouts are free with museum admission.

U of M's Doug Arnold elected president of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/08/2008) —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 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.

University of Minnesota Ranked in Top 100 Best Fleets in North America

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/09/2008) —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.

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.

May you be with the Force

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

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

January 9, 2008

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/>.

U of M researcher helps discover road to sustainable electronic devices

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/10/2008) —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.

United States Department of Agriculture Chief Economist to visit U of M

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

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

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/10/2008) —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.

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.

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

Media Note: EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01 A.M. JANUARY 15TH

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/14/2008) —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.

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.

U of M to visit Brooklyn Park to discuss today's human resources challenges

"Quick Quotes Audio" available for media use

Contacts: Mary Kay Delvo, University of Minnesota Alumni Association, (612) 626-1417
Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/14/2008) —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)

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.

Historic U of M Building Up for Lease

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

Contacts: Jim Litsheim, Capital Planning Project Management, (612) 624-4359 litsh002@umn.edu
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/14/2008) —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 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.



U of M President reacts to governor's bonding recommendations

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/14/2008) —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.”

U of M researchers identify the keys to successful transportation projects in first of its kind study

Contacts: Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service (612)624-0214
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612)624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/14/2008) —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 design better roads, mass transit systems and other modes of transportation to ensure community members interests are served.

Physics Circus brings large-scale stunts -- and physics lessons -- to U of M's Northrop Auditorium Thursday

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu
Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, (612) 626-7959, rzurn@umn.edu

January 14, 2008

If you've never seen a physicist drop 20 feet through the air while his friend shoots a ball at him from a cannon, or grown men shooting streams of toilet paper over an audience with a leaf blower, the University of Minnesota has a show for you.

The university's Physics Force presents their largest public show of the year at the annual "Physics Circus" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, in Northrop Auditorium, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. The show is a unique mix of large-scale physics demonstrations and humor that is fun 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."

Demonstrations include dropping one of the team members from a 20-foot tower 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 a team member 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).

In addition to Dahlberg, 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). They have performed variations of their show at Disney's Epcot Center, on public television's Newton's Apple show and on the Knoff-Hoff Show, a German television science program. The Physics Force has been performing since 1985.

The Physics Circus is funded by the University of Minnesota. For more information, visit <http://www.physics.umn.edu/outreach/pforce/>.

University of Minnesota receives gift to establish environmental engineering chair

Contacts: Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, (612) 626-7959
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/15/2008) —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 Fofoula-Georgiou, a McKnight Distinguished Professor in the university's department of civil engineering, will be the first faculty member to hold the chair. Fofoula-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 Fofoula-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.

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, Fofoula-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.

Fofoula-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."

University of Minnesota's 'EthicShare' Project pilots a groundbreaking approach to ethics research

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Robyn White, department of computer science and engineering, (612) 625-2424
Erin George, University Libraries, (612) 624-9338

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/15/2008) —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 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.

Ecolab CEO at U of M to discuss sustainability in conjunction with profitability

When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5

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

Who: Doug Baker, chairman, president, CEO, Ecolab Inc.

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770

Registration: (612) 626-9334, firsttuesday@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/15/2008) —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.

University of Minnesota reaches top 10 for Peace Corps volunteers

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/16/2008) —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.

U of M to host fourth annual Women's Leadership Conference addresses academic, international business and nonprofit concerns

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

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

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/17/2008) —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.

U of M, State lawmakers tackle youth development policy

Mayor Rybak to attend this first of three annual policy breakfasts

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

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

Contacts: Anitra Budd, College of Education and Human Development, (612) 626-7486, budd0018@umn.edu

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

January 17, 2008

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.

Annual Legislative Briefing brings together university supporters to advocate for U priorities

Attendees invited to go out and share their personal U stories

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/18/2008) —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.

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.



Cancellation of U of M Hormel Institute event

The Wednesday event will be rescheduled

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

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

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

January 22, 2008

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

U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison to deliver keynote for Law School's community volunteerism kickoff event

Contacts: Cynthia Huff, Law School, (612) 625-6691, Huffx070@umn.edu
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801, matte016@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/22/2008) —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 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.

ND STUDENTS MAKE U OF MINNESOTA DEAN'S LIST

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/22/2008) —The following students have made the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus 2007 Fall Semester dean's list. Students on the list all achieved a grade point average of 3.66 or higher while taking 12 or more credits.

The following students have made the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus 2007 Fall Semester dean's list. Students on the list all achieved a grade point average of 3.66 or higher while taking 12 or more credits.

Derek J Matthews Fargo ND
Rachel J Hanson Fargo ND
Daniel J Hassoun Fargo ND
Parker S Kruckenberg Fargo ND
Chelsey D Odegaard Fargo ND
Leah S Berg Fargo ND
Frieda A Larson Gilby ND
LaVan M Overfield Glen Ullin ND
Karlee A Johnson Grand Forks ND
Katelyn M Hurley Grand Forks ND
Elizabeth C Laidlaw Grand Forks ND
Elizabeth G Misialek Grand Forks ND
Shaun M Johnson Grand Forks ND
Leigh L Schreiner Grand Forks ND
Dylan R Nitzkowski Harwood ND
Benjamin P Gordon Hillsboro ND
Cole D Bauer Kenmare ND
Darin R Schwinkendorf Mandan ND
Jesse R Fleck Mandan ND
Kayla R Boudreaux Manvel ND
Cynthia S Gee Minot ND
Tari A Helmers Minot ND
Cassandra L Moorhead Minot ND
Kassaundra J Zimmer Munich ND
Bridget A Noltimier Penn ND
Andrew R Garcia Wahpeton ND
Joseph M Connor West Fargo ND
Johnathan R Sharkey Westhope ND
Amy S Kroll Williston ND
Brittany K Palmer Williston ND
James P Imes Williston ND

U of M hosts statewide robotics competition Jan. 24-25 focusing on climate

Contacts: Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu
Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, (612) 626-7959, rzurn@umn.edu

January 22, 2008

Hundreds of elementary and middle school students on 67 robotics teams from across Minnesota will compete on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 24 and 25, in the FIRST LEGO League State Championship at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul. The competition runs from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. with championship matches from 3:15 - 4:30 p.m. each day. The event is free and open to the public.

This year's LEGO League competition theme, "Climate Connections," challenges students (ages nine-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 links between science, people, resources and communities as they relate to climate. Each team's robot will compete on a 4-foot-by-8-foot, table-top playing field simulating tasks such as constructing a levee, extracting an ice core sample and insulating a house.

In addition to the performance rounds, students are judged on their research project that included exploring a problem caused by climate in the team's community. Based on that research, the student team is asked to create an innovative solution to the problem, including the impact they can have. To expand their global view, teams also researched another community in a different geographical area that is experiencing a similar problem.

The competitions are judged by professional engineers and scientists. The teams competing in the state championship advanced from a pool of more than 360 Minnesota teams who competed in nine regional tournaments over the past two months. Saturday's Division I champion will advance to compete May 7-9 in the U.S. Open Championship in Dayton, Ohio, and Sunday's Division II champion will compete in the LEGO League World Festival April 15-18 in Atlanta.

This year in Minnesota, more than 2,000 students competed in LEGO League competitions sponsored by the Minnesota nonprofit group HighTechKids. Worldwide more than 100,000 children in 40 countries compete in LEGO League competitions.

For more information about FIRST LEGO League and HighTechKids visit www.hightechkids.org and www.firstlegoleague.org.

First steel for TCF Bank Stadium to be installed Monday

Latest step signifies the construction "going vertical"

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

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

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

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

January 23, 2008

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. Minneapolis-based M.A. Mortenson Company is the project's general contractor.

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.

Strutting for Sustainability: 40th Annual U of M Fashion Show to Highlight Environmentally-Friendly Clothing

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

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

Contacts: Juyeon Park, Department of Design, Housing and Apparel, parkx259@umn.edu, (612) 626-1254

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

January 24, 2008

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>.

SD STUDENTS MAKE U OF MINNESOTA DEAN'S LIST

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/24/2008) —The following students have made the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus 2007 Fall Semester dean's list. Students on the list all achieved a grade point average of 3.66 or higher while taking 12 or more credits.

Alyssa Strand Sioux Falls SD
Kristen A Simons Aberdeen SD
Shana N Conklin Aberdeen SD
Andrew P Bockover Black Hawk SD
Joya M Weir Brandon SD
Katee L Telgren Brookings SD
Brett V Scriver Colman SD
Lindsey K Daly Columbia SD
Austin J Adams Dell Rapids SD
Austin L Wiebe Doland SD
Krista J Webb Estelline SD
Jessica Price Harrisburg SD
Frank F Ginsbach Hot Springs SD
Ann B Erickson Huron SD
Laura E Brosnan Huron SD
Hillary R Kalisiak Ludlow SD
Kailah M Anglin Miller SD
Jenna A Morrison Mitchell SD
Kristopher P Schwebler North Sioux City SD
Annie E Fischer Parkston SD
Matt L Macer Rapid City SD
Ashley L Nord Rapid City SD
Dustin A Chacon Rapid City SD
Tyler M Blazey Rapid City SD
Emily A Peters Sioux Falls SD
Breanna L Kelly Sioux Falls SD
Robert L Morris Sioux Falls SD
Peter A Costanzo Sioux Falls SD
Nikki B Loria Sioux Falls SD
Briar R DeHaven Sioux Falls SD
Corbin M Simon Sioux Falls SD
Michelle M Dornberger Sioux Falls SD
Laura L Wightman Sioux Falls SD
Kelsey N Dahlquist Sioux Falls SD
Jessica L Emerson Sioux Falls SD
Sayfe A Jassim Sioux Falls SD
Morgan M Greenfield Sioux Falls SD
Andrew C Hey Sioux Falls SD
Jennifer M Ulmer Sioux Falls SD
Chris H Marshall Sioux Falls SD
Janette M Wilsey Tea SD
Alicia J Smith Valley Springs SD
Carrie J Christensen Vermillion SD
Jenna R Krause Watertown SD
Ashley M Engels Watertown SD
Josiah A Kosier Watertown SD
Jacob L Stricherz Watertown SD
Blaire S Tritle Winner SD
Bradley E Norton Yankton SD
Anthony J Miller Yankton SD

Former Doctors Without Borders president James Orbinski will talk about medical humanitarianism at the U of M Humphrey Institute

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

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

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

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/24/2008) —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.

Veteran political observer Ted Van Dyk will speak at the U of M Humphrey Institute

When: 5:30 p.m. reception; 6 p.m. program Tuesday, Feb. 12

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

Who: Ted Van Dyk, former presidential adviser, political analyst and journalist

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436

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

January 25, 2008

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.

U of M chosen to compete in international Solar Decathlon

Contacts: Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, (612) 626-7959
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/25/2008) —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 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 Energy \$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.

New researchers will boost University of Minnesota's climatology research

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/28/2008) —Three new faculty members in the University of Minnesota's department of soil, water and climate will play key roles in the university's efforts to understand how the Earth's climate is changing.

Expanding the department's climate-change team "was a critical need for us," said Ed Nater, department head. "Climate change has an impact on numerous issues of importance to society -- from crop production to forest health, biodiversity to urbanization." The scientists' specialties will complement each other and those of existing faculty to provide a more comprehensive picture of how the atmosphere closest to the earth is changing.

The new scientists are:

- Assistant professor Dylan Millet, whose research is in atmospheric chemistry; he was most recently a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University.
- Assistant professor Peter Snyder, who works in large-scale global climate modeling; he was an assistant professor at the University of Illinois.
- Assistant professor Tracy Twine, whose research focuses on biosphere-atmosphere interactions. She was an assistant professor at the University of Illinois.

Adding the new scientists will increase opportunities for university-wide interdisciplinary research and teaching in the atmospheric sciences, Nater said. "We're trying to understand the near-surface interactions between the atmosphere, soil and plants. If you're going to understand climate change, you need to understand those interactions. This is probably the issue of our times."

All three are arriving this month. The department of soil, water and climate is part of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

University of Minnesota scientist honored by Society for Conservation Biology

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/28/2008) —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.

Seth Shostak of the SETI Institute to speak at U of M about the search for intelligent life elsewhere in the universe

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31

Where: Room 150 of the Tate Lab of Physics, 116 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis

Who: Seth Shostak, SETI Institute

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/28/2008) —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.



Gov. Pawlenty to speak at U of M open house for business community

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

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

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

Contacts: Amy Danielson, Academic and Corporate Relations Center, (612) 625-1453

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/28/2008) —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.

Destined to lie, cheat or steal? New research from the University of Minnesota finds that believing in free will can keep us honest

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/29/2008) —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.

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.



U of M President to address Iron Range leaders

When: Thursday, Jan. 31, 5:30 p.m.

Where: Coates Hotel, 502 Chestnut Street, Virginia

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

January 29, 2008

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.

U of M, Uptown Business Association partner to fight heart disease

Contacts: Jaeha Lee, Department of Design, Housing and Apparel, (612) 624-2254, leex1405@umn.edu

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

January 30, 2008

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.



U of M to host Language Immersion Celebration

More than 1,000 students from 18 schools will attend

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

January 30, 2008

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.

IL STUDENTS MAKE U OF MINNESOTA DEAN'S LIST

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/31/2008) —AREA STUDENTS MAKE U OF MINNESOTA DEAN'S LIST

The following students have made the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus 2007 Fall Semester dean's list. Students on the list all achieved a grade point average of 3.66 or higher while taking 12 or more credits.

Kelsey A Gallagher Addison IL
Christopher M Montalbano Arlington Heights IL
Zachary A Rosen Arlington Heights IL
Gregory J Reynolds Aurora IL
Claudia M Wozniak Buffalo Grove IL
Rebecca H Bryan Buffalo Grove IL
Sarah Y Semon Carol Stream IL
Kimberly M Sauer Centralia IL
Donovan J Roediger Champaign IL
Colleen R Powers Cherry Valley IL
Kelly A Farley Crystal Lake IL
Jessica D Mino Crystal Lake IL
Stephanie N DiPrima Elgin IL
Elissa A Henricks Glenview IL
Candace M Rutkowski Gurnee IL
Kimberly A Beach Hoffman Estates IL
Samuel R Weller Jacksonville IL
Christina E Smith Lake In The Hills IL
Brittany A McCoy Lincolnwood IL
Bryana M Fritz Mundelein IL
Kyle R Menary Mundelein IL
Jaclyn E Campoli Naperville IL
Jessica P Huffman Naperville IL
Matthew M Schwer Naperville IL
Svetlana Gitman Northbrook IL
Michael S Azen Northbrook IL
Bridget R Gallogly Oak Park IL
Mary A Scott Oregon IL
Ashley L Colberg Oswego IL
Ashley L Alexander Plano IL
Lisa P Wasielewski Prospect Hts IL
Valerie E O'Brien Rockford IL
Holly N Hagan Roscoe IL
Jessica M Bubert Roscoe IL
Joann G Dzon Round Lake Beach IL
Corey J Brodsky Schaumburg IL
Jamie Barrashr Schaumburg IL
Amanda M Cannon Third Lake IL
Jill L Hawkins Virden IL
Carol A Fortman West Chicago IL
Kelly R Burke Western Springs IL
Bradley S Bornstein Wilmette IL



Met Council to hear public testimony on the proposed Central Corridor light rail line at U of M listening session, Feb. 6

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

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

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

January 31, 2008

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.

U of M first in the Midwest to offer ecotourism certificate

Contacts: Ingrid Schneider, University Tourism Center, (612) 624-2250 or ingridss@umn.edu
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690 or luisab@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/31/2008) —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/.

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.

New advisory panel appointed to University of Minnesota professional strategic communication graduate program

Contacts: Jen Keavy, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, (612) 625-8095
Gordon Leighton, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, (612) 626-7240

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/31/2008) —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 be found at <http://stratcomm.sjmc.umn.edu/>.

U of M workshop offers holistic, practical approach to managing finances

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

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

Contacts: Rachel Wright, College of Continuing Education, (612) 624-7770, wright474@umn.edu
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/31/2008) —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 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.

Time, Washington Post, The New York Times and other media organizations join forces with the U of M to tackle online news design issues

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/31/2008) —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.

U of M Black Student Union kicks off African History Month with media panel

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

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

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

February 1, 2008

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>.

University of Minnesota receives grants to improve student attendance and retention

Contacts: Anitra Budd, College of Education and Human Development, (612) 626-7486, budd0018@umn.edu

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/04/2008) —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.

"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.



U of M Hormel Institute to make announcement on Wednesday

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

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

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

February 4, 2008

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.

Poet Robert Bly and friends to appear as part of U of M Conference highlighting Bly's career as poet, translator and cultural pioneer

Contacts: Marlo Welshons, University of Minnesota Libraries, welsh066@umn.edu, (612) 625-9148
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, mathre@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/04/2008) —The career of Minnesota's first Poet Laureate Robert Bly -- internationally recognized poet, translator, social critic and author -- is the subject of an academic and creative conference to be held at the University of Minnesota April 16-19, 2009. Keynoted by acclaimed scholar-poet and U of M alumnus Lewis Hyde, "Robert Bly In This World" will bring renowned scholars, editors, poets and translators from around the world to the Twin Cities to discuss and celebrate Bly's wide-ranging achievements and influence.

A highlight of the conference will be three evening public performances at Willey Hall, 225 19th Avenue S. Minneapolis:

--Hyde's keynote address will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16. Hyde will be introduced by local poet Jim Moore.

--Seattle author, storyteller, and musician Daniel Deardorff will perform on Friday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m., accompanied by New York author and storytelling pioneer Gioia Timpanelli, both long-time Bly collaborators.

--The conference concludes Saturday, April 18 with a festive evening of poetry by Robert Bly and friends, including poet and renowned Rumi translator Coleman Barks, accompanied by musicians Marcus Wise on tabla and David Whetstone on sitar.

From a family farmhouse in Madison, Minn., Bly changed the way Americans write and read poetry. By editing the influential magazines, "The Fifties," "The Sixties," and "The Seventies," Bly challenged old forms and introduced readers to poets from around the world. In addition to translating the work of 23 poets from Norwegian, Swedish, French, Spanish, German, Japanese, Latin, Urdu and Persian languages, Bly has published more than 20 groundbreaking volumes of his own poetry, prose and anthologies, including the New York Times bestseller "Iron John."

Lewis Hyde, who earned a MacArthur Fellowship for his ground-breaking book "The Gift," has known Bly since 1964 when as an undergraduate at the University of Minnesota, Hyde met Bly on a bus to a Vietnam War protest march. Hyde later worked with Bly on a translation of Spanish poet Vicente Aleixandre. When Aleixandre won the Nobel Prize in 1977, their book of his poetry was one of the few editions of the work available in English.

The conference will feature other scholars of Bly's poetry and storytelling as well as the history of the Minnesota Men's Conference and Great Mother Conference (both founded by Bly), including:

--Anne Wright, widow of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet James Wright, will discuss the close relationship between Bly and Wright.

--Ray Gonzalez, poet, translator and chair of the Creative Writing Department at the University of Minnesota, will discuss the influence of Bly's translations on contemporary American poetry.

--Hugh Van Dusen, Bly's long-time editor at HarperCollins, will discuss the development of the powerful poetry anthology, "The Rag and Bone Shop of the Heart."

--English scholar of Persian and Sufism Leonard Lewisohn will discuss the process of translating with Bly the poems of iconic 14th century Persian poet Hafiz.

Daytime conference sessions will be held in the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue S. Minneapolis, which houses the Robert Bly archives and which will present a special exhibition of Bly materials. Fee for the conference is \$125 (\$150 after 4/1/09); student rate is \$25 (\$40 after 4/1/09). For more information or to register, visit <http://www.lib.umn.edu/bly/>.

U of M to release virtual tour of TCF Bank Stadium, list of 2008 recruits

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

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

February 5, 2008

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.

U of M Center for Reading Research to honor schools for achievement in reading

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

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

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

February 5, 2008

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)
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.

University of Minnesota to visit Ramsey to discuss urban planning in today's changing environment

"Quick Quotes Audio" available for media

Contacts: Mary Kay Delvo, University of Minnesota Alumni Association, (612) 626-1417
Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/05/2008) —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)

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.

University of Minnesota study: Destroying native ecosystems for biofuel crops will worsen global warming

Media Note: MEDIA NOTE: Embargo: 2 p.m. (ET) Thursday, Feb. 7

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/05/2008) —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 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.

State economist, U of M professor to discuss Minnesota's finances

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

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

Contacts: Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, (612) 626-5754

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

February 5, 2008

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.

U of M Board of Regents to meet this week

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

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

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

February 5, 2008

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 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.

Fossil fuels and nitrogen fertilizers may be slowly reducing the number of plant species globally, U of M study says

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/06/2008) —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 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.



Virtual tour of TCF Bank Stadium now available

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/06/2008) —Opening day of TCF Bank Stadium is 583 days away, but the University of Minnesota's athletics department is providing a sneak preview to the public today.

A virtual tour of the stadium was released to media at 3:30 this afternoon. To view the tour, visit: http://www.gophersports.com/ViewArticle.dbml?DB_OEM_ID=8400&ATCLID=1382763 To download the tour for use in a newscast, visit: https://netfiles.umn.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-4410757_1-t_pSCANjrC

TCF Bank Stadium, the first on-campus football stadium in over two decades, will have the capacity to seat 50,000 and the potential to expand to 80,000. Set to open on Sept. 12, 2009 in a game against the United States Air Force Academy, the stadium is now taking shape with last week's first installation of steel. 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.

University of Minnesota to visit Cambridge to discuss new online health care program

"Quick Quotes Audio" available for media

Contacts: Mary Kay Delvo, University of Minnesota Alumni Association, (612) 626-1417
Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/06/2008) —Finding the right doctor at a local clinic or specific information on a health problem continue to be challenges for Minnesotans across the state. Now, help is available with the University of Minnesota's new My Health Minnesota _ Go Local, a free web-based resource that connects users with the proper health service. The program's Karla Block will discuss the groundbreaking online resource when she visits Cambridge on Friday, Feb. 8.

The event starts at noon at the Cambridge Rotary, 304 Main St. S., Cambridge. Block'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)

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.

U of M professors chew on 21st century food issues

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

Contacts: Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, (612) 626-5754

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

February 7, 2008

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.

A conversation about the current mortgage crisis and how it impacts North Minneapolis at U of M Feb. 13

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

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

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

February 7, 2008

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.

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

When: Great Conversations:

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 26

Where: Great Conversations:

Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Rachel Wright, College of Continuing Education, (612) 624-7770

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/08/2008) —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.

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

Tarone named director of CARLA at U of M

Contacts: Jennifer Schulz, Office of International Programs, (612) 624-0557
Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/08/2008) —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.

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.

U of M Black Student Union to host lecture on blacks in American comedy

When: noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15

Where: Room 12, Murphy Hall, 206 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis

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

February 11, 2008

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>.



U of M President Bruininks to testify at legislative committee hearings

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

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

February 11, 2008

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

The future of vehicle safety is at the U of M

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

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

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

February 12, 2008

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

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

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 Greco, Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), (612) 625-7501, mgreco@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/12/2008) —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 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.

Jack Scanlan Memorial Scholarship Established at the U of M

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/13/2008) —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.

UMC researchers developing equipment to get double duty out of biofuels

Contacts: Elizabeth Tollefson, University of Minnesota, Crookston, (218) 281-8432
Justin Ware, University News Service, (612) 626-1720

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/13/2008) —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.

Jim McReynolds of Caterpillar Global Paving at U of M to present "Wacko" leadership techniques to improve employee performance

When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 4

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

Who: Jim McReynolds, president of Caterpillar Global Paving

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/13/2008) —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.

U of M West Bank Arts Quarter presents the sixth annual Spark Festival of Electronic Music and Arts, Feb. 26 - March 2

Festival features media artist Paul DeMarinis, sound artist Richard Devine, composer Iancu Dumitrescu, art group Graffiti Research Lab and writer Simon Reynolds

Contacts: Justin Christy, theatre arts & dance, (612) 625-5380
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/14/2008) —The University of Minnesota's West Bank Arts Quarter will present the sixth annual SPARK Festival of Electronic Music & Arts, running Tuesday, Feb. 26 to Sunday, March 2. Events will take place in various locations on the university's West Bank Campus and Minneapolis' West Bank District. A complete schedule can be found at www.sparkfestival.org.

The SPARK Festival is a week-long celebration of the latest electronic music and arts, featuring works created by artists from around the globe. Founded in the University of Minnesota's School of Music in 2002 by professor Doug Geers, SPARK brings internationally recognized scholars and performers of electronic music and arts to the West Bank Arts Quarter for lectures, performances, master classes and multimedia installations. The festival has continued to expand to include submissions by choreographers, visual artists, theatre artists and artists who specialize in interdisciplinary work. This year's featured guest artists are Romanian composer Iancu Dumitrescu, sound artist Paul DeMarinis, sound designer/artist/remixer Richard Devine, music writer Simon Reynolds and art group Graffiti Research Lab. Past festival artists have included Morton Subotnick, DJ Spooky, Scanner, Paul Lansky and others.

Other festival highlights include daily multimedia performances and lectures by artists on their works and ideas, video and sound installations, guerilla-style events throughout the university's West Bank Arts Quarter and other venues including the Cedar Cultural Center and Coffman Memorial Union's The Whole, as well as SPARK NightLife -- noisy, pop-influenced live electronica performances with video -- every night at the Nomad World Pub.

For an up-to-date schedule of SPARK events and venues visit www.sparkfestival.org. Photographs available upon request. E-mail photo requests to justin@umn.edu.

The West Bank Arts Quarter unites the University of Minnesota's education, research, performance and exhibition facilities for the visual and performing arts in a compact district on the west bank of the university's Twin Cities campus. Comprised of the university's department of theatre arts & dance, School of Music, department of art and the new Interdisciplinary Program in the Collaborative Arts (IPCA), the West Bank Arts Quarter brings artists, teachers, students and scholars together across disciplines to share knowledge and ideas, talent and inspiration. This creative synergy results in the presentation of over 500 free concerts and events per year.

U of M Carlson School assistant professor Kathleen Vohs receives 2008 SAGE Young Scholar Award

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/14/2008) —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 information on Vohs can be found at carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/kvohs.

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

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

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

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

February 15, 2008

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.

Panel at U of M to explore physical, psychological effects of a war-torn Kenya

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

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

Contacts: Anitra Budd, College of Education and Human Development, (612) 626-7486, budd0018@umn.edu

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

February 15, 2008

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.

U of M buys Northside Plymouth Penn Shopping Center property to use for new Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center

Contacts: Hawona Sullivan Janzen, UROC Communications, (612) 626-1526
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/15/2008) —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."

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.

Award-winning national magazine "Contexts" moves editorial offices to U of M; inaugural issue available this month

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/15/2008) —“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 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.

Statement from President Bruininks on Northern Illinois University tragedy

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/15/2008) —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

University Student Legal Service and Community Learning Center offer Careers in Law Forum

What: Careers in Law Forum

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

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

Contacts: Mark Karon, University Student Legal Service, (612) 624-1001
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/18/2008) —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.

U of M collaborates with the local National Forum for Black Public Administrators to celebrate black female leaders

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

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

Contacts: Lawrencina Oramalu, Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, (612) 626-8112
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/19/2008) —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.

Support the U Day' at the Capitol is Wednesday, Feb. 20

State Auditor Rebecca Otto will be the featured speaker

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/20/2008) —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 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

U of M President Bruininks to visit Southwest Minnesota

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

February 20, 2008

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.

U of M national study finds students with disabilities do better after receiving same diploma as classmates

Contacts: Michael Moore, National Center on Educational Outcomes, (612) 626-0546
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/22/2008) —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 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.

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

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

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

February 22, 2008

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.

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

Contacts: Lisa Marshall, School of Music, (612) 626-1094 or marsh396@umn.edu
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/22/2008) —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 Minnesota Symphony Orchestra.

There will be a question and answer session with Santora after the March 1 performance.

U of M center on developmental disabilities wins funds from MacArthur Foundation

Contacts: Anitra Budd, College of Education and Human Development, (612) 626-7486, budd0018@umn.edu

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/22/2008) —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.

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

U of M hosts former Black Panther Bobby Seale

When: 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27

Where: Coffman Union Theater, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Contacts: Wilfried Zehourou, President: Black Student Union, (612) 624-8938, Zeho002@umn.edu; Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

February 25, 2008

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.

U of M symposium addresses threats of exotic species

Media Note: 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.

When: 8:30 a.m. to noon, Monday, March 3

Where: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, (612) 626-5754

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

February 26, 2008

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>

A statement from the University of Minnesota on the Central Corridor Light Rail Line alignment

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/26/2008) —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.”

U of M students with disabilities sponsor wheelchair basketball exhibition at halftime of Gopher game

When: 7:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28

Where: Williams Arena, 200 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Rachel Garaghty, Disabled Student Cultural Center, (612) 624-2602, gara0030@umn.edu

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

February 27, 2008

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.

U of M Carlson School recognized as a top contributors to research on service operations management

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/27/2008) —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, Management Science and Operations Research.

U of M Carlson School recognized as a top contributor to research on service operations management

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*Associate professor Susan Meyer Goldstein, a Juran Scholar, whose research focus is on healthcare service quality.

*Kingshuk 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 and customer loyalty in Internet retailing.

Three other Carlson School doctoral students supported the research of these professors. They are: Greg Heim, now an assistant professor at Texas A&M’s Mays College; Joy Field, now an 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*, *Management Science* and *Operations Research*.

Engineers Without Borders-USA founder to speak at U of M on March 4

Media Note: Amadei is available for media interviews from 3-4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4. Call (612) 626-7959 to schedule an interview.

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 4

Where: Van Vleck Auditorium, Tate Laboratory of Physics, 116 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis

Who: Bernard Amadei, founding president of Engineers Without Borders-USA

Contacts: Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, (612) 626-7959

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/27/2008) —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.

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/28/2008) —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."

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."

Dark matter experiment at U of M Soudan station retakes the lead in competitive race

Media Note:

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/29/2008) —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 GeV/c²) 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 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

U of M teams up with Xcel Energy in groundbreaking wind-to-battery project

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/29/2008) —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.

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.”

U of M Law School's Theatre of the Relatively Talentless present "Robin Hood, Esq."

What: Robin Hood, Esq.

When: 7 p.m., March 7 and 8

Where: Pantages Theatre, 710 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, 55403

Contacts: Cynthia Huff, University of Minnesota Law School, (612) 625-6691
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/29/2008) —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.

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

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/03/2008) —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 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.

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

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

Contacts: Cynthia Huff, University of Minnesota Law School, (612) 625-6691

Jared Shepherd, University of Minnesota Law School Amnesty International Student Chapter, shep0158@umn.edu

Eissa Villaseñor, University of Minnesota Law School Amnesty International Student Chapter, vill0146@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/03/2008) —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.

U of M researchers discover key for converting waste to electricity

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Daniel Bond, McKnight Land Grant Professor, BioTechnology Institute, (612) 624-8619

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/03/2008) —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.

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.

University of Minnesota Libraries and Jewish Historical Society Celebrate the Life and Work of Max Lowenthal

What: Out of the Boxes and into the Archives: Celebrating the Life and Work of Max Lowenthal

When: 4-6 p.m. Friday, March 14

Where: Room 120, Elmer L. Andersen Library,

222 21st Ave. South, Minneapolis

Contacts: Beth Kaplan, University of Minnesota Libraries, (612) 626-8191

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/04/2008) —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.

U of M grad and supporter Joseph M. Juran dies

Pioneer in quality control passes away at age 103.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/04/2008) —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 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.

\$1.17 million pledged to fight obesity, cancer and foodborne disease at the University of Minnesota

Grants will support the first projects of newly created Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/04/2008) —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 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.

Bruininks to deliver 6th "State of the U" Address on Thursday

When: 3:00 p.m., Thursday, March 6

Where: Mayo Memorial Auditorium, 425 Delaware Street SE, Minneapolis

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

March 4, 2008

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>

Nationally syndicated comic strip artist Alison Bechdel to speak at the U of M

Dykes To Watch Out For creator to deliver McNaron Lecture

Contacts: Contacts: Beng Chang, Schochet Endowment at the GLBTA Programs Office, (612) 626-2562 or schochet@umn.edu
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/05/2008) —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 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.

U of M students to receive award Friday for work to end child abductions in Sudan

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

Contacts: Dan Bernard, University of Minnesota Human Rights Program, (612) 816-0581, dbernard@umn.edu

Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/05/2008) —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.

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.

Federal grants will boost biofuels research at the University of Minnesota

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/05/2008) —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).

"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.

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

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770
Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, (612) 625-9436
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/06/2008) —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.

“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.

University of Minnesota professor Stephen Feinstein dies at 65

Media Note: A photo can be downloaded here:

<http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/images/Feinstein.jpg>

Photo of Stephen Feinstein available on request.

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/06/2008) —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 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.

U of M's NCAA recertification self-study available for public comment

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/07/2008) —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.

U of M to host 13th annual International Women's Day Celebration

When: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 15

Where: Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Robin Phillips, Advocates for Human Rights, (612) 341-3302x109
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/10/2008) —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 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.

Science Museum CEO to discuss mission and money at upcoming U of M Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Event

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

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/10/2008) —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.

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.

Goldstein Museum of Design receives boost to conservation efforts

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/10/2008) —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 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.ims.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.

Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs will visit the Humphrey Institute on March 26

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

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436
Rolf Willy Hansen, Norwegian Consul General in Minneapolis, (612) 332-3338
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/10/2008) —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.

Walter Mondale and political scholars to examine picking a Vice Presidential nominee in U of M Humphrey Institute conference

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

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436, jamie@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/11/2008) —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.

U of M offers rare glimpse into cutting-edge labs during "Emerging Digerati" week

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

March 12, 2008

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., 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/>

U of M President Bruininks to visit Bemidji and Crookston

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

March 12, 2008

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

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

U of M presents honorary degree to geographic information system pioneer Jack Dangermond

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, (612) 625-8510
Martha Douglas, University of Minnesota Foundation, (612) 626-9712

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/13/2008) —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, 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.

Cuban-Colombian author and editor Daisy Hernández to speak at the U of M Women's History Month lecture

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, March 27

Where: 125 Willey Hall, 225 19th Ave. S, Minneapolis

Contacts: Anitra Cottledge, Office for University Women, (612) 625-9837 or women@umn.edu;
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-40-82

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/13/2008) —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 women's 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 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>.

U of M's Carlson School's chapter of Net Impact secures grant to promote small business in Cedar Riverside neighborhood

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770
Ryan Mathre, University News Service (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/13/2008) —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 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.

University of Minnesota School of Dentistry dean to visit St. Louis Park

"Quick Quotes Audio" available for media

Contacts: Mary Kay Delvo, University of Minnesota Alumni Association, (612) 626-1417
Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/13/2008) —With its cutting-edge research and teaching methods and an international reputation, the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry has established itself as the Midwest's premier institution for educating tomorrow's dentists, specialists and hygienists. In his presentation, "The School of Dentistry: a City, State and Midwest Resource," Dean Patrick Lloyd will discuss his school's impact on Minnesota and the region when he visits St. Louis Park on Monday, March 17.

The event starts at noon at the Double Tree Park Place, 1500 Park Place Blvd., St. Louis Park. Lloyd'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)

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.

Leadership experts to discuss how to address the complexities of public health at the U of M's Humphrey Institute

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

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436, jamie@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/13/2008) —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.

A statement from the University of Minnesota regarding nutrition supplement studies

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/14/2008) —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.

Robotics expert featured at U of M Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Lecture Series

When: 4 p.m. Monday, March 31

Where: Humphrey Institute's Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Peg Lonquist, Office for University Women, (612) 625-6039
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/17/2008) —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.

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

When: 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 25, 2008

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/18/2008) —Award-winning University of Minnesota career coach and lifework planning specialist Janet Pelto 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 Pelto, 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 Pelto

Janet Pelto 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 Pelto 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 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.

U of M's "Classes Without Quizzes" offers seminars on everyday science to the public

When: 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 5, 2008

Where: University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus

Contacts: Becky Beyers, CFANS communications, (612) 626-5754 or bbeyers@umn.edu
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690 or luisab@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/18/2008) —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.

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.

University of Minnesota Opera Theatre presents Monteverdi's "The Coronation of Poppea," April 10-13

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

Contacts: Lisa Marshall, School of Music, (612) 626-1094 or marsh396@umn.edu

March 18, 2008

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.

U of M conference looks at food branding in a global economy

When: 1:30 to 5 p.m., Thursday, March 27

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

Contacts: Rand Park, Food Industry Center, (612) 625-4210, rpark@umn.edu
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/18/2008) —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>.

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

When: 5 to 8 p.m., Thursday, March 27

Where: Bean Scene Coffeehouse, 2220 West Broadway, Minneapolis

Contacts: Laura Weber, College of Design, (612) 625-6566
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/19/2008) —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 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>

Siehl Prize for Excellence in Agriculture seeks nominations

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/20/2008) —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.

Guthrie event series and partnership with the U of M to honor and explore the work of playwright Tony Kushner

Contacts: Justin Christy, theatre & dance department, (612) 625-5380

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/20/2008) —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."

"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.



Foundation presidents to speak about philanthropic interest in affordable housing at U of M forum

When: Noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 28

Where: Room 250 Anderson Hall, 257 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/25/2008) —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.

University of Minnesota Celebrates 1/4 Millionth U-Pass Sale

Contacts: Mary Sienko, Parking and Transportation Services, (612) 626-5828
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/25/2008) —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 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>

U of M aids farmers in fight against bovine tuberculosis

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/25/2008) —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); 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.

Legal Aid Society Honors U of M Law Professor

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/25/2008) —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 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.

University of Minnesota helps celebrate Minnesota's 150th birthday

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/26/2008) —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, <http://www.umn.edu/sesqui> .

Robotics competition redefines 'March Madness'

More than 50 high school teams to compete at the University of Minnesota March 28-29

Media Note: 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.

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

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/26/2008) —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, 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.

U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar will headline U of M's 2008 Freeman Lecture on U.S. water policy

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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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/26/2008) —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. Freeman, 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.

Arboretum conference to address environment, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder correlation

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/27/2008) —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 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.

U of M's Sawyer Seminar concludes with three experts on the intersection of religion and humanitarianism

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/27/2008) —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, 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.

U of M hosts sustainable tourism conference in Duluth

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/27/2008) —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 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.

Tim Penny and Joel Barker to headline University of Minnesota leadership conference

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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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/27/2008) —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: 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.

Institute on the Environment awards more than \$20,000 to student groups

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/27/2008) —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.
- 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.

U of M forum to feature State Demographer on Minnesota's rapidly shifting population

When: 7 - 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 2

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

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/28/2008) —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.

University Reveals Winning Apple Name

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/31/2008) —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. Ten Minnesotans who independently submitted the winning name are Lisa Rolf of Eden Prairie, Ted and Caroline Larson of Chaska, Ann Stout of Woodbury, Kelly Olinger of White Bear Lake, Cindi Cardinal of Coon Rapids, 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.

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.

Ralph Rapson, former head of the school of architecture, dies at 93

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/01/2008) —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 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.

Memorial Service

A memorial service will be held 10 a.m. Monday, April 21 at the Wurtele Thrust Stage of the new Guthrie Theater, 818 South 2nd St., Minneapolis. The stage is a recreation of the thrust stage that Rapson designed in the original Guthrie Theater. A reception will be held following the service in the courtyard of Rapson Hall, 89 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. Arrangements are currently being made for shuttle buses from the Guthrie to Rapson Hall and back.

Memorials

The family has suggested that memorials go to the Rapson Traveling Fellowship (Minnesota Architectural Foundation) and/or the Ralph Rapson Fund, a permanent endowment in the College of Design, School of Architecture. The fund, a testament to Ralph Rapson's integrity and long teaching career, supports students enrolled in the M.Arch program through annual scholarships.

Gifts may be made online by visiting:

https://www.foundation.umn.edu/pls/dmsn/online_giving.frames_broker?owner=DES

Designate your gift to the Ralph Rapson fund in the "special instructions" text box. Checks should be made payable to the University of Minnesota; designate that it is for the Ralph Rapson Fund in the College of Design. For questions about giving to this or other funds please contact Sue Danielson Bretheim in the College of Design at danie002@umn.edu, (612) 624-1386.

U of M sponsored QuarkNet Team chosen to travel to Geneva, Switzerland to report on progress building the world's highest energy particle accelerator

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/01/2008) —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.lhcsience.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 if 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.

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.

U of M's Humphrey Institute ranked Sixth among public university schools of public affairs

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/01/2008) —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>

First Brick of TCF Bank Stadium to be laid on Monday

100-year-old Hilding Mortenson worked on original Memorial Stadium

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

April 2, 2008

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 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.

University of Minnesota Libraries Exhibit examines 75th anniversary of the burning of the Hirschfeld Library

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/02/2008) —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.

U of M's "Headliners" focuses on foreclosure crisis

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, April 3

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/02/2008) —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.

U of M Morris Chancellor to testify at U.S. Senate

When: 9 a.m. CDT, Thursday, April 3

Where: 455 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington D.C.

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

April 2, 2008

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.



Gov. Pawlenty to Deliver 2008 U of M Law School Commencement Address

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/02/2008) —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.

Transforming transportation policy to be topic of upcoming Oberstar Forum

When: 12:30 p.m. Monday, April 7

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

Contacts: Michael McCarthy, Center for Transportation Studies, (612) 624-3645
Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-5551

April 3, 2008

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.

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

Media Note: Members of the press interested in attending the lecture should contact Katherine Hedin (612) 625-7323 or Cynthia Huff (612) 625-6691.

Contacts: Katherine Hedin, Law Library, (612) 625-7323, k-hedi@umn.edu
Cynthia Huff, Law School, (612) 625-6691, huffx070@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

April 3, 2008

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.

U of M Rochester Inaugurating First Chancellor at formal academic ceremony Friday, April 4

Media Note: To interview Lehmkuhle between 1-3 p.m. Friday afternoon, contact Jay Hesley, UMR public relations, at (507) 280-2837.

Contacts: Jay Hesley, U of M Rochester, (507) 280-2837, hesle002@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

April 3, 2008

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.

U of M Bell Museum hosts four-day "Seeing Climate Change" Environmental Film Festival

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum, (612) 624-7389
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/03/2008) —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.

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.

U of M takes next steps in awarding food and beverage service contracts

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/04/2008) —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,” said Bowman. “These new agreements are focused on healthy options, customer service and continuing our commitment to sustainability and encouraging socially responsible business practices.”

U of M international symposium explores the crossroads of architecture, ethics and spirituality

Three-day event will join Dakota community elders, world-renowned architects and spirituality scholars

Contacts: Laura Weber, College of Design, (612) 625-6566, l-webe@umn.edu
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

April 4, 2008

The University of Minnesota hosts a first-of-its-kind symposium exploring architecture, ethics and spirituality April 4-6 at Rapson Hall, 89 Church St S.E., Minneapolis. “Sacred Sites/Sacred Rights: Architecture, Ethics and Spiritual Geographies” is free and open to the public.

The symposium’s series of lectures, panel discussions and workshops will revolve around the central questions of perception, place and ethical landscapes. There will be two tracks to the weekend event, which will run concurrently. The first track is an inter-faith and cross-cultural exploration of sacred spaces as they relate to contemporary politics, identity and belonging. Sessions will include examinations of architecture and the sacred across world heritage, ethics, Abrahamic and eastern religious traditions. The second track brings together community elders of the Native American Dakota community who have worked to preserve sacred spaces against great odds, to examine and recount their history and begin to map the way toward cultural restoration.

Speakers include architecture professor Stephan Fai of Carleton University, art history professor Sussan Babaie of New York University, architecture professor Alona Nitzan-Shiftan of Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, Mendota Heights Mayor John Huber and Chief Arvol Looking Horse, a UN-honored citizen of the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota.

For more information on the symposium, visit:

http://blog.lib.umn.edu/cdescomm/cdes_memo/2008/03/sacred_sites_sacred_sights_arc.html

The event is sponsored by the College of Design, the Graham Foundation, the Metropolitan Design Center, Station 19 Architects, AIA-Minnesota, the Institute for Advanced Studies, the Consortium for the Study of the Asias and the Space and Place Collaborative.

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

Contacts: Tonya Femal, Institute for Engineering in Medicine, (612) 626-4282
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

April 7, 2008

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.



A statement from the University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/07/2008) —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.”

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

Media Note: Selected students are available for pre-event interviews by appointment.

Contacts: Gayla Marty, Graduate School (612) 626-3314, marty001@umn.edu
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/08/2008) —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.
- 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.

U of M study finds you get what you pay for with online Q

Media Note: Both researchers are currently out of the country and available for phone interviews only.

Contacts: Robyn White, CSE Communications, (612) 625-2424
Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, (612) 626-7959
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/08/2008) —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.
- 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."

U of M School of Music presents Bach Festival 2008, April 20

When: 4 p.m. Sunday, April 20

Where: First Lutheran Church, 1555 40th Ave. N.E., Columbia Heights

Contacts: Lisa Marshall, (612) 626-1094 or marsh396@umn.edu

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

April 8, 2008

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 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."

U of M Board of Regents to discuss Central Corridor at meeting this week

When: Thursday, April 10 - Friday, April 11, 2008

Where: 600 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis

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

April 8, 2008

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 Pekel.

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 Pekel.

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 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.

Nature/Nurture researcher Anne Fausto-Sterling to speak at the U of M

When: 4 p.m. Thursday, April 24

Where: U of M Institute for Advanced Study, 125 Nolte Center, 315 Pillsbury Dr. S.E., Minneapolis

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/09/2008) —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.*”

U of M student Web site nominated for "Webby Award"

Contacts: Robyn White, CSE Communications Coordinator, (612) 625-2424
Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology Communications Director, (612) 626-7959

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/09/2008) —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.

Washington Post columnist E.J. Dionne to speak on faith and politics at the U of M

Media Note: This program is rescheduled from the original Feb. 18 event.

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

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436, jamie@umn.edu

Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/10/2008) —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.

MASONS GIVE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA \$65 MILLION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Largest gift ever to U of M brings total giving from Masons to \$100 million

Contacts: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, (612) 625-2640
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/10/2008) —The University of Minnesota has received its largest gift ever - \$65 million from Minnesota Masonic Charities - to the University of Minnesota Cancer Center. With this pledge, Masonic support of cancer research and care at the University of Minnesota over the past 53 years totals \$100 million. In recognition of this record-breaking gift, the University of Minnesota Cancer Center will now be called the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota.

“The Masonic Fraternity is proud to expand its partnership with the Masonic Cancer Center for a cure. The gift is new, but the giving is not,” said Raymond G. Christensen, M.D., Grand Master of the state's nearly 17,000 Masons.

“The Masons’ legacy of giving to cancer research at the University of Minnesota has transformed our ability to find cures and better ways of preventing, diagnosing, and treating cancer,” said University President Robert Bruininks.

The \$65 million over 15 years will allow the Masonic Cancer Center to expand its work, including bringing research to clinical practice for improved cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Researchers will also be able to expand studies of cancer survivorship to better understand and address care for people living with cancer.

“Our continued partnership with Minnesota Masonic Charities and this extremely generous gift will allow us to take the Masonic Cancer Center to the next level,” said Douglas Yee, M.D., director. “We will be able to significantly expand our capabilities in cancer research and treatment. We thank the Masons for their confidence in us.”

Highlights of the Masons' legacy of support include \$1 million to build the Masonic Memorial Hospital, which admitted its first patient in 1958. The building still stands today as a cancer clinic and general research building. Since then, Minnesota Masons and members of the Order of the Eastern Star have generously provided \$35 million to support cancer research and patient care, including a \$10 million pledge to build a new state-of-the-art cancer clinic. Additional support was given to build the Masonic Cancer Research Building. That four-story building, completed in 1996, is home to the newly renamed Masonic Cancer Center, one of just 39 comprehensive cancer centers recognized by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) - and the only one in the Twin Cities area. This highest level designation is awarded to institutions that make ongoing, significant advances in cancer research, treatment, and education.

The Masonic Cancer Center was founded in 1991 to provide a collaborative environment for researchers to work on the causes, prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer. Its several hundred members are some of the world's leaders in research on bone marrow transplantation, childhood cancers, cancers of the breast and bone, cancer genetics, tobacco research, immunology, new treatment development, and epidemiology.

Masons belong to the world's oldest and largest fraternal society. Minnesota Masonic Charities makes charitable contributions averaging nearly \$5.6 million a year, as part of annual services totaling nearly \$70 million. They made the current \$65 million gift to the University through the Minnesota Medical Foundation, which raises funds for the University's Cancer Center, Medical School, School of Public Health, and related areas in the Academic Health Center.

About Minnesota Masonic Charities

Among the largest grant-making organizations in the state, Minnesota Masonic Charities (MMC) is the nonprofit charitable organization of Minnesota Masonry. It promotes greater levels of Masonic charity by uniting and combining contributions to charitable causes, as well as directly aiding Masons, their families, and society, through its grants and services supporting social services health care, medical research and education. MMC's total charitable grants average nearly \$5.6 million a year, as part of yearly services totaling nearly \$70 million. These services include housing and health care for seniors, support for cancer research and treatment, preservation of the history of Freemasonry in Minnesota, scholarships for college students, and community support of youth, family and school programs throughout the state.

About the Masonic Cancer Center

The Masonic Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota is part of the University's Academic Health Center and is designated a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute for cancer research, treatment, and education. For more information about the Masonic Cancer Center, visit www.cancer.umn.edu or call (612) 624-2620.

About the Minnesota Medical Foundation

Founded in 1939, the Minnesota Medical Foundation raises millions of dollars annually for health-related research, education and service at the University of Minnesota, with gifts supporting academic programs, research, faculty positions, scholarships, facilities and equipment purchases. Gifts directed to research fund studies related to public health, cancer, heart and lung disease, diabetes, neurological disorders, infectious diseases and other critical illnesses. For more information about the foundation, please call (612) 625-1440 or visit www.mmf.umn.edu

U of M student wins prestigious Goldwater Scholarship

Recipient's older brother won same award four years ago

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/10/2008) —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.

U of M to recognize outstanding student organizations

Tony Diggs Excellence Awards honor former adviser

When: 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 15

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

Contacts: Collette Litzinger, Student Unions & Activities, (612) 626-5459
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

April 10, 2008

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.

U of M presents honorary degree to 17th Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Richard Carmona

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, (612) 625-8510
Diana Harvey, School of Public Health, (612) 845-6263

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/10/2008) —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.

Harry Boyte to discuss "How to Save Democracy in the 21st Century" at the U of M

What: A lecture on active citizenship and democracy in the 21st Century

When: 7-9 p.m. Thursday, April 17

Where: Weisman Art Museum, 333 E. River Rd., Minneapolis

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436, jamie@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/10/2008) —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.

Law School to hold 6th Annual Race for Justice on Sunday, April 13

Proceeds to benefit Loan Repayment Assistance Program of Minnesota

Contacts: Cynthia Huff, Law School, (612) 625-6691
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/10/2008) —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.

Safe Drinking Water Pioneer, Ulric Gibson, to Receive Outstanding Achievement Award

Contacts: Diana Harvey, School of Public Health, (612) 845-6263
Daniel Wolter, University News Service, (612) 625-8510

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/10/2008) —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.

U of M Regents reaffirms support for northern alignment for Central Corridor light rail line

Contacts: Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/11/2008) —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. 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.

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

Media Note: Media: Report embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EDT, Monday, April 14

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/14/2008) —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.
- 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 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.

U of M to host lecture on "Changing Demographics: Snapshots of a New Minnesota and a New America"

When: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 17

Where: Coffman Union's Campus Club, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Contacts: Ami Berger, Office for Equity and Diversity, (612) 625-0498;
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

April 14, 2008

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 descendents 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

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.

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

Contacts: Tim Busse, University Services, (612) 624-2863, busse006@umn.edu,
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/14/2008) —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 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.

Guggenheims awarded to three University of Minnesota faculty

Media Note: Photos available upon request.

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/14/2008) —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, 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>

Girls in sports at record high, yet many girls fail to meet minimal standards of physical activity, University of Minnesota report says

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/15/2008) —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, *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.

Multimedia available for media to use:

Fully produced video news story for media use:

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

Raw video interviews with experts

Mary Jo Kane:

<https://mediamill.cla.umn.edu/mediamill/embed/10424>

<https://mediamill.cla.umn.edu/mediamill/embedqt/10425>

Nicole LaVoi:

<https://mediamill.cla.umn.edu/mediamill/embed/10581>

<https://mediamill.cla.umn.edu/mediamill/embedqt/10582>

“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.

- 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’ sport 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 and aggression which focus 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 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.

U of M China Center hosts annual China Day for local middle- and high-school students

When: Friday, April 18, 9:00 a.m.

Where: Northrop Auditorium, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214
Kate Sophia, China Center, (612) 624-5075

April 15, 2008

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.
- 12:20 - 12:40 p.m.: Student representatives from each school discuss their Chinese projects
- 1:00 p.m.: Return to buses

U of M professor to discuss carbon debt of land cleared for biofuel production

When: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 22

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

Contacts: Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, (612) 626-5754

April 15, 2008

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.

U of M's Economics Challenge showcases students' financial literacy

Media Note: Teams compete in quiz bowl between 12:45 and 1:30. Teacher and student interviews may be arranged after.

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

Contacts: Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, (612) 626-5754

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/15/2008) —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 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.

Select cities, counties and schools will be recognized for innovation and efficiency at the U of M Humphrey Institute

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436
Ryan Mathre, University News Service (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/15/2008) —To honor innovative practices at the local level, the Humphrey Institute's Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center (PNLC) — in collaboration with the Association of Minnesota Counties, the League of Minnesota Cities and the Minnesota School Boards Association — will host the annual Local Government Innovation (LGI) Awards to recognize outstanding cities, counties and schools that have used inventive practices to improve local services. Sixteen projects will be recognized at the LGI awards ceremony from 2 to 5 p.m. Monday, April 21, at the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

"The proposals submitted this year demonstrate that local government continues to be the best place for innovation in the public sector," said Jay Kiedrowski, PNLC senior fellow. "A committee of peers had a difficult time selecting the winners."

The award recipients were selected in one of three categories: collaborations among public/nonprofit/private organizations (P/NP); efficiency/cost effectiveness (E/E); and management process improvement (MPI).

The awards ceremony is free and open to the public, but registration is requested. To attend, please RSVP to Susan Earle at earle030@umn.edu.

The 2007–08 LGI award winners and their innovative practices are as follows (partners listed as appropriate):

Cities:

Aurora, Biwabik, Hoyt Lakes and Mesabi East School District, East Range cable access channel (MPI)
Farmington, Pollution Prevention Day (P/NP)
North Mankato, North Mankato soccer fields (P/NP)
St. Louis Park, University of Park, a comprehensive training program for new and emerging leaders (MPI)
St. Michael, Albertville, STMA schools (District 885), St. Michael-Albertville Family Youth Community Connections (E/E)
Woodbury, emergency response agencies fully integrated (E/E)

Counties:

Carver County, automated external defibrillator (AED) management application (P/NP)
Dakota County, Dakota County Criminal Justice Information Integration Network (E/E)
Hennepin County and City of Minneapolis, merger of Minneapolis Public Library and Hennepin County Library (MPI)
Olmsted County, online marriage application system (E/E)
St. Louis County, NEMESIS (North East Minnesota Enforcement and Safety Information System) (P/NP)
Yellow Medicine County, community justice sentencing (MPI)

Schools

Anoka-Hennepin School District and TIES School District, collaborative document-management system (E/E)
Intermediate District 287 in Plymouth, Minn., and Bloomington Public Health, implemented successful health services model to meet the needs of at-risk high school students, (MPI)
Redwood County PTO, Fresh Fruit for Students program (E/E)
Stillwater Area Public Schools, Innovative Programs in Education: Career Strategies in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (P/NP)



U of M housing forum to discuss mandatory zoning

When: Noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 18

Where: Room 210 Anderson Hall, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis

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

April 16, 2008

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.

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

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/16/2008) —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.

The programs are free and open to the public. Registration is requested at (612) 625-5002. For more information, visit www.hhh.umn.edu

U of M's annual Spring Jam to set sail this month

Ben Kweller and Michael Ian Black to perform during week-long event

Contacts: Collette Litzinger, Student Unions and Activities, (612) 626-5459
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/16/2008) —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 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 responds to the needs of U of M students and the campus community.

U of M to ring in Earth Day with Eco Expo 2008

When: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Tuesday, April 22

Where: Rapson Courtyard, 89 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis

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

Christen Gard, College of Design, (651) 491-2838

April 16, 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.

Saturn General Manager Jill Lajdziak is featured guest at the next U of M Carlson School "Inside the Boardroom" Event

When: 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., May 2

Where: 3M Auditorium, Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770, dskelly@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/16/2008) —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 Friday, April 25. For additional questions, call (612) 626-7407.

The University of Minnesota China Center honors Carlson School professor Mahmood Zaidi

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770; dskelly@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552; mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/16/2008) —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.”

U of M College of Liberal Arts faculty member wins prestigious award from the American Academy in Rome

Who: Hisham Bizri, department of cultural studies and comparative literature assistant professor and filmmaker.

Contacts: Sue Banovetz, College of Liberal Arts, (612) 624-1359
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/17/2008) —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 (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/

U of M Carlson School "Brand Matters" Presents Stephen Moss, vice president and chief marketing officer for Imation Corp.

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

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770, dskelly@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/17/2008) —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.

U of M Undergraduate Symposium celebrates student creativity, performance and research

Media Note: Media interested in interviewing students should ask for Marvin Marshak at the registration desk.

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu
Marvin Marshak, undergraduate research, 612-624-1312, marshak@umn.edu

April 17, 2008

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.

Jeff Greenfield to speak at U of M Carlson School of Management Commencement Ceremonies

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
Who: Jeff Greenfield, CEO EXCHANGE host and senior political correspondent for CBS News

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770, dskelly@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/17/2008) —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.

U of M names recipients of 2008 Josie R. Johnson Human Rights and Social Justice Award

When: Tuesday, April 22

Where: McNamara Alumni Center

Contacts: Ami Berger, Office of Equity and Diversity, (612) 625-0498
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/18/2008) —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 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."

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

Media Note: 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.

Contacts: Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, (612) 626-7959
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/18/2008) —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.

"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.

Leading executive Lois Quam at the U of M to discuss how she led the formation of a \$25 billion business

What: U of M Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon Series

When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 6, 2008

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

Who: Lois Quam, director of alternative investments at Piper Jaffray

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/18/2008) —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, "What I learned the year my company tripled in size Hitting \$25 Billion," Quam will discuss her experience leading the formation 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, she quickly 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 recently brought her experience in growing companies to areas of high-growth potential at Piper Jaffray where she is responsible for developing new investment offerings and extending the firm's global capabilities in the clean technology/renewables and health care sectors.

Advance registration by Thursday, May 1, is \$28 and \$35 for walk-ins. The fee includes lunch and parking in the Washington Avenue Ramp. Refund cancellations are required by Friday, May 2. Register by calling 612-626-9634, visiting www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/events, or e-mailing fristtuesday@umn.edu

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/21/2008) —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.

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 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.

U of M to be part of distance learning memorandum to be signed this week

When: 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 22

Where: Hilton Hotel, Symphony Ballrooms two and three, 1001 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis

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

April 21, 2008

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.

U of M to host Celebration of Multicultural Graduates

When: 1-3 p.m. Saturday, April 26

Where: Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Trumanue Lindsey, Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence, (651) 341-4958
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

April 22, 2008

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.

U of M signs agreement with nanotechnology company in flood-devastated Rushford

Contacts: John Merritt, Office of the Vice President for Research, (612) 624-2609
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/22/2008) —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 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.

U of M to honor outstanding woman scholars, employees

When: 3 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24

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

Contacts: Peg Loonquist, Office for University Women, (612) 625-6039
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/22/2008) —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 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 Ellyn 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 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-lead 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.

Hayes Lecture at U of M spotlights role of African women in agricultural research

When: 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 25

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

Contacts: Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, (612) 626-5754

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/22/2008) —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.

University of Minnesota names new director of Graduate School admissions

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Gayla Marty, Graduate School, (612) 626-3314, marty001@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/24/2008) —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.”

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.

Arthur B. Schultz Foundation establishes MBA fellowships at the U of M Carlson School of Management

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/24/2008) —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>.

U of M submits NCAA certification self-study

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/24/2008) —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.

U of M president's awards highlight outstanding student leaders

When: 5-8 p.m. Monday, May 5

Where: Coffman Unions Great Hall, 300 Washington Avenue S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Heather Mead, Student Activities Advisor, hmead@umn.edu, (612) 624-6265
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, luisab@umn.edu, (612) 624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/25/2008) —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

- 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.

U of M China Center hosts first annual U.S. - China Principal's Summit

When: Monday, April 28 - May 1

Where: For a complete list of locations visit:

http://chinacenter.umn.edu/FORUM_08/uschinasummit08.html

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/25/2008) —The University of Minnesota's China Center is hosting more than 40 principals from Chinese schools and educational institutions next week for the first annual U.S. - China Principal's Summit from Monday, April 28 - May 1.

The mission of the first U.S. - China Principal's Summit is to gather educators from China and the United States to comprehensively discuss the theme of education collaboration between their countries. Government officials, scholars and business people will join the educators to contribute their knowledge and expertise to this groundbreaking forum.

"Governmental and nongovernmental support of education is more important today than it has ever been in both countries and this summit will help educators support each other," said Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean of International Programs, "We are confident that participating principals of U.S. and Chinese high schools will come away from this summit with big ideas and renewed appreciation for how much more we can accomplish together."

Forum activities include keynote speeches from David Johnson, associate dean for Policy and Research and Geoff Maruyama, associate vice president for System Academic Administration, the opportunity for dialogue and discussion, and the showcasing of Minnesota schools.

To view a complete schedule of events and locations for the forum, visit:

http://chinacenter.umn.edu/FORUM_08/uschinasummit08.html

The China Center partnered with the College of Education and Human Development, the College Readiness Consortium and the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals.

CHANCE collaborative receives Outstanding Partner in Engagement Award from the University of Minnesota

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Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436, jamie@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/25/2008) —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 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.

U of M's annual lecture on environmental policy to explore health and economics of global ecosystems

When: 3 p.m., Thursday, May 1

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

Contacts: Elaine Reber, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, (612) 625-8713, ereber@umn.edu

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/25/2008) —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 Exonomics" 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.

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/28/2008) —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 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.

Robots Take over U of M Walter Library at SC Imagine! event

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

Contacts: Robyn White, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, (612) 625-2424, news@cs.umn.edu

Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/28/2008) —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: <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.

University of Minnesota announces spring commencements

When: May 2 to June 21

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/29/2008) —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

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 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

10 a.m. Saturday, June 21

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

Speaker: Shirley Sahrman, retired professor of physical therapy.

U of M's Council of American Indian Elders will open American Indian Month with sunrise ceremony

When: 6:30 a.m. Thursday, May 1

Where: East River Flats park area next to the Mississippi River on River Road.

Contacts: Betty GreenCrow, Council of American Indian Elders, (612) 625-3187
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

April 29, 2008

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.

Robotics international competition at the U of M focuses on renewable energy

When: Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3

Where: Williams Arena and Sports Pavilion, 1925 University Ave., S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, (612) 626-7959

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/29/2008) —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.

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.

University of Minnesota Recognizes "Outstanding Partners in Engagement"

Contacts: Monica Siems, Career and Community Learning Center, (612) 624 6574
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/29/2008) —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.

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.

U of M engineering design team takes first place in SAE International Heavy Lift competition

Media Note: Photos available on request.

Contacts: J.P. Leider, aerospace engineering and mechanics, (612) 625-2702
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/29/2008) —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."

U of M presents "Extreme Censorship: Burned, Banned and Battered Books"

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.

Contacts: Karen Hoyle, University Libraries, (612) 624-4817

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/30/2008) —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.

Noted Children's Author Walter Dean Myers at U of M to be Honored with Kerlan Award

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/30/2008) —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.

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

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute (612) 625-9436, jamie@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/30/2008) —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.”

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/>.

U of M Carlson School's student runFunds Enterprise Reaches 10 Year Anniversary with \$25 million worth of investments

Student-run growth fund consistently outperforms Russell 2000 Growth Index

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/01/2008) —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 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.

Public broadcasting pioneer and co-founder of AFS Intercultural Programs to be honored at U of M Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Awards

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/01/2008) —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 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.

AT

Grant to be given at ceremony coinciding with Military Appreciation Month

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/02/2008) —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 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.

U.S. State Department scholarships awarded to U of M Students

Contacts: Sue Banovetz, College of Liberal Arts, (612) 624-1359
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/02/2008) —Two University of Minnesota undergraduate students and a recent graduate have been awarded Critical Language Scholarships, a program sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and Council of American Overseas Research Centers. These highly competitive scholarships have been awarded to Zachary Jones, Christopher Shad and Thomas Snyder.

The scholarship program is part of the federal government's National Security Language Initiative (NSLI), an interagency effort to expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical need foreign languages. The program was launched in 2006, and in its inaugural year offered intensive overseas study of Arabic, Bangla/Bengali, Hindi, Punjabi, Turkish and Urdu. In 2007, Chinese, Korean, Persian and Russian institutes were added.

Jones, an English major in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), will study Arabic in Amman, Jordan. Shad, a 2007 CLA graduate who majored in sociology and global studies and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Middle East studies, will study Arabic in Jordan. Snyder, a CLA undergraduate majoring in global studies and political science, will study Chinese in the city of Harbin in the People's Republic of China. Jones, Shad and Snyder participated in the University of Minnesota Honors Program.

The scholarship covers all program costs for participants, including travel and living expenses.

The NSLI was developed to further strengthen national security and prosperity in the 21st century through strategic language learning. The initiative is coordinated through the Department of State, Department of Education, Department of Defense and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

For information about NSLI: <https://clscholarship.org/home/php>

U of M student wins 2008 Udall Native American Congressional Internship

Who: Hannah Lussier, undergraduate student in the College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota

Contacts: Sue Banovetz, College of Liberal Arts, (612) 624-1359
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/02/2008) —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 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>

U of M conference examines single payer health systems

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

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436, jamie@umn.edu

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/02/2008) —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.

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

When: 9:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 17

Where: Continuing Education & Conference Center 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul

Contacts: Rachel Wright, College of Continuing Education, (612) 624-7770

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/02/2008) —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.

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.

Companies and a U of M Career Center report high increase in demand for computer science graduates

Contacts: Robyn White, Computer Science Communications, (612) 625-2424
Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, (612) 626-7959
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/02/2008) —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.

University of Minnesota poised to become the world leader in interdisciplinary informatics with launch of new program

Contacts: John Merritt, Office of the Vice President for Research, (612) 624-2609
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/02/2008) —The University of Minnesota is poised to become the world leader in interdisciplinary informatics with the launch of a new Interdisciplinary Informatics program (UMII).

Beginning this fall, the university will assemble the best faculty, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students from across campus, along with new recruits for the UMII. A total of 21 new interdisciplinary informatics faculty will be hired, including established research groups, with a goal of hiring half the new faculty in the next two years. Up to 10 postdoctoral fellows also will be hired each year. In addition, 20 graduate fellowships will be offered each year to seed the development of multiple tracks and specializations across the spectrum of interdisciplinary informatics.

The university will invest \$35 million in UMII over the next five years. The funding includes an institutional investment from the university, which includes a portion of the university's Microsoft settlement.

UMII's core will consist of an interdisciplinary intellectual community of informatics experts pursuing leading-edge research and a novel, integrative graduate program with multiple specializations.

Strength in interdisciplinary informatics -- including bioinformatics, health informatics, computational biology, systems biology, and physical and computational sciences -- has become essential to the university's capacity to respond to challenges in health, energy, medicine and the environment.

"There has been a dramatic increase of biological data across all areas of science and health, along with comparable advances in computing power and information-processing algorithms and systems," said Tim Mulcahy, vice president for research. "While the University of Minnesota already possesses core strengths in the field of informatics, this program will draw faculty together in new educational, research and training efforts."

UMII will be a comprehensive, integrative, university-wide program that will encompass the domains of health informatics, computational biology, systems biology, bioinformatics, and physical and computational sciences, as well as emerging fields that may wish to join an interdisciplinary informatics setting in the future.

For more information, visit www.informatics.umn.edu.

U of M study says U.S. teens adopted as infants appear to have moderately increased odds of mental health problems

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/05/2008) —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 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.

U of M India Center Initiative co-sponsors event on India's business and legal climate

When: 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 7

Where: Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S, Minneapolis

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

May 5, 2008

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.

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>)

U of M study says U.S. teens adopted as infants appear to have moderately increased odds of mental health problems

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

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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

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

Who: Monica Nassif, CEO and founder, the Caldrea Company

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/06/2008) —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 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."

U of M Board of Regents to meet this week, discuss budget for 2009-10

When: Wednesday, May 7 - Friday, May 9, 2008, and Wednesday, May 21

Where: 600 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis

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

May 6, 2008

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.

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 Pfutzenreuter 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.

Greg Lindsey named associate dean of the U of M's Humphrey Institute

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, (612) 625-9436, jamie@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/06/2008) —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 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.

Former dean of U of M Humphrey Institute Regents Professor Emeritus G. Edward Schuh, dies at 77

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/06/2008) —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.

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.

U of M solar car team unveils new car May 8

New team, new car gear up for race across America in July

When: 10 a.m. Thursday, May 8

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

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/06/2008) —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 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.

U of M Bell Museum honors state's 150th birthday with "Minnesota Minute" series appearing on TV stations around the state

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum, (612) 624-7389
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/07/2008) — 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.

For information on the TV series and video contest rules, visit www.bellmuseum.org.

Former drop-out, teen parent will be honored May 7 on State Capitol steps

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May 7, 2008

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.

U of M to hold conference on future of healthcare technology

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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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/07/2008) —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>

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 improve our collective health status at a lower cost by attaining civic equality

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/08/2008) —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 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 ISIAH, 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.

U of M hosts "Green Chemistry in Minnesota: Opportunities and Challenges for Leadership"

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

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/08/2008) —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/

Brian Buhr named head of U of M's applied economics department

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/09/2008) —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.

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/09/2008) —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.

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.

Great Conversations: Kerry Kennedy

When: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13

Where: Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/09/2008) —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.

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.

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/12/2008) —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 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.

HR management expert Mike Losey to speak on "Why Your Employees Really Are your Most Important Asset"

When: 8 a.m. Wednesday, May 14

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

Contacts: Rachel Wright, College of Continuing Education, 612-624-7770

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

May 13, 2008

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.

U of M Policy Fellows Program seeks emerging leaders

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/13/2008) —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.

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.



U of M CURA forum discusses Minnesota's housing strategic plan and economic stimulus efforts

When: Noon to 1:30 Friday, May 16

Where: Carlson School of Management; 1-147, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

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

May 14, 2008

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.

University of Minnesota to host world's largest conference on evolution; author, columnist Olivia Judson headlines

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum, (612) 624-7389
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/14/2008) —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.

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.

U of M Center for German

Experts from Germany and the United States will discuss quality in health care and universal care

When: Monday-Tuesday, May 19-20

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

Contacts: Kelly O'Brien, College of Liberal Arts, (612) 624-4109

May 14, 2008

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. 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.

U of M researcher discovers the starting point of sun-induced skin cancer

~ EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01 A.M. CT THURSDAY, MAY 15 ~

Media Note: EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01 A.M. CT THURSDAY, MAY 15

Contacts: Gail Dennison, The Hormel Institute, (507) 437-9604, gdennison@hi.umn.edu
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/14/2008) —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.

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.

Evaluating options other than the bus: U of M Center for Transportation Studies to examine alternative strategies to lowering carbon footprint

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

Contacts: Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-5551

Mike McCarthy, Center for Transportation Studies, (612) 624-3645

May 14, 2008

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.

New Driver of Brand Extension Success Found by U of M Professor

Carlson School of Management Professor Rohini Ahluwalia's research published in June 2008 issue of the Journal of Marketing Research

Contacts: Rebecca Monroe, Carlson School of Management, (612) 626-7940

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/15/2008) —Brand extensions, like Jeep's strollers, Maxim's hair color, or Apple's iTunes are lucrative ways that a brand can increase its revenue and customer base—or confuse and alienate them. In an increasingly borderless world in which brands can be as powerful as currency, stretching brands that already have strong equity has become an ever more important avenue for growth. However, many attempts at brand stretch fail in the marketplace. How firms and their brands can avoid pitfalls and best manage brand extensions globally is addressed in a recent paper by Rohini Ahluwalia, professor of marketing at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management forthcoming in the Journal of Marketing Research.

Over 80 percent of new products are categorized as brand extensions, emphasizing the importance of their success. Ahluwalia's findings identify an important segmentation variable for marketers to consider when launching brand extensions. "Stretching a brand makes it important to target an audience that will be able to process and understand the relationship of the brand to the new product," says Ahluwalia. "Getting it right the first time is crucial, because early success with a target audience can help with future extensions. And the broader a brand gets, the easier it is to stretch next time."

Individuals can be categorized into one of the two types of self-views: relational or independent. Her findings reveal that buyers with a more relational or connected--to--others self-view (e.g., females, Asian Americans, Hispanics and those hailing from Eastern nations) are more open to accepting brand stretches than those associated with an independent self-view (e.g., males, Caucasians and Westerners). Knowing target customers' self-view type could be key to managing a new product launch.

But why? Ahluwalia explains, "Consumers whose self-view stresses connectedness are predisposed to finding more relationships between objects—such as a parent brand and its extension—than people with a more independent self-view. They uncover more similarities and synergies, making them more receptive to a brand stretch. For instance, a relational individual may easily see how Jeep's reputation for durability and a smooth ride would also make sense for a stroller." For shoppers with an independent self-view, who tend to be more analytical, these ties might not be as obvious.

Ahluwalia also reveals an important limiting factor to the extent to which a brand can stretch. While the effect is observed for moderate levels of brand stretch (e.g., Jeep strollers or Godiva ice cream), it is less likely to emerge when the extension stretches the brand further (e.g., Hooter's Airlines or a Johnson & Johnson noodle product). In these cases, even those with a relational self-view find it difficult to uncover clear connections.

Ahluwalia has, however, found ways that a company can increase the chances of success with relational consumers, even for far-reaching brand stretches. "There are some specific techniques that might help remove these road blocks. For instance, advertising copy strategies like using a question headline, pun or metaphors will engage and motivate those with a relational self-view to focus and elaborate on the connection," advises Ahluwalia. "When this audience is challenged to think about the relationship of the product to the brand, they are even more likely to understand and accept the brand stretch."

What does this mean for marketers? "Know your target audience," Ahluwalia prescribes. "Your customers who relate to an interdependent or relational self-view—like Asian, Hispanic, or female markets—are more likely to accept brand extensions than other people, especially if you capture their attention and get them to think about the brand-product connection." With the proper preparation and a well-aimed stretch campaign, marketers can find themselves steering an increasingly elastic—and profitable—brand.

"How Far Can a Brand Stretch? Understanding the Role of Self-Construal," by Rohini Ahluwalia, will appear in the June 2008 issue of the Journal of Marketing Research.

More information on professor Ahluwalia and her work can be found at carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/rahlwalia.

U of M's East Gateway District infrastructure work to cause road closures beginning May 19

Contacts: Tim Busse, University Services, (612) 624-2863
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/16/2008) —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.

Minnesota Centennial Showboat Celebrates its 50th Anniversary Season with a summer full of epic heroes, dastardly villains and amazing artistry

Contacts: Justin Christy, department of theatre arts & dance, (612) 625-5380
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/16/2008) —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 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

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.

University of Minnesota to visit Moorhead to discuss local foods issues

Contacts: Mary Kay Delvo, University of Minnesota Alumni Association, (612) 626-1417
Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/19/2008) —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 independent, 64,000 member organization dedicated to connecting alumni, students and friends in lifelong support of the University of Minnesota and each other.



A statement from University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/19/2008) —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.”

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"

Media Note: Embargoed until 5 p.m., PDT, May 27

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/20/2008) —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 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."

University of Minnesota Alumni Association CEO to visit Savage to discuss what's new at the U

Contacts: Mary Kay Delvo, University of Minnesota Alumni Association, (612) 626-1417
Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/20/2008) —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.

"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 47 cities across the state, talking to community leaders about the great teaching, research and outreach that happens at the university every single day."

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New U of M research center to study ways to improve early childhood literacy development

Contacts: Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690
Diane Cormany, College of Education and Human Development, (612) 626-5650

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/21/2008) —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 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.

U.S. Army Chief of Staff to officiate U of M ROTC Commissioning Ceremony

Contacts: Justin Ware, University News Service, (612) 626-1720
LTC Curt Cooper, U of M Army ROTC, (612) 624-2583

May 21, 2008

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 Northrop 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.

New family of gecko discovered by researchers from the U of M and Villanova University

Discovery has implications for technology and the environment

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum, (612) 624-7389
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/22/2008) —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 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.

Lally Weymouth donation of designer dress collection to be displayed at U of M's Goldstein Museum

When: 5:30-9 p.m. Thursday, May 29

Where: Goldstein Museum of Design, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul

Contacts: Laura Weber, College of Design, (612) 625-6566
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/23/2008) —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.

Women and programming not computing; University of Minnesota Conference explores gender gap in computing professions

Contacts: Tom Misa, director, Charles Babbage Institute, (612) 624-5050
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

May 23, 2008

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 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

The Heart of Discovery: U of M Alumni Association 2008 Annual Celebration features its own groundbreaking researcher

Media Note: Media wishing to attend should contact Drew Swain at (612) 625-8962 or dswain@umn.edu

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

May 27, 2008

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.

Tickets are still available. 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.

Taylor is a leading heart researcher whose recent discovery could lead to growing new hearts for cardiac patients. Her work garnered international attention and was featured on an ABC News special with Barbara Walters. "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."

Alumnus Earl Bakken, founder and long-time CEO of Medtronic, is a featured guest and will introduce Taylor, who 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 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. "Dr. Taylor and her team of researchers now believe that one day they will be able to create new kidneys, livers, lungs and other organs, saving millions of lives."

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 and Mortenson Construction. 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.

U of M TCF Bank Stadium unveils first county signs

Three-ton tributes recognize support of all Minnesota citizens

Media Note: To obtain an image of the county signs contact Ryan Mathre at mathre@umn.edu

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

May 27, 2008

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.

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.

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/27/2008) —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 biology department head Kathryn VandenBosch to discuss Michael Pollan's bestseller, "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 work of nonfiction journalism 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 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.



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

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

Who: Coach Tim Brewster, Goldy, cheerleaders, band and the Gopher Wagon

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

May 30, 2008

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.

Revenge of the Right Brainers: Daniel Pink and Darlyne Bailey to discuss Pink's bestselling book, "A Whole New Mind"

When: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 3

Where: Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Rachel Wright, College of Continuing Education, (612) 624-7770

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/30/2008) —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 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.

U of M President Robert Bruininks experiences a pulmonary embolism while on vacation

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/30/2008) —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.

Fairview Health president and CEO Mark Eustis to discuss leading one of state's largest not-for-profits at U of M

What: Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon Series

When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 1

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

Who: Mark Eustis, president and CEO, Fairview Health Services

Contacts: Sue Wilson, Carlson School of Management, (612) 626-5904
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/30/2008) —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.

University of Minnesota dedicates new ecology research facility at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve

Contacts: Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038
Peggy Rinard, College of Biological Sciences, (612) 624-0774

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/03/2008) —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 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.

U of M Athletics Department announces first 20 statewide tour stops

Contacts: Garry Bowman, University Athletics, (612) 624-7345
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

June 3, 2008

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.

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

Contacts: Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Science, (612) 626-5754

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/04/2008) —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.

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.

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

Contacts: Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/04/2008) —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.

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/>

U of M's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment announces renewable energy scholarship winners

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/06/2008) —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.
- "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.

Diplomat, international affairs leader and U of M educator, Harlan Cleveland, dies at age 90

Contacts: Julie Lund, Humphrey Institute, (612) 624-1190
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/06/2008) —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.

U students will receive more than \$200M in scholarships and grants next year

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/06/2008) —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 groundbreaking Founders Free Tuition 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."

Bob Fleming to receive University of Minnesota Outstanding Achievement Award

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/09/2008) —The University of Minnesota will present alumnus, retired Mayo Clinic chief administrative officer and hockey leader Robert Fleming with an Outstanding Achievement Award on Tuesday, June 10, at Eastcliff, 176 North Mississippi River Blvd., St. Paul. The Outstanding Achievement Award is conferred upon graduates or former students of the U of M who have attained unusual distinction in their profession or in public service and who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership.

Fleming earned a bachelor's degree in business in 1949 from the University of Minnesota, where he was also a star wing on the U's hockey team. A Canadian native who was raised on the rinks, he played for the minor league Rochester (Minn) Mustangs after graduation. He joined Mayo Clinic in 1950, working his way up from a trainee to department head and to chief administrative officer in 1982, the highest non-medical position at the clinic. He held this position until his retirement in 1993. He also served for 19 years as a member of the Board of Trustees of Mayo Foundation. During his tenure, he helped integrate Saint Marys Hospital and Rochester Methodist Hospital with the Mayo Clinic, expand the Mayo Clinic to its Florida and Arizona campuses, create Mayo Medical Ventures to manage the Clinic's public education and technology transfer programs, establish Mayo Health System and influence hospital service coverage in Medicare legislation.

Fleming ended his hockey career on the rink in 1957, but his greatest impact on the sport came through leadership in strengthening the sport's popularity and prestige nationwide and abroad. He served as chairman of the United States Olympic Hockey Committee from 1969 to 1981 and 1990 to 1994, and helped build medal-contending teams for five Olympic games, playing an instrumental role behind the scenes of the "1980 Miracle on Ice" Team USA victory over the Soviets. He is also director emeritus of the USA Hockey (formerly the Amateur Hockey Association) and a former president of the Minnesota Amateur Hockey Association and the Rochester Youth Hockey Association. In 1995 Fleming received the Lester Patrick Award from the National Hockey League and USA Hockey in recognition of his contributions to the sport, and in 2003 he was inducted into the United States Hockey Hall of Fame.

In addition to promoting hockey and expanding Mayo Clinic's renowned patient care across the country, Fleming has contributed to numerous community organizations. He served as a member of the board of directors of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce for many years and was president of the national Medical Group Management Association, 1985-86. He has served on the boards of the Charter House, a retirement community in Rochester; InterStudy, a health policy think-tank in Minneapolis; and St. Luke's Health System in Jacksonville, Florida. In 1990 he received the Harry J. Harwick Award for Lifetime Achievement in Medical Practice Leadership from the American College of Medical Practice Executives, and in 1991 the American Group Practice Association's Outstanding Administrator Award.



U of M Athletics Department visits Dodge County

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/09/2008) —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.

The U athletics department will visit Dodge County on Monday, June 16. From 3 to 4:30 p.m. the Gopher Wagon along with Coach Gary Wilson will be at the Dodge Center Dairy Queen, 411 Hwy. St. W., Dodge Center. The event will include prizes, games, giveaways and an opportunity to take a virtual tour of the TCF Bank Stadium which is scheduled to open in September, 2009.

For more information visit www.gophersports.com and click on “Statewide County Tour”

U of M Tourism Center invites proposals for Carlson Chair

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Becky Beyers, CFANS (612) 626-5754
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/10/2008) —The University of Minnesota Tourism Center has announced it is accepting project proposals for its annual Carlson Chair for Travel, Tourism and Hospitality grant through October 3.

Tourism entities interested in applying for a Carlson Chair grant should visit www.tourism.umn.edu.

The Carlson Chair was established to support and strengthen tourism in Minnesota and respond to statewide and/or urgent industry needs. Non-profit entities or individuals are eligible for Carlson Chair grants and are encouraged to indicate supplemental funding opportunities in proposals.

The chair was named for Curtis Carlson, who founded Carlson Companies and initiated a \$250,000 endowment from the Carlson Foundation. Additional funding for the chair has come from individual and corporate donations as well as a permanent University of Minnesota Fund match. Interest from the endowment is used to support Tourism Center activities.

“Since inception, the Carlson Chair has benefited Minnesota’s \$10 billion tourism industry through both education and research support,” said Ingrid Schneider, professor of forest resources and Tourism Center director. “The funds supported research on the economic impact of tourism in every Minnesota county as well as a state conference on sustainable tourism. Understanding the importance of tourism to the state is consistently a priority for industry and community officials. Sustainable tourism is essential for tourism’s continued success.”

Tourism and hospitality supports more than 244,000 state jobs.

An advisory committee informs the center’s work and keeps the center in touch with industry needs and issues, according to Schneider. These external partners include Carlson Companies, state government offices of tourism and transportation, as well as Minnesota communities.

The Tourism Center (www.tourism.umn.edu) is a collaboration between University of Minnesota Extension and the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

U of M Board of Regents to discuss Central Corridor, UMore Park, act on FY2009 budget

Contacts: Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-5551

June 10, 2008

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents meets later this week on the Twin Cities campus. The agenda includes taking action on an operating budget for fiscal year 2009, discussing the Central Corridor light rail project and an update on planning efforts for the university's UMore Park property in central Dakota County. Also as part of the meeting, the board conducts its annual meeting to set meeting dates for the 2008-09 academic year.

"This is a budget that is mindful of the challenging economic times in which we live, but creatively focused on forward-looking academic and budget priorities," said university President Robert Bruininks. "We've also worked diligently to enhance student financial aid, including the Founders Free Tuition Program and the middle income scholarship program, to offset necessary tuition increases."

Despite a state appropriation reduction of \$17.4 million over the current and next biennium, the proposed budget maintains investment priorities through spending reductions, internal reallocations and a tuition increase slightly lower than earlier projected: 7.25 percent for undergraduate students. With more than \$200 million in student grants and scholarships available this year, many students will see a significantly lower increase.

The schedule for the meeting is as follows:

Thursday, June 12, 2008

8 - 10 a.m., Board of Regents meeting, Boardroom. The full board will hear from Bruininks and Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien on the Central Corridor light rail project.

10:15 - 11:45 a.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will take action on a new policy regarding international education and will be updated on the university's interdisciplinary initiatives.

10:45 - 11:45 a.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will hear a report on student leadership development activities, the annual report on UPlan, the university's employee health care plan, and a presentation on health care savings plan accounts.

1:45 - 2:45 p.m., Work session, Boardroom. The board will hear an update on UMore Park planning efforts from Vice President for Statewide Strategic Resource Development Charles Muscoplat.

3 - 5 p.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will take action on a policy on historical preservation and the conservation of buildings. In addition, action will also be taken on a number of schematic plans and real estate transactions, including a 25-year agreement with the DECC in Duluth. Also, O'Brien and interim director of the Institute on the Environment Deb Swackhamer will present on the university's goals, strategies and progress on sustainability and green initiatives.

3 - 5 p.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will review the university's policy on purchasing and discuss a variety of other issues.

Friday, June 13, 2008

9 - 11:30 a.m., Board of Regents meeting, Boardroom. The board conducts its annual meeting first, setting meeting dates for the next academic year. The monthly meeting convenes immediately after, where the board will review policies on both the code of ethics and reservation and delegation of authority. University of Minnesota Alumni Association president Tom LaSalle will give the annual report of that organization. The board will also act on the FY2009 operating budget, the president's annual capital improvement budget and the six-year capital improvement plan.

More information on the Board of Regents and live streaming of the board meetings can be found at www.umn.edu/regents.

Clinton-Obama campaigns are the focus of major women's history conference at U of M

When: 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, June 14

Where: Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Sue Banovetz, College of Liberal arts, (612) 624-1359 (office); (651) 334-2837 (cell)
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

June 10, 2008

The presidential campaigns of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama will be discussed by leading historians at “Clinton and Obama: Historians Reflect on Historic Candidacies,” a session that is part of the Fourteenth Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, the largest academic gathering in the world of scholars who specialize in the history of women and on gender and sexuality, being held at the University of Minnesota June 12-15. The session on the Obama and Clinton race is from 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, June 14, in the Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Avenue S., Minneapolis.

Immediately preceding the Clinton-Obama session, a roundtable discussion, “Minnesota Women in Politics,” will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in Cowles Auditorium. Scheduled to participate are Arvonne Fraser, Center on Women and Public Policy and International Women’s Rights Action Watch; Peggy Flanagan, member of the Minneapolis School Board; Liz Kuoppala, Eveleth city council member; and Pakou Hang, who waged a campaign last year for the St. Paul City Council.

While the sessions are part of a broader conference agenda stretching over four days, conference organizers are opening the two sessions to the general public because of widespread interest. There is no charge for attendance.

The Berkshire Conference is being held at the University of Minnesota from June 12-15, drawing scholars from across the country and throughout the world. The first Berkshire Conference was held in 1973 at Rutgers University. Since that time, the conference’s importance has gained recognition and mirrors the significant position of women’s history and women’s studies at colleges and universities in the United States.

For information on the Fourteenth Berkshire Conference and its program, visit: www.berks.umn.edu.

U of M Extension announces weather impacts web, phone resources

Contacts: Julie Christensen, U of M Extension, (612) 626-4077
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/10/2008) —University of Minnesota Extension announced today its coordinated system of online and phone answer resources available for those with flood and storm-related questions, both during an emergency and while cleanup efforts are underway.

Recently, Minnesota was hit by dangerous weather and a state of emergency has been declared in Houston County where flood waters have damaged roads, caused mudslides and forced more than 50 people to be evacuated from a campground late Sunday. Fillmore County officials have also evacuated several campsites as rising waters continue to cause problems in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa.

The toll-free phone services and Extension's rain, flood, wind and tornado disaster recovery resources can be accessed on the Web site, www.extension.umn.edu by clicking on "Weather Impacts." There Minnesotans can find the most up-to-date information on flood and storm response, safety and cleanup issues. Two of the phone services, the Farm Information Line and the AnswerLine, can also refer callers to appropriate state or federal agencies if additional information is needed.

The Farm Information Line (800-232-9077), staffed by Extension personnel Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., is a resource for questions about water, crops, horticulture and climatology issues. Questions at other times of the day and on weekends can be left on voicemail 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.

Extension's AnswerLine (800-854-1678), which can provide answers to household and family-oriented questions, is staffed Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

If callers are unsure about which answer service to contact, they should first call the Farm Information Line (800-232-9077), and Extension personnel will help direct them.

A one-stop online resource, the Extension weather impacts Web site was reactivated on June 9 with information for recovery from flood and rain as well as other storm damage.

U of M Lavender House seeks students for second year

Contacts: Beng Chang, GLBTA Programs Office, (612) 626-2562,
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/10/2008) —Lavender House, a Living and Learning Community at the University of Minnesota, celebrates a successful first year and is seeking more students for its second year.

Lavender House is a Living and Learning Community in Comstock Hall for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) students, friends and allies of the GLBT community and students from GLBT families.

Founded in partnership with the Transgender Commission, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Ally (GLBTA) Programs Office and Housing and Residential Life, Lavender House is open to any and all students who are interested in issues of gender identity and sexual orientation. It creates an opportunity for students to explore and express who they are in a safe and affirming environment.

Students learn about the history and culture of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities, and are encouraged to participate in programs and classes offered by the department of gender, women, and sexuality studies and the GLBTA Programs Office. Students also connect with the larger Twin Cities GLBTA community through social events, service opportunities and guest speakers.

For Fall 2008, Lavender House residents have the chance to participate in a community and service-learning course, GLBT 3610: Introduction to GLBTA Community and University Resources. A description of the course and an application form for Lavender House can be found at www.glbta.umn.edu/programming/lavenderhouse.html
<<http://www.glbta.umn.edu/programming/lavenderhouse.html>> .

For more information about Lavender House, contact Beng Chang, graduate assistant in the GLBTA Programs Office, by e-mail schochet@umn.edu or by phone: (612) 626-2562.

Farming techniques may reduce leaking of antibiotics into water table, according to U of M study

Research finds that surface mixing and spring application of manure might reduce antibiotic penetration

Contacts: Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, (612) 626-5754

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/10/2008) —Composting and land-management practices may be the key to reducing the appearance of manure-applied antibiotics in surface and ground waters, a new study from the University of Minnesota shows.

Antibiotics fed to farm animals find their way into soil and water when manure is spread onto farm fields. As much as 70 percent to 90 percent of antibiotics fed to animals eventually end up in the manure used as fertilizer. In a series of studies, scientists evaluated what happens to veterinary antibiotics in liquid hog and solid beef manure. University researchers found that antibiotics in manure may later appear in surface and ground waters, most often during spring snowmelt. Another study compared no-till farming with chisel plowing and found that plowing mixes the manure with soil and helps reduce the amount of antibiotics leached.

The study was conducted in the karst region of southeastern Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin.

Further research of composting and longer-term manure storage showed promise as techniques for minimizing the amount of antibiotics in manure before land application. Because manure was applied in the fall and most losses occurred during spring snowmelt, applying manure in the spring may be a way to curtail leaching of the antibiotics. Surface mixing of manure is another important land management practice that can minimize leaching and runoff losses of manure-applied antibiotics.

Holly Dolliver, lead scientist on the project, notes that while small quantities of dissolved antibiotics do have the potential to reach surface and ground water, “the concentrations are significantly below the toxicity levels for human or aquatic organisms.”

The study also raises questions about whether other drugs used in livestock production also are being inadvertently applied to soil, said research leader Satish Gupta, a professor in the university’s department of soil, water and climate.

The studies, published in the current issue of the *Journal of Environmental Quality*, were funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the state Rapid Agricultural Response Fund administered by the University of Minnesota.

U of M College of Design, Edina Highlands Elementary collaborate for "Highlands Design Camp"

Contacts: Laura Weber, College of Design, (612) 625-6566
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

June 10, 2008

The University of Minnesota's College of Design is collaborating with the Edina Highlands Elementary School this week for a new kind of teacher training. Based on the Design Institute's "Design Camp" the "Highlands Design Camp" will bring together teachers and their students in five design workshops, leading to a full-fledged design project, a lemonade pavilion. "Highlands Design Camp" will be held 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. June 11-13 at Southview Middle School, 4725 S. View Lane, Edina.

An open house in the lemonade pavilion will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, June 13.

Each workshop is led by a design professional affiliated with the University of Minnesota and assisted by graduate and undergraduate students of the College of Design. Under the guidance of Wendy Friedmeyer, Educational Programs coordinator in the College of Design's Design Institute and John Comazzi, assistant professor of Architecture in the School of Architecture, the teachers will learn about design through hands-on workshops and spend the afternoons creating lesson plans that integrate design into their core curricula.

Other professionals involved the three-day camp include Daniel Jasper, assistant professor, department of design, housing and apparel; Bruce Wright, editor, Fabric Architecture Magazine; Scott Christensen, product designer, Designworks; and Cheryl Wilgren Clyne, adjunct professor of art.

The very nature of design education promotes the kind of thinking required for future challenges. The New Commission on Skills in the American Workforce noted teamwork and innovation as key areas of knowledge needed by tomorrow's thinkers and doers. The design process, involving problem solving, iteration, prototyping and collaboration, will lead students forward. In addition, the multidisciplinary nature of design and its collective thinking process advances the principles of teaching to multiple intelligences, allowing students to activate their strengths while completing core curricula.

For more information, contact Wendy Friedmeyer at (612) 290-2823.

USDA gives green light to U of M contained facility to research deadly plant pathogens

Will be only facility in the Midwest with contained greenhouse capability and expected to play a key role in Ug99 and Asian Soybean Rust research

Contacts: John Byrnes, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, (612) 625-4743
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/11/2008) —The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has approved a new state-of-the-art laboratory on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus to conduct research on plant pathogens. The approval means that scientists will be allowed to use the Plant Pathology Research Facility to research pests that cause diseases such as Asian Soybean Rust, Ug99 stem rust in wheat and Sudden Oak Death.

Such facilities are rare. Only three universities in the United States have approval to conduct research on exotic plant pathogens in a combined laboratory and greenhouse containment facility. "The University of Minnesota is the only university in the Midwest with this type of research capability for plant pathogens," said Robert Bruininks, president of University of Minnesota. "The University has a long history of excellence in this field and related disciplines, and these facilities will serve as a magnet to attract top scientists who are driven to find the best ways to protect plants from deadly diseases."

The University's Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture will jointly operate the facility. "Crop diseases are a constant threat to our agricultural community, and the state has an important role to play in helping protect them," said Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson. "This facility is a valuable resource that will help us cope with these threats for years to come."

Research in the building will focus on plant pathogens that could damage crops or forests if they were introduced to Minnesota. Plant pathogens can be inadvertently spread by wind, travelers, food products or shipping, or deliberately spread to cause economic, political or human health problems. Special security and air filtration systems in the new facility will ensure the pathogens aren't released into the environment.

Two of the pathogens the facility will study are ones that cause stem rust on cereals and Asian Soybean Rust. Ug99 is a new race of stem rust damaging wheat crops in Africa and winds usually carry new races of wheat rust worldwide. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Norman Borlaug recently warned that Ug99 could reduce world wheat production by 60 million tons and cause a global crop failure. Asian Soybean Rust is prevalent in South America and first showed up in the Southern United States in 2004.

Plant pathologists and plant breeders at the university are coordinating a major effort together with the USDA Cereal Disease Lab and Tel Aviv University to identify new sources of rust resistance and breed new Ug99-resistant wheat varieties. The effort is a key part of the \$26.8 million international Cornell Durable Rust Resistance Project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, announced in April.

"This is a great day for Minnesota soybean growers, Minnesota wheat growers, the state of Minnesota and the university. New diseases like Ug99 in wheat and Asian soybean rust are spreading and now researchers have a unique tool to come up with solutions before these diseases get here," said Larry Muff, New Richland, Minn., farmer and vice president of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association.

Support from Minnesota soybean farmers played a key role in securing funding from the Minnesota Legislature to build this facility.

The Plant Pathology Research Facility is the final piece of a \$24 million plant growth facilities project at the U of M that includes classrooms, 15,000 square feet of growing space in state-of-the-art greenhouses and the Insect Quarantine Facility. The Insect Quarantine Facility opened in 2003 and allows researchers to analyze the potential usefulness of beneficial insects in the control of soybean aphids, buckthorn, garlic mustard and other pests.

The University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the USDA Forest Service will all use the Plant Pathology Research Facility.

Paul Janeczko to give the 2008 Chase Lecture: "Confessions of a Collector"

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/11/2008) —Award-winning poet and children's book author Paul Janeczko will present University of Minnesota's 2008 Naomi C. Chase Lecture in Children's Literature 4:30 p.m., June 24, in the Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Janeczko's lecture will be followed by book sales courtesy of The Red Balloon Bookshop and a book signing from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Kerlan notecards will also be on sale, courtesy of the Kerlan Friends, a literary society that supports the children's book collection at the U of M. Appetizers will be served.

After teaching high school English for 22 years, Janeczko left the classroom to write full time and visit schools as a poet in residence. He has now published over 40 books as both a poet and anthologist, including "A Kick in the Head," "Seeing the Blue Between," "A Poke in the Eye," "Stone Bench in an Empty Park," and "Dirty Laundry Pile."

The annual Naomi C. Chase lecture, named for the late university alumnus and professor, brings poets, nonfiction writers, picture book writers, folklorists, novelists and illustrators, all within the genre of children's literature, to campus to speak on a topic of their choice.

For more information, visit the Chase lecture Web site at <http://cehd.umn.edu/ci/literacy/Chase.html> or Janeczko's Web site at <http://www.paulbjanezko.com>.

The Naomi C. Chase Lecture in Children's Literature is supported by the department of curriculum and instruction in the College of Education and Human Development and the Children's Literature Research Collection at Andersen Library with gracious assistance from the Kerlan Friends. The lecture is free and open to the public.

U of M Sociology professor Phyllis Moen honored for making a significant impact on American workplaces

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/12/2008) —Change does not come easily in the American workplace. University of Minnesota sociology professor Phyllis Moen is among a select group of leaders who have made compelling changes in the ways Americans live and work. Moen was honored with a 2008 Work Life Legacy Award by the Families and Work Institute June 9 in New York City.

The institute's fifth annual Work Life Legacy Awards are the preeminent celebration of the "work-life movement" in America. The event spotlights leaders from the corporate, academic and nonprofit sectors who have motivated individuals and entire organizations to change long held views and practices about how employees should work and live. In doing so, they have helped both employers and employees become more successful.

Moen, The McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair in Sociology at the university of Minnesota, is a celebrated teacher, author, advisor and researcher who generated pioneering work on career stages, life cycle changes, generational differences and on the ability of couples--not just individuals--to navigate work and life.

Her research at the university has been crucial in breaking the "career mystique" that one's working life is a straight and narrow path. Challenging the idea that "one size fits all," Moen says that putting people and things into boxes doesn't work.

"The exciting thing to me is this idea that people strategize," said Moen. "They come up against a challenge, and they don't just stop. They try different things at different points in the life course." As a result, Moen developed the concept of Life Course Fit. "We need customized careers and customized jobs, and this will help businesses as well as families and individuals put together the pieces of their lives."

Just as generational issues are being played out in politics, they are triggering enormous organizational change. "This year's honorees stress the qualitative differences they see in the Gen Yers joining their organizations and in the aging workforce," said Ellen Galinsky, president and co-founder of Families and Work Institute. "Rather than walk away from these differences, the honorees have created new visions for making work "work" across the generations."

Families and Work Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization that studies the changing workforce and workplace, the changing family and the changing community.

U of M schedules public forums to engage citizens in UMore Park planning process

Planning scenarios for U's 5,000-acre property on view

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/13/2008) — The University is hosting public forums in the next 10 days to seek public comment on four potential planning scenarios for its 5,000-acre property in Dakota County.

A strategic planning process in 2006 envisioned a university-founded community at the University of Minnesota Outreach, Research and Education (UMore) Park property that would evolve over 25 to 30 years. The concept master planning phase for a unique, sustainable community of 20,000 to 30,000 people that is distinctive through its relationship to the university was launched in November 2007.

Forums to engage discussion of the proposed scenarios will be held:

- 10 a.m. Monday, June 16, Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis
- 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 17, St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul
- 6 p.m. Thursday, June 19, Rosemount Community Center, 13885 South Robert Trail, Rosemount
- 6 p.m. Monday, June 23, Rosemount Community Center, 13885 South Robert Trail, Rosemount

The public forums follow the debut of the concept scenarios at the University Board of Regents meeting on June 12. The scenarios, developed by university consultant Design Workshop, Inc., Aspen, Colo., in conjunction with local firms, strive to integrate university research, education and public engagement to add value to planning and development over time and benefit citizens and the region.

“The planning and development of this property is a once-ever opportunity for the university and unique in the nation,” said Charles Muscoplat, vice president of statewide strategic resource development. “Such an ongoing and long-term endeavor creates learning and research possibilities for students and faculty, and adds value towards economic development in the region.”

The concept scenario for the Vermillion Highlands property, adjacent and to the south of UMore Park will also be displayed for comment at the forums. The 2,822-acre property is jointly managed by the university and the state's Department of Natural Resources, in conjunction with Dakota County. Vermillion Highlands was created by the legislature in May 2006 as a research, recreation and wildlife management area. The university-owned property will be deeded to the state in 2032 in conjunction with the state's support for the university's new Gopher football stadium on campus. The university retains rights in perpetuity to conduct research on the property.

UMore Park is among the largest contiguous properties in the United States that is owned by a land grant university. It includes the remnants of the former Gopher Ordnance Works, a facility constructed by the federal government to manufacture smokeless gun powder during World War II. The property was deeded to the university in 1947-1948.

The university is pursuing planning on the property with attention to stewardship of its natural resources, a legacy of research for the state over generations, support for the academic mission of the institution and economic development in the region.

Formal presentations on the concept scenarios are also scheduled for the Dakota County Board, June 17; the City of Rosemount Council, June 18; and the Empire Township Board, June 24.

Details on registration for the public forums, the planning process, the scenarios and ways to view scenarios and submit comments via the website are at www.umorepark.umn.edu.

U of M Board of Regents vote to pursue an at-grade solution for Central Corridor Light Rail Transit

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/13/2008) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents today voted for a resolution to pursue the at-grade solution for the Central Corridor light rail line down Washington Avenue with significant contingencies. The action was approved by an 11 to one vote. The resolution can be read at <http://www1.umn.edu/regents/docket/2008/june/index.html>

“The Central Corridor Light Rail Transit project provides an opportunity to improve the experience of students, faculty and visitors to campus, as well as travel in the broader community,” said Board Chair Patricia Simmons. “After extensive study and assurance from the Metropolitan Council chair and county and city partners that adequate funding would be committed to ensure safety, and protect both the environment and university resources while creating better traffic flow, the Board decided to pursue the option of At-Grade Washington Avenue LRT.”

The Board also took action on the following items:

- Approved the FY 2008-09 Annual Operating budget.
- Approved the 2009 Annual Capital Improvement budget.
- Approved the 6-year Capital Improvement plan.

In other business, the Board approved President Robert Bruininks’ recommendation of Trevor Ames as the new dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

U of M professor of operations and management science provides in-depth analysis of Six Sigma phenomenon in upcoming journal article

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/16/2008) —Six Sigma has become known for its effectiveness in cutting costs and improving profitability for businesses. With numerous other quality management processes including Baldrige, ISO 9000 and TMQ, what makes Six Sigma different? Roger Schroeder, the Frank Donaldson Chair in Operations Management at the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management examines this issue in the June/July 2008 issue of the *Journal of Operations Management*. Schroeder finds that while the tools and techniques of Six Sigma are strikingly similar to prior approaches of quality management, they provide a unique organizational structure not previously seen.

The paper looks at two companies, one that was newly involved in implementing Six Sigma and one that had a longer history with the quality management strategy.

Schroeder explains, “While there are many books and articles on Six Sigma, this is the first academic article that attempts to carefully define Six Sigma based on field data. This is a necessary step for future research on the effectiveness of Six Sigma and even for examining if all organizations apply Six Sigma in the same way. We need to define the phenomenon we are studying before we can move ahead with research.”

The paper, titled “Six Sigma: Definition and Underlying Theory,” identifies the Six Sigma methodology and builds an academic framework that takes it out of the hands of consulting gurus and lends legitimacy to its value as a quality management process.

Schroeder and his co-researchers established several consistent elements that were agreed to be essential for successful Six Sigma engagement. These elements included:

Parallel-meso structures: Six Sigma operates as a parallel organization, which is the organizational structure dedicated to improving the organization, but incorporates both micro and macro level decision making authority that allows multilevel integration of strategic projects.

Strategic Project Selection: Six Sigma organizations develop formal mechanisms to select Six Sigma projects. These mechanisms, sometimes called project hoppers, involve senior management to filter out Six Sigma projects that do not have financial or strategic implications.

Leadership Engagement: Leaders are also involved in the ongoing execution of Six Sigma projects.

Improvement Specialists: Study participants used full-time improvement specialists, called Black Belts. These specialists were trained in the Six Sigma structured method by typically receiving four weeks of training with hands-on experience in improving one or more processes. Many organizations also train most of their employees who are assigned to projects in Six Sigma basics.

Structured Methodology: Six Sigma uses a structured method for process improvement. Improvement method used by study participants was the familiar DMAIC (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve and Control) method. The study found a strong emphasis on finding the root cause of the problem through systematic use of the method. The Six Sigma methodology employs standard quality tools like Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA), cause-effect charts and Statistical Process Control.

Schroeder’s co-authors of this paper are Kevin Linderman, assistant professor in operations and management science at the Carlson School; Charles Liedtke from Strategic Improvement Systems, LLC; and Adrian Choo, assistant professor with the Lally School of Management and Technology at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Research was funded by a National Science Foundation grant completed in 2004.

Schroeder recently was tied for 6th place on a stellar scholar list of top U.S. professors in Management Science-Operations Management. The list, created by an assistant professor of management at DePaul University considered 1,300 MS/POM-related professors in 225 USA business schools and used the “h-index,” a measure of the impact of citations to the number of published articles. Additionally, Schroeder, who has published more than 150 articles and five books on quality management and manufacturing strategy, delivered the keynote address at the 6th ANZAM Operations, Supply Chain and Services Management Symposium in June at the Watermark Hotel in Queensland, Australia.



U of M Athletics Department to visit Morrison County

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/17/2008) —With the first on-campus stadium in 28 years, the sounds, sights and excitement of University of Minnesota football will echo 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 Minnesota counties and Gopher Athletics is reaching out to engage the entire state of Minnesota over the next 15 months with a statewide tour.

The U athletics department will visit Morrison County from 12 to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25. The Gopher Wagon along with Softball coach Lisa Bernstein will be at the Little Falls Dairy Queen, 1012 Haven Rd., Little Falls. The event will include prizes, games, giveaways and an opportunity to take a virtual tour of the TCF Bank Stadium.

Construction 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 substantial completion in July 2009 and will open for the first Gopher football game of the season on Sept. 12, 2009.

For more information visit www.gophersports.com and click on "Statewide County Tour"



U of M Athletics to visit Todd County

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/17/2008) —With the first on-campus stadium in 28 years, the sounds, sights and excitement of University of Minnesota football will echo 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 Minnesota counties and Gopher Athletics is reaching out to engage the entire state of Minnesota over the next 15 months with a statewide tour.

The U athletics department will visit Todd County from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25. The Gopher Wagon along with Softball coach Lisa Bernstein will be at the Staples Dairy Queen, . 1100 2nd Ave. N.E., Staples. The event will include prizes, games, giveaways and an opportunity to take a virtual tour of the TCF Bank Stadium.

Construction 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 substantial completion in July 2009 and will open for the first Gopher football game of the season on Sept. 12, 2009.

For more information visit www.gophersports.com and click on "Statewide County Tour"



U of M Athletics to visit Hubbard County

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/17/2008) —With the first on-campus stadium in 28 years, the sounds, sights and excitement of University of Minnesota football will echo 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 Minnesota counties and Gopher Athletics is reaching out to engage the entire state of Minnesota over the next 15 months with a statewide tour.

The U athletics department will visit Hubbard County from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 26. The Gopher Wagon along with Gopher Athletics Director Joel Maturi will be at the Park Rapids Dairy Queen, 809 1st St. E., Park Rapids. The event will include prizes, games, giveaways and an opportunity to take a virtual tour of the TCF Bank Stadium.

Construction 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 substantial completion in July 2009 and will open for the first Gopher football game of the season on Sept. 12, 2009.

For more information visit www.gophersports.com and click on "Statewide County Tour"



U of M Athletics to visit Cass County

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/17/2008) —With the first on-campus stadium in 28 years, the sounds, sights and excitement of University of Minnesota football will echo 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 Minnesota counties and Gopher Athletics is reaching out to engage the entire state of Minnesota over the next 15 months with a statewide tour.

The U athletics department will visit Cass County from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 26. The Gopher Wagon along with Gopher Athletics Director Joel Maturi and Rowing Head Coach Wendy Davis will be at the Walker Dairy Queen, 308 Minn. Ave. W., Walker. The event will include prizes, games, giveaways and an opportunity to take a virtual tour of the TCF Bank Stadium.

Construction 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 substantial completion in July 2009 and will open for the first Gopher football game of the season on Sept. 12, 2009.

For more information visit www.gophersports.com and click on "Statewide County Tour"

First-of-its-kind study at the University of Minnesota uncovers the educational benefits of social networking sites

Study also finds that low-income students are in many ways just as technologically savvy as their counterparts

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/19/2008) —In a first-of-its-kind study, researchers at the University of Minnesota have discovered the educational benefits of social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook. The same study found that low-income students are in many ways just as technologically proficient as their counterparts.

The study found that, of the students observed, 94 percent used the Internet, 82 percent go online at home and 77 percent had a profile on a social networking site. When asked what they learn from using social networking sites, the students listed technology skills as the top lesson, followed by creativity, being open to new or diverse views and communication skills.

To watch a video about the study and a full interview with the lead researcher, visit: http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/social_network.htm

Data were collected over six months this year from students, ages 16 to 18, in thirteen urban high schools in the Midwest. Beyond the surveyed students, a follow-up, randomly selected subset were asked questions about their Internet activity as they navigated MySpace, an online forum that provides users with e-mail, web communities and audio and video capabilities.

“What we found was that students using social networking sites are actually practicing the kinds of 21st century skills we want them to develop to be successful today,” said Christine Greenhow, a learning technologies researcher in the university’s College of Education and Human Development and principal investigator of the study. “Students are developing a positive attitude towards using technology systems, editing and customizing content and thinking about online design and layout. They’re also sharing creative original work like poetry and film and practicing safe and responsible use of information and technology. The Web sites offer tremendous educational potential.”

Greenhow said that the study’s results, while proving that social networking sites offer more than just social fulfillment or professional networking, also have implications for educators, who now have a vast opportunity to support what students are learning on the Web sites.

“Now that we know what skills students are learning and what experiences they’re being exposed to, we can help foster and extend those skills,” said Greenhow. “As educators, we always want to know where our students are coming from and what they’re interested in so we can build on that in our teaching. By understanding how students may be positively using these networking technologies in their daily lives and where the as yet unrecognized educational opportunities are, we can help make schools even more relevant, connected and meaningful to kids.”

Interestingly, researchers found that very few students in the study were actually aware of the academic and professional networking opportunities that the Web sites provide. Making this opportunity more known to students, Greenhow said, is just one way that educators can work with students and their experiences on social networking sites.

The students participating in the study were from families whose incomes were at or below the county median income (at or below \$25,000) and were taking part in an after school program, Admission Possible, aimed at improving college access for low-income youth.

Greenhow suggests that educators can help students realize even more benefits from their social network site use by working to deepen students’ still emerging ideas about what it means to be a good digital citizen and leader online.

U of M Medical Devices Center to open new research facility

Media Note: A media-only preview tour is scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 24 on the 5th floor of Shepherd Labs.

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June 19, 2008

The University of Minnesota is opening a new state-of-the-art medical device laboratory facility and is letting the public have a first look during public tours from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 24 on the fifth floor of Shepherd Labs, 100 Union St. S.E., Minneapolis. For map and parking information visit www.umn.edu/twincities/maps/ShepLab/

The new Medical Devices Center core facility was specifically built for designing, prototyping and testing new medical devices. The lab features high-tech equipment that allows researchers to view live surgeries in 3D, a computer-aided design precision instruments area and mechanical and electronics fabrication centers.

To watch a video about the new center and a full interview with the director, visit:
http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/medical_device.htm

During the tour, student and faculty researchers will demonstrate the new equipment, highlight past successes in developing medical devices at the university and explain how this new facility will enhance their work in the future.

Overall, the center provides resources and assistance to researchers and industry partners in the medical device design process from design concept through clinical trials. The center works to develop new relationships with the vibrant Twin Cities medical device industry and various government agencies in an effort to improve health care worldwide. The Medical Devices Center was named as one of the university's top strategic investments in its 2007 Minnesota Legislative budget request.

The center also educates and helps to develop the next generation of medical device inventors. Beginning this fall, the new Medical Devices Center Fellows Program will bring together postgraduate engineering researchers, seasoned medical device professionals and physicians to identify, develop, prototype and test medical devices. This will be an immersive one-year product development experience for the fellows.

“With support from the medical device industry and collaborative work by engineers and medical professionals, we believe the University of Minnesota can make a real impact in developing innovative devices and new medical procedures that will contribute to improving the quality of life for Minnesotans and people worldwide,” said Medical Devices Center director Art Erdman, a long-time mechanical engineering professor and medical device design expert.

The Medical Devices Center is part of the University of Minnesota's Institute for Engineering and Medicine (IEM) established in July 2007. IEM is an initiative jointly sponsored by the Institute of Technology (the U's college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics) and the Medical School. The IEM fosters a wide range of high level, goal-oriented interdisciplinary research, uniting faculty in health sciences and various engineering, science and mathematics departments.

U of M Joseph Juran Center for Leadership in Quality Announces 2008 Juran Fellows

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/19/2008) —The Joseph Juran Center for Leadership in Quality at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management has announced the 2008 Juran Fellows.

Each year, the Joseph M. Juran Center selects and honors doctoral candidates whose research shows the most promise in broadening and fueling thinking and practices in the area of quality-related research in their chosen fields. Joseph Juran is credited with being the "architect of quality." His philosophy is based around quality principles, including systemic improvement, systems thinking, prevention, organizational learning and strong leadership.

Three Juran Fellows were selected this year from among 22 applicants. The review panel consisted of 43 faculty and business leaders in quality who evaluated the research applications based on their importance in advancing knowledge of quality, their potential impact on society and several other criteria. The Juran Fellows receive \$5,000 awards to expand their quality research and its applications upon graduation.

The 2008 Juran Fellows winners are:

Shaunna Barnhart, Department of Geography, The Pennsylvania State University-
Promoting sustainable community initiatives: Applying quality principles to community forestry and biogas promotion in Nepal

Deborah Mullen, Health Services Research and Policy Administration, University of Minnesota-
Moral exemplars, outpatient medical clinic climate, temporal affect and patient care errors

Amy Stott, Health Policy and Administration, The Pennsylvania State University-
Improving long-term care management practices and direct care worker organizational commitment

2008 Fellow Amy Stott said "The Juran Fellowship Award is a significant step toward a quality-related research career in health care for me. I am grateful and honored to receive this prestigious award."

The Joseph M. Juran Center for Leadership in Quality was founded in 1993 at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management to advance research in the field of quality management. In 1997, Joseph Juran-the world's preeminent Quality expert-gave his foundation and name to the center. With greater resources and name recognition, the Juran Center broadened its mission to help fulfill Juran's vision of the 21st Century as the "century of quality." For more information, visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/juran.

Entomologist Susan Weller named interim director of the U of M Bell Museum of natural History

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/20/2008) —University of Minnesota associate professor of Entomology Susan Weller has been named interim director of the university's Bell Museum of Natural History. She will assume the post July 1.

Weller is replacing Scott Lanyon, a professor in the university's department of ecology, evolution and behavior. Lanyon, who has served as the museum's director since 1995, will return to his full-time research and teaching appointment this fall.

Weller, curator of Lepidoptera for the museum, is recognized internationally for her research on the evolution of mimicry and mating behaviors of butterflies and moths. She is a leader in the museum's K-12 outreach programs and "citizen science" ventures including the annual Minnesota BioBlitz. She is a passionate advocate of undergraduate research experience and has mentored dozens of undergraduates in her laboratory.

"We are thrilled to bring Susan Weller's leadership expertise, communications skills and enthusiasm for the importance of natural history museums to the Bell Museum," said Allen Levine, dean of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. "Scott Lanyon served as a visionary leader, one who led the museum at an important time – raising its visibility and making the case for its rebirth as Minnesota's natural history museum for the 21st century. Susan's vast experience, creativity and energy in bringing science to both students and the general public will bolster our progress as we continue our quest for a new Bell Museum building in St. Paul."

A search for a permanent director will begin next month. 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. in Minneapolis on the university's Minneapolis campus.

U of M Carlson School's China Executive MBA Program is ranked No. 1 Joint EMBA Program in China

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/20/2008) —For the third time, the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management's China Executive MBA program was ranked the No. 1 Joint Executive MBA (EMBA) Program in China. The 2008 ranking of the most influential EMBA programs in China was performed by more than 10 Chinese media organizations including Brand Times International, a major media conglomerate in China, and EMBA times, a flagship online portal for Executive MBA programs in China.

The annual ranking was based on market reputation, evaluation from graduates, and operational characteristics, as well as the voting rates on www.EMBAtimes.com. The Carlson School's China Executive MBA Program also received first-place awards for "Top EMBA Program with Global Vision" and "Top EMBA Program Highly Ranked by Graduates" in the ranking.

The media recognized the Carlson School program because its maturity and development are well recognized by the Chinese business community and wider society. Additionally, many graduates consider their study experiences in the program to be among the most rewarding decisions and greatest investments they have made.

The Carlson School partners with Lingnan (University) College of Sun Yat-sen University to offer the degree. Each graduate receives a degree from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota.

"The China Executive MBA program gives students a solid understanding of Eastern and Western business practices and opportunities to work with a diverse group of peers and top international faculty," said Anne D'Angelo King, assistant dean of the Office of International Programs.

"Through this rigorous, joint program, the China Executive MBA students gain the skills and knowledge they need to manage complex international business challenges," said Michael Houston, associate dean of International Programs. "The program is tailored to the dynamic business environment of the South China region and designed to examine senior management practices in the context of a global economy undergoing technological, political and social changes."

The Carlson School's China Executive MBA program launched in 2001 and has graduated six cohorts of students. Students take 16 courses over 16 months and participate in a two-week residency in Minneapolis, where they visit Fortune 500 companies. Students participate in a virtual team project with their peers at other Carlson School Global Executive MBA programs in Vienna, Warsaw and Minneapolis.

U of M announces grant recipients for TCF Bank stadium Good Neighbor Fund

Projects will protect and enhance neighborhoods surrounding the new on-campus football stadium

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/23/2008) —The Stadium Area Advisory Group of the University of Minnesota has recommended seven projects for funding through the university's Good Neighbor Fund. Examples of activities to be funded include neighborhood identification banners, wayfinding signage in a neighborhood business district, a neighborhood initiative to welcome student residents during Fall move-in week, a traffic calming study and research on livability initiatives being undertaken in other campus-area communities.

The fund was created by the University of Minnesota in July 2007, with a \$1.5 endowment from the TCF Bank Stadium project. The purpose of the fund is "to protect and enhance the beauty, serenity and security of the neighborhoods and business districts impacted by the new on-campus football stadium." Eligible applicants for the funds include neighborhood and business organizations in the communities adjacent to the university's Twin Cities Campus and other member organizations of the Stadium Area Advisory Group.

In 2008, \$69,000 was available for grants from the fund, with requests totalling over \$145,000.

A five-member Fund Management Committee recommends policy for the fund, reviews grant applications and makes funding recommendations. Members of the Fund Management Committee include representatives of three campus-area neighborhoods, one business association and one student organization. A request for applications for the next round of funding will be published in January, 2009.

Applications recommended for funding in 2008:

Bridging the Gap: Pedestrian, Bike, and Traffic Calming Plan St. Anthony Park Community Council \$13,900

South St. Anthony Park Banner Project
St. Anthony Park Community Council
\$4,303

Wayfinding Project
West Bank Business Association
\$10,000

Welcome Student Initiative
Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association
\$1,300

Clean Sweep 2009
Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association
\$3,810

Boulevard Tree Planting S.E. Neighborhoods
Marcy-Holmes Neighborhood Association
\$5,500

Community Mitigations, Research and Recommendations
Southeast Como Improvement Association
\$30,000

Extreme weather events can unleash a 'perfect storm' of infectious diseases, research study says

Media Note: Embargoed until: 8 p.m. ET June 24

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/23/2008) —An international research team, including University of Minnesota researcher Craig Packer, has found the first clear example of how climate extremes, such as the increased frequency of droughts and floods expected with global warming, can create conditions in which diseases that are tolerated individually may converge and cause mass die-offs of livestock or wildlife.

The study, published June 25 by PLoS (Public Library of Science) ONE, an online peer-reviewed research journal, suggests that extreme climatic conditions are capable of altering normal host-pathogen relationships and causing a “perfect storm” of multiple infectious outbreaks that could trigger epidemics with catastrophic mortality.

Led by scientists at the University of California, Davis, the University of Illinois and the University of Minnesota, the research team examined outbreaks of canine distemper virus (CDV) in 1994 and 2001 that resulted in unusually high mortality of lions in Tanzania’s Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater. CDV periodically strikes these ecosystems, and most epidemics have caused little or no harm to the lions.

But the fatal virus outbreaks of 1994 and 2001 were both preceded by extreme drought conditions that led to debilitated populations of Cape buffalo, a major prey species of lions. The buffalo suffered heavy tick infestations and became even more common in the lions’ diet, resulting in unusually high levels of tick-borne blood parasites in the lions. (These parasites are normally present in lions at harmlessly low levels.)

The canine distemper virus suppressed the lions’ immunity, which allowed the elevated levels of blood parasites to reach fatally high levels, leading to mass die-offs of lions. In 1994 the number of lions in the Serengeti study area dropped by over 35 percent after the double infection. Similar losses occurred in the Crater die-off in 2001.

The lion populations recovered within 3-4 years after each event, but most climate change models predict increasing frequency of droughts in East Africa.

“The study illustrates how ecological factors can produce unprecedented mortality events and suggests that co-infections may lie at the heart of many of the most serious die-offs in nature,” said Packer, Distinguished McKnight University Professor of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior at the University of Minnesota.

The study was funded by the National Science Foundation and the Morris Animal Foundation.

Big Ten Universities Convene Summit on Midwest economy; leaders say it is time to act

Media Note: News media interested in covering the summit need to contact Patty Mattern at (612) 624-2801 or Barbara McFadden Allen at (217) 244-9240

Contacts: Patty Mattern, University of Minnesota News Service, (612) 624-2801
Barbara McFadden Allen, CIC, (217) 244-9240

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/23/2008) —Motivated by a desire to draw attention to the vital role the Midwest plays in the life of the nation and to highlight challenges the region faces to remain economically competitive, the provosts from the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), a consortium of the Big Ten universities plus the University of Chicago, have partnered with the Federal Reserve Banks of Minneapolis and Chicago to bring together key leaders for an economic summit Thursday, June 26 and Friday 27 at the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis.

The CIC is made up of 12 research universities with campuses in eight states which include the University of Chicago, University of Illinois, Indiana University, University of Iowa, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, Northwestern University, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

University leaders, leaders of regional banks, chief executive officers, government leaders, economists, researchers and professors will come together to find ways to break down barriers that prevent them from effectively working together to build a vital Midwest economy. The summit, “Developing a Regional View of the Midwest Economy: Breaking Down Barriers That Impede Regional Progress,” is sponsored by the University of Minnesota, the CIC and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

“Like the national economy, the Midwest economy is facing great challenges. We believe it is important for our universities to work closely with each other and with CEOs and leaders of government to make the Midwest economy more robust,” said University of Minnesota Provost Thomas Sullivan.

The region already possesses vitally important assets, including the Great Lakes, significant industrial and corporate entities, world-class research universities, dynamic cities and agricultural resources -- all of which are central to a vibrant Midwest economy. The National Science Foundation (NSF) reports that the 12 CIC universities received over \$3.1 billion in federal science and engineering support in FY2005. This represents 12.4 percent of the total federal science and engineering dollars -- some \$25.4 billion -- awarded in the U.S. for that year. In addition, CIC universities have been awarded 18 percent of the total NSF science and engineering dollars, and nearly 16 percent of the total U.S. Department of Agriculture dollars.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) reports that the seven states of the Midwest -- Iowa, Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio and Michigan -- have a robust nonprofit sector, which is highly competitive for federal research and development funds, with three of the top 10 nonprofit recipients of federal research and development funds in the Midwest -- the Mayo Foundation, Battelle Memorial Institute and the IIT Research Institute.

“When you assess the human and physical capital assets of our region, they are considerable; however our region’s position is slipping relative to the rest of the country,” Sullivan said. “This may be a watershed moment for the Midwest in terms of an available, talented workforce, as well as productivity.”

The region attracts research and development and boasts educational resources, but the Midwest has also witnessed a dramatic restructuring of the region’s economy to rely less on manufacturing. And, the Midwest population is also growing older than the nation on the whole and, in turn, the region has been losing its influence at the national level -- since 1930, every Midwestern state has lost congressional seats.

“The Midwest economy is undergoing an uneven transition to a new economic model propelled by knowledge based industries. While cities such as Chicago and Minneapolis have prospered by reinventing themselves and becoming meccas for new industries and talented workers, other parts of the region struggle with moving up the economic food chain. What is clear is that the production and retention of skilled human capital will have to be at the center of any regional plan to promote economic vitality,” said Richard Mattoon, senior economist and economic advisor, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

The region has strengths to build on, but it is losing ground as other regions make a more compelling case for where investment should go.

“The Midwest is failing the challenge of globalization, largely because it’s so balkanized, with each state trying to compete in the global economy. Midwestern states are simply too small, too incompetent, too obsessed with the wreckage of the industrial economy, to deal with the problems of the future, like education. It’s time for other players -- cities, businesses, especially universities -- to come together in a concerted regional approach that would leverage the Midwest’s strengths, not undermine them,” said Richard C. Longworth, senior fellow, Chicago Council on Global Affairs and author of the new book, “Caught in the Middle: America’s Heartland in the Age of Globalism” (Bloomsbury).

CIC member university leaders as well as leaders of regional banks and other summit attendees want to stop that erosion and, instead, start gaining ground.

“We believe it is time for us to do more than talk together. It is time to act together,” Sullivan said.

Summit Agenda

Thursday, June 26

8:00 p.m. Welcome: Gary H. Stern, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis President and Robert Bruininks, University of Minnesota President

Keynote Address: Robert Lucas, University of Chicago, Nobel Laureate

Friday, June 27

9:00 a.m. “The Private Returns to Human Capital”

Speaker: Lance Lochner, University of Western Ontario

10:00 a.m. “Mobility of Human Capital” Speaker: John Kennan, University of Wisconsin-Madison

11:00 a.m. “Valuing the Benefits of the Education Provided by Public Universities”

Speaker: Paul Glewwe, University of Minnesota

12:00 p.m. “Early Childhood Development: Economic Development with High Public Return”

Speaker: Arthur Rolnick, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

1:00 p.m. Panel: “The Case For a Regional View: How Can Our States Cooperate in Order to Gain Competitive Advantage?”

Moderator: Chris Farrell, Marketplace Money Radio Show

Richard Longworth, Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Tom Holmes, University of Minnesota

2:15 p.m. Panel: “Where do we go from here?”

Moderator: Chris Farrell, Marketplace Money Radio Show

Frank Beal, Chicago Metropolis 2020 Project

Connie Shoemake/Mark Cleverley, IBM

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. “The Imperative for Regional Cooperation”

Speaker: Lou Anna K. Simon, Michigan State University President

Led by the U of M, the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan team to present groundbreaking report on future of Minnesota's environment and natural resources

When: Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Public Presentation: 8:45-11:45 a.m.

Press Conference: 11:45 a.m.

Where: State Office Building: 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul

Presentation: Room 5

Press conference: Rm. 181

Contacts: Todd Reubold, Institute on the Environment, (612) 624-6140, reub0002@umn.edu

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Mike Banker, LCCMR, (651) 296-2668, mike.banker@lccmr.leg.mn

June 24, 2008

The Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan team, led by the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, will give a public presentation before the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) on its assessment and recommendations for the state's environmental and natural resources 8:45-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, July 8 at the State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul. The presentation will be followed immediately by a press conference in Rm. 181.

The Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan will present an integrated assessment and recommendations intended to guide short and long term planning, policy and funding investment for the protection and enhancement of the state's environment and natural resources. It represents the most comprehensive look at Minnesota's environment and natural resources. The effort was led by the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment in conjunction with a variety of public and private partners. Funding was provided by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Presenters at the July event include professors from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and Duluth campuses and representatives from Bonestroo, a St. Paul-based multi-disciplined company committed to healthy and livable communities, and CR Planning, a Minneapolis-based consulting firm in land use planning sustainable development and energy policy industries.

Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan team members and LCCMR members will be available for interviews and photographs. Additional interviews before or after July 8 can be arranged by contacting Mike Banker, Todd Reubold or Luisa Badaracco.

University of Minnesota professor and author wins prestigious book award

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/24/2008) —Andrew Van de Ven, Vernon H. Heath Chair of Organizational Innovation and Change at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, will receive the prestigious 2008 George Terry Book Award during the Academy of Management's annual meeting, August 8-13, in Anaheim, Calif., for his book, "Engaged Scholarship," (Oxford University Press).

The Academy of Management, a leading professional association for scholars dedicated to creating and disseminating knowledge about management and organizations, grants the George Terry Book Award annually to the book that has made the most outstanding contribution to the advancement of management knowledge and that was published during the previous two years. The winner is selected by an award committee.

In his book, Van de Ven bridges the gap between research and "real world" results by suggesting guidelines for carrying out sound, useful research for advancing both academia and business practices. Van de Ven asserts that while business practitioners and academics have fundamentally different ways of looking at the world, he believes that the differences between them actually hold solutions for big problems.

He advocates for engaged scholarship, a form of research that obtains the different perspectives of and encourages collaboration between academics, business practitioners, clients and other stakeholders. "By involving others and leveraging their different kinds of knowledge, engaged scholarship can produce knowledge that is more penetrating and insightful than when scholars or practitioners work on the problem alone," he writes.

Van de Ven directs the Minnesota Health Care Organization's Research Program and PhD Training Fellowships, as well as the Minnesota Innovation Research Program in the Strategic Management Research Center at the Carlson School.

University of Minnesota "Driven to Discover" marketing campaign awarded Gold Effie

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/25/2008) —The University of Minnesota's "Driven to Discover" campaign was recently awarded the Gold "Effie" in the Government/Institutional category by the American Marketing Association (AMA). The "Effie," a globally recognized award, represents client and agency teams who tackled a marketplace challenge with a big idea and achieved measurable results. The university teamed up with Minneapolis-based Olson agency on the winning campaign.

The Driven to Discover campaign showcased the university's commitment to discovering solutions to global problems and engaged the public in the search. The innovative TV and print ads asked the public to submit their single greatest questions and matched it with answers from faculty active in the search.

From the launch of the campaign in September 2006 through August of 2007, nearly 4,000 questions were submitted to the Driven to Discover Web site. On the first day of the campaign, Web site traffic spiked 11 percent, with an additional 20,000 visits to the university's home page, www.umn.edu. In addition, the university reported record fundraising in 2007, a 39 percent increase from the previous year.

"We are thrilled to receive this recognition," said Ann Aronson, assistant vice president, University Relations. "The 'Effie' is a prestigious honor because it recognizes campaigns that achieve real results." The Driven to Discover campaign has significantly increased public understanding and awareness of the many ways a public research university improves lives.

The University of Minnesota is the first higher education institute in this category to win since 1996.

Steel topping off at U of M TCF Bank Stadium

What: Steel topping off of TCF Bank Stadium

When: Check in: 8:30 a.m. Topping off: 9 a.m.

Where: East gate off of 23rd Avenue between 6th Street S.E. and University Avenue

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/25/2008) —The final steel beams are about to be placed at the University of Minnesota TCF Bank Stadium, signifying the topping off of the building's main structure.

Media are welcome to attend the event, which will take place at 9 a.m. Friday, June 27 at the stadium site, 2009 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Due to the hazardous nature of the work being performed, media must wear site-appropriate clothing such as long pants and boots. Check in will be at the 23rd Ave S.E. gate between 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. Topping off will occur at 9 a.m. Access to the site will end at 9:30 a.m.

On Friday the main steel structure of the stadium will be “topped off” when two steel beams are placed on the auxiliary scoreboard structure at the eastern end of the stadium. The beams have been signed by the steelworkers working on the project and stadium project executives and supporters.

Over 8,800 tons of steel were erected and assembled since January 2008 to build the stadium frame. Minnesota-based LeJeune Steel Company, along with American Structural Metals was the steel fabricator. Amerect, also Minnesota based, erected the steel.

More than 85 percent of the subcontracts for the stadium have been awarded to Minnesota-based firms. Minneapolis-based Mortenson Construction is the project's general contractor.

Four new Regents Professors named by University of Minnesota

Media Note: Photos available at:

http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/photos/08_regents_profs.html

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/25/2008) —Four University of Minnesota professors have been named Regents Professors by the university's Board of Regents. The designation is the highest level of recognition given to faculty by the university. They are physics professor Allen Goldman, history professor Steven Ruggles, geography professor Eric Sheppard and English professor Madelon Sprengnether.

"Year after year, Regents Professors represent the best and brightest in their fields, and this year's selection is no exception," said University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks. "Their bold discoveries and commitment to excellence across a wide range of disciplines embody the mission and aspirations of a world-class research and land-grant university."

The addition of the new Regents Professors increases the total number of current Regents Professorships to 27.

"Our new distinguished group of Regents Professors are exemplars of the academic excellence that abounds at the University of Minnesota," said Provost Thomas Sullivan. "Throughout their careers, professors Goldman, Ruggles, Sheppard and Sprengnether have produced outstanding academic contributions, engaged their students in the classroom and provided exceptional service, thereby enhancing the reputation of the University of Minnesota. It is a privilege to honor this group."

More about the Regents Professors and their research:

Allen Goldman (Institute of Technology)

Goldman, an Institute of Technology Distinguished professor in the School of Physics and Astronomy, has been described by his colleagues around the world as a "towering giant in the field of condensed matter physics," and "one of the premier experimentalists in the field worldwide." For the past 43 years at the university, he has conducted groundbreaking research in three areas of condensed matter physics, which include superconductivity, low-dimensional electronics systems and the superconducting-metal-insulator transition. His record of service to the university and larger scientific community is extensive. He played a seminal role in the creation of the Theoretical Physics Institute, served as head of the school of physics and astronomy, organized countless scientific conferences and served on a number of panels in his field and on visiting committees at other universities and laboratories. In the classroom, he is considered a charismatic teacher and an extraordinary mentor.

Steven Ruggles (College of Liberal Arts)

Ruggles is a professor of history, director of the Minnesota Population Center and Distinguished McKnight Professor in the College of Liberal Arts. At the university since 1985, he has emerged as one of the most widely known historical demographers in the world. Colleagues describe him as a "scholar of astonishing breadth of knowledge and productivity whose work has reshaped the field of historical demography and has had a profound effect on the fields of sociology, economics and history." He has helped raise approximately \$65 million in research funds to create, improve and disseminate population data. At the Center, he and his team have collected, coded, computerized, systematized and delivered to scholars the individual records of millions of Americans going back to 1850. It is considered one of the most valuable databases of all time and has made the University of Minnesota one of the largest social science data distributors in the world. He is known as an extraordinary teacher who has had a profound impact on undergraduate and graduate education.

Eric Sheppard (College of Liberal Arts)

Sheppard, a professor of geography in the College of Liberal Arts, is described by his colleagues as a "towering intellect, a universally admired educator and a highly respected leader." His contributions are recognized globally and have transformed the core understanding of the space economy, urban transformation, regional development, globalization and geographic science. He is credited with bringing the university's Department of Geography to a top-three national status. Considered to be one of the world's leading geographers, he is the author of cutting-edge graduate and undergraduate textbooks, which have become key sources in classrooms around the world. His contributions to the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change have made him a vital part in internationalizing the university. He has helped organize numerous international conferences and has been a keynote, plenary lecturer or invited lecturer in more than 130 conferences or universities across the globe. With his students, he is considered a successful advisor and a trusted mentor.

Madelon Sprengnether (College of Liberal Arts)

Sprengnether, a professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts, is a nationally and internationally recognized scholar in the field of literature, women's studies and psychoanalysis. Psychoanalysis is the study of human psychological functioning and behavior and a powerful tool in analyzing literature. Her work is described as "profoundly creative, original, interdisciplinary and transformative." Her book, "The Spectral Mother," is described as a "landmark" publication and is said to be one of the most important books ever published about Sigmund Freud's life and thought. She is considered an authority on Shakespeare, and her 1986 essay "'I wooed thee with my sword': Shakespeare's Tragic Paradigms," was considered so powerful and influential that it was reprinted five times and has been read by thousands of students and scholars. Outside the classroom, Sprengnether has participated in numerous promotion and tenure faculty reviews, presented hundreds of papers and lectures and showcased her work and the university through many media interviews across the globe.

The Regents Professor position was established in 1965 by the Board of Regents to recognize the national and international prominence of faculty members. It serves as the highest recognition for faculty who have made unique contributions to the quality of the University of Minnesota through exceptional accomplishments in teaching, research and scholarship or creative work, and contributions to the public good.

University of Minnesota professor emeritus and Nobel Laureate Leonid Hurwicz passes away

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/25/2008) —The following is a statement from University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks on the death of university professor emeritus and Nobel Laureate Leonid Hurwicz:

“The entire University of Minnesota community was saddened today to learn of the death of Leo Hurwicz. As anyone who witnessed the Nobel ceremony and tribute to professor Hurwicz last winter, it’s clear that he was an extraordinary man. Not only were his economic theories groundbreaking, but he was a renaissance scholar, with a keen interest in many disciplines, an incisive mind and quick wit and a natural grace that endeared him to so many people. His great contributions to the field of economics brought worldwide attention to the economics department, and his influence on his colleagues and students provide a proud and lasting legacy.”

“The entire university sends its condolences to Leo’s wife, Evelyn, and the entire Hurwicz family.”

For a video of the last interview with professor Hurwicz, visit:

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

For more information on the life and accomplishments of professor Hurwicz, visit:

http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/leo_hurwicz.htm

Northrop Announces New Director of Concerts and Lectures at the University of Minnesota

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/30/2008) —Northrop has announced the appointment of Benjamin M. Johnson as director of concerts and lectures at the University of Minnesota. Johnson's appointment begins August 11, filling the position held by the late Dale Schatzlein. Johnson's appointment follows a three-month national search.

"Mr. Johnson is a creative and visionary leader who will build upon Northrop's 80-year legacy," said Steven Rosenstone, University of Minnesota vice president for scholarly and cultural affairs. "As director of concerts and lectures, he will work with community partners and university departments to develop innovative programs that will enhance campus and community engagement with the performing arts, scholarly, and civic discussions. Planning for the complete renovation of Northrop remains on schedule and he will ensure the vitality and excellence of Northrop's programs as the University transforms the facility to create a dynamic state-of-the-art cultural and academic center that is central to the life of the campus and that serves the people of Minnesota."

Johnson, a native of Winona and LeRoy, returns to Minnesota after 14 years as director of education and audience development at the University Musical Society at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. As a member of the UMS senior management team, Johnson provided vision and strategic direction to the Music Society's season of over 70 performances a year. He also planned and coordinated over 150 UMS educational events and collaborations with academic departments, public schools and community organizations. Johnson has broad expertise in dance, theater, jazz, world music and contemporary performance and has built strong alliances with the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. He is nationally recognized for his innovative artistic programs, new models of cultural participation and partnerships with local artists, arts institutions, religious and ethnic communities.

"I am thrilled for Ben, for the University of Minnesota and for the greater Twin Cities area," said Ken Fischer, president of the University Musical Society at the University of Michigan. "Ben has had an enormous impact on UMS, the University of Michigan and the greater southeast Michigan community during his tenure here. I am confident that his vision, talent, hard work and love of people will bring transformative results of at least the same magnitude as we've seen here in Michigan. What a treasure he has been for us."

Johnson received his Bachelor of Arts in theater arts and mass communication and his Master of Arts in arts administration from St. Mary's University of Minnesota. As a student, he was a volunteer usher for the Northrop Dance Series, and from 1992 to 1996 he served as an education and programming associate at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts.

Next year will mark Northrop's 80th year as a vital performing arts center at the University of Minnesota. Northrop exposes audiences to a wide variety of artists and culturally diverse performing arts groups—from the established to the emerging, and from the classical to the contemporary. Northrop engages audiences through performance, discussion and interaction with the artists themselves.

Northrop's 2008-2009 season includes eight internationally acclaimed dance companies showcasing the best in contemporary dance, Spanish flamenco, and international ballet; four jazz concerts featuring some of the world's most important contemporary jazz musicians and a diverse array of modern performing artists. For more information about these programs contact Northrop at northrop.umn.edu or (612) 624-2345.

U of M recognizes 2008 Farm Families of the year

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/30/2008) —Sixty-four families from around the state, one from each participating county, have been named a “2008 Farm Family of the Year” by the University of Minnesota.

The families will be officially recognized in a ceremony Thursday, Aug. 7 at the annual Farmfest near Redwood Falls, Minn. Profiles of the 2008 honorees and information on the recognition event can be found on the university’s farm family website, at <http://mnfarmfamilies.cfans.umn.edu/>.

“The University of Minnesota is proud to recognize these farm families for their contribution to agriculture and their communities,” said Bev Durgan, dean of University of Minnesota Extension. “Farm families are the foundation of Minnesota agriculture and major contributors to the vitality of our communities.”

Families receiving honors were selected by their local county Extension committees and have demonstrated a commitment to enhancing and supporting agriculture and agriculture production.

“This year’s farm families show the broad range of food produced by Minnesota’s farmers - - everything from soybeans and hogs to less traditional crops like hybrid poplars and maple syrup,” said Allen Levine, dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. “We’re proud to salute these families and their hard work to put food on our tables.”

The diversity of Minnesota family farms can be seen by looking at a sample of the 2008 honorees:

Keith and Sandy Engen Family of Cottonwood County, Lamberton, Minn.
Keith and Sandy Engen operate a corn and soybean crop rotation where they also finish beef cattle and custom feed hogs. Their daughter Britta is the current Minnesota Beef Queen.

The Rogotzke Family of St. Louis County, Duluth, Minn.
Dave and Anne Rogotzke own a maple forest where they collect syrup from nearly 4,600 taps and bottle it for market. During the months of June and July the family commercially fishes for King and Sockeye Salmon in Bristol Bay, Alaska.

Jeffrey and Susie Thoe Family of Dodge County, Hayfield, Minn.
Jeffrey and Susie Thoe milk a herd of Registered Holsteins on a farm that was established 150 years ago. They also raise vegetables for market and corn, soybeans, oats and alfalfa for their own use.

Waldoch Farms of Anoka County, Lino Lakes, Minn. Sisters Mary Joyer and Kathy Rivard are the third generation on Waldoch Farms where they own and operate two acres of greenhouses and a pick-your-own vegetable garden. They raise a variety of plants and vegetables to sell in their retail Garden Center.

Tim and Marilyn Backman of Grant County, Herman, Minn.
Tim and Marilyn Backman own and operate Backman Seeds, Inc. which started when Tim’s parents purchased a seed conditioning plant in 1976. The Backman Farm plants soybeans and wheat for seed production and corn and sugar beets for market.

Mike and Julie Swenson of Lac qui Parle County, Dawson, Minn.
Mike and Julie Swenson started farming in 1981 and are the fourth generation on their farm. They run 780 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat as well as custom finish 800-900 hogs per year.

Verdelle and Faye Olson of Polk County, Fertile, Minn.
Verdelle and Faye Olson began farming in 1965 and are currently in a joint operation with their son Troy. The family raises bison and hybrid poplar trees and has 1,000 acres of land in a corn and soybean rotation.

Along with Farmfest, University units sponsoring the recognition event include University of Minnesota Extension, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and the College of Veterinary Medicine.



U of M Athletics Department to visit Mille Lacs County

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/01/2008) —With the first on-campus stadium in 28 years, the sounds, sights and excitement of University of Minnesota football will echo 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 Minnesota counties and Gopher Athletics is reaching out to engage the entire state of Minnesota over the next 15 months with a statewide tour.

The U athletics department will visit Mille Lacs County from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 10. The Gopher Wagon along with Gopher Athletics Director Joel Maturi and will be at the Milaca Dairy Queen, 415 10th Ave S.E., Milaca. The event will include prizes, games, giveaways and an opportunity to take a virtual tour of the TCF Bank Stadium.

Construction 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 substantial completion in July 2009 and will open for the first Gopher football game of the season on Sept. 12, 2009.

For more information visit www.gophersports.com and click on "Statewide County Tour"

Fulbright grants awarded to 13 U of M students

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/02/2008) —Thirteen University of Minnesota students have received Fulbright grants for 2008-09. The Fulbrights won by University of Minnesota students this year represent an increase from an average of eight in recent years.

The graduate student recipients are:

Naheed Aaftaab, a doctoral student in anthropology, is one of 13 students nationally to receive a Fulbright grant to India. She will study middle-class culture in Hyderabad, examining how the growth of the information technology industry is enabling new cultural transformations. Aaftaab received a bachelor's in political science and geography in 2001 and a master's in geography in 2004 from the University of Washington.

Amy Pagen Chen, a graduate student in geophysics, received a Fulbright grant to Germany. She will conduct research on magnetic bacteria at Ludwig-Maximilians University. Chen received a bachelor's in geophysics and geology in 2005 and a master's in geophysics in 2007 from the University of Minnesota.

Matthew Lee Grandbois, a doctoral candidate in chemistry, is the recipient of the University of Minnesota Graduate School's Fulbright Scholarship Exchange Program with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway. He will enroll in the Master of Science program in globalization. Grandbois received a bachelor's in chemistry and music performance from Augustana College in 2004.

Matthew Konieczny, a doctoral candidate in history, is one of 12 students nationally to receive a Fulbright grant to Poland. He will research with a cadre of Polish physicists working on the frontier of what would become the new quantum physics at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries. A graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's in international relations in 2000, Konieczny received a MPP (Public Policy) from the University of Michigan in 2002 and a masters in history from Indiana University in 2006.

Rachael Beth Kulick, a doctoral candidate in sociology, is one of 24 students nationally to receive a Fulbright grant to the Netherlands. For her dissertation research, she will use a combination of interviews and participant-observation to explore the meaning of contemporary home birth in the United States and the Netherlands. Kulick received a B.A. in health science from Kalamazoo College in 1995.

Brian Peter Piasecki, a doctoral candidate in plant biological sciences, is one of ten students nationally to receive a Fulbright grant to Sweden. He will conduct laboratory research on centrioles at the Karolinska Institutet. Piasecki received a B.S. in geography and biology from the University of North Texas in 2000 and a masters in biological sciences-botany from the University of Texas at Austin in 2003.

Anne Beryl Wallen, a doctoral candidate in Germanic studies, is one of nine students nationally to receive a Fulbright grant to Denmark. Her dissertation research focuses on masked balls in 18th-century Danish society and literature. A graduate of the University of Kansas with a bachelor's in German and humanities in 2003, Wallen received a master's in Germanic Studies from the University of Minnesota in 2006.

The undergraduate student recipients are:

Brian Arnold, a 2008 candidate for a bachelor's in plant biology, has been awarded a Fulbright grant to Finland for 2008-09. He will spend the year at the University of Oulu in Oulu, Finland, where he where he will work in the laboratory of Outi Savolainen, a renowned researcher on plant genetics who is studying the genetic basis for adaptation in flowering time in the plant *Arabidopsis lyrata*.

John Colombo, a 2008 graduate with a bachelor's in economics, a bachelor's in Asian languages and literatures and minors in mathematics and political science, received a Fulbright grant to spend the 2008-09 year in Indonesia as an English teaching assistant. ETAs to Indonesia typically teach conversational English to senior high school students throughout the country, outside of major cities.

Kelly Kinne, who graduates this summer with a Bachelor of Individualized Studies, is one of three University of Minnesota-Twin Cities students to win a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant grant to Korea for the coming year. She will be placed by the Fulbright Commission in Korea at a secondary school in a city or provincial town outside of Seoul, where she will teach conversational English.

Matthew Lane, a Spring 2007 graduate with majors in Asian languages and literatures and linguistics and a minor in English as a second language, has also been awarded a Fulbright Teaching Assistant grant to Korea. Lane will teach conversational English to middle or high school students and will be placed in a city or town secondary school by the Fulbright Commission in Korea.

Jessica Mann, a 2008 graduate with majors in global studies, journalism and German studies, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to Germany. Jessica will study the effects of transnational media on the integration of German Turks, particularly younger members of the second and third generations.

Melissa Shelsby, a 2008 graduate in English with a minor in Asian languages and literatures, has received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant grant to Korea. She will be placed in a middle or high school in a town or city in Korea, other than Seoul, by the Fulbright Commission in Korea, where she will teach conversational English.

In addition, two university students won grants from foreign governments in a national competition through the Fulbright process:

Noelle Arline Noonan, a doctoral candidate in music, is one of 50 students nationally to receive an English Teaching Assistantship from the French Government. A graduate of Bethany College with a bachelor's in French and music in 2001, she received a master's in vocal performance from the State University of New York at Fredonia in 2003.

Ruth Zinsmeister, who graduated this Spring with majors in German studies and global studies and minors in English as a second language and mass communication, has been awarded an Austrian Government Teaching Assistantship in English for 2008-09. Placement is in secondary schools in larger and smaller communities throughout Austria.

The Fulbright Program, an international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Since its inception, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 286,000 participants, chosen for their leadership potential, with the opportunity to observe each others' political, economic and cultural institutions, exchange ideas and embark on joint ventures of importance to the general welfare of the world's inhabitants. The program operates in more than 150 countries worldwide. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

Tom Petters at U of M to discuss how his investment company successfully connects diverse businesses and builds global relationships

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/02/2008) —Thomas Petters, CEO and chairman, Petters Group Worldwide, will speak at the Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 5, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

In his speech, "Connecting the Dots," Petters will share insights about managing the diverse portfolio of companies within Petters Group Worldwide and discuss how innovative thinking has helped connect and create quality business relationships that span the globe.

In 1988, Tom Petters started a trading company with very little capital. Under his 20 years of management and guidance, Petters Group Worldwide has grown from a one-man operation into an investment company whose entities have employees around the world. Petters Group Worldwide is a privately held company with key areas of focus in merchandising, brand management, technology, aviation, real estate and investment capital.

In 2002, Petters Group Worldwide was a partner in acquiring and restarting Fingerhut, which is one of the largest catalog and direct mail companies in the country. The following year, Petters Group Worldwide acquired uBid.com, the second largest Internet auction site. In 2005, uBid.com became a public company with Petters Group as a minority owner. Also in 2005, Petters Group Worldwide purchased Polaroid Corporation following two years serving as a consumer electronics licensee for the company. In October 2006, Petters Group and Whitebox Advisors purchased Sun Country Airlines; Petters Group is a majority owner today.

The advance registration deadline is Thursday, July 31. 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, August 1. There are three ways to register: call 612-626-9634, visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/events, or send an e-mail message to firsttuesday@umn.edu

U Presents Symposium on Aging with Intellectual Disabilities

Contacts: Marijo McBride, Institute on Community Integration, (612)624-6830, mcbri001@umn.edu
Luisa Badaracco, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, luisab@umn.edu

July 2, 2008

Today, more Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities are living into old age in local communities than in previous generations and the numbers are growing. A symposium on aging with intellectual disabilities at the University of Minnesota focuses on the challenges faced by older adults with life-long intellectual disabilities and how to improve the community supports and services that affect their lives. It will be held 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Tuesday, July 8 at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Nearly 150 participants will gather for the following sessions with representatives from seven Twin Cities organizations:

8:40-9:40 a.m. Panel Discussion: The challenges and opportunities present when supporting older adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community. Panelists: Alex Bartolic, Minnesota Department of Human Services, Division of Disability Services; Karen Holt, New Directions; Anne Roehl, Arc Greater Twin Cities; Janelle Schaak, Kaposia, Inc.; and John Sauer, Institute on Community Integration.

9:45 - 10:45: Breakout Sessions:

Person-Centered Planning for End of Life, Marijo McBride, Institute on Community Integration and Karen Holt, New Directions

Aging and Disability Policy, Alex Bartolic, Division of Disability Services, MN Department of Human Services

Dementia Care, Marsha Berry, Alzheimer's Association

11:00-12:00: Breakout Sessions

Arc Greater Twin Cities Lifetime Assistance Program, Anne Roehl, Arc Greater Twin Cities

Beyond Employment: Retirement Options, Janelle Schaak, Kaposia

Residential Perspectives on Supporting Aging Adults, Karen Holt, New Directions

This event is co-sponsored by the Institute on Community Integration, a federally-designated University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at the University of Minnesota, and the University's School of Social Work. It is made possible by the Katherine and Arthur Sehlin Annual Lecture Fund in the School of Social Work.

U of M Law School graduate selected for clerkship with U.S. Supreme Court

Former Minneapolis South High School teacher will clerk for 2010-2011 term

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Cynthia Huff, Law School, (612) 625-6691, huffx070@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/02/2008) —Amy Bergquist, a 2007 University of Minnesota Law School graduate, recently accepted a clerkship for the 2010-11 term with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

“It is a great honor that Justice Ginsburg selected me to be one of her law clerks,” Bergquist said. “When I left my 11-year career as a high school teacher to come to law school, I never would have dreamed that this would be possible.” Bergquist taught at Minneapolis South High School from 1993 to 2004.

Bergquist plans to work at Faegre & Benson in Minneapolis for a year before clerking with U.S. District Court Judge John Tunheim on the District Court of Minnesota for 2009-10. In the summer of 2010, she will head to Washington, D.C.

“About once a decade, I encounter a student who excels in everything and demonstrates the skills, creativity, and personality to reach the very highest levels of accomplishment in the legal profession,” said professor Laura Cooper, who holds the J. Stewart and Mario Thomas McClendon Chair in Law and Alternative Dispute Resolution and has been a law professor for more than 30 years. “Amy Bergquist is such a person.”

At the Law School, Bergquist was editor-in-chief of the Minnesota Law Review and was chosen by a faculty committee to receive the William B. Lockhart Award for Excellence in Scholarship, Leadership and Service in 2007. “Amy has devoted her scholarship to issues of pressing importance in the field of international human rights,” said then-Dean Fred Morrison in presenting the award, and she has dedicated herself “to service both within and beyond the Law School.”

Her partner, Erik Larson, a sociology professor at Macalester College, hopes to arrange for a sabbatical leave and do research in Washington for the 2010-11 school year. But they plan to return. “We are well settled in Minneapolis,” Bergquist said.

Other U of M Law School alumni have clerked for the Supreme Court: James Hale ('65), Scott Knudson ('82), and most recently, Doug Winthrop ('91), who served Associate Justice John Paul Stevens of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1992-93.

Author David Hajdu to appear at book talk and signing at U of M

What: Book talk and signing

When: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 8

Where: University of Minnesota Elmer J. Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue S., Minneapolis

Who: David Hajdu, author of *The Ten-Cent Plague: The Great Comic Book Scare and How It Changed America*

Contacts: Marlo Welshons, University Libraries, (612) 625-9148
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/03/2008) —The Friends of the University Minnesota Libraries and the Children's Literature Research Collections will host an appearance by David Hajdu, author of "The Ten-Cent Plague: The Great Comic Book Scare and How It Changed America." The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Anderson Library 222 21st Avenue S., Minneapolis.

The event with Hajdu is part of an evening celebration honoring John Borger and his gift of almost 40,000 comic books to the Children's Literature Research Collections at the University Libraries.

Dessert reception follows the book talk with books available for sale courtesy of Red Balloon Bookshop. Hajdu will be signing books during the reception.

Hajdu's "The Ten-Cent Plague: The Great Comic Book Scare and How It Changed America" comprises the last book in an informal trilogy about American popular culture at mid-century, and radically revises common notions of popular culture, the generation gap, and the divide between "high" and "low" art.

The book argues that comic books, not rock-and-roll, created the generation gap and discusses an era when teachers, politicians, priests, and parents were lining up across from comic-book publishers, writers, artists and children at bonfires and senate hearings decrying the evil that was the "ten-cent plague."

Along with being an author of three books, Hajdu is the music critic for *The New Republic* and a professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. His first two books were finalists for the National Book Critics Circle Award, and both books won the ASCAP Deems-Taylor Award. His books have also been finalists for the LAMBDA Literary Award and the Firecracker Book Award.

U of M names architecture firm that will design new Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/07/2008) —The University of Minnesota announced today the selection of Urban Design Perspectives with Charles Levin Architects as the architecture team that will design the university's new Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC) at the former Plymouth-Penn shopping center, located at 2001 Plymouth Ave. in north Minneapolis.

"The UROC space planning committee selected Urban Design Perspectives because they assembled an excellent team who possess a thorough understanding of the university's objectives and a strong sense of how the project should be incorporated in the neighborhood," said Irma McClaurin, executive director, Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center. "Their work plan was thoughtful and concise with creative solutions and approaches to manage the challenges that transforming a shopping center presents."

Urban Design Perspectives with Charles Levin Architects has assembled a team that will provide interior and exterior building designs and incorporate landscaping (by Close Landscaping Architects) that is conscious of urban environmental issues. In addition to the architects, Seitu Jones, a public art consultant and artist will assist in capturing culturally significant design elements. Previously, members of this team designed the Minnesota Population Center for the University of Minnesota.

"We are pleased to have been selected by the university to help with the revitalization and restoration of this key location in north Minneapolis," said Alicia Belton, AIA and project manager. "Our team is committed to helping create a physical presence that represents the university's commitment to this neighborhood."

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 community, city and county partners, and make university programs and services more accessible to residents. According to McClaurin, the renovated facility will be unique among other institutions engaged in similar community outreach.

"We have a unique opportunity -- by being based in the community -- to be innovative not only in the development of UROC programs, but also in the design of a space that truly reflects a commitment to collaboration," she said. "We envision a place that will become an important destination for the community of north Minneapolis, and attract others so that they can see the value the northside has to contribute to the city and state."

Once the design is completed a Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued for 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. Information about the RFP will be posted when it becomes available on the Purchasing Bid Information Services Web site at: <http://purchasing.umn.edu/vendor/bis.php>

When completely renovated, the 21,000 square foot building will house a number of community-university partnership programs, including:

- The Center for Early Education & Development's 500 Under Five-Kindergarten readiness program, in partnership with Northside families.
- University Northside Partnership Office
- University of Minnesota Extension's programs in urban youth development, nutrition education, family development and master gardening
- University of Minnesota Medical School's program in health disparities
- Center for Innovation and Economic Development
- UROC administrative offices

The center is expected to open spring 2009.

Minnesota's Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan offers vision for the state's environment and natural resources

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/07/2008) —A new report, released today by the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment and the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), offers comprehensive assessments and recommendations pertaining to the future of Minnesota. The Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan (SCPP) charts long-term strategies for addressing critical issues and trends impacting Minnesota's environment and natural resources.

The SCPP team will give a public presentation before the LCCMR on its assessment and recommendations from 8:45-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, July 8, at the State Office Building, 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul. The presentation will be followed immediately by a press conference in Room 181.

Funded by Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, the report is the culmination of a one and a half year collaborative public/private effort led by the Institute on the Environment and done on behalf of the LCCMR. The LCCMR requested the creation of the SCPP in response to directives from the Legislature and Gov. Tim Pawlenty. The report is intended to guide public and private decision-makers with planning, policy and funding investment.

Deb Swackhamer, interim director of the Institute on the Environment and SCPP principal investigator, said the plan represents a "profound moment" for Minnesota. "The Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan project teams aimed to create a blueprint for preserving our quality of life and economic vitality across the state," said Swackhamer. "The recommendations in this report will serve as foundation for Minnesota's environment going forward."

The final recommendations work together to provide multiple, overlapping benefits for the state's economy, environment and natural resources in a cost-effective way. The recommendations speak to potential policy, action and knowledge infrastructure efforts that could be implemented across five categories:

- Integrated Planning, which includes guidance on improving inter-agency and community-level coordination of related conservation efforts, such as water protection and mercury contamination reduction; and investing in the tools needed to support land use and conservation decisions.
- Critical Land Protection, which includes guidance on identifying, prioritizing and protecting critical land and aquatic habitat, forest land and shorelands; increasing public understanding of how land and water interact at larger scales; and improving connectivity and access to outdoor recreation throughout the state.
- Land and Water Restoration, which includes guidance on restoring habitat, wetlands and watersheds; reducing streambank and soil erosion; and improving our understanding of groundwater resources.
- Sustainable Practices, which includes guidance on renewable energy sources, practices and adoption strategies; expanding the involvement of individuals and communities in energy conservation and carbon reduction efforts; and the expansion of sustainable forestry.
- Economic Incentives for Sustainability, which includes guidance on developing and providing incentives for investment in and adoption of renewable energy practices.

Referring to the "unprecedented" nature of the SCPP, Susan Thornton, director of the LCCMR, said, "This effort has uniquely benefited from the participation of a broad spectrum of environment and natural resources experts and stakeholders, many of whom volunteered their time because of the importance this project has for Minnesota."

The effort was completed in two phases. The first phase concluded in July 2007 with a draft report that identified critical issues and trends having implications for Minnesota's environment and natural resources. Now, the second phase concludes with a final report on how to address these critical issues and trends.

"LCCMR members look forward to studying the plan in detail and learning how it can inform investment priorities for Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund," said Thornton. "Based on what we're already hearing, we expect that decision-makers around the state will be making use of its guidance in their own efforts."

For more information and to view or download a copy of the SCPP, visit <http://www.lccmr.leg.mn> or <http://www.mnconservationplan.net>. Contact Mike Banker for specific inquiries relating to the LCCMR. Contact Eve Daniels for specific inquiries relating to the Institute on the Environment.

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)

The LCCMR has 17 members (five senators, five representatives, five citizens appointed by the governor, and one citizen appointed by both the Senate and the House). The function of the LCCMR (formerly LCMR) is to make funding recommendations to the Minnesota State Legislature, primarily for expenditures from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, for special environment and natural resource projects. These projects help maintain and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources. The LCCMR developed from a program initiated in 1963. Since then, more than \$600 million has been appropriated to over 1,250 projects throughout Minnesota.

Institute on the Environment

As the gateway to and the link between "all things environmental" at the University of Minnesota, the Institute on the Environment is discovering solutions and delivering results to the region, the nation and the world. The Institute's research and activities are organized around four themes, including Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation; Renewable Energy and the Environment; Landscapes and Watersheds; and Human and Ecosystem Health. World-class fellows from a wide range of colleges, along with visiting scholars and affiliated organizations, provide intellectual leadership for an interdisciplinary mission that entails research, ongoing initiatives and public outreach.

U of M Board of Regents to meet this week

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

July 7, 2008

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents meets on Wednesday at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street SE, Minneapolis. Topics on the agenda range from an update on the new biomedical research program, which will build four new bioscience research buildings over the next few years, to taking action on a memorandum of understanding with the Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis regarding the Central Corridor light rail line.

The board meets all day on Wednesday and then convenes its annual two-day retreat on Thursday and Friday in Owatonna, Minn.

The schedule for the meeting is as follows:

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

8:15 - 9 a.m., Audit Committee, East Conference Room.

9:15 - 10:30 a.m., Board of Regents work session, Boardroom. The full board will hear from Vice President for University Relations Karen Himle on university communications, including an update on the "Driven to Discover" marketing campaign.

10:45 a.m. - 12 p.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will take action on a new purchasing policy and discuss the debt financing strategy for the new biomedical research program.

10:45 a.m. - 12 p.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee acts on real estate transactions, including an agreement with the new DECC Arena in Duluth and acquisition of land near the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Carver County. In addition, the committee will hear a presentation on the Doran Companies plan for renovation of the Dinky Dome and be updated on facilities associated with the Urban Research and Outreach Center and Northside Partnership.

1:30 - 2:30 p.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, West Committee Room. Senior Vice President Robert Jones and Associate Vice President Irma McClaurin, who heads the Urban Research and Outreach Center, will provide an update on the Northside Partnership.

1:30 - 2:30 p.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will hear an update on the new "Welcome Week" planned for this year and will also hear about a proposal to create health care savings plan accounts.

2:45 - 4 p.m., Board of Regents meeting. Senior Vice President Frank Cerra and Vice Presidents Kathleen O'Brien and Richard Pfutzenreuter will present on implementation plan for the new biomedical research program. The board will also review and act upon a proposed memorandum of understanding regarding the Central Corridor light rail project, which will go through the Twin Cities campus. Finally, Associate Vice President Donna Peterson will give her annual update on government relations.

Thursday, July 10 and Friday, July 11, 2008

Board of Regents annual retreat, Gainey Conference Center, Owatonna.

More information on the Board of Regents and live streaming of the board meetings can be found at www.umn.edu/regents.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans invests \$2 million in U of M Carlson School Growth Fund

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/07/2008) —The University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management recently announced that Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has invested \$2 million into the Carlson Funds Enterprise's Carlson Growth Fund. This is the second investment Thrivent Financial has made in the Carlson Funds Enterprise, and also the largest single initial investment into the Carlson Growth Fund.

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 Funds Enterprise has more than \$25 million distributed between the two funds.

With the Thrivent Financial investment, the Carlson Growth Fund will grow to approximately \$13 million, a substantial increase from the \$3.5 million invested at its inception in 1998 by four corporations. The Carlson Growth Fund formed the foundation of the first Carlson Funds Enterprise program.

“The Carlson funds provide select graduate and undergraduate students with the opportunity to learn how financial markets work by analyzing and investing in the equity and debt securities of small and large companies,” said Joe Barsky, program director of the Carlson Funds Enterprise. “This real world experience is made possible by our participants, such as Thrivent Financial, as well as by a network of professional investment analysts and portfolio managers who serve as mentors to the students.”

Over the past 10 years, more than 200 students have participated in the Carlson Funds Enterprise. The Carlson Growth Fund has consistently outperformed the Russell 2000 Growth Index, and through May 2008, the Carlson Growth Fund has grown 170.48 percent since inception.

Thrivent Financial has been instrumental in the success of the Carlson Funds Enterprise since the inception of the Carlson Fixed Income Fund in 2003. As a financial service organization, Thrivent Financial recognizes the economic importance of investing in the future supply of well-trained financial analysts. Thrivent Financial has hired nearly 100 Carlson School graduates over the years.

University of Minnesota to begin demolishing field laboratory building

Relocation and reuse not feasible due to hazardous materials

Contacts: Chris Kelleher, facilities management, (612) 626-3734
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/08/2008) —University of Minnesota facilities management will begin demolition in August of the Plant Pathology Field Laboratory, 1669 Larpenteur Ave. W., Falcon Heights. The demolition will make way for the new Bell Museum of Natural History. The field laboratory had been Ramsey County School District No. 16's first schoolhouse, which operated on the site from 1873 to 1959. The U of M examined the possibility of relocating the building, but it is neither safe nor feasible to move and reuse the building for another purpose due to imbedded hazardous materials.

The university purchased Ramsey County School District No. 16 in 1960 and converted it to a field laboratory. Since 1960, the university has been the sole owner of the building. In the 1930's, the original building was substantially reconstructed including major additions by the Ramsey County School District, therein removing nearly all traces of the original 1870's building prior to university ownership.

For nearly 20 years, the university has worked to formulate a plan to restore the schoolhouse, but a viable option has never been presented. The university hired an external historical consultant to study the building for historical significance that would aid in soliciting funding to restore the building. Regrettably, the consultant confirmed that very little material remains from the original structure, almost none of which is readily visible to the public eye.

Another study concluded that the schoolhouse did not meet the criteria for a listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and the Minnesota state historic preservation officer has provided formal notification that the building is not of state historic significance.

After selecting the location as the new site of the Bell Museum of Natural History, the university refocused its efforts on relocating the schoolhouse, rather than renovating."

The university prepared to issue a request for proposals to move the structure to another site for preservation, but was forced to abandon these plans after conducting lead and asbestos surveys. The external environmental consultant's study of the building found it to be neither safe nor feasible to move and reuse the building for another purpose due to imbedded hazardous materials.

Abatement of friable hazardous materials has been completed by licensed environmental contractors. However, certain hazardous elements inherently remain in the residual materials. These residual elements must by state and federal laws be legally disposed of following Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regulations and oversight. The university has determined that the university can not convey the structure to any party as the environmental hazards risk is not transferable through contract law.

Earlier this spring the university decided that, given the environmental conditions of the building, it would not be prudent to solicit proposals to remove the property in its current state, and that the best course of action would be to take down the building and abate the environmental hazards.

The university is committed to preserving and maintaining the historic cultural resources under its stewardship. Unfortunately, the unsafe nature of the lab's structure has left the university with no other option than to demolish the building.

The university plans to memorialize the Ramsey County School District No. 16 schoolhouse by ensuring that the historical information about the building's history remains available to the public in the future.

U of M Board of Regents approve Central Corridor agreement

Contacts: Contact: Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/09/2008) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on \$27 million in mitigations and a yet-to-be determined amount of community betterments as part of the Central Corridor light rail project. The Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, the City of Minneapolis and the university have been working together to define these area-wide improvements that are included in the MOU.

“As a transit-oriented community, we want a light rail line that works. We’re optimistic that with this MOU, this line will work for the entire region,” said Board of Regents Chair Patricia Simmons.

Mitigations addressed in this MOU are improvements necessary to ensure the functionality of the CCLRT line and improvements that address traffic and other environmental impacts resulting from the construction and operation of the line. These costs will be included in the budget submitted to the FTA.

Betterments will improve the overall regional transportation system and in particular create better traffic flow around the university and in the neighboring communities. The parties in the MOU agree to pursue these betterments and seek funding outside of the project costs. The construction of Granary Road is included in the betterments.

Major mitigation project cost estimates included in the MOU are:

- \$11.1 million for the Washington Avenue Transit/Pedestrian Mall;
- \$5.1 million for East Bank campus area street connections; and
- \$4.4 million for environmental issues such as vibration and electromagnetic fields.

“We’re confident that with these mitigations and community betterments, this new light rail line will be a positive addition to our campus and the backbone of a modern regional transit system,” said university President Robert Bruininks.

The Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority have already signed the MOU. The City of Minneapolis will take up the matter on Friday.

U of M accepting applications from local businesses to participate in Welcome Week

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

July 10, 2008

Businesses in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area are invited to participate in the university's Welcome Week. Part of the six-day, on-campus orientation required of more than 5,000 incoming freshmen at the university's Twin Cities campus will include an involvement fair for local businesses. It will take place 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 30 in Mariucci Arena, 1901 4th St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Called Explore-U!, the event will provide maximum exposure for participants to the class of 2012, Welcome Week leaders, faculty and staff. Businesses will be able to increase their visibility to consumers with logos on signage and university communications, inform students of job and internship opportunities and showcase products and services to more than 5,000 people in a few short hours.

Eligible participants include businesses, vendors and student organizations that thrive due to student support. Participants will be able to demo, hand out promotional materials, sample products and promote other opportunities for students.

To participate in Explore-U, contact James Liberman at liber044@umn.edu or (612) 624-1979 by July 15.

About Welcome Week

Welcome Week is a six-day, on-campus experience prior to the start of the fall semester, required of all first-year students. This new program will provide opportunities to enhance academic and personal success for first-year students. Programming includes exploration of campus, academic and engagement interest sessions, nightly entertainment, service projects and field trips around the Twin Cities. For more information, visit: <http://www.welcomeweek.umn.edu>

U of M TCF Bank Stadium reaches 1st anniversary of construction

Media Note: To obtain images of stadium construction or a TCF Bank Stadium construction fact sheet, contact Ryan Mathre at mathre@umn.edu

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/11/2008) —On July 11, 2007, Golden Gopher football coach Tim Brewster led media members on a guided tour of an empty parking lot which was to become the University of Minnesota TCF Bank Stadium. One year later, significant construction progress has been made and Minnesota's new, 50,000 seat outdoor on-campus stadium is on schedule to open for the first game on Sept. 12, 2009 vs. Air Force Academy.

Since last July's groundbreaking, the site has been cleared and approximately 50,000 cubic yards of soil and asphalt has been removed. More than 2,000 piles have been drilled to support the stadium structure.

Beginning in January 2008, 8,800 tons of structural steel were erected and assembled in just five months. In all, 95 percent of the 24,000 total cubic yards of concrete has been poured to make up the foundation, floors and walls -- enough concrete to pour a 5 foot wide and 4 inches thick sidewalk from the University of Minnesota to Rochester.

Construction has also begun on the brick wall that will surround the stadium and the arched entrances within it. High on the wall above the arches, the names of each of the state's 87 counties are being engraved in stones that weigh 6500 pounds each and are 16 feet wide and 5 feet 4 inches high. The signs are fabricated in New Ulm, Minn. by American Artstone.

Over the course of this summer the remaining 5 percent of the 24,000 total cubic yards of concrete is being poured to complete the floors of the stadium. Construction of the lower and upper seating bowls has begun along with interior work on the building including plumbing, electrical, mechanical, walls, stairways and escalators.

"We're very happy that we continue to be on schedule and on budget," said Athletics Director Joel Maturi. "It's amazing to think that only a year ago the stadium site was nothing but a parking lot and about 5 months ago we raised the first piece of steel. Since the stadium has started to come out of the ground we have noticed a marked increase in energy and enthusiasm from Gopher fans across the state."

Future construction milestones include the installation of the main scoreboard (the second largest in all of college sports) and general public seating in the Fall, 2008 and seats, suites, interior finishes and masonry completion in the Winter 2008. By the Spring 2009, the playing field will be installed with final commissioning slated for June 2009.

The public can view a video of the progress from the first year of construction of TCF Bank Stadium by going to www.alumni.umn.edu/video.

University of Minnesota Biomedical Informatics and Computational Biology (BICB) program formally approved at University of Minnesota Rochester

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/14/2008) — The University of Minnesota Biomedical Informatics and Computational Biology (BICB) program was formally approved as an interdisciplinary all-University Masters and Doctoral degree program at the July 9 Board of Regent's meeting. This unique partnership program will be administered at the University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR).

"This is the culmination of more than 18 months of work among UMR, many departments on the Twin Cities campus and important partnering institutions: the Hormel Institute, IBM and Mayo Clinic," said Claudia Neuhauser, UMR vice chancellor for Academic Affairs. "This unique, Rochester-based program has already produced academic and research results."

BICB results include 10 students participating in a UMR funded trainee program that is integrating research agendas and preparing students for advanced studies and professional positions in this developing field. The field is growing dramatically with the rise of genomics and proteomics and the need for informatics tools to manage health care and to develop new drugs, products and treatments.

Other results include multi-institutional, interdisciplinary research teams, funded by UMR Seed Grants that are advancing the fields of science through informatics and computational biology. These grants have generated more than one million dollars in National Institute of Health (NIH) funding and corporate research support.

"The BICB program is an evolving example of the creative partnership between the University of Minnesota and the Mayo Clinic," said Claire Bender, director for education, Mayo Clinic Rochester. "This new program demonstrates the sharing of scientific and educational expertise of both institutions while respecting the excellence of both parties. This program also fulfills the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee's direction. We look forward to continued growth of this program."

Biomedical informatics and computation biology were identified by the Rochester Higher Education Development Committee as two areas of unique opportunity that should be developed by the university in this region. The committee indicated that connecting the university and the new campus in Rochester to the expertise and resources that exist only in southeastern Minnesota would benefit the region and the state.

"With BICB being a key signature program of UMR, the strengths of IBM, the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic in technology, learning and research and clinical and biological medicine will provide a unique, world-class learning experience that attracts talent to Minnesota," said Walt Ling, IBM, senior state executive. "IBM is pleased to partner with these organizations to create opportunities for our employees and our State."

According to UMR Chancellor Stephen Lehmkuhle, the BICB program is yet another step in fulfilling the identified direction for UMR in relation to education and research in areas that will advance economic development in southeastern Minnesota. "Along with our partners, we are leading the way in unique programmatic designs that integrate business, industry and educational institutions. We are changing the way higher education conducts business and this is a benefit to everyone," Lehmkuhle said.

The BICB graduate program is currently accepting applications for Fall 2008.

University of Minnesota's solar car team begins cross-country race

Race includes stops in Sioux Falls and Fargo

Contacts: Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, (612) 626-7959
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/14/2008) —The University of Minnesota Solar Vehicle Project -- one of the first teams to meet all the qualifications for racing in the 2008 North American Solar Challenge -- hit the road Sunday, July 13 in a 2,400-mile race from Texas to Canada that ends July 22. The team will be posting updates throughout the race at www.svp.umn.edu.

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 competition began Sunday in Plano, Texas and will mainly follow U.S. Highway 71 and Canadian Highway 1 to the finish line in Calgary, Alberta. The race includes a stage stop in Sioux Falls, S.D., on July 17 where there will be a public event from 4-8 p.m. Teams are also required to stop for at least 30 minutes at a checkpoint in Fargo, N.D., on July 18 or 19.

After meeting the race requirements some University of Minnesota team members helped other less-experienced teams prepare for the race.

"After all, what fun would it be if we were the only team racing?" said U of M team crew chief David Towey on the team's Weblog. "We have been helping out our pit neighbors Oregon State University, a first-time solar car team that was funded out of the team members' pockets. We really admire their dedication."

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 20 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, AltaMAR, AIRTech International, Caterpillar, Digi-key, DuPont, EMJ Metals, Empro Shunts, Freescale Semiconductor, Future 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, Vicor and Wanner Engineering.

License agreement between U of M and Vision-Ease will help millions of bifocal wearers

Contacts: John Merritt, Office of the Vice President for Research, (612) 624-2609
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/14/2008) —A software program designed at the University of Minnesota in partnership with Vision-Ease Lens stands to markedly improve vision for the estimated 78 million Americans who wear bifocal glasses. The university and Vision-Ease Lens have signed an agreement that is leading to a significant increase in the accuracy and flexibility of progressive “no line” prescriptions.

Patented by Benjamin Franklin in 1784, bifocal lens technology saw relatively few advances over the next 175 years. The invention of the progressive lens in 1959 eliminated the distracting line between the short- and long-distance portions of the lens, offering bifocal wearers a smooth transition between vision zones. Since then, annual sales of progressive lens bifocals have grown to an estimated \$1.5 billion dollars -- but progressive lens design technology has not been widely explored.

“When Vision-Ease first contacted us early in 2000 with some questions about lens surface modeling, we were surprised to find very few published research papers on the topic,” said Fadil Santosa, a University of Minnesota mathematics professor, who serves as the director of the university’s Institute of mathematics and its Applications. “There were many patent filings on lens design, but very little is revealed in them. The field was literally wide open.”

Santosa, along with fellow mathematics professor Robert Gulliver and graduate student Jing Wang, began researching the mathematics of progressive lens design. Their research led to a new methodology for lens surface design using an optimization principle based on linearization and the use of special spline functions to represent the lens surface.

“Using a software program developed by the researchers, this novel approach allows optical engineers to design a surface in seconds,” said Derek Harris, vice president for research and development at Vision-Ease. “The efficiency of the computation minimizes aberrations, and the easy-to-use software interface offers opportunities to explore the lens design space, leading to unique designs for conditions such as astigmatism.”

“This is a great example of the university partnering with a local company to address a technical challenge in their industry,” said Eric Hockert, technology marketing manager at the university’s Office for Technology Commercialization. “Both parties benefit: Santosa and his colleagues advanced knowledge in their field, and Vision-Ease found a solution for a vexing technical issue.”

Privately held Vision-Ease Lens employs some 500 people at its facility in Ramsey, Minn. Its products are sold through independent opticians, optometrists and ophthalmologists, as well as many retail chains and dispensing markets across the country.

University of Minnesota Business Research Journal receives top ranking

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/14/2008) —MIS Quarterly, a University of Minnesota journal published by the Management Information Systems Research Center (MISRC) at the Carlson School of Management, with sponsorship from the Association for Information Systems (AIS), received top rankings in the 2007 Journal Citation Reports® (JCR) produced by Thomson Scientific.

JCR lists MIS Quarterly in three journal categories: Management, Computer Science/Information Systems, and Information Science/Library Science. MIS Quarterly's ranking as the highest impact journal in all three of its reporting categories confirms the journal's contribution to scholarly discourse.

First published in 1977, MIS Quarterly is owned by the University of Minnesota and published by the Carlson School of Management's Management Information Systems Research Center. In the three categories of JCR in which MIS Quarterly is ranked, it competes with journals published by the Academy of Management, Association for Computing Machinery, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences. "While MIS Quarterly has long been considered the top journal in management and information sciences, this is a wonderful and independent confirmation of the quality and importance of the journal," said professor Alok Gupta, chair of information and decision sciences department at the Carlson School and publisher of the journal.

MIS Quarterly strives to enhance and communicate knowledge concerning the development of IT-based services, management of information technology resources and the economics and use of information technology with managerial and organizational implications.

JCR evaluates academic journal quality based on citations received by articles in a given journal by journals in the ISI Web of Knowledge citation index. JCR then assigns each journal an "impact factor" rating, based on the citations received by papers published in the last two years in a given journal. Overall, the management category contains 81 journals, the information science/library science category contains 56 journals and the computer science/information system category contains 92 journals.

The Management Information Systems Research Center (MISRC) is a non-profit organization in the Carlson School at the University of Minnesota. The MISRC was founded in 1968 by pioneers in the MIS field as part of MIS curriculum development at the Carlson School.

University of Minnesota students are driving 2,400 miles without using one drop of gasoline

Solar cells power the Minnesota car

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/15/2008) —A group of University of Minnesota students is driving 2,400 miles in the next week without using one iota of gasoline.

Their auto, Centaurus, is a solar car with an array that has 530 silicon solar cells and produces about 1500 Watts of power on a sunny day. Twenty students make up the University of Minnesota Solar Car Team and it is among several solar car teams still racing in the 2008 North American Solar Challenge from Texas to Calgary, Alberta. The solar car race started on Sunday and ends Tuesday, July 22. View a downloadable video of Centaurus at http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/solar_car.htm

University students almost didn't have the chance to compete, because government funds for the solar challenge were cut. It was a dark hour for Adam Shea, a junior electrical engineering major because he envisioned the solar vehicle project and race as the pinnacle of his undergraduate career. Luckily, the Toyota Corporation stepped in to fund the challenge.

Since that time, the University of Minnesota Solar Project Vehicle team spent more than 30,000 hours during the past year designing, building and driving their solar-powered car. The students on the team are all from the Institute of Technology, the University of Minnesota's college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics.

One thing that sets this race apart from other competitions is that rival teams help each other out when problems arise during the race. After meeting the race requirements some University of Minnesota team members helped other less-experienced teams prepare for the race.

"After all, what fun would it be if we were the only team racing?" said U of M team crew chief David Towey on the team's Weblog. "We have been helping out our pit neighbors Oregon State University, a first-time solar car team that was funded out of the team members' pockets. We really admire their dedication."

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The competition began Sunday in Plano, Texas and will mainly follow U.S. Highway 71 and Canadian Highway 1 to the finish line in Calgary, Alberta. The race includes a stage stop in Sioux Falls, S.D., on July 17 where there will be a public event from 4-8 p.m. Teams are also required to stop for at least 30 minutes at a checkpoint in Fargo, N.D., on July 18 or 19.

Major sponsors of the University of Minnesota Solar Vehicle Project include 3M, Advanced Circuits, AltaMAR, AIRTech International, Caterpillar, Digi-key, DuPont, EMJ Metals, Empro Shunts, Freescale Semiconductor, Future 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, Vicor and Wanner Engineering.



Gopher Football coach Tim Brewster to visit Red Wing

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/16/2008) —With the first on-campus stadium in 28 years, the sounds, sights and excitement of University of Minnesota football will echo 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 Minnesota counties, and Gopher Athletics is reaching out to engage the entire state of Minnesota over the next 15 months with a statewide tour.

From 2 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, July 22, join Golden Gopher football coach Tim Brewster as the Gopher Wagon visits Goodhue County. Coach Brewster along with his assistants and fans will be traveling with the Golden Gopher Football Gridiron Gateway on the river boat Empress Andiamo, which will be docking at Red Wing's Levee Park at approximately 2:30 p.m. Coach Brewster will speak to the audience about the upcoming 2008 football season and athletic department officials will be on hand to provide information about purchasing tickets and seating selection in the new TCF Bank Stadium. There will also be photo opportunities, games and prizes, and the opportunity to take a virtual tour of TCF Bank Stadium.

Construction 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 substantial completion in July 2009 and will open for the first Gopher football game of the season on Sept. 12, 2009.

For more information visit www.gophersports.com and click on "Statewide County Tour"

Secretary of Commerce to moderate forum on innovation at University of Minnesota with Governor and top CEOs

What: Forum on Innovation with U.S. Secretary of Commerce

When: 1:00-3:00 p.m., Monday, July 28

Where: University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

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Ryan Mathre, News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/16/2008) —U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez will co-moderate a CEO forum on innovation July 28 at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Hosted by the university's Institute for Research in Marketing, the forum, Innovation: Drivers and Impediments, will focus on research and development, sales and marketing, and the willingness to take risk in a competitive marketplace. Panel participants are executives of three major U.S. companies and the Governor of Minnesota, a state that is home to some of the most innovative businesses in the world (19 of which are Fortune 500 firms).

Secretary Gutierrez will co-moderate the panel with Rajesh Chandy, James Watkins Chair in Marketing and the Co-Director of the Institute for Research in Marketing. The panelists are George Buckley, Chairman of the Board, president, and CEO of 3M; William Hawkins, president and CEO of Medtronic; Marilyn Carlson Nelson, Chairman of the Board of Carlson; and Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty. This distinguished group will discuss innovation drivers and impediments in today's enterprises and economies, sharing their insights and presenting their thoughts on how government policies help or hinder innovation.

The forum is a response to the recent recommendations of Secretary Gutierrez's Advisory Committee on Measuring Innovation in the 21st Century Economy. Both Chandy and Buckley were members of this committee, which included 15 top CEOs and academics.

"Innovation is a topic of intense interest to all of us -- consumers, managers, and policy makers. We are delighted and honored to host such a distinguished panel on such an important topic," comments Chandy.

The CEO Forum Innovation: Drivers and Impediments will be held from 1:00 - 3:00 pm on July 28th at the Carlson School of Management. It is free and open to the public, but an RSVP is required. More information can be found at carlsonschool.edu/marketinginstitute/ceo.

The Institute for Research in Marketing at the Carlson School of Management fosters innovative, rigorous research that improves the science and practice of marketing. It leverages the expertise of the Carlson School's world class marketing faculty and an advisory board of top business leaders to generate new insights about companies, consumers and communities. Through initiatives that include academic-practitioner research partnerships, forums featuring global thought-leaders and the creation of the latest research on today's pressing topics, the institute provides a forum for dialogue among marketing scholars, industry practitioners, policymakers and students.

Bruce Mooty elected new volunteer leader of the U of M Alumni Association

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Cheryl Jones, Alumni Association, (612) 626-4707, cmj@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/16/2008) —Bruce Mooty, business lawyer at Gray, Plant, Mooty, has been elected national volunteer president of the 60,000-member University of Minnesota Alumni Association for 2008-2009.

As president, Mooty will help lead the association in its mission to serve alumni and advocate for the university. He has been an officer and participant in the association's advocacy programs since 2002.

"Advocacy has been a hallmark of this organization for more than one hundred years," said Margaret Carlson, chief executive officer of the Alumni Association. "I look forward to working with Bruce this year to make the association an even stronger ambassador for this great university."

In addition to ongoing programming, this year the Alumni Association will expand its advocacy efforts on behalf of the new on-campus football stadium and enhance the Statewide Speakers Tour that brings university deans and professors to events across the state to talk about the world-class teaching and groundbreaking research at the U.

"The Alumni Association's mission is to be the most influential organization in advancing the U's goal to be one of the top three public research universities in the world," said Mooty. "We will work even harder this year to spread the word about the exciting contributions that the university has made in the past and will make in the future."

Mooty received his undergraduate degree from the university's College of Liberal Arts and his law degree with honors from the Law School. He has served as chair of the Law School Board of Visitors and has been active in the Edina High School Student Advisory Council, Colonial Church of Edina, the Legal Aid Society, A Better Chance Foundation and the YMCA.

"The Alumni Association has had 71 national presidents since it was founded in 1904, and four of them have come from my family," said Mooty. "I'm honored and proud to continue the tradition."

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is an independent 60,000-member organization. Alumni Association members are ambassadors for the university's important work. For more information, visit www.alumni.umn.edu.

To reach greenhouse gas reduction goals by 2015 - U of M researchers say action must start now

A new study proposes affordable ways to achieve emission reduction set forth by Minnesota legislature

Media Note: Embargoed until Tuesday, 7/22/2008, 12 a.m. CDT

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Gina Baas, Center for Transportation Studies, (612) 626- 7331

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/17/2008) —A team of University of Minnesota transportation and public policy researchers has discovered that if the state of Minnesota is to reach its Next Generation Energy Act goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent in 2015 then action must start now.

The research team modeled emissions for Minnesota and found that it is possible to reduce emissions by 30 percent by 2025 and 80 percent by 2050 and possibly exceed those numbers if a combination of strategies are implemented, including reducing fuel consumption, increasing fuel efficiencies and fuel carbon content and by using new methods for designing communities. However, the researchers point out that the methods could be applied nationally.

To view a video about the study, visit:

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

“The emission reduction goal is achievable if action starts today,” said Bob Johns, director of the Center for Transportation Studies. “By changing the amount of traveling we do, purchasing vehicles with higher fuel efficiency and adopting low-carbon fuel standards we can exceed the goals that the Minnesota legislature has put before us and be a leader in the nation for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.”

“This study provides a great starting point for the 2009 legislative session and will help facilitate a thorough debate and good policy development to create cost effective solutions and improve Minnesota’s energy security,” said Rep. Melissa Hortman, who commissioned the study.

The researchers say that the majority of the changes don’t require any costly or new technologies and are applicable in other states too, not just Minnesota.

“There is a misconception that it is not possible to make these changes because it isn’t affordable,” said Julian Marshall, professor of civil engineering and researcher on the study. “In fact, these methods can be used and save people a lot of money and fuel. Energy efficiency can help consumers and benefits the economy, especially with high gas prices.”

For instance, the savings from buying a more fuel-efficient vehicle can offset the added cost of technology in less than a year by using technologies that are already available and manufacturing vehicles that achieve the CAFE standards and even go beyond them.

The study also suggests improving fuel economy for heavy-duty fleet by refining aerodynamics, using lower rolling-resistance tires and reducing speed. Those changes could contribute about 13 percent of the transportation sector’s reduction goal by 2015. There could be an even greater emission reduction if goods movement shifts from truck and airplane to rail and boat.

“The technology to make this happen exists, it is just a matter of using it,” said David Kittelson, professor of mechanical engineering and study researcher. “The engines we use in our cars are no worse or better than the engines they have in passenger cars in Japan or Germany - the difference is, we put our engines in enormous cars.”

It is more than just fuel efficiency though; low-carbon fuels can also help. The researchers say that biofuel production must start using non-food materials to produce a more efficient biofuel that could contribute 27 percent of Minnesota’s reduction goals by 2015.

To reach and potentially exceed the emissions goals, the researchers say that there are actions that the average person can take, such as using fuel-efficient vehicles, choosing homes that are close to their work so they are able to walk or bicycle, carpool or use public transportation and obey posted speed limits to improve fuel economy.

“This is a groundbreaking study which outlines cheaper and environmentally better transportation solutions in a comprehensive way that will make greenhouse gas emission reduction possible for every Minnesotan and every American,” said Rep. Frank Hornstein, who commissioned the study. “We can easily apply these methods to our lifestyle choices and hopefully this will inspire us to start work now.”

Bus tour to highlight STEP-UP Youth Summer Employment program

University of Minnesota is the largest employer

When: 8 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 23

Where: Three sites in Minneapolis

Contacts: Krista Bergert, City of Minneapolis (612) 673 5015
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 24-4082

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/21/2008) —Elected officials, members of the Minneapolis Workforce Council and staff will get a first-hand look at the STEP- UP summer youth program in a bus tour from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 23.

The tour will visit three STEP-UP worksites where Minneapolis youth are employed this summer and see the types of jobs they are engaged in. Media will also have the opportunity to interview working youth and learn about their experiences. The program is administered by the City of Minneapolis in partnerships with various community organizations, including the University of Minnesota, the number one employer in the STEP-UP program with 75 interns.

The tour begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Minneapolis Urban League, 2100 Plymouth Ave. N., Minneapolis, and makes the first stop at 8:45 a.m. at the Somali Education Center, 2205 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis. At 9:45 a.m. the tour travels to the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, 515 Delaware St. S.E., Minneapolis. The final stop is the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Boom Island, 724 Sibley St. N.E., Minneapolis at 10:45 a.m.. The bus returns to the urban league at 11:30 a.m.

"I am very pleased to report that 1,860 students ages 14-21 from Minneapolis high schools have been placed in jobs this summer, including 75 at the University of Minnesota," said Robert Jones, senior vice president for system academic administration at the University of Minnesota and the city-wide co-chair of this year's Step-Up program. "These young people are learning job skills, becoming familiar with the world of work, and meeting professionals who can mentor them as they plan their futures. Having these incredible students on our campus gives me a chance to talk to them about attending the U."

Media interested in joining the bus tour please RSVP to Krista Bergert, Krista.bergert@ci.minneapolis.mn.us, or by phone, (612) 673 5015.

U of M School of Music names new director

Contacts: Lisa Marshall, School of Music, (612) 626-1094 or marsh396@umn.edu
Susan Banovetz, College of Liberal Arts, (612) 624-1359 or banovetz@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/21/2008) —David Myers has been named the new director of the School of Music at the University of Minnesota. Myers will become the school's 11th director. He succeeds Noel Zahler, who left in the school 2007 to become head of the School of Music at Carnegie Mellon University. Myers comes to the university from the School of Music at Georgia State University. His appointment becomes effective Sept. 29.

"Dr. Myers is an outstanding leader with broad administrative experience, both nationally and internationally. His visionary ideas about music education and the relationship between music, the arts and society will greatly strengthen the school and enrich its relationship to our community, our nation, and the world," said James Parente, Jr., interim dean of the university's College of Liberal Arts.

Myers' distinguished career brings a wide array of experiences to the School of Music. He holds a doctoral degree in music education from the University of Michigan, and a master's degree, also in music education, from the Eastman School of Music, the University of Rochester.

Myers has more than 30 years of experience as a teacher and administrator. He has taught extensively in the field of music education at Georgia State University, Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Prior to his appointment at the University of Minnesota, Myers served as professor, founding director of the Center for Educational Partnerships in Music, doctoral program coordinator and associate director in the School of Music at Georgia State University, where he was awarded both the junior and senior outstanding faculty awards from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Myers is an internationally regarded proponent of innovation in higher music education. His interests in lifelong learning, community engagement, and the training of aspiring musicians led him to found the Center for Educational Partnerships and its groundbreaking Sound Learning partnership among Georgia State University, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, community musicians and inner-city schools.

A former public school teacher and accomplished organist, he is the American consultant for a joint Master of Music degree among five European conservatories in England, the Netherlands, Iceland and Finland.

He has published, presented, and consulted widely, including work with the National Association of Schools of Music, the National Guild of Community Schools of the Arts, Opera America, the Music Educators National Conference, the College Music Society and the International Society for Music Education.

"I am thrilled to join the University of Minnesota School of Music community and to help steward this institution's impressive legacy," Myers said. "There is leading edge work happening at the School of Music and I look forward to working together with our faculty, staff, students and the Twin Cities community in advancing the important roles music and musicians play in the quality of life in our local and global societies."

Photos available upon request.

Richard Leider to moderate free, online discussion of his new book, "Something to Live For: Finding Your Way in the Second half of Life"

Contacts: Rachel Wright, College of Continuing Education, (612) 624-7770

Liz Turchin, College of Continuing Education, (612) 625-1274

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/22/2008) —Starting Thursday, July 31, best-selling author Richard Leider will be moderating a free online discussion of his new book, "Something to Live For: Finding Your Way in the Second Half of Life" on the University of Minnesota LearningLife Web site.

The discussion is part of LearningLife's Beyond the Book program, a new program that connects readers with outstanding authors, university faculty and community experts for free, online discussions about nonfiction books that grab our attention and stay with us.

In "Something to Live For," Leider and co-author David Shapiro use the metaphor of an African safari to guide readers on a journey of discovery through the qualities and behaviors that can help people find purpose in the second half of their lives. Drawing on wisdom and stories both ancient and contemporary, as well as current research, Leider shares insights on how to move gracefully through the second half of life, finding fulfillment and new, deeper levels of meaning by valuing experiences over material possessions, others over one's self and using one's inner gifts.

The free online discussion will run from July 31 through August 21 on the LearningLife Web site. Leider will be posting thoughts and insights on a weekly basis and inviting reader participation as well. For more information, or to opt into e-mail updates on the discussion, visit learninglife.umn.edu/participate.html, and click on "Beyond the Book."

Leider hopes that the online discussion will help people arrive at happiness in their own lives.

"When it comes to discovering living in the second half of life, people want hands-on," Leider says. "They don't just want a lecture; they want practical help that they can apply to their own life. And what better way is there to connect with an audience than to talk to them, ask them questions, see what they're thinking? Hopefully, we can open a good discussion into how and where to look for that sense of purpose, of happiness."

The online discussion will be capped with an optional live dinner and discussion event with Leider at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4 at the University Campus Club, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. Tickets are \$40 for the dinner.

For more information about the online discussion or the dinner event, please call the College of Continuing Education Information Center at (612) 624-4000.

Each Beyond the Book program begins with a four-, five-, or six-week online discussion where the author or expert posts weekly discussion questions, conversation starters, and personal thoughts. Shortly after the online portion ends, there will be an optional dinner and discussion hosted by the expert.

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. For more information about LearningLife, visit learninglife.umn.edu or call (612) 624-4000.

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.

Professional association recognizes the research of University of Minnesota business professors and doctoral students

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/22/2008) —The 2008 Academy of Management's Best Paper Proceedings includes more than 10 research papers written by faculty members and graduate students at the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management. The authors will present their research findings during the Academy of Management's annual meeting, August 8-13, in Anaheim, Calif.

The Academy of Management (AOM) is a leading professional association for scholars dedicated to creating and disseminating knowledge about management and organizations. It annually recognizes the "best research papers" of academics and graduate students that address important ideas or questions, provide answers to those questions and advance the understanding of organizations. Winners are selected by award committees.

2008 winners from the University of Minnesota's Carlson School include:

- Jing Zhu (human resources and industrial relations Ph.D. student), Jason Shaw (human resources and industrial relations faculty), Michelle Duffy (human resources and industrial relations faculty) and Kristin Scott's paper, "A Contingency Model of Conflict and Team Effectiveness," won the Conflict Management division's Best Paper Award.

- "When Does My Relationship With My Manager Matter Most? The Moderating Role of Coworkers' LMX," written by D.M. Mayer, K.M. Keller, Lisa Leslie (human resources and industrial relations faculty) and P.J. Hanges, was selected by the Organizational Behavior division for its best paper proceedings.

- Zhen Zhang (human resources and industrial relations Ph.D. Student), Michael Zyphur and Kristopher Preacher's paper, "Testing Multilevel Mediation Using Hierarchical Linear Models: Problems and Solutions," won the Research Methods division's Best Student Paper Award.

- Ruolian Fang (human resources and industrial relations Ph.D. Student) won the Human Resources division's Best Student Paper Award for her paper, "Organizational Socialization Process: A Social Capital Perspective."

- The paper written by Puay Khoon Toh (Strategic Management/Organization Faculty), "The Mutually-Reinforcing Interrelationship Between Organization Structure and Firm Resource," was selected by the Technology and Innovations Management division for its best paper proceedings.

- "Non-Economic Shocks and Socio-Cultural Spillover: The Case of September 11th," the paper written by Mazhar Islam (strategic management/organization Ph.D. student), Adam Fremeth (strategic management/organization Ph.D. student) and Alfred Marcus (strategic management/organization faculty), was selected by the International Management division for its best papers proceedings.

- "Portfolio Effects in Knowledge Acquisition from Inter-Firm Alliances," written by Gurneeta Vasudeva Singh (strategic management/organization faculty) and Jaideep Anand, is in the best paper proceedings.

- "Electoral and Market Rivalry in Developing Country Sovereign Risk Assessment," written by Paul Vaaler (strategic management/organization faculty) and Gerry McNamara, was selected by the International Management division for its best paper proceedings.

- "Why Is It so Hard to Do My Work? The Challenge of Attention Residue when Switching Between Tasks," written by Sophie Leroy (strategic management/organization faculty), is the winner of the Managerial and Organizational Cognition division's outstanding paper award and is also one of the finalists for the Newman Award granted to the best paper based on a dissertation.

- The paper written by F. Salvador, M. Rungtusanatham (operations and management science faculty), A. Akpinar and C. Forza, "Strategic Capabilities for Mass Customization," was selected for the Operations Management division's best paper proceedings and is a finalist for the Chan Hahn Best Paper Award.

- "Process Improvement Program Management and Organizational Performance," written by Weiyong Zhang (operations and management science Ph.D. student), Arthur Hill (operations and management science faculty), Roger Schroeder (operations and management Science Faculty) and Kevin Linderman (operations and management science faculty), was selected for the Operations Management division's best paper proceedings and is a finalist for the Chan Hahn Best Paper Award.

Jonathan Foley named director of U of M's Institute on the Environment

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/22/2008) —Following an extensive international search, University of Minnesota Provost Thomas Sullivan today named professor Jonathan Foley as the permanent director of the university's new system-wide Institute on the Environment. Foley will begin his duties as institute director on Aug. 25.

"This institute is a bold, exciting and unique undertaking -- one requiring exceptional intellectual imagination, entrepreneurial energy and dynamic leadership. Professor Jon Foley brings all these talents, and many more, as our first permanent director of the Institute on the Environment," said Sullivan. "Our expectations for both our institute and its director are extremely high as we are committed to seeing that the institute flourishes as one of the very best in the world."

Created in 2006, the university's Institute on the Environment, brings together top researchers from the natural and social sciences, design, engineering, law, health, policy and other disciplines to identify and solve major environmental problems of both local and global significance.

"Jon Foley is a world class scientist with a rich range of experience," said Sullivan, "He is a very thoughtful, nuanced and creative leader who will inspire individuals and communities, within the university and beyond, to roll up their sleeves and work together to make a lasting contribution to collaborative real world problem solving."

"It is a great honor and privilege to be named director of this exceptional institute," said Foley. "The more I learned about the depth and breadth of the commitment to the strategic positioning goals of the University of Minnesota the more I realized this was the opportunity of a lifetime. We'll work with great vigor and energy with all across the university system, and its community partners, to propel this institute to national and international prominence by providing solutions to some of the greatest problems facing mankind today."

Foley is currently the founder and director of the Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment (SAGE) at the University of Wisconsin, where he is also the Gaylord Nelson Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences. Foley's work examines complex global environmental systems and their interactions with human societies. His work has contributed to the understanding of large-scale ecosystem processes, global patterns of land use, the planet's water and carbon cycles and interactions between ecosystems and the atmosphere. He has won numerous awards and honors, including the National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development Award, the Samuel C. Johnson Distinguished Faculty Fellowship, the J.S. McDonnell Foundation's 21st Century Science Award and the Sustainability Science Award from the Ecological Society of America. In 1997, President Bill Clinton awarded him the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. He is currently the chief editor of the interdisciplinary scientific journal, Earth Interactions.

For a photo of Foley, visit: <http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/photos/foley.html>

For more on the Institute on the Environment: <http://environment.umn.edu/>

University of Minnesota researchers map out America's deadliest roads

www.saferoadmaps.org allows you to search your neighborhood Embargoed until 6 a.m. EDT, 7/28/2008

Media Note: Embargoed until 6 a.m., EDT, Mon., 7/28/2008

Researchers will not be available for interviews on Monday, 7/28, so please arrange interviews prior

Contacts: Elizabeth Giorgi, University News Service, (612) 624-0214
Gina Baas, Center for Transportation Studies, (612) 626-7331

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/23/2008) —Would you be surprised to learn that nine people died last year on the highway you take to work everyday? Or would you be shocked to see that six teenagers died within five miles of your home in fatal car accidents? With the help of the interactive maps on www.saferoadmaps.org developed by University of Minnesota researchers -- you can learn those facts and more by simply typing in your address.

Researchers in the Center for Excellence in Rural Safety (CERS) at the University of Minnesota have mapped out every fatality in the nation with details on each death, so now you can see the “dead man’s curve” on your commute or the “devil’s triangle” in your backyard.

To view a video about www.saferoadmaps.org, visit:
http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/safe_road.htm

“When drivers type in their most common routes, they're shocked how much blood is being shed on it,” said Tom Horan, research director for CERS. “When it's the route you or your loved ones use, the need to buckle up, slow down and avoid distractions and drinking suddenly becomes much more personal and urgent.”

The researchers will unveil www.saferoadmaps.org on Monday, July 28th at the Hilton Sonoma, 3555 Round Barn Blvd., Santa Rosa, Calif., as part of their annual conference on rural safety.

Enter your address at www.saferoadmaps.org and you will see a map or satellite image of all of the road fatalities that have occurred in the area. Plus, users have the ability to narrow down their search to see the age of the driver, whether speeding or drinking was a factor, and if the driver was wearing a seatbelt.

One of the most important aspects of the new tool also illustrates which life-saving public policies, such as strong seat belt laws, are in the chosen area.

“This tool sheds light on the importance of strong public policy that helps save lives in states across the nation,” said Lee Munnich, a professor at the U of M’s Humphrey Institute and director of CERS. “When you can visually see how many lives can be saved, it really changes how the public and policy makers see our roads.”

CERS officials hope the tool will educate the public about road fatalities, especially those that live in rural areas. U.S. Census figures show that 21 percent of Americans live in rural areas and the Federal Highway Administration has found that 57 percent of highway deaths happen on rural roads.

“We must take aggressive action to reduce needless deaths on our nation’s roadways and [saferoadmaps.org](http://www.saferoadmaps.org) will give citizens and policymakers the information they need to improve travel safety,” said U.S. Congressman James Oberstar, Chair of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. “I applaud the Center for Excellence in Rural Safety for their leadership in developing tools that can help us all in our quest to improve the safety of our nation's roadways.”

www.saferoadmaps.org will be useful to a wide range of drivers, from rural to urban driver’s as well as drivers education teachers, parents and policy makers. It will also serve as an important illustration for teaching new drivers the importance of safety and give veteran drivers an opportunity to explore their most common routes and make sensible adjustments.

“By mapping out these fatalities, we can visually see what a large problem we have in our country,” Munnich said. “It is time to start working towards prevention and each one of these dots on the map represents that.”

U of M McNair Scholars to display summer research projects

When: 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 29

Where: Mississippi Room, Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Bruce Schelske, McNair Program Director, (612) 625-0772

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

July 24, 2008

The University of Minnesota Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program will host its 16th annual research poster presentation and reception for student participants and their faculty mentors from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 29 in the Mississippi Room of Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

This summer, 20 students from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and three other universities conducted research under the direction of distinguished faculty research mentors at the University of Minnesota. The McNair Scholars will display their research posters and explain their research.

“This gathering provides an excellent forum to display the research efforts of these exceptional McNair Scholars along with their University of Minnesota faculty mentors,” said program director Bruce Schelske.

The McNair Program is named after Ronald McNair, the African American astronaut who died in the 1986 Challenger space shuttle explosion. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and operated by the Department of Postsecondary Teaching and Learning in the College of Education and Human Development. It aims to encourage and assist minority, disabled or low-income undergraduates to enroll in graduate programs or professional schools. Along with conducting hands-on research, participants have been attending motivational workshops, graduate record exam prep classes and research writing workshops.

U of M's Welcome Week schedule finalized

More than five thousand first-year students will participate in academic and student development programs over six-day experience

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/28/2008) —The schedule for University of Minnesota's debut Welcome Week has been finalized, program organizers announced today. This six-day student experience, required for all new degree-seeking freshmen, expands on previous programming designed to welcome new students to campus. It runs Aug. 27 through Sept. 2 on the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus.

Activities for the week are intended to help students identify as members of the University of Minnesota community; develop relationships and connections with students, faculty and staff; discover and access the multitude of resources and opportunities available at the university; and provide opportunities for current students to enhance their leadership development and commitment to the university.

"We know that student success is a healthy combination of individual determination and opportunity provided by the university," said Laura Coffin Koch, associate vice provost for undergraduate education. "Welcome Week will ensure that all first-year students are offered the resources essential for personal and academic success."

Since the 1920s, the University of Minnesota has offered a variety of first-year programs to welcome students to campus. Until 2007, New Student Weekend served more than eight hundred new students before the beginning of every Fall semester. For the incoming class, slated to graduate in 2012, Welcome Week will provide a more inclusive and welcoming experience for more than five thousand freshman.

For more information, visit www.welcomeweek.umn.edu.

The 2008 Welcome Week schedule is:

Wednesday, Aug. 27: Welcome to the U of M

9:00-3:00 p.m.: Residence Hall Move-In

Move-in times will be assigned by Housing and Residential Life. First-year students living on campus for the fall will be able to settle into their residence hall room.

3-4 p.m.: Commuter Student Check-In

First-year students living off campus will check in for Welcome Week and be introduced to Parking & Transportation Services, University Dining Services and their Welcome Week Leader.

4-5 p.m.: Commuter Student Small Group Meeting

First-year students living off campus will meet their small group with whom they will be attending Welcome Week events.

5:30 p.m.: New Student Convocation

This is the official welcome to the University of Minnesota. This program includes a welcome from U of M President Bruininks and current students, dinner, music and an introduction to U of M's history and traditions.

8:30 p.m.: Residential Student Small Group Meeting

First-year students living on campus will meet their small group with whom they will be attending Welcome Week events.

Thursday, August 28: College Day

8:30 a.m.: Small Group Meeting

All first-year students will meet with their small groups to prepare for College Day.

10 a.m.: College Day Activities

Each freshman-admitting college has created activities unique to their college. Students will meet faculty and other students in their college and attend sessions that focus on resources and opportunities available to them.

7:30 & 9:30 p.m.: Keynote Speaker Jermaine Davis

Davis will share how to create an intentional first year of college and make it your own. For more information on Jermaine, visit www.jermainedavis.com.

9 p.m.-1 a.m.: Fun Zone Entertainment

Students will participate in air volleyball games, inflatable Twister, play foosball or darts, sing karaoke, show off Rock Band skills and much more.

Friday, August 29: Explore the Twin Cities Campus

8:30 a.m.: Small Group Meeting

Students will meet with their group to plan for the day.

9 a.m. -5:30 p.m.: Campus Exploration

Students will tour the entire Twin Cities campus, East Bank, West Bank and St. Paul, and attend a variety of presentations and activities on money management, health and wellness, career, diversity and community topics.

6 p.m.: University Honors Dinner

Students in the University Honors Program will attend a dinner specifically for Honors students.

9 p.m. -1 a.m.: Gophers After Dark

A U of M tradition that provides free/low-cost events for students throughout the entire semester will kick off this evening. Students can be hypnotized by Hypnotist Jim Wand, meet Gopher Sport coaches and athletes, learn how to get involved in Greek Life, enjoy free food and much more!

Saturday, August 30: Check out the Twin Cities Community

8:30 a.m.: Small Group Meeting

Students will connect with their small groups and get ready for side trips to explore the city.

9:30-2:30 p.m.: Side Trips

Students will explore the Twin Cities community by participating in a variety of side trip options.

There are more than 10 trips to choose from, including: Downtown Minneapolis, Uptown and Calhoun Square, Mall of America, Beginners Rock Climbing, or a tour of the Minnesota Daily and Radio K.

1-4 p.m.: Explore U-Involvement & Opportunity

This event will showcase campus student organizations to get involved with, as well as local businesses will have free giveaways, sampling of food items, and prizes.

6 p.m.: Gopher Football Game - U of M vs. Northern Illinois University

The first home Gopher Football Game.

9:30 p.m.-1 a.m.: Late Night at Mall of America or State Fair

Welcome Week has rented out Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of America for students to ride rides all night long. Also, students will have the option to check out the Great Minnesota Get-Together -- the Minnesota State Fair.

Sunday, August 31: Day of Service & Engagement

9 a.m.-5 p.m.: Service Project Options

Students will be able to select from three different ways to engage in the community:

- Students can leave campus and help out a local community organization to learn more about their purpose and how they can make a difference. There are over 20 projects to select from!
- Students can take part in conference style sessions on social issues and receive the tools they need to make a difference as a student. They can try out a number of service and engagement activities to find out how easily they can contribute to their community.
- Students can learn about human rights and genocide in the Darfur Symposium; they will interact with a panel of nationally known activists and experts on Darfur and take part in a very simple form of lobbying.

9:00 p.m.: Target Run

Students can take part in a late night of shopping at Target to get last minute school supplies, participate in U of M trivia and karaoke.

Monday, September 1: Relax and Prepare for Classes

This is the last day of Welcome Week. Students can attend some sessions that will be repeated from the week, explore campus on their own and prepare for the first day of classes which is on Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Take me out to the ball game: U of M Jane Addams School to take future Americans to first Twins game

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, July 31

Where: Metrodome, 34 Kirby Puckett Place, Minneapolis

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

July 29, 2008

About 50 future Americans from the University of Minnesota Jane Addams School (JAS) for Democracy will get a taste of the great American pastime Thursday, July 31 when they attend the Minnesota Twins versus Chicago White Sox game at the Metrodome, 34 Kirby Puckett Place, Minneapolis. Game time is 7 p.m. For many students, this will be their first major league baseball game.

Jane Addams School's mission is to assist immigrants to learn English, pass the U.S. citizenship tests and become engaged citizens. Immigrant families originally from 20 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America are involved in the school. They meet at Humboldt High School each week and work on their English and citizenship tests with college students and volunteers. Many of these immigrants will take the U.S. citizenship tests in the near future.

Besides working in the classrooms, JAS also organizes outings to introduce students to the American culture. The Twins Community Fund donated 50 tickets to the school to make this experience possible.

“I think many of these folks have seen a baseball game before, either watching their kids play in little league games or watching games on television,” said JAS staff Emily Peterson. “But this is their first major league baseball game.”

JAS is an initiative in democratic education and civic engagement created by students and faculty from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, St. Paul's West Side Neighborhood House and the College of St. Catherine.

U of M School of Music and the Oratorio Society of Minnesota Summer Chorus will perform the music of Maurice Durufle

Contacts: Lisa Marshall, School of Music, (612) 626-1094, marsh396@umn.edu
Matthew Mehaffey, School of Music /Oratorio Society, (612) 624-1511, mehaffey@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/29/2008) —The Summer Chorus, co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota School of Music and the Oratorio Society of Minnesota, will perform the ethereal requiem of French composer Maurice Duruflé under the direction of conductor Matthew Mehaffey at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 9 at St. Olaf Catholic Church. 215 S. 8th St., Minneapolis.

The program will feature a choir of more than 100 singers, an orchestra of 20 and organist Helen Jensen playing the magnificent Lively-Fulcher Organ of St. Olaf Catholic Church. Jonathan Ten Brink, baritone, and Alyssa Anderson, mezzo-soprano, will be the soloists. Works by Herbert Howells and Ralph Vaughan Williams will round out the program. Tickets will be available at the door and cost \$10/adult and \$5 for students and seniors. All seating is general admission.

The Summer Chorus, now in its second year, consists of dedicated choral singers from throughout the Twin Cities Metro area. Their work culminates in a performance with orchestra at a premium venue. Singers in the choir are of all ages and backgrounds and many sing with the region's finest civic choruses and church and college choirs.

Matthew Mehaffey is the artistic director of the Oratorio Society of Minnesota, a role he assumed in May of 2008. He is also assistant professor of music and the associate director of choral activities at the University of Minnesota where he conducts the Concert Choir and the Men's Chorus and teaches graduate courses in choral conducting and literature and regularly serves as music director of the University Opera Theatre.

As a conductor, Mehaffey has prepared choirs for the concert hall, the opera house and for radio and television programs. Recent professional engagements include work with Washington National Opera, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, VocalEssence, Minnesota Chorale, Air America Radio and Turner Network Television.

Helen Jensen is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and Union Theological Seminary School of Music in New York. Her teachers included Bernhard Weiser, Edward Berryman, Alec Wyton, and Robert Baker. She was interim organist at St. Mark's Cathedral, and has been accompanist for the Oratorio Society since 1993.

U of M Carlson School dean appointed to AACSB International Board

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/30/2008) — Alison Davis-Blake, dean of the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, was recently appointed to a three-year term on the board of directors for the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). AACSB is considered one of the world's most prestigious accrediting bodies for business schools and the largest advocacy association for management education.

Davis-Blake joins 29 other prominent management education professionals from business schools around the world on the AACSB board. "We congratulate our new board members and thank our member schools for their enthusiastic participation," said John Fernandes, president and CEO of AACSB International. "AACSB will benefit from the significant wisdom, experience and leadership that these individuals bring to the board. We look forward to their many contributions in the years ahead."

Davis-Blake, Investors in Leadership Distinguished Chair in Organizational Behavior, is the 11th dean of the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management and one of four women currently serving as dean of America's top business schools. She guides the programs that serve the school's 5,000 students, works collaboratively with the school's 135 full-time faculty and 220 staff members and builds relationships with the school's external partners like alumni and benefactors.

Previously, Davis-Blake was the senior associate dean for academic affairs at the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin. She has taught at all levels of higher education, and she co-founded and co-directed an executive master's degree program in human resource development leadership. Davis-Blake holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Brigham Young University as well as a doctorate degree in business administration from Stanford University.

AACSB International is an association of more than 1,100 educational institutions, businesses and other organizations in 70 countries that are dedicated to the advancement of business education worldwide. In addition to serving as an accreditation body for institutions offering undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees in business and accounting, the association also conducts a wide array of conference and seminar programs at various locations around the world. www.aacsb.edu.

Former University of Minnesota Gopher and NBA star Trent Tucker to visit Luverne as part of the Alumni Association's Speakers Tour

"Gopher Wagon" also in town to share news about TCF Bank Stadium

Contacts: Mary Kay Delvo, University of Minnesota Alumni Association, (612) 626-1417
Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962, dswain@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/01/2008) —In 1982 Trent Tucker led the University of Minnesota to a Big Ten basketball championship. Now, more than 25 years later, he is contributing to the university in a different way -- as a community outreach and youth development coordinator. Trent Tucker will talk about his career experiences and offer advice to students when he visits Luverne on Thursday, Aug. 7. The U of M "Gopher Wagon" will be in town the same day to help share the latest news about TCF Bank Stadium, the future home of Gopher football.

The Tucker event starts at 7 p.m. at Luverne High School, 709 Kniss Ave. N., Luverne. Tucker's visit is part of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association's (Alumni Association) year-long, state-wide speakers tour. To attend, contact Jane Wildung at (507) 283-4061 or luvernechamber@iw.net.

The "Gopher Wagon" and an alumni reception will be at 5:00 p.m. at the Jim Brandenburg Gallery, 211 East Main St., Luverne.

Tucker will speak about making positive choices, peer leadership and the importance of academics. Since coming back and earning his degree last year and now working for the university, he's found a passion for youth outreach and giving back to the community.

"When you play a team sport you have to be unselfish and you have to commit yourself to the good of the team," said Tucker. "When you come back and work at a setting like the university, it's the same thing."

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, University of Minnesota Alumni Association 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_08-09_Tour.html

Carlson has served as the CEO and a university associate vice president since 1985. The 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.

Second annual Professionalism in Practice Conference to be held at the U of M

When: Tuesday, Aug. 12, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m

Where: Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Anitra Budd, College of Education and Human Development, (612) 626-7486, budd0018@umn.edu

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

August 4, 2008

The second annual Professionalism in Practice Conference will be held at the University of Minnesota on Tuesday, August 12, at Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The conference is a full day of workshops showcasing evidence-based practices and educator action research. Area K-12 teachers, principals, instructional coaches and teaching support staff will gather to discuss a range of topics, including instructional designs, staff development strategies and best practices in partnering with families and communities.

The conference runs from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., with a lunchtime keynote speech from Julie Landsman. Landsman, author of "A White Teacher Talks about Race" (Scarecrow Education, 2001), will lead a discussion around equity issues in public schools. Other conference activities include:

- **Interactive workshops:** Presenters will share exemplary practices with colleagues through modeling and leading simulations where participants are actively involved. Topics include classroom yoga, community outreach and literacy education, and the social and vocational implications of hidden disabilities.
- **Research roundtables:** Presenters will share professional learning and inquiry and lead participants in examining data and discussing its impact on students. Topics include methods for creating print-rich classroom environments and the effectiveness of thinking maps in student instruction.
- **Networking opportunities:** In addition to breakfast and lunch, participants will have the opportunity to connect with fellow educators during a post-conference social hour sponsored by the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers. The social hour will take place in Coffman Memorial Union, in the scenic Mississippi Lounge.

Conference coordinator Sharon Cormany Ornelas is enthusiastic about the upcoming event and its value to teachers and students. "With this year's conference, we are expanding the dialogue about the most effective ways to support student learning by showcasing educators who are setting a new standard of professionalism, sharing work that is grounded in research and supported by evidence from their own schools," said Cormany Ornelas.

For additional information please contact Anitra Budd, media relations contact, College of Education and Human Development (612-626-7486 / budd0018@umn.edu) or Sharon Cormany, teacher and Professionalism in Practice coordinator, Minneapolis Public Schools (612-810-8189 / Sharon.Ornelas@mpls.k12.mn.us).

The Professionalism in Practice conference is made possible by the Patrick Henry Professional Practice School, University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Federation of Teachers and Minneapolis Alternative Teacher Professional Pay System/Propay Office.

University of Minnesota Researchers Map Out America's Deadliest Roads

<http://www.saferoadmaps.org> to be unveiled today allows people to search their neighborhoods

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/05/2008) —Would you be surprised to learn that nine people died last year on the highway you take to work everyday? Or would you be shocked to see that six teenagers died within five miles of your home in fatal car accidents? With the help of the interactive maps on <http://www.saferoadmaps.org> developed by University of Minnesota researchers -- you can learn those facts and more by simply typing in your address.

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Enter your address at <http://www.saferoadmaps.org> and you will see a map or satellite image of all of the road fatalities that have occurred in the area. Plus, users have the ability to narrow down their search to see the age of the driver, whether speeding or drinking was a factor, and if the driver was wearing a seatbelt.

One of the most important aspects of the new tool also illustrates which life-saving public policies, such as strong seat belt laws, are in the chosen area.

"This tool sheds light on the importance of strong public policy that helps save lives in states across the nation," said Lee Munnich, a professor at the U of M's Humphrey Institute and director of CERS. "When you can visually see how many lives can be saved, it really changes how the public and policy makers see our roads."

CERS officials hope the tool will educate the public, especially those that live in rural areas, about road fatalities. U.S. Census figures show that 21 percent of Americans live in rural areas and the Federal Highway Administration has found that 57 percent of highway deaths happen on rural roads.

"We must take aggressive action to reduce needless deaths on our nation's roadways and <http://www.saferoadmaps.org> will give citizens and policymakers the information they need to improve travel safety," said U.S. Congressman James Oberstar, Chair of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. "I applaud the Center for Excellence in Rural Safety for their leadership in developing tools that can help us all in our quest to improve the safety of our nation's roadways."

<http://www.saferoadmaps.org> will be useful to a wide range of drivers, from rural to urban drivers as well as drivers' education teachers, parents and policy makers. It will also serve as an important illustration for teaching new drivers the importance of safety and give veteran drivers an opportunity to explore their most common routes and make sensible adjustments.

"By mapping out these fatalities, we can visually see what a large problem we have in our country," Munnich said. "It is time to start working towards prevention and each one of these dots on the map represents that."

University of Minnesota Libraries Exhibit explores development of the Olympic Dream in China

What: University of Minnesota Libraries Exhibit on the YMCA and the Olympic Movement in China from 1895 to 1920

When: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; August 4 through Sept 29 after Labor Day, Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Elmer L. Andersen Library 222 21st Ave S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Marlo Welshons, University of Minnesota Libraries, welsh066@umn.edu, (612) 625-9148
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, mathre@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/06/2008) —The University of Minnesota Libraries will display materials from the Kautz Family YMCA Archives that chronicle the origins and development of the Olympic dream in the Far East by examining the YMCA's introduction and promotion of athleticism in China. "Reaching for Gold: The YMCA and the Olympic Movement in China from 1895-1920" is free and open to the public from Aug. 4 through Sept. 29 at the Elmer L. Andersen Library Gallery, 222 21st Ave S., Minneapolis.

To view an interview with Ryan Bean about the exhibit, visit:

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

When the 2008 Olympic Games open in Beijing on Friday, it will be the culmination of 100 years of planning. In 1908, a YMCA Secretary in China posed the prophetic question "when will China host the Olympics?" never guessing that the answer would materialize a century later.

As part of the missionary movement of the 19th and early 20th centuries, the American YMCA workers (in those times known as "secretaries") who went abroad did more than preach the Gospel. They aimed to spread the YMCA movement itself, and the movement concerned itself with the whole person -- the spirit, the mind and the body.

"Numerous visitors have come from China in the past year to learn more about the introduction of western sports in China, and especially motivated by the questions in 1908 that anticipated a day when China would host the Olympics," said David Klaassen, head of the Kautz Family YMCA Archives. "The "Reaching for Gold" exhibit allows us to share this story with an American audience."

The Kautz Family YMCA Archives collections document the evolution of the YMCA from its Protestant evangelical origins, including its contributions to Civil War relief, the invention of basketball and volleyball, public health campaigns in China, rural reconstruction in India and Korea, teaching English as a second language and much more.

An opening reception sponsored by the Kautz Family YMCA Archives, the University of Minnesota China Center, and the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries will be held on Friday, Aug. 8, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Exhibit hours are from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. - 1p.m. on Saturdays after Labor Day.

U of M Athletics Department to visit Nobles County

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/06/2008) —With the first on-campus stadium in 28 years, the sounds, sights and excitement of University of Minnesota football will echo 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 Minnesota counties and Gopher Athletics is reaching out to engage the entire state of Minnesota over the next 15 months with a statewide tour.

The U athletics department will visit Nobles County from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on August 8. The Gopher Wagon along with Softball coach Lisa Bernstein will be at the Worthington Dairy Queen 640 Humiston Ave., Worthington. The event will include prizes, games, giveaways and an opportunity to take a virtual tour of the TCF Bank Stadium.

To hear associate athletics director David Crum speak about the statewide county tour go to http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/2008/08/842008_gopher_football_coming.html.

Construction 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 substantial completion in July 2009 and will open for the first Gopher football game of the season on Sept. 12, 2009.

For more information visit www.gophersports.com and click on "Statewide County Tour"

Michael Hurley to Speak at U of M Law School Dean installation

Media Note: The event is open to media. Please RSVP to Cynthia Huff (612) 625-6691 or huffx070@umn.edu.

What: Dean David Wippman installation
When: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 5
Where: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E.

Contacts: Cynthia Huff, Law School, (612) 625-6691
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/07/2008) —Retired CIA officer Michael Hurley ('80) will present the keynote address at Dean David Wippman's installation as the University of Minnesota Law School's 10th dean on Friday, September 5.

The installation program, ceremony and reception will take place at Memorial Hall, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Parking is available at the adjacent University Avenue Parking Ramp. Opening remarks by University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will begin promptly at 4 p.m.

Dean Wippman, William S. Pattee Professor of Law, returns to Minnesota from Cornell University, where he was vice provost for international relations and Professor of Law. He has taught public international law, international human rights, international criminal law and the law of war. He took a year away from Cornell to serve as a director in the National Security Council's Office of Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs, working on the International Criminal Court, economic sanctions, war crimes and U.N. political issues. Before joining Cornell, he worked on international arbitration and represented developing countries in litigation with a law firm in Washington, D.C. He received his bachelors degree from Princeton and his Masters's and Law degrees from Yale.

Hurley is now a consultant to the U.S. State Department on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and a special advisor to the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a nonprofit organization working on strategies to reduce the risk of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

A graduate of Edina High School, along with Dean Wippman, Hurley earned a bachelors degree in European history and political science and law degree from the University of Minnesota, then began his career in Minneapolis as a trial attorney in private practice.

In his 25-year career with the CIA, Hurley was a leader in U.S. interventions to end conflicts in Haiti and Bosnia and advised President Clinton on the Kosovo crisis as National Security Council Staff Director for the Balkans. Immediately after the 9/11 attacks, he was deployed to Afghanistan and served three tours of duty. He was a senior counsel on the 9/11 Commission, directed its counterterrorism policy investigation and is a co-author of its best-selling final report.

Invitations for the event have been sent. RSVPs are required and should be directed to Cheryl Casey at 612-625-4544 or lawevent@umn.edu. The event is open to press who RSVP.

University of Minnesota hosts Associated Press photo exhibit of "The American President"

Contacts: Jen Keavy, University of Minnesota, (612) 625-8095
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/08/2008) —“The American President,” an exhibit of compelling news photos from the Associated Press, will be on view in the Humphrey Museum and Forum at the Hubert H. Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The exhibit is co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota School of Journalism & Mass Communication and the Humphrey Institute’s Center for the Study of Politics and Governance.

The display will be open to the public from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, Aug. 13 through Sept. 19. Admission is free. More information about the exhibit is available on the Associated Press Web site at <http://www.ap.org/americanpresident/>

The exhibit shows American presidents at war and at ease, in victory and in defeat, confronting national crises and facing personal scandals, running for office and leading the country on the world stage.

Amid the extraordinary voter interest in the 2008 race for the White House, the new exhibit helps illustrate one constant in the ever-shifting media landscape. The coverage of the White House by AP reporters and photographers has been the dominant source of presidential news across the United States and around the world.

“The American President” features a number of the AP’s Pulitzer Prize-winning images, including Paul Vathis’ view of John F. Kennedy conferring gravely with his predecessor, Dwight D. Eisenhower, at Camp David after the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961; Ron Edmonds’ rapid sequence documenting the 1981 assassination attempt on Ronald Reagan, and White House photos taken by J. Scott Applewhite and others during Bill Clinton’s 1998 impeachment battle.

The more than 80 photos in the exhibit underscore the need for the AP photojournalists assigned to cover the White House to always keep their eyes on the president, so they won’t miss those revealing, unexpected moments that could easily dominate thousands of front pages and Web sites around the world.

“The American President” includes memorable shots from the AP Images photo library, which contains more than 10 million film and digital images, and pictures taken in this year’s run for the White House by Senators Hillary Clinton, John McCain and Barack Obama.

For further information, visitors may call the University of Minnesota School of Journalism & Mass Communication at (612) 625-9824 or email mjnrctr@umn.edu.



Statement from University of Minnesota President regarding the Bachman tragedy in Beijing

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/09/2008) —The following is a statement from University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks regarding the Todd and Barbara Bachman tragedy in Beijing:

All of us at the University of Minnesota were shocked and saddened to learn of the tragedy that took Todd Bachman's life and severely injured Barbara Bachman. They have been important members of our community since they were students here.

Perhaps the greatest tribute a person can receive is to have it said that you made a lasting and meaningful contribution to those things for which you cared most. This can unquestionably be said about the Bachmans, who gave of themselves to so much. Their contributions to the University, where they created an academic chair in horticulture marketing and supported the Golden Gopher with unwavering devotion, are lasting and meaningful.

Todd will forever be missed and we join family and friends in wishing Barbara well as she recovers from this terrible tragedy.



U of M Athletics Department to visit Pine County

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/11/2008) —With the first on-campus stadium in 28 years, the sounds, sights and excitement of University of Minnesota football will echo 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 Minnesota counties and Gopher Athletics is reaching out to engage the entire state of Minnesota over the next 15 months with a statewide tour.

The U athletics department will visit Pine County from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 15. The Gopher Wagon along with U of M Athletics staff will be at Tobies Restaurant & Bakery, 404 Fire Monument Road, Hinckley, MN. The event will include prizes, games, giveaways and an opportunity to take a virtual tour of the TCF Bank Stadium.

TCF Bank Stadium Construction Update

Construction 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 substantial completion in July 2009 and will open for the first Gopher football game of the season on Sept. 12, 2009.

For more information visit www.gophersports.com and click on "Statewide County Tour."

New research from the University of Minnesota examines consumer choice in changing markets

Contacts: Rebecca Monroe, Carlson School, (612) 626-7940, rmonro@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/11/2008) —U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton may do more for U.S. Senator Barack Obama than Ralph Nader did for Al Gore: she could give him an unintended boost. Clinton sought the presidency and then, unlike Nader, exited the race. New research from the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management demonstrates that when an option enters and then leaves a market, the most similar remaining option -- in this case Obama -- stands to benefit. Whether it is political candidates or beer, health care plans or automobiles, when one attractive option becomes unavailable, people gravitate toward the most similar remaining option.

In their paper "Could Ralph Nader's Entrance and Exit have helped Al Gore? The Impact of Decoy Dynamics on Consumer Choice," forthcoming in the *Journal of Marketing Research*, the University of Minnesota's Akshay Rao and co-authors William Hedgcock and Haipeng (Allan) Chen (both Carlson School alumni) show that the disappearance of an option from a choice set can increase the appeal of the remaining selection that is most similar to the now-absent option. This happens, they write, because consumers and voters attach greater importance to those issues or attributes on which the two similar options competed.

"We found that the entrance and exit of a third option -- the 'Nader effect' -- can profoundly impact consumers' preference," said Rao. "The presence of the third alternative shifts the focus of the customer. If you have two automobiles extolling their fuel efficiency, while a third promotes style, purchasers pay more attention to the fuel efficiency criterion. Then, when one of the high fuel efficiency cars leaves the market, the other fuel efficient car draws consumers. In the case of automobiles it might be fuel efficiency, and in the case of political candidates it might be health care. When the third choice exits, the remaining candidate with the most similar attributes becomes the favorite - even if they weren't before." Rao goes on to say, "We also call this effect the 'phantom decoy' effect because, like pre-announced software that is never released, these desirable options that become 'unavailable' may never actually exist."

Rao illustrates phantom decoys by pointing to on-line vacation options. A consumer may search on the Internet and see three vacation options. One is a four star hotel far from the beach, a second is a lower quality hotel closer to the beach, while a third alternative is a five star hotel, also near the beach. If the buyer tries to book the five star hotel and it turns out to no longer be available, things get interesting. The research shows that the phantom decoy, the five-star hotel, causes a shift in the consumer's preference. When the five star hotel cannot be selected, the buyer now looks to the next closest option, the four star hotel, even though it was not initially preferred. The same, Rao observes, happens in political choice.

When making decisions, consumers need to pay close attention to their options. The presence of a third choice could be accidental, or it may be the consequence of smart ad execs influencing customer choice with a phantom decoy.

The researchers advise marketers and pundits to pay careful attention to this "Nader effect." "The increase in affinity that a product may receive when a decoy option, real or not, is removed can mark a significant change in consumer choice," says Rao. "In terms of elections, even a 5 percent increase in preference makes a huge difference at the ballot box."

More information about Rao's research, and a copy of the paper, may be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/rao.

U of M's Institute on the Environment to launch Momentum magazine

Contacts: Todd Reubold, Institute on the Environment, (612) 624-6140
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/11/2008) —The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment will launch a new magazine titled Momentum in September 2008. Published three times a year, the magazine will use university expertise as a springboard to address the world's most pressing environmental issues.

"Today's environmental problems can't be solved with business-as-usual thinking," said Jonathan Foley, director of the Institute on the Environment. "Our goal with the magazine is to create an ongoing forum for innovative thinking. Through Momentum's print, Web and multimedia features, the world's top environmental experts can share new ideas and solutions with each other and with the public."

In the premiere issue, topics will range from Minnesota as a "living laboratory" and the future of the Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan; to the promise and pitfalls of algae-to-biofuels conversion and the challenges surrounding local food systems.

Using a narrative writing style and accessible language, each article will dig below the surface to explore the complexities and policy implications, as well as the need for an interdisciplinary problem-solving approach.

The first issue will include contributions from leading environmental writers such as:

- Jim Motavalli, senior writer at E Magazine and author of "Feeling the Heat: Dispatches from the Frontlines of Climate Change;"
- Jessica Marshall, environment correspondent for Discovery News and a regular contributor to New Scientist;
- Lee Egerstrom, a veteran reporter who spent three decades covering agricultural and business issues for the St. Paul Pioneer Press; and
- Mark Neuzil, an environmental author, contributor to MinnPost and former reporter for the Associated Press and the Star Tribune.

The inaugural issue also features an interview with New York Times columnist and best-selling author Thomas Friedman, whose new book, "Hot, Flat and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution-and How It Can Renew America," will be released Sept. 8.

"When we started planning the magazine this past winter, we immediately received interest from seasoned journalists in Minnesota and from across the country," said Momentum editor Eve Daniels, an award-winning writer who has contributed to a wide range of regional and national magazines.

"The enthusiasm from such experienced writers and well-known interviewees speaks to the University of Minnesota's reputation as a leader in environmental research," Daniels said.

Rounding out the issue, prominent University of Minnesota researchers from a variety of disciplines -- including David Tilman, Lee Frelich, Lucinda Johnson, Susan Galatowitsch and more -- will discuss and debate the challenges surrounding climate change, biofuels, biodiversity and several other hot topics.

Beginning with a limited print run of close to 7,000, the institute will distribute the magazine to a broad environmental community of business and nonprofit leaders, researchers, policy makers, students and the general public. As the Institute on the Environment's communications efforts grow to reach national and international audiences, the circulation will grow as well.

The limited print run, combined with environmentally-friendly ink and paper, is one way the institute is staying sustainable in the production process. In addition, Web features such as videos and extended podcasts will supplement the print content in every issue, keeping the magazine's page count relatively brief.

To sign up to receive a free subscription to Momentum, visit environment.umn.edu

University of Minnesota's Office for University Women changes name to "Women's Center"

Contacts: Peg Lonquist, Womens Center, (612) 625-6039
Ami Berger, Office for Equity and Diversity, (612) 625-0498

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/11/2008) —On August 1, the Office for University Women at the University of Minnesota will officially change its name to the Women's Center. The Women's Center is a unit of the University's Office for Equity and Diversity.

The name change reflects the evolution of women's achievements, roles and challenges at the university and across higher education in the office's near 50-year history. This unit, which grew out of the Minnesota Plan for the Continuing Education of Women, was later known as both the Commission on Women and the Minnesota Women's Center, and in 1998, became the Office for University Women.

"Our constituents had been asking for a name that communicated a more inviting and welcoming message, that would enable incoming and current student, faculty and staff women to more easily find and utilize our programs and services, and that would reflect our continuing ability to adapt to the dynamic needs of our diverse constituency," said Peg Lonquist, interim director of the Women's Center. After a lengthy consultation process, the "Women's Center" title was chosen.

Founded in 1960, the Women's Center has a rich history of serving the needs of the university's female faculty, staff, and students. The University of Minnesota was the first institution in the nation to create an office dedicated to the concerns of academic women, and since then, the office has established many programs, services, and initiatives to support the success of all women at the University.

According to Nancy "Rusty" Barceló, the university's vice president and vice provost for equity and diversity, the Women's Center has always been at the forefront of national efforts to address challenges faced by women in higher education. "As we go forward, the Women's Center at the University of Minnesota will continue its role as a catalyst for women's equity and empowerment," said Barceló. "The Women's Center is a vital part of the university's effort to support women's achievement and success through collaboration, leadership development, educational programs and policy change."



U of M Athletics Department to visit Aitkin County

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/11/2008) —With the first on-campus stadium in 28 years, the sounds, sights and excitement of University of Minnesota football will echo 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 Minnesota counties and Gopher Athletics is reaching out to engage the entire state of Minnesota over the next 15 months with a statewide tour.

The U athletics department will visit Aitkin Dollar Days from 2:30- 4 p.m. on Friday, August 15. The Gopher Wagon along with men's gymnastics coach Mike Burns will be at the Bremar Bank Park, 101 Minnesota Ave. N. , Aitkin. The event will include prizes, games, giveaways and an opportunity to take a virtual tour of the TCF Bank Stadium.

To hear associate athletics director David Crum speak about the statewide county tour, go to http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/2008/08/842008_gopher_football_coming.html.

Construction 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 substantial completion in July 2009 and will open for the first Gopher football game of the season on Sept. 12, 2009.

For more information visit www.gophersports.com and click on "Statewide County Tour"

New analysis by U of M Researcher challenges approach to oversight of new technologies

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/12/2008) —Emerging technologies -- such as nanotechnology and biotechnology -- provide great benefit along with potential risk. Should the consumer be worried about products in the marketplace that use these technologies? How do we know these products are safe? In a new article co-authored by University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute associate professor Jennifer Kuzma titled “An Integrated Approach to Oversight Assessment for Emerging Technologies,” she and her colleagues offer a detailed analysis of oversight and regulation procedures designed to protect the user.

U.S. government agencies have been charged with oversight of research and technology to ensure the safety of people and animals as well as to protect the environment. According to Kuzma, we cannot rely on these current oversight bodies to regulate the kind of emerging technologies we’re seeing today.

“Nanotechnology is a great example. It has the potential to advance medicine, agriculture, health and environmental science and provide great benefits to society, but there may be safety concerns related to the special properties of nanoparticles, such as their greater abilities to penetrate and move across organs and cells in biological systems,” said Kuzma. “The U.S. oversight system currently relies on agencies and regulations designed for related technologies, but they are not equipped to adequately handle the novel properties and unique challenges associated with nanotechnology. In fact, oversight issues associated with applications for agriculture and food remain largely unexplored.”

How do we determine if we have the right oversight bodies in place? Previous analysis of oversight systems has been conducted through only one or a few perspectives using a small set of criteria often focused on a particular discipline. However, today’s emerging technologies involve multiple stakeholders with various viewpoints, values and concerns. According to Kuzma, modern analysis of our systems requires a holistic, integrated approach.

“To meet the needs and values of all stakeholders involved, we must consider new technologies from a variety of perspectives. For example, some stakeholders are more concerned about the economic benefits of new technology, while others care primarily about the health and environmental impact,” said Kuzma. “Our goal was to develop a multidisciplinary approach to more comprehensively evaluate oversight systems for emerging technologies.”

Kuzma and her colleagues developed a broad set of multidisciplinary criteria that could be applied to characterize and evaluate any oversight system for technological products and applications. They divided these criteria into categories to explore the development, attributes, outcomes and evolution of oversight systems.

“We anticipate that this new approach will be a valuable tool for analyzing multiple perspectives, features, outcomes and tradeoffs of oversight systems,” said Kuzma. “Such an approach that incorporates the viewpoints of key disciplines and the perspectives of multiple stakeholders could help to ameliorate controversy and conflict as new technologies emerge and oversight systems for them are considered and deployed.”

The full article is available in the August issue of Risk Analysis, which also includes a second article by Kuzma and colleagues applying oversight assessment to six detailed case studies specifically for agrifood nanotechnology. More information also may be found online at the Center for Science, Technology, and Public Policy at the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. Visit www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/stpp/index.php.

Timing of political messages influences voter preferences, U of M researcher finds

Contacts: Rebecca Monroe, Carlson School of Management, 612-626-7940
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/13/2008) —In political campaigns, timing is almost everything. Candidates communicate with voters over a long period of time before voters actually vote. What candidates say to these voters is, of course, important, but it turns out that when they say it also influences voter preferences.

Why Obama's reliance on lofty rhetoric has succeeded thus far is a puzzle addressed in the paper "It's Time to Vote: The Effect of Matching Message Orientation and Temporal Frame on Political Persuasion," forthcoming in the *Journal of Consumer Research*. The research, co-authored by the University of Minnesota's Akshay Rao, Hakkyun Kim (Concordia) and Angela Lee (Northwestern), demonstrates that the timing and content of political messages affects voters, particularly swing voters.

When Senator Barack Obama began his presidential campaign, his rhetoric emphasized abstract concepts such as hope, change and judgment. In contrast, Sen. Hillary Clinton and other candidates frequently presented detailed, concrete plans on a host of topics ranging from the Iraq War to the economy and health care reform. Political commentators criticized Senator Obama for his lack of specifics, yet voters continued to respond to his message.

Rao offers this illustration to characterize the research: "Imagine taking a vacation to Cancun six months from now. You are probably thinking about beaches, sunsets and other abstract information. On the other hand, if you were going to Cancun tomorrow, you would be thinking about taxi cabs and boarding passes -- concrete concerns -- making you more likely to process information about speedy check-in or the phone number of a taxi." He continues, "Similarly, a voter facing a choice in the distant future is less interested in particular plans and policies and is more persuaded by broad, abstract ideas. It is only as the election gets closer that voters start paying attention to concrete details of the candidate's positions. In essence, when the choice is far away, a voter is more likely to think in abstract terms, but as the choice approaches, the voter puts more weight on the details."

The researchers demonstrate this temporal effect in a series of studies and observe that it is relatively uninformed voters who are most subject to this effect. "What this finding implies is that the people who typically decide elections -- voters in the middle -- are most susceptible to this type of persuasion. Political novices tend to be more persuaded by abstract messages when the choice is far off, and by concrete messages when the choice is imminent," said Rao. While the experiments focused on political contexts, the underlying argument applies equally well to other contexts, such as deciding which college to attend, which automobile to purchase or where to live when one retires.

The authors advise -- particularly in this time of long campaign cycles and multiple media channels - that campaigns think strategically about the timing of messages targeted toward select markets, such as swing voters. Rao observes, "The fit of the right message with the right voter at the right time has never been more important to the outcome of a race."

More information about Rao's research and a copy of the paper may be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/rao.



University of Minnesota ranked 28th in world according to new rankings

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/13/2008) —The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities is one of the top 30 universities in the world, according to the Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Institute of Higher Education latest ranking. The University is ranked 28th in the world.

The international ranking of 500 world universities (public and private) looks at the strength of faculty research, publishing impact and faculty honors. This is the first time since the ranking appeared in 2003 that the university has reached the top 30. The university ranked 33rd last year. The Shanghai Jiao Tong University rankings are released annually in August.

"This is an important corroboration that our strategic plan is working very well and propelling the University of Minnesota into the top ranks of universities across the nation and around the world," said University of Minnesota provost Thomas Sullivan. "It speaks volumes for our outstanding faculty and the impact they are having on our state and the contribution they make to the global community. This is an exceptionally competitive time for universities and so to move up in such rankings is a remarkable achievement."

Giving to the U of M reached a new record for the second year in a row

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Meredith McNab, Minnesota Medical Foundation, (612) 625-0657
Daniel Wolter, University News Service, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/14/2008) —For the second year in a row, donors gave a record amount in gifts and pledges to the University of Minnesota. The total committed in fiscal year (FY) 2008 was \$289 million, an increase of \$38 million, or 15 percent compared with the \$251 million raised in FY 2007.

Gifts include \$65 million from the Minnesota Masonic Charities, the largest ever made to the university. It will be used for cancer research and care at the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota, the new name given to the Cancer Center in recognition of the gift. With this pledge, Masonic support of cancer research at the university totals \$100 million over the past 53 years.

Also noteworthy for the year was a \$12.5 million gift from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, with \$10 million designated for the TCF Bank Stadium and \$2.5 million for university-wide scholarships. Another major gift was \$10 million from Jim Swenson for scholarships and the new civil engineering building in Duluth. Nearly 88,000 individuals and organizations made gifts in FY 2008, including 51,000 alumni.

“It was a remarkable year of private support for the university,” said university president Robert Bruininks. “The Masons’ new gift is the kind that makes it possible to expand significantly an area of research, in this case the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Gifts from other donors are helping us meet other important priorities such as expanding access to students and funding exciting new facilities - from the new addition to the Weisman Art Museum, to the expanded Hanson Hall at the Carlson School.”

Student support, a major fund-raising priority, reached \$56 million in FY 2008. The university launched the Promise of Tomorrow Scholarship Drive in July 2003 and has since raised \$233 million for scholarships and fellowships. More than 7,000 students now receive financial support through private gifts, compared with 4,800 before the drive was launched.

The \$289 million includes cash gifts and pledges, as well as deferred commitments such as bequests and trusts. It includes gifts made to all U of M campuses, colleges and departments, including gifts made through the University of Minnesota Foundation, the Minnesota Medical Foundation, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation and the 4-H Foundation.

For audio commentary from President Bruininks, visit:

http://blog.lib.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/2008/08/8132008_umf_has_record_year_an.html

The U of M at the "Great Minnesota Get Together"

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/18/2008) —The University of Minnesota is gearing up once again to be among the largest attractions at this year's Minnesota State Fair. Fairgoers are invited to visit the university's main building and stage located at the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street, Minnesota State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, from Thursday, Aug. 21 through Monday, Sept. 1.

The State Fair is a great opportunity to catch a glimpse of the thriving university community where the U's drive to research, learn and to achieve great things leads to discoveries that change the world. Over the course of 12 days, more than 100 university experts and scholars will be on hand to share their cutting-edge research and discoveries that have impacted the world.

In addition to the hundreds of experts from the university, visitors can meet horticulture experts, view birds of prey, enjoy nature-inspired art, peruse more than 7,000 exhibits created by 4-H members, learn about the TCF Bank Stadium and savor a refreshing milk-shake at the Gopher Dairy Bar.

All five U campuses and more than 40 colleges and offices will showcase their programs and services at locations throughout the fairgrounds.

Maroon and Gold Day is Sunday, Aug. 24. Visitors are encouraged to proudly wear their maroon and gold attire and watch the 300-member U of M Marching Band perform in the parade down Cosgrove and Underwood St. at 2 p.m.

For transportation to the fair, a free shuttle runs daily from free parking locations on the Minneapolis campus. The public is invited to park and ride from these locations:

4th Street Ramp: 4th St. & 17th Ave. SE; 7:30 a.m. – midnight, daily

Various surface lots - Follow signs

Oak Street Ramp: Oak St. & Delaware St. Weekdays – 4 p.m. to midnight, Aug. 25 - 26 – 7:30 a.m. to midnight, Sept. 1-3 – no service

For a complete schedule and map of university events, visit www.statefair.umn.edu. University News Service will issue daily news releases featuring the next day's U fair events. The fair runs from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

Renowned economist and U of M professor Vern Ruttan dies at age 84

Contacts: Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, (612) 626-5754

Brian Buhr, department of applied economics, (612) 625-0231

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/18/2008) —Internationally respected University of Minnesota economist Vernon Ruttan died today after a short illness at age 84.

Ruttan, a retired Regents Professor in the applied economics and economics departments, was widely known for his work in economic development, agricultural and resource economics, and science and technology policy. He officially retired from the university in 2000 but continued his research and writing, maintaining an office at the university until just before his death.

All who knew Vernon personally or professionally were touched by his incisive insights, his tenor chuckle and his true interest in others, said Brian Buhr, head of the applied economics department. “He would often ask an assistant professor to lunch to ask ‘what do you think about what’s happening in your area?’, continuing the inquiry because he was truly interested in learning from what a junior faculty member might be observing from a fresh perspective. We will miss him deeply as a friend, a scholar, a colleague and a true gentleman.”

Ruttan’s career at the university stretches back to 1965, when he became head of the applied economics department after teaching at Purdue and the University of California-Berkeley. He also worked with the President’s Council of Economic Advisors and the Rockefeller Foundation’s International Rice Research Institute.

He was named a Regents Professor, the university’s highest faculty honor, in 1986 and was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the Council on Foreign Relations and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, among many associations. His nonacademic work included leadership roles in the Agency for International Development and other national groups and the Minnesota Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Constitutional Scholar Jesse Choper to Lecture at U of M Law School

What: Lecture by Constitutional scholar Jesse Choper

When: 12:15 p.m., Sept. 3

Where: University of Minnesota Law School, Mondale Hall, 229 19th Avenue S, Minneapolis

Contacts: Cynthia Huff, University Law School, (612) 625-6691

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/19/2008) —Jesse Choper, a professor at the University of Minnesota Law School in the 1960s and now Earl Warren Professor of Public Law at the University of California Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law, will be speaking at the University of Minnesota Law School, 12:15, Wednesday, Sept. 3, Room 25, 222 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Choper will present "Liberal and Conservative Supreme Court Justices-What Difference Does it Really Make and What Does it Bode for the Future?"

Choper began his teaching career at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania (1957-60). He served as a law clerk for Chief Justice Earl Warren of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1960-61 and taught at the University of Minnesota Law School from 1961 to 65. In 1965, he joined the faculty of Boalt Hall as a professor. He served as its dean from 1982-92 and has been the Earl Warren Professor of Public Law since 1991.

Over the course of his career, Choper has been a visiting professor at Harvard and Fordham Law Schools, the University of Milan, Free University in Amsterdam, Autonomia University in Barcelona and the University of New South Wales in Sydney. In 1998 he received the University of California Berkeley Distinguished Teaching Award, and in 2006 he received the Rutter Award for Teaching Distinction at Boalt Hall. The Boalt Hall Alumni Association presented the Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award to Choper in 2005.

A widely recognized constitutional law scholar, Choper has lectured several times at U.S. Law Week's annual constitutional law conference in Washington, D.C., and has delivered lectures at major universities across the country. He received a Bachelor's degree from Wilkes University in 1957, a Law Degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1960, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Wilkes University in 1967.

Choper's lecture at the Law School has been made possible by the Jim and Sharon Hale Excellence in Legal Education Fund. The fund was created through a gift from James T. ('65) and Sharon Hale, longtime patrons of educational, nonprofit, civic and cultural organizations around the area. The Hales have been devoted supporters of the University of Minnesota and Jim served in leadership and volunteer roles at the Law School and the Carlson School of Management and taught for several years as an adjunct professor at the Law School. The Hales leave use of their gift to the discretion of the Law School.

Those planning to attend the lecture, should RSVP Cheryl Casey at (612) 625-4544 or lawevent@umn.edu.

Former dean of Humphrey Institute John Brandl dies

Contacts: Jamie Proulx, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9463
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/19/2008) —John Brandl, who served as associate professor and director of the School of Public Affairs and later dean of the Humphrey Institute died last evening, Monday, Aug. 18, in Minneapolis after a long battle with cancer.

Brian Atwood, dean of the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, issued the following statement on the passing of Brandl:

“The Humphrey Institute community mourns the loss of our friend and colleague John Brandl. He served as dean of the Humphrey Institute from 1997 to 2002 and was an outstanding member of our community. John was a superb scholar, a highly effective public servant and a wonderful human being. He will forever be remembered as a role model for our public affairs students.”

John Brandl was a dedicated member of the University of Minnesota faculty since 1968. He served as associate professor and director of the School of Public Affairs from 1969 to 1976. When the college transitioned to the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, he remained on the faculty and later served as dean from 1997 to 2002.

For 12 years Brandl was a member of the Minnesota Legislature, on partial leave from his professorship at the Institute. He served in the Minnesota House of Representatives (1977–78 and 1981–1986) and represented south Minneapolis in the Minnesota Senate (1987–90).

In the federal government, Brandl has worked in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Office of Economic Opportunity and the Economic Development Administration. Before coming to the institute he was deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Brandl has held faculty positions at Boston College, his alma maters Harvard University and St. John’s University (Minnesota), the University of Wisconsin, the University of the Philippines and Sydney University. He also has served as president of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management and the Citizens League of the Twin Cities.

Brandl authored numerous books, monographs, articles and reviews. While dean of the Humphrey Institute, he wrote a column for the Star Tribune.

For more information and to view a video from a June 2008 dinner honoring John Brandl, visit www.hhh.umn.edu/John_Brandl_dinner.html.



Stan Gadek, president and CEO of Sun Country Airlines to speak at U of M

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770, dskelly@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/20/2008) —Stan Gadek, president and CEO of Sun Country Airlines, will be the Brand Matters featured speaker at 8 a.m Tuesday, Sept. 23 at the Carlson School's 3M Auditorium, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

In his presentation, "Making Brand Value in a Commodity Environment," Gadek will discuss the importance of brand in an increasingly commoditized industry. From broad-based to personally-focused consumer touch points, Gadek will highlight why Sun Country Airlines has built its brand as the "Hometown Airline" and why this has positioned the airline for success in a turbulent industry.

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 for this event by going to www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/events, e-mailing brandmatters@umn.edu or by calling Susan Markgraf at (612) 625-5348. The event includes breakfast and costs \$25 online via credit card, or cash or check payment at the door.

U of M at the Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Thursday, Aug. 21

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

August 21, 2008

The University of Minnesota once again is among the largest attractions at this year's Minnesota State Fair. Fairgoers are invited to visit the university's main building and stage located at the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street.

The U of M State Fair highlights for Thursday, Aug. 21:

Presenting on the U of M Stage

10 a.m. Alumni Band
10:30 a.m. Phil Esten, Gopher Athletics
11:00 a.m. Men's Gymnastics
11:30 a.m. Women's Gymnastics
12:00 p.m. Meet Goldy
12:00 p.m. Men's & Women's Track & Field
1:00 p.m. Wrestling
1:30 p.m. Men's & Women's Golf
2:00 p.m. Men's Basketball
2:30 p.m. Men's Basketball
3:00 p.m. Soccer
3:30 p.m. Alumni Band
4:00 pm Radio K

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., University of Minnesota, Duluth
Stop by the UMD booth and learn more about its vibrant campus.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Energy & the Environment, Bell Museum of Natural History
Faculty and staff from the Bell Museum of Natural History will be available to answer questions about what lives in your back yard.

9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Public Engagement & Economic Impact Department of Applied Economics
Learn the answers to these important questions: How many pounds of goat milk does it take to make one gallon of ice cream? Which varieties of apples make the best snack item? And just why is hard cider called "scrumpy" in England?

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Science & Engineering Department of astronomy
Discover the wonders of the sky in this exhibit from the department of astronomy. The exhibit will include many tools used by U of M astronomers including an infrared camera, 3D simulations and a telescope. Some activities from astronomy labs, information on department of astronomy sponsored events and information about research will also be part of the exhibit

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Society, Arts and Culture Around the World with U
Go around the world with the university and get transported to some of the planet's most unique and interesting sites. Get a free photo postcard as a souvenir of your trip!

U of M Marching Band's "Spat Camp" underway as fall sports season approaches

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu
Lisa Marshall, School of Music, (612) 626-1094, marsh396@umn.edu

August 21, 2008

The onset of the Minnesota State Fair means that the fall sports season is not far behind, and the University of Minnesota Marching Band is already making preparations. Thursday marks the first full-squad practice session of the band's annual "Spat Camp," a ten-day, in-residence preparation camp where students learn music and marching fundamentals. Spat Camp marks the beginning of the marching band season.

New incoming students, flags, student leadership and percussion reported for camp on Tuesday, Aug. 19, but Thursday (Aug. 21) will mark the first day for all other returning members. Rehearsal sessions take place in various areas around campus, including the band's home in the basement of Northrop Auditorium, the university mall area and the practice lot behind the Bierman Athletic Building.

The 300-member band's first official performance of 2008-09 will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24 at Maroon and Gold Day at the Minnesota State Fair Parade. The parade will serve as the band's tune-up for the 2008 Golden Gopher football season opener Aug. 30 against Northern Illinois at the Metrodome.

2008 will also mark the final year of the marching band's 79-year tenure in Northrop. The program is scheduled to move into a brand new 20,000 square foot facility when TCF Bank Stadium opens in the fall of 2009. A \$5 million fundraising effort (\$2.5 million donation goal, to be matched by the university) for both the band's stadium facility and a leadership scholarship program is already underway.

To learn more about the U of M Marching Band's efforts as they prepare for the fall sports season, or to interview individuals associated with the program, please contact Ryan Maus at maus@umn.edu or 612-624-1690 or Lisa Marshall at marsh396@umn.edu or 612-626-1094.

U of M scholar and colleagues link tobacco industry's marketing to youth smoking

Contacts: Rebecca Monroe, Carlson School of Management, (612) 626-7940
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/21/2008) —The National Cancer Institute (NCI) released a report today, co-edited by University of Minnesota professor Barbara Loken, that reaches the government's strongest conclusion to date that tobacco marketing and depictions of smoking in movies promote youth smoking. "There is now incontrovertible evidence that marketing of tobacco, and the depiction of smoking in the movies, promote youth smoking and can cause young people to begin smoking," said Loken, professor of marketing at the Carlson School of Management and one of the report's five scientific editors.

The 684-page monograph, "The Role of the Media in Promoting and Reducing Tobacco Use," presents definitive conclusions that a) tobacco advertising and promotion are causally related to increased tobacco use, and b) exposure to depictions of smoking in movies causes youth smoking initiation. The report also concludes that while mass media campaigns can reduce tobacco use, youth smoking prevention campaigns sponsored by the tobacco industry are generally ineffective and may even increase youth smoking.

"The role of marketing in the success of the tobacco companies is conclusive," according to Loken. "The report's recommendations offer the best approach to employ marketing techniques and the media to help prevent a further increase in youth smoking."

The NCI report reaches six major conclusions:

Cigarettes are one of the most heavily marketed products in the United States.

Tobacco advertising targets psychological needs of adolescents, such as popularity and peer acceptance. Advertising creates the perception that smoking satisfies these needs.

Even brief exposure to tobacco advertising influences adolescents' perceptions about smoking, smokers, and adolescents' intentions to smoke.

The depiction of cigarette smoking is pervasive in movies, occurring in 75 percent or more of contemporary box-office hits, with identifiable brands in about one-third of movies.

A comprehensive ban on tobacco advertising and promotion is an effective policy intervention that prevents tobacco companies from shifting marketing expenditures to permitted media.

The tobacco industry works hard to impede tobacco control media campaigns, including attempts to prevent or reduce their funding.

"This direct link between marketing and tobacco use is very powerful," Loken said, "Anti-tobacco ads before films and a comprehensive ban on tobacco advertising are two effective strategies found to curb effects of tobacco images on youth. Now we need to use marketing to steer youth and others away from tobacco."

The report provides the most current and comprehensive analysis of more than 1,000 scientific studies on the role of the media in encouraging and discouraging tobacco use. The report is Monograph 19 in the NCI's Tobacco Control Monograph series examining critical issues in tobacco prevention and control. Research included in the review comes from the disciplines of marketing, psychology, communications, statistics, epidemiology and public health.

Editors of the monograph are Ron Davis, MD, Director, Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Henry Ford Health System; Elizabeth Gilpin, M.S., Biostatistics, UC San Diego; Barbara Loken, PhD, Department of Marketing, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota; K. Viswanath, PhD, Department of Society, Human Development, and Health, Harvard School of Public Health; and Melanie Wakefield PhD, Director, Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer, The Cancer Council Victoria. The release of the report was announced today at the National Press Club.

Visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/bloken to learn more about Professor Barbara Loken and her research. For more information or to order this monograph, go to <http://www.cancercontrol.cancer.gov/tcrb/monographs/19/index.htm>. To order a free copy, call the NCI Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237) and ask for NIH Publication No07-6242.

U of M at the Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Friday, Aug. 22

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

August 21, 2008

The University of Minnesota once again is among the largest attractions at this year's Minnesota State Fair. Fairgoers are invited to visit the university's main building and stage located at the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street.

The U of M State Fair highlights for Friday, Aug. 22:

Presenting on the U of M Stage

10 a.m. Honeybees, Beekeeping and Research

11 a.m. Minnesota Wildlife Quiz Show

Noon Diet Secrets for a Happy Life

1 p.m. Renewable Energy: Harnessing Minnesota's Natural Resources

4 p.m. Radio K

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Engineers Without Borders

No water, no toilets, no waste removal, no electricity! EWB-UMN provides unique opportunities to interdisciplinary teams of student engineers at the U of M to address these issues in developing countries around the world. Learn how EWB has successfully been working to implement environmentally and economically sustainable projects to improve quality of life of disadvantaged communities in Guatemala, Ghana, Uganda and Haiti.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Northrop at the University of Minnesota

Discover world class performing arts and popular entertainment at Northrop, the University of Minnesota's treasured icon. Get your tickets at the Fair. Enter to win free tickets and an 80GB Zune mp3 player! All children are invited to "Be a Northrop Star" by entering the coloring contest.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., University of Minnesota, Morris: A renewable, sustainable education

UMM's vision for 2010 is to achieve carbon neutrality and energy self-sufficiency. Speakers will discuss how UMM has advanced sustainability efforts to national leadership and now touch nearly all aspects of campus life--food, power, water, transportation, recycling, academic study, and quality of life.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Impact Academic and Corporate Relations Center

Whether it's finding the right employee, identifying continuing education or connecting to university experts and current research, the Academic and Corporate Relations Center can find out how the U can help business.

New film "Offense Taken" to document controversy surrounding language and the disabled

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu
Diane Cormany, College of Education and Human Development, (612) 626-5650, dcormany@umn.edu

August 21, 2008

In the spring of 2007, a Minneapolis theater company put on a show titled "The Rise of the Celebretards," raising the ire of many members of the disabled community and their allies. Jerry Smith of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Community Integration has produced a film, entitled "Offense Taken," chronicling the response to controversy surrounding the use of the "R" word ("retard").

The film, which premieres tonight at 5 p.m. at the Interact Center in downtown Minneapolis, will launch a campaign to encourage a community discussion about disrespectful language and human rights. A reception will follow, including a discussion to help advance the dignity of people with developmental and other disabilities.

The premiere of "Offense Taken" comes on the heels of another controversy involving films and crude language. The recently released blockbuster "Tropic Thunder," which took in \$26 million to surge into the top spot at the box office last weekend, has also come under fire for repeated use of the "R" word.

The Interact Center is located at 212 3rd Avenue North in Minneapolis, and the film is sponsored by the organization Advocating Change Together. For more information about the event or to RSVP, call 651-641-0297.

To interview Smith or other University of Minnesota experts on the film's topic, contact Ryan Maus at maus@umn.edu or (612) 624-1690 or Diane Cormany at dcormany@umn.edu or (612) 626-5650.

U of M At The Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Saturday, Aug. 23 and Sunday, Aug. 24

Sunday is Maroon and Gold Day at the Fair

Contacts: University News Service, (612) 624-5551
University Pager, (612) 880-3056

August 22, 2008

The University of Minnesota once again is among the largest attractions at this year's Minnesota State Fair. Fairgoers are invited to visit the university's main building and stage located at the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street.

The U of M State Fair highlights for Saturday, Aug. 23

Presenting on the U of M Stage

11 a.m. Juggling Club

Noon Salsa Club

1 p.m. U Connects Stage Stars

2 p.m. Students in Free Enterprise Trivia Game

3 p.m. Judo Club

4 p.m. Radio K

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics

Today's faculty in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) continue the quality education, cutting-edge research and active public engagement begun in the late 19th century, as we strive to become world leaders in the solution of today's problems in food, agricultural and natural resources. Our goal is to conduct quality interdisciplinary research to support a competitive and sustainable agricultural and natural resource system.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Health Department of Neuroscience

See brain demonstrations hosted by the Medical School's Neuroscience graduate program and department of neuroscience.

1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Department of Horticultural Science

Learn how science helps your garden grow.

The U of M State Fair highlights for Sunday, Aug. 24

Maroon and Gold Day

Fairgoers are encouraged to wear maroon and gold to the State Fair on Sunday to show their pride in the U of M. The 300-member U of M Marching Band perform in the parade down Cosgrove and Underwood St. at 2 p.m.

The University of Minnesota is one of the largest, most comprehensive public universities in the world and ranks among the most prestigious. A land-grant university founded in 1851, the U's strong tradition of education, research and public service attracts a student body and faculty driven to discover some of the leading advances in medicine, engineering, agriculture and quality of life.

Presenting on the U of M Stage:

10 a.m. Alumni on a Stick Game

10 a.m. Know Your U Trivia Game

11 a.m. Know Your U Trivia Game

11:30 a.m. Know Your U Trivia Game

Noon Meet Goldy

Noon Know Your U Trivia Game

12:30 p.m. Know Your U Trivia Game

1 p.m. Alumni on a Stick Game

4 p.m. Radio K

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics: Minnesota Space Grant Consortium

This display by the Minnesota Space Grant Consortium will include items used by the high-altitude ballooning team including payload boxes and computer software for predicting where the balloons will go so they can be recovered. A video camera tethered to a balloon will be flown outside the building and shown on a monitor inside to demonstrate the capabilities of the technology. Come see the exciting display of spacecraft models, rocket launchers and other space science activities!

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., University of Minnesota Alumni Association

Through a variety of partnerships, programs and events, the University of Minnesota Alumni Association builds relationships that strengthen alumni connections to the U, and provide members with opportunities to serve as ambassadors and volunteer leaders. All alumni and friends are welcome to join the Alumni Association at the booth and as a "thank you" for being a member, pick up a special gift.

1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Energy & the Environment West Central Research and Outreach Center

What role can rural Minnesota play in renewable energy? Joel Tallaksen from the West Central Research and Outreach Center will discuss the efforts that are underway at the university to look at wind, biomass and other forms of renewable energy.

First-year U of M students to move in Tuesday night, Wednesday morning for first-ever Welcome Week

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University of Minnesota News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/25/2008) — As the calendar approaches September, it's that time again -- the beginning of a new school year. 2008-09 will get underway with a few different wrinkles for the approximately 5,200 freshman undergraduate students at the University of Minnesota, nearly 4,300 of which will be moving into their on-campus residence halls on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning. Wednesday marks the start of "Welcome Week," a brand-new, six-day required first-year student orientation program debuting this year.

To accommodate for the mid-week start date of Welcome Week, the traditional "move-in day" will now be spread out over two days. Twin Cities metro area students living on campus will start moving into their residences on Tuesday afternoon beginning at 4 p.m., while greater Minnesota and out-of-state students can begin the process at 9 a.m. Wednesday morning.

Because move-in day falls in the middle of the week, it is hoped that the two-day system will ease campus congestion and make the move-in process smoother for new students. Traditionally, the university utilized a two-day student orientation program, which allowed move-in day to take place on the Saturday morning before classes began.

Welcome Week, which has been in development at the Twin Cities campus for several years, will replace the optional three-day New Student Weekend event that had been in effect for the past 25 years. Welcome Week was developed in response to research that suggested students who attended New Student Weekend had higher retention and graduation rates than those who did not. The extended orientation is also meant to feed new students information at a more "digestible" pace, allowing easier acclimation to the college experience.

Activities for the week are intended to help students identify as members of the University of Minnesota community; develop relationships and connections with students, faculty and staff; discover and access the multitude of resources and opportunities available at the university; and provide opportunities for current students to enhance their leadership development and commitment to the university.

For more information on move-in and a complete schedule of Welcome Week activities, visit www.welcomeweek.umn.edu.

MEDIA NOTES: Media is welcome to come and do stories about students moving in, as well as follow any Welcome Week activities. If you want to do interviews or shoot video or photos inside the residence halls, you must ask a student to escort you and you must remain with the student escort while in the residence hall. The residence halls in the Superblock area at Oak and Fulton Streets Southeast, Minneapolis, have the highest concentrations of students.

To schedule interviews with University of Minnesota Housing and Residence Life directors or officials involved in the planning and implementation of Welcome Week, please contact Ryan Maus at (612) 624-1690 or maus@umn.edu.

U of M to host Multicultural Kickoff Days

Orientation with an ethnic touch

When: Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 26 and 27

Where: Willey Hall, 225 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Jillian Rowan, Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence, (612) 626-0733
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

August 25, 2008

About 500 incoming University of Minnesota first-year students of color will experience an orientation with ethnic touches when they attend Multicultural Kickoff Days Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 26 and 27 in Willey Hall, 225 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

In addition to the usual orientation programs such as tours and presentations about U of M programs, the students will also be welcomed by a hip-hop step show, Aztec dancers and a Chinese lion dance.

The annual event is organized by the university's Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence (MCAE) to welcome the new students and to celebrate the diversity of the university. Various sessions will give students the inside scoop on scholarships, financial aid, work study, research and volunteer programs.

The students will also be introduced to the various ethnic units on campus, such as the student cultural centers and the academic support services offered through the Office of Equity and Diversity. Representatives from the university's financial aid office and study abroad programs will make presentations.

“Multicultural Kickoff Days provide our new students an opportunity to meet other students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds,” said Jillian Rowan of MCAE. “It will also allow them more detailed information, experience and connections to the multicultural services and offices at the U. It will help first-year students make a successful transition to college by building community and identifying academic and cultural support on campus.”

U of M At The Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Monday, Aug. 25

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

August 25, 2008

The University of Minnesota once again is among the largest attractions at this year's Minnesota State Fair. Fairgoers are invited to visit the university's main building and stage located at the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street.

To view a video about the university's involvement in the State Fair, visit:
http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/state_fair.htm

The U of M State Fair highlights for Monday, Aug. 25

Presenting on the U of M Stage

11 a.m. High/Low Cardio Demonstration
11:15 a.m. Muscle Conditioning Demonstration
11:30 a.m. Yoga Demonstration
11:45 a.m. Question/Answer Session
Noon Question/Answer Session
12:30 p.m. Cycling Club Demonstration
3 p.m. Access MN with President Robert Bruininks
4 p.m. Radio K

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., School of Earth Sciences
In this educational exhibit, find out why Minnesota has so many lakes! Geology expert and University of Minnesota professor Harvey Thorleifson, who also serves as director of the Minnesota Geological Survey, will be on hand to answer questions and help people understand the geology of our state from meteorites that fell from the sky more than a billion years ago to diamonds that may be under our soil.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., The Academic and Corporate Relations Center
Whether its finding the right employee, identifying continuing education or connecting to university experts and current research, the Academic and Corporate Relations Center can find out how the U can help business.

5 p.m. - 9 p.m., University Research Opportunities Program
Come see how undergraduate students at the University of Minnesota are involved with research that ranges from stem cells and studying lions in Africa to digging in Israel. The Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, open to university undergraduates, provides opportunities for these and other research projects in a wide variety of disciplines.

For a complete U of M schedule at the Minnesota State Fair, visit <http://www.statefair.umn.edu>

U of M At The Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Tuesday, Aug. 26

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

August 26, 2008

The University of Minnesota once again is among the largest attractions at this year's Minnesota State Fair. Fairgoers are invited to visit the university's main building and stage located at the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street.

To view a video about the university's involvement in the State Fair, visit:
http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/state_fair.htm

Presenting on the U of M Stage

10 a.m. Alumni Band
10:30 am Softball
11 a.m. Men's Hockey
11:30 a.m. Men's Hockey
Noon Meet Goldy
Noon Women's Hockey
12:30 p.m. Baseball
1 p.m. Phil Esten, Gopher Athletics
1:30 p.m. Rowing
2 p.m. Volleyball
2:30 pm Men's & Women's Swimming
3 p.m. Men's & Women's Tennis
3:30 p.m. Alumni Band
4 p.m. Radio K

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power

The hydraulic hybrid passenger vehicle is a promising new concept that could have greatly improved fuel economy, better performance and lower cost than any other approach. In this hands-on exhibit, fairgoers will be able to see how a hydraulic hybrid vehicle captures and reuses energy. The award-winning exhibit was constructed by senior mechanical engineering students and is on loan from the Science Museum of Minnesota.

9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Department of Bioproducts, Biosystems Engineering and Department of Forest Resources

Senior research associate Paul Chen will share with visitors the research conducted at the U of M in the area of renewable energy technology development.

9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Office of Clinical Research

Learn about the discoveries and treatments that have come from clinical research at the University of Minnesota! Expert staff members, including a Research Subjects Advocate, will be on hand to answer questions about clinical research at the U.

1 p.m. - 5 p.m., CFANS, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology

Are all exotic (non-native) species invasive? Professor Ray Newman will discuss non-native invasive species and their impacts on natural communities and human endeavors and also point out that a number of "desirable" species are introduced or exotic.

Chicano Studies scholar Louis Mendoza named associate vice provost for equity and diversity at the University of Minnesota

Contacts: Ami Berger, Office for Equity and Diversity, 612-625-0498
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/26/2008) —Louis Mendoza, associate professor of Chicano studies in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota, has joined the university's Office for Equity and Diversity (OED) as associate vice provost for equity and diversity. Mendoza's position in OED, which began Aug. 18, is a 50 percent appointment, with the remainder of his time dedicated to serving as interim chair of the department of Spanish and Portuguese studies in the College of Liberal Arts.

Mendoza has been a professor at the University of Minnesota since 2004. He received his Ph.D. in English with a concentration in ethnic and third world literatures from the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to his appointment at the University of Minnesota, he taught at the University of Texas at San Antonio, the University of Houston-Downtown and Brown University. At UTSA he served as associate dean for the College of Liberal and Fine Arts and as interim director of the Hispanic Research Center. At the University of Minnesota, he served as chair of the department of Chicano studies from 2004-2007 and co-chaired the University's Task Force on Diversity in 2005.

The new position of associate vice provost for equity and diversity was created in direct response to the university's strategic positioning goals of recruiting, retaining and advancing exceptional faculty and becoming one of the top research universities in the world. As associate vice provost, Mendoza will be working collaboratively with colleges and other academic officers to support and enhance faculty diversity as well as to promote interdisciplinary faculty and graduate research on issues related to equity, diversity and social justice.

One of his primary responsibilities will be the development of OED's newly formed Equity and Diversity Research Institute, which has a mission to sustain and support a diverse and interdisciplinary community of scholars who conduct innovative research and produce transformational scholarship on enduring social questions related to equity and diversity.

"I am thrilled that Louis has agreed to take on this critical role for the university," said Nancy "Rusty" Barceló, the university's vice president and vice provost for equity and diversity. "He is an exceptional scholar, whose work in Chicano Studies is internationally known, and he is also a talented administrator. I look forward to the ways in which his contributions as associate vice provost will advance the university toward its goal of becoming a national model for equity and diversity across higher education."

U of M At The Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Wednesday, Aug. 27

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/26/2008) —The University of Minnesota once again is among the largest attractions at this year's Minnesota State Fair. Fairgoers are invited to visit the university's main building and stage located at the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street.

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

Presenting on the U of M Stage

10 a.m. Bell Museum of Natural History

11 a.m. Bell Museum of Natural History

Noon Robot Show

Noon Meet Goldy

1 p.m. Robot Show

4 p.m. Radio K

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power

The hydraulic hybrid passenger vehicle is a promising new concept that could have greatly improved fuel economy, better performance and lower cost than any other approach. In this hands-on exhibit, fairgoers will be able to see how a hydraulic hybrid vehicle captures and reuses energy. The award-winning exhibit was constructed by senior mechanical engineering students and is on loan from the Science Museum of Minnesota.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Institute on the Environment

The Institute on the Environment is the gateway to and the link between "all things environmental" at the U of M. Spin a game wheel and answer trivia questions on environmental topics. Contestants receive a prize.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Office for Public Engagement

Learn about OPE and what they do, as well as ways the U connects to the community.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Bell Museum of Natural History

Presenting the upcoming exhibit Art of the Wild and the Minnesota Duck Stamp artists.

U of M Extension Expo offers tips for property owners looking to utilize land and resources

Contacts: Tana Haugen-Brown, Sherburne County Extension Office (763) 241-2720, thbrown@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/27/2008) —“Living on the Land... An Expo for Rural Property Owners” will be held on Saturday, Sept. 6 at the Scott County Fairgrounds in Jordan, Minn. The Expo will include exciting seminars on issues related to living on small acreages including livestock, crop production, crop season extension and zoning rules. This event is a must-see for rural property owners who want to learn more about managing their acreage and for those looking to utilize their land and resources.

Vendors will showcase products, programs and equipment designed for acreage owners. A special feature will be the “Aisle of Breeds” featuring livestock suited for small farms and acreages. The Expo is organized by University of Minnesota Extension. It will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with seminars starting at 9:30 a.m. and concluding at 4:00 p.m. Vendors will be available throughout the day. Concessions will be provided all day by local 4-H clubs.

Some of the educational workshops include: Water Quality, Soils 101, Pastures, Lawn and Tree Care, Hay Testing, Weights and Measures Without a Scale, Cheesemaking, Purchasing Used Farm Equipment, Starting a Veggie Garden, Beekeeping, Transplanting Trees, Starting a Poultry Flock, Parade of Species and Breeds, Milk Goats, Chicken Coop Design and Construction, Constructing a Compost Bin, Stock Dog Demos, Farming with Horses and much more.

Admission for the Expo is \$10 per person or \$20 per family; children 12 and under get free admission. Check out the University of Minnesota Extension Small Farm website for information on attending as well as becoming a sponsor or vendor at www.extension.umn.edu/smallfarms. Questions on the Expo as well as vendor or sponsor interest can be directed to Tana Haugen-Brown at the Sherburne County Extension Office at (763) 241-2720 or thbrown@umn.edu.

U of M Bell Museum to honor Peregrine Falcon expert Harrison "Bud" Tordoff with public memorial event, exhibit

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum media relations, (612) 624-7389;
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/28/2008) —The University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History will host a public memorial program in honor of Harrison "Bud" Tordoff, the University of Minnesota professor and Bell Museum director credited with the Peregrine Falcon's comeback at 5:45 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20. Tordoff died on July 23 at the age of 85.

The evening-long memorial event and reception will feature a presentation by colleagues and friends on Tordoff's life and legacy.

In conjunction with the event, the museum will host an exhibit about Peregrine Falcons and their recovery from Saturday, Sept. 13 through Saturday, Sept. 21. The exhibit, developed in cooperation with the university's Raptor Center, features dioramas, interactive displays and art illustrating the uplifting story of the bird's comeback and the people who helped.

For information about the tribute, call (612) 624-4112. For museum information, visit www.bellmuseum.org. 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. in Minneapolis on the university's Minneapolis campus

U of M At The Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Thursday, Aug. 28

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/28/2008) —The University of Minnesota once again is among the largest attractions at this year's Minnesota State Fair. Fairgoers are invited to visit the university's main building and stage located at the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street.

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The U of M State Fair highlights for Thursday, Aug. 28:

Presenting on the U of M Stage

9 a.m. Raptors of Minnesota
 9:15 a.m. Calming the Bladder Jitters Naturally
 9:30 a.m. Cats and/or Strokes
 9:45 am Anatomy Bequest Program
 10 a.m. Arboretum - New Apple Tastes
 10:15 am Raptor Center
 10:30 a.m. Senior Tips to Handle Med ER
 11 a.m. Student Health Care and Neck Massage
 11:15 a.m. Strokes and/or Cats, Dr. Qureshi
 11:30 am Arboretum - More New Apple Tastes
 11:45 a.m. Bioethics
 12 p.m. Meet Goldy
 12 p.m. Institute for Engineering in Medicine
 12:15 p.m. Bioethics
 12:30 p.m. Department of Emergency Medicine
 12:45 p.m. Knowledge Test for Guys about Prostate Cancer
 1 p.m. Student Health Issues and Neck Massages
 1:15 p.m. What's This Used For?
 1:30 p.m. Institute for Engineering in Medicine
 1:45 p.m. Program in Physical Therapy, Bicycle Helmets
 2 p.m. Knowledge Test for Guys about Prostate Cancer
 2:15 p.m. The Aging Game
 2:45 p.m. Clinical Research Discoveries at the U
 3 p.m. What's This Used For?
 3:15 p.m. Nursing Fact or Fiction Game
 4 p.m. Radio K

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Medical Devices Center

Come see the future of medical device research at the U of M. This display will include plasticized body systems, rapid prototyped parts and devices, a visible heart demonstration and many surgical devices. Test their skill in retrieving kidney stones and experience muscle stimulation. Talk with experts and find out more about the state-of-the-art research that includes designing, prototyping and testing new medical devices.

9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Health Program in Physical Therapy and the Health Science Libraries

The Health Sciences Libraries of the University of Minnesota will be at the fair to demonstrate two great resources for finding quality health information. MedlinePlus provides commercial-free, authoritative health information for consumers on health topics. My Health Minnesota - Go Local is a resource that lists health providers within the state of Minnesota. At "Wear Your Helmet Right," the students in Physical Therapy will be conducting bicycle helmet fittings for state fair goers and demonstrating proper fitting and wearing of helmets. They will also be taking blood pressures.

9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Center for Rural Design

The Center for Rural Design works with people to preserve, improve, and protect rural landscapes, cultures and communities through innovative design strategies. It is a joint venture of the College of Design and the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Center for Sustainable Building Research

This booth will feature the CSBR's current projects and offer fairgoers insight into the impact of buildings on the natural environment. Presenters will also suggest ways that fairgoers can make greener choices in their lives, and inform them about a number of state and local initiatives being undertaken to create sustainable buildings in Minnesota.

U of M announces three finalists for dean of the College of Liberal Arts

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/29/2008) —University of Minnesota Provost Tom Sullivan today announced that significant progress has been made in the search for a new dean for the College of Liberal Arts.

“From among a diverse and highly talented pool of applicants interviewed, the committee has identified three finalists. Each candidate will visit the College of Liberal Arts for two days in September to engage in a rigorous interview process and make a public presentation,” Sullivan said.

All candidates’ public presentations will take place in the Coffman Theater, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

The three finalists are:

Judith Howard - Public presentation is from 12:20 to 1:45 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8. Howard is divisional dean of social sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences and professor of sociology at the University of Washington. In addition, she is an adjunct faculty member in women studies and a previous chair of the department. Her research interests include: social psychology of social inequalities, micro-level sociology of gender, self and identity, attribution theory, feminist pedagogies using interviews, surveys and content analyses. She has a doctoral degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

James Parente, Jr. - Public presentation is from 12:20 to 1:45 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10. Parente is currently the interim dean in the College of Liberal Arts and professor of German, Scandinavian and Dutch at the University of Minnesota. Parente previously served as associate dean for faculty and research in the College of Liberal Arts. His research interests include: early modern literature and culture in Germany, the Netherlands and Scandinavia, and he has published on several early modern German, Dutch and Latin writers; German and Dutch humanism; and Scandinavian drama. He has a doctoral degree from Yale University.

Daniel Herwitz - Public presentation is from 12:20 to 1:45 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22. Herwitz is director of the Humanities Institute in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts and Mary Fair Croushore Professor of Humanities at the University of Michigan. He also holds professorships in comparative literature, philosophy and history of art in the college and is adjunct professor in screen arts and culture; he also has tenure in the School of Art and Design. Before coming to Michigan, Herwitz worked in South Africa, where he was chair in philosophy at the University of Natal and director of the Center for Knowledge and Innovation. He has a doctoral degree from the University of Chicago.

Each candidate’s curriculum vitae and photograph is posted on the provost’s Web site: www.academic.umn.edu/provost and linked at the CLA website: www.cla.umn.edu. The public is invited to participate in the public presentation and Q & A forum for each of the three candidates in person or live via UMConnect (the URL will be posted on the provost’s Web site).

“I encourage all members of the College of Liberal Arts community to participate in the interview process and to provide written feedback directly to the committee on this important hiring decision,” Sullivan said.

Candidate evaluation forms will be available at each meeting, or you may submit comments via e-mail to findclad@umn.edu. (You can also download the form from the above Web site.) Comments should be submitted by 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26. All comments will be reviewed by the search committee before the committee’s recommendations are shared with the provost.

Please direct questions about logistical details to Kristen Gandrow, administrator for the search committee, at (612) 626-5048 or kgandrow@umn.edu.

U of M announces three finalists for dean of the College of Liberal Arts

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U of M At The Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Friday, Aug. 29

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

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The U of M State Fair highlights for Friday, Aug. 29:

Performing on the U of M Stage

Noon Live Jazz Music
4:00 p.m. Radio K

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Department of Food Science and Nutrition and the Department of Horticultural Science

Francisco Diez from the department of food science and nutrition will be discussing the types of vegetables that have been on the news linked to outbreak and talk about which ones are largely safe. Jim Luby from the department of horticultural science will discuss the process of developing new apple varieties in the University of Minnesota Fruit Breeding Program.

9 a.m. - 3 p.m., School of Nursing

School of Nursing staff will be on hand to discuss the nursing profession and the school. Blood pressure screenings will also be administered.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Weisman Art Museum

Learn about the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota. Find out about the Weisman's unique art collection and engaging programs that examine the intersection of art and current issues. Hear about the history of the Weisman's stunning building designed by architect Frank Gehry and enter a drawing to win a gift certificate at the Weisman store.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., University of Minnesota, Morris: A renewable, sustainable education

The University of Minnesota, Morris is recognized as one of the best public liberal arts colleges in the nation. As one of five campuses of the University of Minnesota, the University of Minnesota, Morris offers the best of both in the world of higher education—a small, close-knit campus complemented by the power of a world-renowned research university.

University of Minnesota launches Web Site for media covering the Republican National Convention

umn.edu/rnc puts political experts and info on political panels at journalists' fingertips

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/29/2008) —With the Republican National Convention arriving in the Twin Cities, the University of Minnesota is unveiling a Web site designed specifically for media covering the convention in St. Paul. At <http://www.umn.edu/rnc>, journalists will find top political, policy, campaign and election experts; story ideas; information on RNC-related programming for journalists and more.

The U of M RNC Web site even offers audio and video of select experts giving media a chance to hear and see the experts discuss the issues.

Kathryn Pearson, a professor political science is an expert in American politics, political parties and campaigns and elections who is featured on the site. Pearson can offer in-depth analysis on several key topics including vice-presidential candidate choices, political conventions, negative campaigning and more.

The site offers a comprehensive list of additional experts on issues that cover the political spectrum.

For complete forum information and to register for sessions, see <http://www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/cspg/rnc.html>.

For the latest experts, stories and programs during the RNC, remember to go to <http://www.umn.edu/rnc>.

U of M At The Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Saturday, Aug. 30, Sunday, Aug. 31, Monday, Sept. 1

U of M Solar Decathlon Team among several highlights during the final days at the fair

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (651) 335-2338, mathre@umn.edu

August 29, 2008

The University of Minnesota once again is among the largest attractions at this year's Minnesota State Fair. Fairgoers are invited to visit the university's main building and stage located at the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street.

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

The U of M State Fair highlights for Saturday, Aug. 30:
Performing on the U of M Stage

10 a.m. U-Swing
Noon Voices Merging
1 p.m. Go North! Online Learning with Polar Huskies
2 p.m. Go North! Online Learning with Polar Huskies
4 p.m. Radio K

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Chemistry Department Outreach Program
Chemistry is all around us. Come join the University of Minnesota Chemistry Outreach Program as we explore the everyday chemistry of your home. This exhibit features hands-on experiments to see how chemists have helped shape our lives. With us, you can explore basic polymers, acids/bases and the chemistry behind some of the foods we eat.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., University of Minnesota Solar Decathlon Team
Imagine if your house and all the appliances in it were powered by nothing but the sun. A team of University of Minnesota students is making this dream a reality as they design, engineer and construct a fully functioning, sun-powered house. The U of M is one of only 20 international teams chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy to compete in the 2009 Solar Decathlon in Washington, D.C., where the house will be displayed on the national mall. The U of M's entry "Icon Solar House" is a collaborative effort of students, faculty, staff and industry partners. Images and plans of the house will be on display, and students will explain various aspects of the project.

The U of M State Fair highlights for Sunday, Aug. 31:
Performing on the U of M Stage

10 a.m. Welcome
10:15 a.m. Music Trivia
11:15 a.m. University Opera Theatre (PRoPS)
12:15 p.m. Interactive Electronic Music Showcase
1:15 p.m. RenegadeEnsemble
2:15 p.m. Marching Band: brass quintet
4:00 p.m. Radio K

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 9 p.m., St. Anthony Falls Lab/National Center for Earth-surface Dynamics
This exhibit highlights a dam removal and river restoration project from the world-reknowned University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Laboratory and National Center for Earth-surface Dynamics. The exhibit will feature a scale model of the Elwha River in the state of Washington. Come learn how scientists here at the University of Minnesota are researching the best ways to remove the dam without damaging the ecosystem.

9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Anatomy Bequest Program
The education of future health care professionals would be incomplete without the generosity of those that bequeath their bodies to the Anatomy Bequest Program. Through donation, the study and research of human anatomy as well as surgical and clinical advances can be made possible. Come learn more about the program and test your knowledge of the human heart.

The U of M State Fair highlights for Monday, Sept. 1
Performing on the U of M Stage

10 a.m. Physics Force
11 a.m. Physics Force
Noon U Trivia
1 p.m. U Trivia
2 p.m. U Trivia
4 p.m. Radio K

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Solar Vehicle Project
A car that can travel on power from the sun may sound like science fiction, but it is a reality at the University of Minnesota. Come see the latest solar car built by university undergraduate students, which just recently finished a 2,400-mile race across the United States and Canada. See the inner workings of the car and talk to members of the solar car team.

11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Department of Computer Science & Engineering Robots
Discover how robots can keep us company, entertain us and play with us. Interact with robot dogs, see how they follow commands, dance, and explore their environment. Learn about the state of the art in robotics and think about a future where robots will be commonly used.

Jean Quam named interim dean of the College of Education and Human Development

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/29/2008) —Jean Quam has been named the interim dean of the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), Senior Vice President and Provost Thomas Sullivan announced today.

Quam will take over for current CEHD dean Darlyne Bailey, who will step down effective Sept. 1 due to serious medical issues in her family.

For the past two years, Quam has served as the senior associate dean for the CEHD. Prior to that appointment, she was the director of the School of Social Work (SSW) for 16 years, until the school became part of the CEHD. She has been a University of Minnesota faculty member since 1983.

“Jean is a recognized scholar in the field of gerontology and more specifically in the areas of mental health, sexuality and gender expression,” said Sullivan. “I am confident that she will lead the college successfully during this critical time.”

For additional information on Quam, please visit: <http://cehd.umn.edu/faculty/Quam.html>

U of M to host German ambassador for discussion on presidential election and transatlantic partnership

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu
Sabine Engel, Center for German and European Studies, (612) 626-7705, cges@umn.edu

September 2, 2008

With the 2008 presidential election fast approaching, the Twin Cities finds itself at the center of the frenzy as the host for this year's Republican National Convention. The public and media members are invited to join the university's Center for German and European Studies as they host Germany's ambassador to the United States, Klaus Scharioth, for a pair of discussions on the chances and hopes for a renewed partnership between the United States and Germany.

Two events involving the ambassador have been scheduled. The first, a panel discussion and luncheon entitled "After U.S. Elections: A New Transatlantic Agenda?" will begin at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 3 and take place in the Johnson Great Room in the McNamara Alumni Center. The McNamara Alumni Center is located at 200 Oak St. S.E., in Minneapolis.

The panel, which is set to include U.S. Representative Mike Turner (R - Ohio), will discuss topics such as a joint strategy to combat climate change, arms control, disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, engagement and integration of emerging Asian powers, Russia and managing globalization with a joint partnership between Europe and America.

Public admission for the luncheon is \$30. Media interested in attending are exempt from the fee but encouraged to register prior to the event at 612-626-7705.

The second event is a stand-alone presentation and discussion by Ambassador Scharioth with U of M students. The discussion will begin at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4 and take place in the Social Sciences Building's Lippincott Room (room 1314). The Social Sciences building is located at 267 19th Ave. S. in Minneapolis. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served.

Scharioth has been Germany's ambassador since March 2006. Prior to that, he had served as State Secretary in the German Foreign Office in Berlin and has a long and distinguished career in the German Foreign Service.

For more information, contact Sabine Engel at (612) 626-7705 or cges@umn.edu. Media interested in attending are encouraged to register prior to the event.

James Campbell to receive University of Minnesota Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree

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

Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/02/2008) —The University of Minnesota will present University of Minnesota alumnus James Campbell with an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 2 at the Carlson School of Management, in recognition of his public service contributions. Campbell is a business leader, volunteer and philanthropist. The honorary degree is the highest award conferred by the University of Minnesota.

“Jim has been and continues to be one of the most generous and enthusiastic benefactors in the business school’s history -- we recognize him as a true champion of the Carlson School’s vision,” said Alison Davis-Blake, dean of the Carlson School. “Jim is one of those extraordinary people who is making this vision a reality.”

Campbell earned a bachelors degree in business administration from the University of Minnesota in 1964 and went to work for Norwest Bank, where he retired as CEO in 1998. Most recently, he served as chairman of Minnesota’s Itasca Project, an employer-led alliance to address regional issues that impact the region’s future economic competitiveness and quality of life. He previously served as interim co-dean of the Carlson School of Management and has served as a chair and member of the Carlson School’s Board of Overseers. Campbell is a past chairman of the University of Minnesota Foundation Board of Directors and past director and trustee for many community organizations. He is a recipient of the Outstanding Achievement and Regents’ Awards from the University of Minnesota, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the NAACP and the 2003 “Executive of the Year” Award from the Business Journal, as well as many other honors.

“As an extraordinary public servant, Jim Campbell has few rivals in accomplishment, heart, and humility,” wrote Gov. Tim Pawlenty in a nomination letter.

This event is by invitation only. Campbell is available for media interviews.

Minnesota athletics to host second-annual Allianz HopeDay Festival Sept. 7

Contacts: Michelle Traen, Athletic Communications, (612) 624-0522, traen001@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/03/2008) —University of Minnesota coaches, student-athletes and administration will host the second-annual Allianz HopeDay Festival, from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept., 7 at the Bierman track. More than 200 families from the HopeKids organization will be present along with over 700 student-athletes from Minnesota will participate in the event. Many Gopher coaches and athletics director Joel Maturi will also be present.

The festival will include sporting clinics from all 25 Gopher sports and student-athletes, including a dunk tank by the swim teams and obstacle course with the men's and women's track and field teams. Along with student-athletes participating in events, Star Wars characters, Sesame Street characters, pony rides, a petting zoo, a rock-climbing wall and tattoo artists will also be available.

HopeKids is an organization which gives hope to children with cancer and other critical illnesses and their families, via a program of ongoing, highly anticipated events. Founded in Sept. 2001 by Robert Cottrell in Phoenix, it has recently branched out to chapters in Dallas/Fort Worth and Minneapolis/St. Paul in Nov. 2006. The Phoenix chapter serves more than 250 children, while the Minneapolis/St. Paul chapter has already surpassed 100 kids and their families.

A large percentage of the children in the program have already had their one large wish from an organization such as Make-A-Wish, but their battle continues. Approximately 87 percent of the children in the program have some form of cancer and in Phoenix approximately seven percent have cystic fibrosis. HopeKids also serves children with critical illnesses including kidney disease, heart disease, sickle-cell anemia and bleeding disorders. HopeKids is for children 18 and under, with the majority of children being between the ages of five and 14.

MEDIA ADVISORY: Media is welcome to come out and cover the event on Sept. 7th. Media wishing to speak to particular student-athletes, coaches or administration should contact assistant athletic communications director Michelle Traen (612-624-0522 or traen001@umn.edu) prior to the event. All athletes, coaches and administration will be there are various times throughout the event so it is suggested to set up interviews ahead of time.

The Bierman track is located behind the Bierman Fieldhouse Athletic Building at 516 15th Ave. S.E. in Minneapolis.

U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman to speak at University of Minnesota today

'What Would A McCain Presidency Do' topic of panel

Media Note: Media may get credentials on site

When: 12:30 p.m. today, Wednesday, Sept. 3

Where: University of Minnesota, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Patty Mattern, University News Service, (763) 213-5019

Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (651) 335-2338

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/03/2008) —U.S. Senator and former vice presidential nominee Joe Lieberman (ID-CT) will join Robert (Bud) McFarlane and Ambassadors Robert Portman and Richard Williamson to discuss “Building a Better, Safer World: What Would A McCain Presidency Do,” at 12:30 p.m. today at University of Minnesota’s Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The panel is part of “America’s Future,” a premier forum for independent and respected analysis and commentary during the Republican National Convention.

“America’s Future: Conversations about Politics and Policy” is a series of public forums on the presidential election and American politics and a wide range of domestic and foreign policies. Leading analysts from the Council on Foreign Relations, the Brookings Institution, the American Enterprise Institute, the Heritage Foundation and other organizations are participating along with senior Republican and Democratic policy advisers.

The program is for journalists, policy makers and public officials as well as those wanting to learn more in depth about the issues and challenges that our next presidential administration will undoubtedly face. For more information, see www.politicsandgovernance.org/rnc

<<http://www.politicsandgovernance.org/rnc>>

Henry Kissinger to speak at University of Minnesota Thursday

Democracy and America's role in the world is topic of panel

Media Note: Media may register and get credentials on site

What: Henry Kissinger to speak at U of Minnesota Thursday

When: 8:15 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 4

Where: University of Minnesota, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Media: Patty Mattern, University News Service, (763) 213-5019

Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (651) 335-2338

General Public: Lorna Schmidt, HHH, (612) 626-1837

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/03/2008) —Henry Kissinger, U.S. Secretary of State from 1973-1977 and 1973 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, will join other speakers at 8:15 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 4 for the panel discussion “Democracy and America’s Role in the World” at the University of Minnesota’s Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The panel is part of “America’s Future,” a premier forum for independent and respected analysis and commentary during the Republican National Convention. Thursday morning’s panel is moderated by Humphrey Institute Dean Brian Atwood, former Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) during the Clinton Administration. The panel is co-sponsored with the Council on Foreign Relations.

“America’s Future: Conversations about Politics and Policy” is a series of public forums on the presidential election, American politics and a wide range of domestic and foreign policies. Leading analysts from the Council on Foreign Relations, the Brookings Institution, the American Enterprise Institute, the Heritage Foundation and other organizations are participating along with senior Republican and Democratic policy advisers.

The program is targeted at journalists, policy makers and public officials as well as those wanting to learn more in depth about the issues and challenges that our next presidential administration will undoubtedly face. There is very limited seating for general public and an overflow viewing area is also available on site. Watch the panel live online at www.politicsandgovernance.org/rnc,

Athletics Director Joel Maturi signs two-year contract extension

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, (612) 625-8510
Garry Bowman, Athletic Communications, (612) 625-7345

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/04/2008) —University of Minnesota Athletics Director Joel Maturi has signed a contract extension through 2012, university officials announced today.

“With the opening of TCF Bank Stadium next year, this is an exciting time for Golden Gopher Athletics and we’re pleased Joel Maturi will be leading our team for two more years,” university President Robert Bruininks said. “He’s led high-profile, important searches for new football and men’s basketball coaches, signed our women’s basketball coach for another six years and been a real champion for all 25 of our athletics programs.”

Bruininks praised Maturi for leading Gopher Athletics through substantial financial challenges and significantly increasing private fundraising, including raising funds for the new stadium. The endowment for athletics has doubled under Maturi’s leadership -- going from \$12.4 million to nearly \$25 million today. In addition, more than \$77 million has been raised toward TCF Bank Stadium.

“I’m excited about the future of Gopher Athletics,” Maturi said. “We’ve had some challenging years with tight budgets. But we’ve been able to stay competitive on the playing fields, make progress in the classroom and maintain the level of integrity Minnesotans expect.”

The revised contract extends Maturi’s service by two years and increases his salary to \$345,000.

“It’s our goal for every student-athlete to end their college career with a degree from one of the world’s top public research universities and have a positive and meaningful athletic experience,” said Bruininks. “Joel Maturi understands that.”

U of M 2010-11 biennial budget request released

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/05/2008) —Next week, University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will present his proposed biennial budget request for the 2010-11 biennium to the University's Board of Regents. The \$141.2 million request is focused on maintaining the university's competitive position and strengthening Minnesota's economy during challenging budget times.

“We are mindful of the economic challenges facing our state,” said Bruininks. “Our biennial budget request is a modest and realistic statement of our needs. The University of Minnesota is a critical source for economic growth for the state, both in terms of human capital and innovation. This budget request supports Minnesota's students, the university's faculty and staff and the state economy.”

The president's proposed budget includes three primary areas of state investment:

- A general salary increase of 3 percent to help university employees meet rising costs for fuel, food and other staples (\$95.2 million);
- The creation of the Middle Income Scholarship Program to help address the unmet financial needs of thousands of students, providing savings of as much as 40 percent for those at the lower end of the scale (\$50,000) and 5 percent for those at the higher end (\$100,000) - (\$16 million);
- Investment in research infrastructure to build necessary capacity in targeted areas (\$30 million).

“This budget is based in today's financial realities, but focused on maintaining the value of past investments and the hundreds of transformative changes we have made in recent years,” said Bruininks. “Through careful planning and modest, targeted expenditures, we will continue our commitment to excellence in education, research and public engagement -- a long-standing commitment that, time and again, has benefited the state's economy and citizens.

Bruininks will present the recommended budget to the Board of Regents at their meeting on Friday, Sept. 12.



U of M Athletics Department to visit Waseca County

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/05/2008) —With the first on-campus stadium in 28 years, the sounds, sights and excitement of University of Minnesota football will echo 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 Minnesota counties and Gopher Athletics is reaching out to engage the entire state of Minnesota over the next year with a statewide tour.

The U athletics department will visit Waseca County from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m., Thursday, September 11. The Gopher Wagon along with athletics staff will be at the U of M Southern Research and Outreach Center, 35838 120th Street, Waseca. The event will include prizes, games, giveaways and an opportunity to take a virtual tour of the TCF Bank Stadium.

Construction 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 substantial completion in July 2009 and will open for the first Gopher football game of the season on Sept. 12, 2009.

For more information visit on TCF Bank Stadium and the Statewide Tour go to www.stadium.gophersports.com and click on “Support the Stadium” and “Statewide Tour.”

Hugh Parmer named research fellow at the Humphrey Institute

Contacts: Julie Lund, Humphrey Institute, (612) 624-1190
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/05/2008) —The University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs has named Hugh Parmer as a research fellow with its regional planning and policy area. Parmer will explore disaster relief issues, such as the interaction of nongovernmental agencies with local jurisdictions in the event of natural catastrophes. He begins Sept. 8.

Parmer is the immediate past president of the American Refugee Committee, a Twin Cities-based international humanitarian relief agency that serves nearly three million refugees and displaced people in Africa and Asia annually. His vast experience at the city, county, state and federal levels of government includes serving as mayor of Fort Worth, Texas; president pro tem of the Texas State Senate; assistant administrator at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); and staff in the Office of Emergency Management within the Office of the President during the Clinton Administration.

“As a public affairs and planning school within a major metropolitan area, the Humphrey Institute has a leading role in examining urban issues,” said Humphrey Institute Dean Brian Atwood. “Hugh Parmer’s extraordinary experience in urban affairs, legislative policymaking and politics, and humanitarian relief give him a unique perspective. I worked with Hugh at USAID and know that his investigation of disaster-related issues will yield interesting and important results.”

“I am excited about the opportunity to put together my experience in local government with my more recent career in disaster response and humanitarian affairs,” said Parmer. “It is an honor to be associated with the Humphrey Institute. Additionally, I am looking forward to again being associated with Dean Atwood.”

The Humphrey Institute is a nationally respected public affairs graduate school widely recognized for its role in examining public issues and shaping public policy at the local, state, national, and international levels. The Humphrey Institute was founded in 1977 to recognize and honor Senator and Vice President Hubert Humphrey. The college grew out of the University of Minnesota's former School of Public Affairs (1968-1977) and Public Administration Center (1936-68). For more information, visit www.hhh.umn.edu.

Sustainable building design forerunner to be honored with U of M alumni award

Contacts: Laura Weber, College of Design, 612-625-6566, l-webe@umn.edu
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/08/2008) —Internationally-known architect and former American Institute of Architects (AIA) president, R. Randall Vosbeck, FAIA will receive one of the University of Minnesota's highest alumni honors -- the Outstanding Achievement Award -- at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 22 at McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E. in Minneapolis.

The award is in recognition of 40 years of service to the architecture profession, including early leadership as a proponent of design for energy conservation. The university confers its Outstanding Achievement Award on graduates or former students of the university who have attained unusual distinction in their chosen fields or professions and who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership on a community, state, national or international level.

The son of a Mankato shoe store owner, Vosbeck and his brother William co-founded an Alexandria, Va. architectural practice that became known VVKR, which by the mid-1980s had grown to become one of the largest architecture, engineering and planning firms in the Washington, D.C. area. Vosbeck then went on to serve as vice president in charge of the Washington, D.C. office for Daniel, Mann, Johnson, and Mendenhall (DMJM), one of the largest firms in the nation.

An active member of the AIA for over 40 years, Vosbeck served on their national board beginning in 1976, and was elected president in 1981. During his tenure, he focused the institute's efforts -- and the public's awareness -- on the role architects play in reducing energy consumption in the built environment, by implementing a professional development program called "Energy in Architecture," hosting a national convention in the Twin Cities on the topic of design and energy and representing this perspective to various government and international groups.

Vosbeck represented North and South America in the International Union of Architects from 1981-1987. He also demonstrated how energy conservation could be accomplished in his own architectural work, exploring the most advanced thinking and design practices of his era about saving energy and reducing waste.

Today, sustainable design is considered integral to the practice of architecture and consumers are increasingly requesting green design for new construction or renovations. Ongoing professional education in this area has become a requirement for all AIA members.

In addition, to leadership with AIA, Vosbeck has also served on the National Capital Planning Commission, the National Park System Advisory Board, as chair of the International Engineering and Construction Industries Council and was appointed by the United States General Services Administration as the only architect in private practice to serve on a U.S./U.S.S.R. joint working group, "Building Design and Construction Management," through which members exchanged information and toured sites in both countries. In 1996, Vosbeck also served on the architectural selection committee that selected Antoine Predock to design what is now known as the McNamara Alumni Center at the University of Minnesota.

Vosbeck retired from active practice in 1994. He currently resides in Highlands Ranch, Col., where he recently completed writing a book, "A Legacy of Leadership -- The Presidents of the American Institute of Architects 1857-2007," a comprehensive history of the institute's 83 presidents.

For more information about Vosbeck or the U of M Outstanding Achievement Award, please contact Lori Mollberg, director of alumni relations for the University of Minnesota College of Design at (612) 625-8796 or lmollber@umn.edu.

U of M postdoctoral fellows will research race and place among communities of color

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/08/2008) —Two recipients of the 2008-09 University of Minnesota Postdoctoral Fellowship -- designed to develop a faculty more diverse, engaged in the community and interdisciplinary -- have arrived on campus to begin their one-year appointments.

Robyn Autry will hold dual appointments in the departments of sociology and history. Her research explores how race and nation are represented in historical museums, and she has a special interest in societies after conflict. Autry is a doctoral candidate in sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

LaRose Davis will hold an appointment in the department of English with affiliations in the department of African American and African Studies and the Institute for Advanced Study. She researches convergences of African American and Native American communities, past and present. She is writing a book about the role of place in African American and Native American cultures and literatures. Her doctoral degree is in English from Emory University.

The postdoctoral fellowship is a University-wide initiative to attract promising scholars with potential to pursue future faculty positions at the University of Minnesota and at other top research universities. It seeks to advance the intellectual agenda and enhance the cultural diversity of the university community.

“The Graduate School’s Postdoctoral Fellowship is a small but critical step in diversifying the faculty,” said Gail Dubrow, vice provost and dean of the Graduate School. “It provides opportunities for the nation’s most visionary new Ph.D.s -- whose work crosses disciplinary boundaries and connects our campuses to our communities -- to have a period of professional development at Minnesota before embarking on faculty careers.”

The fellowship particularly seeks to identify scholars whose research and scholarly interests reflect one or more of the following priorities: (1) scholarship that contributes to the understanding of diversity in its multiple forms, (2) strong interest in interdisciplinary research and scholarship or creative work and (3) engagement in partnerships with communities outside of the academy.

The fellows were selected from a competitive pool of 78 applicants representing 44 institutions within and outside the United States. The selection process involved 39 University of Minnesota departments and programs across five college units that assisted in identifying the top candidates. The fellows were selected based on evidence of outstanding academic and scholarly achievements, strong potential for success in pursuing a tenure-track position at a research institution, and the level of commitment from sponsoring University of Minnesota departments or units to provide research funding and faculty mentors. Each fellow will receive an annual stipend of \$45,000 plus benefits and will pursue scholarly research, teach one course, participate in monthly professional development seminars and engage in mentoring relationships with faculty.

This is the second year of the program. Of the three fellowship holders completing their appointments this month, one -- Patina Mendez in entomology -- will continue for a second year. The two others were hired into tenure-track positions, Zenzela Isoke at the University of Minnesota and Ludwin Molina at the University of Kansas.

For more information, see www.grad.umn.edu/postdocfellowship.

New \$1.3 million initiative to further arts, humanities and design at U of M

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/08/2008) —University of Minnesota Provost Tom Sullivan announced today a new \$1.3 million system-wide initiative designed to support a broad range of faculty activities in the arts, humanities and design. The newly created “Imagine Fund” is supported by a major gift from the McKnight Foundation and will begin this fall, with full implementation coming by 2009.

Additional financial support comes from the reallocation of existing funds within the Graduate School and the Office of the Vice President for Research, as well as from the creation of chairs through the Permanent University Fund.

A major highlight of the Imagine Fund is the creation of 250 annual awards worth \$3,000 each available to U of M arts, humanities and design faculty. Faculty may use these funds in a variety of ways to support and enhance their research and teaching.

“This program is a true step forward in recognizing the need to provide robust support for the arts, humanities and design,” said Imagine Fund committee member and university dance professor Carl Flink. “This investment will almost certainly encourage a proliferation of new ideas and projects among the artmakers at the university.”

Other aspects of the program include: the creation of two new endowed chairs to celebrate the arts, humanities and design; the annual appointment of a world-class scholar to serve as a distinguished arts and humanities chair; a special fund to support events that promote innovation, collaboration and greater public engagement; and the option for faculty to procure additional funds to secure course release and further advance their creative thinking and scholarship.

“All great universities encourage and promote the remarkable and inexhaustible range of insights offered by the arts, humanities and design,” said Sullivan about the new initiative. “The University of Minnesota is a leader in this field. We must continue to be in the forefront of supporting these endeavors, and the new Imagine Fund annual program will offer a unique series of opportunities for our faculty that will directly and indirectly benefit our students, the University community and beyond. It’s a one-of-a-kind initiative designed to encourage the arts, humanities and design to flourish in new ways,” Sullivan said.

For additional information on the Imagine Fund, visit: <http://www.artsandhumanities.umn.edu>.

U of M Bell Museum's 'Art of the Wild' exhibit, opening reception honors 75 years of Federal duck stamp

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum, (612) 624-7389
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/08/2008) —From engravings by 18th century naturalists to the digitized photographs of today's most celebrated wildlife photographers, the legacy of natural history art in America comes alive in "Art of the Wild," an exhibit featuring Minnesota's Federal Duck Stamp winners, opening Oct. 7 at the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History in Minneapolis.

The museum's exhibit kicks off a month of activities across Minnesota and the country honoring the 75th anniversary of the Federal Duck Stamp program, the country's oldest, most prestigious wildlife art competition. The stamp program, created in 1934 as a license for migratory waterfowl hunters, is also one of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services most visible wetland conservation tools with proceeds going toward the purchase or lease wetlands for waterfowl habitat.

"Art of the Wild" features more than 100 original paintings, illustrations, watercolors and photographs from regional and national artists and features such prized works as John James Audubon's original double-elephant folio prints and easel paintings by museum diorama artist Francis Lee Jaques. The exhibit also features original paintings by Minnesota's 15 duck stamp artists, the highest number of awardees in the country, including Francis Lee Jaques, David Maass, Daniel Smith and James, Joseph and Robert Hautman.

The exhibit's opening reception, "Honoring 75 Years of the Federal Duck Stamp Program," will be 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7 and feature remarks by William Webster, founder and retired CEO of the art publishing company Wild Wings, and Joe Hautman, the artist featured on this year's 75th anniversary Federal Duck Stamp. A reception with light refreshments will follow.

For more information, visit www.bellmuseum.org. The Bell Museum is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and is located at 10 Church St. S.E. on the university's Minneapolis campus.

Author Courtney Martin to speak on eating disorders, body image at the U of M

Contacts: Anitra Cottledge, U of M Women's Center, (612) 625-9837 or women@umn.edu
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

September 8, 2008

Writer Courtney Martin will deliver a lecture entitled “Perfect Girls, Starving Daughters” at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 22 in 25 Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S, Minneapolis. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Martin is a writer, teacher and speaker whose work focuses on feminism, body image and youth and political culture. Her book, “Perfect Girls, Starving Daughters: The Frightening New Normalcy of Hating Your Body,” was published to critical acclaim in April 2007. Filled with information from expert psychologists and hundreds of interviews with women who have eating disorders, the book is a wake-up call to women of all ages and races to recognize the epidemic of eating disorders and what it's doing to them, their daughters, friends and relatives.

Her essays have appeared in several anthologies, including “A 21st Century Ethical Toolbox and Fifty Americans on Why Voting Matters.” Martin writes a column on politics and gender for The American Prospect online and is the book editor of Feministing, the most widely read feminist blog on the internet.

A reception and book signing with Martin will follow the lecture.

Martin's lecture is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Women's Center as part of its fall “Discover Exceptional Women” event. “Discover Exceptional Women,” a collaborative effort with the University Women's Consortium, is designed to engage women students, faculty, staff, students and members of the community in the wide range of resources, programming and services available to women at the U of M.

For more information about the event, visit <http://www.umn.edu/women/dew>.

Astronaut visiting U of M to honor student with "The Right Stuff"

Media Note: Col. Al Worden will be available for media interviews from 12:15 to 1 p.m. in Room 435, Tate Laboratory of Physics, following the presentation

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, News Services, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu
Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, 612-626-7959, rzurn@umn.edu
Beth Higdon, Astronaut Scholarship Foundation 321-455-7013, beth@astronautscholarship.org

September 8, 2008

Hall of Fame Apollo 15 Astronaut Col. Al Worden will visit the University of Minnesota to present senior Andrew Jones with a \$10,000 scholarship from the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) and speak to a class of new freshmen students at 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 10 in Room 131, Tate Laboratory of Physics, 116 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The Astronaut Scholarship is the largest monetary award given in the United States to science and engineering undergraduate students based solely on merit. Only 19 of these prestigious awards are disbursed each year through the ASF to worthy college students majoring in a science or engineering field.

Jones is a senior in the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology Honors program. He is pursuing a dual major in chemical engineering and chemistry and focuses his research on biofuels and renewable sources of energy. He also leads the university's Active Energy Club, which educates the campus and community about renewable energy.

Worden will follow up the scholarship presentation with a talk to an honors physics class of freshman students who have been on campus less than two weeks. Worden will discuss his out-of-this-world travels and how hard work made it possible for him to be one of only 24 men to have traveled to the moon. Students will have an opportunity to ask Worden questions at the end of the presentation.

Worden served as Command Module pilot on the 1971 Apollo 15 mission, during which he orbited the moon with crewmates Dave Scott and Jim Irwin. During his "lonesome" period in the command module, while his crewmates walked on the moon, Worden photographed 25 percent of the lunar surface with two special cameras mounted outside the ship. On the homeward journey, Worden took the farthest-out space walk, moving along hand rails on the outside of his spaceship to retrieve film cassettes from the two moon-mapping cameras. He was inducted to the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame in 1997 and has chaired the ASF since 2005.

The Astronaut Scholarship Foundation is a non-profit organization established in 1984 by the six surviving members of America's original Mercury astronauts. Its goal is to aid the United States in retaining its world leadership in science and technology by providing scholarships for college students who exhibit motivation, imagination and exceptional performance in the science or engineering field of their major.

The Institute of Technology is the University of Minnesota's college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics enrolling approximately 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering 18 academic majors. It is one of the premier engineering schools in the country with programs consistently ranking in the top 20 across the country.

U of M Board of Regents to meet this week, discuss budget for 2009-10

When: Thursday, Sept. 11 - Friday, Sept. 12, 2008

Where: 600 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis

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

September 8, 2008

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will meet later this week and hear President Robert Bruininks' proposed \$141.2 million biennial budget request. During two days of meetings, the board will also hold a work session to be updated on the university's Academic Health Center clinical enterprise.

Highlights of the meeting include:

Thursday, Sept. 11

8:45 - 10 a.m., Audit Committee, East Committee Room.

9 - 10 a.m., Litigation Review Committee, W.R. Peterson Conference Room. The committee receives its annual report on legal matters. The committee will then discuss holding a closed session to discuss attorney-client privileged matters.

10:15 - 11:45 a.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will review the annual report on academic program changes and discuss academic issues in the University Plan, Performance and Accountability Report.

9:45 - 11:45 a.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will review the university's faculty and staff leadership development efforts and strategies for competitive recruitment.

1:45 - 3 p.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will review and act on a resolution regarding the issuance of debt. Additionally, university Controller Mike Volna will give an update on the implementation of the new Enterprise Financial System.

1:45 - 3:15 p.m., Facilities Committee, East Committee Room. The committee reviews and acts on a capital budget amendment and schematic plans for Centennial Hall II on the Crookston campus. Additionally, it will review and act on schematic plans for an expansion of the McNamara Alumni Center on the Twin Cities Campus and the Urban Research and Outreach Center in North Minneapolis.

3:30 - 4:15 p.m., Board of Regents worksession, boardroom. Senior Vice President Frank Cerra will present on the Academic Health Centers' clinical enterprise.

Friday, Sept. 12

9 - 11:30 a.m. Board of Regents, Boardroom. Bruininks will present the university's proposed state biennial budget request. The board will also review the University Plan, Performance and Accountability report, an annual report card of a number of university activities. Also, new president and CEO of the University of Minnesota Foundation, Steve Goldstein, will be introduced to the board.

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.

Co-founders Doherty Employment to be named U of M entrepreneur of the year at Sept. 11 Minnesota cup event

Event will also announce the winners of the 2008 Minnesota Cup

Contacts: Dawn Skelly, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/09/2008) —Tim and Valerie Doherty, co-founders and owners of Doherty Employment Group, will be presented with the university's Entrepreneur of the Year award at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 11, at the University of Minnesota McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. The ceremony will feature welcoming remarks from President Robert Bruininks and also announce the winners of the 2008 Minnesota Cup, a competition that encourages entrepreneurial spirit and highlights the position of the University of Minnesota as a hub for innovation.

"This is a terrific success story of an entrepreneurial couple working together over a 25 year period to build one of Minnesota's outstanding businesses," said John Stavig, professional director of the Gary S. Holmes Center for Entrepreneurship at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. "Working as a true entrepreneurial team, they've utilized technology and creativity to provide innovative services that add value to their clients. We're proud to recognize them with this award and to claim them as our alumni."

Both Tim and Valerie are alumni of the University of Minnesota. Tim graduated from the Carlson School of Management in 1976 and Valerie from the Law School in 1979. Tim is a frequent guest lecturer in MBA entrepreneurship classes and both have been active supporters of the entrepreneurship program at the Carlson School.

After founding the business as Quality Temp in 1980, Tim and Valerie have grown the firm to more than \$400 million in annual revenue, servicing more than 10,000 worksite employees. Tim currently serves as Chairman and Valerie as chief executive officer. Headquartered in Edina, Doherty Employment Group is a leading provider of staffing, human resource outsourcing, payroll and recruiting services.

Alan Haynes Selected to be U of M Law School Career and Professional Development Center Director

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/09/2008) —Alan Haynes has been selected for the position of director of the Career and Professional Development Center (CPDC) at the University of Minnesota Law School. He was chosen after an extensive search among top candidates nationwide.

The CPDC promotes career and professional development of law students and alumni through counseling, programs, online resources and creation of opportunities to meet local, regional and national employers and legal professionals.

The CPDC director is responsible for developing and implementing a strategy to advance the goals of the Law School and improve the employment statistics of its graduates. The director oversees all aspects of the CPDC, including the staff, budget, outreach with other law schools, planning of employer-student interviews and creation of educational programs.

Haynes has been the associate director of career services and diversity outreach advisor at Brooklyn Law School since 2005. He brings experience in counseling on career options, planning career programs, analyzing trends in legal hiring, preparing on-campus recruiting programs and building relationships with diversity law student organizations and legal employers.

Previously, he was associate counsel with New York State United Teachers (2002-05) and assistant district attorney with the New York County District Attorney's Office (1997-02). From 1980 to 1994, he taught American and world history, American government, public speaking and debate at schools in the Northeast Independent School District, San Antonio, Texas.

Haynes received his law degree from Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, and his masters degree in education and bachelors degree in political science from the University of Texas at San Antonio. He served on the New York City Bar Committee on Recruitment and Retention of Lawyers and is a member of the National Association for Law Placement.

Haynes will assume his duties as Director on Oct. 1, 2008. "Alan will bring new energy and ideas to CPDC," said Law School Dean David Wippman, "and is committed to making the office a national leader in career and professional development."

University of Minnesota Carlson School opens the doors to state-of-the-art facility

Hanson Hall will allow U of M to serve 50 percent more undergraduates than in 2005.

Media Note: Media tours and images of Hanson Hall are available by request. Please contact Ryan Mathre at mathre@umn.edu

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September 10, 2008

Undergraduate students at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota started school this fall in a new facility, Herbert M. Hanson, Jr. Hall. The public can view Hanson Hall, at a Grand Opening Celebration and Community Open House from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25, 1925 4th St., Minneapolis. The festivities, including speeches and a video presentation, will be held in Hanson Hall's Target Atrium, followed by self-guided tours. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be provided.

The University of Minnesota's newest building is four-stories and includes 124,000 square feet. It is outfitted nine classrooms with wireless access and the latest in presentation technology, an atriumatrium, 22 interview rooms, , 10 breakout rooms, a collaborative learning lab, a recruiter meeting lounge and offices for undergraduate advising and career counseling.

Additionally, the Carlson School's Department of Information Technology and the Department of Economics in the College of Liberal Arts are housed within the building.

The many study and gathering spaces in the new building will allow undergraduate students more opportunities to build meaningful connections with their fellow students and with recruiters, while setting the foundation for academic excellence.

"As we expand our physical square footage, we want to expand both the economic capital for the state of Minnesota, and improve the competitive advantage and networks of our undergraduate students," explains Alison Davis-Blake, dean of the Carlson School. "By 2010, the new building and program will allow us to serve 50 percent more undergraduates than in 2005." At present, 65 percent of the 450 incoming freshmen each year are from Minnesota.

University of Minnesota Police Department names new deputy chief

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/10/2008) —Lt. Chuck Miner has been named deputy chief of the University of Minnesota Police Department (UMPD), Assistant Vice President and Chief of Police Greg Hestness announced this week.

Miner has been with the UMPD since 1995 and has steadily worked his way up through the ranks. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2002 after serving as an officer, detective and sergeant in the department.

“Lt. Miner’s talent, energy and dedication will make him an outstanding deputy chief and I’m very pleased to have him in this role,” Hestness said. “He has worked extremely hard and has certainly prepared himself for the complexities of this next level of leadership.”

Miner is a 1989 graduate of Minnesota State University - Mankato and received his master’s degree in public affairs from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs in 2007. He is also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The FBI National Academy is a 10 week leadership skills program for law enforcement executives from around the world.

Miner’s appointment is the result of an exhaustive search that began with the retirement of longtime Deputy Chief Steve Johnson. The selection process included internal as well as external committee members on two interview panels, an outside assessment and a background investigation.

The University of Minnesota Police Department is a sworn and licensed agency within the Minnesota law enforcement profession. UMPD has been serving the campus community for more than 70 years.

U of M Law School hosts 10 Humphrey Fellows

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/10/2008) —The University of Minnesota Law School and the Human Rights Center are proud to announce that they will host 10 Humphrey Law Fellows during the 2008-09 academic year.

This year's Humphrey Fellows come from Brazil, Ecuador, Iraq, Malawi, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe. They are active in their home countries in such fields as anti-human trafficking initiatives, civic participation, communications regulation, law enforcement, transitional justice, juvenile law and human rights law.

Through the international Humphrey Fellowship Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, accomplished mid-career professionals from designated developing countries spend 10 months at U.S. universities, pursuing professional development, non-degree academic study, and cultural exchange. Fellowships are granted competitively based, in part, on a commitment to public service. The Institute of International Education, which administers the program, selects host universities for Fellows based on their interests and needs.

Humphrey Fellows pursue a focused program and have full access to the Law School's faculty, curriculum and research institutes. The Law School facilitates connections with other units on campus, including the Humphrey Institute, which was also selected to host a group of Humphrey Fellows in the field of public policy. Fellows share their experience and expertise with their professional counterparts in the Minnesota and U.S. legal communities.

Since 1981, the University of Minnesota has hosted nearly 350 Humphrey Fellows from dozens of countries. The program creates an extraordinary environment for cross-cultural learning, advances understanding, strengthens global exchange of knowledge and creates lasting ties.

A reception to welcome the 2008-09 Humphrey Fellows will be held Sept. 17 in the Law School's Lindquist and Vennum Conference Room.

The Humphrey Fellowship Program was initiated in 1978 to honor the late Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and his life-long commitment to international cooperation and public service.

World-renowned cosmologist to present free lecture at the University of Minnesota

When: 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008

Where: Van Vleck Auditorium, Room 150, Tate Laboratory of Physics, 116 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/11/2008) —World-renowned cosmologist James Peebles, the Albert Einstein Professor of Science Emeritus at Princeton University, will give a free public lecture at the University of Minnesota entitled “Finding the Big Bang” at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 23, in the Van Vleck Auditorium, Room 150, Tate Lab Laboratory of Physics, 116 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis. Peebles’ presentation is the third in the William I. Fine Theoretical Physics Institute’s annual Misel Family Lecture Series.

Peebles is known for laying the foundation for many modern cosmological investigations including studies of cosmic background radiation, the dark matter in the universe and the origins of galaxies and clusters of galaxies. In his talk, Peebles will describe the origins of his concept of cosmic evolution, the discovery of key pieces of evidence that show us what actually happened, and some of the research problems, such as the natures of dark matter and dark energy, which are left for the next generation.

For more information, visit www.ftpi.umn.edu.

The William I. Fine Theoretical Physics Institute (FTPI) was established in 1987 as part of the University of Minnesota’s School of Physics and Astronomy, with the goal of conducting research in theoretical physics at a world-class level. The Misel Lecture Series is endowed by a generous gift from Irving and Edythe Misel and honors the life-long friendship between Irving and Edythe Misel, their family, and William and Bianca Fine. The Theoretical Physics Institute is named after Fine because of his critical role in the creation of the institute.

University of Minnesota Law School Hosts Constitution Day

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/11/2008) —The University of Minnesota Law School, on behalf of the entire University of Minnesota system, will once again present a program commemorating the U.S. Constitution from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m., Sept. 17, in Lockhart Hall (Law School) ,229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The program will take place at the Law School in Room 25. This event will be presented as a live webcast. To review the technical requirements and instructions for viewing a Law School webcast event, please visit <http://www.law.umn.edu/multimedia/index.html>.

Topics will include:

“Tort Law and the Supreme Court,” presented by Alexandra Klass, associate professor of law. This talk will discuss the Supreme Court's recent decisions involving federal preemption of state tort lawsuits and place that discussion in the larger context of the role of state tort law in today's federal regulatory state.

“Proportionality Principles in Recent Supreme Court Criminal Cases,” presented by Richard Frase, Benjamin Berger, Professor of Law. In *Kennedy v. Louisiana*, decided last June, the Supreme Court once again held that proportionality principles embodied in the Eighth Amendment prohibit use of the death penalty for certain crimes. The reasoning of several other decisions in the 2007-08 term was based on implicit proportionality principles. This talk will identify three distinct constitutional proportionality principles which the Court has explicitly or implicitly applied in criminal cases.”

“Current Issues in Presidential Power,” presented by Heidi Kitrosser, associate professor of law. This talk will focus on one or more recent controversies involving assertions of power by the White House over other branches of government or over administrative agencies. It will explore the constitutional justifications offered by the White House for the same.

A webcast will connect the East Bank, the St. Paul campus, and the university's campuses in Crookston, Duluth, Morris and Rochester with this event. In addition, students, alumni, employees and friends of the University of Minnesota system will be able to view the presentation on their own computers.

To view the full Constitution Day agenda, visit
<http://www.law.umn.edu/constitutionday2008.html>

Miraculous pianist and conductor Leon Fleischer to make weekend appearances at U of M

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/12/2008) — One of the most important and inspirational figures in modern classical music will be making a visit to the University of Minnesota this weekend. Pianist and conductor Leon Fleischer, considered by some to be the “greatest pianist of his generation” and called the “Obi-Wan Kenobi of the piano” by former students, will teach a master class at the university Saturday afternoon. He will round out his visit to Minnesota Sunday afternoon with a concert at Tedd Mann Concert Hall.

Saturday’s master class is free, open to the public and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. It will take place from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in Ferguson Hall's Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall, 2106 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

Sunday’s concert in Ted Mann Concert Hall begins at 4 p.m. and is sponsored by both the School of Music and the Minnesota Chamber Society. Ted Mann Concert Hall is located at 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis. Fleischer will be performing four-hand piano works by Schubert and Ravel with Katherine Jacobson and Brahms’ “A Major Quartet” with the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota.

After making his Carnegie Hall debut at the age of 16, Fleischer was in the middle of a career as one of America’s most renowned international concert pianists before he tragically lost the use of his right hand in 1965 due to a neurological disorder. However, Fleischer continued to play and became a great interpreter of piano music for the left hand, winning several awards and branching into conducting over the course of the next 30 years.

It was not until 1995, when, after years of rehabilitation, experimental therapy and injections that he miraculously regained the use of his right hand and resumed his career as a bimanual pianist. Fleischer played his first two-handed concert at Carnegie Hall in nearly four decades that same year.

Fleisher was named “Instrumentalist of the Year” in 1994 by Musical America and was awarded the Kennedy Center Honor in 2007, the same year filmmaker Nathaniel Kahn’s short documentary “Two Hands,” chronicling Fleisher's heroic journey, was nominated for an Academy Award.

U of M announces the opening of Minnesota's first Confucius Institute

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September 15, 2008

The University of Minnesota will be opening Minnesota's first Confucius Institute at 5 p.m., Friday, Sept. 19, at the University International Center, 331 17th Avenue S.E., Minneapolis. University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks and Minnesota Commissioner of Education Alice Seagren will be on hand for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Chinese language library which will be an integral part of the new Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota (CIUMN).

The CIUMN is a collaborative initiative with the Council for Chinese Language International (Hanban) and its partner university, Capital Normal University, in Beijing. The CIUMN will promote the study of Chinese language and culture throughout Minnesota, particularly in the K-12 system and the business community. The CIUMN is one of approximately 40 Confucius Institutes in the United States and nearly 250 worldwide.

Also in attendance at Friday's opening ceremonies will be Capital Normal University Vice President Gong Hu Li and Deputy Consul General Chu Mao Ming. The keynote speech will be given by Dr. Shuhan Wang, the executive director of Chinese language initiatives at the Asia Society in New York.

"The opening of the Confucius Institute will deepen our long history of educational and cultural exchange in China," said Bruininks. "China's increasing economic, political and social influence around the globe requires engagement by people in both countries to develop greater understanding. This is an excellent opportunity for the university and the state of Minnesota."

MEDIA NOTE: Media who are interested in attending the ribbon cutting ceremony need to register prior to the event by contacting Ryan Maus at (612) 624-1690 or maus@umn.edu, or Kate Sophia at (612) 624-5075 or kate@umn.edu.

U of M St. Anthony Falls Laboratory to open new Outdoor StreamLab

Media Note: Media-only previews are available from noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday, September 17, at the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory.

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September 15, 2008

The University of Minnesota is opening a new state-of-the-art outdoor environmental research facility along the banks of the Mississippi River and is giving the public a first look during public tours from 3 to 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19. The new Outdoor StreamLab is located at the U's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, 2 Third Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. For map and parking information visit www.safl.umn.edu/aboutus/directionsmap.html.

To view a video of the new Outdoor StreamLab, go to http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/streamlab.htm

Perched on the banks of the Mississippi River's St. Anthony Falls -- directly across the river from downtown Minneapolis and adjacent to Xcel's new Water Power Park, the Outdoor StreamLab was developed to study a wide range of river processes. Historically, research in habitat restoration, dam removal, channel realignment and bank stabilization has been limited to separate indoor laboratory and field work studies. The new facility enables laboratory-quality measurements in a much larger field-scale reach, bringing the best of both worlds together in one publicly visible facility.

The facility can produce a large range of flows, including simulated flooding and simulated drought, and can support up to three parallel channels. Due to its outdoor location, natural light and precipitation create a natural biotic community, which in turn affects streambank stability and nutrient cycling. Interest in the Outdoor StreamLab spans many areas, including agricultural engineering, biology, civil engineering, ecology, geology, soil sciences and water resources sciences. Research participation also includes educators, federal and state agencies and consultants from private industry. Signage will allow the public to view real-time data collection from the adjacent park and explore the science of stream restoration through collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota.

"The Outdoor StreamLab is a unique facility unlike anything else in the world," said St. Anthony Falls Laboratory director Fotis Sotiropoulos. "We've already had interest from around the world, including a New York Times article. In addition to great science and great outreach, it is going to add a lot of beauty to the riverfront."

Sotiropoulos said it's always been difficult to control the variables of on-site measurements. The Outdoor StreamLab allows researchers to use full-scale models where they can control variables, like flow rate, sedimentation, flora and fauna. The new facility will also make it possible to tackle a wide range of questions that address how ecosystems relate to flow dynamics.

The Outdoor StreamLab is a joint initiative between St. Anthony Falls Laboratory and the National Center for Earth-surface Dynamics, a National Science Foundation science and technology center headquartered at the University of Minnesota.

To learn more about the OSL, visit www.safl.umn.edu/OSL.

The St. Anthony Falls Laboratory is a research unit of the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology in the department of civil engineering. The laboratory is also closely affiliated with the department of geology and geophysics and the department of ecology, evolution, and behavior. For more than 70 years researchers from around the world have been visiting the unique location on an island in the Mississippi River to conduct research for developing innovative and sustainable engineering solutions to major environmental, water resources and energy-related problems.

Plans for "Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza" Unveiled

Plaza will honor all 11 Minnesota American Indian tribes

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/15/2008) —The University of Minnesota unveiled the design of a new plaza to honor Minnesota's American Indian Nations today. Made possible through a \$12 million gift from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), the new plaza will be named "Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza." In addition to \$10 million announced last October, the SMSC has pledged an additional \$2 million for improvements to the plaza. The University's Board of Regents approved the name at its meeting on Sept. 12.

"We're grateful to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community for their support, and for their commitment to recognizing all 11 of Minnesota's American Indian communities in this stunning plaza," said Athletics Director Joel Maturi. "This will be one of the most vibrant and visible parts of TCF Bank Stadium and serve as a lasting tribute to the importance of Minnesota's Indian people."

Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza will encompass the largest and most central west entrance of TCF Bank Stadium. The architecturally innovative design will include 11 18-foot tall sky markers. Each sky marker will incorporate information about one of Minnesota's 11 Tribal Nations. Tribal flags, images and important facts will be displayed on the soaring, glass structures.

"We are grateful that the membership of our tribe has made it a priority to tell the story of American Indians in Minnesota through this plaza. Our true story hasn't always been told or taught in schools so we acknowledge the university for their willingness to do so. It is important to put accurate information out in the world so that others might better appreciate the historic and ongoing contributions made to the state of Minnesota by the sovereign Tribal Nations who have called Minnesota home since time immemorial," said SMSC Chairman Stanley Crooks.

The \$10 million gift for the plaza is the largest single private gift ever to Golden Gopher Athletics. In addition, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community also donated \$2.5 million that will go to a matching fund that will create a \$5 million endowment to provide scholarships, with a preference given to American Indian students.

With the additional \$2 million pledge, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's contribution to the University of Minnesota reaches \$14.5 million in the past 12 months.

Final commissioning of TCF Bank Stadium will occur in summer 2009, and the first game versus the United States Air Force Academy will be held on September 12, 2009.

Images of the new Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza design can be accessed at http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/photos/tribal_nations_plaza.html

New media researchers to present findings at annual U of M conference

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/16/2008) —No facet of modern society has undergone a more radical shift in recent years than the methods people use to communicate with one another. “New media” is a term that is usually used to describe digital or computerized networking or communication technologies, and the University of Minnesota's School of Journalism's Institute for New Media Studies (INMS) is a leader in the study of these trends. The fifth annual interdisciplinary New Media Research @ UMN Conference is set to take place Thursday and Friday Sept. 18-19 at the Digital Technology Center in Walter Library, located at 117 Pleasant Street S.E., Minneapolis.

New media researchers from across the Twin Cities campus will gather for discussions, presentations and posters on topics ranging from the virtual communities of “Second Life” and online HIV prevention to grief blogs and Wiki textbooks.

Thursday evening's pre-conference reception will begin at 5 p.m. and feature INMS affiliates and campus state-of-the-art simulation labs displaying and demonstrating their latest research using digital technologies. The keynote speaker will be the University of Sydney's Dr. Chris Chesher, director of the Digital Cultures Program in the School of Letters, Art and Media in the Faculty of Arts. Also, the Network Wiki, a repository for everything new media at UMN, will expand its scope encouraging participants to create and post information about their research, courses, facilities and more, using a live site hookup and projection screen.

Friday's main event (open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.) will be an all-day forum featuring papers and posters on innovative research using the Internet and other digital technologies. There will be four presentation groups, denoted by research themes in the areas of virtual reality, social networking and learning technologies, followed with small group discussion to facilitate interactivity and networking among participants.

The University of Minnesota Institute for New Media Studies is a center for creation, innovation, and examination of content and messages and the effects of new media technologies and techniques on forms and functions. Its goal is the imagining and testing of innovative forms, development of new knowledge about functions and generation of greater understanding of the impacts of these changes in the media landscape.

The Language of Luxury: U of M researcher shows advertisers' language choices evoke different reactions

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/16/2008) —Virtually every population in the world has at least one thing in common: multinational companies are vying for their attention. From General Mills in India to Godiva Chocolate in Paraguay, advertising is one of the most significant expenditures companies make the world over. University of Minnesota researcher Rohini Ahluwalia asks... “to get the most bang for their buck, how should these corporations talk to consumers - in English, their native language, or both?”

Several countries in Southeast Asia, Europe and North America, among others, have bilingual populations that are fairly fluent in a “foreign” language (typically English or French) as well as at least one local or native language. In new research, Ahluwalia, an associate professor of marketing at the Carlson School of Management and Aradhna Krishna of the University of Michigan look at the complexity and benefits of advertising to these populations.

“The issue of bilingual consumers is increasingly crucial for multinational corporations,” said Ahluwalia. “To someone in Spain, an advertisement for a luxury item from a foreign firm could have a more positive impact if delivered in English or “Spanglish” than if it were delivered in only Spanish. Conversely, if the advertised product was a necessity, the native language may be more persuasive.”

Advertising language will affect slogan evaluation for foreign corporations, but not for local companies, Ahluwalia shows. To demonstrate the effect, the researchers conducted a study in India where much of the population is fluent in English and Hindi, with both languages viewed favorably. They found that while the Hindi language is associated with “belongingness” (close, friendly, familiar), English is associated with “sophistication” (global, hip, upper class). For a necessary item like laundry detergent, advertisers are better off using the native language for its reliability. But for luxury items, which can range from chocolate to a brand new car, a mixed-language approach will be more effective.

“People expect mixed language from local companies. But from multinationals, it is unexpected, so a customer’s attention is grabbed by the second language in the ad. It makes the ad’s language stand out,” explained Ahluwalia. “The consumer’s focus on the language makes them think about the associations of the language used that is, what does it seem to convey? Sophistication, modernity or closeness? This effect could be very favorable for a foreign company selling a discretionary or luxury product.”

The implications for multinational firms are immense. “From a foreign firm, English-only ads may not be as effective, and ads in the local language may backfire, invoking skepticism in the consumer. The safest bet is to use mixed-language ads when working with bilingual markets,” states Ahluwalia. From French and English advertisements in Canada to Spanglish ads across Latin America, firms will be able to target global bilingual markets by showing off their language savvy and insights into local culture.

U hosts free family Math

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/16/2008) —Math plus science equals fun at the University of Minnesota's Math & Science Fun Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20 at Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

The free family event will feature entertaining, hands-on math and science experiences including robot demonstrations, astronaut training, energy experiments, miniature race cars, Physics Force performances, chemistry experiments, a real human brain, raptors from the university's Raptor Center, a life-sized Operation game and much more.

"This event is for families with kids of all ages, especially kids in grades four through seven, who will have a chance to see the excitement that a career in science, engineering and mathematics provides," said event organizer Scott Gilbert from the Institute of Technology Center for Educational Programs.

Several corporations will also sponsor interactive exhibits including 3M, B*E*S*T Outreach, Center for Energy and Environment, IBM and the Minnesota Microscopy Society.

University of Minnesota sponsors and presenters include the Institute of Technology Center for Educational Programs, department of chemistry, department of physics and astronomy, Medical Device Center, department of computer science and engineering, department of bioproducts and biosystems engineering, Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power, Monarch Lab, Bell Museum of Natural History, Raptor Center, department of neuroscience, Minnesota Space Grant Consortium, and the Society of Women Engineers.

For more details, directions and parking information visit www.itcep.umn.edu.

EPA appoints U of M's Deborah Swackhamer new head of panel providing independent scientific advice on regulations

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/17/2008) —Deborah Swackhamer, an internationally recognized expert on toxic chemicals in freshwater lakes and rivers from the University of Minnesota, has been appointed as chair of the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Stephen Johnson, administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), announced today.

Swackhamer, professor of environmental health sciences and co-director of the Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota, brings extensive research and experience applying science to environmental protection to the position. Her research interests focus on chemical and biological processes affecting the behavior and fate of toxic organic contaminants such as PCBs, dioxins and pesticides in the aquatic environment, particularly bioaccumulation of persistent compounds in fish in the Great Lakes.

The SAB is an independently chartered Federal Advisory Committees composed of external scientists and engineers. The SAB's principal mission includes reviewing the quality and relevance of the scientific and technical information being used or proposed as the basis for EPA regulations. Every year, EPA solicits nominations for members to serve on the SAB. The chair will serve a two-year term.

More information about the SAB can be found on: <http://www.epa.gov/sab>

High-tech Entrepreneur Joel Ronning at U of M's Carlson School of Management Oct. 7

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/17/2008) —Joel Ronning, founder, chairman, and CEO of Digital River, Inc., will speak at the Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. In his speech, "Managing for High Growth," Ronning will discuss his experiences at the helm of a high-growth technology company and share how he has managed for success, fostered innovative thinking and further accelerated growth.

A serial entrepreneur, Ronning launched Digital River in 1994 with a vision to use the Internet instead of mail to deliver software. More than a decade later, Digital River is a leading provider of global e-commerce solutions that has expanded its core market beyond software publishers to include online retailers, distributors, high-tech and consumer electronics manufacturers, game publishers and affiliates. Digital River is headquartered in Eden Prairie with offices in major U.S. cities as well as China, England, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, Sweden and Taiwan.

Prior to founding Digital River, Ronning successfully launched two other Minnesota companies, where he held executive positions. During his career, he has produced seven patents in encryption technology and digital delivery.

The advance registration deadline is Thursday, Oct. 1. 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, Oct. 2. There are three ways to register: call 612-626-9634, visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/events, or send an e-mail message to fristuesday@umn.edu.

U of M Athletics Department to visit Nicollet County

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/17/2008) —With the first on-campus stadium in 28 years, the sounds, sights and excitement of University of Minnesota football will echo 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 Minnesota counties and Gopher Athletics is reaching out to engage the entire state of Minnesota over the next year with a statewide tour.

The U athletics department will visit Nicollet County at noon, Wednesday, Sept. 24. The event will take place at Ruttle's Grill & Bar, 605 S. Minnesota Ave., St. Peter, MN. Join Nancy Lindahl, Co-Chair of the TCF Bank Stadium Campaign, and Gopher Athletics staff as they provide information about the new stadium and answer your questions.

No RSVP is required for the event. Each person will be responsible for his or her own lunch.

Construction 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 substantial completion in July 2009 and will open for the first Gopher football game of the season on Sept. 12, 2009.

For more information visit on TCF Bank Stadium and the Statewide Tour go to www.stadium.gophersports.com and click on "Support the Stadium" and "Statewide Tour."

University of Minnesota to hold system-wide summit on improving campus climates for GLBT people

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/18/2008) —The University of Minnesota Systemwide Standing Commission on GLBT Concerns will host the first Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally Systemwide Summit Friday and Saturday, Sept. 26 and 27 on the Duluth campus. The two-day summit will bring together students, staff, faculty, alumni and community members representing every campus in the University of Minnesota system (Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, Twin Cities) who are committed to improving campus climate for GLBT communities.

Those attending will share ways to create inclusive environments on campuses. The sessions will focus on building toward a long-term strategic plan to improve the climate for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies.

The summit is free and open to all seeking to improve GLBTA campus climate. Some meals and accommodations will be provided, but space is limited and advanced registration is requested. Attendees from visiting University of Minnesota campuses may request support for transportation and lodging. For more information and registration, see <http://www.glbta.umn.edu/summit>.

“This summit represents a historic occasion as this will be the first time since the commission began in 2004 that everyone from all U of M campuses who have been working to improve GLBTA campus climate will be in the same room together,” said Michael Moore, past co-chair of the GLBT Systemwide Commission. “And we’re thrilled to be able to meet with community members to share together our vision of how the university can be a better place for its GLBTA members and the steps we need to take to get there.”

The goals of the summit are:

- Showcasing University of Minnesota programs and increase networking and information sharing for GLBTA communities systemwide;
- Strengthening reciprocal relationships with off-campus communities;
- Committing to ending racism and building more inclusive movements and communities; and
- Gathering input and begin developing a strategic plan for improving GLBTA campus climate systemwide.

Following an opening reception on the afternoon of Sept. 26, Nancy “Rusty” Barceló, vice president and vice provost for equity and diversity, will give a keynote speech.

A centerpiece of the summit will be an opportunity for all attendees to participate in anti-racism training to advance an affirming University of Minnesota community reflective of and informed by its true diversity, and the intersections of privilege, power and identity.

Along with the work sessions, there will also be entertainment, tours and relaxing activities during the summit.

Polar explorer, noted author to explore climate change and sustainable agriculture at U of M forum

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September 18, 2008

Dozens of experts on issues surrounding sustainable agriculture and global climate change will assemble at the University of Minnesota for a public forum sponsored by the Center for Austrian Studies. "Climate Change, Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources," which begins Wednesday, Sept. 24 and runs through Friday, Sept. 26. The keynote will be delivered by Michael Braungart, co-author of "Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things."

Minnesota and Austria are on the cutting edge of organic farming, innovative and sustainable uses of biological resources and research on climate change. Experts from both sides of the Atlantic will come together to share their knowledge on topics such as general trends in climate change, its effect on sustainable and organic farming, water and habitat and the challenges of and opportunities for effective public policy to slow or even reverse climate change.

In addition to Braungart, featured speakers include polar explorer and Ely, Minn. resident Will Steger, noted organic farmer Carmen Fernholz (A-Frame Farm, Madison, Minn.), new U of M Institute on the Environment director Jon Foley and many experts from the United States and Austria.

Steger, a well-known environmentalist and author, will give a special guest lecture entitled "Eyewitness to Global Warming" at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25 in the Radisson University Hotel-Minneapolis Ballroom, located at 615 Washington Ave. S.E.

Braungart's keynote presentation, "Cradle to Cradle and a Sustainable Agriculture," will take place in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S. in Minneapolis at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 24.

Additional sessions, including panel discussions and a roundtable on organic farming, will begin at 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 25 and Friday, September 26 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Radisson University Hotel-Minneapolis, 615 Washington Ave. S.E.

Media Note: Steger, Kathryn Klink (U of M professor of geography and expert on wind power and climate), Fernholz and Foley will be available for media interviews prior to the event.

A complete schedule of events is available at www.cas.umn.edu/programs.

What: Forum on Sustainable Agriculture and Global Climate Change

When: 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 24 (keynote by Michael Braungart) through Friday, September 26

Who: Michael Braungart ("Cradle to Cradle"), polar explorer Will Steger and many practitioners and scholars from the U.S. and Austria

Where: September 24: Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis; September 25-26: Radisson University, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

How: Free and open to the public

University of Minnesota hosts third annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day for prospective students

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Ami Berger, Office for Equity and Diversity, (612) 625-0498

September 18, 2008

The University of Minnesota will host more than 100 deaf and hard of hearing high school students from around the Midwest for its third annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1, at Coffman Union Theater, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Organized by the university's Disability Services office, a unit of the Office for Equity and Diversity, the event provides a developmental experience for students, according to Mari Magler, associate director in Disability Services and the chair of the event steering committee. The event will also showcase the university's programming and services for deaf and hard of hearing students and encourage them to consider the university in their college searches.

“Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day at the U is a great way for deaf and hard of hearing students to gain some exposure to the university, our services and our programs,” said Magler. “The event provides them with an opportunity to meet and network with other deaf and hard of hearing students from around the state, and also provides educational and leadership opportunities for students so that they are better positioned to be future leaders.”

This theme of this year's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Day is “Crossroads in Life.” Educational workshops held throughout the day will encourage student participants to explore the intersections and transitions they will face in terms of their identities, roles and responsibilities. The event will also feature a keynote speaker, a panel of deaf and hard of hearing students who are currently studying at the university and a campus tour.

Norway officials will visit the University of Minnesota to inform climate policy

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/18/2008) —Top government officials and representatives from Norway will visit the University of Minnesota from Sept. 21-23. During their stay, the group will gather information to help the Ministry of Agriculture and Food prepare a white paper on climate policy for the Norwegian parliament.

Ola Heggem, Norway's state secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, will lead the delegation, together with Per Harald Grue, secretary general in the Ministry. They will be accompanied by other ministry officials along with scientists and active research members of the recently appointed Climate Research Advisory Board in Norway.

"The delegates will draw on the expertise and perspectives at the University of Minnesota to develop an integrated carbon, nitrogen and energy approach for their agriculture sector," said professor Judson Sheridan, the Norwegian centennial interdisciplinary chair in the College of Biological Sciences and international coordinator for the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment.

The three-day itinerary will feature presentations, breakout sessions and research posters on topics ranging from biofuel issues and climate-related effects on agriculture to full-cost accounting and carbon sequestration policies.

Among the University of Minnesota participants are Jonathan Foley, director of the Institute on the Environment; Peter Reich, a Regents professor in the department of forest resources; Mark Seeley, a professor in the department of soil, water and climate; Bill Berguson, a program director with the Natural Resources Research Institute; Elizabeth Wilson, an assistant professor in the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs; and several other experts from various disciplines.

During a lunchtime address on Tuesday, Gene Hugoson, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, will share insights and lessons learned from Minnesota agriculture with the Norwegian officials.

In addition to meeting with leading scientists from across the University, the delegates will tour research facilities including the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve in East Bethel, Minn. -- the site of pioneering research on biodiversity and alternative biofuels approaches.

On Monday, Norway Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg will tour the Cedar Creek facility as part of a separate-but-related visit organized by the Honorary Norwegian Consulate General. He will participate in similar poster sessions and conversations with university researchers.

Before returning to Norway, the delegates also plan to visit the Agricultural Research Center in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.

University of Minnesota grants highest alumni award to chairman of Pioneer Hi-Bred

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/18/2008) —Agribusiness innovator Dean Oestreich, chairman of Pioneer Hi-Bred, a DuPont business, will be honored today with a presentation of the University of Minnesota's Outstanding Achievement Award.

The award is conferred on graduates or former students who have attained unusual distinction in their profession or in public service and who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership.

Oestreich has worked for just one company -- Pioneer -- since graduating from the university in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in agronomy. He started his career as an assistant research station manager for the Iowa-based seed and genetics company. From there he worked his way up through positions in Pioneer's research, information technology, supply management and international business divisions. He was responsible for seed supplies around the world and later for all North American operations before becoming the company's 10th president in January 2004. In November 2007, he was named chairman of Pioneer and vice president of its parent company, DuPont.

Under Oestreich's leadership, Pioneer became the first company to launch a corn genomics project and to have seed sales outside of North America totaling more than \$1 billion.

In addition to his professional work, Oestreich serves in numerous charitable endeavors, including the Chinese Cultural Center of America and Central Iowa's United Way campaign as well as volunteering for Future Farmers of America and the Young Women's Resource Center.

"Oestreich's achievements represent years of teamwork," said Allen Levine, dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. "But Dean's success was made possible by his attention to detail, his penchant for challenging assumptions, his reliance on information-driven decision-making, his focus on the customer, his mentoring of subordinates and young scholars and his advocacy for agriculture around the globe."

U of M opens state's first Confucius Institute

Public invited to Sunday night concert to celebrate event

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/19/2008) —The University of Minnesota opened the state's first Confucius Institute today, Friday, Sept. 19 in a special ribbon cutting ceremony at the University International Center. President Robert Bruininks, state and university officials, Chinese representatives and invited guests were on hand to commemorate the event.

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota (CIUMN) is a collaborative initiative with the Council for Chinese Language International (Hanban) and its partner university, Capital Normal University, in Beijing. The CIUMN will promote the study of Chinese language and culture throughout Minnesota, particularly in the K-12 system and the business community. The CIUMN is one of approximately 40 Confucius Institutes in the United States and nearly 250 worldwide.

“The opening of the Confucius Institute will deepen our long history of educational and cultural exchange in China,” said Bruininks. “China’s increasing economic, political and social influence around the globe requires engagement by people in both countries to develop greater understanding. This is an excellent opportunity for the university and the state of Minnesota.”

The university has a long and respected history of exchange with China beginning in the early 1900's with the enrollment of the first Chinese students. The state of Minnesota has had Chinese language programs in place for 30 years and leads the nation with five Chinese language immersion schools.

“The study of Chinese language and culture is a statewide priority and has also become a crucial part of our K-12 language programs,” said Minnesota Commissioner of Education Alice Seagren. “Chinese language enrollment in our schools has risen 164% since 2002 and the addition of the Confucius Institute to Minnesota's educational opportunities will help support this growing need.”

The Confucius Institute is located at the University International Center at 331 17th Ave. S.E. in Minneapolis.

To celebrate the opening of the CIUMN, the public is invited to a concert of Chinese music, dance, puppetry and magic to be put on by the Jiangsu Silk and Bamboo Performing Group of China at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 21 in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. S. in Minneapolis.

Tickets for the performance will be \$28, with discounts available for groups larger than eight. More information is available by calling the Confucius Institute at (612) 625-5080.

Lifelong learners invited to improve brainpower at U of M event

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/22/2008) —Lifelong learners are invited to boost their brainpower by participating in Saturday Scholars, an informal day of learning sponsored by the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development Alumni Society. Alumni and the general public are invited to stretch the limits of their intellect by hearing lectures by distinguished college faculty and staff on topics including: “GeoThentic: Designing online curriculum for engagement and learning in the K-12 classroom,” “Autism: Science or snake oil?” and “Will you be my friend? MySpace, Facebook and other social networking for dummies.” Attendees will bulk up with knowledge they can use right away in their personal or professional lives.

The event includes a continental breakfast and lunch and optional post-lunch tour of the Weisman Art Museum’s new exhibit, “Hindsight is 20/20.” Continuing Education Units are available for teachers and administrators.

The cost is \$15 for University of Minnesota students, \$25 per person for University of Minnesota Alumni Association members and \$30 for non-members. The event will take place in Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

For more information and a registration form, go to www.cehd.umn.edu/alumni/scholars.

For additional information please contact Heather Peña, alumni relations assistant director at 612-626-8782 or hpena@umn.edu.

Grand Opening Celebration for University of Minnesota's Hanson Hall set for 4:00 p.m., Sept. 25

What: Community Grand Opening Celebration and Open House for Hanson Hall, new undergraduate facility at the U of Ms Carlson School of Management

When: 4 to 6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 25

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September 22, 2008

The University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management will hold a Grand Opening Celebration and Community Open House from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 25, at Herbert M. Hanson, Jr. Hall, the school's new, state-of-the-art facility for its undergraduate business program, located at 1925 Fourth St. S., Minneapolis.

The festivities begin with a short program at 4 p.m. in Hanson Hall's Target Atrium. After the presentation, guests are invited to a community open house featuring self-guided building tours and refreshments.

To view a video of Hanson Hall, go to
http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/hanson_hall.htm

Hanson Hall was named in honor of U of M alum Herbert M. Hanson, Jr., who kicked off a building campaign for a new undergraduate business facility with a \$10 million pledge in 2004. The building is four stories high, 132,000-square-feet, and connects to the existing Carlson School building by a skyway. It consolidates the Carlson School's undergraduate classrooms, services and programs in one location and features the latest in technology.

The Grand Opening event is free and open to the public. RSVP is not required. For more information, call (612) 626-9633 or email carlsonevents@umn.edu with any questions.

U assistant professor receives \$1.5 million NIH New Innovator Award

Award will be used to research therapeutic approaches for treating allergies and asthma

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/22/2008) —The National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced today that University of Minnesota chemistry assistant professor Christy Haynes is a recipient of the prestigious 2008 New Innovator Award. She is the first U of M faculty member to win this award which will provide \$1.5 million over five years for her research to build a cell-by-cell human immune system to identify potential therapeutic approaches for treating allergic reactions and asthma.

Haynes' research could provide the first steps for improving the lives of millions of people. Allergies affect more than 50 million people in the United States. Additionally, more than 20 million Americans suffer from asthma, with 70 percent of these asthmatics also experiencing other allergies.

Haynes and her team of researchers plan to use the University of Minnesota's state-of-the-art Nanofabrication Center to build a model of a human immune system from the bottom up, one cell at a time, in the lab and then carefully measure how the cells communicate with each other when exposed to allergens or other factors.

"This is a new way of looking at the immune system, and the measurements we take will be the first of their kind to help other researchers in their quest to develop new therapies for allergy and asthma sufferers," Haynes said. "There's so much we don't know about the immune system, and this is a new way of looking at it and asking new questions."

Haynes said her access to the university's Nanofabrication Center likely played a role in securing this award. "I'm really lucky to have access to such a great nanotechnology research facility right here at the University of Minnesota to do this type of work," Haynes said.

Haynes was appointed as a chemistry assistant professor at the University of Minnesota in 2005. In 2007, she received a McKnight Land-Grant Professorship, which honors the university's most promising junior faculty. Haynes' areas of expertise include analytical chemistry and chemical biology. She received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Macalester College and her master's and doctoral degrees in chemistry from Northwestern University.

This is the second year of the NIH New Innovator Award that supports researchers who have never been the lead researcher on an NIH major grant in the past. NIH selects the recipients through highly competitive application and evaluation processes. The goal is to support innovative research with the potential to produce a major impact on broad, important problems in biomedical and behavioral research.

Democracy of design: U of M to host panels on artistic intervention in public space

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/23/2008) —The Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) at the University of Minnesota is hosting four panel discussions as part of conference entitled “Public Art and Democracy” Friday and Saturday, Sept. 26-27 to explore the politics of public space and artistic intervention into it.

Internationally known artist Suzanne Lacy is chair of the Master of Fine Arts program in Public Practices at Otis College and will give the conference’s keynote address beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26 on the 12th floor of Macy’s Skyroom, 700 Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis. In addition, four different panel discussions will take place beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 in room 275 of Nicholson Hall, 216 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis.

“In this political season, this conference will look at topics such as the privatization of public space, the ethnic diversification of America and the imagination that will help us build a better world,” said Thomas Fisher, dean of the College of Design and one of the speakers at this weekend’s conference. “And what better place to have this discussion than in the Twin Cities, recent host of a political convention and the home of many non-profit organizations devoted to public art, public education and public space?”

“Public Art and Democracy” will raise questions regarding the politics of access to space and issues of free speech. It seeks to bring together political scientists, artists, architects and designers, activists and arts administrators to discuss such questions as: What makes a public space public? How can public art instigate civic discourse? How can artists and designers working within constraints create more meaningful public spaces?

The conference coincides with four important events affecting the Twin Cities: “Speaking of Home,” artist Nancy Ann Coyne’s photographic public artwork exploring the meaning of home, acculturation and alienation for new Americans in the Twin Cities (on display in the Skyway bridge connecting the IDS and Macy’s buildings in downtown Minneapolis); the 30th anniversary of Forecast Public Art, a Twin Cities-based non-profit organization; the need for conversations about public engagement with the political process arising in the wake of the Republican and Democratic National Conventions; and the Minnesota Sesquicentennial.

Saturday morning’s sessions include “Privatizing Public Space: Skyways, Malls and Plazas,” as well as “Social Space: Designing for Civic Dialogues.” After a discussion of arts activities at the two political conventions, afternoon sessions will focus on artistic interventions in public space (“Public Art as Activism and the Limits of Free Expression” and “Photography in Public”).

U of M deans Fisher (College of Design) and Gail Dubrow (Graduate School) will wrap up the conference at approximately 5:15 p.m.

A post-conference dance performance will be held from 8:30 to 10 p.m. at the Barbara Barker Center for Dance, 500 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis. Entitled “Daak: A Call to Action,” this performance project is a collaborative effort between Ananya Dance Company and the IAS’s Performance and Social Justice Collaborative. It seeks to investigate land rights violations in Native communities in Minnesota, in the maquiladoras of Tijuana and Suarez, Mexico and the “Special Economic Zones” of Nandigram, India.

All conference events are free and open to the public. Individuals interested in eating lunch on Saturday are encourage to register, which can be done by e-mailing ias@umn.edu or calling 612-626-5054.

Visit www.ias.umn.edu/PublicArt.php for a complete schedule of events and more information.

University of Minnesota to host reception for Wallin Scholars

Scholarship program has awarded \$23 millions to 2,000 students since 1991

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/24/2008) —More than 200 University of Minnesota students who receive scholarships through the Wallin Partners Scholarship Program will be recognized at a ceremony from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1, in the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Winston Wallin, former CEO of Medtronic and graduate of South High School in Minneapolis, and his wife, Maxine Houghton Wallin, instituted the Wallin Scholarship Program at South High in 1992. The scholarship program was extended to all Minneapolis public high schools in 2000. In May 2007 the program included Anoka-Hennepin Public School students and in 2008 it expanded to St. Paul Public Schools as well as to seven high schools in the northern suburbs. That means that the program now serves students from the state's three largest school districts.

One of the goals of the scholarship program is to invite additional scholarship support from the community for academically deserving students who demonstrate financial need, said Wallin Scholarship Program Executive Director Rebecca Wallin.

Since its inception, the Wallin Program continues to evolve with the addition of other scholarship partners. In addition to the Wallin Scholarships, Holman, Cornwell, Eric, Medtronic, McCary, Sampson, M&I Bank, Finch, Ronald, Hays, Mulrooney, Alpha Kappa Psi, Pierce, Johnson and Junior League of Minnesota Scholarships have been established.

At the reception, Wallin Scholarship Program participants will be celebrated and those who achieved honor status and those who are graduating from the U of M will be recognized. Also on hand at the celebration will be U of M Special Assistant to the President Darlyne Bailey, the Wallin family and scholarship partners, Wallin Scholarship Program Scholars, their families and friends, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Anoka-Hennepin high school representatives, student speakers and academic and community allies.

Deborah Stone to discuss government's role in helping people at University of Minnesota

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/24/2008) —Dartmouth Professor Deborah Stone, author of “The Samaritan’s Dilemma: Should Government Help Your Neighbor” will discuss her book at noon, Thursday Oct. 2 at the University of Minnesota Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. The event will take place at the Humphrey Forum, 301 19th Ave S., Minneapolis.

For at least a generation, experts have warned people not reach out to others. According to Stone, too much help makes people passive and dependent, we are told, and self interest is the only motive that spurs us to work and contribute to society. Liberals and conservatives alike have endorsed this new moral code for government. “The Samaritan’s Dilemma” challenges this conventional wisdom. Stone argues that people are born needing help, they die needing help, and they live out our days getting and giving help. We live by everyday altruism. “The Samaritan’s Dilemma” warns that when leaders define the ideal citizen as someone who pursues his self interest and withholds help from others, good people become repelled by politics.

Stone is a visiting and research professor in the department of Government and the Rockefeller Center at Dartmouth College. From 1986 to 1999, she held the David R. Pokross Chair in Law and Social Policy at Brandeis University, and before that was on the faculty at M.I.T. for nine years and Duke University for three. Her book, “Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making” is used in teaching programs around the world. In 2002, it won the American Political Science Association’s Aaron Wildavsky Award for an Enduring Contribution to Policy Studies. She has published numerous articles in scholarly journals and edited books, and has written for The American Prospect, The Nation, New Republic and other magazines. Stone has served on many government and non-profit advisory commissions, including the Social Security Administration, the Human Genome Commission, and several Institute of Medicine committees. She is a founding member of the Health Section of the National Academy of Social Insurance.

This event is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

No advance tickets are required. For directions and parking go to:
<http://www.hhh.umn.edu/about/contact/parking.html>

To request disability accommodations, please call (612) 625-2530.

U of M's Institute on the Environment appoints more than 55 associate fellows

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/25/2008) —The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment recently appointed more than 55 associate fellows to further its interdisciplinary mission. With expertise ranging from public health to wildlife conservation, biotechnology to policy, these scholars and professionals will partner with the Institute on research, education and outreach.

The associate fellows come from across the University of Minnesota system and other regional universities, as well as the government, industry and nonprofit sectors.

"Within days of extending the invitation, we received numerous responses from environmental leaders in a range of disciplines and professions," said Jonathan Foley, director of the Institute on the Environment. "We're all ready to roll up our sleeves and work together on solving some of today's toughest challenges."

Prior to their appointments, many of the associate fellows had already participated in research projects or events with the Institute's members or programs. Now, they enjoy a formal association with the institute, bringing in new ideas and new connections and taking those ideas and connections back to their departments.

"As one of a small but growing community of climate researchers on campus, I hope to contribute to the Institute through collaborative research projects, grant submissions and public engagement on climate change issues," said institute associate fellow Peter Snyder, an atmospheric scientist in the university's department of soil, water and climate.

"I expect that being an associate fellow of the Institute will help me to promote awareness of environmental microbiology to the general public," said Jeffrey Gralnick, a researcher with the university's BioTechnology Institute.

"I have a strong network among local and state planning and policy practitioners that could be helpful in expanding the Institute's partnerships and in ensuring that future research remains grounded in issues of public and stakeholder concern," said institute associate fellow Carissa Schively Slotterback, an assistant professor in the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

"I believe my greatest contribution will be taking the Institute's environmental research knowledge out to federal, state and industry groups," said institute associate fellow David Hendrickson, director of the Coleraine Minerals Research Laboratory in the Natural Resources Research Institute, based at the Duluth campus.

"As an associate fellow, I'm eager to bring my expertise and that of my colleagues to the institute to explore the impact we have on natural resources," said Dale Setterholm, associate director of the Minnesota Geological Survey in the Winchell School of Earth Sciences.

Over the next year, these scholars and professionals will join the other associate fellows in expanding the Institute on the Environment's intellectual community and resources, with a chance to renew their appointments in summer 2009.

Visit environment.umn.edu/about/associatefellows.html for more details.

Annual U of M GLBT lecture to discuss politics of equality and division

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/26/2008) —Legendary organizer, strategist, educator, author and political handywoman Suzanne Pharr will deliver the Eighth Allan Spear Lecture on Public Policy at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2 in the 3M Auditorium at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The lecture, "The Politics of Equality or Division: Race, Class, Gender, Sexuality and Culture," is free and open to the public. It is part of the Steven J. Schochet Endowment Distinguished Lecture Series in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally (GLBTA) Programs Office.

In her talk, Pharr will give a brief personal history of her own work in intersectional politics -- the ways in which categories like race, class, gender, sexuality and culture interact in the political realm. She will also outline the historical context of this important political movement, beginning with the 1964 passage of the Civil Rights Act and the campaign of Barry Goldwater and ending with the 2008 presidential campaign.

Following the lecture, Pharr will lead an interactive discussion on how intersectionality affects current work for social and economic justice, as well as provide her insight and analysis of the current campaign for the presidency.

"During this historic presidential campaign, it is so important to hear from those activists who have been urging us to think broadly about issues of GLBT empowerment, racial and economic justice and social transformation," said Anne Phibbs, director of the GLBTA Programs Office. "Now more than ever, we need to pay attention to the insights of leaders like Suzanne Pharr."

Pharr has spent her entire adult life working to build a broad-based social and economic justice movement, founding the Women's Project in Arkansas in 1981, co-founding Southerners on New Ground in 1984 and serving as the director of the prestigious Highlander Research and Education Center from 1999-2004. She is also the author of two books -- "Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism" and "In the Time of the Right: Reflections on Liberation."

The Steven J. Schochet Endowment organization will host a dessert reception for Pharr and members of the public following the lecture and discussion.

University alumnus Steven Schochet, class of 1959, set up the Schochet Endowment to support education, awareness and programming on GLBT issues. The Schochet Distinguished Lecture Series brings prominent local, national and international GLBT people to campus to tell in their own words how their careers advance the areas of GLBT culture and public policy.

Two U of M economic experts to speak about current financial crisis

What: Talk on current financial crisis

When: 4 p.m., Tuesday Sept. 30

Where: Room 100, Rapson Hall, 89 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis

Who: University of Minnesota economics professors Narayana Kockerlakota and Christopher Phelan

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1490

September 26, 2008

The financial crisis engulfing Wall Street has dominated news headlines in recent days. How did the United States get into this mess? How might the proposed bailouts work? University of Minnesota economics professors Narayana Kockerlakota and Christopher Phelan will attempt to answer these questions and clarify the current financial situation beginning at 4 p.m., Tuesday Sept. 30 in room 100 of Rapson Hall, 89 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis.

The talk will be followed by a short Q and A session. Media members interested in interviews are asked to contact the U of M News Service prior to the event.

Both Kockerlakota and Phelan are uniquely qualified to provide perspective on the country's current economic situation. Kockerlakota is a former chair of the university's department of economics and a Fellow of the Econometric Society. He teaches in the areas of monetary economics, public finance, financial economics and macroeconomics. He has published a large number of scholarly articles on a wide range of topics, including several on the potential desirability of large-scale financial bailouts.

Phelan teaches in the areas of monetary economics and public economics. His research concerns optimal social insurance mechanisms and government reputation. He is also the associate editor of the *Journal of Economic Theory*.

Together, Kockerlakota and Phelan are working on an article entitled, "On the Robustness of Laissez-Faire," forthcoming in the *Journal of Economic Theory*.

This event is sponsored by the U of M's Institute for Advanced Study (IAS). It is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the IAS at (612) 626-5054.

U of M symposium focuses on worldwide food prices, shortages

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/29/2008) —A University of Minnesota symposium next month will explore the reasons why food is becoming scarcer and more expensive. The symposium will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23 at McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. Registration costs vary; information and a full agenda are available at foodindustrycenter.umn.edu.

“Future Food Scarcity: Global Causes and Local Consequences,” sponsored by The Food Industry Center and the Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy, will include discussions led by economists as well as food-company business leaders.

Presentations will address why food prices are rising as well as how high prices and shortages affect the global economy and environment. The keynote speaker is Jeff Ettinger, chief executive officer of Hormel Co.; other featured speakers are Wayne Teddy, corporate vice president at Cargill, Inc.; and Will Martin, lead economist for the development research group at the World Bank.

The goal of the symposium is to bring together industry leaders, public policy makers, academics and the interested public to develop an understanding of how the food economy is linked to other economic sectors and to the welfare of people's lives around the world, said Jean Kinsey, director of The Food Industry Center.

The Food Industry Center at the University of Minnesota conducts research on the food industry and offers forums on current topics and best practices to business leaders and scholars. The Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy uses research and education activities to increase international understanding about food, agriculture, nutrition, natural and human resources and the environment, and to positively affect the policies of both developed and developing countries.

Scott Lanyon named head of U of M department of ecology, evolution and behavior

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/30/2008) —Scott Lanyon, former director of the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History, has been named head of the department of ecology, evolution and behavior in the university's College of Biological Sciences.

"I am very happy Scott accepted our offer," said Bob Elde, dean of the College of Biological Sciences. "I have no doubt that his creativity and leadership ability will help the department maintain its national reputation and develop innovative solutions to global problems."

"I'm honored to lead such a great department and excited about working with the faculty and students to chart the department's intellectual future," Lanyon said.

As director of the Bell Museum, Lanyon improved collections and strengthened research and outreach programs. He led the museum through planning for a new building and increased private support. In addition, he taught courses in evolution, ornithology and systematic biology. He is currently studying the evolutionary history of the New World blackbirds. Lanyon is also participating in the Tree of Life project, an international effort to better understand evolutionary relationships among the Earth's species.

Prior to joining the University of Minnesota, Lanyon held positions as a scientist and curator at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. He earned his Ph.D. at Louisiana State University. He has served on the board of several national science organizations (American Ornithologists' Union, Natural Science Collections Alliance, Society of Systematic Biologists, Wilson Ornithological Society) and is a past Vice President of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Lanyon replaces Claudia Neuhauser, who left to become vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Minnesota campus in Rochester.

U of M professor to speak on Russia-Georgia conflict, Middle East petropolitics at "Headliners" event

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September 30, 2008

In the wake of its recent weeklong war with Georgia, questions still remain about how the international community should react to Russia's blatant show of force in the Middle East. University of Minnesota anthropology professor and president of the Middle East Section of the American Anthropological Association William Beeman will educate audiences on this topic and more as the featured speaker at the College of Continuing Education's October edition of "Headliners." The first in this monthly current events speaker series will take place at 7 p.m Thursday, Oct. 2 in the Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

The events surrounding the Russian-Georgian conflict have marked a new and serious turn in east-west relations and escalated old tensions between the United States and Russia. Is the clash between Russia and Georgia a conflict over democracy and sovereignty as portrayed by Washington? Or is the U.S. mixing into the volatile politics of the Caucasus region to preserve access to Caspian oil and to establish strategic staging areas for a possible attack on Iran?

For the past thirty years, Beeman has concentrated his primary research in Iran and Tajikistan. Trained as a linguistic anthropologist, he has written several books and more than 100 scholarly articles on communication dynamics in the United States, Iran, Japan and South Asia. His most recent book, "The 'Great Satan' vs. the 'Mad Mullahs': How the United States and Iran Demonize Each Other," examines the highly charged rhetoric between the U.S. and Iran and explores its effect on national attitudes and policy. A prolific author of more than 500 opinion pieces, Beeman also writes the blog "Culture and International Affairs" (wbeeman.blogspot.com).

Tickets for the event are \$10. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit www.cce.umn.edu/headliners or call (612) 624-4000.

Headliners is a once-a-month chance for the public to hear University of Minnesota 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 at the forefront of current events -- and then participate in an open forum discussion on the issue.

U of M Astronomers release new research about nearby galaxies

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/30/2008) —University of Minnesota professor Evan Skillman and graduate student Dan Weisz are part of an international group of astronomers who released new findings today regarding their research of nearby galaxies.

The new data will give astronomers unprecedented insight into star formation and how it makes each galaxy unique. It also will provide new information about how other galaxies are similar to or different from our Milky Way Galaxy. A better understanding of nearby galaxies may provide clues to the possibility of life elsewhere in the universe.

Early results of the research show a rich diversity of nearby galaxies--some made up of entirely ancient stars, while others have been forming stars nearly continuously during their whole lives. There are even a few examples of galaxies that have only started forming stars in the last two to three billion years, which is considered the recent past by astronomers. This delayed star formation is interesting because most galaxies are thought to have formed a large fraction of their stars in the first two to three billion years of a 13.6 billion-year-old universe.

“The main step forward with this research is that astronomers looked at all the nearby galaxies, not just ones that appeared different or unique,” Skillman said. “This gives us a large, unbiased statistical sample for the very first time.”

Skillman and Weisz said they were invited to be a part of the research team because of the University of Minnesota’s expertise in studying star formation in smaller “dwarf” galaxies over the past decade.

Using NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope, the international research team surveyed roughly 14 million stars in 69 galaxies from September 2006 to January 2007. They explored galaxies ranging from 6.5 million light-years to 13 million light-years from Earth. A light-year is approximately 5.8 trillion miles in distance.

A typical galaxy contains billions of stars but looks “smooth” when viewed through a telescope, because the stars are blurred together. In contrast, the galaxies in the new research are close enough to Earth that the sharp “eyes” of Hubble’s Advanced Camera for Surveys and Wide Field Planetary Camera 2 can resolve individual stars in the galaxies. By measuring the brightness and colors of these stars, scientists can derive the local history of star formation within a galaxy and can tease out subtle features in a galaxy’s shape.

The amount of data the researchers received on a weekly basis during the five months was almost overwhelming for the researchers. “It was like Christmas every week,” Skillman said. He and Weisz said the data will provide useful information for researchers for more than a decade.

For high resolution images and more information about the research, visit:

<http://hubblesite.org/news/2008/35>

<http://www.spacetelescope.org/news/html/heic0819.html>

<http://www.nearbygalaxies.org>

U of M symposium to explore the aftermath of the I-35W bridge collapse

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Pat Nunnally, Institute on the Environment, (612) 624-3739
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/01/2008) —An upcoming symposium at the University of Minnesota will provide a sweeping view of the I-35W bridge collapse and its aftermath. Presented on Oct. 9 and 10 by the university's Institute for Advanced Study, "The City, the River, the Bridge" will include perspectives from a variety of local experts. The events are co-sponsored by the university's Institute on the Environment, Metropolitan Consortium and Provost's office.

As planners, politicians and the public begin to envision life after the new bridge, it is an appropriate time for the University of Minnesota to convene a public discussion on the aftermath: What lessons have been learned? What are the long-term consequences?

"The new bridge is open, but it's not like you can just walk away from what happened," said Pat Nunnally, River Life program coordinator and one of a dozen-plus speakers who will discuss the changes and opportunities that have emerged since the August 2007 disaster.

"The victims and their families are still dealing with the aftermath and there's still a national debate going on over our public infrastructure," said Susannah Smith, managing director of the Institute for Advanced Study. "We're excited to bring together a wide range of perspectives to reflect on and learn from the tragedy, and to take a closer look at the role the river plays in our everyday lives."

At 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9 in Room 125 Nolte Center, 315 Pillsbury, Yasmeen Arif and Brian Horrigan will open the symposium with a discussion on memory, place and identity. Arif is a visiting lecturer in the university's Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change. Horrigan is an author and exhibit curator at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Later that evening, at 7:30 p.m. in Ted Mann Auditorium, 2128 4th Ave. St. S., musician Dan Chouinard will accompany memoirist and Regents Professor Patricia Hampl in a performance of readings about life on the Upper Mississippi.

The symposium continues at 8:15 a.m. Friday, Oct. 10, in Hanson Hall, 1925 4th St. S., with "Rethinking the City," a discussion that will explore the bridge collapse from the fields of urban studies, geography and design. Next in line is a conversation on the river itself, with insights from Nunnally, historian John Anfinson, environmental chemist professor Deborah Swackhamer and Paul Labovitz, superintendent of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

Rounding out the day's agenda, experts in education and human development, public engagement and journalism will share their thoughts on the bridge collapse. On Friday afternoon, University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will conclude the symposium with a capstone comment.

This symposium is free and open to the public. If you plan to attend, please call (612) 626-5054 or e-mail ias@umn.edu to register for lunch on Friday.

Visit <http://www.ias.umn.edu/CityRiverBridge.php> for more information.

The Hormel Institute of the U of M celebrates dedication and grand opening of expansion project

Minnesota leaders gather to recognize the cancer center's major expansion

Contacts: Gail Dennison, The Hormel Institute, (507) 437-9604
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

October 1, 2008

The grand opening and dedication of The Hormel Institute's Expansion Project will be held at 1 p.m. Friday Oct. 3 at 801 16th Ave. N.E, The Hormel Institute, Austin, Minn. The event will be celebrated by leaders from throughout the state, including Sen. Amy Klobuchar, University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks, Congressman Tim Walz and Hormel Foods' heir James Hormel.

The medical research center, which focuses on cancer prevention and control, is part of the University of Minnesota and a collaborative partner of Mayo Clinic.

The \$23.4 million expansion project was launched in 2006 and has added a new two-story research building for housing 20 state-of-the-art research laboratories. The project also completely renovated the 1960 building, resulting in space for a major seminar room to seat 140, library, several conference rooms, information technology space for the Blue Gene/L supercomputer, shared instrument rooms and complete updating of research support areas.

The expansion originally projected that nearly 100 new jobs would be added to the institute over the next few years. More than 40 research and support positions have already been filled since the project started in 2006. Two new department heads/section leaders were added in September, making a total of nine separate cancer research departments within the center.

Media credentials required:

Media planning to attend this event will need a credential. To request a credential contact Gail Dennison at gdennison@hi.umn.edu by noon Thursday, Oct. 2. Be sure to include the name of the reporter attending the event and media affiliation.

Media should arrive by 1 p.m. (CST) and follow media parking signs (to west of event site). Street parking is allowed in front of Hormel Foods Corporate office. Media should check in at the first tent by 1 p.m. to receive credentials.

Acclaimed author and World War II pilot Samuel Hynes to speak at University of Minnesota

What: Dialogue and Book Signing with Acclaimed literary historian Samuel Hynes

When: 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 7

Where: Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Marlo Welshons, University of Minnesota Libraries, welsh066@umn.edu, (612) 625-9148
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, mathre@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/01/2008) —University of Minnesota alumnus and acclaimed literary historian Samuel Hynes will join former Minneapolis Star Tribune book review editor Dave Wood to discuss his time at the University of Minnesota and what it means to be an expatriate of the Midwest. The conversation and book signing will take place 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 7, at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis.

A World War II pilot and Princeton faculty member, Hynes is perhaps best known as a featured commentator in Ken Burns' 2007 PBS documentary "The War." He is the author of several major works of literary criticism, including "The Auden Generation," "Edwardian Occasions" and "The Edwardian Turn of Mind." "The Soldiers' Tale," Hynes' book about soldiers' narratives of the two world wars and Vietnam, won a Robert F. Kennedy Award.

Hynes has said that he and others of his generation had a special relationship with universities, but not just because of the GI Bill. "The war took people like me from the corner of University and 16th Avenues to unimaginable places like Okinawa, giving us a sense of the world and of opportunity that changed us. When we came home, the universities were there to feed our new curiosities about the wonders of the world," Hynes said.

A reception will follow with author signing; books will be available for sale courtesy of the University of Minnesota Bookstore.

Presented by the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries, this event is free and open to the public.

Reservations are recommended by calling (612) 624-9339 or stangret@umn.edu

U of M hosts 2008 3rd congressional district candidate forums

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/01/2008) —The U of M's Center for the Study of Politics and Governance is hosting a series of public forums with the major party candidates for Minnesota's 3rd Congressional District. The forums will take place at the U of M Humphrey Center's Humphrey Forum, 301 19th Ave S., Minneapolis.

The forums create an opportunity for the candidates to rise above the talking points and fractious back-and-forth of the campaign to address the important policy challenges facing Minnesota and the country. It also creates a forum for students and citizens to listen and raise questions with the candidates. The events are free and open to the public.

Scheduled Forums:

Ashwin Madia (DFL)
Monday, Oct. 13,
Noon - 1:15 p.m.

Erik Paulsen (GOP)
Tuesday, Oct. 14
Noon - 1:15 p..m

David Dillon (IP)
Friday, Oct. 17
Noon - 1:15 p.m.

The Center for the Study of Politics and Governance develops practical, independent and non-partisan solutions to pressing political and policy challenges. Founded in 2005, CSPG fosters effective and efficient governance, increases the transparency of government processes, and rebuilds the public trust in order to counteract negative influences that threaten our democracy.

To request disability accommodations, please call 612-625-2530 or email cspg@umn.edu.

University of Minnesota Law Review to Host Symposium on Law and Politics

Contacts: Cynthia Huff, Law School, (612) 625-6691
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/01/2008) —The Minnesota Law Review will host its 2008 Symposium, “Law & Politics in the 21st Century,” on Friday, Oct. 17, 2008 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., in Rm. 25 of the U of M Law School, 229 19th Ave. South, Minneapolis.

The symposium will examine how political factors increasingly affect development of the law and will feature two keynote speakers: U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit Judge Brett Kavanaugh and New Republic online columnist Benjamin Wittes. It will also feature several of the country’s most distinguished scholars on three panels.

In “Politics and the Judiciary,” professors Lee Epstein (Northwestern), Ward Farnsworth (Boston University), Nancy Staudt (Northwestern), and Tim Johnson (U of M) will discuss the merits of various modes of judicial selection, the political economy of judging and factors that cause Supreme Court justices to dissent from the bench. University of Minnesota Law School professor David Stras will moderate.

The second panel, focusing on “Current Issues in Election Law,” consists of professors Heather Gerken (Yale), Ellen Katz (Michigan), Nate Persily (Columbia), and Terry Smith (Fordham). These panelists will tackle the Supreme Court’s election law cases of 2007-08, which raised issues on the constitutionality of voter identification requirements, the scope of political party autonomy and control of candidates’ access to the ballot. U of M Law School Professor Guy-Uriel Charles will moderate.

In “Beyond Bush: The Future of Executive Power,” panelists will discuss the descriptive and normative scope of executive power. Professors Steven Calabresi (Northwestern) and Heidi Kitrosser (Minnesota) will analyze unitary executive theory and conduct a normative debate about its validity. Professors Charles Cameron (Princeton) and William Howell (University of Chicago) will provide empirical assessments of executive power. U of M Law School professor Dale Carpenter will moderate.

The Symposium is free for University of Minnesota Law School faculty and students; cost varies for other attendees. Registration is required for everyone planning to attend, including University faculty and students. Go to www.law.umn.edu/lawreview/symposium.html for registration details and the event agenda.

Policy breakfast at U of M to focus on postsecondary education for high school students

What: CEHD Policy Breakfast: The Graduation Gap in Minnesota: Providing Opportunities for all Children

When: Wednesday, Oct. 8, 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

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

Who: Dr. Clifford Adelman, senior associate, Institute for Higher Education Policy

Contacts: Anitra Budd, College of Education and Human Development, (612) 626-7486, budd0018@umn.edu

Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

October 2, 2008

David Johnson, senior associate dean for research and policy in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) at the University of Minnesota, will hold a policy breakfast Wednesday, Oct. 8 to discuss the issue of preparing high school students for postsecondary education. Legislators and policymakers, as well as leaders from schools, postsecondary education programs and nonprofit organizations will all gather beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Radisson University Hotel, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The program is titled “The Graduation Gap in Minnesota: Providing Opportunities for all Children.”

The breakfast will begin at 7:30 a.m. and includes a welcome speech at 8:15 a.m. from CEHD Interim Dean Jean Quam and Senior Associate Dean Johnson. At 8:30 a.m. Clifford Adelman will deliver a presentation on college readiness. Adelman is a senior associate in the Institute for Higher Education Policy, an independent, nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. that is dedicated to access and success in postsecondary education around the world. He is best known for his work “The Toolbox Revisited: Paths to Degree Completion from High School through College,” available at www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html.

Afterwards a panel of state education leaders will respond to Adelman’s keynote, followed by a half-hour community discussion.

The policy breakfast is free of charge. Attendees should RSVP by October 6, 2008 by contacting Laura Hagen at gardz001@umn.edu or (612) 625-0317.

The "Last Polar Bear" author, wildlife photographer Steven Kazlowski to speak at U of M Bell Museum

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum media relations, (612) 624-7389
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/02/2008) —Wildlife photographer Steven Kazlowski, whose book, "The Last Polar Bear: Facing the Truth of a Warming World," is helping to bring world-wide attention to the plight of polar bears as a result of global warming, will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 13. at the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Through unforgettable photographs, Kazlowski's 2008 publication dramatically illustrates the growing hardships faced by the polar bear in northern Alaska as a result of rising global temperatures. His photographs of polar bears trapped on shrinking ice floes have become an iconic visual symbol of possible extinction brought about by global warming. Kazlowski is the recipient of Sierra Club's Ansel Adams Award for Conservation Photography for his use of still photography to further a conservation cause.

Kazlowski will share his images, observations and stories from his life in the arctic, as well as his ideas on how to reverse the tide of global warming and sustain hope. His award-winning photographs have been featured in Audubon, Backpacking, Canadian National Geographic, National Wildlife and Time magazines, as well as in such books as "Alaska Wildlife Impressions," "Alaska Wildlife of the North" and "Alaska Bears of the North."

Tickets to the Bell Museum talk and reception are \$7 for the general public; \$5 for museum members and students.

A reception and book signing will follow the talk. The event is co-sponsored by the Alaska Wilderness League, Como Park and Conservatory and Braided River/The Mountaineers Books. The Bell Museum is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. For information, visit www.bellmuseum.org.

Apples, pumpkins and tree houses: "Autumn Unplugged" at the U of M's MN Landscape Arboretum has it all

Contacts: Barb DeGroot, Landscape Arboretum public relations, (952) 443-1459

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/02/2008) —Take out the earphones, turn off the TV, mute the cellphone. Now, step outside the door, "turn on" your senses and get ready to enjoy "Autumn Unplugged" at the University of Minnesota's Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. It's the best show in town. Within a few matter of days, the Arboretum will boast a symphony of fall color. (Call the Fall Color Alert Line at (952) 443-1400, Ext. 5010 for updates.) The Arboretum is located in Chanhassen on State Highway 5, nine miles west of I-494. Here's what's on tap for this weekend and beyond at the Arboretum:

- 'Pumpkin Palooza,' Great Hall, Oswald Visitor Center. Oct. 4 - Nov. 2 This dazzling display of cucurbits (pumpkins and squash) reflects the endless variety of pumpkins harvested today. Large and small, orange, blue or white, there's a pumpkin for everyone.
- 'Shades of Fall' Nature Walk, Meet in Ordway lot. Saturdays, Oct. 4 & 18; Wednesday, Oct. 8, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Explore the secrets of the fall landscape with a staff naturalist. Fee of \$5 is payable at the Oswald Visitor Center.
- Apple Tastings, Oswald Visitor Center. The public is invited to taste-test U of M apples from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays in October. Master Gardeners will conduct the tastings of these yet-unnamed apples still in development. Tasting dates are: Oct. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19 and 25-26.
- Weekend Family Fun: 'The Colors of Fall,' Marion Andrus Learning Center. Saturdays & Sundays, Oct. 4-26, noon to 4 p.m. Enjoy the glowing autumn color palette of harvest crops, chrysanthemums, foliage and scarecrows. Hear the lore and legends surrounding these favorites of fall. Make a picture frame and pose for a family photo with the pumpkins.
- Arboretum AppleHouse. Now through Oct. 31. Purchase apples from a changing inventory of more than 50 varieties throughout the season -- from longtime favorites to recent University of Minnesota introductions. Also check out the variety of specialty food and garden-related gift items. Located 1 mile west of the Arboretum on State Highway 5 and Rolling Acres road. Call ahead for apple varieties: (952) 443-1409.
- Treeology Exhibition 'Wrap-Up.' This family-friendly, interactive exhibition celebrating the beauty and wonder of trees is especially enjoyable amid the splendor of fall color. Come enjoy the Art 'n Trees Trail art walk, the Tree-mendous Trees collection and more! Closes Oct. 12.
- Andersen Horticultural Library Used Book Sale, Snyder Building auditorium. Friday-Sunday, Oct. 3-5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This popular annual sale of gently used books raises funds for the Elmer Andersen Horticultural Library at the Arboretum.

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the largest public garden in the Upper Midwest and a premier northern arboretum, is part of the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and a community and national resource for horticultural and environmental information, research and public education. The Arboretum is disability accessible; the buildings and terraces are smoke free.

Norway's Minister of Research and Higher Education Visits University of Minnesota

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/02/2008) —Norway's Minister of Research and Higher Education, Tora Aasland, and a Norwegian delegation met with University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks and other university officials today to discuss U of M programs and cooperation with Norway.

Aasland, Ole Skodvin, deputy director general of the Ministry of Education and Research; Berit Johne, Science Counselor, Norwegian Embassy; Honorary Consul General former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale; and Consular Officer Astri Olsen, Norwegian Consulate General, Minneapolis attended the meeting.

“For many years now, the U of M has enjoyed a strong collaborative relationship with the country of Norway and its leading universities,” Bruininks said. “I hope this week's meetings build upon programs and initiatives we have developed with Norway.” The University of Minnesota has several study aboard programs in collaboration with Norwegian institutions, including exchange programs in environment and natural resources and science and engineering.

“Strong international partnerships will be increasingly critical as we move ahead, because from climate change to infectious disease, today's biggest challenges cross academic disciplines and national borders,” Bruininks said.

The delegation from Norway also toured research and educational facilities on the Twin Cities' campus. The delegation then met with Norwegian students and university faculty and staff from the Office of International Programs, International Student and Scholar Service and Learning Abroad Center.

“We have many departments that do exchanges and research with institutions in Norway and visits like this keep our relationships healthy and strong,” said Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean, International Programs.

Aasland's visit continues on Friday when she meets with faculty from the College of Education and Human Development.

U of M Athletics Department to visit Grant County

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/02/2008) —With the first on-campus stadium in 28 years, the sounds, sights and excitement of University of Minnesota football will echo 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 Minnesota counties and Gopher Athletics is reaching out to engage the entire state of Minnesota over the next year with a statewide tour.

The U athletics department will visit Grant County at noon, Friday, Oct. 17. The event will take place at the Cattle Club Café, 116 Central Ave. N., Elbow Lake. Join Nancy Lindahl, Co-Chair of the TCF Bank Stadium Campaign, and David Crum, Director of the Golden Gopher Fund as they provide information about the new stadium and answer your questions

No RSVP is required for the event. Each person will be responsible for his or her own lunch with a \$3 per person minimum.

Construction 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 substantial completion in July 2009 and will open for the first Gopher football game of the season on Sept. 12, 2009.

For more information visit on TCF Bank Stadium and the Statewide Tour go to www.stadium.gophersports.com and click on “Support the Stadium” and “Statewide Tour.”

Leaders to examine 21st century leadership challenges at Oct. 6 public event

Experts come together to discuss integrative leadership and its relation to today's global society at annual symposium Oct. 5-7

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/03/2008) —Complex issues such as world hunger, global warming, and planetary energy demands are not subject to quick fixes or easy solutions. Their very names define how they transcend boundaries and have the potential to affect anyone at anytime. Issues like these demand integrated leadership; leadership that pools the knowledge and talent from individuals in the private, not-for-profit, and government sectors to move society forward in these times of increased interconnection and rapid change.

The public is invited to listen to a select panel of outstanding leaders in government, business, finance, the academy and civil society who will gather to discuss this new century's big integrative challenges Monday, Oct. 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the Carlson School of Management's 3M Auditorium, 321 19th Ave. S., 3M Auditorium, Minneapolis. The panel discussion, "Wanted: Integrative Leaders for 21st Century Leadership Challenges," is free and everyone is encouraged to attend.

The panel discussion will include Bush Foundation President and former Minnesota gubernatorial candidate Peter Hutchinson, Carlson Companies Chairman Marilyn Carlson Nelson and University of Michigan business professor Noel Tichy as they discuss what it will take to train integrative leaders to be ready for 21st century challenges.

The panel discussion is part of the U of M's Center for Integrative Leadership's second annual research and practice symposium, "Integrative Leadership: Crossing Boundaries for the Common Good," Sunday, Oct. 5, through Tuesday, Oct. 7. This symposium will feature presentations from local, national and global integrative leaders as well as research presentations from diverse scholars on the topic of integrative leadership. The goal of this event is to bring public policy practitioners and leadership scholars together, across disciplines, to facilitate interdisciplinary leadership dialogue based on current research.

The fee for this three-day event is \$120, including meals. Students can register for the symposium for \$25 at the door with their student ID. For registration information and further details about the event, visit www.hhh.umn.edu/news/events/index.html.

The Center for Integrative Leadership is a University-wide initiative and its oversight is shared by the Carlson School of Management and the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. The Center is dedicated to examining and advancing the concept of integrative leadership so that it can be understood, taught, and deployed to help deal with and solve some of the most challenging issues of our time. More public forums are scheduled for fall and spring.

The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, Mayo Clinic and The Hormel Foundation dedicate new research building and celebrate expansion project grand opening

Media Note: EMBARGO - 7 a.m. Friday, Oct. 3

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/03/2008) —The official dedication and grand opening of The Hormel Institute Expansion Project will be celebrated today in Austin, Minn., with 400 supporters in attendance. Leaders throughout the state will be present for The Hormel Institute Dedication, including The Hormel Foundation Chair Richard Knowlton, Hormel Foods Corporation Chairman of the Board, President and CEO Jeffrey Ettinger, Gov. Tim Pawlenty, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks, Mayo Clinic Chief Executive Officer Dr. Glenn Forbes and Hormel Foods' heir James Hormel. The medical research center, which focuses on cancer prevention and control, is part of the University of Minnesota and a collaborative partner of Mayo Clinic.

In 2006 the \$23.4 million expansion project was launched, adding a new two-story research building for housing 20 state-of-the-art research laboratories. The project also completely renovated the 1960 building, resulting in space for a major seminar room to seat 140, library, several conference rooms, information technology space for the Blue Gene/L supercomputer, shared instrument rooms and complete updating of research support areas.

"The effects of The Hormel Institute Expansion are multi-dimensional," said Knowlton. "It has strengthened partnerships between The Hormel Institute, the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic -- known as the Bioscience Triad -- improved science education within the Austin school system and enhanced the community and region. We believe this expansion is a starting point for continued growth and achievement for The Hormel Institute."

Knowlton, former chairman of the board, president and CEO of Hormel Foods Corporation, was the chief financial leader for the project. The expansion campaign broke several records for donations: The Hormel Foundation gave \$13.4 million, Hormel Foods Corporation donated \$5 million and the Austin and regional community gave \$1.5 million. In addition, the city of Austin issued a \$10 million bond and Mower County issued a \$5 million bond to help the project. To fund street improvements for the project, The Austin donated an additional \$512,000 to match a Minnesota state Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) grant.

"Hormel Foods and The Hormel Institute share a great history, and we are excited to be part of this momentous occasion," Ettinger said. "Paraphrasing the words spoken by H.H. Corey, former CEO of Hormel Foods at the dedication in 1949, we believe this expansion will continue to benefit all of mankind. We wait with anticipation along with the rest of the world to see what the group will discover."

Fundraising continues for the institute's remaining research and technology needs. In the past year Mayo Clinic gave the institute a historic gift of \$5 million to strengthen their collaborative research partnership and the University of Minnesota gave the institute nearly \$4 million to support the hiring of world class faculty.

Forbes characterized The Hormel Institute collaboration as in keeping with the Mayo Clinic tradition of collaboration and the reason for the financial support.

"The Hormel Institute expansion is a welcome development, not only for Executive Director Zigang Dong and his staff, but for all of their collaborators. Mayo is proud to be one of those collaborators and we look forward to continuing our relationship of scientific achievement."

The University of Minnesota regards The Hormel Institute as one of the research units that will help the university reach its goal of becoming one of the top three public research universities in the world within 10 years.

"The expansion of The Hormel Institute builds on the momentum of the past decade at the University of Minnesota," said Bruininks. "Our state has the second most vibrant biomedical sciences corridor in the country, and the groundbreaking research conducted at The Hormel Institute and in our laboratories statewide will continue to make vital contributions to the treatment and prevention of cancer and other chronic diseases, as well as Minnesota's economy and quality of life."

Dong's successful leadership of The Hormel Institute led to the need for increased lab space and updated research facilities. During his eight years as director, research funding was tripled and the number of employees doubled.

The Hormel Institute now has more than 100 employees, most of which are research faculty. The expansion projected that 100 new jobs will be added to the institute over the next few years. Forty of these jobs have already been added since the project started in 2006. Two new department heads were hired in September from Columbia University and the University of Notre Dame, making a total of nine separate cancer research departments within the center.

"The expansion marks an important and historic point of progress for The Hormel Institute," said Dong. "We are making history not only because of the expansion resulting in this beautiful new building and our greater capacity to add more world class scientists -- but also how these resources increase the potential of our research. Indeed it is our time to strive for the best contributions to science we can make."

U of M "My Voice, My Vote" program launches new website to educate voters with disabilities

Site can be found at MyVoiceMyVote.org

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/03/2008) —With the most important presidential election in recent history just weeks away, Republicans and Democrats alike are acutely aware of the importance of giving all American citizens a chance to have their voices heard. With that goal in mind, the University of Minnesota is doing its part to help young adults with disabilities partake in the political process with its new "My Voice, My Vote" program. The group recently launched a new website -- available at myvoicemyvote.org -- to give people with disabilities and their advocates convenient access to resources and information to promote civic engagement in Minnesota.

The actions of the program, which is spearheaded by the Institute of Community Integration (ICI) in the U of M's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), are manifold, but primarily feature three main objectives. In July, the ICI hosted a workshop to educate adults with disabilities on the ideas and processes of civic engagement and voting. In addition, the recently-launched website contains free downloadable materials from the university and other public sources for teachers, program leaders and individuals. The new website also features a brief informational video with segments on civic engagement and additional voting methods available to disabled Minnesotans.

"The Minnesota Secretary of State's office has set a goal of 80 percent voter turnout in 2008," said program director Chris Bremer. "Minnesota is already known for its high rate of voting, and more participation by people with disabilities could help us meet that goal. We hope a lot of people will use the web site to learn about the issues and register to vote."

Traditionally, young adults and people with disabilities are two groups with low rates of voter participation - in 2004, only 47 percent of people ages 18-24 voted, and participation by voters with disabilities lagged 12 percent behind the national average.

"In doing the workshop, we saw how excited young adults with disabilities are about getting involved as citizens and voting," said Bremer. "We hope this project contributes to increased participation in November and future elections."

The My Voice, My Vote project is funded by the Charles and Mabel Williams Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation. Project partners and supporters include Partnership Resources, Inc., Minneapolis Public Schools' Transition Plus program, the Center for Democracy and Citizenship at the U of M's Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs and the Minnesota Secretary of State's office.

U of M to host international journalists as part of State Department's Murrow Program

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/03/2008) —The University of Minnesota's School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC) will host eight journalists from East Asia and the Pacific Oct. 10-15 as part of the U.S. Department of State's Edward R. Murrow Program.

The Murrow Program is an innovative public-private partnership between the Department of State, the Aspen Institute and ten leading U.S. journalism schools. The program will bring approximately 160 journalists from independent media outlets around the world to the United States to examine journalistic principles and practices, both in the United States and around the world, and interact with professional journalists and experts in the field.

In addition, the journalists will lead a panel discussion entitled "How Do Overseas Journalists View the U.S.?" at 3:15 in room 100 of Murphy Hall, 206 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis. The international journalists will talk about their experiences and views about the U.S. media at the free event.

"The Murrow Program is a wonderful opportunity for us to engage and contribute to an international discussion about press freedoms and responsibilities in a changing world," said SJMC director Albert Tims. "We are thrilled to participate in the third annual program and are excited to exchange ideas with our visitors about how we can help promote vigorous and responsible journalism around the world."

After a four-day orientation in Washington, D.C., the international journalists will divide into groups and travel to one of the ten partner institutions, including the University of Minnesota.

The eight journalists who will visit the university hail from the People's Republic of China, Singapore and Taiwan, and hold positions in radio and print media in their home countries. The SJMC has designed a specialized agenda for the group's week-long visit, including seminars led by SJMC faculty on investigative and in-depth reporting methods, and economic reporting, as well as topics of interest to journalists like U.S. foreign policy, disaster relief and election coverage. The group will spend time observing professional journalists at the St. Paul Pioneer Press and make a visit to the State Capitol with Gary Hill, Communications Director for the Majority Caucus at the Minnesota Senate office.

Following their five-day visit to Minnesota, the eight journalists will travel to South Carolina before concluding their stay with visits to major media outlets in New York City and a symposium on the future of journalism globally.

Controversial software freedom activist to speak at U of M on Oct. 21

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/06/2008) —Controversial free software advocate Richard Stallman, founder of the Free Software Foundation and the GNU project, will speak at the University of Minnesota at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 21 in Rm. 175, Willey Hall, 225 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public.

Stallman pioneered the concept of “copyleft,” the practice of using copyright law to remove restrictions on distributing copies and modified versions of a work for others and requiring that the same freedoms be preserved in modified versions. Stallman is the main author of the most widely used free software license, the GNU General Public License. Microsoft chairman Bill Gates and CEO Steve Ballmer have publicly criticized the GNU General Public License and some software companies have likened it to a virus that will “destroy the software industry.”

In Stallman’s talk, “The Free Software Movement and the GNU/Linux Operating System,” he will discuss the Free Software Movement, which campaigns for the freedom of computer users to cooperate and control their own computing activities. The Free Software Movement developed the GNU operating system, often erroneously referred to as Linux, specifically to establish these freedoms. Much of the computing infrastructure of the Web is built on GNU software and other software that is released under the General Public License or other “free software” licenses like the Apache license.

Many in the software industry feel strongly that the current system of intellectual property laws, especially patents, is badly broken with respect to software and has the effect of strongly hindering innovation rather than promoting it. Stallman represents one side of this debate. At the same time, the free software movement founded by Stallman has been influential among working developers around the world, and has produced critical tools and systems that are widely used, even by Microsoft.

Stallman’s lecture is sponsored by the University of Minnesota’s Software Engineering Center. For more information, visit www.msse.umn.edu/stallman.

Graduate and Professional School Day 2008 at U of M Wednesday, Oct. 8

When: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8

Where: Great Hall, Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave., Minneapolis

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October 6, 2008

More than 100 graduate and professional programs from throughout the country will be represented at the University of Minnesota's Graduate and Professional School Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 8 in the Great Hall, Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave, Minneapolis.

This free, university-wide event provides students the opportunity to speak with representatives from law, business, education, health sciences and a variety of other graduate and professional programs. The event will also feature helpful workshops on "How to Apply" and "Funding Graduate and Professional School."

"Graduate and Professional School Day is a great opportunity to meet with representatives from a wide array of graduate and professional schools," said Paul Timmins, career services director at the Career and Community Learning Center. "Past participants have appreciated being able to learn about so many different institutions--and they also have found the workshops to be very valuable."

This annual event is coordinated by the university Career and Community Learning Center. For more information, go to www.cclc.umn.edu/GSD.

U of M ecology professor wins international award for biodiversity and biofuels research

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/07/2008) —David Tilman, Regents Professor of Ecology at the University of Minnesota, has been named the 2008 recipient of the International Prize for Biology. Tilman will receive a medal, a \$100,000 cash prize and a gift from Emperor Akihito of Japan in a ceremony in Tokyo on Dec. 8. Following the ceremony, he will present the keynote address at a scientific symposium.

The award, which is one of the most prestigious honors a scientist can receive, is given to one individual in a different field of biology each year. The last time it was given for ecology was in 1993, when Edward Wilson, the renowned Harvard evolutionary biologist, was the recipient. Other past recipients include scientists from California Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Oxford, Stanford, Duke and other leading research universities around the world.

Tilman was selected for research proving that biodiversity makes ecosystems more productive and resistant to drought, disease and pests. His seminal findings were published in *Science* and *Nature* during the 1990s. More recently, he has applied his discoveries to renewable energy, showing that biofuel created from diverse prairie grasses is more efficient and better for the environment than fuel made from food crops such as corn and soybeans. All of his research was carried out at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, which is operated by the College of Biological Sciences, where Tilman is a faculty member. He is director of Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve.

"I am deeply honored by this award, and want to thank everyone with whom I have been privileged to collaborate during my 32 years at the university," said Tilman. "The world is facing immense environmental challenges. There is no scientific goal more important than pursuing solutions to these problems. We have an ethical obligation to preserve the Earth's ecosystems for future generations."

"This is one of the most prestigious scientific prizes in the world," said Bob Elde, dean of the College of Biological Sciences. "And no one deserves it more than Dave Tilman. His stature as a scientist honors the university, the college, his colleagues and our students. We are very fortunate that he has chosen Cedar Creek as his laboratory."

The International Prize in Biology was created in 1985 to commemorate the 60-year reign of Emperor Showa of Japan and his longtime interest in and support for the biological sciences. The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science selects recipients. This year, the society distributed nearly 2,000 nomination forms to universities worldwide, and based their selection on nominations from institutions in 17 countries. Criteria included originality, impact on ecology, and contribution to biology in general.

Tilman was named the most cited environmental scientist for 1997-2007 by *Essential Science Indicators* in June.

Celebration of children's literature at U of M features award-winning poet

What: Book Week Lecture

When: Tuesday, Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m.

Where: Willey Hall Auditorium, 225 19th Avenue S., Minneapolis

Who: Joyce Sidman, award-winning children's book author

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October 7, 2008

Joyce Sidman, author of the Caldecott Honor Award winning "Song of the Water Boatman" is the featured speaker at this year's Book Week Lecture at the University of Minnesota. The annual lecture will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14 in the Willey Hall Auditorium, 225 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Prior to the lecture a free review of new children's literature will be offered from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Willey Hall Auditorium. Appetizers will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The evening lecture and book review are open to the public. Tickets for the lecture and appetizers are \$15 per person. Books will be available for purchase and signing by the author courtesy of The Red Balloon Bookshop.

Joyce Sidman is the author of many children's poetry books, including "Meow Ruff," a Minnesota Book Award finalist, and "Butterfly Eyes," winner of the Henry Bergh Children's Book Award. She teaches poetry writing to school children and participates in many national poetry events, including the annual "Poetry Blast" at the American Library Association meeting. Her recent book, "This Is Just to Say: Poems of Apology and Forgiveness," won the Claudia Lewis Poetry Award from Bank Street College of New York. Joyce lives with her husband in Wayzata, Minn.

For more information, visit the Book Week web site at <http://cehd.umn.edu/CI/literacy/bookweek.html> or Sidman's Web site at <http://www.joycesidman.com>.

Book Week was started in 1941 by Dora Smith, professor of children's literature in the university's College of Education. Those who followed in that position, including current children's literature lecturer Rebecca Rapport, have continued the tradition. Book Week is supported by the department of curriculum and instruction of the College of Education and Human Development; by the generous contributions of Ms. Ruth Mitchell and other CEHD alumni; The Red Balloon Bookshop; and by the Children's Literature Research Collections, Andersen Library, University of Minnesota.

University of Minnesota and Science Debate 2008 to host conference on how to drive 21st century economy

Panels will examine presidential candidate's answers to the Top 14 science questions facing America.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/08/2008) —Leaders of major science organizations and the University of Minnesota today announced Innovation 2008, a national conference focused on the 21st century drivers of the US economy, set to take place at the university, Monday and Tuesday, October 20 and 21 at the Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. So. Minneapolis. The event is open to the public.

“Clearly, the fundamental drivers of the U.S. economy need attention,” said Shawn Lawrence Otto, CEO of a national initiative called Science Debate 2008, a cosponsor of the event. “Innovation in science and technology has driven half of America's economic growth since WWII, but the global landscape is changing. We need to forge a new path to remain a first rate economy.” Otto said national experts will meet at the conference to discuss strategies the United States needs to take to retain and renew its global leadership in innovation into the future. “Most of the major challenges facing the U.S. revolve around 14 key questions of science and technology,” he said.

Nobel laureate and Minnesota native Peter Agre will deliver the keynote on Oct. 20, and noted science journalist Ira Flatow will close the event on the afternoon of the 21.

“This is about what the next president of the United States will have to do to renew America through smarter science and technology policy,” said Steve Kelley, director of the university's Center for Science, Technology and Public Policy at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. “Science Debate 2008 has worked with the leading organizations, universities, and thinkers in the U.S. to develop a list of the top 14 science questions facing America. Both Barack Obama and John McCain have answered with their visions for the future of the United States at www.sciencedebate2008.com. Now we need to take that conversation further. The Center for Science, Technology and Public Policy is the perfect place to host this discussion, and we're pleased to be working on the cutting edge with Science Debate 2008 and our sponsors.”

The conference will explore ways to renew America's economy through smarter policies in innovation and research, education, energy security and sustainability and a renewal of science in the American culture.

“America's love affair with science may be going through a rocky patch,” said Otto, “but it's threatening our ability to compete. The United States was founded by scientist-statesmen like Jefferson and Franklin. We're the moon-shot nation, the can-do nation, the A-ok and the right stuff, and we need to get that back.”

For a complete list of conference presenters and information on tickets to event can be found online at www.innovation2008.com

The McCain and Obama campaigns have also been invited to send surrogates and members of their transition teams.

About Science Debate 2008:

Started by six concerned citizens in late 2007, Science Debate 2008 quickly grew into a leading force for restoring science and technology to America's public dialogue. With more than 38,000 signers, including dozens of Nobel laureates, leading business CEOs, the presidents of over 100 major American universities, elected officials and nearly every major U.S. science and engineering organization, Science Debate 2008 developed “The Top 14 Science Questions Facing America.” Both Barack Obama and John McCain have answered these questions, the first time in U.S. history the endorsed candidates for president have laid out their science policies in this detail before the election. Science Debate 2008's question: “Who will be the best president for America in a science-dominated world?” Find more online at www.sciencedebate2008.com.

The University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute's Center for Science, technology and Public Policy (CSTPP) explores the increasingly important role that science and technology plays in our society and examines its implications for public policy at the international, national and state levels. Their mission is to improve people's lives by enhancing the application of science and technology to solve public problems. Find more online at www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/stpp

The Innovation 2008 conference is receiving support from the following organizations: The Bell Museum of Natural History, SolutionsTwinCities.org, Best Buy, ADC, Minnesota High Tech Association and The Science Museum of Minnesota.

U of M receives \$16.8 million for materials research center

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/08/2008) —The University of Minnesota Materials Research Science and Engineering Center announced today that it has received \$16.8 million in renewed funding over the next six years from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The University of Minnesota is one of only 14 other universities nationwide, including MIT and Harvard, to be chosen to receive NSF funding this year for a materials research center.

The University of Minnesota's multifaceted research center was established a decade ago to conduct cutting-edge materials and nanotechnology research that enables important areas of future technology, ranging from biomedicine and electronics to security and renewable energy. Science and engineering faculty and students study the specific properties of various materials to improve everyday items such as adhesives, data storage devices and lighting. The research center works with more than 35 companies that contribute directly to research through intellectual, technological and financial support.

"This funding from NSF is a vote of confidence that our materials research at the University of Minnesota is important and relevant on a national scale," said Timothy Lodge, director of the U of M Materials Research Science and Engineering Center. "Other supporting research facilities at the U of M in nanotechnology, characterization and computation analysis and support from industry gave us an important edge in this very competitive funding process."

In addition to research, the center's activities are integrated with educational programs, providing interdisciplinary training of students and postdoctoral candidates. Researchers pursue international collaborations and student exchanges with leading research labs in Asia and Europe.

"Graduate education tends to be narrowly focused for most students, but that's not the case here," Lodge said. "For example, our center offers a chance for a student in chemistry to learn what is happening in physics or mechanical engineering. Since many companies rely on a multidisciplinary, globally aware workforce, the experience our students gain from working with researchers in different fields here at the U and around the world gives them a leg up in the job market."

The Materials Research Science and Engineering Center is a center within the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology, the university's college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics.

For more information on the U of M Materials Research Science and Engineering Center, visit www.mrsec.umn.edu.

University of Minnesota researchers show that biodiversity increases soil fertility

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/08/2008) —A new study by University of Minnesota researchers conducted at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve shows that biodiversity increases soil fertility and could be used to restore depleted agricultural land.

Using an 11-year-old prairie experiment at Cedar Creek, a field station located an hour north of the Twin Cities, the researchers collected soil from prairie communities that varied in the number of plant species they contained. Seedlings grown in soil from diverse prairie communities weighed 70 percent more than seedlings grown in soil from single species.

“The common view is that soil fertility requires decades or even centuries to develop,” said lead author Ray Dybzinski. “We showed that plant diversity effectively speeds that process by simultaneously introducing and retaining more nutrients in the ecosystem.”

Dybzinski, who was a University of Minnesota graduate student when he conducted the research, is now a postdoctoral researcher at Princeton University. David Tilman, Regents Professor of Ecology at the University of Minnesota, who was Dybzinski’s adviser, is a co-author of the paper.

The study, published in the current issue of the journal *Oecologia*, has important implications for recovering the fertility of fallow and abandoned agricultural land, such as the millions of acres currently enrolled in various conservation programs. It suggests that, in addition to providing benefits for wildlife, the use of diverse mixtures of prairie plants would more quickly restore soil fertility. Their increased fertility would in turn promote carbon sequestration and increased yields of crops for food or cellulosic biofuels, if lands were returned to production.

Other co-authors of the study include: Joseph Fargione, post doctorate at the university, now at The Nature Conservancy; Donald Zak, University of Michigan; and Dario Fornara, post doctorate at the university, now at Lancaster University.

The study is posted online at: www.springerlink.com/content/t87h1413058721wk/

U of M statement regarding university initiatives in North Minneapolis

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/08/2008) —A statement from University of Minnesota Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration Robert Jones.

“As a result of current and anticipated national, state and local financial constraints, the serious economic downturn and anticipated project costs, the University of Minnesota will not proceed with plans to be a tenant in Hennepin County's North Minneapolis Child and Family Service Center that is being planned for the NorthPoint Health & Wellness Campus. It is simply not fiscally possible for the university to commit to a major capital project of this magnitude at this time. Dr. Dante Cicchetti, renowned children's mental health expert, remains committed to serving the community, despite this change in facility plans.

The university continues to develop effective partnerships with the North Minneapolis community, the city, and the county, as evidenced by our financial commitment to the development of the Urban Research Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC). We have purchased and are renovating the former shopping center at 2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Minneapolis, at a cost of \$4.4 million, and will open the building in early summer 2009. UROC will not only anchor the university's presence in the community, but will serve as a door through which North Minneapolis community members will have greater access to university resources and more opportunities to participate in collaborative projects to build a stronger community and healthier families.

Programs that will be located in the UROC facility include an Urban Area Health Education Center, early education programs of the Center for Early Education and Development, a new Center for Innovation and Economic Development, Extension programs for youth and family development, nutrition education, Master Gardener, and others. Space in the UROC facility will also be available for use by the community, including an office for the University Northside Partnership.

So, while we're disappointed that our original plan is not possible, we are confident we can work together to deliver enhanced services, establish sustainable programs, and address critical issues facing this and other vital communities.”

U of M professor to host discussion on recent bombing in Mexico

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October 9, 2008

In an age in which terrorist actions weight heavily on the minds of many Americans, it seems bizarre that a major attack could take places on our own continent while garnering little attention. Yet such an event took place on Sept. 15 in Morelia, Mexico, when two grenades were lobbed into a large crowd, killing eight people and injuring over a hundred others. However, the attack received little press coverage outside the country, a fact University of Minnesota history professor Patrick McNamara hopes to change. He is joining with the Institute for Advanced Study to host a discussion, entitled “Bombing the Plaza: Current Instability in Mexico,” at noon on Wednesday, Oct. 15 in room 125 of the Nolte Center, 315 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis.

“My growing concern is that Mexico and the rest of Latin America have not been part of the discussions regarding the economy or the political future of the United States,” said McNamara, a historian whose focus is on Mexico and was in the country at the time of the bombing. “Apart from Sarah Palin’s reference to ‘the Castro brothers’ or Barack Obama’s reference to buying oil from Venezuela, Latin America has not been mentioned in any of the debates.”

The discussion will encompass the Sept. 15 bombing (which took place during an Independence Day celebration in President Felipe Calderón's hometown) as well as other recent events in Mexico and focus on why these should be of growing concern to American citizens. Other topics up for discussion include the smuggling of illegal drugs across the U.S.-Mexican border, waning Mexican immigration into the U.S. and the sharp decline in remittances (money sent back home) being sent to Mexico from this country.

The event is free and open to the public. More information can be found at <http://ias.umn.edu> or by calling (612) 626-5054.

University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs to host panel on financial crisis

What: Panel discussion on the financial crisis facing the nation

When: 4 - 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14

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

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Julie Lund, Humphrey Institute, (612) 624-1190, julie@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/10/2008) —The financial crisis continues to unfold on Wall Street, impacting markets across the world. Congress has passed a \$700 billion bailout package but what will this mean for state and local economies and our own bottom lines? What will the economic future bring?

The University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs will host a panel of experts to address the current financial situation 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Tuesday Oct. 14. The discussion will be followed by an audience question and answer session.

Panelists include:

V. V. Chari, Paul Frenzel Land Grant Chair in Economics, U of M.

Tim Kehoe, professor of economics at the U of M and advisor to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Arthur Rolnick, senior vice president and director of research for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Thomas Stinson state economist for the State of Minnesota and professor of applied economics at the U of M.

The panel will be moderated by Jay Kiedrowski, a senior fellow at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. Kiedrowski is a former Wells Fargo executive, Minnesota Commissioner of Finance, and budget director for the City of Minneapolis.

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served in the Humphrey Center Atrium following the panel.

Seating is limited and registration is required. Guests may register by phoning (612) 625-5002.

Folk singer Rennie Sparks to give presentation on music and songwriting at U of M

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October 10, 2008

Rennie Sparks of the Handsome Family folk duo will discuss, “Pretty Polly and the Itsy Bitsy Spider -- Strange Fascinations and Mysterious Bloodshed in the Wilderness of Folk Song” at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15 in 155 Nicholson Hall, 216 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis.

Lyricist, short story writer and sometimes vocalist and instrumentalist Rennie Sparks is one half of the Handsome Family along with husband Brent. In addition to their seven albums (the latest of which, “The Last Days of Wonder,” debuted in 2006) the duo appeared in the Leonard Cohen tribute film “I’m Your Man” (2005) as well as 2004’s “Searching for the Wrong-Eyed Jesus.”

The talk, which is hosted by the University of Minnesota’s department of cultural studies and comparative literature, is part of the Winton Chair lecture series. Author Greil Marcus holds this fall’s Winton Chair in the College of Liberal Arts and is also teaching a short course entitled “The Old Weird America.” Marcus is a legendary former Rolling Stone magazine rock critic and noted author of such books as “Mystery Train” (1975), “Dead Elvis: A Chronicle of a Cultural Obsession” (1991) and “Invisible Republic: Bob Dylan’s Basement Tapes” (1998).

“Having Greil Marcus as the Winton Chair in our department this fall is a fantastic opportunity for our students in many ways,” said professor John Archer, chair of the Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature department. “It allows them to meet and learn from a distinguished cultural critic, as well as to bring a prominent musician, a film director and poet into the discussion.”

For more information on the event, contact Victoria Keller 612-625-8371.

Upcoming lectures in the Winton Chair series include:

- Todd Haynes, director of the 2007 critically acclaimed Bob Dylan biopic film “I’m Not There,” in conversation with Greil Marcus -- 5 p.m., Oct. 29
- Greil Marcus’ presentation of “Blackface: Then and Now” -- 4 p.m., Nov. 10
- Robert Polito and a presentation and dramatization of “Hollywood and God,” his forthcoming collection of poems, lyrics, essays, collage and narrative -- 5 p.m, Nov. 12.

All events are free and open to the public, and take place in 155 Nicholson Hall.

Board of Regents to meet at University of Minnesota, Duluth next week

When: Thursday, Oct. 16 - Friday, Oct. 17

Where: University of Minnesota, Duluth campus

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

October 10, 2008

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold its monthly meeting at its Duluth campus (UMD) next week. At the meeting, the board will take action on the university's 2009-10 biennial state budget request. In September, President Robert Bruininks presented the board with a proposed \$141.2 million request.

"We understand that times are tight - at the same time, I have a personal responsibility as president of the University of Minnesota to tell the legislature and governor what we have done to maximize the return on the state's previous investments and what we need to continue to deliver on our mission on behalf of the state," said Bruininks. "Our elected leaders must then decide how best to allocate the state's limited resources, with an eye toward the state's economic future and the needs of its workers, students and families."

The schedule for the meeting is as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 16

11:30 a.m., Recognition of 2008 NCAA Champion UMD Women's Hockey team and Coach Shannon Miller, Griggs Hall.

1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Education Planning and Policy Committee, Ballroom A, Kirby Student Center. In addition to hearing strategic positioning updates from the Crookston, Duluth, Morris and Rochester campuses, the committee will receive the profile of the 2008 freshman class.

1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, Ballroom B, Kirby Student Center. The committee will hear a report on employee professional development and organizational effectiveness. In addition, innovative student services efforts at UMD, including the Transformational Leadership Program, will be highlighted.

3:45 - 4:45 p.m., Board work session, Kirby Ballroom. Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration Robert Jones and U of M Extension Dean Bev Durgan will provide a presentation and discussion on the university's extension and research stations and their significance to the institutions statewide mission.

Friday, Oct. 17

9 - 11 a.m., Board of Regents, Kirby Ballroom. In addition to discussion and action on the university's \$141.2 million state biennial budget request, Provost Thomas Sullivan will present the "University Plan, Performance and Accountability Report" and UMD Chancellor Kathryn Martin will provide an update on the Duluth campus.

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

U of M College of Design to host annual architecture conference on biology and computing

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October 10, 2008

The Association for Computer-Aided Design in Architecture (ACADIA) will hold its annual conference “Silicon + Skin: Biological Processes and Computation” Thursday-Sunday Oct. 16-19 at the University of Minnesota. The four-day conference will examine the impact of biological processes in nature on sustainable design and take place at various venues at the university. The conference is free and open to the public.

U of M architecture professor Marc Swackhamer is the chair for the keynote event, which will take place from 8-10 p.m. Friday Oct. 17, in the Rapson Hall courtyard, 89 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis. Architecture professor Blaine Brownell will also be one of the conference's featured speakers.

The content of the conference focuses on the relationship between biology and computing and presents a unique opportunity for students, faculty and the public “to be at the center of a critical conversation regarding the direction of digital production” in architecture, according to Swackhamer.

More information, including a complete conference schedule, as well as listings of paper and project topics, workshops, exhibitions and keynote lectures can be found at www.acadia.org/acadia2008. Please call 612-624-7434 for more information.

University of Minnesota professor wins national evolution education award

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/13/2008) —Randy Moore, a professor in the College of Biological Sciences, has been named winner of the National Association of Biology Teachers Evolution Education Award. Moore will receive the award, given to one K-16 biology teacher annually, at the association's annual meeting in Memphis, Tennessee on October 17.

For nearly 30 years, Moore has taught biology based on evolution, incorporating it as the unifying theme of biology as well as his classes.

"There is no controversy among biologists over whether evolution occurs, nor are there science-based alternative theories," Moore says. "Teaching evolution as a unifying theme is the best way to show students what biology is all about and to help them understand our world. It's one of the most important, useful and liberating ideas in science."

Moore has also worked outside the classroom to improve public understanding of science by advising states on science education guidelines, conducting teacher workshops and media interviews, and building dialogue between scientists and religious groups.

"I was raised to understand and respect religious traditions, but I strongly oppose the teaching of creationism in science classes," Moore says. "Distorting science with creationist nonsense to placate a few religious groups is not only educational malpractice, it also belittles faith."

Moore has authored four books on evolution, most recently "More Than Darwin: An Encyclopedia of the People and Places of the Evolution-Creationism Controversy," which he wrote with his colleague, Mark Decker.

As a professor in the Biology Program, which is run by the College of Biological Sciences, Moore teaches introductory biology, a popular class entitled "The Evolution-Creationism Controversy," and a Learning Abroad course called "Biology of the Galapagos," which takes students on a research-based trip to see "evolution's workshop." [To view a multimedia presentation on "Biology of the Galapagos," go to <http://www.cbs.umn.edu/main/multimedia/galapagos/>]

The education award, which is given for innovation 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.

Moore, who has earned numerous other teaching awards from local and national organizations, holds a doctorate in biology from the University of California, Los Angeles. He is available for interviews about evolution in the classroom and the evolution-creationism controversy.

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Pulitzer Prize-winning Native American author Scott Momaday at U of M to give lecture on stories and storytellers

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October 13, 2008

Scott Momaday, referred to as “the dean of American Indian writers” by The New York Times, will give the University of Minnesota’s annual Guy Stanton Memorial Lecture at 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21 in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis. The lecture, which is sponsored by the U of M Graduate School, is entitled “Native American Oral Tradition: The Stories and Storytellers.”

Momaday holds an important place in the American literary arts. He was the first Native American to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his novel, “House Made of Dawn,” in 1969. He has garnered countless awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Autry Museum of Western Heritage Humanities Prize, a prize from the Academy of American Poets and the “Mondello,” Italy’s highest literary honor. In 2004 Momaday was named a UNESCO Artist for Peace, in recognition of his outstanding achievements as a writer and painter and his efforts to safeguard Native American heritage. He was awarded the National Medal of Arts by President George W. Bush at the White House in Nov. 2007 and is also the poet laureate of the state of Oklahoma.

“The Graduate School is delighted to welcome this distinguished author to the university,” said Gail Dubrow, vice provost and dean of the Graduate School. “His presence has attracted enormous attention, both on and off campus, and is a tribute to next year’s 40th anniversary of the founding of our ground-breaking program in American Indian studies.”

Born a Kiowa in the Oklahoma Dustbowl, Momaday was raised on reservations in the southwest United States, steeped in oral tradition. “If I do not speak with care,” he has said, “my words are wasted. If I do not listen with care, words are lost. Stories are not told merely to entertain or instruct. They are told to be believed. Stories are realities lived and believed. They are true.”

The event is free and open to the public, and will last until approximately 1:15 p.m. For more information, contact the U of M Graduate School at (612) 625-7579 or gsfellow@umn.edu.

Patent for renewable alternative to petroleum-derived isoprene granted to U of M researcher

Discovery of isoprene production by bacteria will help make tires greener

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/13/2008) —A researcher at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs was granted a patent for a new process to make a key ingredient in synthetic rubber from bio-based rather than petroleum-based materials. Associate professor Jennifer Kuzma discovered how to produce isoprene from bacteria while doing doctoral research at the University of Colorado-Boulder. She shares the patent with professor Ray Fall and Michele Nemecek-Marshall.

"Isoprene is a chemical compound commonly used in industry that we currently get from petroleum," said Kuzma, chair of the science, technology and environmental policy area at the Humphrey Institute. "My colleagues and I discovered that bacteria produce isoprene and examined under what conditions they produce large amounts. This discovery contributes to finding an alternative and renewable form of isoprene."

About 95 percent of isoprene production is used to produce a synthetic version of natural rubber for tire applications, adhesives, elastomers and other styrene applications. Genencor, a division of Danisco A/S, and Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. have entered into an exclusive licensing agreement with the researchers to use their patented process to develop Biolsoprene™. Use of the renewable alternative could make the tire and rubber industry less reliant on oil-derived products, such as synthetic rubber made from petroleum-derived isoprene.

"It's exciting to have been part of a project that could have a positive effect on the environment and reduce our dependence on oil," says Kuzma.

Genencor plans to manufacture and supply Biolsoprene™ to Goodyear and other companies by 2012.

U of M mourns country's first openly gay male state legislator and longtime history professor Allan Spear

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/13/2008) —Allan Spear, the country's first openly gay male state legislator and a longtime history professor at the University of Minnesota for 36 years, died Saturday night at age 71 after complications following heart surgery. Spear leaves behind a legacy as one of the state's most influential legislators and left an indelible impact on students and colleagues at the university.

"As both a faculty member and the state senator representing our Minneapolis campus, he truly was a transformational leader who was deeply committed to our institution," said U of M President Robert Bruininks of Spear. "There is probably no greater honor for any leader than to have those who follow you say you made a difference in their lives and the lives of the community. That can certainly be said of Allan Spear."

"Allan believed, as a good historian, that not knowing our history can mean we repeat the same mistakes over and over," said colleague Toni McNaron, a professor emeritus of English at the university who came out publicly shortly before Spear in 1974. "His teaching was always infused with an urgency to apply what was learned in his classrooms to the nightly news, or to a person's attitudes toward their neighbors who might not always agree with them."

Spear began teaching in the University of Minnesota's history department in 1964 and retired in 2000 after 36 years of academic scholarship as an associate professor of history. In 2000, the University of Minnesota's Steven J. Schochet Center for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Studies celebrated Allan Spear's life and work by naming a speech in the Schochet Distinguished Lecture Series in his honor, the Spear Lecture in Public Policy.

Spear inaugurated the Spear Lecture in Public Policy on Sept. 26, 2000 and the series has since been a forum for prominent figures such as U.S. Congressman Barney Frank and U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, as well as activists and scholars of GLBT Studies such as Suzanne Pharr and Dean Spade.

Spear was one of the chief architects of the 1993 Human Rights Act Amendment, which extended a guarantee of protection from discrimination in employment, education, and housing to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Minnesotans. It is with the passage of this act that Allan realized what he himself called his "proudest legislative achievement." A selection of his personal papers are archived in the U of M's Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies.

"Allan was proud of his role as a ground-breaker for our communities," said Beth Zemsky, former founding director of the U of M's GLBT Programs Office. "Once he opened a door, whether in the state legislature, at the university or in the community, he was committed to helping others walk through it. Allan was always accessible for a discussion, to attend a community meeting, to lend a funny or pointed story, or to share one of his deeply held convictions. He was a valued mentor, adviser and friend who will be deeply missed."

A private burial for Spear has been scheduled, and a public memorial service will be arranged. He is survived by his long-term partner of over twenty years, Junjiro Tsuji.

U of M political experts to answer election questions at panel forum

What: Views from the U: The Political Science of Election 08 panel forum

When: 6 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20

Where: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis

Who: Moderator Frank Sorauf and U of M political science professors William Flanigan, Larry Jacobs, Joanne Miller, John Sullivan and Kathryn Pearson

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October 14, 2008

What if you could ask specific questions of real experts about election issues? Learn how experts analyze campaigns and elections? Discover state-of-the-art scholarship with fresh insight and context?

The University of Minnesota department of political science is providing the public with the opportunity to ask and get answers to those questions in an open forum featuring five of its faculty experts on campaigns and elections at 6 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20 in the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis. Drawing on the best available research, these experts will address critical aspects of the current election.

U of M political science professor and panel member Kathryn Pearson details the forum's unique format in a video interview that can be viewed by visiting www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/election_event.htm.

"This event is a unique opportunity to learn about the current campaigns and elections from some of the world's leading scholars," said Raymond Duvall, chair of the political science department. "Going well beyond the limited insights that pundits are able to provide through the media, the panelists will help the audience understand the elections in a new light based on the highest quality research."

Moderated by regents professor emeritus Frank Sorauf, the panel will feature professors William Flanigan, Larry Jacobs, Joanne Miller, John Sullivan and Pearson. They will address key questions in modern politics, including: campaign strategy, political advertisements, campaign finance, race and gender, the national economy, electoral rules and procedures and the elements of politics that distinguish Minnesota's place in the nation.

"The audience can ask specific questions of real experts, and will leave the event with new perspectives to make sense of the current election," said Duvall.

The event is free and open to the public.

U of M sponsors Pete Hammett speech on "The New Map of Leadership"

When: 7:30-9:15 a.m., Friday, Oct. 17

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

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October 14, 2008

There is near unanimous agreement that the skills required for effective leadership today have changed from what they were five years ago. From 7:30-9:15 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 17, Pete Hammett of the worldwide group Center for Creative Leadership will discuss recent research on the challenges facing organizations as they seek to develop new leaders. The speech will take place in the Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul and is sponsored by the U of M's College of Continuing Education (CCE).

The Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) has leveraged its access to public and private sector leaders to research how and why the leadership landscape has changed in recent years. In this presentation, Hammett will describe what CCL clients reported, explore how CCL's assessment data supports the descriptions and scan the literature across multiple disciplines to create a compelling picture of the future needs of leadership.

Hammett will discuss current global trends, differences in leadership practices around the world, and what developmental approaches will be necessary in the future.

Hammett is the director of the Client and Assessment Services Group at CCL, and is the author of "Unbalanced Influence - Recognizing and Resolving the Impact of Myth and Paradox in Executive Performance" (Davies-Black Publishing, 2007). He has more than 20 years of experience in areas such as operations, technology, client relationship management and business process reengineering.

Tickets for this Strategic Leadership Insights event are \$75, and can be obtained at cce.umn.edu/corporateeducation/leadershipinsights or by calling 612-624-4000. At the event, continental breakfast will be served.

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.

U of M to confer honorary degree on Minnesota Orchestra music director Osmo Vänskä at Oct. 18 concert

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/14/2008) —The University of Minnesota School of Music will confer an honorary degree on Minnesota Orchestra Music Director Osmo Vänskä at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18 at the School of Music's Collage Concert at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th Street S., Minneapolis. The Collage Concert will feature Vänskä conducting the University of Minnesota Symphony Orchestra and Combined Choirs.

The Doctor of Humane Letters is the highest award conferred by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, recognizing individuals who have achieved acknowledged eminence in their field.

"The School of Music Collage Concert is our annual gift to the Twin Cities community and holding this honorary degree ceremony at the concert is a fitting tribute to Maestro Vänskä, who has dedicated his life to music education and has infused his singular spirit into the cultural life of Minnesota," said School of Music director David Myers. "This exciting event will allow the university and the Twin Cities music community the opportunity to publicly thank Maestro Vänskä for his many contributions."

Kathy Romey, U of M School of Music associate professor, director of choral activities and artistic director of the Minnesota Chorale enthusiastically supported Vänskä's honorary degree nomination. "Through his dedication and impeccable work, Osmo Vänskä embodies the ultimate professional," she said. "He is an individual practicing his craft at the highest level, a conductor impacting the profession locally, nationally and internationally, and a person serving society through his art with commitment, passion, humility and integrity. We are extremely fortunate to count Mr. Vänskä as a member of the Twin Cities arts community."

"I am simply grateful and humbled by this news from the University of Minnesota," said Vänskä. "It will be my great privilege to accept this generous honor, and I look forward to my upcoming work with the School of Music students."

The Finnish conductor became the Minnesota Orchestra's tenth music director in September 2003. Praised for his intense and dynamic performances, Vänskä is recognized for compelling interpretations of the standard, contemporary and Nordic repertoires, as well as the close rapport he establishes with the musicians he leads. In his initial seasons in Minnesota, Vänskä has drawn acclaim for concerts both at home and abroad, including a 2006 tour of major European festivals, a 2004 tour to European music capitals and performances in communities around Minnesota.

During his tenure, he has emphasized Beethoven, Nielsen and Bruckner in programming, been named Conductor of the Year by Musical America, championed new music in the orchestra's annual Future Classics concert and made his Twin Cities debut as a clarinetist. He has recorded the complete Beethoven symphonies with the orchestra for the Swedish BIS label, with each album in the five-disc project receiving superlative reviews and the recording of the Ninth Symphony receiving a Grammy nomination. As a guest conductor, he appears with the world's finest orchestras.

Vänskä has extended his tenure with the Minnesota Orchestra through 2011.

The Collage Concert is free and open to the public. Admission and seating for the Collage Concert is first-come, first-served. Parking is available in the 21st Ave. ramp, one block southwest of the concert hall. Photographs available upon request. E-mail requests for photographs to marsh396@umn.edu. The School of Music presents more than 400 free concerts and recitals per year. For a complete schedule of events, visit music.umn.edu or call the School of Music events hotline at (612) 626-8742.

U of M climate experts help hundreds of middle schoolers prepare for robotics competition

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/14/2008) —More than 250 students, ages 9 to 14 from across Minnesota, will participate in hands-on sessions at the University of Minnesota's Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16, to learn more about global climate issues and begin preparing for "Climate Connections," the 2008 Minnesota FIRST LEGO League robotics competition.

Examples of more than a dozen interactive sessions for the kids include:

Cloud Cover and Climate Change--8:45-9:45 a.m. and 10:45-11:45 a.m., Rooms 117 and 119 Smith Hall, 207 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis

Students will learn how the presence and absence of clouds affects the global climate. Chemistry researchers will help students to make "clouds in a box" in the lab.

Lake Sediment Core Research--8:45-9:45 a.m. and 10:45-11:45 a.m., Room 672, Civil Engineering Building, 500 Pillsbury Dr. S.E., Minneapolis

Students will learn what core samples taken from the bottoms of lakes around the world tell us about how climate has changed over time and the impacts of people on lake ecosystems. Students will see a demonstration of coring by civil engineering researchers and investigate the texture of lake sediments under a microscope.

Past Climate from Tree Rings--8:45-9:45 a.m., Room 15, Rapson Hall, 89 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis, and 10:45-11:45 a.m., Room 305, Lind Hall, 207 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis
Students will use paper examples of tree cores to learn from geography researchers how tree rings can be used to help us learn about past climate variation before modern weather records.

Human-Climate Interaction Game--9:30-10:30 a.m., Room 8, Magrath Library, 1984 Buford Ave., St. Paul

Students will play simulation games in small groups to show how human changes to landscape patterns might affect species migrations and survival in the event of climate change.

The university event also will include a keynote address given by renowned climate researcher Mark Seeley, a professor in the university's department of soil, water and climate, from 8:45-9:15 a.m. in Room 15, Food Science and Nutrition, 1334 Eckles Ave., St. Paul and again from 9:55-10:30 a.m. in Mayo Memorial Auditorium, 425 Delaware St. S.E., Minneapolis.

This year's LEGO League competition theme, "Climate Connections," will help middle school students discover links between science, people, resources and communities as they relate to climate. The competition challenges students to build small autonomous robots from a kit of more than 1,000 parts, including LEGO pieces and elements such as sensors, motors and gears, to accomplish missions related to climate. Students must also complete an eight-week research project in which they identify a problem caused by climate in their community and create an innovative solution.

Last year in Minnesota, 320 teams competed in LEGO League competitions sponsored by the Minnesota nonprofit group HighTechKids. Worldwide more than 100,000 children in 38 countries compete in LEGO League competitions.

This year's University of Minnesota program is the result of a first-time collaborative partnership between the university's Institute of Technology (the college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics), the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and the college of Liberal Arts, with support from Twin Cities-based CHS, Inc. (formerly known as Cenex Harvest States).

For more information about FIRST LEGO League and HighTechKids visit www.hightechkids.org and www.firstlegoleague.org.

U of M Food and Fund Drive honors Borlaug's legacy

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/14/2008) —Students, faculty and staff at the University of Minnesota will collect food and money this month in honor of Norman Borlaug, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate and U of M graduate who has been credited with saving more than a billion people from starvation.

Today (Oct. 14) has been officially designated as Norman E. Borlaug Day in Minnesota. Borlaug, who earned degrees in plant pathology and forestry from the University of Minnesota, introduced new agricultural techniques in the 1960s “Green Revolution” to help farmers in developing countries grow more productive, disease-resistant food crops. He also was a founder of the international World Food Prize, which will be awarded later this week in Des Moines, Iowa.

“Norman Borlaug is all about making sure people had enough to eat,” said Megan Hines, president of the student board in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, which is helping to organize the food and fund drive. “It seems like a natural fit to honor his work by making sure people in our own communities aren’t going hungry.”

Organizers hope to collect enough food and money to pay for 7,500 meals, or about twice as much as a similar drive raised in 2007. Donations will be processed through Second Harvest Heartland, the area’s largest hunger relief organization.

Food will be collected at bins around the U of M’s St. Paul and Minneapolis campuses from Oct. 20-30. Donors who wish to contribute money online can do so starting today, by visiting www.2harvest.org, clicking on the “Donate Now” button and typing “Borlaug Food Drive” in the comments space. For more details about the food and fund drive, see www.cfans.umn.edu/borlaugdrive.

Minnesota Olympians to be featured at U of M's Tucker Center's Fall Distinguished Lecture

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October 15, 2008

The University of Minnesota's Tucker Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sport has announced that its Fall 2008 Distinguished Lecture Series will take place from 7-9 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22 and feature three Minnesota track and field Olympians: Janis Klecker, Carrie Tollefson and Shani Marks. The lecture, titled "Minnesota Female Olympians: Stories, Experiences and Inspirations" and moderated by U of M professor Doug Hartmann, will be held in Cowles Auditorium in the Hubert H. Humphrey Center, 301 19th Avenue S., Minneapolis.

For a video preview of the event, visit:

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

In the wake of the Beijing Olympics, the Tucker Center is proud to honor and celebrate this elite group of Minnesota's finest female athletes. The purpose of this series is to explore the most important issues related to girls' and women's involvement in sport and physical activity.

The performances of Olympic athletes inspire and captivate our imaginations. However, the Olympics are not only about medal counts and wins and losses. They occur within a complex set of issues related to gender, class, race and nationalism. To provide context for this complexity, along with acknowledging the accomplishments of our distinguished sportswomen, Hartmann will critique the Olympics in general and the Beijing Olympics in particular. He will share his own experiences of his travels to China followed by a discussion with the featured panelists where audience members will learn about their life stories and inspirations.

Janis Klecker competed in the 1992 Olympic marathon in Barcelona, Spain -- the same year she won the Olympic Trials. A native of Edina, and an alumnae of the U of M, Klecker is a five-time qualifier for the Olympic Trials, a Twin Cities Marathon champion and winner of countless other races. These outstanding achievements have earned her a place in the U.S. Track and Field Minnesota Hall of Fame. Currently, Klecker holds the women's world record for the 50,000-meter run, a record she has held for 25 years.

Carrie Tollefson began her career as a distance runner while growing up in Dawson, Minn. She was a 13-time Minnesota State High School champion in both cross country and track and field. However, her unprecedented achievements were just beginning. At Villanova, Tollefson continued her winning ways becoming a five-time NCAA Champion and 12-time All-American. During her post-collegiate career, she has won a national championship in both cross county and indoor track. In the 2004 Olympics, Tollefson competed in the 1500-meter race after winning the Olympic Trials.

Shani Marks, a native of Apple Valley, was a three-time All-American triple jumper and NCAA runner-up while competing for the U of M. Marks is also a two-time defending national champion in the indoor and outdoor triple jump, the reigning Olympic Trials champion and just represented the United States in the triple jump at the Beijing Olympics. Marks is currently in her fourth season as a volunteer track and field coach for the U of M.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.tuckercenter.org or call (612) 625-9671.

Just in time for Halloween, author of the new Annotated Dracula to speak at University of Minnesota

What: Lecture and Book Signing with Leslie Klinger

When: 7:00 p.m., Monday, Oct. 27

Where: Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave S., Minneapolis

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/15/2008) —Leslie Klinger, one of the foremost authorities on the twin icons of the Victorian era --Sherlock Holmes and Dracula-- will be at the University of Minnesota, 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 27 for a signing of his new work, "The New Annotated Dracula." The event will occur at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis.

"Dracula" has gripped readers since its first publication in 1897. While the book has been studied by scholars in virtually every academic discipline, none have accepted Bram Stoker's declaration that the work was based on historical fact. For the first time, Klinger examines all of the evidence, both internal and external, including contemporary travel books, scientific texts, Victorian encyclopedias, as well as Stoker's notes for the narrative and the original manuscript itself (privately owned by Paul Allen, Klinger is one of only two researchers to have seen it in recent years).

Klinger is the editor of the three-volume collection of the short stories and novels, "The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes." He is the winner of the Edgar Award for Best Critical/Biographical Work and nominated for every other major award in the mystery genre.

A reception will follow with author signing; books available for sale courtesy of Once Upon a Crime Bookstore.

Presented by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, this event is free and open to the public. Attendees in costume will be entered for a chance to win a free signed copy of "The New Annotated Dracula."

Trendy, Hip, or Not? U of M Researcher Finds that Retail Display Fixtures can Affect Consumer Perceptions of Products

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/15/2008) —In virtually all stores, consumers view products on display fixtures that are presumed to be of little consequence. Yet, suppose that you were shopping for a set of trendy new coffee mugs and noticed some on a nearby table or shelf. Would your evaluation of just how trendy the mugs are change depending on the display fixture's surface material -- the piece of glass or wood beneath the product? According to University of Minnesota researcher Joan Meyers-Levy, there is reason to believe so.

This work, by the same duo who investigated the effects of ceiling height on people's actions, explores how a consumer's self-view and the display surface a product rests on can interact to affect perception. In research forthcoming in the *Journal of Marketing Research*, Meyers-Levy, a marketing professor at the Carlson School of Management, and co-author Rui (Juliet) Zhu of the University of British Columbia use lab and field experiments to demonstrate this effect.

"Retailers cannot directly control shoppers' perceptions of their goods, but they can anticipate or manipulate the kind of cognition self-view their target consumer uses," said Meyers-Levy. To some degree, this could be accomplished by considering customers' demographic profiles, but marketers could also try to actively shape shoppers' mindsets. In her research, Meyers-Levy demonstrated that simply putting up posters that encouraged shoppers to adopt an independent or an inter-dependent self-view had this effect, thereby influencing their perceptions of products displayed on different table top surfaces.

For consumers, these findings offer an opportunity to be savvy. "If a shopper is aware of the tools used to enhance brand reputation or sales," said Meyers-Levy, "they will be much more likely to make an informed decision, rather than going home with the wrong product."

Meyers-Levy offers this example to illustrate her argument: "Imagine you are at work. All day you have been collaborating on a team project, focusing on a team goal. This experience puts you in an inter-dependent mindset - you have a more global view of the world, where things you encounter are viewed as interconnected. If you go shopping at lunch, this self-view will affect your perceptions of products."

"If a product is part of the display, then the perceptions the consumer has of the fixture become part of their perception of the product. For example, if the consumer thinks that wood is "earthy," then a product -- a mug, a shoe, a watch -- displayed on a wood table will seem more natural or traditional. Or if the product is on a glass table, an inter-dependent minded consumer would think of the very same product as more hip and modern, assuming they think of glass as hip and modern."

"Conversely, if someone had been working all day in a setting where they were competing with others for a promotion, they would be thinking more about themselves as a separate distinctive person who is unlike others; their mindset will be independent. In this case, the shopper would ascribe characteristics to the product that are opposite of those associated with the display surface. Thus, they would regard the mug, shoe, or watch as hip and modern when it is displayed on a wood table, but natural or traditional on a glass table."

Many brands are positioned on dimensions such as trendy (e.g., Diesel), traditional (e.g., L.L. Bean), or all-natural (e.g., Aveda). Meyers-Levy's findings indicate that display surfaces or merchandising can either bolster or damage such product perceptions. For retailers, this insight can also help in choosing displays that offer continuity with their brands.

The paper, "The Influence of Self-View on Context Effects: How Display Fixtures Can Affect Product Evaluations," and more information on Professor Meyers-Levy can be found at carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/jmeyers-levy.

U of M to host U.S. Senate candidate forums

Al Franken to speak on Oct. 22; Sen. Norm Coleman to speak on Oct. 23

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/16/2008) —The U of M's Center for the Study of Politics and Governance is hosting a series of public forums with the major party candidates for Minnesota's U.S. Senate seat. The forums will take place at the Hubert H. Humphrey Center's Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The forums create an opportunity for the candidates to address the important policy challenges facing Minnesota and the country. It also creates a forum for students and citizens to listen and raise questions with the candidates. The events are free and open to the public.

Scheduled Forums:

Al Franken, Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party Candidate, U.S. Senate
Wednesday, Oct. 22
1:00 - 2:15 p.m.
Humphrey Forum
Hubert H. Humphrey Center
301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Senator Norm Coleman, Republican Party Candidate, U.S. Senate
Thursday, Oct. 23
Noon - 1:15 p.m.
Cowles Auditorium
Hubert H. Humphrey Center
301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Dean Barkley, the Independence Party candidate for the U.S. Senate, held a panel discussion on Oct. 8

The Center for the Study of Politics and Governance develops practical, independent and non-partisan solutions to pressing political and policy challenges. Founded in 2005, CSPG fosters effective and efficient governance, increases the transparency of government processes and rebuilds the public trust in order to counteract negative influences that threaten our democracy.

To request disability accommodations, please call (612)625-2530 or email cspg@umn.edu.

U of M to host "Obama Effect" conference Oct. 23-25

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October 16, 2008

The University of Minnesota's School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC) presents "The Obama Effect," a conference to discuss the compelling issues and events that have surrounded Barack Obama's presidential campaign. From his keynote speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention to his nomination for the presidency, the political successes of Obama have challenged conventional wisdom about race, politics, media and generation. The conference, which is sponsored by the SJMC, Minnesota Journalism Center and the department of African and African American studies, will take place Thurs., Oct. 23 through Sat., Oct. 25 in various locations on the Twin Cities campus. All events are free and open to the public.

A complete schedule of conference events, campus maps, and parking information are available at www.sjmc.umn.edu/obama.html.

On Thurs., Oct. 23, Desiree Cooper, noted journalist and senior correspondent for American Public Media's "Weekend America," will open the conference with her reflections on covering Obama's campaign. Following her presentation, Minnesota State Sen. Mee Moua, Minnesota State Rep. Carlos Mariani and community organizer Pakou Hang will discuss local effects of Obama's candidacy.

Additional conference highlights include panel presentations titled "Obama and the Re-Mix of the American Dream," "New Voters and the Obama Campaign," "African Journalism and Obama," "New Media, the Internet and Obama," and "Race and the 'Post-Racial/Post-Civil Rights' Candidate." The conference also will feature roundtable discussions about Michelle Obama and the media as well as the youth movement in Obama's campaign.

"We are thrilled to host this conference here on the University of Minnesota campus," said Catherine Squires, professor of journalism, diversity and equality in the SJMC. "This presidential election and the Obama campaign have engendered more participation and excitement than most people can remember, and we are excited to hear the insights and perspectives of our conference panelists and speakers."

Academic profile of incoming U of M freshman improves system wide

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/16/2008) —All four of the University of Minnesota's undergraduate campuses saw notable improvements in the academic profile of the 2008 freshman class, the university's Board of Regents learned today. Total enrollment at the Crookston, Duluth, Morris and Twin Cities campuses increased by 0.3 percent, from 66,099 in Fall 2007 to 66,312 in Fall 2008.

“Across our campuses, the University of Minnesota is committed to attracting students who are prepared to succeed,” said Provost Thomas Sullivan. “Consistent with the University's strategic plan, we are aggressively working to make sure those students who attend the University of Minnesota have the ability and drive to take full advantage of the tremendous educational opportunities we offer, and to graduate in a timely manner. I am pleased with the continuing progress we have made over the past several years.”

TWIN CITIES: Enrollment on the Twin Cities campus grew by 0.5 percent, from 50,883 in 2007 to 51,140 in 2008. In two key indicators of academic performance, the Twin Cities campus saw notable increases in the 2008 freshman class. The percentage that graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class rose from 43.9 percent to 44.8 percent (up from 33.1 percent five years ago). And, the average ACT composite score continued a six-year trend of improvement, reaching 26.2, which is up from 25.9 last year. The Twin Cities campus also saw a modest increase in the percentage of students of color, from 20.1 percent in 2007 to 20.4 percent this year.

CROOKSTON: Crookston campus (UMC) total enrollment saw a decline of 6.3 percent, from 2,346 last year to 2,199 this year, due largely to a planned decline in the number of non-degree seeking students. Undergraduate enrollment is up 5.7 percent over last year. The academic profile of the freshman class at UMC jumped significantly. The percentage graduating in the top ten percent of their high school class rose from 7.5 percent in 2007 to 10.4 percent in 2008. The percentage in the top 25 percent of their high school class increased from 23.1 percent last year to 33 percent this year.

DULUTH: The Duluth campus (UMD) saw a total enrollment increase of 1.6 percent, from 11,184 in 2007 to 11,366 in 2008. The academic profile of the UMD freshman class also improved on key indicators. The percentage of freshman in the top 10 percent of their high school class rose from 15.4 percent in 2007 to 16.6 in 2008. The average ACT composite score also increased, from 23.4 last year to 23.6 this year.

MORRIS: At the Morris campus (UMM), total enrollment saw a modest decline (4.7 percent) from 1,686 in 2007 to 1,607 in 2008. The percentage graduating in the top ten percent of their freshman class grew from 25.3 percent in 2007 to 27.7 percent in 2008. The percentage graduating in the top 25 percent of their freshman class also increased from 59.1 percent last year to 59.6 percent this year. The average ACT composite score held steady at 25.

James Parente named Dean of University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/16/2008) —University of Minnesota Provost Thomas Sullivan today named professor James A. Parente as dean of the University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts (CLA), subject to approval by the university's Board of Regents, which is expected to act at its November meeting.

Parente, the current interim dean, is a professor and former chair of the Department of German, Scandinavian and Dutch and associate dean for faculty and research. He has been a member of the university's faculty since 1993 and has previously served on the faculty at Princeton University and the University of Illinois at Chicago. He earned both his Ph.D. and M.A. from Yale University, in German Languages and Literatures.

“Parente will be an outstanding and visionary leader and strategic thinker who will promote excellence across the entire college. Those who know his exceptional academic work know that it spans multiple time periods, disciplines and languages, and know also the enormous respect he has for the social sciences, humanities and arts,” said Sullivan. “As dean of this academically diverse and important college, he will be committed to the values of deep, broad thinking and teaching, and he will ensure that CLA flourishes as an intellectual community.”

Parente's awards include the National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for Independent Study and Research and a Visiting Appointment to the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. He is a discipline representative to the Renaissance Society of America and external evaluator for the National Endowment for the Humanities, a dozen scholarly journals and department and academic programs at UCLA, Harvard, Cornell and the University of Pennsylvania.

Parente's candidacy received strong and consistent support from faculty, students, staff and alumni. CLA is the university's largest college and is critical to help the university achieve its goal of becoming one of the top three public research universities in the world. Parente succeeds Steven Rosenstone as Dean.

For an image of Parente, visit: <http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/photos/parente.html>

Gopher Men's Hockey fans should allow extra travel time for Saturday's game due to road construction

Contacts: Sandy Cullen, Parking and Transportation Services, (612) 625-6009 or cell (651) 398-7864

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/17/2008) —Fans coming to the Gopher Men's Hockey Team home opener on Saturday, Oct. 18 should plan for a little extra travel time to Maricucci Arena because of construction. Oak Street north of University Avenue is reduced to one lane in each direction.

University of Minnesota Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) recommend that fans avoid that part of Oak Street and PTS officials recommend the following options:

Option 1

Park in a different part of campus and avoid the area altogether. This method will most likely result in a quicker commute to/from the game.

- From northbound I-35W, park in the Washington Avenue Ramp. Take exit 17C (U of M/Third Street) across the Washington Avenue Bridge to East Bank.
- From southbound I-35W, park in the Fourth Street Ramp. Exit at University Avenue/Fourth Street (#18). Head east on University Avenue. Turn left on 17th Avenue and proceed one and one-half blocks to the Fourth Street Ramp entrance on your left or bypass the ramp and take a right on Fifth Street Southeast to park in Lot 37.
- From east and westbound I-94, park in the Oak Street Ramp. Exit at Huron Boulevard. At the first traffic signal, take a left on Fulton Street Southeast. Proceed two blocks and go right at Ontario Street (one-way). Continue one and one-half blocks to the Oak Street Ramp entrance on your left.
- From Highway 280, park in the Northstar or Ski-U-Mah Lots. Exit on University Avenue and head west. Take a right on 25th Avenue for three blocks (you will drive on a gravel road for a bit) then a left on Sixth Street Southeast to reach the Ski-U-Mah Lot or Northstar Lot.

Option 2

Bypass traveling on that section of Oak Street. On the east side, use Huron Boulevard/23rd Avenue and Sixth Street Southeast; or on the west side, use 15th or 17th Avenue and Fifth Street Southeast to access parking at Lot 37 and Lot 33. View the East Bank campus map online at <http://www1.umn.edu/pts/maps.htm>.

Disability parking is available in Maroon Lot and Lot 58 at the event rate of \$10.00.

After the game, PTS suggests that you continue to avoid Oak Street, north of University Avenue, by traveling on the above recommended routes.

U's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs celebrates the release of "Humanitarianism in Question: Politics, Power, Ethics"

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/17/2008) —The Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs will celebrate professor Michael Barnett's book, "Humanitarianism in Question: Politics, Power, Ethics," with a release event at 4:00 p.m. Oct. 23, Freeman Commons at the Humphrey Institute, 301 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public.

In *Humanitarianism in Question: "Politics, Power, Ethics"* (Cornell University Press, 2008) Humphrey Institute professor Michael Barnett and colleague Thomas Weiss bring together scholars from a variety of disciplines to address the humanitarian identity crisis, including humanitarianism's relationship to accountability, great powers, privatization and corporate philanthropy, warlords and the ethical evaluations that inform life--and--death decision making during and after emergencies.

For much of the last century, the principles of humanitarianism were guided by neutrality, impartiality, and independence. According to Barnett and his co-editor, some humanitarian organizations have begun to relax these tenets. The book contributors discuss the recognition that humanitarian action can lead to negative consequences, which has forced humanitarian organizations to measure their effectiveness, reflect on their ethical positions, and consider not only the values that motivate their actions but also the consequences of those actions.

Foreign Affairs Magazine called "Humanitarianism in Question: Politics, Power, Ethics," "a superb survey of the rise and challenges of international humanitarian assistance."

For more information on Barnett and his book, visit www.hhh.umn.edu.

University of Minnesota Rochester Announces First Undergraduate Degree

Curriculum for Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences will be delivered in unique, integrated format

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/17/2008) —The University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR) announced today that it has received provisional approval by the Board of Regents to recruit and admit students for the Rochester campus's first four-year undergraduate degree program. The Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences (BSHS) program will admit its inaugural class of freshman students for fall 2009.

The BSHS program will be offered exclusively in Rochester and will admit up to 150 students the first year. BSHS students will have the opportunity to learn about and experience a variety of career paths within health sciences during their first two years of study before selecting which professional or career track they choose to pursue. The BSHS prepares students for a broad spectrum of health-science-related fields, including health professions and preparation for admission to professional schools, including medicine, dentistry and veterinary science. Additional opportunities include entry-level science and laboratory positions in industry, government agencies and universities.

The curriculum will be offered in a unique format in which faculty will engage students through structured, integrated learning platforms, illustrating connections among biological sciences, quantitative sciences, life sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. The goal of the new curricular structure is to personalize the learning experience through integrating student learning and assessment. Applications for the BSHS will be available later this semester, but interested students can contact the UMR Admissions office at (507) 280-4621 or applyUMR@umn.edu to receive information about applying.

“There are a lot of emerging career opportunities within the field of health sciences,” said UMR Chancellor Stephen Lehmkuhle. “The new program is designed to empower more students to achieve high academic goals and enable them to pursue the health-related careers that are vital to furthering economic growth in southeastern Minnesota.”

The University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR) is the newest campus of the University of Minnesota system. While the University of Minnesota has been offering higher education opportunities in Rochester since 1966, UMR was formally established as a coordinate campus in December 2006 and is located in University Square in the heart of downtown Rochester.

Study finds lack of sleep, excessive computer screen time, stress and more hurt college students' grades

University of Minnesota study is the first to present data showing direct link between health-related behaviors and grades

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/20/2008) —Lack of sleep, excessive television/computer screen time, stress, gambling, alcohol and tobacco use and other health-related issues are taking a toll on college students' academic performance, according to a study released today by the University of Minnesota Boynton Health Service.

"Our study shows that there is a direct link between college students' health and their academic achievement. This is the first time that anything like this has been published where Grade Point Average is linked to all these behaviors," said Dr. Ed Ehlinger, the director and chief health officer of the University of Minnesota Boynton Health Service.

To view a video about the study, see
http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/boynton_08.htm

Today's report, "Health and Academic Performance: Minnesota Undergraduate Students," is part of one of the most comprehensive studies of college students' health in the nation. About 24,000 students from 14 Minnesota colleges and universities were randomly selected to participate in this study and 9,931 completed the 2007 College Student Health Survey Report. The results only include undergraduate students from two-year and four-year institutions. All five University of Minnesota campuses were included in the survey.

In the results, 69.9 percent of college students reported they were stressed and 32.9 percent of those students said that stress was hurting their academic performance. In fact, the mean GPA for students saying stress impacted their academics was 3.12, compared with the 3.23 mean GPA for students who didn't believe it was affecting their academics. "While this may seem like a small difference in GPA, when you are looking at over 9,000 students the impact of this difference is huge," Ehlinger said.

Twenty percent of students reported that sleep difficulties impacted their academics. In fact, those students who reported getting fewer nights of adequate sleep had a mean GPA of 3.08 compared with a 3.27 mean GPA for those who do not report sleep deficiencies.

"The more days students get adequate sleep -- the better GPAs they attain," Ehlinger said. "There is a direct link between the two."

When it comes to excessive television and computer use (not including academic use), 30.4 percent of students surveyed reported excessive screen time. Thirteen percent of those with the issue reported that it impacted their studies; these students had a lower mean GPA of 3.04 compared with a mean GPA of 3.27 for those who said the problem did not impact them.

"Turning off the computer or TV and going to sleep is one of the best things our students can do to improve their grades," Ehlinger said.

Students who reported that they had smoked during the past 30 days had a 3.12 mean GPA compared with a 3.28 mean GPA for students who reported not smoking. The study revealed surprising information for students who even smoke infrequently.

"Even students who smoked once or twice in a month had lower GPAs than those who didn't smoke," Ehlinger said. "Using tobacco to calm down or 'to be social' is lowering students' grades."

Ehlinger hopes that this study's results will spur college students to change behavior and for colleges to pay more attention to the health of their students.

"We hope this information helps students make wise decisions," Ehlinger said. "If you're investing a lot of time and money in your education, do you really want to waste your investment on behaviors that interfere with your academic success?"

The report also includes information on mental health, health insurance, physical activity levels, financial issues, drug use, injury, sexual assault and alcohol use.

Members of the public, along with students and health officials, should pay attention to the results of this report, because the health of college students is important to society, Ehlinger said.

"College students are so important for our economic development -- the development of our society," Ehlinger said. "One way to protect that investment in our future is to help them stay healthy."

Along with the University of Minnesota's campuses, the survey included Alexandria Technical College; Anoka-Ramsey Community College; Lake Superior College; Minnesota State Community and Technical College; North Hennepin Community College; Northwest Technical College; Bemidji State University; Concordia College and Minnesota State University, Moorhead.

Minnesota's higher education systems collaborate with Willmar and private industry to open research center for biotechnology business development

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/20/2008) —Plans for a \$2.5 million biotechnology research and business development center in Willmar, Minn. were unveiled today by officials for the city, the MinnWest Technology Campus, the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

The Mid-Central Biosciences Center will be operated by the University of Minnesota and will occupy a building on the MinnWest Technology Campus, a private venture that provides facilities for new and expanding businesses in biosciences, technology and related industries. Development of the center is made possible by a \$1.25 million grant from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to the city of Willmar, along with matching funds from MinnWest Technology Campus.

The building will be renovated and equipped as a biotechnology laboratory and research center. Renovation is set to begin immediately and expected to be completed by next fall.

“This is a landmark opportunity,” said Jim Sieben, president of MinnWest Technology Campus. “I do not know of another example in our state where private industry has collaborated so closely with public higher education and the community in which it resides.

“The University of Minnesota provides the best research capabilities in our state, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system equips young adults to apply practical solutions to this research, and private industry can bring all of it to market,” Sieben said. “This is a big step toward realizing MinnWest’s goal of advancing Willmar as a center of economic excellence.”

The partners said the new center will provide incentives for new and existing businesses to become involved in bio-business endeavors, which encompasses everything from pharmaceuticals to renewable energy to agribusiness. The center will offer access to laboratory and research equipment that otherwise would not be affordable to startup companies and small businesses.

High-technology companies will have greater access to the expertise and research capacity of the university's faculty who will be able to participate in applied research programs with private industry partners. The University of Minnesota has a proven track record in technology transfer with 767 current licensing agreements in effect and an average of 82 patent applications and 80 new business applications per year since 2001. The university currently serves the Willmar area through the University of Minnesota Extension, a poultry research facility, a dental clinic and other programs.

St. Cloud State University (SCSU) will be the lead institution for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system in this project. Students from SCSU and the University of Minnesota will be involved through coursework, laboratory studies and research internships. These experiences will give them valuable research skills in business and industry settings that will prepare them to work in the 21st century and to become the next generation of scientific researchers needed to keep Minnesota at the forefront of bio-business.

“It isn’t enough to conduct groundbreaking research,” said University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks. “This knowledge has to be shared with those who can use it to solve practical problems, stimulate our economy and create jobs for our citizens. Thanks to this generous investment by the state and together with Willmar, MinnWest and our Minnesota State Colleges and Universities partners, we can turn Willmar into the bio-business hub of the country.”

James McCormick, chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, said, “The center builds the state’s capacity to advance research, development and marketing of new biotechnology products and to create a highly trained workforce for developing industries. This collaboration draws on the strengths of each higher education system and can serve as model for other regions of the state. We also believe it will help ensure Minnesota’s competitive edge.”

Willmar City Administrator Michael Schmit said, “We believe this bio-science center will spur development of exciting job and educational opportunities that will enhance the local economy and help Willmar become a leading center for these industries by providing access to technology and academic resources that are not available elsewhere.”

The MinnWest Technology Campus, which opened about three years ago, has established a community of technology and support businesses with 230 employees. MinnWest invested \$9 million to provide tenant companies with technological networks, business support and amenities such as a cafeteria, fitness center and soon a daycare center.

North American debut of U of M music professor's piano solo to be performed Oct. 29

Lecture discussing work to be hosted by pianist, U of M professor Oct. 28

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October 21, 2008

The University of Minnesota School of Music and Institute for Advanced Study present the North American premiere of internationally acclaimed composer James Dillon's cycle for solo piano "The Book of Elements," performed by Noriko Kawai, world-renowned pianist and U of M visiting associate professor, at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 29 in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th Street S., Minneapolis.

Prior to the North American premiere, the School of Music is also hosting a lecture on Dillon's work with Kawai and professor Michael Cherlin, which will take place at 7:30 p.m. Tues., Oct. 28 at the Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall in Ferguson Hall, 2106 4th Street S., Minneapolis.

These events offer two opportunities to get closer to the music of one of the 21st century's most adventurous composers. Dillon is currently a professor of composition at the U of M School of Music.

Composed between 1997 and 2002, "The Book of Elements" is a cycle for solo piano in five volumes. Volume V was the occasion of Dillon's second Royal Philharmonic Society Award for chamber-scale composition (this was followed by an unprecedented third Royal Philharmonic Society Award in 2005 for Dillon's Fourth String Quartet). Kawai, who performed the world premier of Volume II in 2001, has recorded the entire cycle for NMC to critical acclaim.

"James Dillon strikes me as that rare of artists having an unfettered imagination, extraordinary craft and a vital life force that comes through in his music," said Cherlin. "It is music of surprising emotional range and technical diversity, capable of exquisite beauty, joyous and even extravagant energy. Dillon can be majestic, and he can be ridiculous, his music sings and it dances, and he does it all with a sense of timing that is uncanny in its rightness."

A pre-concert discussion will begin at 7 p.m., 30 minutes prior to the Oct. 29 performance in Ted Mann Concert Hall. Parking is available in the 21st Ave. ramp, one block southwest of the concert hall. Photographs are available upon request, and requests can be sent to Lisa Marshall at marsh396@umn.edu.

The New York Times Company's Catherine Mathis at U of M to discuss changing face of media

What: Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon Series

When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 4

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

Contacts: Kevin Moe, Carlson School of Management, (612) 626-7540, moex0022@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

October 21, 2008

Catherine Mathis, senior vice president of corporate communications for the New York Times Company, will speak at the Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 4, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

In her speech, "The Times...We are a Changin'," Mathis will talk about the role the media plays in a democracy, how technology is affecting the media business in ways no one ever imagined and how one media company is transforming itself during a time of seismic change.

Mathis joined The New York Times Company in February 1997 as director of investor relations. In December of that year, the Association for Investment Management and Research awarded the company the "Most Improved Investor Relations Program" designation in the publishing industry. She was named senior vice president in December 2007.

In 2002, the YWCA of New York City selected Mathis as one of its "Women Achievers." In 2006, she was named Communicator of the Year by the New York chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). This honor is the chapter's highest award, recognizing integrity and excellence in everyday communications or in response to specific crises or challenges.

Mathis attended the University of Minnesota, earning a bachelor's degree in business administration and an MBA degree in marketing and management information systems. She serves on the board of the National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI) and the Better Business Bureau of Metropolitan New York. Previously, she served on the board of NIRI's New York chapter from 1995 to 2004 and is a past president. She is also a past president of the Investor Relations Association.

The advance registration deadline for the First Tuesday luncheon is Thursday, Oct. 30. 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, Oct. 31. There are three ways to register: call (612) 626-9634, visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/events, or send an e-mail message to firsttuesday@umn.edu.

U of M aims for Guinness World Record by giving 10,000 flu shots to students, faculty and staff Oct. 28

University hopes to shatter previous record and test emergency vaccination response system

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu
Dave Golden, Boynton Health Service, (612) 626-6738, DGolden@bhs.umn.edu

October 21, 2008

The University of Minnesota's Boynton Health Service is looking to set a Guinness World Record on Tuesday, Oct. 28 for the most flu shots given in a single day. Boynton Health Service, with help from the U of M's School of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, Medical Reserve Corps and the Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association, hopes to dispense between 6,000 and 10,000 free flu shots at four locations around the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses that day, shattering the previous Guinness World Record of 3,271.

University students, faculty, staff and their dependents are all eligible to receive the free vaccination. Members of the general public are not eligible.

In addition, the mass one-day vaccination effort will serve as a test of the university's emergency response mechanism, to see how many people can be inoculated in a short period of time.

The record-breaking effort will take place at four different locations from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 28 -- the Northrop Auditorium Plaza (84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis), Java City at Moos Tower (515 Delaware St. S.E., Minneapolis), the Hubert H. Humphrey Center atrium (301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis) and the North Star Ballroom in the St. Paul Student Center (2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul).

"A flu shot can save your life," said Ed Ehlinger, director of Boynton Health Service. "They work to not only reduce absenteeism and sickness, but also stop the spread of the virus to susceptible groups like the elderly and children. Getting a flu shot is good for you and everyone around you."

More than 60 trained personnel will be distributing the shots during the nine-hour window on campus. Tents and heaters (if necessary) will be set up at the outdoor Northrop Plaza location, and cookies will be given to those who get the shot.

The intensive one-day vaccination attempt will also serve as a test of the U of M's emergency response system.

"Not only will this event raise awareness about flu vaccinations, but it will also allow us to test our emergency response -- to see if we are able to provide 10,000 vaccinations in a day if we are ever faced with a mass public health emergency," Ehlinger said.

The previous one-day Guinness flu shot record of 3,721 was set in November of 2006 in Sanford, Florida. Boynton Health Service administered more than 16,000 such shots in 2007, and nearly 40 percent of the Twin Cities campus student body reported that they received the vaccine.

"I hope this world record only lasts for one year," said Ehlinger. "This is the first time we have ever attempted something like this, but if this event goes as planned, it is a record we would like to break year after year."

More information on the event is available at www.bhs.umn.edu

Alum Stan Freese, Mickey Mouse to cap U of M homecoming festivities as parade grand marshals

Parade to mark rare outside appearance for Disney's Mickey

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October 22, 2008

The last University of Minnesota homecoming celebration before the opening of TCF Bank Stadium will get underway next week, and this year's festivities will feature a couple of well known faces. Accompanying notable alumnus and longtime Walt Disney executive Stan Freese as grand marshals of the Saturday, Nov. 1 homecoming parade will be one of America's most beloved icons: Disney's own Mickey Mouse.

"We're delighted to bring the world-famous Mickey Mouse and alumnus Stan Freese, the talent booking director for Walt Disney Companies, to campus to be the grand marshals of the 2008 University of Minnesota homecoming parade," said Margaret Carlson, CEO of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. "Although Mickey Mouse is not an alumnus, Freese agreed to bring his friend along to make this very special appearance and draw attention to the 'Pride of Minnesota,' our marching band. We're thrilled to have our parade led by one of the most beloved Disney characters in America."

The Homecoming 2008 parade starts at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, on the Twin Cities East Bank campus along University Avenue. The route will begin at Pleasant Street and travel east along University Avenue to Williams Arena on Oak Street.

"It is rare indeed, that Mickey Mouse ever ventures out of his Disney theme park home, which makes this year's parade appearance especially exciting for me," said Freese, chair of the fund-raising effort for the marching band's new practice space in TCF Bank Stadium. "I really hope U of M alumni, students, friends and fans come out and say hi to Mickey and me at the parade on Nov. 1."

The 2008 homecoming celebration, which gets underway Monday, Oct. 27, carries the theme "Marching Into the Future" and will feature a number of exciting events, culminating with Saturday morning's parade down University Avenue and the 11 a.m. Minnesota vs. Northwestern football match-up at the Metrodome. The year's notable on-campus events include a Thursday pep rally in the "Superblock" area (with appearances by football coach Tim Brewster and men's basketball coach Tubby Smith, as well as the U of M spirit squad and marching band), Wednesday "Greek and Residence Life Day" promotions (feature games, rock climbing and free food), as well as a Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday.

A complete schedule of homecoming events, including times and locations, can be found at homecoming.umn.edu.

Director Todd Haynes of Dylan biography "I'm Not There" to speak at U of M

When: 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 29

Where: 155 Nicholson Hall, 216 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis

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October 22, 2008

Todd Haynes, celebrated director of many films including the 2007 Bob Dylan biography "I'm Not There," joins acclaimed writer Greil Marcus (author of "The Old, Weird America: Bob Dylan's Basement Tapes") at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 29, in 155 Nicholson Hall, 216 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis. The presentation will be followed by a reception in 131 Nolte Center, 315 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis.

Todd Haynes is the director of "Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story" (1987), "Poison" (1991), "Safe" (1995), "Velvet Goldmine" (1998) and "Far from Heaven" (2002), among other films. He won Best Director at the 2002 Independent Spirit Awards for "Far From Heaven," which also received an Oscar nomination, and in 2008 he was awarded the Robert Altman Award for "I'm Not There."

This talk is part of the Winton Chair lecture series. Marcus holds this fall's Winton Chair in the College of Liberal Arts and is teaching a short course in the department of cultural studies and comparative literature, "The Old Weird America."

"Having Greil Marcus as the Winton Chair in our department this fall is a fantastic opportunity for our students in many ways," said professor John Archer, chair of the Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature department. "It allows them to meet and learn from a distinguished cultural critic, as well as to bring a prominent musician, a film director and poet into the discussion."

Upcoming lectures in the Winton Chair series:

- Greil Marcus will present "Blackface: Then and Now" -- Nov. 10, 4 p.m.
- Robert Polito will give a presentation and dramatization of Hollywood and God, his forthcoming collection of poems, lyrics, essays, collage and narrative -- Nov. 12, 5 p.m.

All Winton Chair lectures are held in 155 Nicholson Hall.

Big or small, every organism burns energy at the same rate according to study co-authored by U of M researcher

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/22/2008) —From tiny bacteria to the world's largest mammals, living things use energy at roughly the same rate, a new study co-authored by a University of Minnesota professor has found.

The study, titled “Mean mass-specific metabolic rates are strikingly similar across life’s major domains: Evidence for life’s metabolic optimum,” appeared recently in the Early Edition online section of the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and will be published in an upcoming issue. The research disproves conventional wisdom that smaller beings necessarily use more energy, pound for pound, to stay alive. The study involved 3,006 species of plants and animals, all of which fell into a relatively narrow range of resting metabolic rates despite a much, much larger range in body mass.

The results suggest that metabolic rates within that narrow range are optimal for sustaining life on earth and that organisms using energy at a rate outside that range may not survive, said Peter Reich, a Regents professor in the university’s forest resources department and a co-author of the study. “Our interpretation is that there aren’t very many accidents in nature, so it’s not just a coincidence that all these different organisms fall within this narrow physiological window,” said Reich.

Reich and his co-authors say that while the study sheds light on the principles of life organization and evolution, other important questions remain, such as how this phenomenon is affected by temperature and other factors.

Reich’s co-authors on the study are from universities in Russia, South Africa and the University of California-Riverside.

Acclaimed African American Authors to headline Fifth Annual NOMMO Authors Series at University of Minnesota

What: Fifth annual NOMMO African American Authors Series

When: Wednesday, Nov. 5 (Sonia Sanchez); Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009 (John Edgar Wideman); Thursday, April 23, 2009 (Ntozake Shange). All events begin at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey Center, 301 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis

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October 23, 2008

The Givens Foundation for African American Literature and the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries are pleased to present the NOMMO African American Authors Series, a three-event series featuring three widely acclaimed contemporary African American writers: Sonia Sanchez, John Edgar Wideman and Ntozake Shange. Each event features a writer reading from his or her work and engaging in dialogue with host Alexis Pate, U of M professor and author of the novel "Amistad." The events take place on Wednesday, Nov. 5, (Sanchez), Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009 (Wideman), and Thursday, April 23, 2009 (Shange), 7 p.m. at Cowles Auditorium in the Hubert H. Humphrey Center, 301 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis.

The Givens Foundation has presented the NOMMO African American Authors Series annually since 2004. This is the second year the series has been co-presented by the Givens Foundation and the University of Minnesota Libraries. Tickets are \$10 per event or \$25 for the three-event series. Complimentary tickets are available to U of M students and Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries.

For more information on tickets call 612-624-2345 or visit <http://www.tickets.umn.edu>

"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, Sonia Sanchez, John Edgar Wideman and Ntozake Shange 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. Each of these writers has made monumental contributions to our culture and will bring vast experience, knowledge and wisdom as well as exuberance to our discussion."

Sanchez is the author of over 16 books, including the 1985 American Book Award winner "Homegirls and Handgrenades" and National Book Critics Circle Award finalist "Does Your House Have Lions?" She has received other prestigious honors including the Langston Hughes Poetry Award in 1999, the Poetry Society of America's 2001 Robert Frost Medal and was named a Ford Freedman Scholar from the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Sanchez was the first Presidential Fellow at Temple University, where she held the Laura Carnell Chair in English.

Wideman is the author of more than 18 books of fiction and nonfiction. He was the first writer to win the PEN/Faulkner Award twice, in 1984 for "Sent for You Yesterday" and in 1990 for "Philadelphia Fire." His memoir, "Brothers and Keepers" received a National Book Critics Circle nomination, and his memoir "Fatheralong" was a finalist for the National Book Award. In addition, he has won the Rea Award for the Short Story, the Lannan Foundation Fellowship for Fiction and the MacArthur grant. Wideman's articles on Malcolm X, Spike Lee, Denzel Washington, Michael Jordan, Eminem, Thelonious Monk and others have appeared in The New Yorker, Vogue, Esquire, Emerge, and the New York Times Magazine. Wideman is on the faculty of the African Studies department of Brown University.

Shange is author of the play "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf: a Choreopoem," which won an Obie and was nominated for Tony, Grammy and Emmy awards. Shange has also published four novels including Pen-Faulkner nominee "Indigo." Her poetry collections include: "A Daughter's Geography," "Nappy Edges," "Ridin the Moon in Texas," and "The Space Love Demands." Among her many awards are a Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Poetry, and a Pushcart Prize. She has taught at California State College, the City College of New York, the University of Houston, Rice University, Yale, Howard and New York University.

U of M Athletics Department to visit Lake County

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October 23, 2008

With the first on-campus stadium in 28 years, the sounds, sights and excitement of University of Minnesota football will echo 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 Minnesota counties and Gopher Athletics is reaching out to engage the entire state of Minnesota over the next year with a statewide tour.

The U athletics department will visit Lake County at 4:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 7. The event will take place at the Silver Bay S.K.A.T.E. Kick-off Event, Rukavina Arena, 129 Outer Drive, Silver Bay.

Join Laura Halldorson, former women's hockey coach who will address the S.K.A.T.E. group on the importance of academics and athletics and will also share her thoughts on the Statewide County Tour and TCF Bank Stadium.

The event is free and open to the public. Contact Lana Fralich at lanaf@silverbay.com or 218-226-4408 with questions.

Construction 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 substantial completion in July 2009 and will open for the first Gopher football game of the season on Sept. 12, 2009.

For more information visit on TCF Bank Stadium and the Statewide Tour go to www.stadium.gophersports.com and click on "Support the Stadium" and "Statewide Tour."

Renowned female mathematician to speak on wavelets at U of M Oct. 29

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Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, (612) 626-7959, rzurn@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/24/2008) —Professor Ingrid Daubechies, considered to be one of the most important mathematicians of our time, will speak at a public lecture at the University of Minnesota at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 29 in Room 125, Willey Hall, 225 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Daubechies is a math professor at Princeton University. Her talk, “Surfing with Wavelets,” will examine tools used by scientists and non-scientists for analyzing sounds and images known as wavelets.

Wavelets are used in the popular jpeg2000 for image compression, by the FBI for encoding digitized fingerprints records, in medicine for managing images from MRI scans and at libraries for storage of huge archive collections.

Daubechies has received numerous awards, including a MacArthur Fellowship, a \$500,000 award often referred to as the “genius award.”

“Professor Daubechies is an an incredible role model for women in science and math,” says Fadil Santosa, director of the University’s Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA), which is sponsoring the event. “She is brilliant researcher and her work is influential, both because she built a rigorous mathematic understanding for wavelets and because her results can be used for so many far-reaching applications.”

Daubechies talk is part of the IMA’s series, “Math Matters,” public lectures. For more information, visit www.ima.umn.edu.

The IMA was founded in 1982 to foster interdisciplinary research between mathematics, other science disciplines, and industry in order to find solutions to important scientific and technological problems. The IMA is funded primarily by the National Science Foundation.

U of M Opera Theatre to open season with Britten's "The Rape of Lucretia" Nov. 6-8

What: University of Minnesota Opera Theatre presents Benjamin Britten's The Rape of Lucretia

When: Thursday, Nov. 6 - Saturday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Nov. 9 at 1:30 pm

Where: Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis

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Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

October 27, 2008

The University of Minnesota Opera Theatre kicks off its 2008-09 season with Benjamin Britten's "The Rape of Lucretia," an operatic exposé of sexual and cultural violence set amidst the backdrop of imperialist war. Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6 through Saturday, Nov. 8 and at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9 in Tedd Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

"The Rape of Lucretia" remains as relevant today as when it was premiered in England in 1946, one year after the end of World War II. The U of M performance will be put on by theatre graduate students and is set somewhere in the Middle East during the modern day.

Britten's third opera, "The Rape of Lucretia," was based on the play *Le Viol de Lucrece* by French author Andre Obey, which was in turn inspired by Shakespeare's full-length poem "Lucrece" based on Roman history from sixth century B.C.

The story tackles the question of how violence impacts and shapes societies/cultures, illuminating the senseless violence of war and its prevalence in the historic relationship between men and women.

"The production will take its cue from the text of the opera by placing the story in a 'contemporary' context and treating it as a modern parable with implicit references for our own times," said director David Walsh. "Young people similar in age to the original characters, lending greater authenticity to the progression of events, will perform the roles in the opera. The combination of spare, evocative sets and lighting, integrated video and projection elements and costumes will all contribute to this rare opportunity to see Britten's unique theatrical masterpiece."

Mark Russell Smith, artistic director of orchestral studies at the School of Music and the director of New Music Projects of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra will conduct the performances. A pre-performance discussion with Walsh begins 45 minutes before each staging 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 requests for photographs to marsh396@umn.edu.

For more information, visit opera.umn.edu.

Minnesota Vikings to make appearance Tuesday at U of M flu shot world record attempt

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October 27, 2008

The University of Minnesota has scored another ally in its attempt to break the Guinness World Record for most flu shots given in one day -- the Minnesota Vikings. Vikings players, cheerleaders and mascot Viktor will make an appearance on the Northrop Auditorium Plaza (84 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis) from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28.

The Vikings personnel will be on hand to visit with those getting immunized, sign autographs and pose for pictures as the U of M's Boynton Health Service attempts to administer upwards of 10,000 vaccines between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday. The previous official Guinness record is just shy of 3,300, although the Mayo Clinic in Rochester reports to have immunized over 7,400 employees last Tuesday.

University students, faculty and staff (and their dependents age 18 and over) are eligible to receive the free shots. Members of the general public are not eligible.

Northrop Plaza is one of four on-campus locations where the shots will be given, including Java City at Moos Tower (515 Delaware Street S.E.), the Hubert H. Humphrey Center atrium (301 19th Avenue S.) and the Northstar Ballroom in the St. Paul Student Center (2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul).

The visit is made in conjunction with the Vikings Tackling Influenza program, a joint partnership between the Vikings organization and U of M Department of Pediatrics that has sponsored free flu clinics throughout the metro in an effort to protect children and families from seasonal influenza.

More information on this record-breaking attempt can be found at www.bhs.umn.edu/services/worldrecord.htm, and a promotional video for the event can also be viewed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKHDesnvgqs

Solar energy efficiency is topic of Nov. 1 workshop at the University of Minnesota

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/27/2008) —Solar energy experts and mathematicians from across the country will gather at the University of Minnesota for a one-day workshop to discuss ways to improve the efficiency and economic viability of solar energy for the future. The workshop, “Scientific Challenges in Solar Energy Conversion and Storage,” will take place from 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 1 at the University of Minnesota Electrical Engineering/Computer Science Building, Room 3-180, 200 Union St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Eray Aydil, a U of M chemical engineering and materials science professor and solar energy expert, said that solar energy has huge potential.

“We could supply all the electrical power used in the United States by covering an area as small as 100 miles wide by 100 miles long with 15-percent-efficient solar cells,” Aydil said. “The next step is to find a way to take the science of solar cells and make them not only efficient, but also inexpensive to manufacture. More efficient solar cells are too expensive to compete with current fossil fuel costs.”

The workshop, organized and sponsored by the university’s Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA), will bring together scientists and mathematicians from universities and industry.

“The workshop’s goal is to inform participants from broad backgrounds in science and math on all aspects of this problem of national significance,” said IMA Director Fadil Santosa. “Participants will then brainstorm ideas for funding proposals to the National Science Foundation’s SOLAR initiative, which will provide \$5 million per year for the research.”

To participate in the solar energy workshop, researchers are asked to send an e-mail to the IMA at directors@ima.umn.edu

The IMA is a National Science Foundation Mathematics Institute with the mission of fostering interdisciplinary research to address important problems arising in science, technology, and society. It was established in 1982 on the University of Minnesota campus.



World-renowned nutrigenomics expert to speak at U of M

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October 28, 2008

A pioneer in the study of how genetics, diet, the environment and cardiovascular disease are related will speak at the University of Minnesota next month.

Jose Ordovas, professor of nutrigenomics at the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University, will be the featured speaker at this year's Henderson Lecture. His talk "Genome-guided nutrition: fact or fancy" begins at 3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17 in the Cargill Building, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul.

This event is sponsored by the departments of food science and nutrition and biochemistry, molecular biology and biophysics, as well as the Healthy Foods Healthy Lives Institute.

"Dr. Ordovas is performing work at the cutting-edge of this field and is an outstanding choice for this lectureship," said Mindy Kurzer, director of the Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute. "We are extremely fortunate and excited to be able to bring him to the University of Minnesota."

The lecture is named in honor of LaVell M. Henderson, a former biochemistry professor and nutrition scientist at the University of Minnesota; the series of lectures focus on nutritional biochemistry.

University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management recognized for its impact on the field of management

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/28/2008) —The University of Minnesota ranked ninth on a list of the 100 most-cited universities in the field of management over the last 25 years in a recent *Journal of Management* article. Andrew Van de Ven, professor and Vernon H. Heath Chair of Organizational Innovation and Change in the Carlson School's strategic management and organization department, ranked 15th on the article's list of the 150 most-cited authors in the field of management during the past quarter century.

The article, "Scholarly Influence in the Field of Management," identified the universities and research scholars with the greatest impact on the field of management during the past 25 years. The authors examined 30 top-tier management journals to identify the 100 most-cited universities and 150 most-cited authors from 1981 to 2004. The analysis included more than 1,600 universities and 25,000 management scholars across five individual time periods.

Another impressive result was that the U of M was one of 15 universities that consistently ranked in the top quartile for all periods studied, making it one of a handful of institutions continuously impacting the field of management during the past quarter century. Additionally, Carlson School professors Richard Arvey (Emeritus, Rank 116th) and Roger Schroeder (Rank 129th) were also included on the list of 150 most-cited authors in the field of management during the last 25 years.

Other University of Minnesota faculty members on the list of most-cited authors in the field of management include: Joyce Bono (Carlson School), Alison Davis-Blake (Carlson School dean), Deniz Ones (Psychology), Paul Sackett (Psychology), Harry Sapienza (Carlson School), Connie Wanberg (Carlson School), Aks Zaheer (Carlson School), Srilata Zaheer (Carlson School), and Shaker Zahra (Carlson School).

The researchers also studied where the most-cited authors received their graduate degrees and where they are faculty members. Fifteen of the most-cited authors had received their graduate degrees from the University of Minnesota; 11 of the most-cited authors were currently affiliated with the University of Minnesota. This means that the University of Minnesota is recognized for both producing students who become highly cited authors and also for having faculty members who have achieved this status.

The article appeared in the *Journal of Management's* August 2008 issue. "This study spotlights the fact that the University of Minnesota is a significant player among the relatively small number of universities and authors with tremendous influence in the management discipline," says Alison Davis-Blake, dean of the Carlson School of Management and Investors in Leadership Distinguished Chair in Organizational Behavior. "We have played - and continue to play - a leading role in shaping the direction of this field. Our leadership in this area strongly supports the University of Minnesota's goal of becoming one of the top three public research universities in the world."

U of M alumn Stan Freese, special guest Mickey Mouse to cap homecoming festivities at Saturday parade

Parade marks rare outside appearance for Disney's Mickey

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October 28, 2008

NOTE: An earlier version of this release incorrectly identified Mikey Mouse as grand marshal of the parade. Stan Freese will be the parade's lone grand marshal.

The last University of Minnesota homecoming celebration before the opening of TCF Bank Stadium gets underway this week, and this year's festivities will feature a couple of well known faces. Notable alumnus and longtime Walt Disney executive Stan Freese will serve as grand marshal of the Saturday, Nov. 1 homecoming parade. Accompanying Freese will be one of America's most beloved icons: Disney's own Mickey Mouse.

"We're delighted to bring the world-famous Mickey Mouse and alumnus Stan Freese, the talent booking director for Walt Disney Companies, to campus for the 2008 University of Minnesota homecoming parade," said Margaret Carlson, CEO of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. "Although Mickey Mouse is not an alumnus, Freese agreed to bring his pal along to make this very special appearance and draw attention to the 'Pride of Minnesota,' our marching band. We're thrilled to have Mickey as a part of our parade."

The Homecoming 2008 parade starts at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, on the Twin Cities East Bank campus along University Avenue. The route will begin at Pleasant Street and travel east along University Avenue to Williams Arena on Oak Street.

"It is rare indeed, that Mickey Mouse ever ventures out of his Disney theme park home, which makes this year's parade appearance especially exciting for me," said Freese, chair of the fund-raising effort for the marching band's new practice space in TCF Bank Stadium. "I really hope U of M alumni, students, friends and fans come out and say hi to Mickey and me at the parade on Nov. 1."

The 2008 homecoming celebration, which got underway Monday, carries the theme "Marching Into the Future" and will feature a number of exciting events, culminating with Saturday morning's parade down University Avenue and the 11 a.m. Minnesota vs. Northwestern football match-up at the Metrodome. The year's notable on-campus events include a Thursday pep rally in the "Superblock" area (with appearances by football coach Tim Brewster and men's basketball coach Tubby Smith, as well as the U of M spirit squad and marching band) and Wednesday's "Greek and Residence Life Day" promotions (feature games, rock climbing and free food).

A complete schedule of homecoming events, including times and locations, can be found at homecoming.umn.edu.

University of Minnesota gives 11,538 flu shots Tuesday, shattering single day Guinness World Record

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/28/2008) —The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities shattered the Guinness World Record for the most flu shots given in a single day today (Tuesday, Oct. 28) by dispensing 11,538 flu vaccines, according to early reports. The official number will be released on Wednesday, Oct. 29.

By noon Tuesday, the U of M had given 4,371 flu shots, easily eclipsing the previous Guinness World Record of 3,271. That record was set in November of 2006 in Sanford, Florida.

For b-roll from today's record-breaking event and interviews with Dr. Ed Ehlinger, director and chief public health officer at the University of Minnesota Boynton Health Service and two students, visit: http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/flu_broll.htm

"This has been a wonderful success," Ehlinger said about Tuesday's event. "Not only have we broken the record, but we vaccinated so many people and raised awareness about the importance of flu vaccines when it comes to the health of college students."

The university's Boynton Health Service, with help from the U of M's School of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, Medical Reserve Corps and the Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association, dispensed flu shots from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday at four locations around the campus in Minneapolis and St. Paul. More than 60 trained personnel distributed the shots during the nine-hour period. University students, faculty, staff and their dependents (ages 18 and older) were eligible to receive the free vaccination.

"We needed to find some way to raise the whole issue of immunizations among college students, and we figured what better thing on a college campus than to go after a world record. Students have responded to it," Ehlinger said.

In addition, the mass one-day vaccination effort served as a test of the university's emergency response mechanism, to see how many people can be inoculated in a short period of time. The single day effort proved successful in that respect as well, Ehlinger said.

"If we need to mobilize our Medical Reserve Corps to deal with an influenza outbreak or a small pox outbreak, we'll have had the training with this event to allow us to do that," Ehlinger said.

What about U of M students, faculty and staff who haven't received the flu shot yet? No problem, said Ehlinger, as there will be several other flu clinics at the university in the weeks to come. Visit Boynton's website at <http://www.bhs.umn.edu> for more information.

U of M groups celebrate "Day of the Dead" with costumed procession Oct. 31

Día de los Muertos celebration seeks to preserve traditional ritual

Contacts: Kelly O'Brien, College of Liberal Arts, 612-624-4109, obrie136@umn.edu

October 30, 2008

University of Minnesota students, faculty and staff will celebrate Dia de los Muertos ("Day of the Dead") beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 31 on the East Bank campus. A procession with costumed participants, dancers and noise makers will travel across campus (beginning at Klaeber Court, 320 16th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis), stopping at hand-made altars, or ofrendas, that both remember lost loved ones and address the theme "Re-membering Our Histories: Stories of Empowerment."

The procession will go from Klaeber Court to Scott Hall (72 Pleasant St. S.E.) by noon, continue to the La Raza Student Cultural Center (211 Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E.) by 1 p.m. and continue in front of Coffman Memorial Union until approximately 1:45 p.m. An introduction of an ofrenda, along with the serving of pan de muerto ("bread of the dead") and chocolate will also take place in the front of Coffman at that time.

The event is sponsored by the U of M's Chicano studies department, the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence, La Raza Student Cultural Center and Department of Theatre Arts and Dance.

One ofrenda will be constructed in the theme of remaking the history of Latinas who have experienced misogyny; another will be on the theme of remaking the history of individuals who have died at the hands of discrimination.

The Day of the Dead is a tradition that dates back to the ancient civilization of the Aztecs. Nov. 1 is El Día de los Angelitos ("the day of the little angels," referring to children under the age of 12 who have passed away) while Nov. 2 is El Día de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead), or Día de Todos los Santos (All Saints Day). During these two days, it is custom to honor the deceased with marigold flowers and the cleaning of graves and altars that have offerings for the dead.



Political analysts to discuss 2008 election results at University of Minnesota

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/30/2008) —Two of Minnesota's sharpest political analysts, former Republican Congressman Vin Weber and Barack Obama's Minnesota State Director, Jeff Blodgett, will break down the results of national and Minnesota elections from 9 a.m - 10:15 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 5 at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Professor Larry Jacobs will moderate the discussion.

This event is free and open to the public. A continental breakfast will be available before the event at 8:30 a.m.

The event is being hosted by the Humphrey Institute's Center for the Study of Politics and Governance.

To request disability accommodations, please call 612-625-2530 or email cspg@umn.edu

University of Minnesota receives top marks for being champion of sustainability

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/30/2008) —The University of Minnesota received top marks among Big Ten schools and 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 Cambridge, Mass.-based non-profit organization that provides comparative evaluation of campus and endowment sustainability activities at colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.

The university's overall grade rose from a "B" last year to a "B+" this year -- the highest grade among Big Ten schools. The university also received "A's" in the categories of Food and Recycling, Endowment Transparency, Investment Priorities and Shareholder Engagement, and scored well in the categories of Administration, Climate Change and Energy, Green Building, Student Involvement and Transportation.

The U's full-page profile can be found on the GreenReportCard.org Web site.

The U of M also received one of five Champions of Sustainability in Communities Awards given by the Sustainable Endowments Institute for the first time this year. The Champions Award recognizes schools with community partnerships that demonstrate the impact of collaboration in achieving sustainability goals. The university was recognized for work done with the U of M Regional 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.

People driving to the U of M's East Bank this weekend should allow extra travel time

Contacts: Sandy Cullen, Parking and Transportation Services, (612) 625-6009 or cell phone (651) 398-7864

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/30/2008) —People coming to the University of Minnesota's East Bank for homecoming activities and athletic events this weekend should plan for a little extra travel time because of construction. Currently, Oak Street north of University Avenue is reduced to one lane in each direction. From 10 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 31 until 5 a.m. Monday, Nov. 2, Oak Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets, will be completely closed to traffic in both directions.

University of Minnesota Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) recommends that fans avoid that part of Oak Street and PTS officials recommend the following options:

Option 1

Park in a different part of campus and avoid the area altogether. This method will most likely result in a quicker commute to/from the game.

- From northbound I-35W, park in the Washington Avenue Ramp. Take exit 17C (U of M/Third Street) across the Washington Avenue Bridge to East Bank.
- From southbound I-35W, park in the Fourth Street Ramp. Exit at University Avenue/Fourth Street (#18). Head east on University Avenue. Turn left on 17th Avenue and proceed one and one-half blocks to the Fourth Street Ramp entrance on your left or bypass the ramp and take a right on Fifth Street Southeast to park in Lot 37.
- From east and westbound I-94, park in the Oak Street Ramp. Exit at Huron Boulevard. At the first traffic signal, take a left on Fulton Street Southeast. Proceed two blocks and go right at Ontario Street (one-way). Continue one and one-half blocks to the Oak Street Ramp entrance on your left.
- From Highway 280, park in the Northstar or Ski-U-Mah Lots. Exit on University Avenue and head west. Take a right on 25th Avenue for three blocks (you will drive on a gravel road for a bit) then a left on Sixth Street Southeast to reach the Ski-U-Mah Lot or Northstar Lot.

Option 2

Bypass traveling on that section of Oak Street. On the east side, use Huron Boulevard/23rd Avenue and Sixth Street Southeast; or on the west side, use 15th or 17th Avenue and Fifth Street Southeast to access parking at Lot 37 and Lot 33. View the East Bank campus map online at <http://www1.umn.edu/pts/maps.htm>.

Disability parking is available in Maroon Lot and Lot 58 at the event rate of \$10.

Shuttle buses from campus serving the Gopher football game on Saturday will continue on their normal routes.

"Hotel Rwanda" inspiration Paul Rusesabagina to speak at U of M Monday, Nov. 3

Media Note: Rusesabagina will not be available for media interviews at this event.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/30/2008) —Paul Rusesabagina, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide and subject of the 2004 film "Hotel Rwanda," will speak at the University of Minnesota from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 3 in Northrop Auditorium, 84 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis. This free event, which is open to the public, is part of a new course for incoming freshmen within the U of M's College of Education and Human Development.

A short reception with light refreshments will follow.

Rusesabagina's inspiring transformation from hotelier to protector of neighbors and strangers caught in the middle of the Rwandan conflict (a story made famous by actor Don Cheadle in the 2004 Oscar-nominated film) provides a powerful answer to the question "Can one person make a difference?" This question formed the basis of the college's First Year Inquiry (FYI) course, a one-semester class being taught for the first time this fall in the department of postsecondary teaching and learning.

As part of the curriculum, all 425 FYI students, as well as additional college faculty and staff, have read and discussed Rusesabagina's autobiography "An Ordinary Man." The students will also have the rare opportunity to discuss their views on the book with Rusesabagina himself in a morning classroom visit on November 3.

"We believe that 'An Ordinary Man' allows all of our students -- those for whom war is a distant abstraction, as well as East African refugees, the children of Southeast Asian refugees, or those with family members serving in the military, for example -- to understand what it means to act on one's beliefs even when caught in the apparently insurmountable forces of history," said Amy Lee, associate professor and chair of the department of postsecondary teaching and learning.

U of M Athletics Department to visit Beltrami County

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

October 31, 2008

With the first on-campus stadium in 28 years, the sounds, sights and excitement of University of Minnesota football will echo 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 Minnesota counties and Gopher Athletics is reaching out to engage the entire state of Minnesota over the next year with a statewide tour.

The U athletics department will visit Beltrami County from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15. A Gopher Women's Hockey Fan Rally & Reception event will take place at the Lobby of the Hampton Inn & Suites, 1019 Paul Bunyan Drive S., Bemidji. Come cheer on the #2 Gopher Women's Hockey Team and hear from Coach Brad Frost before their 2 p.m. game against Bemidji State University.

The event will also allow Beltrami County Gopher fans the opportunity to learn more about TCF Bank Stadium from Laura Halldorson, former women's hockey coach. Gopher giveaways, ticket information, schedule cards, buttons and posters, along with snacks and beverages will be provided. Contact the Golden Gopher Fund at 612-626-4653 or gjf@umn.edu with questions.

For more information visit on TCF Bank Stadium and the Statewide Tour go to www.stadium.gophersports.com and click on "Support the Stadium" and "Statewide Tour."

Construction Update

The second year of Stadium construction is underway. The steel Stadium structure is now in place and the seating bowl is complete. The Stadium will be fully enclosed by fall 2008 when major interior finishing will begin. The TCF Bank Stadium is slated for substantial completion in July 2009 and will open for the first Gopher football game of the season on September 12, 2009.

U of M to host Non-Traditional Student Week: Nov. 3 through 7

Contacts: Susan Warfield, director of the University's Student-Parent Help Center, (612) 625-0825
Bob San, University News Service, (612) 624-4082

November 3, 2008

The University of Minnesota will celebrate its annual Non-traditional Student Week with a series of information events Nov. 3 to Nov. 7.

Activities for this event will include daily information booths featuring resources for identified target populations as well as the general university community at Coffman Union and St. Paul Student Center. A celebratory pizza party, hosted by the Veteran's Transition Center, will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7 in room 302, Wesbrook Hall, 77 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis.

"All students are welcome to join in this week long recognition of student parents, veterans, older than average and first generation college students," said Susan Warfield, director of the university's Student-Parent Help Center. "Non-traditional students are particularly encouraged to attend the Friday luncheon and to visit the resource tables in Coffman featuring resources specific to the needs of each non-traditional student population."

The schedule of events can be found below:

Monday, Nov. 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Coffman Union: Student Parents

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Coffman Union: First Generation College Students

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Coffman Union: and St. Paul Student Center: Older than Average Students

Thursday, Nov. 6, 2008, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Veterans

Friday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: 302 Wesbrook Hall, Veteran's Transition Center, free pizza luncheon. All students, staff and faculty are welcome.

Two University Enterprise Laboratories tenants named Tekne award winners

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/03/2008) —Two tenants of the University Enterprise Laboratories, (UEL) were recently named 2008 Tekne awards winners. Presented by the The Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA), The Tekne Awards acknowledge companies and individuals who have demonstrated superior technology advancement and leadership in Minnesota.

Syntiron, a biotechnology company, that develops vaccines and therapeutics for the prevention and treatment of a wide range of bacterial diseases, received the 2008 Biotechnology Tekne award given to the company that excels in the field of agriculture, food science and pharmaceuticals.

Patrick Guire, president of Innovative Surface Technologies, was named the 2008 Tekne Technology Executive of the Year Award in the small and growing company category. Founded in late 2004, Innovative Surface Technologies develops biotechnology and surface chemistry R&D programs.

The awards come one year after another UEL tenant, The University of Minnesota's Academic and Corporate Relations Center (ACRC), received the 2007 Tekne Innovative Collaboration of the Year Award.

"These awards give more evidence of how the business community can interact and collaborate with the abundant resources of the university to make their businesses stronger," said Dick Sommerstad, director of the Academic and Corporate Relations Center.

Among many things, noted Sommerstad, Syntiron utilized ACRC in the search for their chief executive officer and both Innovative Surface Technologies and Syntiron employ researchers with ties to the U of M.

UEL is a nonprofit research center that was formed in 2005 by the University of Minnesota in collaboration with the City of St. Paul and a large group of Twin Cities-based corporations.

University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic to sign Memorandum of Understanding for Education

Memorandum of Understanding provides for educational collaboration between institutions

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, News Service, (612) 624-1690

Sarah Kelling-McCormick, University of Minnesota, Rochester, (507) 280-4659

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/03/2008) —The University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic administrators will sign a Memorandum of Understanding for Education on Nov. 4 at 3:30 pm at the University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR), 3rd floor, 111 South Broadway, Rochester.

University President Robert Bruininks, UMR Chancellor Stephen Lehmkuhle, Mayo Clinic Rochester CEO Glenn Forbes and Mayo Clinic Rochester Director for Education Claire Bender will be signing the memorandum representing the institutions. The memorandum will align support to nurture and sustain collaborative initiatives on education. It will recognize the relationship between the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic as it relates to education and demonstrate the continued commitment of each organization to high educational standards. The document is the first of its kind between the two institutions.

“We have a solid team that has built the foundation for our future partnership,” said UMR Chancellor Stephen Lehmkuhle. “We are deeply committed to expanding the relationship between the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic. By partnering with the best, we will be able to offer students educational opportunities not available at other institutions and help to meet the needs of the healthcare profession.”

“This day represents a new starting point between the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic for collaboration of educational programs and ideas,” said Claire Bender, M.D., Director for Education at Mayo Clinic Rochester. “It is our opportunity to be creative and develop new models of health care education. We continue to build important relationships for the good of education, University of Minnesota, Mayo Clinic, and State of Minnesota.”

The event will be held in the atrium on the third floor of University Square. The public is welcome to attend.

U of M conference to teach activism to high school and college students of color

Event comes on heels of historic election and will feature 1969 Morrill Hall protesters

What: Workshop on effective activism for high school and college students of color

When: 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Friday, Nov. 7

Where: Coffman Memorial Union theater (first floor), 300 Washington Ave S.E., Minneapolis

Who: Led by professor Rose Brewer and several of the students who occupied Morrill Hall in 1969 to demand creation of African-American studies department

Contacts: Kelly OBrien, College of Liberal Arts, (612) 624-4109, obrie136@umn.edu

November 5, 2008

In January 1969, University of Minnesota students occupied Morrill Hall, the U of M's administrative building, demanding the creation of the Department of African American and African studies. In anticipation of the 40th anniversary of this event and on the heels of the historic election of the United States' first African-American president, the department is sponsoring "On the Shoulders of Giants," a conference designed to teach high school and college students of color how to turn their knowledge into action and become effective organizers and activists.

The event will be held in the Coffman Union theater (300 Washington Ave S.E., Minneapolis) and speakers will include people who were part of the 1969 takeover, including Rose Massey Freeman, Horace Huntley and Bill Tilton.

Current U of M students, event planners and 1969 takeover students are available for interviews.

The event's schedule is as follows:

9:30 a.m.: Drum and dance invocation

9:40 a.m.: Spoken word performance

10:45 - 11:25 a.m.: Panel with 1969 students

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Intergenerational breakout sessions



Transportation historian Bruce Seely to present at U of M's Center for Transportation Studies fall luncheon

Contacts: Michael McCarthy, Center for Transportation Studies, (612) 624-3645
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

November 5, 2008

Transportation historian Bruce Seely will present “American Transportation Policy: Patterns of the Past and Implications for the Present” at the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies Fall Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6 at the Radisson University Hotel, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

At this annual event, Seely will discuss the federal government’s more than two centuries of involvement in the development of our nation’s transportation systems and explain how this may help to craft better federal surface transportation legislation needed in the coming years. The current surface transportation funding law, SAFETEA-LU, expires in August 2009.

Seely is the dean of the College of Sciences and Arts at Michigan Technological University. He is a historian of technology who has written and published extensively about the history of American transportation and American transportation policy.

For more information, please visit www.cts.umn.edu/Events/Luncheon/2008/Fall or contact Sara Van Essendelft at 612-624-3708 or cceconf5@umn.edu. Members of the media are welcome to attend the presentation at no cost.

U of M study says students accept whole grains when gradually added to school foods

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/06/2008) —Elementary school students will eat more whole grains when healthier bread products are gradually introduced into their school lunches, a new University of Minnesota study shows.

Whole grain breads are strongly recommended as part of a healthy diet, but children and pre-teens won't always eat them. For this study, researchers from the university's department of food science and nutrition monitored how much bread students threw away, and whether that amount increased as the percentage of whole-grain flour in the bread and rolls was gradually increased.

The study included meals fed to kindergartners through sixth-graders at two Hopkins, Minn., elementary schools over the course of a school year. Red and white whole-grain flour was added incrementally to products, but students showed no strong preference for either type of flour. Students didn't throw away more bread products until the percentage of whole-grain flour in the bread and rolls reached about 70 percent.

The research is important because it shows that a gradual approach to improving children's overall diets can be successful both for parents and school food-service workers, said Len Marquart, one of the study's authors and an associate professor at the university.

The study will be published in the fall 2008 issue of the Journal of Child Nutrition and Management. Marquart's collaborators on the survey were professor Marla Reicks and graduate students Renee Rosen and Leila Sadeghi.

Children's Book Author and Illustrator Lauren Stringer to Appear at University of Minnesota

What: Lauren Stringer, childrens book author and illustrator

When: Saturday, Nov.15, 2008, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis, Rm. 120

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/06/2008) —Children’s book author and illustrator Lauren Stringer will be at the University of Minnesota, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15 to share insights into her creative process with a special focus on her new picture book, “Snow.” The event will occur at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis. Copies of “Snow” will be available for sale and signing by the author.

Attendees will also be able to create their own snowflakes, enjoy refreshments and a special holiday treat from Maid of Scandinavia, receive free “Snow” posters, and be granted a tour of the Andersen Library caverns.

Presented by the Friends of the Kerlan Collection at the University of Minnesota Libraries, this event is free and open to the public. Children are encouraged to attend the event. To attend, RSVP to (612) 624-4576 or clrc@umn.edu.

U of M to present interior design plans for UROC facility in North Minneapolis

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

November 7, 2008

The University of Minnesota will publicly unveil the initial interior design plans for the university's new Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC) at an event from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10, at the Capri Theater, 2027 W. Broadway, Minneapolis. The public is invited and refreshments will be served.

The presentation will be made by Alicia Belton, project manager of Urban Design Perspectives and staff from Charles Levin Architects. The two firms worked together to produce the interior design plans for the 21,000 square foot building which is the former Plymouth-Penn Shopping Center. The design team will also develop exterior landscaping (by Close Landscaping Architects) that is conscious of urban environmental issues. In addition to the architects, Seitu Jones, a public art consultant and artist, is assisting in capturing culturally significant design elements.

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 community, city and county partners, and make university programs and services more accessible to residents. When completely renovated, the building will house UROC administrative offices and a number of community-university partnership programs, including:

- The Academic Health Center's first Urban Area Health Education Center
- The Center for Early Education & Development's 500 Under Five-Kindergarten readiness program, in partnership with Northside Families.
- Center for Innovation and Economic Development
- University of Minnesota Extension's programs in urban youth development, nutrition education, family development and master gardening
- University of Minnesota Medical School's program in health disparities

The center is expected to open summer 2009.

U of M to Host Premier Energy Conference

Renewable energy leaders and enthusiasts will meet to discuss energy, the economy and the environment

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

November 7, 2008

Algae-to-energy production, wind expansion, low-carbon fuel standards, green marketing and sustainable design are just a few of the items on the agenda for E3 2008: The Midwest's Premier Energy, Economic and Environmental Conference. The day-long event takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18 at the St. Paul RiverCentre, 199 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul.

Hosted annually by the University of Minnesota's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment, the conference attracts researchers, government officials, journalists, students and nonprofit and business leaders from across the Midwest, as well as national and international experts.

"The University of Minnesota is known for having one of the most comprehensive renewable energy programs in the country, and the success of E3 is a testament of that," said IREE Director Dick Hemmingsen.

Due to the significant turnout of E3 2007 -- which reached its full registration capacity several weeks in advance -- this year's conference will be held at the St. Paul RiverCentre, the event's largest venue to date. Free transportation to and from the event is available at both the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses. Dates and locations of the bus schedules can be found at www1.umn.edu/iree/e3/traveldirections.html

As the E3 2008 keynote speakers, Manitoba Premier Gary Doer and Terje Gjengedal, vice president of Statkraft in Oslo, Norway, will set a world-class tone. Along with compelling research posters and exhibitor displays, the conference will feature breakout sessions along five different tracks:

- Renewable Fuels and Products
- Renewable Electricity
- The Nexus of Energy, the Environment and the Economy
- Conservation and Energy Efficiency
- Special Topics

E3 2008 is presented by IREE, a signature program of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment -- in partnership with lead sponsors Piper Jaffray and Faegre & Benson LLP, in addition to more than 15 category sponsors.

Proceeds from the conference will help fund University of Minnesota scholarships that support students interested in pursuing renewable energy and environmental careers.

Visit www.iree.umn.edu/e3 for complete details.

University of Minnesota to recognize student veterans at 2nd annual appreciation day

Day's activities include free chili lunch, opportunity to rappel off Armory Tower

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Mary Koskan, One Stop Services, (612) 625-0160, m-kosk@umn.edu

November 7, 2008

All veterans and their family members, along with University of Minnesota faculty, staff, students and the public are invited to attend the U of M's 2nd Annual Student Veterans Appreciation Day activities beginning at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12, to honor university student veterans' sacrifice and service to our country. The opening ceremony at in the ROTC Armory, 15 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis will be followed by a "Meet and Greet" and a Veterans Resource Fair, featuring campus services and organizations, until 3 p.m.

A free chili lunch (while supplies last) will begin at 11:15 a.m. in the ROTC Armory. Snacks will be available throughout the afternoon.

From 10-11 a.m. and again from 12:30-1:30 p.m., anyone with a valid university ID card (student, staff, faculty) will be offered the opportunity to rappel off of the Armory Tower -- a descent of approximately 60 feet. Rappel Master and SFC (Ret.) David Lykens will control all rappel activities from the top of the Armory Tower. ROTC department cadre will perform relay safety operations at the base of the tower.

The university's Military Color Guard and the Marching Band will kickoff a program at noon at the Armory with featured speakers University Regent Dean Johnson, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Clark Dyrud and university student veteran Justin Riechers.

The day's activities are co-sponsored by the Coca-Cola Beverage Partnership, Comfort for Courage, Office for Student Affairs, One Stop Student Services, TCF Bank and Veterans Transition Center, with donor support from Best Maid Cookie Company, Cossetta Eventi, KDWB, Minnesota Wild, Minnesota Twins, Old Dutch Foods and Subway Restaurants.

For more information, please contact Mary Koskan at m-kosk@umn.edu or (612) 625-0160.

U of M geology researchers uncover surprising effects of climate patterns in ancient China

Media Note: To obtain a graphic summarizing the study contact Ryan Mathre at mathre@umn.edu

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/07/2008) —University of Minnesota geology and geophysics researchers, along with their colleagues from China, have uncovered surprising effects of climate patterns on social upheaval and the fall of dynasties in ancient China.

Their research identifies a natural phenomenon that may have been the last straw for some Chinese dynasties: a weakening of the summer Asian Monsoons. Such weakening accompanied the fall of three dynasties and now could be lessening precipitation in northern China.

The study, led researchers from the University of Minnesota and Lanzhou University in China, appears in the Nov. 7 issue of *Science*.

The work rests on climate records preserved in the layers of stone in a 118-millimeter-long stalagmite found in Wanxiang Cave in Gansu Province, China. By measuring amounts of the elements uranium and thorium throughout the stalagmite, the researchers could tell the date each layer was formed. And by analyzing the “signatures” of two forms of oxygen in the stalagmite, they could match amounts of rainfall -- a measure of summer monsoon strength -- to those dates.

The stalagmite was formed over 1,810 years; stone at its base dates from A.D. 190, and stone at its tip was laid down in A.D. 2003, the year the stalagmite was collected.

“It is not intuitive that a record of surface weather would be preserved in underground cave deposits. This research nicely illustrates the promise of paleoclimate science to look beyond the obvious and see new possibilities,” said David Verardo, director of the U.S. National Science Foundation’s Paleoclimatology Program, which funded the research.

“Summer monsoon winds originate in the Indian Ocean and sweep into China,” said Hai Cheng, corresponding author of the paper and a research scientist at the University of Minnesota. “When the summer monsoon is stronger, it pushes farther northwest into China.”

These moisture-laden winds bring rain necessary for cultivating rice. But when the monsoon is weak, the rains stall farther south and east, depriving northern and western parts of China of summer rains. A lack of rainfall could have contributed to social upheaval and the fall of dynasties.

The researchers discovered that periods of weak summer monsoons coincided with the last years of the Tang, Yuan, and Ming dynasties, which are known to have been times of popular unrest. Conversely, the research group found that a strong summer monsoon prevailed during one of China’s “golden ages,” the Northern Song Dynasty. The ample summer monsoon rains may have contributed to the rapid expansion of rice cultivation from southern China to the midsection of the country. During the Northern Song Dynasty, rice first became China’s main staple crop, and China’s population doubled.

“The waxing and waning of summer monsoon rains are just one piece of the puzzle of changing climate and culture around the world,” said Larry Edwards, Distinguished McKnight University Professor in Geology and Geophysics and a co-author on the paper. For example, the study showed that the dry period at the end of the Tang Dynasty coincided with a previously identified drought halfway around the world, in Meso-America, which has been linked to the fall of the Mayan civilization.

The study also showed that the ample summer rains of the Northern Song Dynasty coincided with the beginning of the well-known Medieval Warm Period in Europe and Greenland. During this time -- the late 10th century--Vikings colonized southern Greenland. Centuries later, a series of weak monsoons prevailed as Europe and Greenland shivered through what geologists call the Little Ice Age. In the 14th and early 15th centuries, as the cold of the Little Ice Age settled into Greenland, the Vikings disappeared from there. At the same time, on the other side of the world, the weak monsoons of the 14th century coincided with the end of the Yuan Dynasty.

A second major finding concerns the relationship between temperature and the strength of the monsoons. For most of the last 1,810 years, as average temperatures rose, so, too, did the strength of the summer monsoon. That relationship flipped, however, around 1960, a sign that the late 20th century weakening of the monsoon and drying in northwestern China was caused by human activity.

If carbon dioxide is the culprit, as some have proposed, the drying trend may well continue in Inner Mongolia, northern China and neighboring areas on the fringes of the monsoon’s reach, as society is likely to continue adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere for the foreseeable future. If, however, the culprit is man-made soot, as others have proposed, the trend could be reversed, the researchers said, by reduction of soot emissions.

The study was supported by the National Science Foundations of the United States and China and the Gary Comer Science and Education Foundation.

Four from U of M receive Fulbright Awards

The university also will host five foreign Fulbright Scholars

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/10/2008) —Three faculty and one administrator at the University of Minnesota have been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to perform lectures and/or conduct research at institutions around the world during the 2008-09 academic year, according to the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Since 1988 more than 100 U of M faculty and administrators have received Fulbright Awards.

Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. The university's Fulbright scholars are part of approximately 1,100 faculty and professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program.

"I congratulate these accomplished scholars who have received this extraordinary honor. We are extremely proud of their achievements," said Thomas Sullivan, provost. "We are pleased to have the expertise of our visiting Fulbright recipients, and warmly welcome them to campus."

University of Minnesota recipients and their work:

Carol Leitschuh, a research associate in the School of Kinesiology, will deliver lectures in child development movement at Palacky University in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

Jodi Malmgren, associate director of the Learning Abroad Center, will conduct seminars for United States-Japan International Education Administrators at various institutions throughout Japan.

Samuel Myers Jr., professor at the Humphrey Institute, will perform research at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, China on remedies to racial and ethnic economic inequality.

Eleanor Hannah, adjunct assistant professor of at U of M Duluth, will lecture on "Improving Capacity in Teaching the History of U.S. Political Thought" at the University of the Andes, Merida, Venezuela.

The U of M's visiting foreign Fulbright Scholars include:

Aasmund Bjoernstad from Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Aas, Norway, who will be a professor in the department of plant and environmental sciences where his scholarship will focus on "Genes for Bread: Grains from the Stone Age to Gene Age."

Sudip Chakraborty from Ananda Chandra College, North Bengal University, Darjeeling, India, who will be a lecturer/reader in the department of economics and focus on international human rights for children.

Jiri Minarik from University Hospital Olomouc, Czech Republic will study multiple myeloma for the university's department of internal medicine.

Mahendra Kumar Satapathy, a professor from North East Regional Institute of Education in Shillong, India will conduct research at the U of M in models of environmental education.

Hongyun Wu, a professor from the School for Foreign Languages at Renmin University of China, Beijing, will research the "Impact of American-Chinese Language Environments on Chinese Language Learners' Learning Perceptions and Strategies."

Susan Weller named director of U of M Bell Museum of Natural History

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/10/2008) —Susan Weller, professor of entomology and interim director of the Bell Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota, has been named the museum's director. Weller, the first female director in the museum's 136-year history, assumes the post as the university enters its second year of seeking bonding approval for a new Bell Museum facility in St. Paul.

Weller is internationally recognized for her research on the evolution of butterflies and moths and will be one of only three women researchers leading U.S. university-based natural history museums.

A passionate advocate of engaging both university students and everyday citizens in real research opportunities, Weller may be most familiar to Minnesotans as the leader of the Bell Museum's annual "Minnesota BioBlitz" event in which professional biologists work shoulder-to-shoulder with citizen volunteers to document and count an area's plant and animal life within a 24-hour time frame.

Founded by state legislative mandate in 1872 to collect, preserve, display and interpret Minnesota's animal and plant life for research and public appreciation, the Bell Museum is one of the country's premier university-based science museums with the region's largest scientific collections of invertebrates, mammals, birds, plants, fungi and insects. The museum's outreach programs, including STEM-related educational initiatives, reach nearly one million Minnesota adults and students in half the school districts in the state.

"Susan Weller has done outstanding work as interim director of the Bell Museum," said Allen Levine, dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. "Her enthusiasm for making science accessible to citizens of all ages as well as her leadership and communication talents will be essential at this crucial time in the Bell's history."

"I feel privileged to serve the Bell Museum in this new capacity," said Weller. "As director, my first priority is to ensure our internationally recognized academic research and public programs continue to thrive and that these programs reach all Minnesotans. I want everyone in the state to be excited by science and to be driven to discover nature in their own backyards."

U of M's Carlson School of Management and College of Pharmacy launch Doctor of Pharmacy and Master of Business Administration dual degree

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/10/2008) —The University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management and College of Pharmacy, two nationally ranked professional schools, announce a doctor of pharmacy and master of business administration (PharmD/MBA) dual degree in response to student interest and employer demand.

The University of Minnesota's Board of Regents recently approved the dual-degree program and it is now available for full-time PharmD students. The joint, pharmacy-business program enables students to complete the two degrees in five years, a shorter time frame than if they pursued the degrees separately.

The PharmD/MBA Dual Degree program is designed for students who have already been enrolled in the U of M's PharmD Program (Twin Cities or Duluth campuses). Students apply to the full-time MBA Program during their third year in the College of Pharmacy, but do not begin the MBA Program until the fourth year of this five-year, dual-degree program. After acceptance into the dual-degree program, students meet with both their PharmD and MBA advisors to ensure their study plan satisfies both degree requirements.

"The dual degree program will enable our students to develop management and leadership skills beyond what the PharmD curriculum provides," said Marilyn Speedie, dean of the College of Pharmacy. "It will also prepare them for successful careers in a wide variety of jobs in practice and industry."

Carlson School Dean Alison Davis-Blake added, "Students enrolled in the PharmD/MBA program will have the benefit of bolstering one degree with the other. They can leverage their business skills in wide-ranging management, public policy, and leadership careers."

Prospective students must apply to both the Carlson School and the College of Pharmacy. For more information, contact Tracy Keeling, associate director of Admissions and Recruiting, MBA Programs, Carlson School of Management, at (612) 625-5555; or call the PharmD admissions office at (612) 624-9490.

U of M Board of Regents to meet this week

When: Thursday, Nov. 13 - Friday, Nov. 14, 2008

Where: 600 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis

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

November 10, 2008

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold its monthly meeting this week on the Twin Cities campus. The agenda includes board work sessions on the strategic plan for the Academic Health Center and the role and future of private giving. The board will also review a supplemental 2009 state capital request before taking action at the December meeting.

Highlights of the meeting include:

Thursday, Nov. 13

8:30 - 10:15 a.m., Audit Committee, East Committee Room. Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy will present on emerging trends in federal funding opportunities for research.

10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Board work session, Boardroom. Senior Vice President for Health Sciences Frank Cerra will present on the Academic Health Center and its clinical enterprise.

1:15 - 3:15 p.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will review and act on two resolutions pertaining to the issuance of debt, including for the new biomedical sciences research facilities.

1:15 - 3:15 p.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will review two real estate transactions, review a capital budget amendment for a food services renovation on the Morris campus and hear from Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien on the latest facilities condition assessment.

3:30 - 4:30 p.m., Board work session, East Committee Room. The board hears from University of Minnesota Foundation CEO Steven Goldstein and Minnesota Medical Foundation President and CEO Becky Malkerson on the role and future of private giving to the university.

Friday, Nov. 14

9 a.m. - noon, Board of Regents, Boardroom. Goldstein and Malkerson will make their annual report of private giving. In addition, the board will review the president's proposed supplemental 2009 state capital request. Two resolutions will also be reviewed for action in December -- one pertaining to a master plan and governing structure for UMore Park near Rosemount, Minn. and the other on the sale of alcohol at limited locations on campus for special events.

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.

U of M to host National Press Club forum on journalism's future and values

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November 11, 2008

The National Press Club (NPC), the world's leading professional organization for journalists, and the University of Minnesota School of Journalism and Mass Communication's Minnesota Journalism Center are teaming up to look at the future of the news media and how to protect its core values.

The 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 17 event will take place in Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public.

This NPC Centennial Forum on the first amendment, freedom of the press and the future of journalism will feature leading Minnesota journalists: Nancy Barnes, editor and senior vice president, Minneapolis Star Tribune; Thom Fladung, editor and vice president, St. Paul Pioneer Press; Joel Kramer, chief executive officer and editor, MinnPost; and Nora Paul, director, University of Minnesota Institute for New Media Studies. The panel will be moderated by Alan Bjerga, a Bloomberg News correspondent, the Club's treasurer, and a University of Minnesota alum.

"In these tumultuous times for journalism, the club is pleased to have such a prominent group of Minnesota journalists join us at the university," said NPC president Sylvia Smith.

"We are honored to host this NPC forum for the regional community. We can't think of a more important topic for those who care about the role of journalism in sustaining a representative democracy," said professor Kathleen Hansen, director of the Minnesota Journalism Center.

This forum is part of a nationwide conversation the National Press Club is holding during its 100th anniversary to look at where the news business is going and what news consumers should be demanding. Schedules and video highlights of forums in other states can be found on the Club's Web site: www.press.org.

The event begins with a preview of the Club's centennial documentary, "The National Press Club: A Century of Headlines," which follows the history of American journalism through the lens of one of its leading institutions. All in attendance at the forum will receive a copy of the documentary.

Cooperation as a key to achieving excellence: Multi-institutional consortium to advance interdisciplinary activity to meet at U of M Nov. 14-16

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November 11, 2008

The Consortium on Fostering Interdisciplinary Inquiry, a 10-member group of major public and private research universities, will meet for the first time at the University of Minnesota Nov. 14-16. About 45 representatives from those schools will discuss findings from a self-study on barriers and best practices in eight key areas of higher education: administration and governance, collaborative technologies, development and fundraising, education and training, equity and diversity, finance and budget, research and space and capital planning.

The University of Minnesota is the lead institution of the consortium, with Vice Provost and Graduate School Dean Gail Dubrow as founder and consortium director. Other member institutions include the University of California-Berkeley, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Michigan, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Washington, the University of Wisconsin, Brown University, Duke University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Interdisciplinary scholarship is accelerating within existing fields and at the boundaries of established disciplines. It is also present in the formation of new fields such as informatics and bioethics, just two areas in which the U of M has invested. Top faculty and students have driven interdisciplinary research and education initiatives, yet they often encounter barriers within university systems that are designed to optimize flows to single colleges and individual academic departments. Running interdisciplinary projects and programs can be challenging due to the traditional organization of colleges and departments.

“Preliminary findings show that interdisciplinary work is here to stay because top faculty and graduate students will continue to pursue it,” said Dubrow. “But they are forced to engage in work-arounds that slow progress and dampen the spirit. As major research universities, consortium members have made strategic investments in interdisciplinary initiatives. It is in their individual and collective self-interest to identify and change institutional policies and practices that disadvantage interdisciplinary activity. As each institution begins to develop solutions in particular areas, they've shared their ideas and experiences in the interest of fostering interdisciplinary activity in the larger sphere of higher education.”

Consortium representatives will report on findings in the eight study areas over the course of the three-day gathering and identify next steps for action at their institutions and in the consortium as a whole.

“Fostering interdisciplinarity and promoting greater collaboration across traditional disciplines are more urgent and more important than ever in working toward solutions to the most pressing issues of the 21st century,” said University of Minnesota Provost Thomas Sullivan. “Structuring and promoting interdisciplinary thinking is about leaving our typical intellectual and institutional comfort zones, all in pursuit of new and better ways of working and thinking together.”

Team members from the University of Minnesota include John Ziegenhagen, director of strategic projects, Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost (administration and governance); Steve Cawley, vice president and chief information officer (collaborative technologies); Judy Kirk, assistant vice president of development (development and fund-raising); Gail Dubrow, vice provost and dean of the Graduate school (education and training); Nancy “Rusty” Barcelo, vice president and vice provost for equity and diversity (equity and diversity); Lincoln Kallsen, director of budget and financial analysis (finance and budget); Frances Lawrenz, associate vice president for research (research); and Robert Kvavik, associate vice president for planning (space and capital planning). Each participating institution formed a similar internal team that crosses the usual administrative silos, helping to build capacity for institutional transformation in the process.

See more information about the consortium at
<http://www.academic.umn.edu/provost/interdisc/inquiry>

More information about interdisciplinary initiatives at the University of Minnesota can also be found at <http://www.interdisciplinary.umn.edu/>

University of Minnesota president implements "hiring pause" in light of economic uncertainty

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/11/2008) —University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks announced today a system-wide “hiring pause,” a requirement that all open positions are reviewed and deemed essential before being filled. Uncertain economic times and the university’s desire to control costs “sooner rather than later” necessitate the temporary action, Bruininks said.

“We have no idea what tomorrow holds economically, but there are still storm clouds on the horizon,” said Bruininks. “Our responsibility as stewards of tax, tuition and donor dollars make this a prudent step for the university.”

Rather than a blunt hiring freeze, the university’s hiring pause amounts to a “stop and think” rule for new hires. Each vacancy will prompt managers to explore options for reorganization or reassigning the duties. If the position is deemed to be essential, university approval is required before filling it.

“This is all about preserving flexibility in how the university responds to this economic climate,” said Bruininks. “By taking this modest step now, we’re hoping to avoid more difficult ones in the future. This will not impact the quality of education we offer or compromise our academic mission one bit.”

The hiring pause is to be implemented immediately and does not affect part-time student workers.

History professor featured at U of M Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Lecture Series

Lecture is titled: "The Presidential Glass Ceiling is Broken: The Path from Victoria to Hillary"

When: 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18

Where: Humphrey Institute, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

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

November 12, 2008

Does the serious run by Hillary Clinton for the presidency signal that the presidential glass ceiling for women has been broken? University of Minnesota history professor Sara Evans will address that current topic when she delivers the University Women's Center Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Fall Lecture at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18, at the Humphrey Institute, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Evans, whose lecture "The Presidential Glass Ceiling is Broken: The Path from Victoria to Hillary," is a pioneer in women's history, which she taught at the University of Minnesota from 1976-2008. Her first book, "Personal Politics: The Roots of Women's Liberation in the Civil Rights Movement and the New Left," was listed by the New York Times as one of the best books of 1979 and is still in print. Her presentation will focus on the legacy of Senator Clinton within the context of the many women who have run for president starting with Victoria Woodhull in 1872.

The lecture series is named after Comstock, a university alumnae, former assistant professor and dean at the university. Comstock left Minnesota in 1912 to become the dean of Smith College and later president of Radcliffe. She is one of the few people in the world to have residence halls named after her at three institutions--the University of 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 is sponsored by the Women's Center, Department of History, the Graduate School, the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost and the University Libraries. It is free and open to the public.

U of M architect William Pederson to receive university's highest alumni honor

World-renowned architect designed Shanghai skyscraper and is leading new on-campus science building project

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/12/2008) —William E. Pedersen, FAIA FAAR (Fellow, American Institute of Architects, Fellow, American Academy in Rome), will receive the University of Minnesota's highest alumni honor, the Outstanding Achievement Award (OAA), on at a ceremony from 11:30 a.m to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19 in McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. The university confers the OAA on graduates or former students of the U of M who have attained unusual distinction in their chosen fields or professions and who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership on a community, state, national or international level.

Pedersen has been a major influence on the evolution of tall office buildings, including Chicago's 333 Wacker Drive (1984), located at a bend in the Chicago River, on the only triangular site in Chicago's urban grid. He also designed the 2008 World Financial Center in Shanghai, which soars to a height of 1,614 feet and includes 101 aboveground floors, making it the tallest mixed-use urban development project in the world.

Pedersen is also the lead designer for the University of Minnesota's new Science Teaching and Student Services building, planned for completion in 2010 on the site adjacent to the Washington Ave. Bridge and the Weisman Museum on the Twin Cities campus.

"Bill's accomplishments extend beyond his international design work," said College of Design Dean Thomas Fischer. "Those I know who have worked with Bill all speak to the open and supportive way in which he collaborates with his colleagues and consultants, getting the best results from talented people and gaining the friendship and trust of his clients."

Pedersen is the principal design partner of Kohn, Pedersen, Fox Associates (KPF), which he founded with A. Eugene Kohn and Sheldon Fox in 1976. He earned his bachelor of architecture degree at Minnesota in 1961 and went on to complete a master of architecture degree at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1963. Two years later, he won the prestigious Rome Prize in Architecture and spent 18 months studying at the American Academy in Rome.

Pedersen's work is featured on the university's Wall of Discovery and has been honored with six National Honor Awards from the American Institute of Architects and a Gold Medal for lifetime achievement in architecture from Tau Sigma Delta, the National Honor Society for Architecture and the Allied Arts. These awards recognize Pedersen's design talents and contributions to important architecture projects worldwide including the World Bank in Washington D.C., the Goldman Sachs Headquarters in London, the DG Bank Headquarters in Frankfurt, the Procter & Gamble World Headquarters in Cincinnati, 333 Wacker Drive in Chicago, Gannett/USA Today Headquarters in McLean Virginia, the new Philadelphia International Airport and the International Commerce Center in Hong Kong.

Pedersen currently serves on the U of M Foundation Board of Trustees and has taught at the Rhode Island School of Design, Columbia University and Harvard University. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have established the Bill and Elizabeth Pedersen Graduate Fellowship in Architecture for students in the U of M School of Architecture. Pedersen has also helped create the KPF Prize, a national competition that helps architecture students study abroad while completing thesis research. The university is one of the 19 design schools with whom KPF has chosen to partner.

Minnesota Journal of International Law Symposium Examines Rule of Law at U of M

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November 12, 2008

The Minnesota Journal of International Law will host its 2008 symposium, “Creating a Global Rule of Law Culture,” 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday, Nov. 14, in Room. 25 of the Law School, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The symposium will examine the rule of law as a framework for international legal reform and development, focusing on creation of a global rule of law culture. Panelists will include eminent scholars, practitioners and judges who have studied the rule of law and led reform efforts around the world. Featured will be founders of the American Bar Association’s Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative (CEELI) and Center for Rule of Law Initiatives.

CEELI was founded in 1990 after the fall of the Berlin Wall to help develop the rule of law in countries under the former Soviet Union’s control. With CEELI’s enormous growth, the Center for Rule of Law Initiatives was created and includes legal reform programs in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. The symposium offers a unique opportunity to reflect on the rule of law as a framework for reform and development going forward.

There is no cost for attending the symposium. Information on the day’s agenda and the registration form are available at <http://www.law.umn.edu/mjil/2008-symposium.html>

Disney's Stan Freese to lead U of M marching band at indoor concerts

"Marching into the Future" theme highlighted at weekend performances

Media Note: Media wishing to interview Stan Freese about the U of M marching band should contact Ryan Maus at (612) 624-1690 or maus@umn.edu.

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November 13, 2008

Longtime Disney executive and well-known U of M alum Stan Freese will serve as the Master of Ceremonies at the University of Minnesota marching band's 47th annual Indoor Concerts, to be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15 and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16 in Northrop Auditorium, 84 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis.

Freese, who was also the grand marshal of the U of M's homecoming parade earlier this month, is back at his alma mater to highlight the band's "Marching into the Future" campaign. The U of M marching band (nicknamed the "Pride of Minnesota") has been housed in Northrop for the past 79 years but will move into a new 20,000-square-foot facility in TCF Bank Stadium beginning next fall.

This year's concerts will feature traditional Gopher favorites, patriotic songs and stadium greats as well as a few non-traditional pieces, including a performance of Michael Jackson's 1980s hit "Thriller."

Concert tickets can be purchased from the Northrop Ticket Office at (612) 624-2345 or online at <http://www.umn.edu/umato>.

U of M students are finalists in national Collegiate Inventors Competition

Invention will provide solar LED lighting to people in developing countries

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/13/2008) —A University of Minnesota team of two recent graduates and a current student are among the 12 finalist teams in the National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation's 2008 Collegiate Inventors Competition for their invention that could bring light to thousands of people around the world without electricity.

The team will vie for the competition's grand prize of \$25,000 to be announced Nov. 19. The team includes Patrick Delaney, who received a degree in electrical engineering in May 2008; Matthew Beckler, who received a degree in computer engineering in May 2008; and Caleb Braff, a current electrical engineering student. The team is advised by electrical and computer engineering professor Paul Imbertson.

The University of Minnesota team developed Solar LED Lighting Innovation--a low powered economical device that provides many hours of light to areas without electricity using the power of the sun and a light-emitting-diode, commonly known as LED. The idea for the invention originated from Delaney's 2004 trip to Nicaragua when he quickly discovered that inaccessibility to reliable and low-cost lighting sources prevented rural villagers from education or economic improvements after dark.

Delaney immediately resolved to provide a solution using his electrical engineering know-how. Beckler joined the team to provide expertise in microcontrollers, and Braff brought knowledge about LEDs. With help from their advisor, professor Imbertson, the team was complete.

Many others have come up with the idea of using LEDs and solar panels, but the U team have taken an innovative approach in trying to find a solution that could be easily replicable and therefore impact as many people as possible. One strategy they have implemented is to use materials that can be locally sourced in Nicaragua, keeping the price low and more affordable for rural villagers. In addition, even though their device is low-powered, it can still generate light for many hours.

The competition solicited entries from more than 2,000 campuses to identify the top collegiate inventors. Other finalist teams represent prestigious universities such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University, the University of California at Berkeley, Harvard Medical School and the University of Michigan.

Since 1990, the National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundations has awarded more than \$1 million to nearly 100 Collegiate Inventors Competition students for their innovative work and scientific achievement with the help of competition sponsors the Abbott Fund, the philanthropic foundation of the global health care company Abbott, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

University of Minnesota celebrates International Education Week, Nov. 17-21

"Open Doors" report shows U of M ranks fourth nationally in study abroad participation

Media Note: EMBARGO: Open Doors rankings are embargoed until Monday, Nov. 17

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November 14, 2008

A film screening, awards ceremony and photo contest are just a few of the more than 20 events planned for International Education Week at the University of Minnesota from Monday, Nov. 17 through Friday, Nov. 21. U of M colleges, campuses, departments and student groups have planned the events to highlight the university's support for international education.

In honor of International Education Week, the Institute of International Education (IIE) will release its annual "Open Doors" report of statistics on international student mobility -- U.S. students going abroad to study and international students coming to the U.S. -- on Nov. 17. The report shows that the U of M's Twin Cities campus ranks fourth in the nation in the number of students who studied abroad in 2006-07, with 2,079 students, an increase from 2005-06's sixth-highest total of 1,981. The university also ranks 23rd with 3,756 international students studying on campus in 2007-08, which is up from last year's 3,701 students. Study abroad statistics are reported one year behind international student statistics.

"I am proud that the University of Minnesota again is being recognized by IIE for our achievements in international education," said Meredith McQuad, associate vice president and dean for International Programs. "Increasing participation in study abroad and the enrollment of international students is vital to the internationalization of the University of Minnesota, as we must prepare our students to be global citizens. Experiencing other cultures firsthand -- either on campus or abroad -- is the best way to do this."

International Education Week was first declared by the U.S. Departments of State and Education in 2000 as part of their effort to encourage policies and programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study in the United States.

A complete list of International Week events is available at:
<http://www.international.umn.edu/news/iweek/events.php>

University of Minnesota Ranked in Top 100 Best Fleets in North America

Contacts: Mary Sienko, Parking and Transportation Services, (612) 626-5828
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/14/2008) —University of Minnesota Parking and Transportation Services has been named one of The 100 Best Fleets in North America for 2008. This is the fourth consecutive year it has received this recognition.

Only four universities from around the country made the list. “We are honored to be on the list,” said Bill Roberts, associate director of Parking and Transportation Services. Approximately 14,000 organizations are eligible for this award; 850 applied for this designation.

This nationwide program awards outstanding, peak-performing fleet operations across the country. It was developed and sponsored by industry magazine Fleet Equipment; Faster fleet management information and services company, CCG Systems, Inc.; and Tom Johnson, consultant and author.

The goals of the program are: to identify premier fleet operations for others to emulate, to promote ever-increasing levels of productivity and operational effectiveness through a series of 10 seminars, and to promote pride in the industry.

The University of Minnesota has a fleet 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. As a national leader in converting portions of its fleet to flexible fuel vehicles, the university is one of the biggest users of E85 fuel with more than 20,000 gallons pumped each year. 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.

U of M's I-35W bridge collapse study early results and the country's infrastructure are focus of Nov. 19 public lecture

Presentation includes a computer simulation of the stress on gusset plates

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu
Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, (612) 626-7959, rzurn@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/14/2008) —The need for investing in our nation's infrastructure and preliminary results of the university's independent study of the I-35W bridge collapse are the focus of the next University of Minnesota Institute of Technology Public Lecture, "Investing in Infrastructure," 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, in the university's Mayo Memorial Auditorium, 425 Delaware St., S.E., Minneapolis. The lecture is free and open to the public, but online registration is recommended at www.it.umn.edu/publiclecture.

The I-35W bridge collapse tragedy raised awareness of our country's infrastructure among the general public and elected officials. Today, in these tight economic times, some public policy experts are saying that increased infrastructure spending can help the economy climb back to prosperity.

This lecture, presented by U of M civil engineering professor and department head Roberto Ballarini, will highlight the effect of our nation's infrastructure on our quality of life and national security, as well as our culture and pride. He will showcase the amazing infrastructure of roads, bridges, schools, museums and national parks we once had in the United States and the impact of deferred maintenance. He will give examples from competing nations and offer solutions for the future.

Ballarini also will discuss the preliminary results of the University of Minnesota's independent study of the I-35W bridge collapse and show a computer simulation of the response of the gusset plates to increasing loads over the life of the bridge. The release of the U's study results follows on the heels of this week's release of the National Transportation Safety Board's final report summary of the I-35W bridge accident. The university's I-35W bridge study was funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, the university's Center for Transportation Studies and the university's Department of Civil Engineering.

For more information or to register to attend the lecture, visit www.it.umn.edu/publiclecture.

Leading authority on Nazi persecution of GLBT peoples to speak at the U of M

What: Lecture: How to Remember the Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals

When: Friday, Nov. 21, 2008 from 5:30-7 p.m. (reception to follow)

Where: Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis, Rm. 120

Contacts: Marlo Welshons, University Libraries (612) 625-9148, welsh066@umn.edu

Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

November 14, 2008

Andreas Pretzel of the Magnus Hirschfeld Society in Berlin, will present a lecture at the University of Minnesota from 5:30-8:00 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Pretzel, one of the world's leading authorities on the Nazi persecution of the GLBT peoples of Europe, will present ways to remember the persecution by telling individual fates and love stories. Other topics include the Berlin Memorial and its dedication and recent desecration; the so-called "Stolpersteine" (memorial street stones) which face the former residences of persecuted homosexuals; the first religious service to remember murdered homosexuals; and Pretzel's recent research in Lobetal, a Lutheran enclave in Germany that was the only religious organization to hide and protect GLBT people from the Nazis during the Holocaust. A brief question and answer period will follow the presentation.

Presented by the University Libraries' Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies and the U of M GLBTA Programs Office, this event is free and open to the public. For additional information please contact Beng Chang at schochet@umn.edu.

U of M symposium considers future of northern forests

Contacts: Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, (612) 626-5754

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

November 17, 2008

Climate change, in conjunction with other environmental change agents, will almost certainly affect the health of northern forests, but scientists are still trying to determine exactly what those changes will look like. A symposium next month at the University of Minnesota is intended to answer some of those questions.

The Solution-Driven Science Symposium, “Northern Forests in a Changing Environment,” will take place from 9:15 a.m. to 3:40 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, at the Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

Speakers include distinguished scientists Ed Johnson, director of Biogeoscience Institute, University of Calgary; Christian Messier, director of the Center for Forest Research at the University of Quebec; and Tom Gower, professor of forest ecosystem ecology at the University of Wisconsin. U of M Regents Professor and forest resources professor Peter Reich will moderate the symposium. Individual presentations will be followed by a panel discussion wrapping up the topics discussed throughout the day.

For more information including registration and an agenda for the symposium, visit www.cfans.umn.edu/Solution-Driven_Science_Symposium.html. The event is free, but registration by Nov. 25 is requested.

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

Royal Bank of Canada's John Taft at U of M to examine the changing structure of the U.S. financial system

What: Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon Series

When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2

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

Who: John Taft, Co-Chairman, Head of Royal Bank of Canada US Wealth Management

Contacts: Kevin Moe, Carlson School of Management, (612) 626-7540
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

November 17, 2008

John Taft, head of RBC US Wealth Management, (formerly RBC Dain Rauscher), will speak at the Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The collapse of the housing bubble and the ensuing response of the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve have permanently changed the structure of the U.S. financial system. In his speech, "The Changing Landscape of the Financial Services Industry," Taft will talk about the new financial world order and what this will mean for corporations and investors alike.

Prior to being named co-chairman, Head of US Wealth Management at Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), Taft served as head of Asset Management and Products for RBC's U.S. and International division. He also served as head of North American Wealth Management Services, part of Royal Bank of Canada's Global Asset Management division. Before joining the firm, Taft was president and chief executive officer of Dougherty Summit Securities LLC from 1997 to 1999.

Taft has been in the financial services industry since 1981, with prior experience as a public finance originator and managing director of public finance for Piper Jaffray & Hopwood, Inc., assistant to the mayor of the city of St. Paul and finance director of the Latimer for Minnesota committee. He has a bachelor's degree from Yale University and a master's degree in public and private management from the Yale School of Organization and Management.

The advance registration deadline for the First Tuesday luncheon is Thursday, Nov. 27. 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, Nov. 28. To register call (612) 626-9634, visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/events, or send an e-mail message to firsttuesday@umn.edu.

Corporate culture is the principal driver of radical innovation in firms according to U of M researcher

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/18/2008) —Innovation is integral to the growth, success and wealth of firms and nations. What predicts the increase of radical innovation, and the profits that often ensue, is a mystery most firms are trying to solve. The answer that trumps all others is closer to home than most probably realize. “Corporate culture is, above all, the most important factor in driving innovation,” said Rajesh Chandy, a professor of marketing at the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management and a charter member of the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Advisory Committee on Measuring Innovation in the 21st Century Economy

“Firm level factors are more important than anything else -- even location -- in predicting radical innovation,” said Chandy. Underscoring this point in the paper “Radical Innovation in Firms Across Nations: The Pre-eminence of Corporate Culture,” forthcoming in the next issue of the *Journal of Marketing*, Chandy and co-authors Gerard Tellis of the University of Southern California, and Jaideep Prabhu of Cambridge University show that among traditional drivers of innovation such as government policy, labor, capital and culture at the country level, the strongest driver of radical innovation across nations is corporate culture. They also find that the commercialization of radical innovations is a stronger indicator of financial performance than other popular measures such as patents.

“It is important to realize that all innovative companies look alike. They share a common culture no matter where they are located,” states Chandy. “The corporate culture of innovative firms develops to overcome aspects of their home economies that would otherwise hinder them.”

Looking at data from 759 firms across 17 countries the researchers found that location is not the determining factor in the degree to which any given firm is innovative; but rather, the innovative firms themselves share key internal cultural traits. Innovation appears to be a function of the degree to which a company fosters a supportive internal structure headed by product champions and bolstered by incentives and the extent to which that organization is able to change quickly, keeping an eye on the markets of the future.

“It’s unwise to think in terms of whether American companies are more innovative than other countries’ firms. The hub of innovation is within the firm,” said Chandy. “Managers have control over the fates of their firms in that they can help build the culture of innovation. A sharp manager would look across industries and countries to spot innovative traits and strategies.”

Additionally, radical innovations (such as the iPhone or Viagra) translate into financial value for firms. “In times of economic trouble there is a temptation, often even an imperative, to say that innovation is something we can’t afford right now,” said Chandy. But radically new products, which involve substantially different technology and considerably higher customer benefits, are precisely what propel new growth. Chandy cautions firms to resist the tendency to stifle the internal culture that supports such innovations.

The paper, “Radical Innovation in Firms Across Nations: The Pre-eminence of Corporate Culture,” and more information on Professor Chandy can be found at:
www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/rchandy



U of M Office of Equity and Diversity and Intercollegiate Athletics Department to host American Indian Heritage Month essay contest

Gopher basketball coach Tubby Smith will speak to students

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

November 18, 2008

The University of Minnesota Office of Equity and Diversity and Intercollegiate Athletics Department will host 250 students from three elementary schools for an essay contest from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20 at Williams Arena, 1925 University Ave. S.E. Minneapolis.

The essay contest is part of the U of M's celebration of American Indian Heritage Month. Students from the American Indian Magnet School, Anishinaabe Academy and Ann Sullivan Communication Center were asked to complete a two-page essay on the following Minnesota Native Americans: artist Steve Premo, author Gerald Vizenor; former chief of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Marge Anderson and author and activist Winona LaDuke. A panel of Gopher athletes will review the essays and select two winners. The winners will receive four tickets to a Gopher men's or women's basketball game and be recognized during the game.

On Nov. 20, students will meet with Gopher athletes at 11 a.m. At noon, Gopher basketball coach Tubby Smith will speak to the students.

University of Minnesota leads collaboration on global food safety

Recent program involved senior officials from China; Bellagio is next

Media Note: To view a video about GIFSL, visit:

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

Contacts: Martha Douglas, University of Minnesota Foundation, 612-626-9712
Dan Wolter, University of Minnesota News Service, 612-625-8510

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/19/2008) —International food safety expert Will Hueston, professor of veterinary medicine and public health at the University of Minnesota, is leading efforts to build an international network of food system leaders focused on food safety and sustainability. As part of this work, Hueston recently conducted a program with 19 senior officials from China, at sites in Europe and North America. In early December, he will lead a three-day work session at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center in Italy.

“We want to catalyze new thinking for sustainable food systems around the world,” said Hueston, who is executive director of a new public-private partnership called the Global Initiative for Food Systems Leadership (GIFSL). “Our primary goal is to develop an international leadership network with the expertise and skills to design sustainable food systems that can provide adequate nutrition to all while effectively managing emerging issues in the food supply at local, national and international levels.”

GIFSL has received leadership and financial support from Cargill, General Mills, the Rockefeller Foundation and SSAFE (Safe Supply of Affordable Food Everywhere), as well as funding from the university. Numerous other intergovernmental organizations, food industry companies and academic institutions are contributing expertise and in-kind support as participating partners. GIFSL programs are conducted at sites around the world, providing experiential learning, networking, sharing of best practices, and other opportunities for collaboration.

The International Food Safety Administration program recently brought brought together 19 senior Chinese food safety officials from industry, government and academia. They spent two weeks in Europe and North America meeting with international policy experts, visiting food facilities, and interacting with stakeholders from public, private and academic organizations. Cargill, General Mills and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) were partners. In March, Cargill signed a Memorandum of Understanding with General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the People’s Republic of China to formally launch the technical exchange program.

Hueston said the central themes of the China program were that communication and shared goals are key to ensuring international food safety, that there is no silver bullet or single perfect system for doing so, and that food safety is the responsibility of everyone involved in the food chain. “Participants agreed that food safety is an obligation, not an option,” he said.

The December work session at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center in Italy will focus on how to create a dynamic leadership model to address global public health and food system challenges across international communities and cultures. The meeting will bring together scientists, physicians, lawyers, veterinarians and consumer activists to share insights and perspectives from Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South America and the Caribbean.

“It is important to build a network of people who share a common vision and have common skills for producing and moving food safely around the world,” said Mike Robach, vice president of Cargill’s Food Safety and Regulatory Affairs, and president of SSAFE.

Cargill gave \$2 million to the university to launch GIFSL and establish the endowed Chair for Global Food System Leadership, which is held by Will Hueston. General Mills has helped to fund GIFSL programs through a gift of \$1 million to the university.

Educational partners in the initiative include the University of Helsinki, Finland, the National University of Uruguay and the Gates Foundation-funded School of Global Animal Health at Washington State University. Several University of Minnesota centers participate in GIFSL, including the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety, recently recognized as a key facilitator for global veterinary services capacity-building by the World Organization for Animal Health.

The University of Minnesota collaborated with the University of Helsinki on an international workshop on food safety control last month, where government officials and researchers from 13 countries looked at ways to evaluate whether or not various food safety measures work when implemented at the national or global level. In 2008, GIFSL programs attracted participants from more than 35 countries.

The University of Minnesota is uniquely positioned to lead this effort because of its experience convening multi-disciplinary private industry, academia, and public agency stakeholders around a common goal. Examples include the National Center for Food Protection and Defense. The center, funded by the Department of Homeland Security and led by the university, is a public-private partnership developing successful new strategies for increased protection of the nation’s food supply.

“Our hope is that bringing disparate stakeholders together in noncompetitive settings to share information and best practices will accelerate collaboration across boundaries to reduce starvation and malnutrition, strengthen the agricultural stability and sustainability of developing countries and improve food safety and public health around the world,” said Hueston.

U of M CURA housing forum to address issues facing Minnesota's mobile home communities

When: noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21

Where: Honeywell Auditorium, Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Leah Gardner, CURA, (612) 625-2086
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/19/2008) —Issues facing the manufactured housing communities in Minnesota 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, Nov. 21, in the Honeywell Auditorium, Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Chip Halbach, executive director, and Leigh Rosenberg, research and outreach coordinator of the Minnesota Housing Partnership, will present their recent research report “Manufactured Housing in Minnesota.” The results of the study suggest that manufactured homeowners often stand at a disadvantage compared to site-built homeowners due to policies that treat the types of homes differently despite the fact that both serve as permanent dwellings. Policy recommendations will be presented to address concerns that manufactured home owners are more vulnerable and have more limited financing options.

Additional perspectives will be provided by Warren Kramer, North Country Cooperative Development Fund, and Pablo Tapia and Paul Wissmiller, All Parks Alliance for Change.

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. Housing forums are free and open to the public.

University of Minnesota announces recipients of new awards for outstanding diverse students

Contacts: Ami Berger, Office for Equity and Diversity, (612) 625-0498, aberger@umn.edu

November 19, 2008

The Office for Equity and Diversity at the University of Minnesota has announced the recipients of the 2008 Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity (SEED) awards to eleven undergraduate and two graduate students. The thirteen students will receive their awards at the first annual University of Minnesota Equity and Diversity Breakfast Thursday, Nov. 20.

This is the first year of the SEED Award program, which is designed to honor high-achieving diverse students at the University of Minnesota. SEED Award recipients must demonstrate impressive academic achievement and leadership in community outreach and activism, in addition to a deep understanding of and commitment to issues of equity, diversity and social justice.

"We created the SEED Award program to honor the achievements of outstanding diverse students with a wide range of backgrounds, identities, interests, and accomplishments," said Nancy "Rusty" Barceló, the university's vice president and vice provost for equity and diversity, "and this year's recipients are a truly outstanding group, both in their academic strength and their collective passion for community service and social justice."

"The applicant pool for this year's SEED awards was very strong," said SEED selection committee chair Karl Lorenz, who is also the director of diversity programs for the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences at the University. "The committee was extremely impressed with both the academic achievements and commitment to community service demonstrated by so many of the dozens of applicants," Lorenz said.

More information on the SEED Award recipients is available on the Office for Equity and Diversity web site at <http://www.academic.umn.edu/equity/SEEDAwardrecipients.html>. The recipients' awards range from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

The presentation of the SEED Awards will be the highlight of the first annual University of Minnesota Equity and Diversity Breakfast, which will take place at McNamara Alumni Center's Memorial Hall from 7:30-9:30 on November 20, 2008. The event was created to connect University faculty, staff, students and administrators with community and corporate partners in support of the University's equity and diversity work. Seven corporate sponsors are partnering with the Office for Equity and Diversity to produce the event: Blue Cross Blue Shield, Ernst & Young, Cargill, General Mills, McQuay International, TCF Bank and the Travelers Foundation.

In addition to the SEED Award presentation, the event will feature remarks by both Barceló and University President Robert Bruininks, as well as a "Gallery of Excellence" exhibit hall, in which University colleges, departments, and administrative units will showcase their own equity and diversity initiatives.

U of M faculty and staff receive awards for global engagement

Contacts: Jennifer Schulz, Office of International Programs, (612) 624-0557

Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/19/2008) —Four University of Minnesota faculty and staff members have been named recipients of the 2008 Award for Global Engagement, a university-wide award given to active or retired faculty and staff members in recognition of outstanding contributions to global education and international programs in their field, discipline or to the university. The awards come in the middle of International Education Week, which recognizes the

Recipients for 2008 are:

Phillip Peterson and Paul Quie, co-directors of the International Medical Education and Research (IMER) Program, established a legacy of globalization in health care for the Medical School and founded its International Medical Education Program; as scientists, both have contributed greatly to healthcare worldwide.

John Vreyens, director of International Programs in Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, has devoted much of his life to making the world a more equitable and better place, from his time in the Peace Corps to his work with international agricultural education and research.

Mahmood Zaidi, professor emeritus of human resources and founding director emeritus of international programs in the Carlson School of Management, founded the Carlson School's international programs and is a renowned scholar in the field of international human resource development.

“Our faculty and staff are doing important international work here and around the world,” said Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean for international programs. “The goal of this award is both to recognize these individuals and also to inspire other faculty and staff to follow their example.”

The award, created in 2005, is sponsored by the Office of the Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration and administered by the Office of International Programs. Recipients receive an award sculpture, a monetary award and a title -- for Peterson and Quie it will be Distinguished International Professor, Distinguished International Emeritus Professor for Zaidi and Distinguished Award for Global Engagement Recipient for Vreyens.

Robert Jones, senior vice president for system academic administration, presented the awards at ceremony today, Nov. 19.

A selection committee headed by Myrna Smith, director of the Graduate School Fellowship Office, reviewed the nominations and chose the recipients.

The deadline for the next round of nominations will be in June 2009. More information, including nomination materials and longer biographies of the recipients, are available online at <http://www.international.umn.edu/awards/global/>

U of M announces first recipients of new awards program for outstanding diverse students

Contacts: Ami Berger, Office for Equity and Diversity, (612) 625-0498, aberger@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/19/2008) —The Office for Equity and Diversity at the University of Minnesota has announced the recipients of the 2008 Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity (SEED) awards to eleven undergraduate and two graduate students. The thirteen students will receive their awards at the first annual University of Minnesota Equity and Diversity Breakfast on Thursday, Nov. 20.

This is the first year of the SEED Award program, which is designed to honor high-achieving diverse students at the University of Minnesota. SEED Award recipients must demonstrate impressive academic achievement and leadership in community outreach and activism, in addition to a deep understanding of and commitment to issues of equity, diversity and social justice.

The SEED Award recipients are:

Jesus Estrada-Perez, a senior majoring in cultural studies in the College of Liberal Arts.

Eikoku Ikeno, a senior double majoring in Asian languages and literature and history in the College of Liberal Arts.

Desiree Abu-Odeh, a junior in the College of Biological Sciences' upper-division honors program majoring in neuroscience.

Judith Chan, a senior in the School of Nursing.

Sarah Choy, a senior majoring in Philosophy and English in the College of Liberal Arts.

Dionne Dillard, a junior majoring in political science and African American and African studies in the College of Liberal Arts.

Angela Haeny, a junior majoring in psychology in the College of Liberal Arts.

Daniel Martig, a senior double-majoring in biochemistry in the College of Biological Sciences and Asian languages and literatures in the College of Liberal Arts.

Angelina Nguyen, a senior majoring in political science and economics in the College of Liberal Arts.

Jasmine Omorogbe, a junior in the University Honors Program majoring in communication studies in the College of Liberal Arts.

Anh Tran, a senior majoring in neuroscience and psychology in the College of Biological Sciences and College of Liberal Arts.

Trecia Pottinger, Ph.D. candidate in American studies.

Aeleah Soine, Ph.D. candidate in history.

"We created the SEED Award program to honor the achievements of outstanding diverse students with a wide range of backgrounds, identities, interests and accomplishments," said Nancy "Rusty" Barceló, vice president and vice provost for equity and diversity. "These recipients are a truly outstanding group, both in their academic strength and their collective passion for community service and social justice."

"The applicant pool for this year's SEED awards was very strong," said SEED selection committee chair Karl Lorenz, who is also the director of diversity programs for the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences at the University. "The committee was extremely impressed with both the academic achievements and commitment to community service demonstrated by so many of the dozens of applicants," Lorenz said.

More information on the SEED Award recipients is available on the Office for Equity and Diversity web site at <http://www.academic.umn.edu/equity/SEEDAwardrecipients.html>. The recipients' awards range from \$1000 to \$2500.

The presentation of the SEED Awards will be the highlight of the first annual University of Minnesota Equity and Diversity Breakfast, which will take place at McNamara Alumni Center's Memorial Hall from 7:30-9:30 on Thursday, Nov. 20. The event was created to connect university faculty, staff, students and administrators with community and corporate partners in support of the university's equity and diversity work. Seven corporate sponsors are partnering with the Office for Equity and Diversity to produce the event: Blue Cross Blue Shield, Ernst & Young, Cargill, General Mills, McQuay International, TCF Bank and the Travelers Foundation.

In addition to the SEED Award presentation, the event will feature remarks by both Barceló and university President Robert Bruininks, as well as a "Gallery of Excellence" exhibit hall, in which university colleges, departments and administrative units will showcase their own equity and diversity initiatives.

TCF Bank Stadium and Mortenson Construction to be recognized with a MNSHARP worksite award by the State of Minnesota

Media Note: Media are welcome at the event however due nature of the work being performed all personnel must wear site-appropriate clothing such as long pants and boots. Check in will be at the 23rd Ave. S.E. gate between 11:45 a.m. and 12 p.m. Access to the site will end at 1:00 pm.

What: Noon to 1 p.m., Monday, Nov. 24

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

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

November 20, 2008

At a flag raising ceremony, 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.

Since construction began in July 2007, the project has acquired 830,000 work hours. At the peak of construction, there are up to 740 workers on-site at any given time. "We couldn't be more pleased with the steady progress, the number of workers and the positive safety record," said Kathleen O'Brien, Vice President of University Services. "This is Minnesota's stadium and we want to be proud of it in every aspect."

Mortenson, the general contractor on the project, provides overall safety management and has created a culture where every person can expect to return home as healthy as when they arrived. "Safety is at the foundation of everything we do on our project sites," said Ken Sorensen, Vice President of Mortenson's Minneapolis office. "It is one of our core values and as a result of our deep commitment to each and every person's safety, the Minneapolis office has gone nearly six years without anyone missing work due to an injury."

To accomplish this, Mortenson implements its company-wide Zero Injury Program on all projects. The Zero Injury Program consists of nine best practices: management commitment, staffing for safety, pre-project and pre-task planning, safety education and training, worker involvement, evaluations and recognition/reward programs, subcontractor management, accident/incident investigations and drug and alcohol testing.

"We are pleased to present this award to Mortenson for its efforts to reduce on-the-job injuries and ensure more workers go home safe and healthy each day," said Steve Sviggum, Department of Labor and Industry commissioner.

About MNSHARP

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 with all applicable OSHA standards, and result in immediate and long-term prevention of job-related injuries and illnesses.

U of M I-35W bridge study results parallel last week's NTSB report

Original design and additional weight put too much stress on the bridge

Media Note: A computerized simulation of the stress on the bridge gusset plates from the university's I-35W bridge study is available online at http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/bridge_sim.htm

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/20/2008) —Preliminary results of the University of Minnesota's independent academic study of the I-35W bridge collapse suggest that lack of robustness in the bridge's original design, additional load from bridge improvements over the years, weight from construction materials and stresses induced by temperature changes contributed to the collapse of the I-35W bridge on Aug. 1, 2007.

The preliminary results of the yearlong study by civil engineering researchers at the University of Minnesota were released last night to a crowd of about 400 people attending the university's Institute of Technology public lecture "Investing in Infrastructure." The university's findings are consistent with the National Transportation Safety Board's final report summary and the report prepared by Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates (consultants retained by the Minnesota Department of Transportation).

Highlights of the U of M academic study revealed the following:

Some of the gusset plates in the I-35W bridge were not designed to withstand the design loads with an acceptable safety factor.

Construction on the bridge in the 1970s and 1990s, including the addition of thicker road beds and guard rails, added significant weight on the bridge. The resulting forces stressed these gusset plates beyond acceptable limits.

Additional weight from the construction on Aug. 1, 2007 produced substantial additional forces on the already compromised critical gusset plates. The construction material and equipment most likely initiated the collapse.

Temperature changes on the day of the collapse, coupled with partially frozen bridge bearings, may have also introduced additional stresses to the gusset plates.

"The gusset plates at the time of collapse were in a state of instability. In essence the demand on them was equal to their capacity, and they simply gave way," said civil engineering professor and department head Roberto Ballarini.

Researchers involved in the study include civil engineering faculty Roberto Ballarini, Taichiro Okazaki, Ted Galambos and Arturo Schultz.

The researchers conducted their study of the gusset plates in two stages. In the first stage, they created two-dimensional and three-dimensional computer models representing the whole bridge. The second stage consisted of applying the forces calculated in these models to a detailed computer model of the node of the bridge that involved the suspected gusset plate.

"Our computer simulation shows a pattern of very high stresses within the gusset plate that are consistent with the locations and directions of the tears observed in photos of the fractured gussets," Ballarini said.

The researchers plan to publish their final results in an academic research paper within the next six months. The University of Minnesota study was funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, the university's Center for Transportation Studies and the university's Department of Civil Engineering.

Two from U of M to be knighted by King of Spain

Faculty, staff member to be honored in Washington, D.C. ceremony Monday, Nov. 24

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November 20, 2008

University of Minnesota professor Carla Rahn Phillips and Learning Abroad Center director Holly Zimmerman-LeVoir will be knighted into Spain's Order of Isabella the Catholic in a special ceremony Monday, Nov. 24. The honor, which comes from Spain's King Don Juan Carlos I, will be bestowed upon the pair in a special ceremony by Spanish ambassador Jorge Dezcaller at his official residence in Washington, D.C.

Phillips, a professor of history, has devoted her career to research and teaching about the history of Spain and its overseas connections. Her books have won several awards from scholarly organizations in the United States, and she was elected to the Royal Academy of History in Spain in 2005. She has also worked extensively with the university's Program for Cultural Cooperation, which collaborates with Spain's Ministry of Culture to provide funding for individuals and organizations whose work promotes a better understanding of Spanish history and culture in the United States.

Zimmerman-LeVoir, program director in the Learning Abroad Center, is being knighted for her "outstanding contributions to the dissemination of Spanish Culture within The United States of America." LeVoir has worked for 25 years to develop and implement an international program in Toledo, Spain, as well as coordinate the Program for Cultural Cooperation between Spain's Ministry of Culture and American universities nationwide. In addition, she has worked extensively with the Ortega y Gasset Foundation in Toledo, Spain, which promotes cross-cultural student and faculty exchanges.

"I am thrilled and honored to be recognized in this way by the Spanish Government," said Zimmerman-LeVoir. "This award would not have been possible without the tremendous support I have received from my office, the Learning Abroad Center and from the university who have so strongly encouraged this work over the past 25 years."

The "Cross of the Order Queen Isabella the Catholic," the official honor being conferred upon the U of M pair, is one of the highest civil honors granted by the Spanish Royal House. It can only be awarded by invitation of the King of Spain and is the only noble honor open to foreigners.

U of M moves from distance learning to digital campus

digitalcampus.umn.edu launched to coordinate statewide online learning opportunities

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/20/2008) —The University of Minnesota announced its new “digital campus” initiative today, unveiling a new Web site that consolidates all of its online learning opportunities into a single Web site.

“From offering correspondence courses by mail in 1909 to courses on the radio in the 1930’s and television in the 1960’s, to the digital campus of today, the University of Minnesota has been using technology to improve access and advance learning for generations,” said university President Robert Bruininks. “Today, we offer more than 1,000 classes online or in a hybrid online form. Tens of thousands of our students use online tools and resources to support their learning and earn their degrees.”

The U’s new digital campus Web site (digitalcampus.umn.edu) consolidates all of the online degree, course offerings, professional development and other electronic offerings into a single, easy-to-use site. Prospective students can communicate directly with the university by phone, email or online chat. It also contains a number of online opportunities offered and developed in partnership with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

“Our campuses and colleges have been advancing the use of technology in higher education for generations, but we realized we didn’t have a single place that brought them all together in one nice, U of M package,” said Bruininks. “That’s what this new digital campus initiative is aimed to do.”

Currently, the U of M has 18 degrees that can be earned solely online. Bruininks said the goal is to increase that, but the focus is on supporting and enhancing the total learning experience through using technology. Additionally, the U’s digital campus offers ways for individuals with unfinished degree work to complete their degrees, part of its strategy to boost graduation rates.

“This is one of the world’s top research universities and our students are earning their degrees while learning from those researchers who are literally growing hearts in labs and finding ways to make energy from grass -- that’s not something we can replace completely in an online class,” Bruininks said. “But, we can -- and are -- using online learning to greatly enhance that experience.”

U of M researchers help find new role for forests in regulating climate

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/21/2008) —A new study by University of Minnesota researchers and others shows that forests may influence the earth's climate in important ways that have previously gone unrecognized.

One key findings is that forests with high levels of nitrogen in their leaf canopies have a direct relationship with cooling the earth by reflecting more sunlight and absorbing more carbon dioxide than their low-nitrogen counterparts. The study will be published next week in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*

While scientists have long known that individual nitrogen-rich leaves are usually more efficient at pulling carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, it was previously unclear whether this applied to entire ecosystems. The University of Minnesota scientists and their team found that in fact, the photosynthetic capacity of a forest is proportional to the concentration of nitrogen in the canopy.

The researchers also discovered that variation in forest nitrogen can be accurately assessed from satellites. As a result, it is possible to continuously track these global-scale effects of forests on the earth's climate system.

The discoveries add a twist to scientists' understanding of the climate system and raise questions about the underlying nature of ecosystem-climate interactions. Changes in climate, rising atmospheric carbon-dioxide levels, air pollution, land use and species composition all influence nitrogen levels in foliage, and all of these may be part of climate feedback mechanisms that climate models have not yet examined.

Department of forest resources professors Peter Reich and Paul Bolstad, along with research associate Bruce Cook, say they stumbled upon the discoveries while poring over six years' worth of data collected from research sites across North America. The study involved a novel combination of NASA satellite- and aircraft-based instruments, along with meteorological towers from the AmeriFlux network and leaf-level measurements, to analyze various aspects of forest canopies. When the scientists noticed that the overall reflectivity of forest canopies (also known as albedo) rose and fell in conjunction with leaf nitrogen, they had a eureka moment.

The Minnesota researchers were part of a larger team led by Scott Ollinger of the University of New Hampshire. The team's next study will examine how the relationships between nitrogen, carbon dioxide and other factors affect climate; they'll also work with climate modelers to determine how the nitrogen-albedo and nitrogen-carbon uptake mechanisms will influence predictions of climate change.

U of M student Ashley Lynne Nord named Rhodes Scholar

Media Note: A photo of Nord is available upon request.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/23/2008) —Ashley Lynne Nord, a senior in the University of Minnesota's Honors Program, has been named one of 32 Rhodes Scholars for 2009. She is a summa cum laude candidate for a Bachelor of Arts degree in global studies with a minor in Spanish studies, and a candidate for Bachelor of Science degrees in physics and astrophysics.

"Considering the talent, intellect and poise of my fellow Rhodes candidates, I was surprised to receive the Rhodes scholarship", said Nord. I am very honored by the award and incredibly excited at the opportunity to study in Oxford."

Nord intends to pursue a doctorate in condensed matter physics at Oxford University, in preparation for a career in the field of biophysics. During her undergraduate career, she spent one summer studying abroad in Merida, Venezuela and two summers conducting research with funding from the National Science Foundation's Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program, at the University of Hawaii's Institute for Astronomy and in a biophysics laboratory at UCLA. At the university, Nord has worked on software for the motor and temperature control system of the cryogenic portion of a new instrument that is being built for the Massive Mirror Telescope on Mt. Hopkins in Arizona; studied a simulated neural network that interprets signals from the forearm; and conducted research on counter-terrorism.

"Ashley is an impressive student who deserves this prestigious honor," said Steven Crouch, dean of the Institute of Technology, the university's college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics. "We are very proud to have helped her achieve this honor and pleased that she plans to continue her education in important areas of science."

A native of Rapid City, S.D., Nord, 23, is an accomplished pole vaulter and was a member of the university's Track and Field team from 2003-2008. She placed in several Big Ten championships and was an Academic All-Big Ten Honoree every year. According to Nord, her experiences as an athlete, including her recovery from several injuries, led to a passionate interest in the biological and medical applications of physics. At Oxford, Nord plans to pole vault with the Oxford track team and be a part of the Mountaineering Club.

"We are extremely proud of Ashley and her achievements," said James Parente, Jr., dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "Her rigorous academic program in Global Studies and Physics and Astrophysics at Minnesota has prepared her well for further study at one of the most distinguished institutions in the world and for presenting her future work to the international scientific community. She is an outstanding example of the academic excellence for which the University of Minnesota is renowned."

Nord's name has appeared on the Dean's List in every semester of her enrollment. She has been the recipient of a National Merit Scholarship, the Robert C. Byrd Excellence in Academics Scholarship and several other awards honoring her accomplishments in her diverse fields of specialization.

Nord's parents live in Rapid City, S.D. Her father is a family physician and her mother is retired. She has two brothers, Michael, 33, who received a Ph.D. in astrophysics from the University of New Mexico and currently works with the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab, and Jason, 31, who double majored in English and philosophy at the University of Nebraska, and later received a Masters in Montessori Education. He is currently a Montessori teacher in Lincoln, Nebraska.

University of Minnesota Rochester presented with IBM shared university research program award

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/24/2008) —The University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR) received a Shared University Research (SUR) program award from IBM in October to provide high-performance computing equipment to BICB researchers. This award, reported by UMR to be valued at \$140,000, is the first made to UMR by IBM under its Shared University Research program.

“This generous award of IBM supercomputing technology will allow us to accelerate discovery and further enhance the growing relationship between the BICB collaborative partners: IBM, the Mayo Clinic, the Hormel Institute and the university,” said UMR Vice Chancellor Claudia Neuhauser.

IBM’s Drew Flaada, director of the IBM/Mayo Clinic Collaboration and emerging solutions development, was instrumental in bringing the award to the BICB program. He says the BICB program’s holistic approach to biomedical informatics and computational biology was key to forging this latest link in IBM’s longstanding relationship with the University of Minnesota. “We’re at one of those inflection points relative to the science of biology... moving from pure wet lab work into a more systems-based approach, where computation and simulation become very central to how things are done,” said Flaada. “That’s where the rapid advancements are going to be... that’s where the promise of BICB is.”

Investigators from all collaborative projects supported by the BICB program will have priority access to these supercomputing resources. Among the projects that stand to benefit from these resources are:

Creation and analysis of a complex multimodal dataset that meshes brain imaging, cognitive data, and genotype information

Application of a multi-tiered parallel algorithm to drug discovery

Computer-aided synthesis of biochemical systems

Development of algorithms to identify genes and single nucleotide polymorphisms involved in malaria and other diseases

Creation of a relational database to link chemistry and biology in pursuit of enhanced understanding of complex biological systems.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to apply new technologies to growing our research and educational programs,” Neuhauser said, “and ultimately bring better health to the people of Minnesota and the world.”

U of M professor launches movement to counter excess and frantic consumerism of Black Friday

University's William Doherty and local group have plan to curb current holiday culture

Media Note: To interview Bill Doherty or other members of his Black Friday group, contact Ryan Maus at (612) 624-1690.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/25/2008) —In the midst of what has become the season for Americans to overspend, over schedule and dwell in excess, a group of Minnesotans is pushing back against the Black Friday tradition. This group, led by University of Minnesota family social science professor William Doherty, aims to challenge the hyper over-consumption and frantic pace of life as the nation and world revs up for the holiday season.

“We are all bombarded with messages to buy more and bigger and we run ourselves ragged during the holidays. This Black Friday group is a laboratory for seeking more balance in all of our lives -- something that our society sorely needs in the midst of today’s challenges,” said Doherty, whose research and public engagement efforts focus on making families stronger and making society’s culture more family-friendly.

To download or watch a video interview with Doherty, visit:
<http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/holiday.html>

The group wants others to join them in reclaiming the holiday season as a time to reflect and become more grounded. They will launch their efforts to take back the holiday season on what many consider the biggest over consumption day of the year: Black Friday.

“Black Friday is the ‘holy day’ of our consuming culture, so it is fitting for this group to launch efforts to reclaim the season that day,” Doherty said.

The Black Friday group will hold its first event “Black Friday at Church: Feeding the Spirit on the Feast Day of Consumption” at 10 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 28 at Unity Church-Unitarian, 732 Holly Ave., St. Paul.

The group’s efforts are a citizen action project that has grown out of “The Family and Democracy Project” created by Doherty as part of his public engagement efforts as a U of M professor. Doherty’s work takes him to where families are and that is in parent/school groups, health clinics and faith communities. While the launch event is held at a church, the mission of the group is much larger.

“This is a vanguard to reclaim the season -- not as a denominational thing, but as an effort to address the cultural challenges we face,” said Doherty. “And this year’s economic slow down offers an ideal time to step back and rethink our priorities.”

In his work, Doherty seeks to help create better families and make culture more friendly to families. Previously, he has applied his “Families and Democracy” model to cultural practices like out of control birthday parties for children.

For more information on the Black Friday event, visit: <http://www.unityunitarian.org/BlackFriday.htm>

U of M Humphrey Institute Hosts Discussion on Reforming the Redistricting Process

When: 8:30 a.m. - noon, Monday, Dec. 1

Where: Cowles Auditorium, Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

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November 25, 2008

The U of M Humphrey Institute's Center for the Study of Politics and Governance will host a conference on reforming the the Congressional redistricting from 8:30 a.m. - noon, Monday Dec. 1 at the Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The conference will feature a host of panelists who will be instrumental in this process in Minnesota after the 2010 census.

The redistricting process varies by state and can seem complicated to average citizens. In Minnesota, the state legislature draws the lines for Minnesota House and Senate districts. With the time to re-draw these lines rapidly approaching, leaders and citizens have questions about how the process will work, whether Minnesota will lose a Congressional seat due to declining population and what we can learn from how other states draw legislative districts.

This conference, "Toward More Open Government: Reforming the Redistricting Process," will consist of three sessions:

"Fixing a Broken System -- Why Redistricting Reform?" featuring State Demographer Tom Gillaspay, State Senate Majority Leader Larry Pogemiller, representatives of the Minnesota Republican House and Senate Caucus and Humphrey Institute Professor Larry Jacobs.

"Redistricting Reforms Around the Country: What Minnesota Can Learn From Other States," featuring Michael McDonald of George Mason University, Speaker of the Minnesota House Margaret Anderson-Kelliher, Senator Ann Rest and Keesha Gaskins, executive director of the League of Women Voters in Minnesota.

Competition and Minority Representation, featuring John Griffin of the University of Notre Dame and Marcia Avner, public policy director for the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits.

The Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs' Center for the Study of Politics and Governance (CSPG) develops practical, independent, and non-partisan solutions to pressing political and policy challenges. Founded in 2005, CSPG fosters effective and efficient governance, increases the transparency of government processes, and rebuilds the public trust in order to counteract negative influences that threaten our democracy.

This event is free and open to the public. RSVPs requested to cspg@umn.edu.

U of M Parking and Transportation to roll out new rider-friendly buses on campus

Rider-controlled push button doors and "kneeling" are two of the new features

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November 26, 2008

Rider controlled push-button doors and the ability to "kneel" for easier boarding are just two of the unique features of new buses that University of Minnesota Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) is introducing into its campus shuttle fleet.

PTS is holding a special event to roll out the new buses from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1 on the north side of Morrill Hall, 100 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. People attending the event will be able to check out the the new look of the 40- and 60-foot buses.

The 16 Van Hool buses are the first of their type to be used in the Midwest. The new buses will replace an older fleet that experienced repeated breakdowns. The life expectancy of the new buses is one-half million miles over about 12 years.

The buses are more rider-friendly. With the rider controlled push buttons inside and outside, riders can open the doors even when the driver doesn't see them. This feature also helps contain the heat or air conditioning thereby saving energy. The buses also "kneel" meaning that the entire right side of the bus lowers using air pressure coming closer to the street plan, making it easier for riders to board and exit. The buses also have either three or four wide double doors for faster loading/unloading times.

The university's first hybrid bus, purchased as part of its sustainability initiative, will also be on display Monday. Hybrid buses use less gas and cause less pollution.

The buses -- with the exception of the hybrid bus -- are owned by First Transit. The university contracts with First Transit for its bus/shuttle services.

U of M Institute on Race and Poverty Reports Dismal Results For Charter Schools

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/01/2008) —The U of M Law School's Institute on Race and Poverty released a report that reveals very troubling data concerning the success rates of charter schools in the Twin Cities metro area.

The report, "Failed Promises: Assessing Charter Schools in the Twin Cities," is one of few studies to evaluate the academic performance of charter schools and their competitive impact on traditional public school systems within the context of racial and economic segregation.

The state of Minnesota has a long track record when it comes to charter school systems, and educational reformers should take note of the report's findings, explains Myron Orfield, director of the Institute on Race and Poverty. "Before they rush into expanding the charter sector in their states, they should take a closer look at the Twin Cities experience," he said. "Rather than being a solution to the educational problems faced by low-income students and students of color, charter schools are deepening these problems."

The study shows that although some charter schools perform well on standardized tests, most charter schools offer low-income parents and parents of color an inferior choice—a choice between low-performing traditional public schools and charter schools that perform even worse.

Analysis of proficiency rates in charter elementary schools finds lower proficiency scores in both reading and math, compared to students who attended comparable traditional public schools. For reading proficiency, the average difference is nearly nine percentage points; for math, nearly 10 percentage points.

The institute's report finds that the problems are intensified by the charter system's segregated nature, both racially and economically.

"The average poverty rate in segregated schools in the Twin Cities metro is 81 percent, compared to 14 percent in predominantly white schools," said Baris Gumus-Dawes, a research fellow at the institute and one of the study's authors. "Research shows that high-poverty schools are associated with a wide range of negative educational and life outcomes. Low test scores is only one of these negative outcomes. Racially-segregated schools with high student poverty rates lead to high dropout rates, low college attendance rates, low earnings later in life and greater risk of being poor as adults."

The study also finds that charter school competition has deepened segregation within traditional public school systems: Some school districts have responded to the charter competition by sponsoring racially segregated and in some cases "ethno-centric" charter schools of their own, or by initiating "ethno-centric" programs within traditional public schools or by promoting "ethno-centric" magnet schools in their own districts.

However, "ethno-centric" schools have increased racial and economic segregation to the detriment of students, the institute's study concludes: "Overall, charter school competition in ethnic niches has been particularly detrimental for students of color and low-income students because this type of competition intensifies racial and economic segregation in metro schools and exiles these students to low-performing schools," said Gumus-Dawes .

U of M alum named one of "50 Best Brains in Science" by Discover Magazine

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/02/2008) —William Hilton, Jr., an alumnus of the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences, was named among "50 Best Brains in Science" in the latest edition of Discover magazine.

Discover cites Hilton for his 26-year record of banding more than 52,000 wild birds at Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History, a non-profit education, research and conservation organization he established in 1982 on family property in York, S. C. Hilton is an internationally recognized authority on hummingbirds and founder of "Operation Ruby Throat: The Hummingbird Project," through which he leads annual expeditions into Costa Rica for teachers and citizen scientists who help him study and band overwintering hummingbirds.

Discover chose scientists from all walks of life, ranging from top universities and government agencies to less traditional settings. Others included physicist Stephen Hawking, entomologist E.O. Wilson, Harold Varmus of the National Institutes of Health and Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin.

Hilton graduated in 1982 from the University of Minnesota with an M.S. in ecology and behavioral biology. He spent his first summer taking field biology courses at Lake Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories and then did a four-year study on the behavioral biology of bluejays at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve. The late Bud Tordoff, who was a professor in the College of Biological Sciences and director of the Bell Museum of Natural History, was his graduate adviser.

Hilton is now executive director of Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History in York. The mission of the center is to conserve plants, animals, habitats and other natural components of the Piedmont Region of the eastern United States through observation, scientific study and education for students of all ages.

Hilton returned Nov. 22 from a two-week expedition to El Salvador and Guatemala, where he became the first scientist to capture, band and release ruby-throated hummingbirds in those countries. "It's amazing how the tiny ruby-throats fly all the way to Central America in autumn and then come back to the same backyards in South Carolina the following spring," Hilton said. "My banding work in the tropics is important because it helps us understand hummingbird migration and the value of protecting habitat on both ends of the migratory path."

Hilton makes public presentations about nature topics throughout North and Central America and hosts field trips for schools, organizations and individuals at his York facility. "This Week at Hilton Pond," his award-winning photo essays published on-line at www.hiltonpond.org, are widely read and used as resources by students, teachers, scientists and the general public. He has received numerous other awards, including the Prize of Excellence from Yamagata University in Japan for projects involving "Nature and Human Symbiosis."

More information about his work is available at www.hiltonpond.org and www.rubythroat.org

An on-line version of Discover magazine's "50 Best Brains in Science" is at <http://discovermagazine.com/2008/dec/19-the-50-most-important-influential-and-promising-people-in-science>

U of M "Creative Problem Solving" class tests students with unique projects

Zumba dancing, task of "filling" four-story atrium highlight unusual year-end assignments

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December 2, 2008

With the end of the fall semester just around the corner, University of Minnesota students are hunkering down and gearing up for final exams. For one U of M class however -- professor Brad Hokanson's "Creative Problem Solving" in the College of Design's Design, Housing and Apparel (DHA) department -- year-end assignments aren't exactly your normal tests or papers.

Instead, students in DHA 1111 will be putting their creative skills to work in pursuit of a good grade.

- At approximately 12:20 p.m. during his Wednesday, Dec. 3 class session, Hokanson is hosting a professional zumba dancing instructor to give his 87 students a tutorial in the trendy fitness technique before allowing them to "perform" in the four-story open atrium of McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave. in St. Paul.

"It should definitely be a sight to see," said Hokanson about potential of 87 students dancing simultaneously in the four-story open space. Zumba is an aerobic workout that is a combination of mambo, salsa, rumba, cumbia, reggae and calypso dance styles, and has become popular due to the success of television shows like "Dancing with the Stars."

- Wednesday's activities are merely a precursor for the class's final project, which will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 15. Each group will have 15 minutes of the two-hour final examination period to creatively "fill" the four-story McNeal atrium any way possible.

"The zumba dancing is meant to be a preview for the final, to get students to start thinking about creative ways in which they can fill the atrium," said Hokanson, who has been teaching the class since 2000. "This is the first time I've ever tried this final exam project idea... Dancing is just one of the ways we've found we can fill that space, but it could also include things like objects, sound, smell or even laughter."

Creative Problem Solving is a semester-long program of developing creativity in students. One regular assignment has been to "do something different," tasking students to eat, wear, or hear something different on a weekly basis.

"This final project is a meant to be a culmination of the class," said Hokanson. "People tend to limit themselves with their creativity, but I want them to break through those limits and be more flexible to expand their horizons."

To view a video of one of Hokanson's Creative Problem Solving class periods (in which the class performs music using homemade and makeshift instruments), visit <http://hokanson.cdes.umn.edu/CPS/CPSfullPlay111908.MP4>

Preview of "Nutcracker Fantasy" to be Performed at University of Minnesota Exhibit Opening

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December 3, 2008

An exhibit surveying the evolution of the Minnesota Dance Theatre will open with a program featuring remarks by Lise Houlton and brief preview performance of the company's "Nutcracker Fantasy," to begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11 at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis. "Houlton's Legacy: The Magic of Dance" will run from Dec. 11 through Feb. 20, 2009 in the Elmer L. Andersen Library Gallery.

In 1962, Loyce Houlton founded a small dance school near the University of Minnesota that has since become the Minnesota Dance Theatre (MDT). Known for blending classical with contemporary dance, resulting in passionate and theatrical choreography that demands meticulous technique, MDT engages the community and cultivates young dancers. For four decades, the company has performed the "Nutcracker Fantasy," originally choreographed by Houlton and one of the most sought after holiday events in Minnesota.

The exhibit features selections from the University of Minnesota Libraries' Performing Arts Collection and includes personal notes and choreographic sketches from Loyce Houlton, photos of the company, original costumes, props, set designs, and continuous viewing of live performances from the past to the present.

This event is free and open to the public, but reservations for the opening reception are required. Call (612) 624-9339 or e-mail stangret@umn.edu for more information.

Refreshments at the opening reception are courtesy of the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries.

Exhibit hours are from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Robots "do something interesting" at U of M student show

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December 4, 2008

An automated pizza cutter, a light-sensing vehicle, a motorized insect and a banana slicer will be among the 208 machines on display at the University of Minnesota Robot Show from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8 in the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. The walk-through show is the largest collection of robots assembled in one place in the Twin Cities. The event is free and open to the public and is suitable for all ages.

The show is the culmination of six weeks of work for University of Minnesota engineering students who created computer-controlled machines that "do something interesting." Students received a kit of parts, including the computer, and could add no more than \$30 worth of their own materials.

"That means the students had to be creative, prowling the back aisles of Target or looking in dumpsters," said U of M mechanical engineering professor William Durfee, director of design education. "There are serious objectives to these limits, because in the real world, these future engineers will have to deal with cost constraints when they design things."

The robots must act for no more than 60 seconds and have at least one moving part, but it is up to the students whether the unique machines do something useful -- such as crushing pop cans or cleaning gutters -- or exist solely to amuse and delight -- like the computer-controlled xylophone.

For more information on this event, visit www.me.umn.edu/robotshow

University of Minnesota professor to brief congressional staffers on critical energy and infrastructure issues

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

December 4, 2008

-- University of Minnesota professor of electrical and computer engineering Massoud Amin will brief congressional staffers on critical energy and infrastructure issues during a panel at noon, Monday, Dec. 8 in Washington, D.C. Amin is one of three experts on the panel "Tomorrow's Infrastructure: Researching Sustainable Solutions," which is hosted by the Georgia Institute of Technology and will be held at 2325 Rayburn House Office Building. The panel will focus on how United States' physical infrastructure is becoming increasingly complex, interconnected and vulnerable to failures.

Amin, an international expert on power grid, critical infrastructure and critical infrastructure protections, says the briefing is designed to inform Congressional debate on addressing this nation's infrastructure crisis. "I will talk about the North American power grid - how to make it smarter, how to make it resilient and more efficient," Amin says. "We need to allow integration of a wider range of generation resources into the grid to make it stronger, more stable and to protect it from a broad array of threats."

Amin will also speak about the interdependency of all infrastructures. "There are 18 critical infrastructures and some (electricity, telecommunications, fuel supply, water, oil and gas) are the underpinning or lynch pin of the rest of them and they all need electricity," he says

Building a public/private partnership to transform the nation's infrastructure into something more resilient, more sustainable, stable and smart is at the heart of Amin's message. "The key is to make this a national priority," Amin says. "We need to create a public/private partnership in order to make it happen, because 80 percent of the infrastructure when it comes to electricity, oil and gas is privately owned. The government cannot do it alone."

Under such a partnership, leaders need to direct funding into energy research and development. Currently, only .2 percent of sales related to electricity and gas have been put into R & D. "The dog food industry spends more on research and development," he says. In fact, investment in energy R&D is at a 30-year low. The result of this is increased outages and the impact on society has been enormous, he says. "Outages in North America and especially the United States have been immense causing a \$75 billion lost in a slow economy on up to \$188 billion lost in a good economy."

University of Minnesota professor to brief congressional staffers on critical energy and infrastructure issues

Contacts: Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801
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December 4, 2008

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Amin, an international expert on power grids, critical infrastructure interdependencies, and critical infrastructure security and protection, says the briefing is designed to inform Congressional debate on addressing this nation’s infrastructure crisis. “I will talk about the North American power grid -- how to make it smarter, how to make it resilient and more efficient,” Amin says. “We need to allow integration of a wider range of generation resources into the grid to make it stronger, more stable and to protect it from a broad array of threats, to provide support for other infrastructure, and to enable economic growth.”

Building a public/private partnership to transform the nation’s infrastructure is at the heart of Amin’s message. “The key is to make this a national priority,” Amin says. “We need to create a public/private partnership in order to make it happen, because 80 percent of the infrastructure when it comes to electricity, oil and gas is privately owned. The government cannot do it alone, and the industry cannot do it alone either.”

Under such a partnership, leaders need to direct funding into energy research and development. Currently, only 0.2 percent of sales related to electricity and gas have been put into R & D. “The dog food industry spends more on research and development,” he says. In fact, investment in energy R&D is at a 30-year low. The result of this is increased outages and the impact on society has been enormous, he says. “Outages and power disruptions in the United States have been immense causing a \$75 billion lost in a slow economy annually on up to \$188 billion lost in a booming economy.”

U of M Humphrey Institute discusses the integrity of Minnesota's elections

What: Conference on the fairness and credibility of Minnesota's election process

When: 9:30-11:45 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10

Where: Cowles Auditorium, Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Anne Mason, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436, amason@umn.edu

Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

December 4, 2008

The U of M Humphrey Institute's Center for the Study of Politics and Governance will host a conference on the fairness and credibility of Minnesota's elections 9:30-11:45 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 10. at Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Panelists will include Vice President Walter Mondale, U.S. Rep. Jim Ramstad, Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, former Gov. Elmer Andersen, Chief of Staff Tom Swain and national and regional experts on the election process.

This conference, titled "The Minnesota Tradition of Fair Elections," comes in the midst of the recount in Minnesota's U.S. Senate race between incumbent Senator Norm Coleman and challenger Al Franken, which is anticipated to be one of the closest in Minnesota history. Although the war of words between the campaigns has raised concerns about the integrity of elections in the state, Minnesota's administrative and judicial process for elections is among the most respected in the country.

The Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs' Center for the Study of Politics and Governance (CSPG) develops practical, independent, and non-partisan solutions to pressing political and policy challenges. Founded in 2005, CSPG fosters effective and efficient governance, increases the transparency of government processes, and rebuilds the public trust in order to counteract negative influences that threaten our democracy.

U of M research reveals dramatic differences in the social well-being of Minnesota counties

Metro area counties score higher than those in out-state areas

Media Note: For a color-coded map depicting the well-being index scores of all 87 Minnesota counties, contact Ryan Maus at (612) 624-1690 or maus@umn.edu.

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Jackie Colby, School of Social Work, (612) 625-1250, colby041@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/05/2008) —A University of Minnesota professor's latest research reveals dramatic differences in social well-being among Minnesota's counties.

Professor Dario Menanteau-Horta of the school of social work in the College of Education and Human Development has created an index to determine the social well-being of residents in Minnesota's 87 counties, and the results are striking. The study, completed this year, showed scores ranging from a low of -11.68 (Beltrami county in northern Minnesota) to a high of +14.06 (Carver in the west metro).

Social well-being, according to Menanteau-Horta, is defined as the general conditions in which a population's basic needs are met.

"The findings of this study make it pretty clear where the most prosperous areas of this state lie," said Menanteau-Horta. "Only one of the metro area's 11 counties scored 'low' in social well-being, while every county in the northern half of the state did so."

The index consists of 11 indicators that summarize in a single score the relative well-being of residents.

The indicators include:

1. Cirrhosis death rate per 10,000
2. Influenza and pneumonia death rate per 1,000
3. Suicide rate per 10,000
4. Death rate per 1,000
5. Infant death rate per 1,000 live births
6. Median family income
7. Percent of families living above poverty
8. Percent of female-headed households
9. Percent of housing with complete plumbing
10. Percent of children living with two parents
11. Percent of residents over age 25 who hold a B.A./B.S. degree or higher

The factors that most impacted the difference in scores between urban and rural counties were median family income, infant death rate, rates of influenza and pneumonia and the percentage of adults (age 25 and over) with college degrees, according to Menanteau-Horta.

Negative scores showed severe limitations of communities in achieving basic levels of social well-being. Positive scores indicated better social conditions. Menanteau-Horta initially used the index in a 1990 study.

Among his latest findings:

- A majority (51) of the 87 Minnesota counties scored low in social well-being.
- Suburban counties (Carver, Scott, Washington, and Dakota) received the four highest well-being scores, with the fifth-highest score going to Olmsted county (home of Rochester's Mayo Clinic).
- The counties that scored the lowest were mostly rural.

According to Menanteau-Horta, uneven availability of resources is threatening the well-being of residents of smaller and rural counties, which face great challenges to provide the services that promote better living conditions.

"The first thing policy makers need to realize that there is a substantial amount of inequality [throughout the state] that has been created by society," said Menanteau-Horta. "We've identified that factors like employment, income and education are making a substantial difference right now, and there needs to be policies in place that work towards improving those areas out-of-state."

Menanteau-Horta also found that the disparity between the highest five counties and the lowest five offers major challenges to the state in areas such as family income, educational achievement and infant mortality rate. These conditions may also reflect access to services, health insurance capacity and other factors related to social development.

"The major concentration of resources and political power in urban counties has reduced the capability of small counties and rural communities to provide services and improve their quality of life," Menanteau-Horta said. "Unequal growth between urban-metro centers and rural areas strongly suggests that the 'trickle-down' process has failed to bring relief and social development to rural counties and their communities."

He concluded that social scientists, specifically those in education, health and social welfare, need to further exploring this landscape of inequality to determine areas that need improvement and envision strategies to achieve it.

University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management recognized for top international business doctoral research

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/05/2008) —A recent article in *The Multinational Business Review* ranked the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management at the top of a list of universities producing highly regarded international business research by doctoral students.

The article, "Outstanding International Business Research: Nature of the Best International Business Dissertations," analyzed the nature and trends reflected in the dissertations of the Academy of International Business' Farmer Award finalists for the decade of the 1990s (1991-2000). The Farmer Award committee selects the dissertations of four finalists each year that reflect the best scholarly thinking in international business.

The study examined numerous factors, including the universities issuing PhDs to the finalists. The analysis revealed that the University of Minnesota, University of Michigan and the University of Western Ontario,** each had four finalists during the 10-year period studied, ranking them at the top of this scholarly group.

According to the authors--Raj Aggarwal, Victor Petrovic, John K. Ryans, and Sijing Zong --the Farmer Award finalist dissertations represent the efforts of outstanding doctoral students and their senior scholar advisors; on average, the finalists were a very productive post-dissertation group, continuing to publish actively after receiving their doctorates.

"These award-winning dissertations, which were selected from the more than 200 papers competing for the Farmer Award over the 10 years studied, represent the finest international business doctoral research in the field during this time period," said Sri Zaheer, associate dean of faculty and research and the Elmer L. Andersen Chair in Global Corporate Social Responsibility at the Carlson School of Management. "The University of Minnesota's top ranking within this elite group of scholars reflects its commitment to a world-renowned faculty and a research infrastructure that supports the highest levels of scholarship."

Gov. Pawlenty to Discuss Market-based Health Care Reforms at U of M Humphrey Institute

What:

Discussion of market-based health care reforms

When: 3-6 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 9

Where: Cowles Auditorium, Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Anne Mason, Humphrey Institute, (612) 625-9436, amason@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

December 5, 2008

The University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute's Center for the Study of Politics and Governance will host Gov. Pawlenty for a discussion of market-based health care reforms 3-6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9 at the Humphrey Center Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. A panel of corporate and legislative leaders will then react to the Governor's remarks.

The discussion will center around the potential for health care reforms that build on private markets and implementing reforms passed in the 2008 legislative session. The program will consist of two sessions and will be followed by a reception:

3 p.m. - Making Markets Work: Improving Access and Controlling Costs, with Governor Pawlenty and Professor Larry Jacobs.

4 p.m. - Reaction Panel, with Carol CEO Tony Miller, Minnesota State Senator Linda Berglin, Health Partners President and CEO Mary Brainerd, Piper Jaffray Companies Managing Director of Alternative Investments Lois Quam and General Mills Vice President of Corporate Communications Tom Forsythe.

5 – 6 p.m. - Reception

The Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs' Center for the Study of Politics and Governance (CSPG) develops practical, independent, and non-partisan solutions to pressing political and policy challenges. Founded in 2005, CSPG fosters effective and efficient governance, increases the transparency of government processes, and rebuilds the public trust to counteract negative influences that threaten our democracy.

This event is free and open to the public.

Kids to learn about sports and healthy living with U of M student athletes

Media Note: The event is open to the media. For more information contact Erin Desmond at (614) 746-3890.

When: 9 to 11:30 a.m., Dec. 6

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

Contacts: Erin Desmond, (614) 746-3890
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (651) 335-2338, mathre@umn.edu

December 5, 2008

Student athletes from the University of Minnesota will host a sports clinic for eighty K-5 students from Mounds View's Sunnyside Elementary School, 9 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 at the Gibson-Nagurski Football Complex, 600 15th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, MN.

Students will be able to try out different sports along with student athletes from different Gopher Sports teams and also learn about ways to live a healthy and active life.

The event is being coordinated with the Champ/Life Skills staff at the U of M and being organized by students Kelsey Lehman, Victor Almstrom (Men's Golf), Erin Desmond (Rowing) and Christine Herzog (Women's Golf). The four student organizers created the event through their work in an Independent Study class, supervised by Dennis Donovan at the Humphrey Center at the University of Minnesota.

United Nations expert to hear testimony from Hmong families grave desecration in Thailand

Dec. 10 hearing will be held at the University of Minnesota

Media Note: Testimony will begin at 10 a.m. and witnesses will be made available for media interviews between 1:15 and 1:45 p.m. in 324 Coffman Union.

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Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

December 8, 2008

Family members of Hmong people whose graves were desecrated in Thailand in 2005 will call upon a United Nations official to recognize a violation of human rights in a hearing at the University of Minnesota from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10 in Coffman Union Theater, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

The Dec. 10 hearing will feature testimony from family members, experts on Hmong culture and students who have been working on the grave desecration issue. The Hmong community will petition United Nations Special Rapporteur James Anaya to use his authority to formulate recommendations that will prevent further desecration of indigenous grave sites and remedy the violations against the Hmong community.

As the U.N.'s Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Issues, Anaya is visiting the university at the invitation of the U of M's Human Rights Program, and the hearing will coincide with International Human Rights Day.

In fall 2005, more than 900 Hmong graves were disinterred at Wat Tham Krabok, a Buddhist monastery that served for more than a decade as home to thousands of Hmong families fleeing persecution after the communist takeover of Laos in 1975. Hmong graves were exhumed by teams of workers who are shown on videotape dismembering the bodies, removing the bones and throwing the remains into open graves.

The Thai government's response to inquiries from the United Nations, as well as public officials and representatives of the Hmong-American community, was that the bodies were disinterred because of water quality complaints. Representatives of the families reject the government's explanation, citing the government's failure to raise this issue during the 20 years the Hmong lived at the site or to provide proper notification to families about the need to reclaim the remains of their deceased.

For the Hmong people, the burial place is a sacred site; according to their animist religious beliefs, after death the body has spiritual continuity and the spirits of the dead have implications and influence over the living.

Members of the local Hmong community approached the U of M Human Rights Program looking for assistance. Students in the program took statements from 159 different families, wrote letters in English on the families' behalf and sent these statements to the United Nations. This effort formed the basis of the U.N.'s involvement in the Hmong graves desecration case.

In addition, Human Rights Program director Barbara Frey drafted the complaint to the United Nations, on behalf of the Hmong families.

"We believe that an official determination by this U.N. official that the human rights of the Hmong people were violated by the Thai government is the first step to repairing the damage that has been done," said Frey. "We hope that no more Hmong families, or any other cultural or indigenous groups, will have to live with the anguish that results from the desecration of their sacred burial sites."

For more information visit <http://hrp.cla.umn.edu/projresearch/gd>

Evolution, trivial insults and violence: U of M researcher finds link between aggression, status and sex

Contacts: Rebecca Monroe, Carlson School, (612) 626-7940, rmonro@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/08/2008) —Have you ever wondered why it seems like the littlest things make people angry? Why a glance at the wrong person or a spilled glass of water can lead to a fist fight or worse? University of Minnesota researcher Vladas Griskevicius has three words to explain why people may be evolutionarily inclined to make a mountain out of molehill: aggression, status and sex.

Although hostility or belligerent acts might not immediately appear to be linked to reproduction, new research forthcoming in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* shows that mating goals may underlie behaviors such as aggression. Griskevicius, a marketing professor at the U of M's Carlson School of Management, and his co-authors, have found conclusive evidence that merely activating a desire for status can trigger aggression. Aggressive displays, which may result in enhanced status, indirectly boost an individual's ability to attract a mate and, thereby, reproduce.

"It all boils down to the fact that status for men typically equals sex. Across different cultures and time, the higher status men have, the more sex or better-quality partners they may have," said Griskevicius. "At the gene-level, nobody wants to go down in an evolutionary blaze of glory--no one wants their genes to become extinct. Additionally, unlike low-status women, low-status men are in serious danger of not reproducing, since they make especially undesirable mates."

To listen to Griskevicius describe his research, go to <http://mediamill.cla.umn.edu/mediamill/embed/22978>

"Think of it this way," said Griskevicius, "For men, fighting for status is akin to fighting for the survival of their genes. Not caring about status, which can be implied by backing away from a fight, can be evolutionary suicide. Aggression can lead to status. A higher status leads to sex, and that leads to more or higher-quality offspring."

The evolved pull of aggression was shown in a series of three studies. Results showed that if men have status or sex on their minds (e.g., they are thinking about a promotion at work or an attractive opposite-sex individual), they will more quickly respond aggressively to a trivial insult. The slight seems much more substantial when a man has sex or status on his mind. Men are especially likely to respond aggressively when there are other men around to watch the situation, suggesting that much of aggression is about display, rather than self-defense.

Statistics reinforce this idea; police reports show that "trivial altercations" is the leading reason for homicide. But Griskevicius warns that his work should not suggest that people are attracted to aggression. Rather, "it is all about status--the one who wins the game--he's the one that gets the girl. And at the end of the day, if those genes are passed on, the aggressor is the ultimate winner."

Griskevicius's paper "Aggress to Impress: Hostility as an Evolved Context-Dependent Strategy" was written with Joshua Tybur and Steven Gangestad, University of New Mexico; Elaine Perea and Douglas Kenrick, Arizona State University; and Jenessa Shapiro, University of California, Los Angeles. More information on Griskevicius (pronounced greash-caviches) and a copy of the article can be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/vgriskevicius.

U of M Board of Regents to hear update on research, graduation rates

When: Thursday, Dec. 11 - Friday, Dec. 12, 2008

Where: 600 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/08/2008) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will get its annual update on the state of university research during its monthly meeting later this week.

“In 2006, the university brought in nearly \$600 million dollars in sponsored research funding -- almost as much as our state funding,” said President Robert Bruininks. “Maintaining and expanding this important stream of revenue is essential to Minnesota's economy.”

In addition, Provost Tom Sullivan and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Robert McMaster will present on the university's progress in increasing graduation rates, which has been a priority for a number of years.

The schedule for the meeting is as follows:

Thursday, Dec. 11

9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will hear from CFO Richard Pfutzenreuter and State Economist Tom Stinson on the state of Minnesota's economy.

9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will take action on a number of real estate transactions and a capital budget amendment. In addition, Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien and University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR) Chancellor Stephen Lehmkuhle will present on the UMR campus master plan.

1:45 - 2:45 p.m., Board worksession, Boardroom. The board will hear from Bruininks and Director of Federal Relations Channing Riggs on the role and outlook of federal support for higher education.

3 - 4:45 p.m., Educational Policy and Planning Committee, West Committee Room. McMaster will provide and update on graduation rates and the university's undergraduate education initiatives.

3 - 4:45 p.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, East Committee Room. Vice Provost for Student Affairs Jerry Rinehart and Director of Community Relations Jan Morlock will discuss the University's efforts to enhance relationships in the community surrounding the Twin Cities campus. Additionally, professor Laura Gurak and Vice Provost Billie Wahlstrom will present on new student expectations in terms of learning, trends and technology.

Friday, Dec. 12

9 a.m. - 12 noon. Board of Regents, Boardroom. Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy will provide the annual state of university research report. The board will also act on a supplemental state capital budget request, a master plan and governance structure for UMore Park and a resolution relating to alcohol sales at the new TCF Bank Stadium and other on-campus venues. Pfutzenreuter will also present the university's annual financial report. In addition, James Parente, the new dean of the College of Liberal Arts, will be introduced to the board.

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.

Inside the Consumer Mind: U of M Brain Scans Reveal Choice Mechanism

Contacts: Rebecca Monroe, Carlson School, (612) 626-7940, rmonro@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/11/2008) —That gorgeous sweater has your name written on it. But, those red suede pumps are calling your name too. What goes through your mind as you consider these choices? During normal economic times, you might indulge in a whole new wardrobe. But now, with considerably tighter budgets, consumers don't have the luxury of saying "It's the holidays - I'll just buy both!" What happens in buyers' brains as they consider difficult choices? What can retailers do to make the choice process easier for consumers?

Akshay Rao, a marketing professor at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, has conducted research that shows that decision making is simplified when a consumer considers a third, less attractive option. For example, when a second, less desirable sweater is also considered in the situation above, the shopper could solve their conundrum by choosing the more attractive sweater. The less appealing sweater plays the role of a "decoy" that makes the other sweater appear more pleasing than before. "In some ways, it is quite straightforward," said Rao. "When a consumer is faced with a choice, the presence of a relatively unattractive option improves the choice share of the most similar, better item."

In their forthcoming *Journal of Marketing Research* article "Trade-off Aversion as an Explanation for the Attraction Effect: A functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging Study," Rao and co-author William Hedgcock (University of Iowa) explain the reasons for this decoy effect. Volunteers had their brains scanned while they made choices between several sets of equally appealing options as well as choice sets that included a third, somewhat less attractive option. Overall, the presence of the extra, "just okay" possibility systematically increased preference for the better options. The fMRI scans showed that when making a choice between only two, equally preferred options; subjects tended to display irritation because of the difficulty of the choice process. The presence of the third option made the choice process easier and relatively more pleasurable.

"The technical evidence for our conclusion is quite clear, based on the imaging data," Rao said. "When considering three options, our "buyers" displayed a decrease in activation of the amygdala, an area of the brain associated with negative emotions. Seemingly, subjects were using simple heuristics -- short-cuts or decision rules -- rather than a more complex evaluation process, when they were evaluating three-item choice sets."

There are several practical implications of this research. Irrelevant alternatives are routinely encountered in a variety of settings including web-based travel and vacation markets, cable deals, cell phone plans and even newspaper circulars. In these markets, the addition of irrelevant options is a strategy that ought to reduce negative emotion. "Retailers interested in helping ease the pain of consumer decision making may introduce decoys, loss leaders, or other products similar to the ones they really want to market. It will make the focal product look more attractive," said Rao. "Plus, a frustrated customer struggling to choose between two equally attractive options may decide not to buy anything -- the introduction of a third option may be better for everyone."

Akshay Rao's teaching, research, and consulting have focused on industries ranging from food and airlines to apparel and the Internet. His research and opinions have been featured in *Time*, *The Boston Globe*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, NPR, CNN and other outlets. More information on Rao and a copy of the article can be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/arao

The Institute for Research in Marketing is part of the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. Established in 2005, the Institute fosters innovative, rigorous research that improves the science and practice of marketing. More information can be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute

University of Minnesota Rochester presents Master Campus Plan to Board of Regents

Review of Master Campus Plan to take place Thursday and Friday with approval in February

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Sarah Kelling-McCormick, UMR, 507.280.4659, kelli034@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/11/2008) —The University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR) will present its draft Master Campus Plan to the Board of Regents on Thursday and Friday, with an anticipated approval to occur in February 2009.

The University has been working collaboratively with Sasaki Associates, Inc., a Boston-based planning and urban design firm, as well as area stakeholders, to develop a strategic plan for the future of the Rochester campus through 2029. Sasaki conducted more than 60 stakeholder interviews throughout the process. Participants in the development of the plan include the Mayo Clinic and IBM, as well as city and county leaders.

The Master Campus Plan recommends that the university remain in downtown Rochester and anticipates future expansion needs to include three to five city blocks within downtown for core academic use. UMR will collaborate with partners for student housing, as well as arts, culture and recreation opportunities.

UMR is uniquely positioned to provide innovative learning opportunities in the fields of health science and technology and works with mutual partners in the region to accomplish this goal. Over the next decade, the goal of the University is to build its undergraduate identity and admit 250 students per year.

The Sasaki research indicates that by 2029, the university's presence in Rochester will generate up to 2,400 full-and part-time jobs, including 20 biotechnology research spin-offs. Sasaki has also determined that there will be increased need for retail space in downtown Rochester to accommodate the demands of the increasing student population.

Film based on music of U of M composer earns prestigious German award

Contacts: Lisa Marshall, School of Music, (612) 626-1094 or marsh396@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/12/2008) —A 2008 “Jahrespreis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik” (The Annual German Record Critics’ Award) was recently awarded to the film “Traumwerk, Book I for Violin Duo” directed by Johan Ramström and based on an interpretation of the music of James Dillon, University of Minnesota School of Music professor and composer.

“Traumwerk” (“Dreamwork”) was one of ten recipients to receive the award, winning the category of classical DVD for film and sound production.

Dillon’s work is the subject of the film by Swedish filmmaker Ramström. With only one camera and two microphones, Ramström made the recording with the Swedish group Duo Gelland (Cecilia and Martin Gelland). The film answers the critical question of how instrumental music can be transformed into a consistent visual language. Dillon’s “Traumwerk” also received the Royal Philharmonic Prize in 1998.

The German Record Critics’ Award began in 1963 and is meant to set the “most rigorous standards for supreme achievement” in the field of recording. Comprising 114 music critics, writers and editors in German-speaking countries who are actively involved in the assessment of CDs and DVDs, the association is concerned to provide lovers of all types of music and audio-books with an honest guide to new releases of true artistic significance.

The Duo Gelland will present Traumwerk during their U.S. tour, which includes a stop in Minnesota in April 2009. They will also teach a master class at the School of Music and work with K-12 students in the Twin Cities and Duluth during that month.

Dillon, with pianist and U of M professor Noriko Kawai, recently founded the Contemporary Music Workshop (CMW) at the U of M School of Music. Dedicated to the performance of music of our time, the CMW’s mission is to nurture connections among performers and composers in the performance of 20th century repertoire and newly commissioned works.

For more information, visit the School of Music website www.music.umn.edu

Film Profiling Walter "Fritz" Mondale Premieres Dec. 17

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/12/2008) —A new feature-length documentary exploring the life and legacy of former Vice President Walter Mondale (University of Minnesota Law School Class of 1956) will have its broadcast premiere on Twin Cities Public Television (tpt), at 7 p.m., on Dec. 17.

"FRITZ: The Walter Mondale Story" documents Mr. Mondale's genuine concern for helping people and his life as a true public servant. In addition to vice president, he served as a U.S. senator, an ambassador to Japan and a dedicated advocate for civil rights, workers' rights and environmental issues.

"This film is telling a story for years to come about why you should stand up for your ideals. While it might take 20, 30, or 40 years to come to fruition, it's important to do, and it's important to dedicate your life to public service," said Ted Mondale, Walter's oldest son.

Mondale's daughter, Eleanor Mondale, narrates "FRITZ", which includes family home videos, recently declassified papers from the vice presidential years and archival footage from tpt, WCCO-television, the KSTP-television news archive at the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) and other sources.

The Mondale family, students, colleagues, President Jimmy Carter, Sen Geraldine Ferraro, Gov. Arne Carlson and Vice President Al Gore are interviewed. Reflecting on Mondale's transformation of the role of vice president, Gore said, "You can divide every vice president in American history into two categories: pre-Walter Mondale and post-Walter Mondale."

Award-winning Minnesota filmmaker Melody Gilbert directed the documentary, which was produced by Jan Selby. An original score was also written for the film by Chan Poling. Gilbert says she was inspired by Mondale's fight for civil rights and human rights over the years and decided to pursue his profile when she realized that no one had made such a film.

The film will become part of the permanent Mondale archives at MHS. "Preserving it is important," said Director of MHS Moving Pictures Film Festival Randal Dietrich. "Mondale not only helped shape world events and crucial cultural initiatives like the civil rights movement, but he also embodies the ideals of public service that were so prevalent in that generation."

"This film is named after me," said Mondale, "but it's really a film about Minnesota -- our values, the causes I've fought for, my family, what I learned here, the joys and blessings of public service. Service, decency and caring about the community -- that's the Minnesota story."

"FRITZ" will also be shown at 7 p.m. on Dec. 26 on tpt- channel 2 and statewide on Dec. 27 on tpt-17. In Jan. 2009 it will be available on Comcast On Demand, and DVD copies will be distributed to libraries and schools around the state. To purchase a DVD and learn more about "FRITZ" visit www.mondalefilm.org.

U of M biomedical engineering researchers use computer models to unravel the inner workings of the cell

Research could provide clues to stem cell development and the fight against cancer

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/12/2008) —New findings by University of Minnesota biomedical engineering researchers are now helping to better understand how cells sense their mechanical environment, and how cells divide. The research could provide clues to controlling stem cell development and fighting cancer.

Controlling stem cell fate has been accomplished largely by biochemical means. However, recent studies indicate that stem cells can also be controlled by changing the mechanical stiffness of their environment, with neurons resulting on soft surfaces, muscle cells resulting on semi-stiff surfaces and bone cells resulting on stiff “glass-like” surfaces.

David Odde, professor of biomedical engineering in the university’s Institute of Technology, and his team of biomedical engineering Ph.D. students, Melissa Gardner and Clarence Chan, are using computer modeling to predict and understand how cells respond to the mechanical stiffness of their environment and how chromosomes are segregated.

“A key challenge in stem cell research has been understanding how to direct stem cells into the various cell types that live in our bodies,” said Odde. “The question is: How does a stem cell know what type of cell it should become?”

Using neurons as their test cells, the researchers found that cells sense their environment through the force it takes to pull against surrounding objects. Each cell uses its own internal skeleton and molecular motors, and the group found that the cell has an “optimum” stiffness where resistance to pulling is greatest. When cells are in an optimal stiffness environment, they found that the internal skeleton rhythmically plucks on its environment as if it were a guitar string. The results of their research are published in the Dec. 12 issue of “Science.”

Odde’s team also published findings about how replicated chromosomes are segregated. When cells divide, they must provide a complete set of chromosomes to each of the two “daughter” cells. Immediately prior to segregation the chromosomes align in a plate in the middle of the cell, a structure commonly seen in the microscope by researchers and students throughout the last century. Yet, the mechanism of chromosome centering has remained mysterious.

Using yeast cells, the team discovered that nanometer-scale molecular motors move along nanometer-scale cylinders called “microtubules,” much like trains move on railroad tracks. Upon arrival at the end of the microtubules, the motors destabilize the microtubules to tear up the tracks along which they moved. They found that the longer the microtubule, the more motors there were on the microtubule ends, so that long microtubules tend to shorten and short microtubules tend to lengthen. This created two “clusters” of microtubule ends, one from each of two daughter cells. Since the chromosomes are attached to the clustered microtubule ends, the chromosomes end up clustered into two groups, and so become ready for separation into the daughter cells. The team developed a detailed computer model for how the chromosomes move, and their results were published in the Nov. 28 issue of the journal *Cell*.

Odde said it is important to understand the chromosome alignment process because misalignment during cell division plays an important role in how cancer progresses in the body.

“Both of these research findings have major implications for our understanding of tissue development, stem cells in regenerative medicine, and perhaps, even how cancer develops and metastasizes,” Odde said. “By being able to make cells behave in a certain way, we can better control how stem cells replace injured body tissue when they are transplanted.”

U of M research running strong, Regents hear

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/12/2008) —The University of Minnesota continued to prove itself as a top research institution in 2007 with \$675 million in sponsored awards, an 8.3 percent increase from the previous year. The news was presented to the Board of Regents this morning.

“This kind of growth in our research portfolio is extremely good news for the university and the entire state of Minnesota,” said Patricia Simmons, chair of the Board of Regents. “In a struggling economy and highly competitive environment for funding, this success enables us to keep the pipeline for new discoveries and new jobs flowing.”

The university also raised or maintained its status among some of the leading rankings for research universities. In the Shanghai World Rankings, the U of M moved up to the 28th ranked research university in the world. According to National Science Foundation data, for 2007 total research expenditures the university ranked ninth overall among public universities and 14th among all universities, public and private.

“These are all clear indicators that the university is on a positive trajectory and that its research enterprise remains healthy,” said Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy. “There is still work to be done and the funding environment continues to be more and more competitive.”

Mulcahy also reported that over the last three fiscal years the university has increased its research expenditures by nearly 19 percent, posting the second largest growth rate among the top 20 public research universities in the country.

“Given the current economic conditions and the challenges higher education is facing, we are pleased with these results, but it is imperative that we continue to work together and think in an innovative and entrepreneurial way to continue this success,” said Mulcahy.

In other action, the Board also:

- approved a governance plan for the University's UMore Park property in Dakota County;
- approved a resolution allowing alcohol sales in the club and premium seats and suites of TCF Bank Stadium as well as the club rooms of Williams and Mariucci Arena and at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum; and
- received the university's annual financial report which showed the institution continues to have a very strong balance sheet.

Knight Foundation grant to help U of M researcher, Seattle's NewsCloud engage youth in news through Facebook

Research will highlight social networking site's impact on teens and young adults

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/15/2008) —University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) researcher Christine Greenhow and Seattle-based news aggregator News Cloud will test new ways to engage youth in news and information by launching two social media publications on the popular social networking site Facebook. The project is being made possible by a \$249,529 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Greenhow's previous work investigated the learning benefits of online social networking sites (MySpace, Facebook) for teenagers.

U of M researchers, led by Greenhow, will investigate how online social network sites like Facebook can engage youth in world events, build community and generate real world impact.

"Understanding how youth not only consume online information but manipulate, produce and talk through it for social and educational purposes will move us closer to understanding how to design and develop successful media-rich environments," Greenhow said.

The study, which will be published next year, will seek to discover which strategies work best to engage 16 to 25 year-olds in current events and ways in which the Internet can be used to deliver educational materials in innovative and effective ways.

Facebook was chosen because it has 120 million active members and is the most-trafficked social media site in the world. More than 85 percent of four-year U.S. university students use Facebook, making it an ideal space in which to gather this data.

The first Facebook publication, which will be produced in partnership with online environmental magazine Grist.org, is focused on climate change. The second publication will provide news sharing and community features for Minnesota students.

According to a recent study by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, the proportion of young people getting no news on a typical day has increased from 25 to 34 percent since 1998. "It's important that we find new ways to reverse these trends, engaging young people where they increasingly spend time online in social networks," said Gary Kebbel, journalism program director of the Knight Foundation.

"We're excited to apply our technology to support Dr. Greenhow's research," said NewsCloud founder Jeff Reifman. "We hope these publications serve as a model for using Facebook to engage younger readers in important current events."

Launched in 2005, NewsCloud is a community-driven news aggregator and an open source solutions provider for social media. At the end of the project, NewsCloud will release the source code to these Facebook applications via open source license. Visit www.newscloud.com/research for more information.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation invests in journalism excellence worldwide and in the vitality of U.S. communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers. Since 1950, the foundation has granted more than \$400 million to advance quality journalism and freedom of expression. Knight Foundation focuses on projects with the potential to create transformational change. For more, visit www.knightfoundation.org.

Charitable Chit-Chat: U of M Researcher shows that making small talk can increase donations

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/16/2008) —The next time a telemarketer opens with a friendly question, you might stop and wonder why. A new study in the *Journal of Consumer Research* shows that it is surprisingly effective when salespeople or fundraisers ask how your day has been or which football team you support before broaching the subject of a purchase or donation.

Kathleen Vohs, a marketing professor at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School and co-authors Bob Fennis (Utrecht University, the Netherlands) and Loes Janssen (University of Twente, the Netherlands) found that questions that seem like polite chitchat actually soften you up for a pitch. And this strategy succeeds at increasing donations.

"Across six field and lab studies we found that influence agents' initial questions deplete the self-control resources that are needed to resist an unwanted influence attempt," write the authors. "This state of reduced self-control renders consumers vulnerable to the persuasion ploys foisted upon them by influence agents, thereby resulting in increased willingness to acquiesce to the agent."

The researchers broke down the process into two stages. The first is the initial question, or series of questions, that softens up the listener and gets him or her to essentially yield to the request. The first step takes away some of the resources we might normally use to control our spending and refuse the request.

"What influence agents want to do with the first step is to get consumers to try to make a good impression or make a series of decisions or acts that we know reduce consumers' ability to cope with tempting situations, such as wanting to donate money or buy a new product," said Vohs, whose previous research has proved that making choices is mentally exhausting.

The second stage is when the actual donation appeal is made. "In the second stage, a cue is given to consumers to give them a small push -- the cues, like giving a compliment or doing a favor for you (such as a free gift), increase compliance," said Vohs. "Hence, when people have already been stripped of the resources needed to resist temptations and then encounter these cues, it's like a one-two punch. In the end, it's hard not to be swayed."

In a state weakened by answering questions, we end up giving more, the authors explain. So when a telemarketer asks "How are you today?" consumers might beware of what is coming next. "The initial act of answering seemingly harmless questions is enough to produce a state of mindlessness which increases the odds of complying with a larger target request," the authors conclude.

The Institute for Research in Marketing is part of the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. Established in 2005, the Institute fosters innovative, rigorous research that improves the science and practice of marketing. More information can be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute.

"Hobbit" fossils represent a new species, concludes U of M anthropologist

Cutting-edge 3D modeling technology used to connect human evolutionary chain

Media Note: For images from McNulty's 3D computer modeling work with *Homo floresiensis*, contact Ryan Maus.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/17/2008) —University of Minnesota anthropology professor Kieran McNulty (along with colleague Karen Baab of Stony Brook University in New York) has made an important contribution toward solving one of the greatest paleoanthropological mysteries in recent history -- that fossilized skeletons resembling a mythical "hobbit" creature represent an entirely new species in humanity's evolutionary chain.

Discovered on the Indonesian island of Flores in 2003, controversy has surrounded the fossilized hominid skeletons of the so-called "hobbit people," or *Homo floresiensis* ever since. Experts are still debating whether the 18,000-year-old remains merely belong to a diminutive population of modern-day humans (with one individual exhibiting "microcephaly," an abnormally small head) or represent a previously unrecognized branch in humanity's family tree.

Using 3D modeling methods, McNulty and his fellow researchers compared the cranial features of this real-life "hobbit" to those of a simulated fossil human (of similar stature) to determine whether or not such a species was distinct from modern humans.

"[*Homo floresiensis*] is the most exciting discovery in probably the last 50 years," said McNulty. "The specimens have skulls that resemble something that died a million years earlier, and other body parts reminiscent of our three-million-year-old human ancestors, yet they lived until very recently -- contemporaries with modern humans."

Comparing the simulation to the original Flores skull discovered in 2003, McNulty and Baab were able to demonstrate conclusively that the original "hobbit" skull fits the expectations for a small fossil hominin species and not a modern human. Their study was published online this month in the *Journal of Human Evolution*.

The cranial structure of the fossilized skull, says the study, clearly places it in humanity's genus *Homo*, even though it would be smaller in both body and brain size than any other member. The results of the study suggest that the theorized "hobbit" species may have undergone a process of size reduction after branching off from *Homo erectus* (one of modern day humanity's distant ancestors) or even something more primitive.

"We have shown with this study that the process of size reduction applied to fossil hominins accounts for many features seen in the fossil skull from Flores," McNulty said. "It becomes much more difficult, therefore, to defend the hypothesis that the preserved skull is a modern human who simply suffered from an extremely rare disorder."

Public interest in the discovery, analysis and implications of Flores "hobbits" has been high ever since 2003, inspiring several television specials (including a recent episode of "NOVA" entitled "Alien From Earth") and other media attention.

While the debate over *Homo floresiensis* will continue, McNulty believes this comprehensive analysis of the relationship between size and shape in human evolution is a critical step toward eventually understanding the place of the Flores "hobbits" in human evolutionary history.

"I think the majority of researchers favor recognizing this as a new species," McNulty said about the categorization of *Homo floresiensis*. "The evidence is becoming overwhelming, and this study helps confirm that view."

Lawson president and CEO Harry Debes to speak at U on transformational leadership

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December 17, 2008

Lawson Software President and CEO Harry Debes will speak at the Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

In his speech, "Transformational Leadership: Running the Four-Minute Mile at Lawson Software," Debes will talk about how business leaders transform global organizations in today's challenging environment. He will compare Lawson Software's effort to transform to Roger Bannister's famous 1954 pursuit of running the four-minute mile, a barrier that many at the time considered physically unbreakable for humans.

Debes' career spans more than 29 years in the software industry. Since June 2005, he has been president and CEO of Lawson, which he joined to help it become one of the world's leading business software providers. Previously, Debes was president and CEO of SPL WorldGroup, a San Francisco-based business software company. Prior to that, he held executive positions at JD Edwards, PeopleSoft and GEAC Computer Corporation. He began his career with IBM, then formed his own software company that he later sold to a venture capital firm.

The advance registration deadline for the First Tuesday Luncheon is Thursday, Jan. 1. 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, Jan. 2. There are three ways to register: Call 612-626-9634, visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/events or send an e-mail message to fristuesday@umn.edu.

Food and agriculture from Cairo to Cape Town at 10 mph

U of M prof to teach class at U while bicycling through ten African countries

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December 17, 2008

Paul Porter, a professor in the department of agronomy and plant genetics at the University of Minnesota will be teaching a class at the U while traveling by bicycle through ten African countries -- starting in Cairo, Egypt and ending in Cape Town, South Africa from Jan. 10 through May 9.

As he travels he will be studying the food, agriculture and agro-ecosystems of each African country. He will relate these observations back to a class through a satellite radio, e-mails and postings on a Web site. The course -- "Food and Agriculture from Cairo to Cape Town at 10 mph" -- will be managed on campus by grad student and teaching assistant Maggie Magan. She will facilitate interaction with Porter and coordinate speakers and all other classroom activities. The class will take place from 8:05 to 9:20 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in rRoom 33 in McNeal Hall on the St. Paul campus.

For more information on Porter's class and trip go to:

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

University of Minnesota Law School's Transformative plan receives \$6 Million in support from Robina Foundation

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/17/2008) —The University of Minnesota Law School's agenda for transforming legal education and research to address some of the greatest legal and social challenges of the 21st century has received significant support from a former student. The Robina Foundation, created by James Binger ('41), has granted the Law School \$6.01 million to be administered over five years. The grant will fund the Law School's new Program on Law, Public Policy and Society (LaPPS), which will support innovative public policy research and prepare law students to serve as agents of social transformation.

The program will stimulate inventive new policy proposals and train students in analytical skills, visionary and pragmatic approaches to law, and development of practical solutions to complex problems. With Robina Foundation support, the Law School aims to become a nationally recognized center for public policy research and a national model of curriculum reform.

With Robina Foundation funding, the Law School will establish:

- o Two research chairs in LaPPS
- o A clinical chair in LaPPS
- o A research fund for LaPPS
- o Four capstone courses
- o Annual conferences in LaPPS
- o 50 law student internships in public policy

As part of the plan, John Borrows, a professor of law at the University of Victoria and a scholar in indigenous law, will join the Law School in September., adding his expertise to the International Law and Human Rights faculty. Borrows will be the first to hold one of the new Chairs in LaPPS.

Binger created the Robina Foundation shortly before his death in November 2004 to fund creative, forward-thinking projects proposed by four institutions--the Law School, Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Yale University and the Council on Foreign Relations. Funding from the Robina Foundation is intended for exploration of new ideas and transformative new approaches to complex issues. The University of Minnesota and the Law School will provide additional funding for ongoing support of clinical and research chairs in LaPPS.

Binger was born in St. Paul and earned a degree in economics from Yale College in 1938. He returned to Minnesota to attend the Law School and subsequently joined the law firm that would become Dorsey & Whitney. In 1943, he joined Honeywell and became its president in 1961 and its chairman in 1965. Binger served on many boards, including those of 3M, Northwest Airlines, AT&T, the McKnight Foundation, the International Peace Academy and the Guthrie Theater, and he founded and owned a theater company on Broadway in New York. A dedicated patron of many educational and social-advancement organizations, Binger was widely recognized for his quiet philanthropy. The Law School's Everett Fraser Chair in Law and the Riesenfeld Rare Books Research Center were established through Binger's generosity.

Seven at the U of M awarded the distinction of Fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/18/2008) —The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has awarded the distinction of Fellow to 486 of its members this year including seven from the University of Minnesota. Election as a Fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers.

“We are delighted with the selection of these distinguished university colleagues,” said Provost Thomas Sullivan. “Given the critical relevance of advancing science to our society, we at the university are all honored by their presence here and their pathbreaking contributions to science and society.”

AAAS Fellows from the university this year are:

- Bruce Blazar, professor, department of pediatrics: For distinguished contributions to the field of cancer therapy, particularly for development of new approaches to improve the outcome of allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation.
- Allen Levine, dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Sciences and director of the Minnesota Obesity Center: For distinguished scholarly contributions to the fields of nutrition and neuroscience, particularly for neuropeptidergic intake and for leadership in the prevention of obesity.
- Timothy Lodge, professor, chemistry department and the chemical engineering and materials science department: For distinguished contributions to the field of polymer science, especially in polymer dynamics and in the phase behavior of block copolymers.
- Michael Sadowsky, professor, department of soil, water and climate: For distinguished contributions to the field of environmental microbiology, with respect to molecular plant-microbe interactions, biodegradation of chlorinated herbicides and determining sources of fecal bacteria.
- Shashi Shekhar, professor, computer science and engineering department: For distinguished research, service and teaching contributions to advancement of science in the fields of spatial databases, spatial data mining and geographic information science.
- Deon Stuthman, professor, department of agronomy and plant genetics: For distinguished contributions to the fields of plant breeding and genetics, emphasizing grain quality and disease resistance, with emphasis on both American continents.
- Susan M. Wolf, McKnight Presidential Professor of Law, Medicine and Public Policy, Medical School, Center for Bioethics: For distinguished contributions to the fields of law and science, law and medicine, bioethics and particularly on genomics research and end-of-life care.

This year 486 members have been awarded this honor by AAAS because of their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. New Fellows will be presented with an official certificate and a gold and blue (representing science and engineering, respectively) rosette pin from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 14 at the AAAS Fellows Forum during the 2009 AAAS Annual Meeting in Chicago.

This year’s AAAS Fellows will be announced in the AAAS News & Notes section of the journal *Science* on Dec. 19.

The tradition of AAAS Fellows began in 1874. Currently, members can be considered for the rank of Fellow if nominated by the steering groups of the association’s 24 sections, or by any three Fellows who are current AAAS members (so long as two of the three sponsors are not affiliated with the nominee’s institution), or by the AAAS chief executive officer.

Each steering group then reviews the nominations of individuals within its respective section and a final list is forwarded to the AAAS Council, which votes on the aggregate list.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science is the world’s largest general scientific society, and publisher of the journal *Science* (www.sciencemag.org). AAAS was founded in 1848, and includes some 262 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals.

U of M computer scientist receives nation's highest honor for early career research

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/22/2008) —University of Minnesota associate professor of computer science and engineering Stergios Roumeliotis has been awarded a prestigious Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). The award is the nation's highest honor recognizing outstanding early career researchers who show exceptional potential. Roumeliotis was honored Dec. 19 at a White House ceremony for the 67 researchers whose work is deemed of critical importance to the future of the United States.

Roumeliotis specializes in inertial navigation of aerial and ground autonomous vehicles, fault detection and identification and sensor networks. His research could be used in wheeled Mars rovers, tracked vehicles, as well as unmanned helicopters and spacecrafts. The applications of his research span from indoors to outdoors and from autonomous landing to planetary exploration.

Roumeliotis is one of 20 scientists and engineers who were nominated for the PECASE by the National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF is one of nine federal departments and agencies that annually nominate individuals for the award. The NSF nominees are chosen from among the winners of NSF's Early Career Development Program (CAREER) recipients. By receiving awards through the CAREER program, the nominees had already demonstrated their success in integrating research and education within the context of the mission of their organization.

Winners of the PECASE receive up to five years of funding from their nominating agency to further their research in support of critical government missions.