

U student, group awarded Carbon Buster Awards of Excellence

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/06/2009) —Mark Schiller, a senior at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management and the U's Applied Environmental Solutions student group was recently awarded "Carbon Buster Awards of Excellence" by U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

Klobuchar established the Carbon Buster awards program "to put the spotlight on some of the best efforts by Minnesotans to raise public awareness and show what can be done to save energy, reduce greenhouse gas pollution and combat global warming." To enter the competition, undergraduate students at Minnesota colleges used pictures, essays or videos to demonstrate how they're raising awareness, reducing global warming and combating climate change. Awards were given to the top essay and multimedia entries.

Schiller, a marketing and entrepreneurship major, is an energy analyst in the corporate environmental affairs department of Best Buy. In his winning essay, he discussed the actions he has taken at Best Buy, the Carlson School and Minnesota State - Mankato to reduce the carbon footprint of each organization.

Schiller leads the Carlson School Green Team which has launched composting, energy-reduction, double-sided printing and Yellow Pages-elimination initiatives at the Carlson School of Management. He is working on a Web site spotlighting these efforts and an Environmental Business Earth Day event.

Applied Environmental Solutions, a student group in the University's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, was awarded the Carbon Buster Award in the College Multimedia Project category. The video they submitted highlighted the group's projects, including converting gas cars to electric, participating in the solar car competition and working to improve electric scooters. The focus of the group is on projects that use renewable energy resources and technologies to reduce energy use.

Several members of the Applied Environmental Solutions group are also members of the U of M's solar decathlon team, which is designing, engineering and constructing a fully functioning, highly energy-efficient, completely sun-powered house. More information on this competition can be found at <http://www.solardecathlon.umn.edu>

Industry experts to discuss 2009 tax changes at University of Minnesota forum

What: Carlson School MBT Post-Election Tax Forum

When: 1:30-4:30 p.m., Jan. 22, 2009

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

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/06/2009) —The University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management Master of Business Taxation (MBT) will host its annual tax forum from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 22. at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

The conference will spotlight post-election tax developments and include several panelists, who will discuss expected tax changes under the new presidential administration. Attendees will learn about the latest forecasts, trends and issues in taxation from several industry experts and will leave with insights and ideas to address them in 2009.

Featured panel speakers include Roger Conlon, special advisor to the IRS Chief Counsel, Washington, D.C. and former international tax partner at Deloitte; Timothy McCormally, executive director of the Tax Executives Institute, Inc., Washington, D.C.; and Pamela Olson, tax partner at Skadden, Arps and former assistant secretary for tax policy at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Washington, D.C. Alan Wilensky, practicing attorney and adjunct professor of Tax Policy, Carlson School, and former deputy assistant and former acting assistant secretary for tax policy at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Washington, D.C., will moderate the event.

Event hosts include: TEI Minnesota Chapter, Karen Piehler-Shaw, chapter president and director of State and Local Tax at Ceridian Corporation, Bloomington; Minnesota Society of CPAs, Betsy Adrian, executive director, Bloomington; and FEI Twin Cities Chapter, Scott Lastine, chapter president and director of Finance and Business Planning at eDocument Resources, Edina.

The forum is free and open to tax and accounting specialists. It is the closing event of MBT's 30-year anniversary. A reception will follow. To register for the forum and reception, or for additional information, please visit carlsonschool.umn.edu/mbt/taxforum.

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

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/07/2009) —“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 Saturday, Feb. 14 at the University of Minnesota’s 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, 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-40-second multimedia presentation relating their newest research on evolution to Lanting’s breathtaking photographs. Tickets to the event are \$10; admission is 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 astronomers help exploded star come alive across time and space

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/08/2009) —University of Minnesota astronomers led an international team of researchers who have developed a new three-dimensional visualization of the famous Cassiopeia A supernova remnant that gives astrophysicists new clues about how exploding stars form new stars and solar systems. The findings were presented nationally for the first time this week during the American Astronomical Society meeting in Long Beach, Calif.

“By tracing backward from this new 3-D picture, we hope to find clues to the structure of the star as it exploded,” said University of Minnesota astronomy professor Lawrence Rudnick, the lead researcher for the NASA Spitzer Space Telescope observation program that yielded data for the 3-D visualization.

Tracey DeLaney, a 2004 Ph.D. graduate of the University of Minnesota and postdoctoral researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, created the first three-dimensional fly-through of a supernova remnant based on data from NASA’s Chandra X-ray Observatory, NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope and ground-based optical telescopes.

“We have always wanted to know how the pieces we see in two dimensions fit together with each other in real life,” DeLaney said. “Now we can see for ourselves with this ‘hologram’ of supernova debris.”

Also released this week was a movie of Cassiopeia A’s changes over the past eight years, based on data from NASA’s Chandra X-ray Observatory and produced by Daniel Patnaude of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and his colleagues. Some of the University of Minnesota’s data from Chandra were also used in creating the time-lapse images.

Together, the 3-D simulation and time-lapse movie will help astrophysicists understand how supernovas seed interstellar gas with heavy elements, heat it with the energy of their radiation, and trigger blast waves that help new stars form. University of Minnesota astronomy graduate student Karl Isensee also helped to identify which chemical elements emerged from the exploded star.

These ground-breaking research findings of Cassiopeia A were made possible through a collaboration with the Astronomical Medicine project based at Harvard University. The goal of the project is to bring together the best visualization techniques from two very different fields—astronomy and medical imaging.

For high resolution video of the visualizations, visit:
chandra.harvard.edu/photo/2009/casa2/animations.html#casa_3dvis

New research projects at U of M will explore food and health issues

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/14/2009) —How much schools should be paid for providing free lunches to poor children and whether federal food assistance affects children's health are among the research topics funded through a new series of University of Minnesota grants.

The one-year research grants were awarded to university researchers by the Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute, an interdisciplinary effort at the university that incorporates research in food, agriculture and health. The projects include:

- Determining an appropriate federal reimbursement rate for schools that provide free or reduced-price lunches to low-income students. Since the school lunch program was created in the 1960s, reimbursements have not kept up with food costs, leaving schools unable to provide nutritious meals with the money they receive. The project, led by Ben Senauer, a professor of applied economics, will receive \$95,989.
- Evaluating whether U.S. food assistance programs prevent food insecurity or hunger among young children, and whether these programs promote school readiness and child well-being. The project, led by Judy Temple, associate professor in applied economics, will receive \$97,012.
- Documenting how a hospital uses organic and sustainable foods to create a model for other health-care facilities and investigating whether price, education and food labeling affect employees' selection of organic, sustainable and locally produced food in a hospital cafeteria. The \$54,677 grant was awarded to a team led by Jennifer Schultz, a University of Minnesota-Duluth associate professor of economics.
- Examining the cancer-preventing properties of the herbal medicine kava. The \$50,000 grant was awarded to a team led by Chengguo Xing, assistant professor of medicinal chemistry.
- Exploring strategies to minimize the risk that bacteria used for biological control of plant diseases might have the unintended consequence of creating microbial populations with high levels of resistance to antibiotics important in human medicine. The project, led by Linda Kinkel, a professor of plant pathology, receives \$50,000.

"We're extremely pleased with the breadth and depth of these projects, and with the potential impact of their findings," said Mindy Kurzer, director of the Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute. Proposals were required to include research from multiple multiple disciplines, and the winning proposals include scientists from 17 departments across the university.

EPA's chief scientist to speak at the U of M Jan. 29 about science priorities in the new presidential administration

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/14/2009) —Pai-Yei Whung, chief scientist for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and head of the agency's Office of the Science Advisor, will speak on "Science Priorities and Using Science for Decision Making at the U.S. EPA" at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, in room 105 of the Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genetics, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul. The lecture is sponsored by the university's Water Resources Center, whose co-director Deborah Swackhamer was recently named chair of the EPA's Science Advisory Board.

As the EPA's lead scientist, Whung oversees planning, developing and implementing federal cross-agency scientific efforts including program management, coordination of independent scientific opinions and science-policy functions. Appointed chief scientist in 2008, Whung has more than 15 years of field research experience and eight years of program management in bioenergy, air quality, water quality, weather, sustainable ecosystems, climate change and agricultural research.

Whung has cultivated a broad perspective on science in the federal government ranging from conducting water quality research to initiating interagency science programs. She has worked with the U.S. Congress, Office of Management and Budget and Office of Science and Technology, as well as private-sector stakeholders on scientific initiatives and has lead the development of such policy documents as the Strategic Action Plan for Implementation of a National Integrated Drought Information System. Whung has a doctorate in climate change, marine and atmospheric chemistry; a master's degree in oceanography and marine chemistry; and a bachelor's degree in oceanography and geology.

The lecture is free and open to the public. The Water Resources Center is affiliated with the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and University of Minnesota Extension and provides Minnesota with leadership in the area of freshwater management through research, education and community outreach projects.

U of M China Center to celebrate Chinese New Year, 30th anniversary with lecture by NPR correspondent

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/15/2009) —Rob Gifford, former China correspondent and current London correspondent to National Public Radio (NPR), will speak about his 3,000-mile journey across China at the University of Minnesota China Center's Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S. - China Bridges Lecture, 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 24, in the Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S. Minneapolis.

This event will kick-off the yearlong celebration of the China Center's 30th anniversary, established in 1979 to build bridges between China and the university and its partners. Gifford's lecture will also help usher in the Chinese New Year -- the Year of the Ox -- which is set to begin Jan. 26.

In 2004, Gifford traveled across "new" China on Route 312 from its start in Shanghai to the Kazakhstan border in a quest to get to the heart of the nation. On his travels, he befriended everyone from truckers to traveling salesmen to prostitutes and politicians, in an attempt to answer one big question: "Which is it going to be for China, greatness or implosion?" Gifford's lecture will be an insightful look at modern day China and the 1.3 billion people who make it tick.

In an effort to build a legacy for their children and for Minnesota, Bob and Kim Griffin donated \$500,000 to the China Center in 2004 to create an endowment fund to establish the Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S. - China Bridges Lecture. The Griffin's gift reflects their commitment to promoting mutual respect between the two cultures and their passion to connect people with China.

Bob Griffin is president of Griffin International Companies, which he founded in 1997. Under Griffin's leadership as president, Griffin International Companies has become one of the Twin Cities' leading import firms, focusing on custom products developed in the United States and sourced from Asia.

"A piece" of the University of Minnesota to be a part of Obama presidential inauguration day

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/15/2009) —It is gearing up to be one of the biggest events in American political history and, if you keep your eyes peeled, you'll be able to see a part of the University of Minnesota among the festivities. At the request of the federal government, 11 white bald eagle tail feathers from the University of Minnesota Raptor Center will be used at the presidential inauguration of Barack Obama on Tuesday, Jan. 20 in Washington D.C.

The feathers will adorn a treaty stick that the chairs of the 11 Minnesota tribes will carry with them during the inauguration celebrations.

"We are honored to provide the feathers for this historic occasion," said Juli Ponder, executive director of the Raptor Center. "These feathers are from the same eagles that have graced countless classrooms and events throughout Minnesota as a highly visible part of the university's outreach."

Shortly after Obama won the election, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contacted Ponder for her assistance in acquiring the rare feathers. For this special occasion, Raptor Center eagle handlers selected and sent tail feathers molted from the ambassador eagles in the education program.

"While our contribution certainly won't be the center piece of the day, we are still greatly privileged to be a part of this moment in American history," said Ponder.

Established in 1974, the Raptor Center specializes in the medical care, rehabilitation and conservation of eagles, hawks owls and falcons. In addition to treating approximately 800 birds a year, the internationally known program reaches more than 240,000 people each year through public education programs and events.

Photos available (right click to save):

<http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/images/BAEA%20head%20shoulders%20CR%20TRC.jpg>

<http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/images/BAEA.headMax2004.jpg>

<http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/images/BAEAbodyMax2004.jpg>

U of M names construction team for new Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC)

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/15/2009) —The University of Minnesota announced today the selection of Stahl Construction and MN Best Enterprises, Inc. as the construction team for the renovation of 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 team was chosen from eight proposals submitted to the UROC construction committee. In addition to other factors, the construction committee felt that CEOs Wayne Stahl (Stahl) and Hyon Kim (MN Best) had assembled a high quality, experienced work teams and had the strongest ratings in several key areas including inclusion of Targeted Group Businesses (TGB). Work is scheduled to begin the week of Jan. 19.

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 UROC executive director Irma 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 north side has to contribute to the city and state."

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 and UROC administrative offices. The center is expected to open to the public in late 2009.

University of Minnesota presents annual "From Every Voice" concert to honor life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/15/2009) —The Office for Equity and Diversity and the School of Music at the University of Minnesota present the university's annual "From Every Voice" concert, celebrating the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The concert will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22 at the Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. S., Minneapolis.

The 2009 concert will feature Grammy Award-winning a cappella group Take 6, one of the most prominent and influential a cappella groups in the nation. Take 6 creates its signature, high-energy sound by integrating multiple musical genres including gospel, R&B, and jazz. In two decades of performing, Take 6 has won 10 Grammy Awards, 10 Dove Awards, one Soul Train Award and two NAACP Image Award nominations. The group has collaborated with Stevie Wonder, Whitney Houston, Don Henley, Ray Charles, Queen Latifah and Quincy Jones, among many others.

When the University of Minnesota's "From Every Voice" concert began in 1980, it was the only tribute of its kind in the state of 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. From Every Voice is now a joint program of the university's Office for Equity and Diversity and the School of Music.

The concert is free and open to the public; no advance tickets or reservations are required. Doors will open for the concert at 3 p.m. For more information, visit the concert web site at <http://www.academic.umn.edu/equity/MLK2009.html> or call the Office for Equity and Diversity at (612) 624-0594

Statement from the University of Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/16/2009) —The following is a statement from University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks in response to Gov. Tim Pawlenty's State of the State Address:

"The challenges facing Minnesota and our entire country are enormous. We welcome Gov. Pawlenty's ideas on moving our state ahead and look forward to working with him and the Legislature to address these challenges. I understand the need for the University of Minnesota to be part of the solution to the current state budget shortfall. Our faculty, staff and students are well aware of the challenges facing Minnesota. We also understand that quality education is a key to everyone's future prosperity.

Higher education is economic stimulus. The jobs created as a result of university research and entrepreneurial activity, and the strengthened human capital that results from the 14,000 degrees we award each year are Minnesota's homegrown economic engine. As I have stated on several occasions - the path out of Minnesota's current crisis, and a return to a vibrant and growth-oriented economy, lies directly through the classrooms, laboratories, libraries and halls of our great educational institutions.

Ensuring an affordable, high-quality education and the ability of students to graduate in a timely manner have been top priorities for the U of M in recent years. Despite deep state budget reductions, the university has made education more affordable through new tuition reforms and extraordinary increases in scholarship support. State-mandated tuition caps in the face of the significant budget cuts we expect the governor to recommend later this month will severely compromise the university's ability to educate our more than 60,000 students and deliver on our research mission which attracts nearly \$700 million in outside funding each year.

We appreciate the governor's recognition of our work in the area of online learning. Thousands of University of Minnesota students already have a significant online component as part of their collegiate experience. We will continue to increase such opportunities for our students. Our digital campus (www.digitalcampus.umn.edu), unveiled late last year, is a significant step forward in that effort.

Despite the enormity of the state's fiscal challenges, the university looks forward to working with legislators and the governor to preserve and strengthen our state's economic and educational climate. We urge policymakers to provide the U and other state-supported agencies with maximum flexibility in addressing these severe challenges.

Renowned financial panel at U of M to discuss the impact of regulation and policy on the growing financial crisis

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

When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2009

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

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/16/2009) —A renowned finance scholar, a leading Federal Reserve economist and a respected chief investment officer will speak at the Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 3, at the university's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

During the panel, "The Growing Economic Crisis: Why, Who and You," panelists will discuss contributing factors to the growing financial crisis, the implications of potential government interventions and global policy options and suggestions on how the community can cope.

Professor Andrew Winton, Minnesota Chair in Banking and Finance and chair of the department of finance at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, will moderate and participate in the panel. Other expert panelists include Arthur Rolnick, senior vice president and director of research, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, and associate economist on the Federal Open Market Committee; and John Beuerlein, president and chief investment officer, Marquette Asset Management, Inc.

The advance registration deadline for the First Tuesday luncheon is Thursday, Jan. 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, Jan. 30. There are three ways to register: call (612) 626-9634, visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/event or send an e-mail message to firsttuesday@umn.edu.

U of M's Bruininks to claw down first pieces of Science Classroom building in Jan. 22 demolition ceremony

University hopes to recycle 90 percent of old structure and obtain LEED Gold certification for new building

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January 20, 2009

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will sit in the cab of the hydraulic claw that will tear off the first pieces of the to-be-demolished Science Classroom Building in a special kick-off ceremony beginning at 10:30 a.m. Wed., Jan. 22 at 222 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The ceremony will take place near the intersection of Pleasant Street and Washington Avenue on the U of M's east bank. The demolition of the Science Classroom building will make way for the new Science Teaching and Student Services Center (ST+SS), which is scheduled to open for the fall semester 2010.

The new Science Teaching and Student Services Center project will be one of the most environmentally friendly construction efforts ever undergone by the university. Not only will over 90 percent of the materials from the demolished Science Classroom building be recycled and for use elsewhere, construction management hopes to obtain LEED Gold certification for the ST+SS Center, one of the highest "green" honors that can be assigned to a structure.

Bruininks and other university officials will also speak on site about the details of the demolition and the outlook for the new project. To view a video on the ST+SS Center project, visit <http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/govrel/capitalrequest/science.html>.

For additional information, visit http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/govrel/capitalrequest/pdf/CR_08-STSS.pdf.

Media members interested in attending should contact the U of M News Service at unews@umn.edu or (612) 624-5551 to make parking and safety arrangements.



Hennepin County closing lane on Washington Avenue Bridge Wednesday, Jan. 21

Commuters advised to take alternate routes

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/20/2009) —People who use the Washington Avenue Bridge traveling to and from the University of Minnesota may want to seek alternate routes Wednesday, Jan. 21.

Hennepin County will close one lane on the Washington Avenue Bridge that day as part of the work being done on the pedestrian level of the bridge.

Hennepin County will close the inside, westbound lane from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The county may also close the inside lane on the eastbound side of the bridge, but could not confirm if that work will take place.

The closure is scheduled to last only one day. There will be additional closures in the coming weeks.

U of M Institute on the Environment to launch collaboration with Climate Central

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/21/2009) —This month, the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment will launch a unique partnership with Climate Central, a new nongovernmental organization based in Princeton, N.J., with an office in Palo Alto, Calif.

Climate Central serves as a bridge between the science community and the public, including policy makers, on issues related to climate change. It provides clear and objective information about climate change impacts and solutions -- communicating complex issues through a series of video reports that are already appearing regularly on PBS's The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer and will soon be on network television.

"Climate Central focuses on bringing the world's best science and policy thinking to the national stage," said Jonathan Foley, director of the Institute on the Environment. "Our new partnership will connect the University of Minnesota to this vitally important mission. Working together, we're confident that we'll make a transformative difference in climate change science and policy."

"Having a satellite office in the Upper Midwest -- especially one linked to a top research institution like the University of Minnesota is -- is critical to our mission," said Berrien Moore III, executive director of Climate Central. "The Minnesota region plays a key role in the area of biofuels and other renewable energy technologies, and the university has research strengths in so many areas connected with climate change. This is really a win-win from Climate Central's perspective."

The Institute of the Environment will house Climate Central's newest regional "node," a satellite office of sorts that creates a bridge into the University of Minnesota's scientific community and the broader Upper Midwest region. The two organizations will work together to build a world-class research and public outreach operation, continually seeking new ways to bring the latest research on climate change to the public.

In collaboration with Climate Central, the institute will support innovative research fellowships and internships. With significant funding from the institute's Discovery Grants program, postdoctoral scholars and media interns will focus on climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation strategies and other critical topics.

"I'm very excited about this synergistic partnership with the Institute," said Kent Cavender-Bares, a research scientist at Climate Central who will lead the Minnesota office. "We intend to leverage the great work being done at the University, while at the same time increasing the understanding of these challenging topics for the public in this region and beyond."

Climate Central is a hybrid science and communications team tasked with turning the latest climate science into creative, easily understood and graphically rich pieces for print, Web and television. Its goal is to produce TV and educational content that makes climate change local and visible. The organization is an active advocate for bringing the best science to bear on issues related to climate change

The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment is dedicated to discovering solutions to the earth's most pressing environmental problems through cutting-edge research, world-class leadership development and innovative collaboration.

For scientists interested in joining the Climate Central network of experts, please contact Kent Cavender-Bares at kbares@climatecentral.org.

For more info go to: environment.umn.edu and climatecentral.org

Call to action: 2009 Legislative Briefing taps University of Minnesota advocates

U's economic value to Minnesota crucial to state recovery

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/21/2009) —The University of Minnesota will hold its 2009 Legislative Briefing and reception from 5:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The Legislative Briefing unites alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the university in support of the U's priorities at the state capitol. While the university is already taking steps to address the budget challenges facing the entire state, advocates will explain to policymakers and all Minnesotans that dramatic cuts to the university erode the quality of the education students receive and slow the creation of jobs and economic growth for the state by shutting off human capital and innovation pipelines.

The event will include remarks from Bruce Mooty, national president of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association (Alumni Association), and Patricia Simmons, chair of the Board of Regents, with a keynote speech on the university's contributions to the state and the future of education in Minnesota by university president Robert Bruininks. Alumni Association Advocacy Committee chair Maureen Reed will then rally guests to take personal action on behalf of the U of M and tell legislators how it is crucial to the economic and educational vitality of the state.

Between educating exceptional students across all disciplines in the classroom and online and creating more than 10,000 companies in Minnesota through its alumni, the university is a vital state resource, especially in these challenging times. On the research front, the university is an engine of cutting-edge advancement -- competitive research funding reached \$675 million in 2008 and led to innovative new patents and licensed technologies to improve the global quality of life.

For more information about the University of Minnesota's Legislative Network and this year's request, visit:
<http://www.supporttheu.umn.edu>

The 2009 Legislative Briefing is sponsored by the Alumni Association and the Legislative Network. 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.

U of M math lecture on Jan. 22 makes sense of sensors

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/21/2009) —The University of Minnesota Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications (IMA) continues its Math Matters Lecture Series with “Mathematics Making Sense of Sensors” presented by University of Pennsylvania professor Robert Ghrist at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 22, Willey Hall, Room 125, 225 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The lecture is free and open to the public.

In his lecture, Ghrist will explore how sensor networks are changing our lives and social rules in their uses in widely varied fields. Sensors are embedded into products we use every day, such as airbags, hearing aids and cell phones. In large-scale systems, sensors manage a vast amount of data that is used in environmental research, including monitoring contaminants in groundwater or tracking endangered species in their habitats. Sensors also have an increasing role in law enforcement, homeland security and biomedical testing.

As these technologies evolve, managing the “explosion in data” will be a challenge, according to Ghrist, one of the world’s leading applied mathematicians who specializes in applying topology, a branch of math that provides tools to visualize abstract spaces and applies them to problems such as detecting gaps in security networks.

“When we are able to manufacture these sensors in the same way we manufacture computer chips -- increasingly small, powerful and cheap -- we will see exponential growth,” Ghrist said. “With computers, we put the data on a hard drive to manage it, but with sensor networks, we have bigger challenges. What kind of software can handle the data? How do we manage it so it is flexible and respects privacy? These are all, at heart, mathematical challenges.”

The Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) was founded at the University of Minnesota in 1982 as a result of a competitive national process. It fosters 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 Humphrey Institute Hosts Discussion of Internet Privacy

Panel will weigh benefits of innovation while protecting personal liberties

What: Panel discussion about Internet privacy

When: 7:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m., Monday, Jan. 26

Where: Humphrey Forum, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

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January 23, 2009

The Humphrey Institute's Center for Science, Technology, and Public Policy will host a panel discussion titled "Today's Online Privacy Challenges: Innovation and Liberty," 7:45 a.m.– 1:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 26 at the Humphrey Forum, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Since Minnesota's privacy regulations were adopted in 2002, web-based services have developed the ability to better understand individuals' online behavior. This two-part panel discussion will provide an up-to-date look at web innovation and discuss its effects on individual liberties.

The panel discussion will be led by leaders in public policy and information technology:

Jeff Brueggeman, vice president of public policy, AT&T

Christopher Buse, Minnesota's Office of Enterprise Technology

Daniel Castro, senior analyst, The Information Technology & Innovation Foundation

Rep. Joe Hoppe, Minnesota House of Representatives

Bill MacLeslie, chief executive officer, ip:House

Associate professor William McGeeveran, University of Minnesota Law School

Gregory Nojeim, senior counsel, Center for Democracy and Technology

Rep. Ryan Winkler, Minnesota House of Representatives

The Humphrey Institute's Center for Science, Technology, and Public Policy explores the increasingly important role that science and technology play in our society and examines its implications for public policy at the international, national, and state levels. The event is free and open to the public, although RSVPs are requested at cstpp@umn.edu. For more information, visit <http://www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/stpp/MinnesotaPrivacySymposium.html>

U of M ranks ninth nationwide in number of Peace Corps Volunteers

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/23/2009) —With 65 alumni currently serving as Peace Corps Volunteers, the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus held its rank as the No. 9 university on the Peace Corps' recently-released list of top 25 large schools nationwide in producing Peace Corps Volunteers. The U of M has made the Peace Corps' Top Schools list since the ranking system began in 2001, and since Peace Corps' inception in 1961, 1,241 U of M alumni have served in Peace Corps, making Minnesota the 18th-largest producer of volunteers all-time.

The U of M garnered the most Peace Corps Volunteers in the state in 2008, with local small colleges St. Olaf College, Macalester College, Gustavus Adolphus College and Carleton College also ranking highly in their respective categories.

"The spirit of service is very strong in Minnesota," said Sheilla Collins, program director in the U of M's Office of International Programs. "Here at the University of Minnesota, we enjoy strong study abroad programs, which also contributes to increased Peace Corps participation."

The U of M also offers a Peace Corps Master's International program in the area of Natural Resource Science and Management. This unique program, which allows students to combine Peace Corps service with graduate studies for credit, is only offered at a handful of universities and was introduced at the U of M in 1994.

There are approximately 243 Minnesota residents serving in the Peace Corps. Overall, 5,847 Minnesota residents have served in Peace Corps since 1961, when it began under President John F. Kennedy.

Historically, more than 195,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have helped promote a better understanding between Americans and the people of the 139 countries in which they have served. Applications to serve in the Peace Corps have increased 16 percent this past year, the largest boost in the last five years.

U of M course to examine current financial crisis from Nicollet Mall to Wall Street

Class to feature notable speakers, with lectures open to public

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/26/2009) —Real world events often make the best learning opportunities, and no topic has dominated news headlines more in recent months than the global financial crisis. The University of Minnesota's Institute for Advanced Study and the Institute for Global Studies are jointly offering a course entitled "The Political Economy of Financial Crisis: From Nicollet Mall to Wall Street" on Mondays (beginning today, Jan. 26) from 4 to 6 p.m. this spring semester in 275 Nicholson Hall, 216 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis.

This one-credit course examines the history of and interplay between politics and economics in the current financial crisis and will feature a number of notable guest speakers, including U.S. Representative Keith Ellison (scheduled to speak April 20), University of Massachusetts-Amherst economist Robert Pollin (Feb. 23), cultural historian and literary critic Mary Poovey (April 6), U of M anthropologist Karen Ho (March 3) and Irma McClaurin, U of M Associate Vice President (April 20).

While only registered U of M students may receive credit for the class, the general public is invited and encouraged to attend any of the lectures given during the course.

"We're hoping that this class helps both students and Twin Cities community members get some context and background information on the different aspects of this financial crisis," said U of M political science professor Dara Strolovitch, who will co-teach the class along with sociology professor Rachel Schurman. "A crisis like this has so many elements - local, national and global - that it's important to understand how they all relate."

More information on the course is available at www.ias.umn.edu/Courses/EconomicCrisis.php

Eleven U of M faculty members named as McKnight Land-Grant Professors for 2009-11

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/27/2009) —The relationship between curiosity and intolerance, the roots of Britain's Royal Society in theology and science, hobbits, reasoning in the field of biology, data search engines, materials that "remember" their shapes, rainforest carbon cycles, fluid dynamics from groundwater to volcanoes, designing cities for health, energy in wireless networks and the metabolism of complex systems: In all these areas, young faculty members at the University of Minnesota are proving to be leaders in their fields.

Eleven junior faculty members have been named McKnight Land-Grant Professors for 2009-11. The award aims to advance the careers of the university's most promising junior faculty at a critical point in their professional lives. Typically, recipients go on to win increasingly prestigious awards, both inside and outside the university, and enjoy productive careers.

The winners are chosen for their potential to make important contributions to their fields. Their research must be significant, and their achievements and ideas must be original, imaginative and innovative. They also must show potential for attracting outstanding students. With their own Ph.D.s from many of the world's top universities, they play a key role in attracting graduate student talent to Minnesota.

The awards are determined through a university-wide competition administered by the Graduate School and the Office of the Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost. Each includes a research grant for two consecutive years, summer support and a research leave in the second year.

The 2009-11 recipients are:

Arindam Banerjee, department of computer science and engineering: Organizing the world's information, now accessible online, is one of the greatest scientific challenges of the century. Banerjee's research uses large-scale data clustering to do it, impacting everyday users shopping online and driving their cars as well as the global computer science research community. His work is used by organizations from Google to NASA.

Giancarlo Casale, department of history: In the early modern age (1500-1800), the Ottoman Empire was highly diverse and the world's most powerful Muslim state. By comparison, Western Europe possessed a clearly defined sense of identity coupled with a driving curiosity about "the other." Casale is investigating the paradox of curiosity and intolerance.

Ryan Elliott, department of aerospace engineering and mechanics: "Shape-memory" metals are alloys that can change their shape by temperature, such as shower heads that automatically close to prevent scalding and stents that open when placed in a human artery. In the past, research on these materials has depended on trial and error, but Elliott is developing simulations that expand and accelerate the process of discovery and design.

Tian He, department of computer science and engineering: Wireless sensor networks are in such things as hazard-response systems, indoor climate control, assisted living, bridge-integrity monitoring, and precise agriculture. Most need to work for long periods without wired power. This research has resulted in energy-efficient sensing and energy-management methods already widely applied.

Alan Love, department of philosophy: As new discoveries are made, concepts from many disciplines are used to explain them. Love looks at biology in particular, from embryo development to evolution, and investigates how reasoning works in order to clarify how we know what we know and to generate new and better resources for decision-making.

Julian Marshall, department of civil engineering: For the first time in history, more people live in cities than rural areas. Marshall works on designing cities for human health and the environment, from understanding patterns of urban density and suburban expansion to analyzing policies for ability to reduce the impact of air pollution.

Steven Matthews, department of history, U of M-Duluth campus: From the viewpoint of the 21st century, it's easy to assume that science and religion have always been at odds. Matthews is using his knowledge of Hebrew, Greek, Latin, French, German and historical theology to prove they were both essential to the formation in 1660 of the British Royal Society, a leading agent in the scientific revolution.

Kieran McNulty, department of anthropology: Last year, McNulty and a New York colleague made news when they identified Indonesian hobbit-like fossils, found in 2003, as an entirely new species in humanity's evolutionary chain. Now he's on to Kenya, where he'll use new methods to reconstruct ancient environments and explore their connection to the sizes and shapes of apes and humans as they developed over 18 million years.

Jennifer Powers, department of ecology, evolution, and behavior: Tropical dry forests are some of the most valuable and endangered ecosystems on the planet. Powers tramps through them to gather samples and measurements that are matched with satellite imagery to document regional changes in carbon storage and biodiversity. Forest managers, conservationists and local communities need her research to make better decisions and guide restoration.

Martin Saar, department of geology and geophysics: Volcanic eruptions, groundwater flows and underground storage of carbon dioxide greenhouse gas all have two things in common—fluid dynamics and energy transfer. Saar is developing new research methods with the potential to transform geothermal energy production, clean-water security, and approaches to many kinds of environmental disasters.

Sangwon Suh, bioproducts and biosystems engineering: Industrial ecology sees industrial systems as living organisms that consume natural resources and discards wastes. Suh studies the metabolism of these systems over time and has found, for example, that a transition from industrial to service economy doesn't automatically reduce pollution.

For more information, visit http://www.grad.umn.edu/faculty-staff/mcknight/land_grant_recipients.html

Statement from the University of Minnesota regarding Gov. Pawlenty's proposed budget for 2010-11

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/27/2009) —The following is a statement from University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks in response to Gov. Tim Pawlenty's proposed budget for the 2010-11 biennium, which includes a cut of \$151 million to the university:

“From job losses to the credit crunch, the economic challenges facing our state, nation and the world seem to worsen each day. Dealing with our state budget shortfall will require strong leadership and all of us being part of the solution. The University of Minnesota has been working aggressively to reduce costs, scale back investments and take other actions to help resolve this shortfall. Just since May 2008, we have dealt with \$37.4 million in state budget cuts.

“However, Gov. Pawlenty's budget recommendations today are just the first step in a long budget process. His proposal for the university's budget carries with it enormous consequences. It will impact the quality and affordability of the education we provide. It will impair our ability to serve as a job creation engine for the state through research and development. And, it will have an inevitable impact on our workforce, tuition and our ability to attract research grants - just as it did five years ago when the state cut \$195 million from the university.

“We made difficult choices then - including closing colleges and Extension offices - and are prepared again to make tough decisions. This year, I hope policy-makers will continue to give us the flexibility we need to address this substantial budget cut, and that they will look beyond short-term fixes to consider the long-term trajectory we are on. Minnesota's system of higher education has always been an asset, educating our workforce and turning new discoveries into new jobs for Minnesota. In these challenging economic times, there is no more forward-looking investment to be made than in maintaining - or even enhancing - the quality of education in our state.

“At the U, we are fully prepared to do our part to deal with this state budget problem. However, we are hopeful that lawmakers and the governor will come to realize that higher education is the best kind of long-term economic stimulus and that, together, we can minimize this proposed reduction.”

New U of M study links teenage TV viewing to poor eating habits five years later

First-of-its-kind research suggests eating while watching TV, food advertisements could be culprits

Media Note: Contact Ryan Maus to schedule interviews or for more information.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/28/2009) —The more television high schoolers watched, the lower the quality of their diets five years later, according to a new University of Minnesota study set to be published Friday in the International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity (IJBNPA). Researchers at the U of M, led by kinesiology professor Daheia Barr-Anderson, believe theirs is the first to investigate the relationship between TV and diet over the transition from adolescence to young adulthood.

To view and download a high-definition video interview with Barr-Anderson, visit http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/eat_obesity.htm

The study, part of the U of M's School of Public Health's Project EAT (Eating Among Teens), followed almost 2,000 Twin Cities-area high- and middle-school children over a five-year period and showed that there was a significant downward trend in the quality of diets of "heavy viewers" -- those individuals who reported watching five or more hours of TV a day (versus "limited viewers" watched two hours or less a day, and "moderate viewers" between two and five). Barr-Anderson found that heavy-viewing high schoolers had a lower intake of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and calcium-rich foods, and higher intakes of snack foods, fried foods, fast food, sugar-sweetened beverages and trans fats five years down the road.

In addition, middle school heavy viewers also reported consuming fewer fruits and more sugar-sweetened beverages five years after being originally surveyed.

"We've shown that TV viewing during adolescence predicts poorer dietary intake patterns five years later," said Barr-Anderson. "You're seeing that these adolescents are watching a huge amount of TV to begin with when they are younger, and even five years later it could potentially have an effect on their dietary habits and overall health."

There are a number of factors that could influence this connection, says Barr-Anderson, and she identified food advertising on television and eating while viewing as two possible culprits.

"Adolescents who watch too much television become adults who watch too much television, and thus continue to be exposed to advertisements for unhealthy foods," said Barr-Anderson. "Repeated exposure to these [unhealthy] foods may lead adolescents to consume more of them."

People's tendency towards "mindless eating" while watching TV may also contribute to this problem.

"Studies have shown that adolescents consume a lot of their caloric intake while watching TV," said Barr-Anderson. "We think that's also playing a part, but there is a need for more investigation."

Barr-Anderson says parents who want to guide their children toward healthier habits should cap their TV viewing and monitor what types of foods their kids are consuming, noting that the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no more than two hours of "quality" television a day. Barr-Anderson would also like to see less advertising of high-calorie, sugary and fatty foods on television.

"Adolescents are one of the primary targets of food and beverage advertising and television continues to be the main form of media for advertising to the general public," says Barr-Anderson in the study, suggesting that "health professionals may need to develop interventions focusing on the promotion of healthy food choices, in general and while watching television."

A full, pre-embargo version of this study is available at http://www.ijbnpa.org/imedia/1318500885198016_article.pdf?random=837323

U of M restructures leadership of Medical School, Academic Health Center

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/29/2009) —University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks announced his plans to combine two key administrative positions in the university's health sciences area: senior vice president for health sciences and dean of the Medical School. Current Senior Vice President for Health Sciences Frank Cerra will be appointed to the new position, subject to approval by the university's Board of Regents.

"Our 154-year old medical school plays a foundational role in serving the needs of Minnesota," said Bruininks. "It is my considered judgment that this combined role will result in a number of key benefits, including strong, focused leadership for the health sciences and substantial cost savings through the ability to align and streamline resources and core functions in this severely challenged economy. This change will best position the University of Minnesota and the [Academic Health Center] to play a central role in shaping the future of healthcare for Minnesota and the surrounding region through excellence in our core mission of education, clinical services and health research."

Cerra, who has led the Academic Health Center since 1996, first came to the university in 1981 as director of surgical critical care. In 1995 he was named dean of the Medical School after serving briefly as head of the Department of Surgery.

Bruininks also outlined transition steps:

- Review and action on Cerra's appointment by the Board of Regents at the May 2009 meeting;
- Commencement of a national search for the new senior vice president and dean during the first quarter of 2010, with an anticipated appointment by the fall of 2010; and
- Transition to new leadership (working with Cerra and other senior University leadership and the leadership of our community partners) during the 2010-11 academic year.

If the Board of Regents approves Cerra's new appointment, he will assume the combined role July 1, 2009.

During the next several months leading up to the July 1 effective date, Cerra and current Medical School Dean Deborah Powell are working together on transition issues and are in discussions concerning a future administrative role for Powell in the area of medical education.

U of M opens new technology support center in Coffman Memorial Union

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/30/2009) —The University of Minnesota's Office of Information Technology (OIT) has now opened Tech Stop, a new student-focused technology center in 101 Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

OIT Tech Stop, located in the first-floor space recently vacated by STA Travel, provides a central location for students to receive face-to-face technology consultations and support.

Tech Stop offers walk-in assistance with and support for university technology services including e-mail client configuration, Internet password changes-including a self-service password change station for students, Symantec AntiVirus installation or assistance, consultations on virus removal, ResNet connection problem troubleshooting, driver updates, common good software such as e-mail, UMCal, WebVista, and Moodle, and more.

Fee-based services from vendor-certified OIT staff include software and hardware diagnostics and installation, hardware (memory and hard drive) upgrades and repairs, operating system and software installations, printing and consultations on purchasing computers and other technology equipment.

Visitors will have the opportunity to get face-to-face support from first-level help staff, as well as access to second and third levels of support via remote connection.

OIT Tech Stop will be a distribution site for a variety of software, such as Microsoft Office and antivirus protection, available through OIT's site license program. Software must be ordered and paid for online, either ahead of time or in-person at a convenient ordering station at the Tech Stop location.

Visitors also will have access to the latest technology innovations and demonstrations through OIT's collaboration with several technology vendors. In February, presentations from Apple are scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, and from Adobe on Monday, February 23. Presentations are free, but require an R.S.V.P. to acofc@umn.edu.

Hours for the OIT Tech Stop are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, and noon to 5 pm. Saturday and Sunday. An open house will be held on a to-be-announced February date.

For more information, visit <http://oit.umn.edu/techstop>

Businesses seek to make you laugh (then buy) with this year's Super Bowl ads

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/30/2009) —At \$100,000 a second, Super Bowl advertisers this year must take advantage of their limited time and get their message across. And there's an increasingly popular way to do that, says a University of Minnesota expert:

John Eighmey, University of Minnesota School of Journalism and Mass Communication professor:

"Watch for an even more use of humor this year," says Eighmey (specifically General Electric's scarecrow ad). "Everyone wants to be liked, and effective humor can deliver attention, liking and memorability." Eighmey is the Raymond O. Mithun Land Grant Chair in Advertising, a former member of the Federal Trade Commission and a national authority on advertising, marketing and mass communication.

To read Eighmey's advertising insights on his blog: <http://eighmey.blogspot.com/>

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

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University of Minnesota Libraries receive prestigious "Excellence in Academic Libraries" award

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/30/2009) —The University of Minnesota Libraries has received the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) 2009 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award. Sponsored by ACRL and Blackwell's Book Services, the award recognizes the staff of a college, university and community college library for programs that deliver exemplary services and resources to further the educational mission of the institution.

"Receiving an Excellence in Academic Libraries Award is a national tribute to a library and its staff for the outstanding services, programs and leadership they provide to their students, administrators, faculty and community," said ACRL Executive Director Mary Ellen Davis. "It is wonderful to learn of the innovative programs and services being offered by these three exemplary institutions."

The University of Minnesota Libraries, winner of the university category, was praised for developing excellent strategies to successfully transform and rebrand the libraries to secure a highly valued position on campus.

"The libraries understand the importance of the process of conducting scholarship and have implemented programs to support behaviors rather than product," said Snelson, chair of the 2009 Excellence in Academic Libraries Selection Committee and college librarian at Franklin & Marshall College. "By 'getting in the flow of users,' the libraries have moved out of their comfort zone and shifted into an engagement-centered model for all library services and programs."

"We're immensely proud of the success we've had in integrating our expertise and resources into the life of the campus," said Wendy Pradt Lougee, university librarian and McKnight Presidential Professor at the University of Minnesota. "To have our staff's innovative work recognized by the ACRL community is quite simply wonderful."

The Libraries will receive \$3,000 and a plaque, presented at an award ceremony to be scheduled on campus in the spring, as well as special recognition at the ACRL President's Program during the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference July 13 in Chicago.

More about the ACRL Award program can be found on their Web site at www.ala.org.

University of Minnesota study: Cellulosic ethanol may benefit human health and help slow climate change

Media Note: EMBARGO: 5 p.m. (ET) Monday, Feb. 2

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/30/2009) —Filling our fuel tanks with cellulosic ethanol instead of gasoline or corn-based ethanol may be even better for our health and the environment than previously recognized, according to new research from the University of Minnesota.

The study finds that cellulosic ethanol has fewer negative effects on human health because it emits smaller amounts of fine particulate matter, an especially harmful component of air pollution. Earlier work showed that cellulosic ethanol and other next-generation biofuels also emit lower levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

The study will be published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in February and will be posted online next week.

“Our work highlights the need to expand the biofuels debate beyond its current focus on climate change to include a wider range of effects such as their impacts on air quality,” said lead author Jason Hill, a resident fellow in the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment.

The study is the first to estimate the economic costs to human health and well-being from gasoline, corn-based ethanol and cellulosic ethanol made from biomass. The authors found that depending on the materials and technology used in production, cellulosic ethanol’s environmental and health costs are less than half the costs of gasoline, while corn-based ethanol’s costs range from roughly equal to about double that of gasoline.

Total environmental and health costs of gasoline are about 71 cents per gallon, while an equivalent amount of corn-ethanol fuel costs from 72 cents to about \$1.45, depending on the technology used to produce it. An equivalent amount of cellulosic ethanol, however, costs from 19 cents to 32 cents, depending on the technology and type of cellulosic materials used.

“These costs are not paid for by those who produce, sell and buy gasoline or ethanol. The public pays these costs,” said study co-author Stephen Polasky, a professor in the university’s applied economics department.

The authors looked at pollutants emitted at all stages of the life cycles of the three types of fuel, including when they are produced and used. They considered three methods of producing corn-based ethanol and four methods of producing cellulosic ethanol.

“To understand the environmental and health consequences of biofuels we must look well beyond the tailpipe to how and where biofuels are produced. Clearly, upstream emissions matter,” Hill said.

The paper also points out that other potential advantages of cellulosic biofuels, such as reducing the amount of fertilizer and pesticide runoff into rivers and lakes, may also add to the economic benefit of transitioning to next-generation biofuels.

Regents Professor David Tilman of the university’s ecology, evolution and behavior department also contributed to the paper, as did scientists from Stanford University and the Argonne National Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy. Research funding was provided in part by the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment, a signature program of the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment.

Small male chimps use politics, rather than aggression, to lead the pack, U of M study says

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/02/2009) —With most mammals, the biggest and most aggressive male claims the alpha male role and gets his choice of food and females. But a new study from the University of Minnesota suggests that at least among chimpanzees, smaller, more mild-mannered males can also use political behavior to secure the top position.

The finding was gleaned from 10 years of observing dominant male chimpanzees in Gombe National Park, Tanzania, looking at behaviors they used to compete for alpha male status relative to their size. Analysis showed that larger males relied more on physical attacks to dominate while smaller, gentler males groomed other chimpanzees, both male and female, to gain broad support.

The study focused on three alpha males who reigned between 1989 and 2003. Frodo, one of the largest and most aggressive male chimpanzees ever observed at Gombe, weighed 51.2 kg (112.6 lbs.) at his peak. He relied on his size and aggression to rule. While he allowed other chimpanzees to groom him, he seldom returned the favor. At the other end of the spectrum, Wilkie, who weighed only 37 kg (81.4 lbs.), obsessively groomed both male and female chimpanzees to maintain his top position. And Freud, who weighed 44.8 kg (98.6 lbs.), used a combination of the two strategies. (The average male chimp in Gombe weighs about 39 kg (85.8 lbs.).)

The findings are reported in the February issue of the *American Journal of Primatology*. While it's widely known that grooming plays an important role in chimpanzee social interaction, this study is the first to show that it can be a strategy for achieving dominance.

Mark Foster, who was an undergraduate pursuing a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology and a B.F.A. in acting when the research was conducted, was the study's lead author of the study. As a recipient of a Katherine E. Sullivan Fellowship he later spent six months in Tanzania and Gombe and then became an educational assistant at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago.

"Mark showed extraordinary creativity and tenacity in pulling together this study while still an undergraduate and then seeing it through to publication," said Anne Pusey, who was senior author. Pusey is director of the Jane Goodall Institute's Center for Primate Studies at the University of Minnesota and a University McKnight Distinguished Professor in the College of Biological Sciences' department of ecology, evolution and behavior (EEB).

Other collaborators included EEB graduate students Ian Gilby, who guided Foster in the initial outline of the question and in data extraction; Carson Murray, who guided data analysis; and Emily Wroblewski, who analyzed data on male dominance hierarchies. Statistics graduate student Alicia Johnson of the U of M Statistics Clinic guided the statistical analysis. Gilby is now a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard, and Murray a post-doctoral fellow at Lincoln Park Zoo.

"We were aware that Frodo was a bully and a stingy groomer, but we did not know how closely grooming patterns would correlate with body size," Pusey said. "We plan to study more alpha males to determine if grooming is a common strategy that small-bodied males use to placate rivals or cultivate cooperative alliances."

The Jane Goodall Institute's Center for Primate Studies was established in 1995 at the College of Biological Sciences by Pusey, a former student of Goodall's. Pusey brought all of Goodall's field notes and photographs from 48 years in Gombe to the University of Minnesota. She is overseeing the creation of a searchable, online database providing access to Goodall's research material.

U of M's Minnesota Population Center to open new Research Data Center

New MNRDC will be only center in nation to have health data focus

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/02/2009) —The University of Minnesota's Minnesota Population Center (MPC) recently received approval from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and United States Census Bureau to open the Minnesota Research Data Center (MNRDC) in January of 2010. The RDC allows access to confidential (non-public) data for research in a highly secure environment and has potential applications across the university.

The to-be-opened center will provide Minnesota researchers access to restricted datasets from the Census Bureau, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) that represent a key component for infrastructure for research in the fields of business, economics, epidemiology, geography, health services, population, public policy and sociology.

The new RDC will carry a health data focus, making it the only such center in the nation to carry such a distinction. The Minnesota Population Center is the largest distributor of worldwide demographic data, and the RDC will also help facilitate the data improvement project work done by the MPC.

"This new RDC will be great for both for the U of M and the state of Minnesota," said Davern, co-director of the new MNRDC, who also serves as co-principal investigator and research director at the U of M's State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC). "Having convenient access to this kind of data can help researchers in a number of different ways, like conducting innovative research evaluating the costs of public health programs like Medicare and Medicaid."

Unlike most other RDCs, the MNRDC will allow Minnesota researchers to expand their current "big science" informatics and data improvement projects. Eight of the other nine existing RDCs are located at large public research institutions, including California-Berkley, UCLA and Michigan.

"None of the other centers around the country have a health data focus, and none have in mind the 'big science' projects we envision taking place here," said Davern. "It's extremely useful to have this information on campus, as it will save on travel costs and help solidify Minnesota as one of the leading health care research institutions in the country."

U of M faculty have identified several potential research projects that would benefit from the data available at the new center, including studies on the economic impact of marriage in the United States, racial and ethnic gaps that exist amongst homeowners and monitoring the effectiveness of government welfare programs.

The RDC will be co-directed by Davern and Cathy Fitch, Associate Director of the Minnesota Population Center and will be located at the MPC in Willey Hall on the U of M's west bank campus. It is scheduled to open Jan. 1, 2010.

U of M Humphrey Institute panel tackles the financial crisis

What: Panel discussion on managing the current financial crisis

When: 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4

Where: Humphrey Center Forum, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

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February 3, 2009

The Humphrey Institute will host a panel discussion titled, “The Local and National Economies: Light at the End of the Tunnel?” at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, at the Humphrey Center Forum, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public.

America’s financial crisis took center stage during the presidential and local elections late in 2008 and continues to unfold as the country transitions to a new administration. Minnesota has realized the impact this crisis will have on its own economic future, with Gov. Pawlenty forecasting an immense shortfall in the state’s budget for the coming year.

This panel of financial experts will tackle the question of how best to manage the financial crisis at both the national and Minnesota levels, and will include:

Maria Hanratty, an economist and Humphrey Institute associate professor, with expertise on the economics of poverty and comparative social welfare institutions.

Jay Kiedrowski, former commissioner of finance for the State of Minnesota and currently a senior fellow at the Humphrey Institute.

Dan Laufenberg, chief economist for Ameriprise Financial and previously with the Federal Reserve in Washington, D.C. and the Congressional Budget Office.

Art Rolnick, senior vice president and director of research for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Tom Stinson, Minnesota’s state economist and associate professor in the department of applied economics at the U of M.

This is the second in a series of panel discussions about the state of the economy hosted by the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

U of M alumnus will outline roadmap to energy independence on Wednesday, Feb. 4 evening lecture

Media Note: To schedule a phone interview with Joe Shuster, contact Ryan Mathre at mathre@umn.edu or (612) 625-0552

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

February 3, 2009

University of Minnesota chemical engineering alumnus and Minnesotan businessman Joe Shuster will outline his roadmap for our country's energy independence to a capacity crowd set to attend the Institute of Technology Public Lecture "Beyond Fossil Fools" at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 4 at the University's Coffman Memorial Union. More than 550 people are registered to attend. Due to the overwhelming response, registration for the event has been closed.

Shuster, the author of "Beyond Fossil Fools," will show how the U.S. must urgently map a new direction to avert the energy disasters that loom on the horizon. His clear and quantified speech defines the problem, explores the possibilities and then shows the roadmap to a solution, complete with costs and a timeline for implementation.

Shuster, a chemical engineer for more than 50 years, has founded or co-founded eight companies, many addressing diverse energy-related issues. He co-founded Minnesota Valley Engineering (MVE), which designed and manufactured equipment for hydrogen handling, enhanced oil recovery systems and transportation fuel systems. Shuster also founded Teltech, a science and engineering consulting firm that produced hundreds of technical dossiers, including reports on photovoltaic manufacturing, fuel cells, natural gas purification and other energy-related topics.

The Institute of Technology, the University of Minnesota's college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics, offers public lectures throughout the year featuring distinguished leaders on topics related to science and technology. The lectures are designed to share the latest scientific discoveries, explore the impact of technology on culture, and encourage networking on campus. The program is sponsored by the Institute of Technology Alumni Society.

University of Minnesota garbage truck to turn sidewalk at Coffman Union into a landfill today

Volunteers to "dumpster dive" for recyclables

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

February 4, 2009

Students will want to hold their noses and step carefully today (Wednesday, Feb. 4) as an University of Minnesota garbage truck transforms the sidewalk in front of Coffman Union into a landfill -- a temporary one.

At 9 a.m. today, the garbage truck will dump its full load of trash in front of Coffman, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. Then a group of volunteers will go on something of a trash treasure hunt. They will sort through the pile and pull out the cans, bottles and newspapers that could have been recycled, but ended up in the trash instead.

The trash dump is part of an effort to increase recycling on campus. Despite a quarter century's worth of recycling efforts and individual recycling containers for newspapers, glass and plastic in University of Minnesota buildings, only about 32 percent of materials in the university's waste stream were recycled in 2008. The goal is to increase that number to 50 percent. About 60 to 65 percent of recyclable material was recovered for recycling.

"Recycling has been part of the university and part of our culture for 25 years now, and I've got to believe that everyone knows the environmental benefits of recycling," said Dana Donatucci, director of the university's recycling program. "If everyone gets involved, I know we can get to that goal of 50 percent."

The push to increase recycling is part of the campus-wide RecycleMania effort that is currently underway. RecycleMania is a national competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities. During a 10-week period, schools report recycling and trash data which are then ranked according to who collects the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate. With each week's reports and rankings, participating schools watch how their results fluctuate against other schools and use this to rally their campus communities to reduce and recycle more.

The University of Minnesota is a pioneer in campus recycling efforts. More than 10 tons of recyclable material is collected on campus each day. For more information on university recycling, visit the recycling web page at <http://www1.umn.edu/recycle/index.html>

Physician-activist Ashis Brahma to speak at U of M about Darfur genocide

Doctor has championed cause in national media and across the country

Media Note: Interviews with Dr. Brahma are available by contacting Kelly O'Brien at (612) 624-4109.

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February 4, 2009

Ashis Brahma, doctor to Darfur refugees, will speak at the University of Minnesota twice next week on the continuing genocide in Darfur, focusing on public policy, health and the refugee crisis. Brahma is a Dutch physician who worked as the sole doctor at the Oure Cassoni camp in Chad from July 2006 through July 2007, caring for 27,000 Darfur refugees forced from their homes in Sudan.

Brahma has been featured in several national news outlets regarding the genocide in Darfur, including CBS's "60 Minutes," the USA Today and Newsweek.

From 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 10, Brahma will speak at the University of Minnesota Law School, 25 Mondale Hall, 229 19th Avenue S., Minneapolis. His talk is titled, "Darfur: Taking a Stand against Genocide."

Then, from noon to 1:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, Brahma will speak on "Darfur: Responding to a Public Health Disaster" in room 5-250 Moos Tower, 515 Delaware St. S.E., Minneapolis.

More than 400,000 people in the Darfur region of Sudan have died due to the violence that began in 2003. Another two million have been forced into primitive refugee camps, like the one at Oure Cassoni, where starvation, malnutrition and disease are now creating "genocide by attrition" and where deprivation and physical attacks, especially against women, are common.

Brahma has years of experience in caring for the ill in developing countries such as India, Nepal, Burundi, Sudan, Uganda and Ethiopia before his recent stint in Darfur. He is member of the Medical Leadership Team of the Phoenix Global Humanitarian Foundation, which provides disaster relief services throughout the world.

Brahma's visit is sponsored by the U of M's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. More information about Brahma's activities in Minneapolis can be found on the web at www.chgs.umn.edu



University of Minnesota Police and Minneapolis Police Departments to hold joint press briefing at 2 p.m. today

Police arrest suspect in groping incidents

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Ryan Maus, University Relations, (612) 624-1690

February 4, 2009

The University of Minnesota Police Department (UMPD) and the Minneapolis Police Department will hold a joint press conference to discuss the arrest of the man suspected of criminal sexual contact in several incidents on and around the university campus. The press conference will be held at the university at 2 p.m. today in Room 12 of Morrill Hall, 100 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

During the last two months, the police have received reports of a man grabbing the genital area of victims. About 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, UMPD officers received a report of a female being touched inappropriately by a male on the university's East Bank. University officers began checking the area for the suspect and arrested him on the West Bank. Police had two victims, who are university students, come to the arrest location and they identified the suspect as the person who sexually assaulted them.

The suspect was then transported to the UMPD and later transported to the Minneapolis Police Department where their investigators could follow up on similar incidents that occurred off campus.

U of M-led study reveals mysteries of deep-sea nutrients

Media Note: EMBARGO: Noon CST, Sunday, Feb. 8

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/06/2009) —Iron dust, the rare but necessary nutrient for most life, can not only be washed into the ocean from rivers or blown out to sea, but it can bubble up from the depths of the ocean floor, a new study led by a University of Minnesota scientist shows.

Iron holds a crucial place in the aquatic food chain, but is extremely scarce in many environments. “There is a lot of iron released to the ocean from deep-sea hydrothermal vents,” said Brandy Toner, an assistant professor in the University of Minnesota’s department of Soil, Water and Climate. “The key to understanding where the iron will travel and whether it will be accessible to life depends on the chemical form of the iron; at the sea floor, we’re finding forms of iron we didn’t expect to see.” Toner led the research on iron chemistry as a postdoctoral researcher at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts.

The study is being published Feb. 8 in the online edition of Nature Geoscience and for the first time connects life near the ocean’s surface to what happens at extreme depths and pressures. Previously, the two had been assumed to operate independently.

Researchers used remote devices to collect particle samples from parts of the Pacific Ocean where underground volcanoes are common. The volcanoes create hydrothermal vents that spew iron, which in turn is captured by organic compounds that carry the iron away in seawater. Unlike the iron that lands in the ocean through wind or river water, iron from the deep sea isn’t rusty, which means it might provide more nutrients for sea life.

The research applies a soil chemistry perspective to questions about iron in marine waters, Toner says. “The discovery highlighted in this paper will change the ways scientists think about iron and carbon cycling in the deep waters of the ocean.”

The study was funded by NASA, the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation. It included scientists from the University of Southern California as well as the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

U of M to send banner with Minnesota National Guard infantry to Iraq

National Guard's 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division to begin deployment Feb. 10

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/06/2009) —The University of Minnesota will be sending a banner filled with well wishes from students, faculty and staff to Iraq along with the Minnesota National Guard's 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division, to be presented to at a departure ceremony Tuesday, Feb. 10. The U of M's banner will accompany the 1,037 soldiers on their one-year deployment to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The banner signing, open to all U of M students, faculty and staff, will take place between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 9 in the lobby of Morrill Hall, 100 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The university currently has between 600 and 700 student veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The National Guard works closely with several U of M colleges and departments, including programs such as the Humphrey Institute's "Warrior to Citizen" program, a grassroots effort to provide enduring support to Minnesota's returning veterans and their families.

"The University of Minnesota is proud to support our troops overseas, and hopefully this banner will remind this particular group of Minnesotans that they are in our thoughts," said University Relations Vice President Karen Himle.

Several other Minnesota companies and communities will be sending banners with the 34th Infantry, which includes National Guard units deploying from the communities of Rosemount, Inver Grove Heights, Faribault and Stillwater.

"This banner will give our base a little taste of Minnesota," said 34th Infantry Division Command Chaplain CH (LTC) John Morris. "It will help remind our soldiers that they have the support of Minnesotans back home."

The Red Bulls will undergo pre-deployment training at Fort Lewis, Washington for approximately three months before being deployed to Iraq in April. They are scheduled to return to Minnesota in February of 2010.

University of Minnesota restructures graduate program administration

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/09/2009) —The University of Minnesota will restructure the administration of its graduate programs to enhance graduate education for students, strengthen the programs and reduce costs, according to Provost Tom Sullivan.

“Our graduate programs are some of the best in the world, attracting talented faculty and students who make amazing scientific, artistic and scholarly breakthroughs,” said Sullivan. “This restructuring is aimed at enhancing our excellence and international reputation as well as dealing with the fiscal challenges of today.”

As part of the restructuring, the current Graduate School will be changed from a free-standing administrative unit to which all graduate programs report, to an Office for Graduate Education within the Provost's Office, which will be responsible for oversight, coordination and leadership on issues related to graduate education. Ultimate responsibility and accountability for the quality of individual graduate programs will reside with collegiate deans and their faculties.

“This new structure will improve communication between the Provost's Office and collegiate units and will also put administration of graduate programs directly in the hands of the colleges - similar to what it is for undergraduate programs,” said Sullivan. “For students and faculty, this will improve and simplify their experience.”

An implementation team that consists of collegiate deans, experienced directors of graduate studies, graduate students, faculty and the Provost's Office will be formed to develop an implementation plan. New reporting lines will be effective July 1, 2009 and full implementation is expected by fall 2010.

U of M research finds most road salt is making it into the state's lakes and rivers

Smarter application could help lessen the environmental impact

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/10/2009) —Research at the University of Minnesota has revealed that road salt used throughout the winter is making the state's lakes and rivers saltier, which could affect aquatic life and drinking water. The research indicates that better training of snow plow drivers and more judicious use of road salt could help lessen the impact and save the state money.

To watch a video with research team leader Heinz Stefan, go to http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/road_salt.htm

The researchers studied 39 lakes, three major rivers, 10 tributaries and numerous observation wells, and the results are alarming. They found that approximately 70 percent of the road salt being applied in the metro area is retained in our watershed. The university researchers recently reported their findings to the Local Road Research Board. Nearly 350,000 tons of sodium chloride, commonly referred to as road salt, are applied for de-icing in the Twin Cities metro area every year.

"Nobody has asked the question of where the salt ultimately goes after the winter season is over," said research team leader Stefan, a civil engineering professor at the university's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory. "Our study has been concerned with that question in particular."

Stefan's team (including Eric Novotny, Andrew Sander, Dan Murphy and Omid Mohseni) tracked the movement of chloride applied by humans throughout the water system, distinguishing it from geological or natural origins. They found that the chloride concentrations (salinity) in 39 metro area lakes have increased over the past 22 years, following a similar trend in road salt purchases by the state of Minnesota. Both show a marked increase from 1984 to 2005, which if continued would double salinity in these lakes in about 50 years. Compare this with a near zero concentration in the 1950s, when road salt application began.

The effects could be severe. Continuous levels of chloride concentration (as low as 250 mg/L, the equivalent of one teaspoon of salt in five gallons of water) have been shown to be harmful to aquatic life and to affect the taste of drinking water. In 2008, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency listed five metro area streams as already impaired by chloride. Increases in sodium and chloride have been shown to decrease the biodiversity in wetland areas, altering the development of wood frogs, decreasing the number and types of fish available, and increasing mortality rates of organisms that rely on an aquatic system. Increases in sodium and chloride have also been shown to increase mobilization of heavy metals in the soil along major highways.

To help reduce the effects, researchers recommend more judicious use of road salt through increased training of snow plow drivers to get the most out of the road salt they apply. Applying sodium chloride to pavement temperatures below 15 degrees Fahrenheit is generally not effective. At higher temperatures, researchers suggest using only one to three cups of salt per 1000 square feet. These recommendations are working at the University of Minnesota. Since training began two years ago, the university has reduced use of road salt by 41 percent and saved more than \$50,000 in the first year.

More information about professor Stefan's research at the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory can be found at www.safl.umn.edu. More information on road salt application training through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency can be found at www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/roadsalt.html.

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.

University of Minnesota Board of Regents to meet this week

When: Thursday, Feb. 12 - Friday, Feb. 13, 2009

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

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

February 10, 2009

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold its monthly meeting this week on the Twin Cities campus. The board will act on the University of Minnesota Rochester Master Campus Plan. The agenda also includes a work session on how students pay for the cost of college and a proposed new dental therapy program that will be the first of its kind in the nation.

Highlights of the meeting include:

Thursday, Feb. 12

9:45 - 11:30 a.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, West Committee Room. Provost Thomas Sullivan and Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education Robert McMaster will present on the university's student support initiatives and its efforts to provide students with the assistance they need to be successful at meeting their academic goals and graduating in a timely manner.

Also, the committee will review the School of Dentistry's proposed new dental therapy program, which would be the first of its kind in the nation. Designed to tackle dental care access problems across Minnesota and the upper Midwest, the program will educate health professionals who will perform as mid-level providers with a skill set between a dental hygienist and dentist.

1:15 - 3:15 p.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. Presented at last month's meeting, the committee will now act on the University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR) Campus Master Plan. The plan establishes an educational and research framework, analyzes space requirements and expected costs, outlines necessary partnerships and determines the requirements for a downtown site that is capable of expanding to 1,500 students in the short-term and ultimately to 5,000 students.

Following the UMR action, the Board will review the Twin Cities Campus Master Plan, which will outline future land use and capital project decisions over the next decade.

3:30 - 4:45 p.m., Audit Committee, East Committee Room. After an external evaluation last fall, the Office of Institutional Compliance will present its recommendations on the university's conflict of interest program.

Friday, Feb. 13

9 - 10:15 a.m., Board of Regents Work Session, Boardroom. Over the past five years, the university has created and implemented specific strategies designed to maintain affordability for undergraduate students from all income levels. Most notably this has included the Founders Free Tuition Program and the 13-credit tuition band. The Board will hold a work session with Sullivan and McMaster on how students pay for college education today and what student educational financing may look like in the future.

10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Board of Regents Meeting, Boardroom. The Board will recognize 2009 Rhodes Scholar Ashley Nord and the University of Minnesota Duluth Bulldog football team and Coach Bob Nielson, winners of the 2008 NCAA Division II football championship. In his report, university President Robert Bruininks is expected to discuss potential state budget cuts and what the university is doing to cut costs as well as the recent reorganizations of the Academic Health Center/Medical School and Graduate School.

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.

University of Minnesota establishes Program in Industrial and Systems Engineering

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Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, rzurn@umn.edu, (612) 626-7959

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/11/2009) —In response to the growing industry need for engineers who can design large-scale systems and processes to save time and money, the University of Minnesota has established an independent Program in Industrial and Systems Engineering.

“Today’s business world demands a new kind of engineer with both technical and management skills who can design and assess complex systems in fields ranging from supply chains and logistics to healthcare delivery to energy production and distribution,” said professor Saif Benjaafar, the program’s founding director. “Graduates of the program are uniquely qualified to rethink how these systems must be designed and managed to respond to the changing needs of our global economy.”

In the past, the university offered master’s and doctoral degrees in industrial and systems engineering within the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The Program in Industrial and Systems Engineering is now an independent program within the Institute of Technology, the University of Minnesota’s college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics. This new status will enhance the visibility of the program, locally, nationally and internationally and will boost the university’s ability to recruit the best students and faculty.

“We have ambitious plans for the Program in Industrial and Systems Engineering,” said Steven Crouch, dean of the Institute of Technology. “This program is another way for us to align our engineering education programs to meet the future needs of industry.”

The University of Minnesota is the only higher education institution in the state to offer graduate and professional degrees in industrial and systems engineering. In recent years, demand for these courses and degrees has grown dramatically. The demand from employers for students with skills in industrial and systems engineering has also been very strong. According to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, Minnesota companies employ industrial engineers in numbers third only to mechanical and electrical engineers.

The new Program in Industrial and Systems Engineering features core faculty who are at the forefront of the field. The research profile and funding for the program have seen tremendous growth in recent years. Faculty members in the program are engaged in federally funded research on projects such as global supply chains, revenue management for the airline industry, advanced healthcare delivery systems, sustainable logistics and many others.

To strengthen its interdisciplinary emphasis, future faculty affiliated with the program will also be affiliated with another department in the college. The program is expected to continue expanding its degree and course offerings with an additional emphasis on undergraduate education.

For more information about the Program in Industrial and Systems Engineering, visit www.ie.umn.edu or contact the program director at saif@umn.edu.

U of M to host panel discussion of "Gran Torino" with film's Hmong actors

Media Note: Media interested in interviewing cast members prior to the event should contact Ryan Maus.

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

February 12, 2009

The University of Minnesota's Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) will host a panel discussion of the hit movie "Gran Torino" with five insiders from the critically acclaimed film, including four Hmong actors, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20 in room 175 of Willey Hall, 225 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The panel discussion will include 17 year-old actor Bee Vang (Thao Vang Lor in the film), a Robbinsdale High School and University of Minnesota post-secondary education student who stars alongside the screen legend Clint Eastwood in the film. Vang will be joined by fellow actors Ahney Her (who plays Thao's older sister Sue Lor), Doua Moua (Hmong gang leader "Spider") and Elvis Thao (another member of Spider's Hmong gang). Also participating in the panel will be Cedric Lee, who served as a production assistant and cultural consultant for the movie.

The five panelists will share their stories about the production and their feelings about the film. "Gran Torino" features a disgruntled Korean War vet, Walt Kowalski (Eastwood) who sets out to reform his neighbor, a young Hmong teenager, who tried to steal Kowalski's prized possession: his 1972 Gran Torino.

Moderating will be Louisa Shein, a professor of anthropology at Rutgers University that specializes in Hmong studies and Hmong media. Shein, who organize the panel, is one of the country's foremost experts on Hmong culture and is very connected to the Hmong community.

The panel will be followed by an autograph signing.

"Gran Torino," which was originally set in Minneapolis and written by Minnesota native Nick Schenk, has grossed over \$115 million worldwide since its limited December release despite a budget of just \$30 million.

The event is co-sponsored by the Immigration History Research Center and several other university programs.

U of M, Minnesota's wine industry and State Fair to offer first international wine competition

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/12/2009) —Winemakers using grapes grown in cold climates will have the opportunity to enter a new professionally judged international wine competition as part of the 2009 Minnesota State Fair.

The first-of-its-kind competition is a partnership between the Minnesota Grape Growers Association, the State Fair and the University of Minnesota, where several of the cold-hardy wine grapes were developed.

Judges will do a blind tasting of the wines before the fair begins and award gold, silver and bronze medals; the winning wines will be displayed at the fair. The competition will be judged by internationally recognized wine experts.

The Fair's annual winemaking competition, with categories for amateur and professional winemakers, will continue as a separate entity.

"Cold hardy wine grapes represent a niche agriculture market with significant economic potential for the Midwest," said Thomas Martell, president of the Minnesota Grape Growers Association. "A professional international competition spotlighting these varieties will accelerate consumer awareness and acceptance of these new wines. It will also encourage winemakers to develop and market high quality wines featuring these new varieties."

Minnesota's grape and wine industry is expanding rapidly and contributed \$36.2 million to the state's economy in 2007, according to a study conducted by U of M economists. Since 1995, the number of wineries has grown from seven to 26, the study found. More than 632 vineyards are planted statewide.

"We're excited about being involved with the professional wine competition, as it enhances the fair's agricultural component while showing our visitors a piece of Minnesota's varied industry," said Steve Pooch, deputy general manager at the fair.

The competition is more evidence of the increasing quality of cold-climate grapes, said Jim Luby, a professor in the U's department of horticultural science and one of the scientists developing the grapes. "A number of grape varieties with improved potential for high quality wines have become available in the last 15 years. This competition is an opportunity for winemakers to showcase their skill and imagination in transforming these varieties to superior wines in a rapidly growing new industry."

Media note: Media are welcome at the "Midwest Wine Stroll" preview, 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13 at the Sheraton Bloomington hotel, which will feature the region's best cold-climate grape wines. The stroll is part of the annual Minnesota Grape Growers Association's Cold Climate Conference at the hotel. For details, contact Paula Soholt at pbsoholt@aol.com.

U of M study shows racial disparities in Twin Cities mortgage lending

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/12/2009) —A new report, “Communities in Crisis,” issued by the University of Minnesota Institute on Race and Poverty shows that the Twin Cities has some of the nation’s worst racial disparities in mortgage lending. In the Twin Cities, those hardest hit by the subprime lending and foreclosure crisis have been communities of color.

To watch a video with Myron Orfield, Executive Director of the Institute on Race and Poverty go to http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/orfield.htm

Even with a good income, people of color were substantially more likely to be denied loans, the study found, with black borrowers experiencing the greatest disparities. Black borrowers with incomes exceeding \$157,000 faced a 25 percent denial rate, compared with an 11 percent denial rate among whites making \$39,250. The same pattern held true for high-income Asians and Hispanics.

Similarly, subprime loans were more common for high- and very-high-income black and Hispanic borrowers than for whites in any income group. Racial segregation of neighborhoods was an added factor in the Twin Cities because they are underserved by prime lending institutions, contributing to higher subprime loan rates for people of color.

“Home ownership has been the first step to building stability and wealth for Americans,” says Orfield. The disadvantages encountered by low-income families and their neighborhoods during the subprime lending crisis “has cost another generation of people of color the equal opportunity to join America’s middle class,” he says.

Subprime lending is usually legal, but racial discrimination is not. The Fair Housing Act, Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and Community Reinvestment Act, among others, outlaw racial disparities in home mortgage lending. Federal officials, however, did not aggressively pursue lending discrimination during the subprime boom. And subprime lending disparities became foreclosure disparities.

“Communities in Crisis” found that prime credit is not reaching the segregated, high-poverty neighborhoods that need it most and that the Fair Housing Act was designed to eliminate. Neighborhoods with the highest percentages of people of color had the highest subprime lending and foreclosure rates. These neighborhoods have borne the costs of foreclosure disproportionately both in the form of families losing their homes and cities losing tax resources.

“Strong steps need to be taken to ensure equal access to credit and the promise of home ownership for people of color,” Orfield says. The report recommends a multifaceted approach:

Aggressive enforcement of existing local and national civil rights laws

Expansion and rigorous enforcement of the Community Reinvestment Act to monitor lending of non-bank institutions and provide equal access to fair credit.

Establishment of a Regional Fair Housing Center to help ensure nondiscrimination in housing, rental, and home lending markets and prevent future crises.

The Institute on Race & Poverty, housed in the University of Minnesota Law School, is a collaborative research body that involves the University, Law School, advocacy and community organizations, government groups, and faith-based and business leaders in reaching better understanding and policies toward the well-being of low-income communities of color.

U Law students to present annual TORT musical, March 6 and 7

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huffx070@umn.edu

Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 635-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/12/2009) —The University of Minnesota Law School's Theatre of the Relatively Talentless (TORT) will present its seventh annual musical, "It's a Wonderful Law School," at 7 p.m. March 6 and 7 at Pantages Theatre, 800 LaSalle Ave. Minneapolis. Like all TORT productions, the musical was written by Law School students, who also perform and direct.

"It's a Wonderful Law School" follows the story of Georgie, a kind and caring third-year law student who finds herself doubting her decision to go to law school and considering a transfer to (gasp!) the Carlson School of Management. Clarice, a new professor trying to earn tenure, is assigned to help Georgie avoid that horrible mistake by showing her what the Law School would have been like without her. Of course, hilarious hijinks ensue.

Collaborating on an original, full-length musical-comedy parody with a Law School twist provides the creative outlet for law students and faculty that was the impetus behind TORT's founding in 2002. Law students make up the collection of 20 cast members, nearly 50 singers and dancers, a nine-piece band and a seven-member behind-the-scenes crew required to bring "It's a Wonderful Law School" to the stage. True to TORT tradition, all law students are allowed to participate, without regard to talent.

Tradition also dictates cameo appearances by faculty and prominent members of the legal community. Scheduled to add to the inspirational atmosphere of the 2009 production are former Vice President Walter Mondale ('56), U.S. District Court Judges James Rosenbaum ('69) and John Tunheim ('80), Minnesota Supreme Court Justices Paul Anderson ('68) and Lorie Skjerven Gildea and Chief Justice Eric J. Magnuson.

Tickets (\$17 for the general public; \$12 for students with a school ID) will go on sale to the general public Feb. 13 and are available through Ticketmaster or at the State Theatre box office. Law School students tickets are on sale in the subplaza from noon until 1:30 p.m. through Thursday, Feb. 12. University students can email tort@umn.edu for on-campus ticketing procedures. Advance purchase of tickets is recommended.

Group ticket rates are available for groups of 10 or more. For information on group or special accommodations, email tort@umn.edu or call 612-701-3903.

U of M Humphrey Institute panel to discuss the ongoing housing crisis

When: Thursday, Feb. 19, 7:30 a.m. Continental breakfast, 8 a.m. Discussion begins

Where: 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

February 12, 2009

The Humphrey Institute will host a panel discussion about the possible benefits from federal housing support at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

As America's financial crisis continues, unemployment numbers are on the rise pushing even more homeowners toward foreclosure. With proposed federal funding on the horizon, the question remains: What will this mean for Minnesotans?

This panel of housing and financial experts will shed some light on the implications of federal assistance to the state and what it means for Minnesota families trying to avoid foreclosure.

Panelists will include:

Dan Bartholomy, newly-appointed Minnesota Commissioner of Housing.

Tom Fulton, president of the Family Housing Fund, a nonprofit working to provide homes to families in the Twin Cities.

Carolyn Olson, president of the greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation, which helps promote affordable housing for middle income Minnesota families.

Jay Kiedrowski, former commissioner of finance for the State of Minnesota and a senior fellow at the Humphrey Institute, will moderate the event.

The event is free and open to the public, although space is limited. Please RSVP to hhddev@umn.edu.

Prominent Twin Cities nonprofit leaders to examine role of philanthropy in economic crisis at U of M panel

Contacts: Laura Weber, College of Design, (612) 625-6566, l-webe@umn.edu

February 13, 2009

Three prominent Twin Cities philanthropic leaders will address the changes that nonprofits need to consider on behalf of their organizations during this time of economic crisis in a presentation beginning at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16 in 100 Rapson Hall, 89 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis.

Peter Hutchinson, 2006 Minnesota gubernatorial candidate and president of the St. Paul non-profit Bush Foundation, Carleen Rhodes, president and CEO of the Minnesota Community Foundation and The St. Paul Foundation, as well as Jon Pratt, executive director of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, will speak about the challenges created by this crisis and the opportunities that still exist in today's environment.

Demand for many nonprofit services has increased recently, while at the same time many of the resources needed by these organizations have begun to dry up. The three panelists will analyze what nonprofit work is most important to maintain and how nonprofit missions can still be fulfilled despite the difficult financial choices many organizations must make.

The panel is this year's Mertie Buckman Endowment for Leadership in Philanthropy, presented by the University of Minnesota's College of Design. The presentation is free and open to the public, with a Buckman Fellows' alumni reception to follow.

Bruininks hails strong support for education and research in federal stimulus

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/13/2009) —University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks today lent his strong support to HR 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009:

“This is a fantastic initiative and opportunity for the University of Minnesota. It recognizes that education, and research universities in particular, play in building our economy. This bill is key to jumpstarting our economy and will help lay the foundation of our economic future. Our students will benefit from increases in Pell Grants, work-study programs and new tax credits that are partially refundable. The increases in science funding -- particularly the unprecedented amount added to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), our largest source of sponsored funding -- are critical to the success of our researchers and students as they explore new knowledge, new technology and new ideas. Increases at the National Science Foundation (NSF) fulfill promises made in the forward-looking America COMPETES Act, which was aimed at fostering innovation and human capital. We are also grateful for Congress's attention to the fiscal plight of states like Minnesota through new education stabilization funding and new resources for medical assistance programs.”

Bruininks said the bill contains significant new funding for students and the university's work as Minnesota's major research university, as well as funds that will help states like Minnesota weather their current fiscal challenges. Among its highlights for the University of Minnesota are:

Education and programs to support students

- A \$500 increase in the Pell Grant maximum;
- A new \$2,500 education tax credit, 40 percent of which would be refundable;
- \$200 million for the work-study program; and,

Science and Research

- \$3 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF);
- \$10.4 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH);
- \$2 billion for research at the Department of Energy (DOE), including \$1.6 billion for Science and \$400 million for Advanced Research Project Agency-Energy;
- \$400 million and \$150 million, respectively, for NASA science and aeronautics programs.

State Fiscal Stabilization and Medical Assistance Funds

The conference report includes a total of \$53.6 billion for the state fiscal stabilization. Of that amount, approximately \$39.5 billion would be sent to the states (approximately \$670 million for Minnesota) explicitly for elementary, secondary and public higher education, and as applicable, early childhood education. Another \$8.8 billion would be allocated for broader, more discretionary purposes: “for public safety and other government services,” including modernization of K12 or higher education facilities (Minnesota's estimated share: \$150 million).

Norwegian scientists visit U of M to study biological sciences structure; and opportunities for collaboration

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Judson Sheridan, (612) 626-4940

February 16, 2009

A delegation of officials from the University of Oslo, Norway will visit the University of Minnesota Feb. 17-20 to study the structure of biological sciences and to explore opportunities for collaborating on research and education.

The group will be co-hosted by Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean, the Office of International Programs and Judson Sheridan, Norwegian Centennial Interdisciplinary Chair and director of International Programs for the College of Biological Sciences (CBS).

The University of Oslo delegation includes Rector (President) Geir Ellingsrud, Research Deans Anders Elverhoi and Ingar Olsen and several other leaders representing molecular biology, neuroscience, evolution and evolutionary genetics.

The visitors are interested in developing an organizational structure at the University of Oslo for the life sciences that strengthens connections among faculty in basic life sciences and with faculty in physical sciences and health sciences.

Ten years ago the University of Minnesota consolidated biological sciences departments on the Twin Cities campus to strengthen basic research and education as well as connections with medicine, agriculture, technology and environmental sciences.

“The biological sciences reorganization at the University of Minnesota has been a great success and we have much to share with our Norwegian colleagues,” Sheridan said.

In addition to presentations and discussion about the reorganization, the Norwegians will attend breakout sessions on specific areas, such as basic biomedical sciences, neuroscience, ecology and the interface between physical sciences and biology. Other activities include dinner at the Campus Club, a Gopher women’s basketball game and a dinner at the Minneapolis Club sponsored by the Norwegian Honorary Consulate General.

The University of Minnesota has a long history of interaction with the University of Oslo as well as other Norwegian universities.

“There’s a strong and growing connection between Norway and Minnesota that benefits everyone involved,” Sheridan said. “We have complementary strengths in many areas, such as energy policy and research, ecology, and neuroscience. Collaboration also provides an opportunity to build on historic connections between Norway and Minnesota. The Norwegian government and the Norwegian-American community are very committed to supporting our collaboration.”

New K12@U Web site highlights summer camps, preK-12 resources

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/16/2009) —A new Web site at the University of Minnesota will help students to discover opportunities to spark their interests, families to find summer camps and exciting places to visit on University of Minnesota campuses and preK-12 educators and administrators to find innovative classroom resources and high-quality professional development.

The site, K12@U, goes public today at www.k12.umn.edu. It is designed to offer easy access to more than 180 activities, courses and programs at the university that are available to the preK-12 community -- a one-stop shop for students, parents, educators and others interested in the university's support for preK-12 education across Minnesota.

Visitors will find a site that allows them to designate their specific interests as a starting point to search an enormous database that offers everything from creative programs to help teachers expand their skills and find new resources, to university music, science, art and just plain fun classes and camps for children.

The Web site was created and will be managed by the College Readiness Consortium, part of the university's Office for System Academic Administration, with the assistance of the College of Design and the College of Liberal arts

The U of M's Urban Research

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February 16, 2009

On Feb. 20 and 21, the University of Minnesota's Urban Research & Outreach/Engagement Center will host the "Coming Together to Create a Shared Future for North Minneapolis" conference to discuss the future of the center and its work in the community.

The conference will be held from 4 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20 and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21 at Parents In Community Action, Inc., 700 Humboldt Ave. N., Minneapolis.

Nearly a year ago, the university purchased property at 2001 Plymouth Ave. N. in north Minneapolis. The existing building on the property is being renovated to house the university's Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC). This multipurpose space will create opportunities to facilitate new and existing university research, outreach and engagement activities with the north Minneapolis community.

The Shared Future conference uses a methodology called Future Search, facilitated by Erline Belton of the Lyceum Group. Future Search is an interactive planning process that brings together university and community stakeholders to determine the future of the University Research & Outreach/Engagement Center. The conference is designed for maximum interaction and dialogue among the participants. Working together in several small groups, as well as in a large group, participants will pool information, analyze it and present conclusions.

Robert Jones, senior vice president for Systems Academic Administration will present the official welcome on Friday, and university President Robert Bruininks will deliver the welcome Saturday. The interactive aspects of the workshop will be showcased on Friday from 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m.

Media outlets planning to send a representative are encouraged to email uroc@umn.edu.

For more information about the Urban Research & Outreach/Engagement Center, please visit the UROC Web site at www.uroc.umn.edu or contact Hawona Sullivan Janzen at uroc@umn.edu.

U of M's "Art to Z" initiative highlights free and low cost on-campus happenings

Calendar events range from Wii orchestra music to Kenneth Star

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/18/2009) —Families around Minnesota may be tightening both their belts and budgets these days, but they can still enjoy high-quality arts and entertainment options in the Twin Cities. The University of Minnesota recently unveiled the most recent installment of its popular "Art to Z" initiative, a series of 26 on-campus events that are available to the public at little or no cost, all of which are taking place on campus during the spring semester.

The spring version in this series (begun in the fall of 2008) features events that span a wide array of subjects, from artistic exhibits and performances to thought-provoking lectures and discussions.

"This initiative includes a broad spectrum of artistic, cultural and scholarly opportunities," said Steven Rosenstone, vice president for cultural and scholarly affairs at the university. "We want to welcome the public to participate in the wide range of endeavors going on here at the U of M."

The artistic highlights of "Art to Z" range from things such as the School of Music's free "Spark Festival," a showcase of new-media music and art that features founder Doug Geers using the popular Nintendo Wii as a musical instrument in his Princeton Laptop Orchestra (Feb. 17-22). On the opposite side of the spectrum, the School of Public Health's annual public service announcement film contest lets budding filmmakers showcase their work while raising public awareness on topics such as pollution, clean water, nutrition, infectious disease and access to health care (April 6-11).

Twin Cities residents who are more scholarly inclined might find themselves drawn to speakers such as all-star lawyer Kenneth Star, who visits campus May 12 to discuss with U of M provost Thomas Sullivan on "America's Constitutional Crisis." Those more interested in biology might enjoy national expert Avery Gilbert's April 18 presentation on "The Attraction of and Seduction of Scent" at the Bell Museum of Natural History.

To browse all 26 selections in this spring's "Art to Z" calendar, visit www.umn.edu/arttoz

French priest who unearthed Ukrainian "Holocaust by Bullets" to speak at U of M

Media Note: Father Patrick Desbois is available for interviews on Feb. 25 and 26 in Minneapolis.

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February 19, 2009

Father Patrick Desbois, a French priest who helped identify more than 800 common graves containing the bodies of millions of Ukrainian Jews killed during the Holocaust, will speak at the University of Minnesota from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26 at the Nolte Center, 315 Pillsbury Drive S.E. in Minneapolis. He can also be heard from 7 to 8 p.m. at Temple Israel, 2324 Emerson Ave. S. Minneapolis.

The Holocaust, as thought of by many, evokes images of barbed-wire fences, gas chambers and furnaces. Less known is the "Holocaust by Bullets," in which more than two million Jews were gunned down in towns and villages across Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. Their part in the Nazis' "Final Solution" had been under-researched and their bodies left unidentified in unmarked, mass graves.

Through a series of interviews and investigations, Desbois has uncovered evidence of the murders of these Jews in Ukraine (where there were no concentration camps) during the Holocaust. His efforts have unearthed so much untold history that some suspect the estimate of six million Jews killed during the Holocaust may have to be increased.

Since 2003, Desbois has videotaped more than 700 interviews with witnesses. His account of his efforts, "The Holocaust by Bullets," was named the winner of the 2008 Jewish Book Award by the Jewish Book Council. Desbois's research is also the subject of an exhibition, "The Shooting of Jews in Ukraine: Holocaust by Bullets," on view at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City.

An estimated 1.4 million of Soviet Ukraine's 2.4 million Jews were executed, starved to death or died of disease during the war. An additional 550,000 to 650,000 Soviet Jews were killed in Belarus and up to 140,000 in Russia, according to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Most of the victims were women, children and the elderly.

Begun after Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941, the slaughter by bullets was the opening phase the Nazis' "Final Solution," with its factories of death operating in Auschwitz and other camps, many of them in Poland.

Since the book was written, Desbois has expanded his search for mass graves into Belarus and plans to look early this year in areas of Russia that were occupied by the Germans.

Desbois' visit is letter "X" ("Xenophobia") in the University of Minnesota's "Art to Z" initiative. There's something for everyone with "Art to Z," a series of 26 free/low cost artistic, scholarly and cultural events taking place this spring on campus. For more information, visit www.umn.edu/arttoz

Northern "Exposure": Annual U of M fashion show to feature 12 talented student designers

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February 19, 2009

With television shows like "Project Runway" and "America's Next Top Model" dominating the airwaves and New York fashion week wrapping up, it's never been hipper to be a clothing designer. Twelve up-and-coming student designers from the University of Minnesota are ready to make their mark on what we wear at "Exposed: 41st Annual Clothing Design Senior Fashion Show." Two separate exhibitions will be held at 5:30 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21 in the courtyard of Rapson Hall, 89 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The senior class of clothing design program students will present original collections, including wearable ideas for the office, avant-garde designs, sustainable clothing and theater costumes at this year's show. The event will also feature a standing exhibition of work by the sophomore class and a pre-runway show from the junior class.

After each show, a "meet and greet" will be held with the designers and their models, and there will also be a reception between shows.

Examples of the designs that will be presented at this year's show are viewable at <http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/index.php?academics>

A large crowd is expected once again for this popular event, but tickets are available both in advance and at the door. For more details and to purchase tickets for "Exposed," visit <http://fashionshow.design.umn.edu>

The senior fashion show is letter "W" ("Wearable") in the University of Minnesota's "Art to Z" initiative. There's something for everyone in "Art to Z," a series of 26 free/low cost artistic, scholarly and cultural events taking place this spring on campus. For more information, visit www.umn.edu/arttoz

Guthrie's artistic director to discuss "The Guthrie Theater: A Dramatic Journey" at U of M

What: Joe Dowling, artistic director for the Guthrie, will be speaking about The Guthrie Theater: A Dramatic Journey

When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Tuesday, Mar. 3, 2009

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

February 19, 2009

Joe Dowling, Guthrie's artistic director, will present at the Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Mar. 3, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Joe Dowling arrived at the Guthrie in 1995, and since that time has directed more than 30 productions, including landmark productions of Shakespeare, Chekhov, Stoppard and Friel. Under Dowling's leadership, the Guthrie Theater has enjoyed a period of tremendous growth, including the 2006 opening of a new Guthrie on banks of the Mississippi River. This architectural gem, designed by Jean Nouvel, houses three stages, increased production and rehearsal facilities and an entire floor of classrooms for the Theater's ever-expanding education programs. Dowling was awarded the National Corporate Theatre Fund's 2006 Achievement in Theater Award, and is a member of the Artistic Directorate of the Globe Theatre in London.

The advance registration deadline for the First Tuesday luncheon is Thursday, Feb. 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, Feb. 27. There are three ways to register: call 612-626-9634, visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/events, or send an e-mail message to fristtuesday@umn.edu.

University of Minnesota President visits Brainerd

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

February 19, 2009

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will visit Brainerd tomorrow, Feb. 20. During the visit, Bruininks will visit university offices and meet with business and community leaders.

“The University of Minnesota reaches far beyond our five campuses and is one of Minnesota's most important resources for education, job growth and quality of life,” said Bruininks. “My visit to Brainerd is to take a look at how the U's work is impacting this important region of the state and to have an open dialogue with community and business leaders.”

The planned events are:

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Visit and tour of the Academic Health Center Interprofessional Practice and Education (IPE) site
Garfield Elementary School, 1120 10th Avenue N.E., Brainerd

2-3:30 p.m.

Roundtable discussion with business and community leaders (by invitation)
Crow Wing County Land Services Building meeting room one, 322 Laurel St., Brainerd

3:30-4:30 p.m.

Visit with U of M Extension
Extension Regional Office, 322 Laurel St., Brainerd

Support the U Day' at the Capitol is Wednesday, Feb. 25

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

February 23, 2009

University of Minnesota students from around the state will rally at the Minnesota State Capitol at noon on Wednesday, Feb. 25 for the 2009 "Support the U Day." 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 Mark Nagel, president of the Minnesota Student Association. "Especially in these challenging economic times, it is as important as ever to show legislators what the university and education mean to us all."

Supporters will gather in the Capitol's Rotunda. In attendance will be university President Bob Bruininks, university student leaders and Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak who will give the keynote speech, "Making civic action part of your education and your life."

"As Minnesota struggles to compete in an increasingly global economy, this state's single greatest asset is the youth of the next generation, who come from all over the world, and spend every day crossing cultural boundaries," said Rybak. "By giving our youth the skills and education they need, we are creating the workforce of tomorrow and helping to keep our region strong."

Attendees will then be invited to meet in-person with their legislators, as well as contribute towards the grassroots letter writing campaign.

The schedule of events is as follows:

Noon - Rally in the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda
1 p.m. - Lunch in the Great Hall, Minnesota State Capitol
1-3 p.m. - Meetings with legislators

For more information, visit the university's Legislative Network: <http://supporttheu.umn.edu>

Consumer confidence in food safety plunges in wake of peanut butter contamination, University of Minnesota study finds

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/23/2009) —Fewer than one in four consumers now believe the U.S. food supply is safer than it was a year ago, according to new data from the University of Minnesota's Food Industry Center.

After January's national salmonella outbreak, just 22.5 percent of consumers in the study said they were confident the food supply is safer than a year ago, the lowest reading since the study began in May 2008. Eight people died and more than 500 have become ill in the most recent outbreak, which may have originated in a Georgia peanut plant and spread through peanut-butter products sold nationwide.

The drop in confidence mirrors a similar drop last June, when a salmonella outbreak later traced to jalapeno peppers sickened nearly 1,500 people. The study involves continuously tracking consumer confidence in food supply safety via a weekly online survey of about 175 consumers from across the nation. The consumers are selected each week by a national market research company.

Several measures are being collected on an ongoing basis to monitor consumer concerns, expectations and perceptions of the safety of the food supply from natural/accidental contamination, and the defense of the food supply from deliberate contamination from an act of terrorism. These measures soon will be used to develop a composite food confidence indicator similar to the Consumer Sentiment Index that measures overall consumer confidence.

The indicator is unique because of its continuous tracking feature, said Jean Kinsey, director of the Food Industry Center. Consumers' response to food-borne illnesses and recalls helps inform the design of food safety strategies and regulations, and consumer confidence "is critical to their peace of mind as well as to the economic health of the entire food industry."

The ongoing study is conducted jointly with the Louisiana State University AgCenter and is funded by the National Center for Food Protection and Defense.

U of M partners with Minnesota newspapers to help revitalize industry

Minnesota Job Skills Program grant will be used to retrain newspaper staff

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/24/2009) —The University of Minnesota School of Journalism & Mass Communication (SJMC), in partnership with the Duluth News Tribune and the St. Paul Pioneer Press, has received a \$238,000 Minnesota Job Skills Program Grant to help newspapers revolutionize their business model and to thrive in an increasingly Internet-based industry. In addition, the university and the newspapers will contribute \$469,330 in-kind funds, bringing the total project budget to approximately \$700,000.

The project will offer a series of training programs for staff in the advertising and editorial operations of the newspapers, both of which have undergone considerable downsizing in the past year. It is believed to be the first job training grant to help the news industry with the assistance of a journalism school. The goal of the partnership is not only to train employees with new technical, computer-based skills, but also to reassess the way in which news and advertising is delivered.

Those involved with the grant believe that these two facets of training will help the newspapers adapt and ensure their ability to successfully evolve into a new type of operation. The project will support the recent Newspaper Guild contract stipulation that called for a commitment to paid time for staff training -- a first in the Guild's history.

The project will also benefit students at the university, since the curriculum being developed for the training program has direct relevance for and transferability to the SJMC, as it continues to grapple with how to best prepare the next generation of news, information professionals and advertising staffs.

Kathleen Hansen, director of the university's Minnesota Journalism Center, said that the program is meant to be transformational and not a "quick-fix" for ailing newsrooms. "We believe this type of training that combines both new technology skills and new conceptual mindsets is essential in these changing times," said Hansen. "In order to have real, substantial change in the newspaper industry, we have to really understand people's news and information consumption habits and change the approach to address these new realities."

Carnegie Mellon University professor Michael Trick to discuss his work in scheduling major league baseball and college basketball at U of M lecture

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Alice Tibbetts, Institute for Mathematics and its Applications, (612) 625-3889, tibbetts@ima.umn.edu

February 25, 2009

The University of Minnesota Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications (IMA) continues its Math Matters Lecture Series with “Sports Scheduling and the Practice of Operations Research,” presented by Carnegie Mellon University professor Michael Trick at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, Willey Hall, Room 125, 225 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Major League Baseball is a multi-billion dollar per year industry that relies heavily on the quality of its schedule. Teams, fans, TV networks and even political parties rely on the schedule for profits and enjoyment, says Trick, a professor of operations research in Carnegie Mellon's Tepper School of Business.

In this lecture, Trick will discuss his work in scheduling college basketball, major league baseball and other sports, and show how operations research is revolutionizing sports scheduling. Operations research is an interdisciplinary branch of applied mathematics and science that uses methods such as modeling, statistics and algorithms to find solutions to complex problems. Only recently have the computational tools of operations research been powerful enough to address the issue of finding “optimal” sports schedules.

The Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) was founded at the University of Minnesota in 1982 as a result of a competitive national process. It fosters 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.

University of Minnesota severs relationship with Russell Brands

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/25/2009) —The University of Minnesota is ending its relationship with Russell Brands, a major Atlanta-based apparel manufacturer that makes U of M-logoed products.

A number of colleges and universities in the U.S. recently have taken similar action after questions arose surrounding the company's decision to close its factory in Choloma, Honduras. Workers' rights groups have alleged that the closure took place in response to union-organizing activity, and they cite additional claims that factory management repeatedly sought to suppress freedoms of association there.

University General Counsel Mark Rotenberg led an administrative team that reviewed detailed reports from independent monitoring organizations, the Worker Rights Consortium (WRC) and the Fair Labor Association, and also asked Russell for a direct response to the allegations.

“The University of Minnesota has a long history of insisting upon fair treatment for workers in factories making University of Minnesota apparel around the world,” said Rotenberg. “Our decision to terminate our licensing agreement with Russell is not taken lightly, but is essential to affirm the basic values of this institution. Russell simply has not lived up to the legal standards we have for those companies that manufacture using the U of M mark.”

Rotenberg said the University is instructing the Collegiate Licensing Company (CLC), which manages the University's licensing and trademark agreements, to end the University's ties with Russell effective March 31, 2009.

The university requires that manufacturers of U of M logoed products adhere to its labor code of conduct. The code addresses workers' wages; working hours; overtime compensation; child labor; forced labor; health and safety; nondiscrimination; harassment or abuse; women's rights; freedom of association; and public disclosure of factory locations.

The University's licensing relationship with Russell resulted in \$26,471 in University revenue in 2007.

Author Anne Fadiman to discuss book "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down" at U of M March 2

Award-winning book follows generational Hmong family dealing with epileptic child

Media Note: Fadiman is available for phone interviews before the event. Contact Tessa Eagan for more information.

Contacts: Tessa Eagan, College of Liberal Arts, (612) 625-3781, teagan@umn.edu

February 26, 2009

Author Anne Fadiman will speak at the University of Minnesota on her award-winning 1997 book, "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down" on at 6 p.m. Monday, March 2 in the Mississippi Room on the third floor of Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The award-winning book follows generational Hmong family dealing with epileptic child.

"The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down," 1997 winner of the National Critic's Award for general nonfiction, depicts the experience of a Hmong family whose daughter suffers from epilepsy and the American doctors who treat her. It is read in courses at universities across the country both as literary journalism and as a casebook for cross-cultural sensitivity. The book is also widely read by medical practitioners who wish to offer more effective care to patients from other cultures.

Fadiman will sign copies of her book following the discussion.

This event, free and open to the public, is part of the Magraw-Fuller Lecture Series. The Magraw-Fuller Lecture Series was established through the generous support of a College of Liberal Arts alumna and aims to improve the communication skills of pre-med and pre-health students through interdisciplinary topics in the liberal arts.

U of M study: Multiple strategies needed to reach state's greenhouse gas reduction goals

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Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038 or cassutt@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/26/2009) —Reaching Minnesota's goal of reducing greenhouse gases by 80 percent by the year 2050 will require a range of strategies starting with conservation and including more sustainable fuel sources, a new University of Minnesota study shows.

Without such measures, greenhouse gas emissions produced in the state would increase about 49 percent from 2005 levels.

Because most greenhouse gases are created through electricity generation and passenger vehicles, energy-conservation policies likely would have the greatest and most immediate impact, the authors say. Such measures might include halving the number of miles driven by Minnesotans; a 55-mpg fuel efficiency standard for new cars; and reduced use of electricity in homes and offices.

Switching to alternative fuels and technologies as they become more widely available over the next 10 to 20 years also would significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the report says. If all vehicles ran on switchgrass ethanol, for example, emissions would be 18 percent less by 2050 than if no change was made.

"When we ran the numbers, we saw that there is no 'silver bullet' -- no one strategy that will allow Minnesota to reach its reduction goals by 2050," said lead researcher Laura Schmitt Olabisi. "The state will need to use several different strategies, focused on lowering fossil fuel use in the electricity production and transportation sectors, to meet its goals."

Focusing on conservation strategies first makes sense economically as well, the authors note: doing so costs very little, while new technologies such as wind power are likely to be more affordable in coming decades. On the other hand, waiting too long for technology to catch up could result in the state not reaching its reduction goals.

"The longer Minnesota waits to make changes, the more baseline CO2 emissions will grow," Schmitt Olabisi said. "The state will have to reduce emissions more quickly and severely in the future if nothing is done now."

The study is published in the online version of the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*. The authors include scientists from the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, the Ecosystem Science and Sustainability Initiative and the Institute on the Environment. Funding was provided by the Bush Foundation.

U of M offers unique program for math whiz kids

Sign-up deadline for students in grades 5-7 is March 9

Media Note: To visit a University of Minnesota Talented Youth Mathematics Program class or interview students, alumni or instructors, contact Jonathan Rogness at rogness@umn.edu or (612) 625-2861.

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/26/2009) —Junior and senior high math whiz kids or University of Minnesota students? Those in the University of Minnesota Talented Youth Mathematics Program (UMTYMP) are both.

Now is the time when hundreds of students from across the metro area are signing up for the qualifying test to enter this accelerated mathematics program. Nearly 900 students test annually in March/April. Last year, UMTYMP (pronounced um-tee-ump) enrolled more than 400 students in about 20 classes at the University's Twin Cities campus.

The deadline for students in grades 5-7 to sign up for the UMTYMP Algebra Qualifying Exam is Monday, March 9.

Students accepted in the program, complete their entire high school math curriculum in two years. The classes, which meet after school once or twice a week, are highly accelerated. Each two-hour UMTYMP class covers the equivalent of about three weeks of regular high school mathematics content. During the next three years of the program, students complete a calculus component that allows them to complete up to 16 semester credits of honors-level college calculus.

“There’s no other mathematics program like this in the country,” said Jonathan Rogness, assistant professor of mathematics and associate director of UMTYMP. “We provide a great service to schools who do not have the resources to provide these high-level classes, and we provide an intense academic experience for Minnesota’s most talented young mathematicians”

One goal of the program is to retain top students within the state when they graduate from high school. About 40 percent of former UMTYMP students have gone on to enroll in the University of Minnesota, more than any other university. Other students are highly recruited by top universities across the country including MIT, Harvard, Stanford, Yale and Caltech.

UMTYMP is offered through the University of Minnesota’s Institute of Technology Center for Educational Programs (ITCEP). For more information or to download the registration form, visit www.itcep.umn.edu/umtymp.

News



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University of Minnesota, Twin Cities to cancel evening classes beginning at 4:40 p.m. due to severe winter weather conditions

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/26/2009) —Due to severe winter weather conditions, the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities is canceling all evening classes beginning at 4:40 p.m. and after.

Professor Jane Davidson wins the Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Award and will present a lecture on her solar energy research at the U of M

Contacts: Peg Lonquist, Womens Center, (612) 625-9837 or women@umn.edu
Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/27/2009) —Jane Davidson, professor of mechanical engineering and director of the department's Solar Energy Laboratory, has been named the recipient of the Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Award. This prestigious award/lecture has been established to acknowledge and honor the scholarly accomplishments and leadership of distinguished women faculty at the University of Minnesota and to offer a forum for them to share their insights and ideas with a campus and community audience.

As part of the award, Davidson will deliver a lecture -- "Solar After Dark: Going Green at night" -- at 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 24 in Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Her lecture will focus on one of the world's most pressing challenges -- the need to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions while simultaneously meeting an exploding global demand for energy. Davidson will discuss the potential of solar fuels, and will share the results of her research. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Davidson holds a master's degree in engineering science and mechanics from the University of Tennessee and a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Duke University. Her current research focuses on solar systems for buildings and solar thermo-chemical cycles to produce fuels. Davidson serves on the National Research Council's America's Energy Future (AEF) Renewable Electricity Panel, Gov. Pawlenty's Clean Energy Technology Task Force and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Global Climate Change Task Force. Her efforts in research and engineering education have been recognized with the American Solar Energy Society Charles Greeley Abbot Award and the ASME John I. Yellott Award.

Davidson's lecture is sponsored by the Women's Center at the University of Minnesota along with co-sponsors: the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; The Graduate School; and the University of Minnesota Libraries.

A dessert reception will follow the lecture in Hubert H. Humphrey Center Atrium. For more information about the event, visit <http://www.umn.edu/women>.

Video game Everquest 2 provides new way to study human behavior, says U of M researcher

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/27/2009) — Can researchers study the populations of online video games, like Everquest 2, just as they study traditional communities like Miami, Pittsburgh or Minneapolis? A research study by a University of Minnesota computer scientist and colleagues from across the country shows that online, interactive gaming communities are now so massive that they mirror traditional communities. These findings are creating a new evolution of social science research where researchers are able to study human behavior using the game.

The research team analyzed three years of data (over 60 terabytes) from the complete server logs and click-streams of Sony's popular PC game EverQuest 2. The data tracked every action performed in one of the world's most popular massively multiplayer online (MMO) games. Everquest 2 has more than 300,000 players who average 26 hours per week playing the game. Because of the intense level of involvement and multi-player environment of the game, the researchers were able to study human behavioral dynamics using the game as a proxy.

The researchers used the virtual world to model the social and behavioral dynamics of individuals, groups, and networks within large communities. Their study presented evidence that the social sciences are at the threshold of a fundamental shift not only in our understanding of the social and behavioral sciences, but also the ways in which we study them.

The research team includes University of Minnesota computer science and engineering professor Jaideep Srivastava; Northwestern University professor Noshir Contractor; University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign professor Scott Poole; and University of Southern California assistant professor Dmitri Williams. They recently presented their findings at a 90-minute symposium "Analyzing Virtual Worlds: Next Step in the Evolution of Social Science Research" at this year's annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest meeting of scientists.

This interdisciplinary research project was funded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Army with cooperation from Sony.

Multiplayer online games and virtual worlds have become increasingly popular and have communities comprising millions. They allow social scientists to study, theorize and model the social and behavioral dynamics of individuals, groups, and networks within large communities. The researchers described how this research offers new insights as well as challenges and opportunities for advancing social, behavioral, and computational science.

Tech Fest 2009 features U of M scientists and engineers

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/27/2009) —Ride a hovercraft, learn how airplanes and rockets work, marvel at robots, see an amazing University of Minnesota Physics Force show and visit with Goldy Gopher at Tech Fest 2009, a free event for the whole family from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28 at The Works museum, Edina Community Center, 5701 Normandale Road, Edina.

The days activities will focus on an aerospace engineering theme and will involve faculty from the University of Minnesota's department of aerospace engineering and mechanics, as well as other university engineering and science departments. Through unique and creative hands-on activities, Tech Fest introduces kids to the fun of science, engineering and technology.

Families attending can also build their own mini-hovercraft or straw rocket, view the skies during a planetarium show, talk with a NASA representative about future space missions and much more.

The event, which is expected to draw more than 1,000 people, is a partnership between The Works museum and the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology Alumni Society.

For more information and a complete Tech Fest schedule, visit www.theworks.org.

University of Minnesota ranks in top ten places in U.S. to work for postdoctoral scholars

U of M tops among public universities in latest rankings

Contacts: Noro Andriamanalina, Office of Postdoctoral Affairs, (612) 626-4546, andri002@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/27/2009) —The University of Minnesota has been named among the top 10 workplaces for postdoctoral scholars in the United States in an annual survey conducted by The Scientist, an international magazine of the life sciences.

The ranking places the university among top-tier public and private laboratories, agencies and companies. The top rank went to the MIT-affiliated prestigious Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, followed by such innovative names as Sandia National Laboratories, Novartis and Genentech. At number 10, the university stands out as the top and only public university among the top 20.

Postdoctoral scholars are short-term employees, primarily in the sciences, who conduct and publish research in laboratories and universities around the world. Many scientific fields require a period of postdoctoral work before hiring into a permanent or tenure-track position.

The University of Minnesota employs about 900 postdoctoral researchers across its college units each year, with the majority in the sciences and engineering. Because they play such a vital role in the research enterprise, the university created the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs in 2002. The Postdoctoral Association formed in 2003.

“This recognition is a credit to the quality of the mentoring provided by the university's faculty and to the commitment of the Postdoctoral Association,” said Noro Andriamanalina, director of the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs. Andriamanalina coordinates a set of more than 30 popular professional development workshops each year for postdoctoral scholars and more than 10,000 graduate students to help them prepare for careers in academia, industry and other sectors. Topics range from grant writing and publishing to teaching and the job search process.

The Scientist serves leading researchers in academia and industry and publishes the annual ranking based on a reader survey. The survey gathers input on quality of training, mentoring, work environment and other factors.

“The University of Minnesota's presence in the top ten is an extraordinary accomplishment,” said Gail Dubrow, vice provost and dean of the Graduate School. “It's an indicator of excellence in graduate education and postdoctoral training, and it shows the synergy between them.”

The University of Minnesota is a leader among institutions providing comprehensive and coherent services for postdoctoral scholars.

For more information, see the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs:
http://www.grad.umn.edu/postdoctoral_affairs

A complete set of rankings are available by visiting The Scientist's website at: <http://www.the-scientist.com/2009/03/1/47/1/>

University of Minnesota study reveals new energy and economic benefits of corn stover

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/02/2009) —According to new research from the University of Minnesota, densified corn stover is better for the economy and the environment than previously recognized.

The research shows that, as a fuel for heat and power applications, corn stover reduces the life-cycle fossil-fuel emissions of carbon dioxide by factors of approximately 15 and 25 compared to natural gas and coal, respectively.

This means significant amounts of renewable electricity can be generated in a distributed fashion with lower overall emissions at ethanol plants and other facilities to produce heat and power.

“The new research allows us to better predict the full cost of using corn stover biomass to meet the heat and power needs of these facilities,” said Vance Morey, a bioproducts and biosystems engineering professor at the U of M and a lead investigator on the study. “This includes the environmental costs of collecting the corn stover and then transporting it to the ethanol plant.”

Currently, natural gas is used for the process heating needs of ethanol plants, while coal is used to produce much of the electricity delivered by the grid to the plants.

The U of M research team evaluated a corn stover logistics system that analyzed the collection of round bales from the field during the fall harvest, as well as their delivery to storage sites within two miles of the field.

The team then evaluated the annual costs of processing at the storage sites; using mobile units, the bales were converted to bulk material by tub-grinding and roll compacting.

The roll-press compactor, a new machine that isn't commercially in use at present, increases ground corn stover density from six to 15 pounds per cubic foot, thereby increasing the distance that biomass can be economically hauled.

Along with the benefits, the researchers also considered the consequences of removing corn stover from farm fields.

“We were surprised by how much nutrient replacement -- specifically, nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium--impacted the economic and environmental costs. It represented 30 percent of the total delivered cost of \$77 per ton. In addition, nutrient replacement accounted for 45 percent of the carbon dioxide emissions associated with the collection and delivery of corn stover to the user,” explained Morey.

“We thought the nutrient replacement costs would be much less. Clearly, producers need to consider nutrient replacement along with other collection costs if they decide to sell their corn stover.”

As a next step, the researchers will look at ways to improve the handling characteristics of herbaceous biomass and increase biomass electricity generation at ethanol plants in the Midwest. They also plan on expanding the research to include roll compaction of native grasses, straw and alfalfa.

The coarse grinding of the corn stover was performed at the University of Minnesota's West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris, Minn., while the roll compaction was done at Bepex International LLC in Minneapolis.

The University of Minnesota's Douglas Tiffany, an assistant extension professor, and Nalladurai Kaliyan, a research associate in bioproducts and biosystems engineering, also contributed to this study. Funding was provided, in part, by the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment, a signature program of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment.

U of M Carlson School of Management's Women's Leadership Conference Addresses Effective Leadership Unique to Women in Corporate America

What: Fifth Annual Women's Leadership Conference

When: Friday, Apr. 10, 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

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

March 2, 2009

The Carlson School of Management will host the fifth annual Women's Leadership Conference entitled "Leveraging the Power of You!," 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Friday, April 10, Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. Registration is available through 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 1. Onsite registration will not be offered.

Keynote speakers for the 2009 conference include Gail Evans, author of "Play Like A Man, Win Like A Woman," and Verna Cornelia Price, president and principal consultant, J. Cameron & Associates and JCAMA Publishers. These two leaders bring their expertise on personal leadership and successful navigation of today's competitive workforce. Attendees will also participate in breakout sessions led by Carlson School faculty members and local business leaders on topics such as contagious leadership, positioning yourself for success in an economic downturn, effective social networking and leading a diverse workforce. State Farm and Ecolab are the presenting sponsors for 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. Through exclusive networking opportunities and the annual women's conference, the Carlson School supports the forward focus of businesswomen.

General admission to the conference is \$150 with a University of Minnesota student rate of \$50. To register, visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/wlc or contact Emily Nelson at 612-626-9334.

University of Minnesota President to deliver his seventh State of the U Address, "New Realities, Renewed Urgency"

When: 3 p.m., Thursday, March 5

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

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

March 3, 2009

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will deliver his seventh "State of the University" Address at 3 p.m. Thursday, March 5 at the Coffman Memorial Union Theater, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

The speech, "New Realities, Renewed Urgency," will examine current trends to set the context for the University of Minnesota's long-term future. Amidst a worldwide economic downturn, Bruininks will explore the realities the university faces and what actions can be taken to preserve the institution's strength and ensure sufficient resources to meet the challenges of the future.

The address will be available for viewing at Crookston, Duluth, Morris and Rochester campuses. Locations include:

- 220 Dowell Hall, Crookston
- Kirby Rafters Room, Duluth
- Science Auditorium, Morris
- 424 University Square, Rochester

View the speech live online:

<http://www1.umn.edu/pres/stateoftheu2009.html>

Debate over marijuana legalization to take place at U of M

Former DEA agent and High Times editor to square off Wednesday night

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Abby Musfeldt, Student Unions & Activities, (612) 625-8269, musf0001@umn.edu

March 3, 2009

The Minnesota Programs and Activities Council (MPAC) presents “The Great Debate: Heads vs. Feds,” an open debate and discussion on the legalization of marijuana on Wednesday, March 4 in Willey Hall 125-175 at the University of Minnesota. Doors open at 8:30 p.m, and event starts at 9 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

This event pairs former Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Agent Robert Stutman against editor of High Times magazine editor Steve Hager. The debate is driven by audience participation and draws on a multitude of issues surrounding marijuana legalization. There are many assumptions, stereotypes and generalizations on both ends of the spectrum, and this debate hopes to give participants a better understanding of the topic and the issues surrounding legalization. There will also be a raffle drawing at the end of the event for several prizes, including a Nintendo Wii. This event is a part of jaMPACked, a week of events planned every semester to showcase all the MPAC offers students and the surrounding community.

The Minnesota Programs & Activities Council is the main campus-wide programming board for the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. 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.

For more information, visit <http://www.sua.umn.edu/jampacked>

Study abroad experience dramatically heightens "global engagement" levels, says new U of M research

Findings indicate duration not as impactful as quality or intensity of program

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/04/2009) —New first-of-its-kind research from the University of Minnesota indicates that students who study abroad during their collegiate years are much more likely to become globally engaged citizens afterwards.

For the study, researchers led by Michael Paige and Gerald Fry of the university's Study Abroad for Global Engagement (SAGE) project surveyed nearly 6,400 graduates of 22 colleges who had studied overseas during the last five decades. They sought to learn the ways in which those individuals had become globally engaged and the degree to which that engagement could be attributed to having studied abroad.

"Study abroad is unequivocally associated with global engagement," said Paige, whose paper, "Study Abroad for Global Engagement: The Long-Term Impact of Mobility Experiences" will be published in the *Journal of Intercultural Education* later this year. "When it's compared with other notable college experiences, study abroad almost always stands out the most memorable for any student."

"Global engagement," as defined by Paige and Fry, is a combination of six characteristics: Civic engagement (domestic and international), global leadership, global values, philanthropic donations and volunteerism. Eighty-three percent of those surveyed said going overseas had a strong impact on their lives. By contrast, 73 percent of the respondents said college friendships and peer connections had a strong impact, while 66 percent listed course work as having such an effect.

"Studying abroad is the first time that many students see how people in other parts of the world live, and they take those lessons back home with them," said Fry. "It can have a significant impact on how they live the rest of their lives."

"The response we got from participants was amazing," said Fry about the pioneering study. "We had people calling us because they felt so strongly about their study abroad experience and really wanted to be a part of the project."

In fact, even the amount of time spent studying abroad program did not appear to have significant impact on global engagement levels.

"What these findings tell us is that the intensity and quality of a study abroad program is what matters, not the duration," said Paige. "People who made the effort to study abroad, no matter how long they went, emerged as more globally engaged citizens."

Paige and Fry pointed to the increasing popularity of service-based "alternate" spring breaks and the Carlson School of Management's recently implemented study abroad requirement for undergraduates as signs that study abroad is becoming more integral to the higher education experience.

"More and more, students today want to study abroad and want to become more globally engaged citizens," said Paige. "Students are longing to have these experiences, and our research shows that they can truly be transformative."

"The Office" actor, writer and producer coming to U of M Saturday night

B.J. Novak, a.k.a. "Ryan" to perform stand-up comedy routine on campus

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Abby Musfeldt, Student Unions & Activities, (612) 625-8269, musf0001@umn.edu

March 6, 2009

A bit of "The Office" is coming to the U of M this weekend, as B.J. Novak -- actor, writer and producer on the NBC hit comedy -- will perform a live stand-up comedy routine at 10 p.m. Saturday, March 7 in the Great Hall of Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. Doors open at 9:30 p.m. for Novak's appearance, which is sponsored by the Minnesota Programs and Activities Council (MPAC).

Admission is just \$5 for U of M students and \$10 for the general public, and tickets can be purchased online at <http://indietickets.com/tickets/customer/home.php?cat=157>

Novak is best known as "Ryan," the temp turned corporate boss on the Emmy award winning show. Novak is also a writer and co-executive producer of the show, and his work on "The Office" has earned him a Writer's Guild Award for Best Comedy Series as well as four other WGA nominations and a two Screen Actors Guild Awards for best comedy ensemble cast. When he is not playing Ryan, Novak can be seen headlining sold-out shows at theatres, colleges and comedy clubs.

Novak comes to campus as a part of jaMPACked, a week of events planned every semester to showcase all the MPAC offers students and the surrounding community.

For more information, visit <http://www.sua.umn.edu/jampacked>

State-of-the-art U of M bike center and 1,000 bike sharing program receive Bike Walk Twin Cities federal grants

President Bruininks, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak and Lea Schuster of Transit for Livable Communities to speak at Tuesday announcement

When: 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 10

Where: Oak Street Parking Ramp, 401 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis

Who: President Robert Bruininks and Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

Katie Eukel, Transit for Livable Communities, (651) 767-0298, Ext. 115

Cathy Kennedy, (612) 309-3951, cathryn@cathrynkennedy.com

March 9, 2009

Two innovative bicycling projects -- a new U of M Bike Center with a first-of-its-kind rider frequency program and a 1,000 bike sharing program in Minneapolis -- are among the more than \$4 million worth of biking and walking improvements which will be announced by Tuesday by Bike Walk Twin Cities, a federally-funded initiative to increase biking and walking and reduce driving in Minneapolis and neighboring communities.

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks and Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak will be the featured speakers at a special announcement ceremony beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10 at the site of the to-be-opened U of M Bike Center in the Oak Street Parking Ramp, 401 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis. Lea Schuster, executive director of Transit for Livable Communities (TLC), will announce a total of six Bike Walk Twin Cities projects, including grants to St. Paul and Edina. TLC is the nonprofit organization designated by federal law to administer the \$21 million Bike Walk Twin Cities initiative. Bruininks and Rybak will speak about how these biking innovations will help transform the U of M and the city of Minneapolis into more bike-friendly environments.

On display will be renderings of the state-of-the-art U of M Bike Center, a demonstration Bike Share security bike and more information on the U of M's pioneering "Radio Frequency ID" (RFID) technology. The RFID system, set to be implemented for the first time ever at the U of M, effectively solves the longstanding problem of bicycle commute trip validation.

Representatives from the City of Minneapolis and Nice Ride Minnesota, the nonprofit organization that will administer the Bike Share program featuring 1,000 bikes at 75 kiosks across the city, will be on site to provide more information.



Noted Native American author and educator Gregory Cajete to speak at U of M

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

March 9, 2009

Well-known author, educator and artist Gregory Cajete will deliver a public lecture titled “Re-creating Sustainable Indigenous Communities in an Environmentally Compromised 21st Century” at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, in room 335 Borlaug Hall, 1991 Upper Buford Circle, St. Paul.

Cajete is the American Indian Studies Department chairman at the University of New Mexico and a national expert in indigenous ways of knowing sciences and in educating Native American youth. He published his first book, “Look to the Mountain,” a curriculum for teaching ecology to Native Americans, in 1994. He has since published at least six more books including “Igniting the Sparkle,” “A People’s Ecology,” “Native Science” and his most recent book, “Spirit of the Game.”

A reception will follow his talk. Cajete’s visit is sponsored by the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences diversity office as well as the North Star STEM Alliance and the university’s Office of Equity and Diversity, and American Indian Studies. For details, see <http://www.cfans.umn.edu/diversity/>

U of M Bell Museum hosts "The Seduction of Scent" with author, fragrance scientist Avery Gilbert

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

March 10, 2009

Author and scent scientist Avery Gilbert headlines an exploration of the virtues of scent at "The Seduction of Scent" at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 18 at the University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

A nationally recognized smell scientist and author of "What the Nose Knows: The Science of Scent in Everyday Life," Avery has researched scent and fragrances for more than 30 years as a biologist, sensory psychologist and fragrance-industry insider. He's known for his groundbreaking work on the psychology of odor perceptions and his co-authorship of the 1986 National Geographic Smell Survey, which looked at the effects of age and gender on smell among 1.4 million subscribers. A fragrance developer, Avery has designed commercial scents ranging from best selling perfumes to kitty litter.

Avery will speak on the critical role smell plays in our lives, how the sense of smell is able to tempt and repel us and how it makes us part of the chemical conversation between plants and pollinators, herbivores and predators. Avery will be introduced by University of Minnesota entomologist and nationally recognized bee expert, professor Marla Spivak, who will explain the vital role pollinators play in our love affair with luscious scents. Following the presentation, participants are invited to delight in the luxuries of scent in a reception featuring locally produced wines and desserts.

The event is co-sponsored by Minnesota Monthly magazine. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door; Bell Museum members receive a \$10 discount. For tickets and more information, call (612) 624-9050.

U of M researchers examine the value of health information technology

Media Note: Embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EDT, March 10

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/10/2009) —University of Minnesota researchers found that the use of health information technology (IT), a popular health policy initiative, has had little or no effect on patient safety. Despite this, the researchers say it's still too early to judge the effectiveness of health IT. They employed innovative methods that are shedding entirely new light on the issue, necessitating extensive further examination. The study, funded by the Agency for Health Quality and Research (AHRQ) and the Changes in Healthcare Financing and Organization initiative, appears in the March 2009 issue of Health Affairs.

Researchers from the U's Carlson School of Management and the School of Public Health examined nationally representative Medicare data on more than 10 million hospital inpatient stays for the years 1999-2002. They looked at the effects of three different health IT applications on three separate patient safety indicators. The IT applications examined were electronic medical records, nurse charts and automated imaging. The patient safety indicators examined were infection, post-operative hemorrhage or hematoma and postoperative pulmonary embolism or deep vein thrombosis.

They found that electronic medical records are the only IT application to have a clear, though marginal, effect on patient safety. Electronic medical records reduced infections, but had no effect on the other patient safety indicators that were studied. The benefits of electronic medical records did grow with time.

The study authors wrote that their research suggested that early adopters of health IT were typically large academic medical centers that provide high quality care and likely have better-than-average outcomes. Consequently, generalizations from early health IT adopters could overstate health IT's value on a national scale.

"While this is an interesting result, it is clear that much more research is needed on this issue," said Stephen Parente, associate professor in the Carlson School of Management and a study author. Parente and his co-author Jeffrey McCullough of the School of Public Health agree that planned federal investment in health IT should be accompanied by investment in the evidence base needed to evaluate its effectiveness.

Feeling Blue? University of Minnesota Study Finds New Insight to Predicting Consumer Emotions

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/10/2009) —It's no secret that emotions influence peoples' decisions about what, when and how they buy. Whether choosing between a movie and a play, deciding whether to attend a sporting event shortly before an important event or selecting an indulgent breakfast treat in anticipation of a tough day at work, consumers' choices are often guided by how they expect their purchase will make them feel. New research by Jane Ebert, a professor of marketing at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, reveals that how we go about predicting our emotions can lead to very different outcomes.

In a series of four studies, Ebert and co-authors Daniel Gilbert (Harvard) and Timothy Wilson (University of Virginia) use methods of prediction called forecasting and backcasting to show how they lead to quite different outcomes. Consumers can predict their feelings following an event by forecasting--first imagining their feelings when the event occurs ("I'll be very unhappy if I see the Red Sox lose today") and then considering how those feelings might change over time ("...but I'll probably feel better in a few days, in time for my birthday party"). Alternatively, they can predict their feelings following an event by backcasting--first imagining their feelings in a future period ("I'm going to be happy in a few days because my birthday party is coming up") and then considering the effects of the event ("...and if I see the Red Sox lose today it won't change that much").

For example, a person who sees an ad for a Caribbean Cruise in the dead of winter would expect to enjoy the trip more if the copy read, "Winter getting you down? How's it going to feel after three more weeks of this? Wouldn't a sun-filled tropical vacation help? Book one today," than if the ad simply touted the trip before invoking the customer's feelings. By first getting buyers to think ahead to more winter, the advertisement actually makes them consider the effects of the vacation on their feeling more than if they just think about the vacation.

People make a lot of decisions based on how they expect their choices to make them feel. "We found that we can easily change a consumer's expectations of those feelings," said Ebert. The differences in the information that forecasters and backcasters consider and the predictions that they make suggest that simply changing the order in which consumers think about a potential consumption event and how they expect to feel in the future can markedly change expectations about their feelings as a result of the event.

Jane Ebert's teaching and research focuses on understanding how marketers and policy-makers can increase the influence of consumers' future goals (such as good health and a comfortable retirement) on their current decisions and behavior. The paper "Forecasting and Backcasting: Predicting the Impact of Events on the Future," forthcoming in the *Journal of Consumer Research*, and more information on Professor Ebert can be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/jebert.

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.

Newly elected Regents to be sworn in at Board meeting this week

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

March 10, 2009

Newly elected members of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents will be sworn in this week. Incumbents Patricia Simmons, Clyde Allen and John Frobenius and first-term Regent Richard Beeson will take the oath of office from Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Christopher Dietzen at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12 in the Board of Regents Boardroom, 600 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. Beeson replaces David Metzen of the Fourth Congressional District and a Regent since 1997.

Highlights for the rest of the meeting are as follows:

Thursday, March 12

9:45 - 11:30 a.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. A number of capital budget amendments, schematic plans and real estate transactions will be presented. Included for review and action is a capital budget amendment to fund the design and construction of the new Schulze Diabetes Institute on the Twin Cities campus and road and site work for the NOvA Project, a large physics detector in Ash River, Minn.

1:30 - 2:30 a.m., Work Session, Boardroom. University chief financial officer Richard Pfutzenreuter and state economist Tom Stinson will give the state's economic update and outline how the 2009 federal stimulus package effects the forecast.

2:45 - 4:15 p.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, West Committee Room. The processes for faculty review and evaluation will be reviewed.

2:45 - 4:15 p.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, East Committee Room. Vice President for Human Resources Carol Carrier will present a policy change that would require an employee contribution toward university credit-bearing courses taken under the Regents Scholarship Program.

In an effort to provide undergraduate students with an outstanding living and learning environment, the committee will discuss new methods to survey student experiences.

As part of a discussion, the committee will then be presented an update on the resources available and the activities planned to support staff and work groups effected by budget challenges.

Friday, March 13

9 - 11 a.m., Board of Regents Meeting, Boardroom. The Board will first recognize the 2009-2011 McKnight Land-Grant professors. The award is given to junior scholars chosen for their potential for important contributions to their field.

President Robert Bruininks and Pfutzenreuter will also recommend the Board approve a \$20 million reduction in the current operating budget (2008-2009) in order to reflect the reduction in the university's state general fund appropriation by Governor Tim Pawlenty.

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.

University of Minnesota to receive 2009 Simon Award for exemplary internationalization efforts

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/10/2009) —NAFSA: Association of International Educators today announced that the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, is one of this year's recipients of the Sen. Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization.

Named for the late Sen. Simon (D-IL), the award recognizes outstanding and innovative efforts in campus internationalization. Simon was a strong supporter of international education throughout his life, advocating for exchanges through his position on various Senate committees.

The U of M is one of five universities honored in 2009 and just the 10th public research institution to win the award over the past nine years.

"This is an outstanding honor and a great recognition of the university's efforts to internationalize the campus," said Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean for international programs. "It is clear that internationalization is no longer an option at the University of Minnesota and that international programs have become an integral part of the campus culture and our teaching, research, and outreach programs. We are delighted that NAFSA has acknowledged our hard work with this award."

The award is sponsored by NAFSA: Association of International Educators, the world's largest nonprofit association dedicated to international education. The winning institutions will be featured in the NAFSA report *Internationalizing the Campus 2009: Profiles of Success at Colleges and Universities*, to be published this fall. The awardees will also be recognized at the NAFSA annual conference on May 29 in Los Angeles. The other recipients are Boston University, Connecticut College, Pacific Lutheran University, and Portland State University.

U of M professor authors report for Kaiser Family Foundation on the state of health care journalism

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/11/2009) —Just as President Obama is promising major health reform, huge cutbacks in the news business are creating new challenges for health journalists who are trying to report on those policy issues, according to the survey and report written by Gary Schwitzer, associate professor in the University of Minnesota School of Journalism & Mass Communication. The report was released today by the Kaiser Family Foundation at a Washington, D.C. briefing.

A video interview with Schwitzer about the report can be viewed on the University News Service Web site here: http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/kaiser_report.htm

“The news media is one of the most important sources of information the general public has about health policy,” said Drew Altman, president of the Kaiser Family Foundation, “so it’s critical that our country continues to produce the best possible health journalism during this important period.”

A survey of members of the Association of Health Care Journalists (AHCJ), conducted in partnership with AHCJ, and the report, *The State of Health Journalism in the United States*, written by Schwitzer, detail how the financial pressures on the media industry and the fierce competition to break news on new and expanding platforms on the Internet are affecting the quality of health reporting. The difficulties cited in the reports have caused many in the industry to worry about the loss of in-depth, detailed reporting and the influence of public relations and advertising that could color news content.

The turmoil in the news business is affecting all beats in journalism, not just health. Indeed, although AHCJ members report facing many difficulties in the current climate, they are more optimistic about the future of health journalism in particular than they are about journalism in general.

The full survey and report can be viewed online at <http://kff.org/entmedia/mh031109pkg.cfm>

Key findings from the survey of AHCJ members include:

- Ninety-four percent of survey respondents say the bottom line pressure in media organizations is seriously hurting the quality of news coverage of health care issues.
- Forty percent of staff reporters in the survey say the number of health reporters at their organization has gone down since they’ve been there, and 11 percent say they personally have been laid off over the past few years due to downsizing. Thirty-nine percent of respondents who are still in the business believe it is at least somewhat likely that their position will be eliminated in the next few years.
- Nearly nine in ten (88 percent) survey respondents think health care coverage leans too much toward short “quick hit” stories, and two-thirds (64 percent) say the trend toward shorter stories has gotten worse in the past few years.
- A majority of respondents (52 percent) say there is too much coverage of consumer or lifestyle health, and too little of health policy (70 percent), health care quality (70 percent) and health disparities (69 percent).

U of M symposium considers how climate change could affect plant disease

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 (03/11/2009) —Few scientists have tackled the complex questions of how climate change will affect the diseases that can devastate agricultural, prairie and woodland environments. Will warmer, moister air make some kinds of plants more susceptible to disease? Will new plant diseases emerge? Will some diseases become more important and others less so? What can be done to manage such changes?

A symposium this month at the University of Minnesota will address these questions.

The Solution-Driven Science Symposium, “New Frontiers in Plant Health: Will Climate Change Tip the Balance Toward Disease?” will take place from 12:30 to 4:45 p.m. Wednesday, March 25, at the St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

Speakers include distinguished scientists in the emerging field of climate change-plant disease interaction, as well as renowned climatologist Mark Seeley, a professor at the university. Individual presentations will be followed by a panel discussion wrapping up the topics presented 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 March 19 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.

Dist lists: Usuals, TV, radio, MN Ag, MN dailies

Target Human Resources Executive Vice President Jodee Kozlak to Speak at U of M

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

When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 7

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

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March 11, 2009

Target Executive Vice President of Human Resources Jodee Kozlak will speak at the Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 7, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Kozlak's speech "Creating a Culture that is Value Centered and Performance Driven." Kozlak joined Target in 2001 and was named to her current position in 2005. Her responsibilities include all legal, personnel, labor relations and employment functions in support of the corporation's credit card and retail segments, including the stores, distribution, headquarters and international operations. She received a bachelor's degree in accounting from the College of St. Thomas in 1985 and went on to receive her law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1990.

The advance registration deadline for the First Tuesday luncheon is Thursday, April 2. 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, April 3. There are three ways to register: call 612-626-9634, visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/events, or e-mail message to firsttuesday@umn.edu.

University of Minnesota announces 2009 Siehl Prize For Excellence in Agriculture laureates

Media Note: Photos and biographical details are available after the announcement from Becky Beyers at bbeyers@umn.edu

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/18/2009) — A pioneering corn breeder, an innovative former dean who fostered international cooperation and the founder of one of Minnesota's most successful farms are this year's recipients of the prestigious Siehl Prize For Excellence in Agriculture.

The prize is awarded annually by the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. Recipients are chosen for three categories: knowledge (teaching, research and outreach); production agriculture and agribusiness. This year's winners are:

- A. Forrest Troyer (agribusiness): As one of the world's most effective corn breeders, Troyer developed or co-developed 40 commercial corn hybrids for major agribusinesses that sold more than 60 million bags of seed corn -- enough to plant all the corn in North America for two years.
- William Hueg (knowledge): As director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station and a University of Minnesota administrator, he developed an interdisciplinary approach in agricultural research that led to significant advances in addressing state and national global challenges in agriculture.
- Bob Christensen (production agriculture): Since he co-founded Christensen Farms in 1974 with his brother and only a handful of hogs, the family business has grown exponentially. Today, it employs 1,200 people, contracts with more than 450 family farmers and produces enough pork each year to feed 14 million people.

The recipients were announced today at the Minnesota State Capitol, as part of the celebration of National Ag Week. They will be honored at a ceremony in May.

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. Recipients receive a \$50,000 award as well as a sculpture and lapel pin designed by Minnesota artist Thomas Rose especially for the Siehl Prize.

The recipients were announced today at the Minnesota State Capitol as part of the celebration of National Ag Week, sponsored by the Minnesota Farm Bureau. The laureates will be honored at a ceremony in May.

Dist: Usuals, radio, MN Dailies, MN Ag, Capitol

University of Minnesota's Engineers Without Borders student group awarded \$50,000 for projects in Haiti and Uganda

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/18/2009) — The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment (IonE) and its signature program, the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE), recently awarded \$50,000 to the campus chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB).

The student-led organization, which was established in 2005, will use the funding to advance its global mission: To work directly with disadvantaged communities to improve their quality of life through the implementation of economically sustainable and environmentally friendly engineering projects.

“Our goal is to provide sustainable solutions and education for the poorest people in the world, and \$50,000 will go a long way toward meeting this goal quickly and successfully,” said EWB chapter president and Institute of Technology student Guillermo Alfonzo.

One team of students will use the funds to assess, design and implement biogas digesters in the city of Cap-Haïtien, Haiti. The biogas system will process the human waste collected from composting toilets. Once transported to a central facility, the waste will be converted to methane gas through the process of anaerobic digestion. Along with helping to suppress disease, the project will produce a renewable fuel for heating, cooking and agricultural uses.

The funding will also support a team of students working in Uganda. In collaboration with the Uganda Rural Fund, the students will implement a solar-powered water supply system for Hope Integrated Academy -- a vocational college, high school and community resource center in the rural village of Mulobere. Upon completion, the system will provide the entire school and more than 500 villagers with clean drinking water. The project also incorporates a sanitation building design and health education focused on malaria prevention.

In addition, the students will use the funds to develop and implement a first-of-its-kind Geo-Wiki. This online collaborative tool will allow the Engineers Without Borders group to share village-level solutions on an international scale. The Web-based application will facilitate communication among the students, non-governmental organizations, communities and individuals working on similar projects around the world.

“We’ve pledged to invest net proceeds from IREE’s annual E3 conference in support of undergraduate opportunities in renewable energy and the environment -- and this is an exciting example of that commitment,” said IREE director Dick Hemmingsen. “Our mission and the student group’s mission have a lot in common, so this partnership is just a natural fit.”

“I’m deeply impressed with the Engineers Without Borders team. They’re smart, they’re organized, and they’re clearly committed to doing good in the world,” said Jonathan Foley, director of the IonE. “While many students have the passion to do big things, these students also have the know-how and organization to make it work.”

Visit www.tc.umn.edu/~ewb to learn more about the University Of Minnesota chapter of Engineers Without Borders.

About the funding source:

Led by IREE, the annual E3 conference focuses on the intersection of innovative technologies, visionary policies, environmental benefits and emerging market opportunities in the renewable energy sector. E3 2008 received generous support from Piper Jaffray, Faegre & Benson LLP, and numerous other sponsors and supporters. The 2009 conference takes place Nov. 17 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. More info at www.iree.umn.edu/e3

DIST: Usuals, radio and Capitol

Conform or go against the grain? Fear or romance could make you change your mind, University of Minnesota study finds

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/23/2009) —Each day people are confronted with innumerable pieces of information and hundreds of decisions. Not surprisingly, people seldom process each piece of information deeply, instead relying on quick mental shortcuts to guide their behaviors. For example, people often use the conformity-based mental shortcut of following the crowd. This hasn't gone unnoticed by advertisers, who often tout that specific products are best-sellers or are particularly popular. But new research from Vladas Griskevicius, professor of marketing at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, suggests that the effectiveness of such common persuasion tactics can be dramatically altered by two primal emotions - fear and romantic desire.

In the forthcoming paper "Fear and Loving in Las Vegas: Evolution, Emotion, and Persuasion," Griskevicius and his co-authors find that the emotion we are currently feeling has a strong effect on whether we decide to conform or to go against the grain "Being afraid especially leads people to go along with the crowd, activating a 'safety-in-numbers' psychology," said Griskevicius. "A feeling of lust, however, motivates people to go it alone, activating a desire to be seen as unique. Feeling scared or amorous can greatly change the way people make decisions."

To test the idea, the researchers had people watch a short clip from a frightening or a romantic film. Afterward, people viewed ads for Las Vegas that contained commonly used persuasive appeals either rooted in conformity ("over a million sold") or rooted in uniqueness ("stand out from the crowd"). After watching a scary film, people were especially persuaded by conformity-based appeals that presented the trip as a popular option. In contrast, after people watched a romantic film clip, they were not only less persuaded by the same conformity-based appeal, but such appeals were counter-persuasive. The romantically minded individuals especially did not want to visit Las Vegas if they knew that many others are already going. Instead, people in a romantic state were much more persuaded by appeals that presented the trip as a unique, unusual, or exotic choice that others might not make.

The fact that emotions can dramatically influence people's tendency to go with or go against the group should not be overlooked by marketers. For example, advertisements often use persuasive appeals depicting products or ideas as being particularly popular or top sellers. The well-established tendency to conform makes such appeals generally quite effective. But when people view such ads on television, advertisers rarely consider that these viewers have often just been taken on an emotional roller coaster by the program they are currently watching. Indeed, Griskevicius and colleagues find that different types of commonly used persuasion appeals are differentially effective depending on the emotion that a viewer is feeling.

"The effects of this study extend to everyday activities like watching the nightly news," Griskevicius said. "Much of the news is full of fear invoking material. Advertising during that news show should focus on collective, 'everyone's doing it' messages rather than individual or unique messages that might work better during a romantically themed show like 'Sex and the City'."

Vladas Griskevicius's teaching and research utilizes theoretical principles from evolutionary biology to study consumers' often unconscious preferences, decision processes, and behavioral strategies. The paper "Fear and Loving in Las Vegas: Evolution Emotion and Persuasion," forthcoming in the *Journal of Marketing Research*, was co-authored by Noah Goldstein (UCLA), Jill Sundie (University of Houston), and Chad Mortensen, Robert Cialdini and Douglas Kenrick (University of Arizona). The paper and more information on Professor Griskevicius can be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/vgriskevicius.

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.

U of M's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment awards \$4.85 million to seven unique projects

Research will advance renewable energy development in Minnesota and beyond

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/24/2009) —Following a highly competitive review and selection process, the University of Minnesota's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment has selected seven projects to receive a total of \$4.85 million in funding.

IREE's 2009 large grants program will help launch early-stage, high-potential projects in emerging fields of renewable energy and the environment.

In addition to scientific and technical merit, considerations applied during the final selection process included the potential for major breakthroughs on national and global scales, an alignment with Minnesota's competitive advantages, a strong interdisciplinary approach, and a clear business plan and exit strategy for securing future support.

"We're convinced these investments will help position the University of Minnesota, the state and the broader region as a world leader in sustainable energy systems," said Dick Hemmingsen, IREE director.

"IREE's new research portfolio aligns perfectly with the Institute's goal of addressing today's grand environmental challenges," said Jon Foley, Institute on the Environment director. "I'm confident that through these investments we'll transform the energy landscape both here and abroad."

The projects selected to receive IREE large grants include:

Thermochemical Fuels: Solar at Night

Project lead: Jane Davidson, Mechanical Engineering

Goal: To harvest and store solar concentrated energy via high-temperature, thermochemical processes. Faculty and students will collaborate with national and international experts to develop processes and reactors that gasify biomass with concentrated solar energy. As a result, the fuel produced during the day could be stored, transported and used where/when it is needed.

Sustainable Polymers: Tomorrow's Advanced Materials

Project lead: Marc Hillmyer, Chemistry

Goal: To design, prepare and implement advanced polymers from biomass for a wide range of applications, and to establish a Center for Sustainable Polymers at the U of M. The team of scientists and engineers will lead research projects aimed at developing commercially feasible, pressure-sensitive adhesives, toughened plastics and polyurethanes from renewable resources.

Thermochemical Approaches to Conversion of Biomass in Small-Scale, Distributed Systems

Project leads: Michael Tsapatsis, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science; Roger Ruan, Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering

Goal: To build a portfolio of integrated catalytic, reactor and power generation technologies that are scalable, continuous and suitable for distributed processing of biomass sources. This work will address bioenergy research needs for heat, electricity and liquid fuels.

Laterally Integrated Photovoltaic Systems

Project lead: Philip Cohen, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Goal: To develop an inexpensive, integrated package using holographic concentrator optics to split the solar spectrum and direct each band toward polycrystalline solar cell components. This system could reduce the expense and complications of multi-junction cells, mechanical tracking and concentrator optics in current photovoltaic systems.

Air Pollution Impacts of Conventional and Alternative Fuels: A Spatial and Temporal Life Cycle Analysis Decision Support Tool

Project lead: Julian Marshall, Civil Engineering

Goal: To perform a spatially- and temporally-explicit life cycle assessment for several biofuels and the fossil fuels they displace. This research will provide critical new knowledge about the costs, benefits and tradeoffs in greenhouse gas emissions and air quality related to biofuel production systems.

Combining Geothermal Energy Extraction and CO2 Sequestration to Produce Clean, Renewable, Carbon Negative Electricity

Project lead: Martin Saar, Geology and Geophysics

Goal: To investigate the feasibility of developing a geothermal power plant that generates electricity in low to intermediate heat flow regions (such as Minnesota), while sequestering carbon dioxide in the subsurface. This project could reduce climate change caused by human activities while utilizing Earth's natural heat flow as an energy source.

Evaluation, Validation and Demonstration of Small-Scale Renewable Energy Systems for Homes and Businesses

Project lead: Michael Reese, Morris West Central Research and Outreach Center

Goal: To evaluate small-scale renewable energy systems and become an accredited performance test center. The team will work to create a business model and to jumpstart the infrastructure for a self-sustaining, fee-based center, which can facilitate the testing, validation and demonstration of such systems.

The U of M's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment, a signature program of the Institute on the Environment, promotes statewide economic development; sustainable, healthy and diverse ecosystems; and national energy security through development of bio-based and other renewable resources and processes. Since its inception in 2003, IREE has supported more than 160 projects in areas including bioenergy and bioproducts; solar; hydrogen; wind, hydro and geothermal power; conservation and efficient energy utilization; and policy, economics and ecosystems. Visit www.iree.umn.edu for more information.

How the U of M helped bring electricity to rural Minnesota

What: Commemoration of the University of Minnesota bioproducts and biosystems engineering department's role in the Red Wing Project, one of the first rural power lines in Minnesota

When: 11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 26

Where: St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford 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

March 24, 2009

Farm life in Minnesota would never be the same after the first power lines brought electricity to a group of nine farms near Red Wing, Minn., just before Christmas 1923 as part of a University of Minnesota research project. Agricultural engineers at the U, in partnership with Northern States Power and others, wanted to know how electrical service could improve living conditions on Minnesota farms. They found that electricity could jolt agriculture into the modern era: within three years, the farmers were using electricity for everything from harvesting grain to pumping water for their barns and homes to separating cream from milk. While the Red Wing project wasn't the first in the U.S. to electrify farms, it was the first to gather economic and engineering data showing the dramatic changes electricity could bring to poor, rural areas. The stories of the Red Wing farmers helped justify the expansion of electrical service nationwide.

On March 26, the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers will honor the Red Wing project as part of events celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering. The department -- formerly known as the agricultural engineering department -- was founded in July 1909 and has had a role in many similar projects that improved rural life for Minnesotans.

Professor David Faigman to speak at U of M Law School on Science in the Supreme Court

What: Public lecture on "Science in the Supreme Court: Hypotheses & Hypocrisy"

When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 3

Where: University of Minnesota Law School, Rm. 25, Mondale Hall, Minneapolis

Contacts: Monica Wittstock, Law School, (612) 625-3482, witt0625@umn.edu

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

March 26, 2009

David Faigman, the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences 2008-09 Visiting Consortium professor, will deliver a public lecture on "Science in the Supreme Court: Hypotheses & Hypocrisy in Constitutional Decision Making," 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m. Friday, April 3, University of Minnesota Law School, Rm. 25, Mondale Hall, Minneapolis. This event is free and open to the public and intended for students, faculty, researchers, scientists, policymakers and community members.

Faigman is the John F. Digardi Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, San Francisco, and Director, UCSF/Hastings Consortium on Law, Science and Health Policy. He writes extensively on the subject of the law's use of science. His most recent book "Constitutional Fictions: A Unified Theory of Constitutional Facts." He is also the author of "Laboratory of Justice: The Supreme Court's 200-Year Struggle to Integrate Science and the Law" and "Legal Alchemy: The Use and Misuse of Science in the Law." He received a master's degree in psychology and law degree from the University of Virginia.

Commentary will be provided by Susanna Blumenthal, associate professor of law and history, University of Minnesota, and Eugene Borgida, professor of psychology and law, University of Minnesota. Continuing legal education credit (CLE) for attorneys has been requested. Reservations are required for those requesting CLE credit. To register, visit

http://lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/conferences/david_faigman_2009, or call (612) 625-0055.

U of M's "Classes without Quizzes" features everyday science

Contacts: Mary Buschette, CFANS Alumni Relations Director, (612) 624-1745, mbuschet@umn.edu

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/26/2009) —The state and national economy, food safety and the latest research on biofuels 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 4 at 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.

This year's keynote speech, "The Great Recession: How Long, How Deep, How Could it Happen?" will be presented by University of Minnesota professor and state economist Tom Stinson.

The eight mini-seminars include:

- **The Anatomy of the Peanut Recall: What's Next?** Every few months, we hear about people being sickened by tainted or improperly prepared food. Food scientist Ted Labuza explains how U.S. food safety standards work, how they could be improved, and how you can protect yourself from future outbreaks.
- **Next-generation biofuels from algae and cellulosic feedstock:** Ending our dependence on foreign oil will make a big difference in Americans' lives. But which fuels hold the most promise? Engineer Roger Ruan shows how U of M research is moving toward the next generation of biofuels.
- **Green roofs and Cold Hardy Plants:** Plants serve many functions from aesthetic to ecological, but we usually expect to see them at our feet. Horticulturist John Erwin explains how green roofs may provide an environmentally sensitive, practical building material solution.
- **History of Cheese:** Ancient Egyptians ate it, as did the nomads of Central Asia. But why has milk evolved into so many varieties of cheese? What was it about the conditions people were living in that created different cheese making practices? Food scientist Tonya Schoenfuss will tell the story of how the living conditions of the cheesemaker influenced the cheeses developed.
- **Lakeshore restoration:** Here in the Land of 10,000 Lakes we take great pride in our lakeshore properties. But how can homeowners make the shore more ecologically friendly? Landscape ecologist Sue Galatowitsch explains.
- **Have You Eaten Your Soy Today?** Soy is an excellent source of protein and fiber, but it also may have additional healthy properties. Soybean breeder Jim Orf and nutrition expert Mindy Kurzer explain how researchers are working to identify which compounds in soy could help prevent some of most common but dangerous diseases.
- **Inflation, Deflation, Stagflation: What the Economic Crisis Means for Agriculture:** Agriculture is used to going through cycles, but in the past year agriculture has been on a roller coaster of change. Agricultural economist Brian Buhr will explain how the macro economy is directly affecting agriculture in ways we haven't seen since the 1970s.
- **Birds, Sprawl and Minnesota:** As the Twin Cities spread further out and new roads and buildings go up, important bird habitats are being disturbed. Wildlife biologist Rob Blair will talk about why bird habitat is crucial, and how citizens can help protect and restore the places where birds live.

Registration 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.

For information and to register, go to www.cfans.umn.edu/cwq or call (612) 624-0822.

U of M researchers using Facebook application to engage youth in news

Project seeks new ways for media to connect with young audiences

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/30/2009) —University of Minnesota researcher Christine [Greenhow](#), Seattle-based news aggregator [NewsCloud](#) and student newspaper The Minnesota Daily today announced the launch of the Minnesota Daily Facebook application. [The Minnesota Daily application](#) aims to become the hub of news and sharing for U of M students and community, combining both professional student and citizen journalism. Researchers will use it to test new ways to engage youth in news and information through social media.

The Daily, the U of M's 109 year-old independent, student-run newspaper, has teamed up with researchers to provide the application with its Web content. The application, funded by a grant from the [John S. and James L. Knight Foundation](#), includes an incentive-based feature for users that allows them to receive points for completed challenges and to comment and share stories with Facebook friends. After a user gains a certain number of points, they are eligible for prizes offered by The Minnesota Daily.

"It could revolutionize the way young people engage and interact with news through their social network," said Vadim Lavrusik, editor in chief and co-publisher of The Minnesota Daily.

Moreover, Lavrusik said, the application could provide a future business model for media organizations that are struggling to find viable revenue on the Web. Media groups with such applications could work with business to post challenges to the users that they would gain points for, such as visiting a business' Website or attending a restaurant's happy hour, resulting in direct business to the advertisers. "It changes the way we think about Web advertising, but business could see direct results," Lavrusik said.

U of M researchers, led by Greenhow, will use the data provided by application users to investigate how online social network sites such as Facebook can engage youth in world events, build community and generate real world impact. The study, with an anticipated publication date of fall 2009, seeks to discover which strategies work best to engage 16 to 25 year-olds in current events and how the Internet can be used to educate, inform and connect students in new and powerful ways.

"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 develop students' digital age competencies, such as their online communication, collaboration, and citizenship, thus informing the design and development of successful media-rich environments," Greenhow said.

The Minnesota Daily application is the second media publication on Facebook launched by Greenhow's team of researchers. The first, called "[Hot Dish: Serving up the hottest climate news](#)" launched in March 2009 and focuses on building community and sharing news around climate change.

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 by engaging young people where they increasingly spend time -- online in social networks," said Gary Kebbel, Knight Foundation journalism program director.

"We're excited to apply our technology to support Dr. Greenhow's research," said NewsCloud founder Jeff Reifman, the Seattle organization behind the application's development. "We hope these publications serve as a model for using Facebook to engage younger readers in important current events."

To view The Minnesota Daily Facebook application, visit: <http://apps.facebook.com/mndaily/>

U of M's "Check & Connect" program tackles problem of school dropouts

New grant will expand program to include community college students in Minneapolis and Kentucky

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/31/2009) —Nearly 1.23 million U.S. students do not graduate high school with their peers each year, and dropouts (who are more likely to become unemployed, incarcerated and/or dependent on social programs) are estimated to cost U.S. taxpayers \$76 billion annually. The U of M's Institute on Community Integration (ICI) in the College of Education and Human Development has been successfully combating this problem in K-12 education in Minnesota and around the country with its targeted "Check & Connect" program.

Now, a new research project at ICI has begun work to expand the Check & Connect model into postsecondary education for use with students ages 18-30 who are at risk of dropping out of community college.

"President Obama has publicly stated that dropout prevention is a key component in improving America's education system," said Sandy Christenson, director of Check & Connect and a professor of educational psychology at the U of M. "Check & Connect has a long track record of proven success in this area, and we are excited to be expanding and improving upon the program."

Check & Connect is one of just 22 dropout prevention interventions rated by the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse and the only one found to have strong evidence of positive effects for staying in school.

The new project, titled "Making the Connection: Engaging and Retaining Young Adults in Postsecondary Education" is funded by a two-year, \$727,237 grant from the Institute for Education Sciences and will involve partnering with two colleges — Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) and Jefferson Community and Technical College in Louisville, Kentucky – to modify the intervention for postsecondary students at risk of disengaging from school.

In addition, a newly updated Check & Connect manual for K-12 schools, building on the learning of the program's 19 year history, was released in December.

Check & Connect, initially developed through a federally funded research project in 1990 to address the high rate of dropouts among secondary students with disabilities, is implemented by a monitor/mentor who works with students and families over time (at least two years) to maximize personal contact and opportunities to build trusting relationships. Student levels of engagement (such as attendance, grades and suspensions) are "checked" regularly and used to guide the monitors' efforts to increase and maintain students' "connection" with school.

Studies of the program's effectiveness have shown impressive results. In one study of students in grades 7-9 who had emotional and learning disabilities, 68 percent of those who participated in the Check & Connect intervention were, at the end of ninth grade, on track to graduate in five years compared to just 29 percent of the comparison group. In another study with students in grades 9-12, students with emotional/behavioral disabilities who participated in Check & Connect were significantly less likely to drop out of school than similar students in the control group over the 4-5 year period (39 percent vs. 63 percent). And in a study of more than 360 elementary students with and without disabilities who were at-risk for disengaging from school, the percent of students arriving to school on time (no tardies) increased from 42 percent at time of referral to 86 percent after two years of Check & Connect.

"We've found that relationships are essential for students' behavior change, commitment to learning, and academic progress," said Christenson. "And we've learned the necessity to engage students on multiple levels: academically, behaviorally, cognitively, and affectively. Through Check & Connect we strive to address all those components."

ICI held a training session with the updated program model this week on campus for school administrators, teachers, researchers, community professionals and others interested in implementing Check & Connect in their K-12 schools or youth organizations; another training session will be held in June. For more information on the program and the research behind it, visit <http://ici.umn.edu/checkandconnect>

Concerns about food safety spotlighted at U of M symposium

What: “How Safe is Our Food Supply? Expectations, Technology and Regulation”

When: 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 1

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

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

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

March 31, 2009

Recent nationwide outbreaks of food-borne illnesses have triggered calls for more regulation along with plunging consumer confidence. A symposium at the University of Minnesota this week will explore the complexities of the food-safety issue.

The conference, “How Safe is our Food Supply? Expectations, Technology, and Regulation,” will take place beginning at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, at Coffman Memorial Hall, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The conference is sponsored by the university’s Food Industry Center.

Speakers from the university include: Jean Kinsey, applied economics professor and center co-director, and research fellow Dennis Degeneffe, who will present “Tracking a Fragile Relationship between Consumers and the Industry.” Their talk will expand on findings from a February 2009 study that revealed just 22.5 percent of consumers were confident the food supply was safer than a year ago. Craig Hedberg, professor of environmental health sciences, will speak on “Public Health Surveillance: A Prerequisite for a Safe Food Supply,” and Ted Labuza, professor of food science and nutrition, will discuss “An Anatomy of a Recall: The PCA Case.” The session will wrap up with an industry panel discussion response to the day’s presentations.

For more information, including registration and agenda for the conference, visit <http://foodindustrycenter.umn.edu/Events.html>. This year’s conference is sponsored by CHS, Inc.; General Mills; Cub Foods/SUPERVALU; and Nash Finch Company.

Medical Devices Conference is April 14-16 at the University of Minnesota

Conference will address major trends in medical device design, policy, engineering, education and commercialization

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March 31, 2009

Medical device leaders from across the country, in both industry and academia, will converge at the University of Minnesota's Eighth Annual Design of Medical Devices Conference (DMD) on Tuesday-Thursday April 14-16 at the Radisson University Hotel, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The conference will address major trends related to medical device design, policy, engineering, education and commercialization.

"The DMD conference continues to grow by all measures, illustrating the critical importance of medical devices and surrounding technologies, policies and clinical needs," said Art Erdman, a University of Minnesota mechanical engineering professor and conference co-chair. "Nine years ago we had a vision to establish an event where leaders from academia and industry would come together to share the latest in medical device design. This vision has become a successful reality and continues to exceed even our own expectations." More than 900 people are expected to attend this year's conference.

The conference includes two days of technical sessions, including topics such as cardiovascular engineering, neuroengineering, nano/MEMS devices, medical electronics, technology assessment, human factors, orthopedics, surgical simulators, health informatics, military medical devices, surgical tools, conflicts of interest in healthcare, tissue engineering and much more. Conference attendees will also be able to observe a live surgery that will be broadcasted via videoconference from the University of Minnesota Medical Center Fairview. There will be two scientific poster sessions that will showcase more than 100 emerging topics in biomedical engineering and medical device design.

The third day of the conference includes The President's 21st Century Interdisciplinary Conference: "Translational Research: from Prototype to Product." Keynote presenters include professor Bruce Blazer, Chief of the Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplantation Program and Director-ACH-Center for Translational Medicine, University of Minnesota; professor Frank Cerra, senior vice president for Health Sciences, University of Minnesota; Mir Imran, managing general partner, Incube Laboratories; Mark Kroll, California Polytechnic University; professor Russell Luepke, Mayo Professor of Public Health, University of Minnesota; Dave Stassen, M.B.A., managing director Split Rock Partners; and Dale Wahlstrom, BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota.

The conference is presented by the University of Minnesota's Institute for Engineering in Medicine's Medical Devices Center, the Institute of Technology (College of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Mathematics), the Academic Health Center, the Office of the President, and the department of mechanical engineering. Several corporations are also providing industry sponsorships including Boston Scientific, Medtronic, St. Jude Medical, 3M and Minnetronix.

For more information on the Design of Medical Devices Conference or to register, visit www.dmdconf.org. Online registration ends April 8, 2009, walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is recommended.

University of Minnesota hosts national workshop to help women thrive in mathematics careers

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April 1, 2009

A three-day workshop hosted by the University of Minnesota Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) will bring women leaders in math-related fields together with graduate students and postdoctoral fellows Thursday-Saturday April 2-4 on the Minneapolis campus.

For a full schedule, visit <http://www.ima.umn.edu/2008-2009/SW4.2-4.09/>

More women are graduating with advanced degrees in math. In 2007-08, 31 percent of the new doctorates at U.S. universities were awarded to women, according to the American Mathematics Society. Yet, like their peers in engineering and science, they comprise a very small percentage of the senior positions in universities, government labs and industry.

“We know the barriers are not based on competence; these are very smart women,” said Cheri Shakiban, associate director for diversity at the IMA. She cites data from the report: “Beyond Bias and Barriers--Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering,” published by the National Academies in 2007. It shows that women in math, science and engineering are lost at every educational transition.

“With each step up the academic ladder, from high school through full professorships, the representation of women in science and engineering drops substantially,” the report says. “The barriers to advancement include discrimination of various forms, including evaluation criteria that disadvantage women. This leads to lower pay, slower promotions, fewer honors and limited opportunities to fill leadership positions.”

“We need women in math,” Shakiban said, “because math is the answer to so many challenges in our society, and many of these young women will find those answers.” In addition to highlighting career and research opportunities, the conference will provide encouragement, training and networking to build young women's confidence and to teach them how to advocate for themselves. Speakers include women from IBM, Putman Investments, Ford Motor Company and major research universities and government labs.

The event is co-sponsored by the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM), which is dedicated to encouraging women and girls in the mathematical sciences. Both the IMA and AWM are funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), which has made increasing women's success in math and science a national priority.

The Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) was founded at the University of Minnesota in 1982 as a result of a competitive national process. It fosters 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.

Robots take over U of M sports arenas April 3-4

Media Note: Media are invited to videotape robotics teams in action and interview students on Thursday, April 2 during the practice rounds. Call (612) 625-0552 to make arrangements.

When: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday and Saturday April 3-4; championship rounds 1 to 4 p.m., April 4
Where: University of Minnesota Williams Arena, 1925 University Ave., S.E., Minneapolis; and Mariucci Arena, 1901 4th St. S.E., Minneapolis

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Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, rzurn@umn.edu, (612) 626-7959

April 1, 2009

Two arenas full of screaming fans and more than 100 high school teams from Minnesota and surrounding states are extending the Minnesota tournament frenzy another week at the Minnesota Regional FIRST Robotics Competitions 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday and Saturday April 3-4 at the University of Minnesota's Williams and Mariucci arenas. The championship matches are 1-4 p.m., Saturday, April 4.

The event is free and open to the public. The first 1,000 people entering each arena on Saturday morning will receive free admission tickets to the Science Museum of Minnesota courtesy of the Medtronic Foundation.

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 three feet by four feet and stand up to five feet tall.

This year's game, named Lunacy, is played on a 54-foot-by-27-foot, low-friction field. Robots are equipped with slippery wheels and payload trailers, which will lead to numerous collisions and non-stop action. Scoring will be determined as the three-team robot alliances, along with human players around the perimeter of the field, collect and score balls of varying point values in the trailers attached to the opposing teams' robots. Robots are autonomous during the first 15 seconds of play and teleoperated for the remaining two minutes. 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 16-18 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

Just three years ago, there were only two FIRST Robotics teams in Minnesota. With 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 grown to more than 80 teams this year. Worldwide there are more than 1,600 FIRST Robotics teams involving 42,000 high school students.

For more information, including a full schedule and list of competing teams, visit www.mnfirstregional.org.

Cockroaches, tarantulas, giant millipedes take up residence in Apple Valley school as part of U of M Bell Museum's "BUZ Room"

Media Note: Cedar Park Elementary Principal John Garcia, Bell Museum Curator of Education Kevin Williams, teachers and second graders from Cedar Park Elementary will be on hand between 11 a.m. and noon, Tuesday, April 7 to give reporters a preview of The BUZ room.

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/01/2009) —What may give parents the creeps, is guaranteed to thrill students in Apple Valley's Cedar Park STEM Elementary School's new environmental exhibit opening to students Monday, April 6. The exhibit, called The BUZ (Building Understanding Zone) room, features hundreds of live Madagascar hissing cockroaches, giant African millipedes, tadpoles, ants and fish and a variety of other exotic animals designed to bring the scientific method of inquiry to life.

The exhibit, which is an innovative, hands-on inquiry learning space supported by a federal magnet assistance grant to Cedar Park, was created and installed in partnership with the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History. Students, ranging in grades kindergarten through fifth, will get a chance to care for the exotic creatures for two months, as well as to form hypotheses, carry out inquiry-based experiments ranging from responses to light and the effects of diet on growth and activity levels, and observe the results.

"Cedar Park aims to become a leader in STEM elementary schools in the country," says principal John Garcia. "The Bell Museum's contributions to the BUZ room were phenomenal – the museum's education specialists worked with us in developing the curriculum, then provided the creative know-how to turn our basic ideas into this amazing living laboratory for the students. We anticipate the The BUZ room to boost our students' interest in the scientific processes of hypothesis, experimentation and observation."

"Students interact with the animals in a controlled environment which makes learning fun, yet structured," says Bell Museum curator of education Kevin Williams, whose staff travels hundreds of miles each year with the animals as part of the museum's "Invertebrates in the Classroom" and "Swimming in the Schools" residencies. The animals are on loan from the Bell Museum and after making their debut at Cedar Park, will return to the Bell Museum for rest and relaxation before traveling to other schools in the metro area.

The Bell Museum, which provides programs and resources based on Minnesota's science standards and STEM initiatives for more than 20,000 teachers and students each year, is part of the University's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

U of M's Tucker Center Spring Lecture to explore lack of female coaches in youth sports

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Austin Calhoun, Tucker Center, (612) 625-9671, calho029@umn.edu

April 2, 2009

The University of Minnesota's Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport has announced that its Spring Distinguished Lecture will feature renowned University of Southern California Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies Michael Messner. His presentation -- "You Gotta Be Tough: Challenges and Strategies of Female Coaches in Youth Sport" -- will take place from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, April 22 at the Hubert H. Humphrey Center, 301 19th Avenue S., Minneapolis. It's based on his just-released book, "It's All For the Kids: Gender, Families and Youth Sports," in which Messner examines the dearth of women head coaches involved in youth sport.

Over the past 30 years, girls' participation in youth sports has been nothing short of revolutionary. During this same time period, however, few women have become head coaches in youth sports and when they do volunteer, they are often relegated to the position of "team mom." To address this leadership gap, Messner studied one Southern California community's youth soccer, baseball and softball leagues and asked the following questions: What are the barriers preventing women from coaching youth sports? What challenges are faced by the few women who do coach? What strategies do these women develop to survive -- and thrive -- as youth sports coaches? And what can we learn from their strategies? Messner also outlines why recruiting and supporting female coaches is so important for our families, our communities and our children.

Messner is president-elect of the Pacific Sociological Association, past President of the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, and a two-time winner of the Sport Sociology book award. He has also been a consultant to the California Women's Law Center related to his work on Title IX. Messner is author or editor of 11 books, including "Taking the Field: Women, Men and Sports" and "Out of Play: Critical Essays on Gender and Sport." His newest book, "It's All for the Kids: Gender, Families and Youth Sports" provides provocative and important insights into the current culture of youth sports.

The lecture is free and open to the public. More information is available at www.tuckercenter.org/lecture

Children's literature authors to appear at University of Minnesota Libraries

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

April 2, 2009

The University of Minnesota Libraries will host two prominent children's literature authors in April.

From 1:30-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, Jane Yolen will discuss her work in "Loving the Lyric Line: A Children's Poet Talks About a Lifelong Love Affair with Poetry." Yolen is the author of more than 300 children's and young adult books and the 1988 recipient of the Kerlan Award for her generous manuscript donations to the libraries' Kerlan Collection. This event, which is free and open to the public, will be followed by a book signing courtesy of the Red Balloon Bookshop.

At 1:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25, author and illustrator Jeannette Winter will receive the 2009 Kerlan Award at a ceremony and luncheon. Winter's speech, is free and open to the public. Advance registration for the noon luncheon is requested by April 8 (cost: \$20; \$15 for Kerlan Friends).

Registration and Kerlan Friends membership information is available at:

<http://special.lib.umn.edu/clrc/whatsnew.php>

The Kerlan Award is 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."

For more information, please contact the staff of the Children's Literature Research Collections at (612) 624-4576 or e-mail clrc@umn.edu.

Origin and discovery of natural organic medicines is topic of lecture at the University of Minnesota

Media Note: To schedule a phone interview with Cornell professor Eloy Rodriguez, call Ryan Mathre at (612) 625-0552.

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

April 2, 2009

Novel biomedicines from plants and arthropods is the topic of an upcoming lecture at the University of Minnesota. Cornell University professor Eloy Rodriguez will present “The Healing Forest: The Origin and Discovery of Natural Organic Medicines from the Forbidden Forests of Africa and the Amazon in Peru” at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 7 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

A reception and student research poster session beginning at 5:30 p.m. will precede the lecture. The event is free and open to the public.

A tropical explorer and chemical ecologist, Rodriguez conducts field and laboratory research in Africa, India, the Amazon of South America, the Caribbean and Mexico, with a focus on the chemical medicinals of tropical birds, ants, frogs and plants. He and his research colleagues introduced the concept of “zoopharmacognosy,” or the process by which wild animals self-medicate.

In this lecture, Rodriguez will discuss his work to develop biomedicines for treating major health disparities, including Type 2 diabetes and breast cancer, in underrepresented communities of the United States and for indigenous populations worldwide.

Rodriguez, the James A. Perkins Endowed Professor of Environmental Studies at Cornell University, teaches courses such as “The Healing Forest” and “Plant Cures and EthnoHealth.” He also serves as a faculty advisor for the Science Organization of Latinos at Cornell.

This lecture also is available via Webinar. Contact Crystal Schwietz at schwi098@umn.edu to make arrangements.

The lecture is the keynote presentation keynote of the North Star STEM Alliance 2009 Student Research Symposium hosted by the University of Minnesota and Macalester College. The North Star STEM Alliance is a Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) consortium of 16 Minnesota higher education institutions and two community partners. The initiative is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to increase the number of graduates from under-represented minority groups in university baccalaureate science and engineering programs.

Four University of Minnesota students win prestigious Goldwater Scholarship

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/02/2009) —Four University of Minnesota-Twin Cities undergraduates have been named 2009 Barry M. Goldwater Scholars. The prestigious Goldwater Scholarship is awarded annually to outstanding sophomores and juniors in mathematics, science and engineering who intend to pursue research-oriented careers in mathematics, the natural sciences and engineering. The scholarships provide up to \$7,500 per year for up to two years of undergraduate study. All four Goldwater Scholars are enrolled in the University Honors Program.

“My congratulations, to our four outstanding students,” said U of M Provost Tom Sullivan. “Such recognition is an exceptional achievement and demonstrates the outstanding quality of our undergraduate education at the University of Minnesota and the diligence and creativity in the natural and applied sciences.”

The four U of M students awarded are:

Mitch Biermann, a College of Biological Sciences sophomore majoring in biochemistry and microbiology, plans to earn a Ph.D. in biochemistry and would like to teach at the university level and conduct research in biochemistry and biophysics.

Matthew Coudron, an Institute of Technology physics and mathematics sophomore, intends to earn a Ph.D. in physics or mathematics. Coudron plans to conduct research in applications of mathematics to practical problems and teach at the university level.

Peter Lofgren, an Institute of Technology mathematics and computer science sophomore, plans to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics and computer science. He would like to conduct research in mathematics or computer science and teach at the university level.

Rebecca Szarkowski, an Institute of Technology biomedical engineering junior, plans to earn a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering. She hopes to conduct research in biomedical science for industry some day and would like to oversee the device design cycle process from concept to use.

This year 278 Goldwater Scholars were selected from a field of 1,097 nominees from colleges and universities nationwide. Since the program began, 42 University of Minnesota students have been named Goldwater Scholars. Institutions are permitted to nominate four candidates per year.

Congress established the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program in 1986 to honor Senator Barry Goldwater, who served his country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years of service in the U.S. Senate. For more information on the Goldwater Scholarship go to <http://www.act.org/goldwater/index.html>

U of M scientists to explore deepest mysteries of symbiosis in legumes

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

Mark Cassutt, University News Service, cassutt@umn.edu, (612) 624-8038

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/03/2009) —Scientists from the University of Minnesota hope to better understand the genetics of symbiosis, the process that produces the nitrogen that feeds plants, through a new three-year \$5.7 million National Science Foundation grant.

The grant funds continuing research into the genetic makeup of *Medicago truncatula*, a model legume that scientists use to learn more about other legumes like soybeans and alfalfa. The project's principal investigator is Nevin Young, a professor of plant pathology and biology at the university who recently led the international research team that sequenced the *Medicago* genome.

Legumes like *Medicago* are noted for their ability to form symbiotic relationships with soil bacteria. This relationship converts nitrogen into a biologically useable form, which in turn fertilizes the plant. This project will involve creating a *Medicago* "HapMap" – a database mapping technique currently being used in the human genome mapping project – which will show all the genetic variations in the legume and eventually lead to discovering which genome regions control symbiosis and other legume-specific traits.

"Legumes are the largest source of dietary protein in the world, even while providing millions of tons of environmentally-friendly fertilizer," Young said. "Symbiosis is the foundation for this important contribution to food security and environmental quality. Our project will take advantage of the incredible analytical power of a *Medicago* HapMap to reveal the legume-bacterial dialogue that makes this all possible."

Because research into legume-bacterial symbiosis spans many scientific fields, the project's results will provide a framework for interdisciplinary teaching in high school and undergraduate science classes. Young and his University of Minnesota co-principal investigators, Michael Sadowsky and Peter Tiffin, will partner with Hamline University to develop new undergraduate curricula. They also will mentor undergraduates from Hamline and the University of Puerto Rico as research interns in their labs. The undergraduate students' research will be complemented by graduate students in computer science, plant biology, plant pathology and soil science.

In addition to Young, Sadowsky and Tiffin, other co-principal investigators on the project include Betsy Martinez-Vaz of Hamline University, Maria Harrison of the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research and Joann Mudge from the National Center for Genome Resources.

U of M hosts second annual Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Research Showcase

Research topics range from gender in political messaging to lion attacks

Contacts: Gayla Marty, Graduate School, (612) 626-3314, marty001@umn.edu
Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

April 3, 2009

The University of Minnesota Graduate School will host the second annual Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (DDF) Research Showcase noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 7, 2009 in the Great Hall of Coffman Union, 300 Washington Avenue S.E., Minneapolis. More than 65 of the top recipients of the 2008-09 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships will showcase their research, which covers roughly 40 different fields from engineering to English.

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships are given to outstanding final-year doctoral 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 142 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships were awarded. The awards are handed out by the Fellowship Office of the Graduate School.

"We are 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. "The showcase is exciting because these students represent a diverse sample of the work being conducted across the university. Graduate students are key contributors to the research mission of the University of Minnesota."

Participants in the research showcase include:

- Holly Willis, nutrition. Willis is researching the effect fiber can have in keeping us healthy. She found that people who eat more fiber for breakfast were less hungry throughout the day and ate less.
- Paul Gugger, ecology, evolution and behavior. To understand how forests will respond to future climate change, Gugger studied how tree species (such as the Douglas-fir) responded to previous large-scale climate change, including the Ice Age. His research could better inform our management of modern forests.
- Debarchana Ghosh, geography. The West Nile Virus (WNV) has spread rapidly throughout the United States, yet we have just a rudimentary understanding how the virus operates. Ghosh is seeking to determine why, when and where WNV strikes in the Twin Cities area.
- Kjersten Nelson, political science. Given the increasing use of negative messages in political campaigns, Nelson has found that gender – both of the candidate and the opponent – influences the way we perceive these messages.
- Hadas Kushnir, conservation biology. Lions have attacked close to 1,000 people since 1990 in Tanzania. Kushnir's research seeks to identify the human and ecological risks factors for lion attacks in order to prevent human-carnivore conflict worldwide.

The showcase is free and open to the public. Registration is not required but may be recorded at <http://www.grad.umn.edu/postersession> or (612) 626-6104.

The DDF Research Showcase is supported by the biomedical laboratory supplier Beckman Coulter.

U of M Humphrey Institute panel discusses taxes: more or less?

What: Discussion of the effect of America's economic situation on taxes

When: 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 8

Where: Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Anne Mason, Humphrey Institute, amason@umn.edu (612) 625-9436,
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, mathre@umn.edu, mathre@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

April 6, 2009

The U of M's Humphrey Institute will host a panel discussion about the effects that the current financial crisis may have on the taxes citizens pay at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, at the Humphrey Center 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. America's troubled economy is on the minds of policymakers and taxpayers alike. With each new headline brings a renewed call for solutions to our economic woes.

This panel of experts will tackle the ongoing question: Will the solution be cutting spending, raising taxes, or a combination of the two?

Panelists include:

- Hal Lofgreen, professor emeritus of economics, St. Cloud State University
- Laura Kalambokidis, professor of applied economics, University of Minnesota.
- Jay Kiedrowski, moderator, former commissioner of finance for the State of Minnesota and senior fellow at the Humphrey Institute.
- Arthur Rolnick, vice president and research director, Federal Reserve Bank
- Alan Wilensky, a tax attorney and adjunct faculty member, Carlson School of Management

The event is free and open to the public, although space is limited. Please RSVP to cgage@umn.edu. This is one of a series of programs designed to bring together experts to talk about the current state of the economy.

U of M announces 2009 Imagine Fund Annual Award winners

217 faculty members receive total of \$651,000 to support arts, humanities and design system-wide

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/08/2009) —University of Minnesota Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost E. Thomas Sullivan announced today the recipients of the 2009 Imagine Fund Annual Awards. The Imagine Fund is a unique University of Minnesota system-wide program open to arts, design and humanities faculty to support a range of projects and enhance the presence of these disciplines at the university. The 217 recipients of this year's inaugural awards have been granted a total of \$651,000.

This marks the first year of the Imagine Fund Program, which is part of the provost's effort to recognize the value of supporting arts, humanities and design at the university.

"This competitive process yielded many exceptional proposals reminding us that there is a vibrant range of excellence in intellectual and artistic endeavor at the University of Minnesota," said Sullivan. "Especially in today's bleak funding landscape, our Imagine Fund initiative supports and sustains our finest scholars and creative artists."

Other aspects of the Imagine Fund program, supported by a generous grant from the McKnight Foundation, include the creation of two new endowed chairs to celebrate the arts, humanities and design; the appointment of a visiting scholar or scholars 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.

For more information on the Imagine Fund, including a complete and detailed listing of 2009's award-winners, visit http://www.artsandhumanities.umn.edu/?q=resources_um/awards/2009_recipients

St. Paul mayor Chris Coleman, Minneapolis Federal Reserve research director to discuss economic policy at U of M event

Thursday morning breakfast will spotlight applications of new economic research

Media Note: Media are encouraged to RSVP for this event.

Contacts: Rachel Wright, College of Continuing Education, (612) 624-7770, wri474@umn.edu
Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

April 8, 2009

In the midst of the economic challenges now facing the nation, a substantial and growing body of research suggests that conventional economic development policies, including public subsidies and tax breaks, don't allow for the highest rate of return on investment.

St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman and Arthur Rolnick, senior vice president and director of research of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, will discuss how current research is impacting the economic development policies of the city of St. Paul. Their discussion is the subject of a University of Minnesota's Strategic Leadership Insights event, 7:30-9:15 a.m., Thursday, April 9 at the Continuing Education & Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

This session will spotlight innovative ways St. Paul is using education as an economic development tool by utilizing research by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Coleman and Rolnick will also discuss how a shift in economic development policies might impact business organizations.

The discussion will be followed by a moderated Q & A with the audience.

Tickets are \$75 and are available at cce.umn.edu/corporateeducation/leadershipinsights, by calling 612-624-4000, or at the door. Registration begins at 7 a.m. The event includes continental breakfast.

Strategic Leadership Insights is produced by the U of M's College of Continuing Education. More information on Thursday's event can be found at <http://www.cce.umn.edu/corporateeducation/leadershipinsights/speakers/topics/topic8/index.html>

University of Minnesota Libraries to be Presented with Prestigious "Excellence in Academic Libraries" Award

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/09/2009) —The University of Minnesota Libraries will receive the prestigious "Excellence in Academic Libraries" Award at a 3:00 p.m. ceremony Wednesday, April 22 in Walter Library, 117 Pleasant St. S., Minneapolis. The Libraries received the award, a national tribute to a library and its staff, in recognition of its success integrating their expertise and resources into the life of the campus. Sponsored by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL, a division of the American Library Association) and Blackwell's Book Services, the \$3,000 award and a plaque will be presented by ACRL President Erika Linke to Provost Tom Sullivan and University Librarian Wendy Pradt Lougee.

The recognition culminates a multi-year process of transformation. "The libraries understand the importance of the process of conducting scholarship and have implemented programs to support behaviors rather than product," said Pamela Snelson, chair of the 2009 Excellence in Academic Libraries Selection Committee and college librarian at Franklin & Marshall College. "By 'getting in the flow of users,' the libraries have moved out of their comfort zone and shifted into an engagement-centered model for all library services and programs."

"Through careful planning, creative energy, and hard work, we now have a highly visible and highly valued position on campus and strong reputation for leadership in the profession. To have our staff's innovative work recognized by the ACRL community is quite simply wonderful," said Lougee.

Refreshments will be served beginning at 3:00 p.m. in Walter Library's Great Hall; the award presentation will begin at 3:15 p.m. The campus community and members of the public are welcome to attend.

Prestigious Guggenheim awarded to University of Minnesota Geology and Geophysics Professor

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/09/2009) —University of Minnesota geology and geophysics Professor R. Lawrence Edwards has received a prestigious 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship in the 85th annual U.S. and Canadian competition sponsored by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Edwards was chosen from a group of nearly 3,000 applicants.

Edwards, who is the George and Orpha Gibson Chair of Earth Systems Science and a Distinguished McKnight University Professor, was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for his work on climate change. He is well-known for his role in developing modern uranium-thorium dating methods, which he uses to fix the timeline of climate history. By establishing patterns of past climate change, he has furthered the world's understanding of the causes of climate change. His approaches have been used to determine the timing of the ice age cycles and to improve the accuracy of radiocarbon dating.

Using cave deposits as recorders of the timing and nature of climate history, Edwards and his large international group of collaborators are currently working on piecing together hundreds of thousands of years of Asian Monsoon history from caves in China. Through innovative strategies, he has established patterns of changing climate in time and space by relating his cave climate histories to those from ocean sediments and from ice cores. This work has helped to characterize and understand the causes of abrupt climate change, rapid shifts (in some cases less than a decade), which altered climate dramatically over much of the globe. The research is profiled at http://www1.umn.edu/news/features/PUBLIC_CONTENT_095839.html

Edwards' career achievements have been recognized with a number of awards. In 1999, he was awarded the C.C. Patterson Medal by the Geochemical Society for outstanding research in environmental geochemistry. In 2004, he was elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2008, he was elected fellow of the American Geophysical Union and was also honored as the first recipient of the N.J. Shackleton Medal by the European Association for Geochemistry. With 150 published journal articles—more than 20 in the journals *Science* and *Nature*—Edwards is among the most highly cited earth scientists in the world.

"Larry Edwards is among our finest scholars and he amply deserves the important national recognition of a Guggenheim Fellowship for his wide-ranging and extraordinary achievements. This award underscores the remarkable breadth and depth of faculty at the University of Minnesota. On behalf of the university I congratulate him," said Steven Crouch, Dean of the Institute of Technology, the University of Minnesota's college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics.

The 2009 Fellowship winners include 180 artists, scholars, and scientists who were selected based on stellar achievement and exceptional promise for continued accomplishment. 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 2009 Fellows may be viewed at <http://www.gf.org>

U of M continues water precautions in three buildings, cancels dental clinic appointments until Monday

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, (651) 485-3214

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/09/2009) —Recent water discoloration and odors in three University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus buildings was likely the result of seasonal maintenance being performed on one of the university's chiller systems that cools campus buildings in spring and summer, university officials said today. The university will continue water precautions in the impacted buildings and dental clinics will remain closed until Monday.

"It appears that there was a brief backup of chiller water into the domestic water supply after a seasonal flushing of the chillers, which caused both the discoloration and the odor," said Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien. "Preliminary testing shows that at the time, there were trace amounts of contaminants at levels not considered to be a health risk. We were fortunate that the color and odor helped us identify this problem quickly. But, we are erring on the side of caution and continuing precautions, testing and flushing of the system."

Immediately after getting reports of the water issues in the buildings, drinking fountains in the affected buildings were posted with "do not drink" signs and occupants were advised not to use tap water. Dental clinics in the building, which heavily rely on water, canceled appointments as well.

Other educational, research and clinical activities in these buildings continue as usual.

Minnesota Department of Health officials are aware of the situation.

The three impacted buildings include Moos Tower, Phillips Wangensteen Building and Diehl Hall.



Water precautions on three U of M buildings lifted

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/10/2009) —After testing of potable water at three University of Minnesota buildings, water precautions that have been in place since Wednesday have been lifted, university officials said today. Appointments at the university's dental clinics will resume on Monday.

Recent water discoloration and odors in Moos Tower, Phillips Wangensteen Building and Diehl Hall was the result of seasonal maintenance being performed on one of the university's chiller systems that cools campus buildings in spring and summer. Testing showed there were trace amounts of contaminants at levels not considered to be a health risk. The university put water precautions in place and canceled appointments at its dental clinic. Staff has been flushing the system to remove any residual contaminants.

"It's always good practice to let the water run until it gets hot or cold before using it and we certainly encourage people to do that in this case," John Finnegan, dean of public health, who is also university assistant vice president for public health.

Minnesota Department of Health personnel assisted university staff in testing and analysis of the drinking water and concurred that water in these buildings is safe for all uses.

Midwestern ethanol plants use less water than western counterparts, U of M study shows

Media Note: Embargoed until 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, April 15

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 (04/13/2009) —Ethanol production in Minnesota and Iowa uses far less water overall than similar processes in states where water is less plentiful, a new University of Minnesota study shows.

The study, which will be published in the April 15 edition of the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*, is the first to compare water use in corn-ethanol production on a state-by-state basis. The authors used agricultural and geologic data from 2006-2008 to develop a ratio showing how much irrigated water was used to grow and harvest the corn and to process it at ethanol plants.

Among the major ethanol-producing states, Iowa uses the least water, with about six gallons of water used for each gallon of ethanol. Minnesota, which in 2007 produced roughly a third as much ethanol as Iowa, uses about 19 gallons of water per ethanol gallon.

States where irrigation is needed to grow corn fared far worse than those where almost no corn is irrigated. California, which produces only a tiny fraction of the nation's ethanol but irrigates most of its corn, is the largest water consumer, at about 2,100 gallons of water per gallon of ethanol. South Dakota, with total production roughly equal to Minnesota's, uses about 96 gallons of water to produce one gallon of ethanol.

Water usage could be an important factor in policy decisions about where ethanol plants are built. The study "highlights the need to strategically promote ethanol development in states with lower irrigation rates and less groundwater use," the authors say. All the states with high water usage ratios are classified by the federal government as likely to experience water shortages in coming years.

"Both energy security and water security are too important; improvement of one of them should not be made at the expense of another," said Sangwon Suh, an assistant professor in the university's department of bioproducts and biosystems engineering and the study's lead author. "Understanding the dependence of biofuel on water and its spatial disparity will be critical in implementing the biofuel policy in the United States."

The study was funded in part by the U.S. Department of Energy and by the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Healing the rift? New 2008 DNC research shows caucuses foster greater polarization among delegates

U of M political science professors helped survey 449 pledged delegates at Denver convention

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/13/2009) —The purported role of national political conventions is to promote unity within a particular party. Instead, new research done by four professors (two of them from the University of Minnesota) during the 2008 Democratic National Convention (DNC) found that caucuses at the convention may have hurt, rather than helped, party unity.

The study, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) says that caucusing delegates were more supportive of their candidate and less supportive of the ultimate nominee and that people who had greater experience within the Democratic Party tended to be more supportive of the eventual nominee, President Barack Obama.

The four researchers -- including U of M political science professors Joanne Miller and Dara Strolovitch, along with Seth Masket of the University of Denver and Michael Heaney of the University of Florida -- assembled a team of 19 surveyors who questioned 449 pledged delegates at the 2008 convention (227 Obama delegates and 222 Hillary Clinton delegates).

"We were looking to see what factors were related to Clinton delegates being more or less accepting of Obama as the nominee, and also what factors were related to Obama delegates being more or less accepting of the role played by Clinton supporters at the convention," said Miller.

In fact, researchers found, Clinton's speech on the Tuesday night of the convention endorsing Obama seemed to have a more positive effect on Obama supporters than Clinton supporters. Obama delegates surveyed after her speech were more accepting of the role played by Clinton delegates, compared to Obama delegates surveyed before her speech.

In contrast, Clinton delegates surveyed after the speech were neither more nor less supportive of Obama as the nominee than Clinton delegates surveyed before the speech.

"Clinton's speech seems to have reassured Obama supporters that she cared about party unity, even if it didn't change the minds of her own supporters," said Masket.

The researchers also found that, among Clinton delegates, having a higher proportion of close friends who supported Obama was related to higher satisfaction with him as the nominee.

Additional research showed that Obama delegates were more likely to have close friends who supported Obama and were more likely to be African American, and less likely to be women or from union households, than were Clinton delegates.

A working copy of the paper can be found at http://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/pn_wp/15

Repower Minnesota Town Hall forum at U of M to discuss new energy and economic policies

Distinguished panel includes Sen. Amy Klobuchar and U of M President Robert Bruininks

Who:

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar

Robert Bruininks, President, University of Minnesota

Alfie Marcus, Professor and Edson Spencer Chair in Strategy and Technological Leadership, Carlson School of Management

Doug Cameron, Chief Science Advisor, Piper Jaffray Investment Management

Louis King, President and CEO, Summit Academy OIC

Steve Kelley, Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Science, Technology and Public Policy, Humphrey Institute

J Drake Hamilton, Science Policy Director, Fresh Energy

When: 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m., Friday April 17

Where: Carlson School of Management, Honeywell Auditorium Lower Level, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Monique Sullivan, Environment Minnesota, (612) 331-8404,

msullivan@environmentminnesota.org

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

Ross Corson, Sen. Klobuchar's office (612) 727-5220

April 13, 2009

Washington D.C. has passed a green economic recovery package and is now considering energy and climate policies that will stimulate private investment and innovation to develop new, domestic, renewable energy sources. A town hall forum at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management will discuss the opportunities that will come from aggressively pursuing these new energy and economic policies. The event will occur from 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Friday, April 17 at the Carlson School of Management, Honeywell Auditorium Lower Level, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Discussions will center on mechanisms for maximizing on-the-ground investments, creating jobs today and infrastructure for clean energy future. These concepts will be addressed by a panel of experts and a dialogue will follow that covers topics raised by business, academic and civic leaders.

Registration is required by going to

http://www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/stpp/RepowerMN_TownHall.html

The Repower Minnesota Town Hall is sponsored by Audubon Minnesota, The Center for Integrative Leadership, University of Minnesota, The Humphrey Institute's Center for Science, Technology and Public Policy, Carlson School of Management, Environment Minnesota, Fresh Energy, Minnesota Conservation Federation and Pew Environment Group.

Healing the rift? New 2008 DNC research shows caucuses foster greater polarization among delegates

U of M political science professors helped survey 449 pledged delegates at Denver convention

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

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A working copy of the paper can be found at http://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/pn_wp/15

U of M will host statewide high-school economics challenge

What: Minnesota's state high school Economics Challenge

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 15 (Quiz Bowl competition begins at 12:45)

Where: Northstar Ballroom, St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford 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

April 14, 2009

Minnesota's most knowledgeable high-school economics students will show off their expertise at the statewide Economics Challenge from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 15, at the Northstar Ballroom, St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

Students from 16 high schools across the state will compete in the nation's only national economics challenge, which includes both written tests and a quiz-bowl style competition. The two highest-scoring teams will advance to a regional tournament, where the winning teams can advance to the national championship.

Each team consists of 3 to 5 members who participate in three rounds. For rounds 1 and 2, the top three individual scores on each team are combined for a team score; in round 3, the team answers questions together. The top two schools in each division after the first three rounds then compete in a winner-take-all, "lightning round" buzzer competition.

"The Challenge is very exciting to watch," said Claudia Parliament, executive director of the Minnesota Council on Economic Education, which is housed at the university. "It forces students to solve difficult problems based on real life issues. I am awed by the brilliance of these students." Minnesota has had more teams advance to national competition in recent years than any other state.

The national competition has two divisions: the Adam Smith Division challenges advanced placement, international baccalaureate and honors students; and the David Ricardo Division challenges single-semester general economics students. Minnesota has an additional general economics division for small schools, the Joan Robinson Division, named in honor of the brilliant British economist. In 2008, a team from Little Falls advanced to the national competition.

Student teams competing in the Adam Smith division are: St. Paul Central High School, Eden Prairie High School, St. Cloud Technical High School, Bemidji High School and Moorhead High School.

Student teams competing in the David Ricardo division are: Rosemount High School, Mounds View High School, Little Falls High School, Sauk Rapids-Rice High School, Fergus Falls High School and Bemidji High School.

Student teams competing in the Joan Robinson division are: St. Charles High School, Cloquet High School, Jackson County Central High School, Waubun High School and Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial High School.

The National Economics Challenge, sponsored by the Council for Economic Education and The Goldman Sachs Foundation, is the only national economics competition for high school economics students. Its purpose is to honor and reward high-achievers through competition and to showcase outstanding high school economics courses and teachers.

U of M Libraries and Minnesota Office of Higher Education team up to form one-stop access to online library services

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 (04/14/2009) —Minitex, an information and resource sharing program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota Libraries, has launched a new portal, MnKnows – Dig Deeper @ Your Library (www.mnknows.org) to give Minnesotans one-stop access to statewide library services.

Leveraging state, local and federal funds to supplement the resources of local libraries, MnKnows (read as "Minnesota knows") functions through the cooperation of libraries, school media centers and cultural heritage organizations throughout the state. Visitors to MnKnows.org will find a variety of resources available to satisfy most information needs:

- Find books, CDs, DVDs, articles and more through the MnLINK Gateway and have them delivered to a local library.
- Search trusted information resources in the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM) to find online articles and electronic books on a vast array of topics.
- Discover photos, documents and maps related to Minnesota history through Minnesota Reflections.
- Get real-time answers from a librarian 24/7 at AskMN.
- Use the Research Project Calculator to create sensible timelines for student's homework.

When visitors wish to dig deeper at their local library, MnKnows.org provides a link to the Minnesota Library Directory, which lists public, academic, and other libraries in a specified area. The directory is maintained by State Library Services, a division of the Minnesota Department of Education.

New PBS mini-series on Native American history features U of M professor

"We Shall Remain" addresses 300 years of history from Native American viewpoint

Media Note: Jean O'Brien is available for interviews to discuss "We Shall Remain" and Native American history.

Contacts: Kelly O'Brien, College of Liberal Arts, (612) 624-4109, obrie136@umn.edu
Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

April 14, 2009

Jean O'Brien, professor of history and chair of the department of American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota, served as an adviser to and appeared in the first episode of the new PBS series "We Shall Remain." The five-part mini-series premiered Monday night on TPT (Channel 2) and will air at 8 p.m. (Central) the next four Mondays until May 20.

"We Shall Remain," an American Experience production, is a multimedia project that addresses pivotal moments in 300 years of Native American history from Native American viewpoints. O'Brien, a member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, was brought on at the start of the planning for the series. She consulted on the entire project and discussed the history of New England's native peoples around the time of English colonization in the 1600's in Monday's premiere episode, "After the Mayflower."

O'Brien was especially pleased that the series addresses both the earliest contact of Native Americans with Europeans and their most recent history in an episode about the standoff at Wounded Knee, South Dakota in 1973.

"Most histories of Native Americans focus on the 19th century," said O'Brien. Furthermore, she explains, many histories falsely report that New England's native populations were extinct within 200 years or so of colonization. "Native Americans were still there throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, rebuilding their communities and envisioning a future for their homeland," O'Brien said.

For more information on the mini-series, visit <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/weshallremain>

U of M opera theatre presents Leos Janáček's "Jenufa" next weekend

Media Note: Photographs available upon request; high-resolution press images also available for download at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/35320600@N06/>

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

April 15, 2009

The University of Minnesota Opera Theatre will present its spring performance, Leos Janáček's "Jenufa," beginning next weekend. Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 23 through Saturday, April 25, with a special afternoon performance at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 26 in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

Czech composer Leos Janáček's "Jenufa" is an intensely moving and powerful social drama that depicts the tragedy of a young woman's "sin" in an intolerant, unforgiving society and her subsequent triumph through compassion, love and newfound understanding.

"Janacek is like the Czech version of Puccini -- beautiful melodies and passion," said director David Walsh. "Anyone who loves Puccini will love Jenufa."

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.

Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$10 for U of M students and groups. For more information, call (612) 624-2345 or visit opera.umn.edu

U of M American Studies professor David Noble to retire after 56 years

Saturday event to honor one of the founders in field of American Studies research

Who: David Noble, professor of American studies and history for 56 years

What: Retirement celebration and panel discussion

When: Saturday, April 18, 2009, 1–3 p.m.

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

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April 15, 2009

David Noble, a professor of history and American studies for 56 years, is retiring from the University of Minnesota in May. An event to honor his distinguished career will be held on Saturday, April 18 from 1–3 p.m. at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis.

Noble began his career in the U of M history department in 1955. He quickly became involved with the then-fledgling American studies program, now considered one of the top departments of its kind in the nation. During his tenure, Noble has advised more than 100 Ph.D. students (and been on the dissertation committees of countless more), written 10 books and taught thousands of undergraduate students.

Multiculturalism has been at the center of Noble's research since the beginning of his academic career. His scholarship and teaching have revolved around ideas of American nationalism and national identity.

During Noble's half century career at the U of M, he has written numerous books at the cutting edge of scholarship in his field (the most recent being published in 2002) and has continued to attract and mentor outstanding students, who in turn have re-shaped the boundaries of the field of American studies.

The April 18 will include a panel discussion about the impact of his teaching and research that will feature four of his former graduate students: Nan Enstad (University of Wisconsin), Polly Fry, Mark Hulsether (University of Tennessee) and Richard Nelson, followed by a reception and social hour. This event is free and open to the public.

For more on Noble's career, visit http://www1.umn.edu/news/features/UR_CONTENT_106548.html

University of Minnesota athletics receives highest NCAA certification

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, (612) 624-5551, wolter@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/16/2009) —The University of Minnesota intercollegiate athletics program has received official certification from the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Committee on Athletics Certification, the NCAA announced today.

The Golden Gophers' athletic program was classified as operating "in substantial conformity with the operating principles adopted by the Association's Division I membership." This is the highest form of certification from the NCAA.

The purpose of athletics certification is to ensure integrity in the institution's athletics program and to assist institutions in improving their athletics departments. Legislation mandating athletics certification was adopted in 1993. Institutions can be certified in substantial conformity, certified with conditions, or not certified.

This is the university's second certification; the first was completed in February 2001.

"This self-study process has been a very positive exercise for the university community," said university Auditor Gail Klatt, who chaired 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."

The certification process involves a self-study process charged by the school's chief executive officer, and includes a review of governance and commitment to rules compliance, academic integrity, student-athlete well-being and commitment to equity. A peer review team consisting of administrators from other NCAA institutions then visits the campus to verify the accuracy and completeness of the self-study report, verify broad-based participation in the self-study and identify issues that may prevent the institution from establishing conformity with the operating principles of Division I Athletics Certification.

U of M's annual Spring Jam to rock campus April 20-25

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April 16, 2009

The University of Minnesota will hold its annual Spring Jam, a week-long event created by students for students, next week April 20-25. This year's celebration features numerous entertainment events and activities, including a blood drive, a massive capture the flag game and Earth Day park clean-up effort. Spring Jam will be capped by a day-long "Block Party" on Saturday, April 25, featuring a "Battle of the Bands" competition and performance by noted hip-hop artist Reflections Eternal Talib Kweli and Hi-Tek.

Spring Jam 2009 will incorporate the theme "Rockin' the Playground" into the celebration.

Some of this year's events include:

Monday, April 20

- Spring Jam Kick-Off, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Coffman Union: Spring Jam 2009 will kick off with bocce ball, ladder golf and free pizza and soda in front of Coffman Union, and Frisbee golf and free sub sandwiches at the Student Center at the St. Paul campus.
- Capture the Flag, 9-10 p.m.: A massive capture the flag game will be organized on Northrop Plaza on the East Bank.

Tuesday, April 21

- Track and Field competition, 6-10 p.m., University Field House: Groups of students will compete in individual events such as chin ups, sit ups, push ups, a potato sack race, 100-yard dash and long jump, as well as group activities like ladder golf, a three-legged race, bean bags, bocce ball, relay races, Ultimate Frisbee and tug of war.

Wednesday, April 22

- Blood Drive, Great Hall of Coffman Union, 9 a.m. – 5 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. Register online at www.springjam.umn.edu.
- Earth Day Park Clean-Up, College Park and Van Cleve Parks, 3-6 p.m.: Spring Jam and its partners, Beautiful U Day and Greeks Going Green, bring you the opportunity to participate in a park clean-up. Help recycle and pick up litter at College Park (1407 Raymond Avenue, St. Paul) and Van Cleve Park (901 15th Ave S.E., Minneapolis). There will also be locations to recycle old batteries and ink cartridges throughout the week.

Thursday, April 23

- Ballyhoo Dance Competition, Great Hall of Coffman Union, 7 p.m.: Students compete in their own choreographed dance performance to their choice of music, with performance, costumes and music relating to the Spring Jam theme. This event involves Greek pairings, Residence hall pairings, as well as general student population teams. All U of M registered students can compete in the event, which annually draws a large crowd of spectators.

Friday, April 24

- Spring Jam Student Band Competition, Great Hall of Coffman Union, 7 p.m.: Students compete in a Battle of the Bands-style event to the Spring Jam theme, with the winner opening for Saturday's Block Party.

Saturday, April 25

- Spring Jam Block Party, Riverbend Plaza behind Coffman Union, 3-10 p.m.: This day-long outdoor concert is the culmination of Spring Jam 2009. The Music & Entertainment Business Org (MEBO) Battle of the Bands competition will take place from 3-7 p.m. (with winners being determined from a celebrity panel of Minnesota-based judges in the music industry). Friday night's student band winner will play at 7 p.m., with headliner Reflections Eternal Talib Kweli and Hi-Tek beginning at 9 p.m. (U of M student ID required).

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 host 40th Annual Iron Pour Friday

Annual performance an aesthetic, athletic and pyrotechnic event

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April 16, 2009

It will be an aesthetic, athletic and pyrotechnic event when University of Minnesota art students and artists pour white-hot iron, heated to more than 2500 degrees Fahrenheit, into their cast iron models to create sculptures for the 40th Annual Minnesota Iron Pour, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 17, in the Foundry and Courtyard of the Regis Center for Art, 405 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis.

University of Minnesota art professor Wayne Potratz, who teaches cast metal sculpture, and his students organize and perform this annual event, which is free and open to the public.

The Iron Pour is the culmination of a three-day event that included a symposium and exhibition at the Regis Center. Wednesday night's symposium keynote speaker was Tom Joyce, McArthur Fellow from Santa Fe, N.M., who has been recognized as the one of the best working metalsmith artists in the country.

More information on the event can be found at <http://art.umn.edu>

University of Minnesota first university in nation to use new financial tool created by economic stimulus package

University to save \$2.7 million by using Build America Bonds

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/17/2009) —The University of Minnesota is the first university in the nation to use a new financial mechanism that will save the university money as it borrows for capital projects. The new tool came about from the nation's economic stimulus package.

This week, the U of M issued approximately \$82 million in general obligation bonds, \$45 million of tax-exempt bonds and \$37 million of Build America Bonds, which were authorized under the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Build America Bonds allow state and local governments to issue taxable bonds for projects eligible for tax-exempt financing and to receive a new direct federal subsidy payment for a portion of their borrowing costs. The United States Treasury Department will make a direct payment to the university in an amount equal to 35 percent of each interest payment due over the next 20 years while the bonds are outstanding.

The bonds priced Wednesday with a 3.81 percent cost of borrowing, resulting in over \$2.7 million in cash flow savings for the university over the life of the bonds. The tax exempt bonds will mature in 2021, and the Build America Bonds will mature from 2022 to 2028.

The money from issuing the bonds will be used for capital projects - purchases of land and buildings, construction and remodeling projects, and the acquisition and installation of equipment - including the reimbursement of the university for certain amounts previously expended for the costs of such projects. Projects include the new Medical BioSciences Building, the Science Teaching & Student Services Building, and the East Gateway District expansion on the Twin Cities campus, a new residence hall on the Crookston campus, and the Griggs Field renovation at the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

Wells Fargo Brokerage Services and Wachovia Securities are the underwriters for the bond issue.

Evolutionary biologist Sean Carroll to visit U of M for public lecture, honorary doctorate and commencement address

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April 17, 2009

Sean Carroll, noted speaker and author of several popular books on evolutionary biology, will visit the University of Minnesota May 15 and 16 to give a lecture, receive an honorary doctorate and deliver the commencement address for the College of Biological Sciences.

The public is invited to a lecture based on his latest book, "Remarkable Creatures: Epic Adventures in the Search for the Origins of Species," which will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 15, at the Bell Museum of Natural History auditorium, 10 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis,.

Carroll will receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Minnesota as part of the program, which will be followed by a reception and book signing. Admission is free and reservations are not required; however, seating in the Bell auditorium is limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis. Carroll will deliver the College of Biological Sciences commencement address on Saturday evening.

Carroll, a professor of molecular biology and genetics at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, is widely known for his research on genes that play key roles in the evolution of animal diversity. Discoveries from his laboratory have been featured in TIME, US News & World Report, The New York Times, Discover and Natural History.

His books include "The Making of the Fittest (2006)," "Endless Forms Most Beautiful: The New Science of Evo Devo, (2005)" and "Remarkable Creatures," which was released in February, 2009.

Carroll is member of the National Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a recipient of the National Science Foundation Presidential Young Investigator Award. He was named one of America's most promising leaders under 40 by TIME Magazine in 1994.

"It's a privilege and a treat to host Sean Carroll at the University of Minnesota," said Robert Elde, Dean of the College of Biological Sciences. "He is one of the most creative and influential scientists of our time and a gifted communicator."

State FFA convention returns to U of M St. Paul campus April 26-28

Media Note: Reporters are welcome to cover any part of the convention. Interviews with students from your coverage area can be arranged.

Contacts: Jim Ertl, State FFA executive director, (651) 582-8347
Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, (612) 626-5754

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/17/2009) —The 80th annual Minnesota State FFA Convention will bring more than 3,000 high school students to the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus from April 26-28.

"Experience the Legacy" is this year's convention theme. Students will have a number of opportunities to develop leadership and communication skills, gain career and agricultural knowledge and to gather new ideas from prominent agricultural leaders and fellow FFA members.

"FFA prepares young people to lead and solve the problems that confront our society. We're pleased to host this group of future leaders in the ag and natural resource communities," says Allen Levine, dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

At the convention, FFA members and their chapters are recognized for their accomplishments over the past year. Ceremonies honor Minnesota FFA degree recipients, state proficiency award winners, and recognize the State Stars in entrepreneurship, placement, business and agri-science. Workshops on a wide variety of topics are taught by dozens of FFA alumni, business leaders and University of Minnesota faculty and staff.

This year FFA members will collect new or gently used athletic shoes for the Perpetual Prosperity Pumps Foundation, an organization that helps fund education and technology advancements in Ghana.

Participants also will have the opportunity to tour Monsanto's new Mobile Technology Unit, a 53-foot long, 1,000 square-foot interactive display that features advances in seed breeding, biotechnology and new product development. Special guests at the convention include Nessie Early, national FFA secretary, and motivational speaker John Beede. Complete details about the convention, chapter and individual award winners are available at www.ffa.umn.edu.

FFA is a national youth organization of more than 500,000 student members. In Minnesota, more than 8,900 members participate in 175 chapters throughout the state. The University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences is a highly ranked research, teaching and outreach organization committed to helping solve problems through science. More information about the college is available at www.cfans.umn.edu.

U of M Alumni Association Annual Celebration to feature concert performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony

Contacts:

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/20/2009) —Tickets are on sale now for the University of Minnesota Alumni Association Annual Celebration on Friday, May 1, 2009 in Northrop Auditorium, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. Nearly 300 University of Minnesota School of Music orchestral and chorale students will perform Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. The celebration is in conjunction with the 80th birthday of Northrop Auditorium.

The event begins at 5:30 p.m. with a reception and dinner at the University Recreation Center featuring several university arts-themed exhibits and presentations. The concert will begin at 8:00 p.m. at Northrop (university organist Dean Billmeyer will perform a pre-concert at 7:30 p.m.).

"In addition to the festivities of our annual event, we are thrilled to celebrate one of the University of Minnesota's most significant buildings," said Bruce Mooty, volunteer president of the Alumni Association national board of directors. "Minnesotans won't want to miss this opportunity to socialize with alumni and campus friends and experience amazing music performed by the university's star music students."

Mark Russell Smith, the university's new world-renowned orchestra conductor, will join forces with esteemed university choral conductor Kathy Saltzman Romey to present the groundbreaking piece that has influenced all music since. The Ninth Symphony's fourth movement incorporates part of "Ode to Joy" by Friedrich Schiller and is one of the most respected works in the Western repertoire.

Tables of 10 for the dinner and concert are \$450 for Alumni Association members and \$500 for nonmembers. Individual tickets are \$45 for Alumni Association members and \$50 for nonmembers. Complete ticket and event information is available at www.alumni.umn.edu.

The 2009 Annual Celebration is sponsored by Mortenson Construction. The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a 60,000-member organization whose members are ambassadors for the outstanding teaching and discovery that happens at the university every day.

U of M College of Liberal Arts student wins prestigious Beinecke Scholarship

Linguist Dustin Chacón, who speaks six languages, becomes third U of M student to win award

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/20/2009) —Dustin Chacón, an honors student in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities was one of 21 scholars nationwide to be awarded a 2009 Beinecke Scholarship. Chacón, a junior majoring in linguistics, is the third student in university history to win this prestigious national award.

The Beinecke Scholarship Program seeks to encourage and enable highly motivated students to pursue opportunities available to them for graduate study. Each scholar receives \$4,000 immediately prior to entering graduate school and an additional \$30,000 while attending graduate school.

"My family and I were absolutely ecstatic upon hearing that I received this honor," said Chacón. "It will be immensely helpful in paying for my graduate studies, and it will make all of the difference for us."

Chacón, who is able to converse in six languages and to analyze the intricate structures of at least eight more, began taking graduate-level courses as a freshman and has since advanced to doctoral level linguistics classes. He is interested in Indo-Aryan and Southeast Asian linguistics and the relationship between language and cognition. He is currently studying Hindi and Sanskrit at the university, and he will study Bengali abroad this summer with the support of a federally funded Critical Language Scholarship.

Chacón has received several awards and scholarships, including a National Merit Scholarship and the Bentson and Brundage Family Scholarships. Chacón is currently working with professor Hooi Ling Soh on an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program project on the structure of noun phrases in Hmong.

A first-generation college student, Chacón grew up in northern California and Rapid City, S.D. He intends to pursue a Ph.D. in linguistics with the support of the Beinecke Scholarship.

"Dustin is an exceptional student and a born linguist," said Hooi Ling Soh, professor of linguistics and Chacón's honors thesis advisor. "He is one of the finest students I have ever known, undergraduate or graduate."

The U of M-Twin Cities was first invited to participate in the Beinecke Scholarship competition in 2003. Since that time, Chacón is the third U student to be awarded a Beinecke Scholarship, following Jeffrey Hunger (psychology) in 2008 and Sarah Hampton (anthropology) in 2006. A campus committee administered by the Office for National and International Scholarships reviews applications from U of M-Twin Cities students each year and selects the U's nominee.

More information on the Beinecke Scholarship is available at <http://foundationcenter.org/grantmaker/beinecke>

U of M to host Student Parent Visibility Day

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 21

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

Contacts: Susan Warfield, Program Director, Student Parent HELP Center, (612) 625-0825, warfi002@umn.edu

Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

April 21, 2009

The University of Minnesota Office for Student Affairs, Student Parent HELP Center (SPHC), and Student Parent Association (SPA) is holding its Fourth Annual Student Parent Visibility Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 21 on Northrop Plaza, 84 Church St. S.E. Minneapolis.

At the event, SPHC and SPA will recognize student parents for not only the contributions they have made to the university, but for their commitment to securing a better future for their children. Currently, more than 400 undergraduate student parents are registered with the SPHC.

In addition to recognizing U of M student parents, more than 100 local teen parents from various Twin Cities high schools will be attending as well.

“The Student Parent Visibility Day is a significant campus-wide event that highlights the important contributions that student parents make to our campus and to campuses across the nation,” said Susan Warfield, director of the SPHC. “This is also a wonderful opportunity for U of M student parents to inform this generation of teen parents about the endless opportunities that advanced education holds for them and their young children.”

This event will feature a campus tour and scavenger hunt for teen parent visitors, a spoken word performance and several student parent speakers.

This event is open to the entire campus and there will be a free pizza lunch provided.

For additional information on this event, please contact the SPHC at (612) 626-6015.

University of Minnesota establishes new partnership with university in Abu Dhabi

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/21/2009) —The University of Minnesota Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science has entered into a partnership with the Petroleum Institute, located in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, to establish the Abu Dhabi-Minnesota Institute for Research Excellence (ADMIRE).

The Petroleum Institute has awarded the University of Minnesota a \$6.1 million grant over the next three years to promote joint research projects between the two institutions and to foster the continued development of academic programs of the Petroleum Institute, specifically their programs in chemical engineering and materials science and engineering.

“They chose the University of Minnesota as a partner because our chemical engineering program is among the best in the world,” said University of Minnesota chemical engineering and materials science professor Jeff Derby, who will serve as director of the ADMIRE program. “This partnership is also a great opportunity for us to extend the globalization of our research program and provide new research exchange opportunities for our faculty and students.”

A primary goal of the partnership is to establish thriving research projects with an emphasis on energy-related topics. Inter-institutional research groups have been established in the areas of hydrocarbon processing (making of liquid fuel and natural gas), modeling and simulation (mathematical analysis), polymer processing (manufacturing of high-value products made from petroleum) and materials science. Recognizing that petroleum resources will play a vital role in the world's energy portfolio over the next decades, ADMIRE will be at the forefront of making the best use of these limited and increasingly precious resources, while also pursuing innovative projects in the search for energy alternatives of the future.

Through these research projects, faculty and student exchange programs will be established, so that both institutions may benefit from in-residence visits of graduate students, post-doctoral associates, and faculty. About 15 to 20 faculty from each institution will be involved in the research.

Another significant goal of the partnership is to broaden the interaction between the two programs in undergraduate and graduate education, curriculum development, faculty development and accreditation activities.

“Abu Dhabi is working very hard to modernize its educational system and views this as a vital investment for the future competitiveness of the nation,” said Steven Crouch, dean of the Institute of Technology, the University of Minnesota's college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics. “For us, ADMIRE represents not only an opportunity to do world-class energy research, but it is also a way for us to really make a difference to promote the international community.”

The Petroleum Institute was created in 2001 with the goal of establishing itself as a world-class institution in engineering education and research in areas of significance to the oil and gas and the broader energy industries. Other university partners include the University of Maryland, Colorado School of Mines, Johannes Kepler Universitat Linz in Austria and Montanuniversitat Leoben in Austria. The Petroleum Institute's sponsors and affiliates include Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and four major international oil companies, including Shell and BP. The campus has modern instructional laboratories and classroom facilities and is now in the planning phase of three major research centers on its campus in Sas Al Nakhl, Abu Dhabi.

For more information, visit www.admire.umn.edu.

University of Minnesota and Hennepin County host one of 10 special national Earth Day events

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

April 21, 2009

The University of Minnesota will be the site of one of only 10 “National Spotlight Conversations” from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22. The Hennepin County Board, in partnership with ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability and the Hennepin-University Partnership (HUP) are hosting the event which will be held at U's Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Eighty individuals with expertise on nine topical issues will discuss how to maximize partnerships between the University of Minnesota and the county in the area of climate change. The keynote speaker is Kent Cavender-Bares, research scientist from the university's Institute on the Environment.

The University of Minnesota has set the goal of reducing energy consumption by five percent by the end of 2010. At the Beautiful U Day Kick Off University President Robert Bruininks and Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien will unveil plans for the U of M's new energy conservation campaign. For more information, visit www.buday.umn.edu/index.html

Hennepin County is a founding member of the Cool County Initiative and has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from county operations by 80 percent by 2050. For more information go to <http://www.hennepin.us/coolcounty>



Minnesota High Tech Association's president at U to discuss "Leadership Strategies for Uncertain Times"

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April 21, 2009

Kate Rubin, president of the Minnesota High Tech Association (MHTA), will speak at the Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 5, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Rubin will discuss the rapidly changing world of business and technology, leadership strategies for our region, as well as the impact of these changes on personal leadership.

Rubin has held executive positions with technology companies for much of her career. In addition, she has coached executives, and created and led world class leadership development programs for IBM, MHTA, the Center for Creative Leadership and LeaderSource, a Korn Ferry company.

The advance registration deadline for the First Tuesday luncheon is Thursday, April 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, May 1. There are three ways to register: call 612-626-9634, visit carlsonschool.umn.edu/events, or send an e-mail message to fristuesday@umn.edu.

Community Build Day at Cedar Park School Celebrates Gardening with the U's Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

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Barb DeGroot, Arboretum public relations, (952) 443-1459
Monica Foss, Cedar Park Elementary School, (952) 431-8360

April 21, 2009

Biology can be a dry textbook or a grand adventure of digging in the earth, planting seeds and watching new life spring forth before your eyes.

The students at Cedar Park Elementary, 7500 Whitney Drive, in Apple Valley, are discovering the joys of plants and gardening, thanks to a new partnership with the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 25,, Cedar Park students, teachers and families will come together for a “community build day” to construct a raised-bed garden on school grounds, working with plans developed by the arboretum’s education staff.

On Saturday, 10 raised-bed gardens will be built and filled with soil. Later this spring, they will be planted with vegetables and flowers. Elevating the garden makes it more accessible to students in wheelchairs and less accessible to rabbits and other hungry critters. It also is less likely to be overrun by energetic feet in the schoolyard.

It’s all part of Cedar Park’s focus on hands-on instruction as a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) magnet school. “The Arboretum is able to offer expertise on gardening and biology and how it relates to children. They were able to train our staff on how to incorporate gardening and plant science into our curriculum,” said Monica Foss, a Cedar Park teacher. “Our teachers participated in a daylong training workshop at the arboretum this spring. It was an amazing day of learning.”

Randy Gage, Arboretum Partnership Coordinator, said that the Cedar Park project represents the Arboretum’s mission “of linking people, plants and the earth by creating opportunities for children, educators and families to discover and share knowledge about plants. This project is really exciting because it represents the interest and initiative of the entire school community and it’s happening right in their own schoolyard. Our role is to take the passion and interest of the school and add our plant know-how to create a successful and sustainable garden that helps to bring plant learning to life at the school.”

The Arboretum has a long history of partnering with schools through its Partnership for Growing Science Teaching initiative. Partnership activities include standards-based fieldtrips for students, workshops for teachers and assistance with designing schoolyard learning habitats. Interested schools are invited to inquire about the possibilities of an Arboretum Partnership.

Foss says the school community is so excited about the Saturday event, they’ve expanded it to include other activities and information booths on environmental issues. The Cedar Park Parent-Teacher Association also is participating and school families are invited to drop in throughout the day.

Two U of M faculty named American Academy of Arts

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/22/2009) —The American Academy of Arts & Sciences has announced the election of leaders in the sciences, humanities, arts, business, public affairs and the nonprofit sector. The 210 new Fellows and 19 Foreign Honorary Members join one of the nation's most prestigious honorary societies and a center for independent policy research.

Among those elected this year are two faculty from the University of Minnesota. The new Fellows are:

John Freeman, a Distinguished McKnight University Professor of Political Science. Freeman is internationally recognized for his achievements and speaks, writes and develops courses for institutions all over the world. Freeman has held many professional posts including President of the American Political Science Association's Section for Political Methodology and Co-Chair of the Midwest Political Science Association's Annual Meeting. In addition, he has been a member of the National Science Foundation's Political Science research panel and of three of the Foundation's select committees. He currently serves on the editorial boards of several major research journals. At present, Freeman is engaged in three major research projects.

Stephen Polasky, the Fesler-Lampert Professor of Ecological and Environmental Economics. Polasky is a faculty member of the department of applied economics and of the department of ecology, evolution and behavior. He is also affiliated with Conservation Biology, Water Resources, Forest Resources, and the Law School. Prior to coming to Minnesota he was the senior staff economist for environment and resources for the President's Council of Economic Advisers 1998-1999. He is a Fellow at the university's Institute on the Environment.

The scholars, scientists, jurists, writers, artists, civic, corporate and philanthropic leaders come from 28 states and 11 countries and range in age from 33 to 83. They represent universities, museums, national laboratories, private research institutes, businesses, and foundations. This year's group also includes Nobel laureates and recipients of the Pulitzer and Pritzker prizes, MacArthur Fellowships, Academy, Grammy and Tony awards and the National Medal of Arts.

The Academy, established in 1780 by founders of the nation, undertakes studies of complex and emerging problems. Current projects focus on science, technology and global security; social policy and American institutions; the humanities and culture; and education. The Academy's membership of scholars and practitioners from many disciplines and professions gives it a unique capacity to conduct a wide range of interdisciplinary, long-term policy research.

"Since 1780, the Academy has served the public good by convening leading thinkers and doers from diverse perspectives to provide practical policy solutions to the pressing issues of the day," said Leslie Berlowitz, chief executive officer and William T. Golden Chair. "I look forward to welcoming into the Academy these new members to help continue that tradition."

"These remarkable men and women have made singular contributions to their fields, and to the world," said Academy President Emilio Bizzi. "By electing them as members, the academy honors them and their work, and they, in turn, honor us."

The new class will be inducted at a ceremony on Oct. 10, at the academy's headquarters in Cambridge, Mass.

Since its founding by John Adams, James Bowdoin, John Hancock and other scholar-patriots, the academy has elected as members the finest minds and most influential leaders from each generation, including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin in the eighteenth century, Daniel Webster and Ralph Waldo Emerson in the nineteenth, and Albert Einstein and Winston Churchill in the twentieth. The current membership includes more than 250 Nobel laureates and more than 60 Pulitzer Prize winners.

University of Minnesota to launch energy conservation program at Beautiful U Day kick off event Thursday

Media Note:

Photo opportunity as people sign conservation pledge at 8 a.m. tomorrow (April 23)

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April 22, 2009

The University of Minnesota has set the goal of reducing energy consumption by 5 percent by the end of 2010. University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks and Vice President of University Services Kathleen O'Brien will introduce a new campus-wide energy conservation program the Beautiful U Day Kick Off event at 8 a.m. Thursday, April 23 at the Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences Building, 200 Union St. S.E., Minneapolis.

A 5 percent reduction each year will save the university \$2.25 million and result in 25,000 fewer tons of CO₂ being released into the atmosphere. Meeting this ambitious goal will require a campus-wide effort, said Tim Busse, University Services communications director. To work toward that goal, the university is challenging students, faculty and staff, as well as departments and academic units, to commit to energy conservation by taking the Energy Conservation Pledge. The theme of Beautiful U Day is "It All Adds Up."

During the kick off event, stations will be set up where students, faculty and staff can sign the Energy Conservation Pledge. The pledge begins "While my individual steps appear small, I understand that It All Adds Up. Working together, we can make huge leaps in reducing emissions, cutting electrical usage and saving University resources."

Suggestions for conserving energy include: turning off computers at night; turning off the lights when out of the room for more than 10 minutes; unplug cell phone chargers that draw power unnecessarily and use the stairs rather than the elevator. "All these efforts are small steps but it all adds up," Busse said.

U of M to host health care forum with German and U.S. experts

German and American officials will discuss progress on health care reform

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April 22, 2009

The Center for German and European Studies at the University of Minnesota will present a forum on health care reform and progress on April 27 and 28 in the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. Participants are experts from Germany and the United States, representing government, business, insurance, health care providers and health educators, among others.

Will the Obama administration succeed in reforming the U.S. health care system? Will our country move to a system, like Germany's, that includes a federal health care board with powers and functions similar to the Federal Reserve? These are some of the key questions to be discussed at the fifth annual "American & German Health Care" transatlantic experts' roundtable.

An annual event involving Germany's Federal Ministry of Health, Germany's Federal Ministry of Economics and the Academic Health Center at the U of M, this forum brings together the full range of health care policy constituencies: local, state and national government; doctors; insurers; pharmaceutical companies; employers; and patients. This year, conference attendees will hear from Germany's Federal Minister of Health, the Honorable Ulla Schmidt; Minnesota Commissioner of Human Services Cal Ludeman; United Health Group's Simon Stevens; NIHP's Dave Durenberger; and Bob Carey, former director of planning at the Massachusetts Health Insurance Connector Authority, and many others.

Regular registration fee is \$350-850. 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

U's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) names new director

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/22/2009) —Professor Edward Goetz from the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs has accepted an offer to serve as director of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), effective June 2009. This appointment follows an internal search process to fill the position after professor Tom Scott stepped down as part of a phased retirement. As CURA director Goetz will provide administrative oversight and strategic leadership to CURA activities.

Goetz is a former associate dean for academic affairs at the Humphrey Institute and serves as director of the Masters of Urban and Regional Planning degree program. His research and teaching areas are urban studies and politics, housing policy and discrimination, neighborhood revitalization and economic development.

Goetz has a history of service and leadership including having chaired the board of the Urban Affairs Association and the Central Community Housing Trust of Minneapolis, and having been a member of the executive council of the Research Committee on Housing and the Built Environment for the International Sociological Association. He has served on study groups and boards for the Metropolitan Council and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and is on the editorial boards of three major housing and urban policy journals.

U of M introduces new online education tool on college finance

Free informational Web site aims to educate parents, students about costs associated with school

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/23/2009) —With a college education becoming more important -- and how to pay for it more challenging -- than ever, financing college is an increasingly important topic for parents to learn about and be able to discuss with their children. To assist parents, educators at the University of Minnesota have created a free online learning tool called "Seminar for Parents: College Finance." It can be found on the Web at <http://cehd.umn.edu/fsos/Centers/Finance>

The online resource database aims to provide parents with a realistic picture of the issues and challenges college students and their families will face around finances.

"Financial aid may cover tuition, but there are other costs to college that parents need to consider," said Jodi Dworkin, associate professor and extension specialist in the department of family social science at the U of M. Dworkin co-authored the seminar with Marjorie Savage, director of the University of Minnesota Parent Program.

Another goal of the seminar is to provide parents with accurate and up-to-date information so they can compete with the many messages about finances that college students receive from media, popular culture and their friends. "If parents are well informed, they can help their children make thoughtful and responsible decisions when it comes to managing their finances," said Dworkin.

Because studies have shown that financial issues are some of the toughest for parents and children to discuss, Dworkin says, the seminar includes talking points for discussions. Quotes from real students and real parents about how they have successfully navigated their finances during college are used throughout the course.

Some of other topics the seminar covers include information on financial records, a discussion of the role of credit cards on campus, information on gambling and how parents can work with their child to make college affordable.

Effects of networks on technology and disease is topic of lecture at University of Minnesota

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April 23, 2009

The University of Minnesota Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) continues its Math Matters Lecture Series with “Network Science: From the Web to Human Diseases” with professor Albert-Laszlo Barabasi from the Center for Complex Networks at Northeastern University and Department of Medicine at Harvard University. The lecture is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 28 at Willey Hall, Room 125, 225 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The lecture is free and open to the public.

The study of networks as a scientific discipline is a relatively new field. Networks include systems as diverse as the World Wide Web and cells in living things. They appear to have the same fundamental architecture and the same organizing principles. The evolution of these networks is governed by simple and generic laws, which result in apparently universal architectural features.

In his lecture, Barabasi will highlight how understanding this architecture shows not just the potential of these networks, but also their vulnerabilities. This leads to understanding the weaknesses in massive networks like the Internet and how to disrupt the network of a disease, such as cancer. Barabasi, who previously was a professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Notre Dame, will also discuss the amazing order that characterizes these connections, and the resulting implications for communications and medicine.

The Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) was founded at the University of Minnesota in 1982 as a result of a competitive national process. It fosters 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.

Duane Burnham to receive University of Minnesota Outstanding Achievement Award

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/23/2009) —The University of Minnesota will present Duane Burnham, former CEO and chairman of Abbott Laboratories, with an Outstanding Achievement Award 6-8 p.m. on Monday, Apr. 27, at the University of Minnesota Eastcliff residence, 176 N. Mississippi River Blvd., St. Paul. The Outstanding Achievement award is conferred on graduates or former students of the University of Minnesota who have attained unusual distinction in their profession or in public service and who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and leadership.

“Duane is motivated by challenge and inclusion—he doesn’t just want to oversee activities or advise. He wants to get in the fray and find solutions, and he is most happy when involved, stimulated and challenged to contribute,” said James Campbell, former interim co-dean at the Carlson School of Management and former CEO of Wells Fargo Minnesota.

Burnham’s career started at Fleischman Malting Corp. and as a vice president at Maremont Corp. After earning an MBA from the University of Minnesota, he returned to the business world at Bunker-Ramo Corp. in 1975. He led the company as president and CEO for seven years—work that prepared him for a swift rise and exceptional challenges at Abbott Laboratories.

Burnham began at Abbott Laboratories as senior vice president of finance and CFO in 1982. Within three years at Abbott he was elected to the board of directors and promoted to executive vice president, then vice chairman in 1987 and CEO and chairman in 1990.

For nearly a decade, he led Abbott through turbulent times in the healthcare industry, and the company not only survived, but thrived. During his tenure, Abbott’s employee base grew from 43,000 to 56,000, its shareholders saw returns of more than 20 percent annually, and he was credited with the company’s record-breaking sales performance from 1991 to 1993. He retired from Abbott Laboratories in 1993 after 17 years of dedicated leadership.

Burnham’s drive has been motivated as much by community commitment as professional success. In addition to leading Abbott’s development of critical treatments for a range of serious health problems, he became personally invested in Chicago-area economic, educational and cultural institutions. He served on the boards of Northwestern University, the Chicago Lyric Opera, the Museum of Science and Industry, Evanston Hospital and the Healthcare Leadership Council. As a member of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, he hosted Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi’s visit to the city in 1999.

“Duane is both a world-class business leader and a humble Minnesota son,” said Campbell. “He has worked hard for his success and then shared of both that success and the talent and wisdom that helped him achieve it. I am sure Chicago is pleased to call him its own, but I’m pleased to say that he started here.”

U of M names 2009 Distinguished McKnight University Professors

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/24/2009) —Four University of Minnesota professors have been named 2009 Distinguished McKnight University Professors in recognition of outstanding achievement and distinction. Recipients are mid-career faculty members honored with a research grant of \$100,000 over five years, who hold the title as long as they remain at the University of Minnesota.

The goal of the Distinguished McKnight University Professorship is to honor and reward the university's highest-achieving faculty who recently have attained full-professor status -- especially those whose careers have developed at the university, whose intellectual work and reputation are identified with Minnesota and whose work has brought renown and prestige to the University of Minnesota.

The program is made possible through a unique public-private partnership that began in the 1980s with a generous endowment from the McKnight Foundation. Faculty members are nominated by their departments and selected by a committee of prominent faculty from across the university in a competition administered by the Graduate School.

The 2009 award recipients will be honored by the Board of Regents at their meeting on May 8. The recipients are:

Marla Spivak, entomology: honeybees and global human health

Professor Spivak is a world authority on honeybees, their behavior, and their services to humankind. As pollinators of one-third of all crops, bees are critical to environmental and human health. Spivak fuses basic and applied research, producing insights into basic biology while making significant differences for beekeepers. She bred a widely used honeybee line that is resistant to disease. She is currently uncovering the antimicrobial benefits of a resin -- propolis -- to bees and humans. Spivak is past-president of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects' North American Section, a trustee of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, and a member of the board of directors of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. She received the University of Minnesota McKnight Land-Grant Professor award in 1996 and a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER grant in 1997. She has had continuous research funding from NSF since 1997.

Bin He, biomedical engineering: harnessing brain power with neuroimaging

Professor He is an internationally renowned leader in functional biomedical imaging and neuroengineering. His influential studies of a family of imaging and interfacing methods have significantly enhanced the ability to construct images of human brain activity and create powerful interfaces between the brain and computers. Applications of this research range from video games to moving artificial limbs with only the mind. He is the author of about 300 peer-reviewed articles in leading scientific journals and conference proceedings. His many awards include the American Heart Association's Established Investigator Award and the National Science Foundation's CAREER Award. He is a Fellow of IEEE -- the world's leading professional organization for the advancement of technology -- and the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering.

Joseph Konstan, computer science and engineering: changing human behavior through online communities

Professor Konstan is a world leader in human-computer interaction, bridging the fields of computing and social science. He is internationally respected for his work on recommender systems -- computing systems that use the opinions of a community to help each community member avoid an overload of digital choices. His work extends broadly into online communities--the study of how the design of online spaces can shape behaviors--and into online public health, exploring how computing can be used to prevent diseases, from HIV to obesity, and to promote healthy choices. Konstan has been selected as a Distinguished Visitor by the IEEE and as a distinguished lecturer, distinguished scientist, and fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery.

Li-Na Wei, pharmacology: Vitamin A and gene regulation

Professor Wei is a leading scientist in vitamin A signaling and mechanisms for regulating genes. Vitamin A is essential to body functions from gene transcription and embryo development to healthy vision and skin. Wei first proposed an innovative theory of a hormone-dependent suppressive mechanism that is essential to controlling many biological processes. She pioneered studies of transcription regulator proteomics, a central theme in recent studies of regulatory molecules. In the chromatin remodeling process, she first demonstrated a mediator-requiring chromatin looping. In neurobiology, she proposed the concept and established the phenomenon of an RNA transport-based mechanism that regulates pre-synaptic activities in neurons, a potential drug target in many neurological diseases.

University of Minnesota to host International Biofuels Seminar

Researchers to focus on U.S. ethanol production and the Brazilian sugarcane industry

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April 24, 2009

The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment and the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment will host an International Biofuels Seminar at 3:30 p.m. Monday, April 27 in Room 105 of the Cargill Building, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul. The seminar will focus on ethanol production in the United States and the Brazilian sugarcane industry.

The first part of the seminar will focus on advanced biofuels. Helena Chum, a research fellow in the Renewable Fuels and Vehicle Systems Directorate at the U.S. Department of Energy, will discuss the status of advanced biofuels technologies, along with efforts to accelerate their development and commercialization. Biofuels covered include ethanol and a variety of alkanes from biomass. In addition, she'll summarize bilateral efforts toward advancing biofuels collaboration in the United States and Brazil. One aspect of this collaboration is a comparative study of the U.S. corn ethanol industry's evolution and the Brazilian sugarcane industry, with an emphasis on sustainability.

Chum received a doctoral degree in physical chemistry and a bachelor's of science in chemistry/industrial technology at the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. She's worked in bioenergy and renewable energy since 1979 at the Solar Energy Research Institute, now the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Her research experience includes the development of technologies for converting biomass and organic wastes into biofuels—comprising hydrogen, chemicals, electricity and high-value materials.

The second half of the seminar will look at Brazilian Sugarcane Ethanol. Joaquim Seabra who works as a post-doc researcher in biorefinery analysis at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, will provide a general overview of the sugarcane sector in Brazil—where the sugarcane ethanol displaces half of the potential gasoline market in a cost-competitive basis, without any need for subsidies. In the 30 years since the Brazilian Ethanol Program was launched, this has been accomplished to reduce the dependence on oil imports. Thanks to the innovative use of ethanol in transportation and biomass for co-generation, sugarcane is now the No. 1 source of renewable energy in Brazil. Further improvements are on the horizon as new technologies for a better use of biomass become available. Seabra will discuss sustainability issues such as energy and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as challenges and routes for the future.

Seabra received his bachelor's degree in food engineering from Brazil's State University of Campinas (Unicamp), where he also earned his doctoral degree in energy planning. During his graduate studies, he performed technical-economical analyses of different options for the whole use of sugarcane biomass, including the study of cane ethanol life-cycle assessment. In his current position he performs process simulations and economic analysis for the advanced production of biofuels from sugarcane biomass.

University of Minnesota and Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank form Human Capital Research Collaborative

Group to hold mini-conference Monday on critical issues in the first five years of children's lives

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April 24, 2009

In order to advance multidisciplinary research on human development and social policy, the University of Minnesota has partnered with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis to establish the Human Capital Research Collaborative (HCRC). Previously known as the Early Childhood Research Collaborative, the human capital approach is designed to advance research and scholarship on the identification and dissemination of cost-effective interventions, programs and policies from birth to the transition to adulthood.

To describe the work of the HCRC, a mini-conference will be held from 1-5 p.m. on Monday April 27 in Cowles Auditorium at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301 19th Avenue S., Minneapolis. The theme of the conference is "Promoting Child Health and Well-Being from Birth to Age Five."

"[The HCRC] conducts research on the effectiveness and of spectrum programs and policies in the first two decades of life and their active ingredients," said Arthur Reynolds, co-director of the conference and professor of child development at the U of M. "In a era of accountability and limited resources for social programs, identification of the most cost-effective strategies to enhance child well-being is more critical than ever."

"We want to bring together the best research on human capital and policy analysis in the country to help Minnesota and other states develop high quality programs and services from prenatal development to adulthood," said Arthur Rolnick, Senior Vice President and Director of Research at the Federal Reserve in Minneapolis.

In addition to Reynolds' and Rolnick's introduction of the Collaborative, four research studies will be presented at Monday's conference by participating Collaborative researchers. Economist Judy Temple and U of M nursing professor Jayne Fulkerson will report on the health predictors of school readiness in the national Early Childhood Longitudinal Study.

Conference topics will also include the findings from the evaluation of the Ounce Project, an assessment tool to enhance teaching practices in early education settings; a report on the long-term effects of child abuse and neglect from the Minnesota Longitudinal Study of Parent and Children; and a presentation on the short- and long-term effects of two years versus one year of preschool for children in the Child-Parent Center program, a well-known education and family support early childhood intervention.

The HCRC is a unique partnership that brings together prominent researchers and faculty members at the university with economists at the Federal Reserve to develop and synthesize research on cost-effective investments in young people and to conduct research on high-profile policy discussions and social issues ranging from the prevention of school failure and delinquency to promoting family well-being and mental health.

Co-directed by Reynolds and Rolnick, the HCRC is funded by the McKnight Foundation with additional support from interdisciplinary initiatives of the U of M's Graduate School. Collaborating units include, among others, the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Institute of Child Development, College of Education and Human Development and the Center for Early Education and Development.

For more information on the HCRC and Monday's mini-conference, visit <http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed/projects/HCRC>

A statement from the University of Minnesota

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/26/2009) —The following is a statement from University of Minnesota Vice Provost for Student Affairs Jerry Rinehart about the incident near Dinkytown on late Saturday night:

"Last night's events near Dinkytown, where a block party got out of control, were an unacceptable display of lawless behavior. This kind of conduct is not reflective of our student body or the University of Minnesota community.

"Recently, we strengthened our student conduct code to be applicable to off-campus situations such as this. We intend to use that code to its fullest as more is learned about those who were arrested and involved in this incident.

"We'll also be taking a look at the causes behind this situation to determine what changes can be made to ensure it is not repeated.

"On behalf of the University community, I want to thank those law enforcement officers who brought this situation to an end without serious injury, and apologize to our neighbors and the broader community for this kind of inexcusable behavior."

People with higher IQs make wiser economic choices, U of M study finds

Greater cognitive ability leads to greater patience, more calculated risk-taking, more cooperativeness and greater job success

Media Note: Full text of the study is available by contacting Ryan Maus.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/27/2009) —People with higher measures of cognitive ability are more likely to make good choices in several different types of economic decisions, according to a new study with researchers from the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities and Morris campuses.

The study, set to be published online in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences this week, was conducted with 1,000 trainee truck drivers at Schneider National, Inc., an American motor carrier employing 20,000. The researchers measured the trainees' cognitive skills and asked them to make choices in several economic experiments, and then followed them on the job.

People with better cognitive skills, in particular higher IQ, were more willing to take calculated risks and to save their money and made more consistent choices. They were also more likely to be cooperative in a strategic situation, and exhibited higher "social awareness" in that they more accurately forecasted others' behavior.

The researchers also tracked how trainees persevered on their new job. The company paid for the training of those who stayed a year, but those who left early owed thousands in training costs. The study found that those with the highest level of cognitive ability stayed at twice the rate of those with the lowest.

The finding that individual characteristics that improve economic success -- patience, risk taking and effective social behavior -- all cluster together and are linked through cognitive skill, which could have implications for policy making and education.

"These results could shed light on the causes of differential economic success among individuals and among nations," said University of Minnesota-Twin Cities economist Aldo Rustichini, a co-author whose theoretical work on cognitive skills is used in the paper.

"It also suggests that the benefit from early childhood education programs not only affects cognitive skills, but extends to more effective economic decision-making," said study co-author Stephen Burks, the University of Minnesota-Morris economist who organized the project that gathered the data.

Officials to break ground on cutting-edge international physics lab in Northern Minnesota

Federal stimulus funds help jump start the project involving researchers from the U

Media Note: Media representatives planning to attend the groundbreaking event are asked to call the Fermilab Office of Communications at (630) 840-3351 or e-mail Kathryn Grim at kgrim@fnal.gov for a map and specific directions to the site.

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April 27, 2009

Two U.S. congressmen and other top ranking officials from the U.S. Department of Energy, University of Minnesota and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory will break ground at 2:30 p.m. Friday, May 1 near Bright Star Road, Ash River, Minn., for a new NuMI Off-Axis Electron Neutrino Appearance (NOvA) detector facility, the future home of the world's most advanced neutrino experiment. The construction site is located about 40 miles southeast of International Falls, Minn.

Speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony include Minnesota 8th District Congressman James Oberstar, Illinois 14th District Congressman Bill Foster, U.S. Department of Energy Associate Director of Science and Nuclear Physics Dennis Kovar, University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks, University Vice President Tim Mulcahy, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory Director Pier Oddone and NOvA Collaboration co-spokesperson Gary Feldman.

The invitation-only groundbreaking event will be followed by a public reception and presentation at 4 p.m. at the Orr American Legion Highway 53, Orr, Minn., where members of the community can hear the latest updates regarding the new, cutting-edge NOvA laboratory. The reception will include displays of the project and a meet and greet with NOvA collaborators. The public presentation will begin at 5 p.m. and will include an overview of the project, the project schedule and the impact on the local community.

The NOvA Detector Facility is a new international physics laboratory of the University of Minnesota School of Physics and Astronomy. Construction of the new cutting-edge detector facility, supported under a \$45 million cooperative agreement for research between the Department of Energy and the University of Minnesota, is expected to generate 60 to 80 jobs in the area over the next two years. In addition, the construction will result in procurements for concrete, steel, road-building materials and mechanical, and electrical equipment from U.S. firms.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is providing \$40.1 million in funding for the project. Fermilab, which manages the project, has committed an additional \$9.9 million in stimulus funding to purchasing key high-tech components for the project from U.S. companies, allowing those firms to retain and hire workers.

Researchers from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and Duluth campuses will collaborate with approximately 180 scientists and engineers from 28 institutions in seven countries to build a 15,000-ton neutrino detector and install this device in the laboratory. When the new neutrino laboratory is completed, The Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory will send an intense neutrino beam from Fermilab in Illinois to the NOvA Detector Facility. The project will advance the study of neutrinos, fundamental building blocks of matter that are essential in helping researchers discover how the Universe was formed and how it will develop in the future.

First "Medtronic Interdisciplinary Healthcare Case Competition" engages University of Minnesota students in solving health care problems

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/28/2009) —Student teams in the first Medtronic Interdisciplinary Healthcare Case Competition used collaboration and classroom learning to solve a real-life strategy problem currently faced by the medical device industry. The competition was held April 17-23 and sponsored by Medtronic, Inc. and the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota.

Designed to support innovation and leadership in the healthcare and medical device industries, the competition involved graduate students from the University's Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Public Health (MPH), Master of Healthcare Administration (MHA), Master of Science in Management of Technology (MOT), and Master of Public Policy (MPP) programs as well as the Law School, Institute of Technology, and Medical School.

"The competition provided student participants with a rare opportunity to network and learn together, while producing innovative solutions that draw on their respective fields of expertise and study," said Steve Parente, associate professor of finance and academic director of the Medical Industry Leadership Institute at the Carlson School. "We expect the event to grow to include graduate students in other academic areas as well as students from outside the university."

The Medical Industry Leadership Institute puts executives, physicians, students and academic leaders in touch with the latest trends in the medical industry through MBA education, executive education, research and market development. The Institute's student association developed the idea of an interdisciplinary health care case competition and gained the financial support of Medtronic as a corporate sponsor of the event.

During this debut competition, eight graduate student teams competed. Composed of three to six members, each team had at least one MBA, one MHA and one MPH student on its roster. Every team had 36 hours to analyze a case and prepare a presentation. During the first round of presentations, student teams presented their findings to faculty judges from the University of Minnesota. Next, the three top teams moved on to the final round of competition and presented to a panel of Medtronic executives at Medtronic World Headquarters. This year's winners were

•First-place team: Eric Henningsen, MBA; Sarah Klawitter, MPH; Kaustubh Patil, MS-MOT; Scott Tran, MHA/MBA; Ylan Kazi, MHA; and Niketa Walawalkar, MPH.

•Second-place team: Ryan Chaquette, MHA/MBA; Joseph Pham, MPH; Michelle Sotak, MBA, John Reed, MBA; and Christina Small, MBA.

•Third-place team: Eric Barrette, PhD Health Services Research, Policy & Admin; Kate Bautch, MBA; Katie Tastad, MPH; Varun Garg, MHA; Peter Graven, PhD HPM; and German Mendivil, MBA.

Two U of M professors receive nation's top scientific honor

Media Note: Photos are available on request.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/28/2009) —University of Minnesota geology and geophysics professor David Kohlstedt and chemistry professor Donald Truhlar were elected today as members of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) for their excellence in original scientific research. Membership in the NAS is among the highest honors given to scientists in the United States, and more than 180 living NAS members have also won Nobel Prizes. Among the NAS's renowned members are Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Orville Wright and Alexander Graham Bell.

Kohlstedt was chosen for his internationally renowned research in rock deformation processes and his study of the physics and chemistry of minerals. Currently, his research involves uncovering dramatic effects of water and melt on the viscosity of lower crustal and upper mantle rocks. He explores the intimately related problem of spontaneous segregation and organization of melt into high-permeability channels. This phenomenon enables rapid movement of melt from deep below Earth's surface upward into volcanic eruptions. His research also emphasizes the profound influence of water on ionic diffusion in silicate minerals. Kohlstedt, an Institute of Technology Distinguished Professor, joined the University of Minnesota's Department of Geology and Geophysics in 1989. He has served as head of the university's Newton Horace Winchell School of Earth Sciences for the past three years.

Truhlar is considered to be among the top physical chemists in the world. He has enhanced the world's basic understanding of the mechanisms of chemical reaction and has developed new and powerful tools for using state-of-the-art supercomputers. His work includes pioneering studies using multidimensional tunneling methods to include quantum effects in the calculation of enzyme reaction rates. He developed the widely used variational transition state theory method for calculating chemical reaction rates, and he has used it for a number of important applications, such as explaining the unexpected and hotly debated temperature-independent kinetic isotope effects in enzyme kinetics and also predicting the temperature dependence of kinetic isotope effects needed for monitoring chemical reactions that affect the earth's climate. Truhlar has served as a faculty member at the University of Minnesota for nearly 40 years. In 2006, he was appointed as a University of Minnesota Regents Professor, the university's highest faculty honor.

"We are extremely proud to have two faculty members receiving the very prestigious honor of being elected to the National Academy of Sciences," said Steven L. Crouch, dean of the Institute of Technology, the University of Minnesota's college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics. "Their pioneering research has helped put the University of Minnesota on the academic map nationally and internationally, and their outstanding teaching and mentorship skills are a draw for talented graduate students and junior faculty."



University of Minnesota cancels current and planned study abroad in Mexico until further notice

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/28/2009) —The University of Minnesota announced today that it has cancelled all current and planned education abroad programs in Mexico until further notice, due to swine flu concerns. Yesterday, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and U.S. State Department issued a travel alert advising against nonessential travel to Mexico.

The University's Education Abroad Suspension Committee met to discuss the matter earlier today. Currently, there are 21 university students in Mexico on formal study abroad programs. They are being advised to return to the U.S. and follow CDC and State Department recommendations. (Links can be found by visiting the Learning Abroad Center web site at www.umabroad.umn.edu)

Additionally, 52 U of M students were scheduled to depart for academic programs in Mexico in late May. Those programs will be cancelled. Complete information on the U of M's swine flu response can be found by visiting www.umn.edu/prepared

U of M researcher helps develop new technique for modifying plant genes

New tool could help provide sustainable food, fuel and fiber

Media Note: Embargoed until noon (CDT) Wednesday, April 29

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/29/2009) —Researchers at the University of Minnesota and Massachusetts General Hospital have used a genome engineering tool they developed to make a model crop plant herbicide-resistant without significant changes to its DNA.

“It’s still a GMO [Genetically Modified Organism] but the modification was subtle,” said Daniel Voytas, lead author and director of the U of M Center for Genome Engineering. “We made a slight change in the sequence of the plant’s own DNA rather than adding foreign DNA.”

The new approach has the potential to help scientists modify plants to produce food, fuel and fiber sustainably while minimizing concerns about genetically modified organisms

For the study, the researchers created a customized enzyme called a zinc finger nuclease (ZFN) to change single genes in tobacco plant cells. The altered cells were then cultured to produce mature plants that survived exposure to herbicides.

The research will be published online by Nature on April 29.

“This is the first real advance in technology to genetically modify plants since foreign DNA was introduced into plant chromosomes in the early 1980s,” Voytas said. “It could become a revolutionary tool for manipulating plant, animal and human genomes.”

Zinc finger nucleases (ZFNs) are engineered enzymes that bind to specific DNA sequences and introduce modifications at or near the binding site. The standard way to genetically modify an organism is to introduce foreign genes into a genome without knowing where they will be incorporated. The random nature of the standard method has given rise to concerns about potential health and environmental hazards of genetically modified organisms.

Voytas is a co-founder of the Zinc Finger Consortium (<http://www.zincfingers.org>), which developed a do-it-yourself strategy for academic researchers. The consortium is led by co-author J. Keith Joung, a pathologist at Massachusetts General Hospital and an associate professor at Harvard University. The consortium published its method (called Oligomerized Pool Engineering, or OPEN) in the July 2008 issue of *Molecular Cell*. *Nature* published a perspective feature on OPEN and a commercial strategy in September 2008.

Voytas’ lab used ZFNs created by the OPEN method to modify the tobacco cells to make them herbicide resistant. According to Voytas, OPEN ZFNs can be used to improve the nutrition of crop plants, make plants more amenable to conversion into biofuels, and help plants adapt to climate change.

“The world is going to turn increasingly to plants to solve lots of problems. Now we have a new set of tools to help.” Voytas said.

Voytas’ next steps will be to apply the technology to *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a model plant, and rice, the world’s most important food crop. He is also adapting algae for biofuel production.

“The technology is ready for prime time,” Voytas said. “There is no scientific reason it can’t be applied to crop plants now to improve agricultural output and practices.”

Voytas is a professor in the department of genetics, cell biology and development, which is a joint department of the College of Biological Sciences and the Medical School.

U of M student Wins prestigious Udall Native American Congressional Internship

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/29/2009) —Philip Brodeen, a student in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota, has been awarded a 2009 Morris K. Udall Native American Congressional Internship. He is one of 13 students nationwide to be chosen for this fully supported, highly competitive internship.

Brodeen, a native of Tower, Minn., is an Ojibwe from the Bois Forte Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in northeastern Minnesota. He is currently a senior at the University of Minnesota and will graduate in May with Bachelor of Arts degrees in sociology and American Indian studies. After graduation Brodeen plans on continuing his education at the university's Law School, where he plans to focus on Indian legal issues and hopes one day to represent tribal governments in negotiations and litigations. He is interested in upholding tribal sovereignty, developing successful tribal economies and promoting cultural revitalization programs.

The 13 Udall interns will complete an intensive, 10-week internship, working full-time in congressional offices or federal agencies and observing the federal legislative process first-hand. Brodeen will intern with U.S. Congress Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin of South Dakota. "I'm excited to work for [Sandlin]," said Brodeen. "Native Americans look to Rep. Sandlin for leadership on their issues. She's someone they go to to get their voices heard in politics."

"I hope to gain knowledge about how legislation can be used to further Native American interests, and how we can use law and the legislature to our advantage," Brodeen said about his upcoming experience in Washington, D.C.

Since its inception in 1996, 162 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.

This highly regarded internship program is intended to provide Native Americans and Alaska Natives with an insider's view of the federal government. The internship is located in Washington, D.C., and is known for placing Native American students in competitive positions in Senate and House offices, committees, Cabinet departments and the White House, where they are able to observe government decision-making processes first-hand.

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.

U of M psychology and neuroscience senior Anh Tran receives USA Today honor

Tran one of 20 students named to 2009 USA Today All-USA College Academic Team

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/29/2009) —Anh Tran, a senior psychology and neuroscience student at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, has been selected to the 2009 USA Today All-USA College Academic Team, as announced today by the national publication.

The official announcement can be found online at: http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2009-04-29-college-all-stars_N.htm

“I am honored to have been chosen to receive the USA-Today All-USA College Academic Team Award,” Tran said. “And I am grateful to the University of Minnesota for supporting my goal of international volunteerism -- many people here have been a vital source for my growth as a student and as a leader.”

USA Today solicited nominations from universities around the country and selected the top 20 students from thousands of nominees. Winners are college juniors and seniors who excel academically and extend their reach beyond the classroom to benefit society. They receive a \$2,500 award and are featured in USA Today.

Tran serves on the Dean's Scholars Program, the College of Biological Sciences Student Board and the Fairview Volunteer Advisory Committee. She was a recipient of the 2008 Howard R. Swearer Student Humanitarian Award by Campus Compact—an award for work that shows an extraordinary commitment to improving local and global communities.

Additionally, Tran founded the first-ever chapter of Biology Without Borders. The organization is akin to Doctors Without Borders, providing students the opportunity to broaden their international perspectives. Tran intends to use the USA Today award to cover some of the costs associated with nationalizing the Biology Without Borders organization.

Born in Vietnam, Tran and her family immigrated to the United States in 1991. Tran intends to pursue a dual M.D./Ph.D degree and wants to work in medicine and epidemiology in the United States and in developing countries like Tanzania and Vietnam.

Two other U of M-Twin Cities students have been selected for the USA Today All-USA College Academic Team in recent years -- biology, society and environment major Rebecca Mitchell in 2007, and political science major Zachery Coelius in 2004.

University of Minnesota announces spring commencements

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/30/2009) —Meteorologist and businessman Paul Douglas, Dr. Richard Heinzl, the founder of Doctors Without Borders Canada, Sherron Watkins, whistleblower and former vice president of Enron Corporation and Congressman Keith Ellison are among the speakers at this year's spring commencement ceremonies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

About 6,360 students will receive their undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees next month . The university's largest college, the College of Liberal Arts, will honor 1,800 graduates in two ceremonies.

This year's commencements are:

Medical School

1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Dr. Richard Heinzl, founder of Doctors Without Borders Canada, the Nobel Prize-winning humanitarian organization.

College of Continuing Education

10 a.m. Saturday, May 2

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Richard Leider, founder and chairman of Inventure Group, a Minnesota-based coaching and consulting firm.

College of Veterinary Medicine

7 p.m. Saturday, May 2

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Dr. Ron DeHaven, executive vice president of the American Veterinary Medical Association, one of the oldest and largest veterinary medical organizations in the world.

Graduate School

1 p.m. Friday, May 8

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Gail Dubrow, vice provost and dean of the graduate School.

Institute of Technology

7 p.m. Friday, May 8

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Paul Douglas, meteorologist, businessman and former TV weatherman.

College of Pharmacy

1 p.m. Saturday May 9

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Jennifer Gednalske, U grad and pioneer in the field of emergency pharmacy.

College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences

2 p.m. Sunday, May 10

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Elisabeth Emerson, former program officer for the World Health Organization and Minnesota Department of Health employee.

College of Education and Human Development

7 p.m. Thursday, May 14

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Thomas Jandris, U grad and dean of the School of Graduate and Innovative Programs at Concordia University Chicago and CEO of Progress Education Corporation.

School of Nursing

2 p.m. Friday, May 15

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Brig. Gen. Clara Adams-Ender, rose from a staff nurse in the army nurse corps to become the chief executive officer for 22,000 nurses, a brigadier general and director of personnel for the Army Surgeon General.

Program of Mortuary Science

3 p.m. Friday, May 15

Coffman Union Theater

Speaker: O.J. Fawcett, 1962 U of M Mortuary Science graduate and former president of the Minnesota Funeral Directors Association.

School of Dentistry

10 a.m. Friday, May 15

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Howard Bailit, former sr. vice president for medical policy and programs at Aetna Health Plans, he developed the first health services research unit.

College of Design

3 p.m. Saturday, May 16

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Minnesota Rep. Jeremy Kalin (District 17B), former designer/draftsman and teacher.

College of Biological Sciences

7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 16

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Sean Carroll, noted speaker and author of several popular books on evolutionary biology.

Law School

10 a.m. Saturday, May 16

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Chief Judge Michael Davis, U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota, the first African-American federal judge in America.

Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs

2 p.m. Sunday, May 17

Ted Mann Concert Hall

Speaker: Congressman Keith Ellison, U.S. House of Representatives from Minnesota's 5th Congressional District.

College of Liberal Arts

11 a.m., and again at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 17

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Peter Hutchinson, president of the St. Paul based Bush Foundation.

Carlson School of Management

9 a.m. (grad school) and 1 p.m. (undergrad) Monday, May 18

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Sherron Watkins, former vice president of Enron Corporation and whistleblower.

School of Public Health

5 p.m. Monday, May 18

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Dr. Eric Whitaker, a nationally recognized public health authority and associate dean of community-based research at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

Physical Therapy Program

11 a.m. Saturday, June 20

Northrop Auditorium

Speaker: Chad Hymas, world-class wheelchair athlete, world-record holder and author.

U of M professor reflects on U of M career at "Last Lecture" Headliners event

Agronomy and plant genetics professor Steve Simons will teach the final class of his 31-year career earlier that day

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/30/2009) —The final U of M College of Continuing Education "Headliners" event of the 2008-09 school year will feature U of M professor Steve Simons, who will discuss the lessons he has learned from a long teaching career and his plans for his own "commencement," from one stage of life to another. The lecture will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 7 at the Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

With the Headliners event, Simons will embark on the most personal research project of his long and distinguished career. Earlier that day, Simons will conclude his last undergraduate class of a 30-plus-year career at the University of Minnesota.

Evolving from the concept of Randy Pausch's best-selling book, "The Last Lecture," the lecture examines the most important lessons of all, the core themes and personal meanings that guide us in knowing our place in time.

Steve Simons is Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus in agronomy and plant genetics at the University of Minnesota. During his 31-year career at the U of M, he has researched the physiology of crops such as wheat, oats, barley and corn, and studied the agroecology of diversified cropping systems. At the same time, his emphasis has been on undergraduate and graduate teaching.

Since retirement, Steve has been writing a book of personal essays about formative experiences during his upbringing in southern Indiana. He continues to serve as a mentor for new faculty through the early-career program of the U of M's Center for Teaching and Learning, where he co-taught experiential workshops for faculty preparing for retirement entitled "This I Have Learned."

Headliners, offered by 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.

Tickets are \$10 and are available by calling 612-624-4000, at <http://cce.umn.edu/headliners> or at the door.



Buildings closed and classes canceled in three U of M buildings due to threat of violence

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/30/2009) —The University of Minnesota will be closing three buildings on its West Bank campus due to a time specific threat of violence obtained by law enforcement – and canceling classes in those three buildings. Those buildings include the Carlson School of Management, Hanson Hall and the Hubert H. Humphrey Center. All classes and activities beginning at or after 3:45 are cancelled and the buildings will close at 4:30 p.m.

"This was a very specific threat of violence targeted at these three buildings," said University Police Chief Greg Hestness. "We are erring on the side of caution by canceling classes and activities and closing the buildings. We're actively investigating this threat."

The Humphrey Institute's "Changing Competitive Position of Public Research Universities" lecture has been moved to 5 Blegen Hall. The threat was specific enough that regular operations will resume on Friday morning.

University officials added the building closures had nothing to do with the H1N1 (swine) virus.

Univ. of Minnesota study finds high school teachers influence student views of evolution and creationism

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/01/2009) —College students' views about evolution and creationism are often shaped by what they learned in their high school biology classes, according to a University of Minnesota study published in the May issue of *BioScience*, the journal of the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

Co-authors Randy Moore and Sehoya Cotner, professors in the College of Biological Sciences, surveyed 1,000 students taking introductory biology classes at the University of Minnesota to learn how biology majors view evolution compared to non-majors. Results showed that the two groups' views were similar and revealed that high school biology teachers influence whether majors and non-majors college students accept evolution or question it based on creationism.

About two thirds of students from both groups said their high school biology class included evolution and not creationism. Only 1 to 2 percent of classes covered creationism and not evolution. And 6 to 13 percent of classes did not cover either evolution or creationism. But 29 percent of majors and 21 percent of non-majors said their high school biology class covered both evolution and creationism.

Students whose high school biology class included creationism (with or without evolution) were more likely to accept creationist views as entering college students. Similarly, students exposed to evolutionism but not creationism were more likely to accept evolution in college. For example, 72 to 78 percent of students exposed to evolution only agreed that it is scientifically valid while 57 to 59 percent of students who were exposed to creationism agreed that it can be validated.

"I've long known that many biology teachers teach creationism, but was surprised to learn they have such a strong impact," said Randy Moore, professor of biology and lead author. "It's unfortunate that so many teachers think their religious beliefs are science. Teachers who don't teach evolution deny students the understanding of one of the greatest principles in history."

"I was shocked that there weren't bigger differences between majors and non-majors," said Sehoya Cotner, associate professor of biology. "Evolution is the foundation of the entire discipline. It leads me to believe that these students are probably interested in biology for reasons besides gaining a full understanding and appreciation of the science."

The article included a review of previous studies that explain why so many high school biology teachers endorse creationism. The studies say that more than 25 percent of biology teachers do not know it is unconstitutional to teach creationism. One third didn't major in biology in college and never studied evolution. One fourth believe that creationism can be proven scientifically. Administrators, parents or colleagues may pressure them. There are usually no consequences for teachers who do not cover evolution or who teach creationism.

The authors are interested in working with high school biology teachers -- and particularly with college students who plan to teach biology -- to improve their understanding of evolution and develop best practices for covering sensitive topics such as human evolution and life's origins.

Officials break ground for the world's most advanced neutrino experiment

Project will allow U of M faculty and students to work with experts from around the world on important research

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/01/2009) —Construction begins this month on a cutting-edge physics laboratory in northern Minnesota, supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Congressman James Oberstar of Minnesota and Congressman Bill Foster of Illinois today (May 1) are joining officials from the U.S. Department of Energy, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and the University of Minnesota to break ground for NOvA, the world's most advanced neutrino experiment.

"This project is part of a bold, visionary initiative which will have profound implications for our understanding of the structure and evolution of the universe," Congressman Oberstar said. "The billion-year-old rock formations in Northeast Minnesota are helping researchers unlock mysteries of the origins of the universe."

The DOE Office of Science has provided \$40.1 million in Recovery Act funding for the construction project. It will provide an additional \$9.9 million in Recovery Act funding to Fermilab, which manages the project, for purchasing key high-tech components for the project from U.S. companies, enabling those firms to retain and hire workers.

"The planning for the NOvA Facility has been years in the making, and we're very excited that it is becoming a reality," said University of Minnesota physics professor Marvin Marshak, a lead faculty member on the project. "This project will provide tremendous opportunities for University of Minnesota faculty and students to work with experts from around the world on important research."

Community members also are gathering in nearby Orr, Minn., for a public presentation about the project and its impact on the local community.

The NOvA project will construct the NuMI Off-Axis Electron Neutrino Appearance (NOvA) detector facility, a laboratory of the University of Minnesota's School of Physics and Astronomy, near the Ash River, about 40 miles southeast of International Falls. The lab will house a 15,000-ton particle detector that will investigate the role of subatomic particles called neutrinos in the origin of the universe.

"The NOvA project will fundamentally expand our understanding of neutrinos, but it will also help strengthen scientific partnerships between the University of Minnesota and Fermilab in my district," Foster said. "Fermilab is where much of detector equipment is being built, and the neutrino beams also originate at Fermilab. This project represents the kind of investment that simultaneously supports basic scientific research, our national labs and our economy."

Construction of the facility, supported under a cooperative agreement for research between the U.S. Department of Energy and the University of Minnesota, is expected to generate 60 to 80 jobs. In addition, the construction will result in procurements for concrete, steel, road-building materials and mechanical and electrical equipment from U.S. firms.

"The NOvA project is an investment in our scientific future that will help us to better understand the role that neutrinos have played in the evolution of the universe," said Dennis Kovar, DOE associate director of science for High Energy Physics. "NOvA's groundbreaking reaffirms America's commitment to retaining its position of leadership in accelerator-based particle physics."

The NOvA project involves about 180 scientists and engineers from 28 institutions. The collaboration will build the neutrino detector and install it in the new laboratory. When the detector is completed, physicists will explore the mysterious behavior of neutrinos by examining pulses of neutrinos sent straight through the earth from Fermilab in Illinois to the NOvA detector facility in Minnesota. The neutrinos travel the 500 miles in less than three milliseconds.

The new laboratory expands the university's international reputation as a leader in neutrino research. The University of Minnesota currently runs the Soudan Underground Laboratory near Tower, Minn., the only laboratory of its kind in the United States.

For more information about the NOvA groundbreaking, please visit <http://www.fnal.gov/nova/>

For additional information about the NOvA experiment, please see http://www-nova.fnal.gov/fermilab_nova.pdf

Fermilab is a Department of Energy 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 and helps ensure U.S. world leadership across a broad range of scientific disciplines.

U of M Extension provides H1N1 information for pork producers

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/01/2009) —The "swine flu" epidemic raises questions for pork producers, even though the term "swine flu" is misleading and no swine are currently infected. University of Minnesota Extension has created a webpage to provide information and resources on this new H1N1 influenza virus outbreak and links to further information. This webpage can be found at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/swine/H1N1>

"It is important for the general public to know that pork is safe to eat and pork consumption does not impose a risk for contracting the H1N1 flu," said Dr. Mark Whitney, swine program leader with University of Minnesota Extension. "Although this new hybrid virus has not been demonstrated to be spread to pigs, we are suggesting pork producers increase biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of any influenza viruses from entering their herds," said Whitney.

The webpage includes:

- * A PorkCast webinar, "Pork Producer Update: H1N1 Influenza."
- * Facts and clarifications about the flu and its overstated relationship to swine
- * Biosecurity recommendations for preventing disease transmission to hog facilities
- * News and updates on 2009 H1N1 flu, for producers and veterinarians
- * Spanish-language resources
- * Speaking points about the safety of eating pork. For example, the USDA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Homeland Security all state that swine influenza viruses are not transmitted by food so one cannot contract swine influenza from eating pork or pork products.

This valuable online resource includes links to the most pertinent information for swine producers, with more items to be added in the coming weeks.

Grammar Girl' Mignon Fogarty to speak at the U

Media Note: Ms. Fogarty will be available for interviews on Tuesday, May 5, until 2 p.m., and for a portion of Wednesday.

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

May 4, 2009

Mignon Fogarty, the "Grammar Girl" of the popular podcast and bestselling book, will be the keynote speaker on May 6 at the university's Communicator's Forum. This event is not open to the public.

Fogarty is a magazine and technical writer and editor turned entrepreneur. Through her weekly podcast and the New York Times bestseller Grammar Girl's "Quick And Dirty Tips For Better Writing" she seeks to make grammar accessible, relevant, and even fun. More about Ms. Fogarty and the media attention she's received is available here: <http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/About.aspx>

In addition to her keynote address at the Communicators Forum, on Tuesday, May 5 she will conduct a small /workshop with students organized through a co-sponsorship with the department of writing studies and the Center for Writing.

Kenneth Starr to speak at U of M with Provost Tom Sullivan at "Great Conversations" event

Whitewater independent counsel and Proposition 8 defender to discuss "The Supreme Court in American Life" May 12

Media Note: Kenneth Starr and Provost Sullivan are available for interviews prior to the event.

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May 4, 2009

Whitewater independent counsel and Pepperdine University School of Law Dean Kenneth Starr will discuss "The Supreme Court in American Life" with U of M Provost Thomas Sullivan in the capstone event of the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education's "Great Conversations" series at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12 in Tedd Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. S., Minneapolis.

From freedom of speech to separation of church and state, from abortion to affirmative action, the U.S. Supreme Court exerts pervasive influence over American life, handing down decisions that set the legal standards by which every American lives. Join two legal scholars as they share insights into the inner workings of the world's most powerful court.

Before becoming dean at Pepperdine, Starr was a federal judge on the Washington, D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals from 1983 to 1989, and U.S. solicitor general under President George H.W. Bush, where he argued 25 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Starr was appointed to serve as independent counsel for five investigations, including the Whitewater investigation during the Clinton administration. His investigation of the Monica Lewinsky scandal eventually led to the impeachment of President Bill Clinton, who was later acquitted.

In March, Starr defended the passage of California's controversial Proposition 8 before the California Supreme Court. Proposition 8 restricted California's definition of marriage to opposite-sex couples. The Supreme Court will rule on the validity of Proposition 8 by June 2009.

Starr is the author of the best-selling book, "First Among Equals: The Supreme Court in American Life." He earned a Juris doctorate from Duke Law School and has received numerous honors for his work, including the Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service.

Thomas Sullivan became senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at the University of Minnesota in 2004 after serving as dean of the Law School from 1995 to 2002. Prior to joining the U of M faculty, he served for six years as dean of the University of Arizona College of Law and as associate dean at Washington University in St. Louis. He is a nationally recognized authority on antitrust law and complex litigation and is the author of eight books and more than 40 articles on the topics. He earned a Juris doctorate from the law school at Indiana University where he served as editor of the Law Review.

Media sponsorship of the Great Conversations series is provided by Minneapolis-St. Paul magazine, Minnesota Public Radio and MinnPost.com.

The May 12 event is the last of the 2009 Great Conversations series. Tickets are \$28.50, or \$23.50 for university staff, students and faculty, or MPR/MinnPost members. For tickets, visit cce.umn.edu/conversations or call the Northrop Auditorium box office at (612) 624-2345.

U of M receives \$100,000 Grand Challenges Explorations Grant for Innovative Global Health Research by Reuben Harris

Contacts: Mark Cassutt, University News Service, (612) 624-8038
Peggy Rinard, College of Biological Sciences, (612) 624-0774

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/04/2009) —The U of M has received a \$100,000 Grand Challenges Explorations grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant will support an innovative global health research project conducted by Reuben Harris, associate professor of biochemistry, molecular biology and biophysics, titled “Mortalizing HIV – A Novel Method to Help Eradicate AIDS.”

Harris’s project is one of 81 grants announced by the Gates Foundation in the second funding round of Grand Challenges Explorations, an initiative to help scientists around the world explore bold and largely unproven ways to improve health in developing countries. The grants were provided to scientists in 17 countries on six continents.

To receive funding, Harris showed in a two-page application how his idea falls outside current scientific paradigms and might lead to significant advances in global health. The highly competitive initiative received more than 3,000 proposals in this round.

A high mutation rate enables HIV to elude immune responses and anti-retroviral drugs. Dr. Harris will test the hypothesis that a human cellular protein called APOBEC3G contributes to this mutation rate. Interventions that block this protein could make immune responses and HIV treatments more effective.

Harris has been studying mechanisms of mutation for more than 15 years, first as a doctoral student at the University of Alberta, then as a post-doctoral fellow at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, England, and for the past six years as a principal investigator at the University of Minnesota.

“I’m optimistic that altering the mutation rate of HIV will lead to innovative and possibly more robust AIDS therapies,” he says.

“The winners of these grants are doing truly exciting and innovative work,” said Dr. Tachi Yamada, president of the Gates Foundation’s Global Health Program. “I’m optimistic that some of these exploratory projects will lead to life-saving breakthroughs for people in the world’s poorest countries.”

About Grand Challenges Explorations

Grand Challenges Explorations is a five-year, \$100 million initiative of the Gates Foundation to promote innovation in global health. The program uses an agile, streamlined grant process – applications are limited to two pages, and preliminary data are not required. Proposals are reviewed and selected by a committee of foundation staff and external experts, and grant decisions are made within approximately three months of the close of the funding round.

Applications for the next round of Grand Challenges Explorations are being accepted through May 28, 2009. Grant application instructions, including the list of topic areas in which proposals are currently being accepted, are available at the Grand Challenges Explorations Web site.

The Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics is a joint department of the Medical School and The College of Biological Sciences (CBS), which is one of few colleges nationwide focused on life sciences ranging from molecules to ecosystem.

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Renowned astronomy professor at U to give lecture on "Dark Energy and the Runaway Universe"

What: Kaufmanis Public Lecture "Dark Energy and the Runaway Universe"

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, May 7

Where: Bell Museum Auditorium, 10 Church St. S.E. Minneapolis

Contacts:

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

May 6, 2009

One of the world's most highly cited astronomers, Alex Filippenko, will give the Kaufmanis Public Lecture on "Dark Energy and the Runaway Universe" 7 p.m., Thursday May 7 at the Bell Museum Auditorium, 10 Church St. S.E. Minneapolis. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Observations of very distant exploding stars (supernovae) show that the expansion of the Universe is now speeding up, rather than slowing down due to gravity as expected. Other, completely independent data strongly support this amazing conclusion. Filippenko will discuss how, over the largest distances, our Universe seems to be dominated by a repulsive "dark energy" --- an idea Einstein had suggested in 1917, but renounced in 1929, anecdotally as his "biggest blunder."

Filippenko, a professor of Astronomy, at the University of California, Berkeley has coauthored about 570 scientific publications and is the recipient of numerous prizes for his research. He has won the top teaching awards at Berkeley, and students have voted him the "Best Professor" on campus six times. In 2006, he was named the Carnegie/CASE National Professor of the Year among doctoral institutions.

"Wolves and Wild Lands in the 21st Century" exhibit opens May 23 at U of M Bell Museum of Natural History

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum, (612) 624-7389
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/06/2009) —The myths and misconceptions of sharing the planet with wolves is the topic of the exhibit "Wolves and Wild Lands in the 21st Century," opening May 23 at the University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Living with wolves and other big predators has become increasingly difficult as wild lands disappear and habitat for wildlife becomes more fragmented. Developed by the International Wolf Center, this introspective exhibit consists of six beautifully mounted canids — five wolves and one coyote — augmented by photographs of wolves and wild canines from the Bell Museum's wildlife art collection.

After several decades of alarming decline, the population of wolves in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan has rebounded enough to be taken off the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's endangered species list. "The wolf population in Minnesota is as robust as it's been in nearly seven decades," said David Mech, an internationally recognized wolf researcher. His additional appointments include chair of the World Conservation Union's Wolf Specialist Group, senior research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey and an adjunct professor at the university's department of fisheries, wildlife and conservation biology.

Mech, however, warns about the effects of human population growth and development on wild lands. "If Minnesota follows the trend of residential and commercial development reaching into more pristine and rural areas, far more of our wild lands are going to be occupied by humans—which will inevitably make for more conflicts with wolves," he said. The exhibit takes up Mech's point of disappearing wild lands and fragmented habitat and addresses the question: What can people do to make living with wolves easier?

Get a personalized tour of the exhibit with Mech on Wednesday, July 22 from noon to 1 p.m. during which he'll share stories and insights about his experiences with wolves. For more information, visit www.bellmuseum.org.

The Bell Museum is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

"Stimulating Change in Healthcare IT" to be topic of 8th annual Health Information Technology Institute at the U's Carlson School of Management

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May 8, 2009

The University of Minnesota 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 8th Annual Health Information Technology Institute, "Stimulating Change in Healthcare IT" conference from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20th. 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 academia for a wide range of topics relevant to today's health care industry.

This year's conference will explore how the economic stimulus for health care IT will impact the industry. Learn about changes and innovations that are already happening today. In a February news conference President Obama said that the transformation of the nation's health care system from paper to electronic health records is as important as creating energy jobs. The economic stimulus package includes \$18 billion for healthcare IT.

The first keynote speaker will be Howard Burde, partner and chair Health Law at Blank Rome. Howard will be presenting the Obama administration's Stimulus Package from a national perspective. Following Howard will be Brian Osberg, the deputy commissioner of human services for the State of Minnesota. Brian will be speaking on how the stimulus package will affect Minnesota.

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>

U's Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) receives funding for five new math postdoctoral fellows

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/12/2009) —The University of Minnesota Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) at the University of Minnesota received funding for five new math postdoctoral fellows as part of a new National Science Foundation (NSF) initiative to create jobs for talented young mathematicians. The program creates 45 new one- and two-year positions for highly trained mathematical scientists at the seven NSF funded mathematics institutes.

“This program is a form of economic development,” said Fadil Santosa, director of the IMA. “During these times, many universities are canceling job searches, which limit the number of positions available for new PhDs and people completing postdoctoral training. This stifles scientific training in our next generation and will make it more difficult for the United States to remain competitive in the future. For the mathematical science community, this has meant almost 400 lost positions for recent PhDs.”

Training these young scientists represents a long-term investment, he added. Postdocs typically spend five years in graduate education, often with some support from state or federal funds. “It is critical that we hold onto this talent in the United States since they are primed to make significant contributions to their fields.”

Nationally, more than 750 applications were submitted for the Institutes' 45 positions. “Being able to offer these jobs allows us to keep these highly trained people in the workforce and is a great boon for mathematics and for our society,” Santosa said.

Two of the IMA's postdocs will study at the University and collaborate with university faculty and the IMA's visiting experts. The other three will take industrial internships at General Motors, Schlumberger and Telcordia Technologies. They will work on developing new manufacturing technologies and methods for managing large, distributed ad hoc networks. “These positions contribute to the economy by improving these companies' competitive advantage.”

The Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) was founded at the University of Minnesota in 1982 as a result of a competitive national process. It fosters 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.



Video: U of M breaks ground on a massive physics experiment in northern Minnesota

Contacts: Justin Ware, University News Service, ware@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/12/2009) —Construction has started on the University of Minnesota's NuMI Off-Axis Electron Neutrino Appearance (NOvA) detector facility, a laboratory of the School of Physics and Astronomy. The lab will house a 15,000-ton particle detector near the Ash River - about 40 miles southeast of International Falls - that will investigate the role of subatomic particles called neutrinos in the origin of the universe.

[Watch a video from the groundbreaking event on May 1.](#)



School of Nursing to Confer Honorary Degree on Brigadier General, Clara Adams-Ender During Spring Commencement

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/12/2009) —The University of Minnesota School of Nursing will confer an honorary degree to Brigadier General, Clara Adams-Ender R.N., M.S., F.A.A.N. on Friday May 15 during the spring commencement at Northrop Auditorium. 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 fields. Adams-Ender also will be the commencement speaker.

"Clara rose from humble beginnings and her impact on the profession of nursing is exemplary," says School of Nursing Dean Connie Delaney. Clara became a vocal advocate for the profession by driving minority enrollment in nursing programs to initiating new nursing care models. She is a recognized leader and has made significant contributions during her 32 years of nursing service in the military. This ceremony will allow the university to publicly thank the Honorable Clara Adams-Ender for her impact on the nursing profession, the advancement of professional women and health care.

Adams-Ender's military career spanned from 1961-93. In 1967, she attended the University's School of Nursing to pursue her master's degree. After completing her graduate degree, Adams-Ender resumed her career as a military officer. She served as a staff nurse in the Army Nurse Corps and later become the chief executive officer for 22,000 nurses. She additionally served as a brigadier general, and director of personnel for the Army Surgeon General. Moreover she has served as vice-president for nursing at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, the largest health care facility in the Department of Defense. Adams-Ender also was the first female in the Army to be awarded the Expert Field Medical Badge.

U of M announces 14 Fulbright Scholars for 2009-10 school year

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/13/2009) —Fourteen University of Minnesota students (10 undergraduate and four graduate) have received Fulbright grants for 2009-10 to pursue graduate study in a foreign country during the next two years.

The Fulbrights won by University of Minnesota students this year represent an increase from last year's total of 13 and the university's average of approximately eight Fulbright Scholars in recent years.

The graduate student recipients are:

- Ryan Chelese Alaniz, a doctoral student in sociology, received a Fulbright Full Grant to Honduras. His dissertation research will compare the different trajectories of two initially similar Honduran communities built by two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) after Hurricane Mitch. Alaniz received a master of arts in Latin American studies from the University of California-Santa Barbara in 2004 and a bachelor's in history from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo in 2000.
- Clelia Anna Mannino, a doctoral candidate in psychology, is one of 20 students nationally to receive a Fulbright Full Grant to Italy. Her dissertation will investigate how Italy's changing cultural climate is shaping and redefining conceptions of community, and how this complex process links to identity and nationalism. Mannino received a bachelor's in psychology and Italian from Mount Holyoke College in 2004.
- Heather Michelle Taterka, a recent graduate with a master's in food science, is the recipient of the U of M Graduate School's Fulbright Grant Exchange Program with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway. She will study atmospheric freeze-drying systems in professor Trygve Eikevik's lab. Taterka received a bachelor's in chemistry and biology from the University of Minnesota-Duluth in 2007.
- Drew Anthony Thompson, a doctoral student in history, received a Fulbright Full Grant to Mozambique. His dissertation will document how photographers used photographic production and exhibition to participate in anti-colonial activities and processes of national building in late-colonial and early independent Mozambique. Thompson received a bachelor's in history and art history from Williams College in 2005.

The undergraduate student recipients are:

- Alia El Bakri, who completed her bachelor's in political science in 2008 from the U of M, received a Fulbright Full Grant to Jordan. El Bakri will take courses in Arabic literature and culture and political science at the University of Jordan in Amman, and will engage in research on Arab feminist literature. She will also write short stories highlighting everyday life in Jordan with the goal of stimulating cross-cultural dialogue.
- Daniel Groth, a 2009 summa cum laude candidate for a bachelor's in English, has been awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant to South Korea. Groth will assist in an English language classroom in a secondary school. Groth's long-term plans include medical school, and he intends to learn about South Korea's health care system. A guitarist, he will also take lessons on the 12-string kayagum, a traditional Korean musical instrument.
- Evan Hall, a 2008 U of M graduate with a bachelor's in architecture, will spend the coming academic year in South Korea with the support of a Fulbright Full Grant. Hall will study Korean language, city planning and urban architecture at the Korea National University, and will conduct research on how modern professionals are remodeling the urban environment in Seoul. A competitive rower during college, Hall would also like to establish a rowing club at his host university.
- Vivian Mui, a 2008 cum laude graduate with a bachelor's in graphic design, will be a Fulbright English teaching assistant in Hong Kong. Mui will help to teach English classes at the Hong Kong Institute of Education, a public university dedicated to the preparation and professional development of teachers. She intends to use and expand her knowledge of international cross-cultural design in the classroom and act as a volunteer for several art and design organizations in Hong Kong.
- Carmen Price, a 2008 summa cum laude graduate in English and German studies, has been awarded a Fulbright Full Grant to Germany. At the Free University of Berlin, Price will take graduate-level courses on intercultural education and will conduct research on German educational initiatives aimed at increasing immigrant and minority representation in higher education, as well as anti-racist initiatives in education. She will also volunteer as a tutor in the community.
- Zachary Saathoff, a 2009 candidate for a bachelor's in violin performance, is the recipient of a Fulbright Full Grant to Austria. Saathoff will study violin with faculty at the Kunstuniversität Graz. He intends to play in a chamber music ensemble, learn about Austria's rich musical history and explore connections between music and art.
- Jenna Rose Smith, who graduated in 2007 from the U of M with a bachelor's in English and studies in cinema and media culture, has been awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Grant to South Korea. Smith will assist in an English language classroom in a secondary school, and will pursue her interest in Korean language and film. Smith also plans to volunteer with a community organization serving people with disabilities in Korea.
- Jillian Stein, a 2009 summa cum laude candidate for a bachelor's in Spanish studies and bachelor's in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, received a Fulbright Teaching Assistant Grant to Spain. Stein will serve as a teaching assistant in English classes at a secondary school. She also intends to volunteer at a speech therapy clinic or women's organization in the community.
- Antoni Tang, a 2009 candidate for bachelor's degrees in marketing and African American/African Studies, received one of only three available Fulbright Teaching Assistant Grants to Venezuela. Tang will help to teach English to pre-teen and teenage students. He plans to volunteer with an Afro-Venezuelan organization in the community and plans to learn about Afro-Venezuelan movements for social justice.
- Anh Tran, a 2009 candidate for a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, in neuroscience and for the bachelor's in psychology, has been awarded a Fulbright Full Grant to the United Kingdom. Tran will pursue a masters degree at the Institute of Health and Society at the University of Newcastle and will engage in a research project on diabetes risk and prevention among Asian immigrant communities in the United Kingdom. Her project will include a clinical volunteer experience at the Newcastle Diabetes Centre. Fulbright Grants to the U.K. are particularly competitive, with hundreds of candidates applying for between 10 and 12 grants.

The Fulbright competition is administered at the University of Minnesota through the Graduate School and through the Office for National Scholarships in the University Honors Program.

An international educational exchange program, the Fulbright 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.



Video: U of M students use their class work to improve the environment and help Twin Cities homeowners

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/13/2009) —Students from the University of Minnesota's Engineers Without Borders and Active Energy Club student groups have adopted a home in St. Paul where they have conducted an energy audit. Using high-tech computer systems, the students pinpointed several simple solutions that will improve the energy efficiency of the house. For example, upgrades to lighting and insulation, increased water conservation and using programmable thermostats can all reduce the amount of energy a home uses.

The project gives the homeowner valuable knowledge, free of charge, on how to make their house more efficient and gives the students hands-on learning.

For a video on the energy audit process, visit:

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

University of Minnesota reacts to Higher Education Conference Committee Report

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

May 13, 2009

University of Minnesota officials reacted Wednesday to the conference committee report to be taken up by both houses of the Minnesota Legislature today. The bill would reduce the university's base budget by \$105 million for the 2010-11 biennium, but would provide \$89.3 million in federal stimulus dollars to reduce pressure on tuition and help transition to a significantly lower budget level in 2012-13.

"This has been an enormously challenging budget year for our state – and more work remains to be done," said university President Robert Bruininks. "Although other areas of the economy are seeing a drop in business, we're not at the University of Minnesota. Our applications are up, our graduation rates are up, the amount of federal research grants we attract to Minnesota is up. But the way this bill is structured will enable us to protect students from excessive tuition increases and transition to leaner budget times."

Bruininks said the proposed budget will result in the university having almost 1,000 fewer employees in two years, compared to today.

"Clearly there will be services and programs that we offer today that will no longer exist in two years," Bruininks said. "However, we will continue to invest and strengthen in other areas to prevent excessive erosion of the critical education, research and outreach functions the university provides to our state."

Students win challenge to bring clean water to slums of Mumbai, India

University of Minnesota team will travel to India later this month to implement their business plan

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/14/2009) —A team of University of Minnesota-Twin Cities students from a civil engineering class will head to India later this month to share their ideas and plans for helping bring clean water to thousands of residents living in the slums of Mumbai--the same impoverished area that provided the backdrop for the 2009 Oscar-winning movie, "Slumdog Millionaire."

The University of Minnesota students, who collaborated with students from the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, are winners of the first-ever Acara Challenge sponsored by the Minnesota-based Acara Institute, a non-profit institute that tackles global problems through sustainable business solutions.

The winning team, named ReachOut Water Solutions, includes:

- Brian Bell, a civil engineering undergraduate student in the university's Institute of Technology;
- Karthikeyan Bharath Kumar, a landscape architecture graduate student in the university's College of Design;
- Mark Lundgren, a civil engineering graduate student in the university's Institute of Technology; and
- Tony Schrempp, a civil engineering undergraduate student in the university's Institute of Technology.

The University of Minnesota students were joined by four teammates at Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay: Vivek Sharma, Bholu Ram Yadav, Shikha Pandey, and Jayendra Jadhav.

"We are proud to represent the University of Minnesota as the winners of this challenge," said Brian Bell, a member of the ReachOut Water Solutions team. "With help from mentors and professors, we were able to combine engineering and business in developing our plan. We are all very excited to have the opportunity to travel to India to begin the process of putting the plan into action."

Seven teams of university and high school students from Minnesota, Illinois and India participated in the Acara Challenge. The teams were assisted by mentors from Honeywell, 3M, Cargill, Medtronic, Siemens, Goodrich and many others United States and Indian organizations. The teams' plans were presented earlier this week before a panel of judges comprised of leading technology and business leaders from the United States, Mexico and India. Judges evaluated the business plans for sustainability, technology feasibility and societal impact.

"It's exciting for students when they can immediately apply what they learn in class, and the competition motivated them to exceed expectations," said civil engineering professor John Gulliver, who taught the class Engineering Design for Sustainable Development in which the University of Minnesota teams developed their plans. "They could make a real difference in people's lives."

With support from Cargill and the Acara Institute, the winning University of Minnesota team is planning to leave on May 26 for a two-week trip to Mumbai where the team will assess the situation, talk with local customers and begin transforming their winning concept into reality.

Their plan addresses issues of water quality and availability for potentially hundreds of thousands of Mumbai residents. When implemented, their program will be housed in the Mumbai's existing Slum Sanitation Program buildings, and use a pre-existing customer base and infrastructure. Their business will combine source water storage with ultraviolet water treatment and a novel distribution system that will supply 50 liters per day of clean, low-cost water to community participants, as well as 10 liters of potable water to pay-per-use customers at a reasonable rate.

"We congratulate the ReachOut team on their outstanding effort," said H.S. Murali, Cargill vice president of corporate plant operations/process technology and one of the Acara Challenge judges. "The team articulated a clear, long-term plan and implementation strategy that made good use of existing infrastructure."

For the students, winning the Acara Challenge is just the first step in the process, said Erin Binder, executive director for the Acara Institute and a business manager at 3M. "The next step is to turn this business plan into a reality," she said.

For the complete business plan from the University of Minnesota ReachOut Water Solutions team, visit www.it.umn.edu/mumbaiwater. For more information about the Acara Challenge, visit www.acarainstitute.org

Nation's first American Indian studies department to host first conference of indigenous scholars

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May 15, 2009

The first American Indian studies department in the nation will mark another first when the department at the University of Minnesota hosts the first Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) conference on May 21 - 23.

The U of M's department of American Indian studies was established in June 1969, and at that time was the only department in the nation dedicated to the study of native peoples. Prior to that, studies of Native Americans were scattershot and held mostly in anthropology departments. With the creation of the department, the university had a dedicated place for the study of Minnesota's native languages, Dakota and Ojibwe, as well as Indian culture, history, education and other topics.

Since 1969, the study of American Indians has exploded across the United States and Canada. Currently there are almost 120 American Indian studies programs and departments in the United States and Canada, not counting the 32 tribal colleges; among those, 47 offer baccalaureate majors. With this growth has come a proportionate increase in the number of scholars researching related topics, variously called American Indian, Native American, First Nations, aboriginal and indigenous studies. This growth led to the establishment in NAISA in May 2007.

"It used to be that while we would read each other's research, we never came together. Finally, we will be working less in isolation and instead sharing our commonalities and similar professional challenges," said Jean O'Brien, an associate professor and chair of the department of American Indian studies and member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe.

NAISA developed from two meetings, the first at the University of Oklahoma, Norman in May 2007, and the second at the Institute of Native American Studies at the University of Georgia in April 2008. Attendance at both meetings was so much higher than expected that it was clear that a major conference was in order.

In honor of the 40th anniversary of American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota, NAISA chose to hold their first conference in Minneapolis. More than 600 scholars from the Americas and as far away as Taiwan, Australia, Czech Republic, Israel and Norway will exchange research ideas and give each other professional support.

Breakout sessions during the conference include everything from "Reassessing Indigenous Education in the Americas" and "Sleeping With the Enemy: Indigenous Informants and American Anthropologists" to "Contested Spaces: Searching for the Sacred" and "Restoring the Ojibwe Language Texts of Anishinaabe Literature."

To learn more about the conference, go to <http://amin.umn.edu/NAISA2009>

U of M Researchers Install Remote Control Sensors in Neighborhood Lakes, Streams for Live, Up-to-the-Minute Water Quality Monitoring

Media Note: Arnold, Swackhamer and Water Resources Science Graduate Student Chris Wennen will be available to tour the current sensor site with reporters at Edina's Lake Pamela at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 20. Call Nina Shepherd at (612) 599-1148 for details and directions.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/18/2009) —Spring rains flush thousands of pounds of herbicides, household and automotive chemicals, fecal coliforms and other pollutants from Twin Cities streets and parking lots into area streams, wetlands, and lakes, polluting watersheds and occasionally ruining swimming and other water activities. Now, with help from the University's Water Resources Center (WRC), researchers in the university's department of civil engineering have developed the next generation of water quality monitoring: a network of wireless sensors that analyze metro-area runoff in real time, allowing water experts to predict when and where the pollutants will hit.

With a goal of installing 100 sensors in the next decade, lead researchers and civil engineering professors William Arnold and Miki Hondzo envision a real-time Weather Channel-like narrative that will help boaters, swimmers and water experts plan activities. The sensors also promise to help urban planners design for minimal impact of urban runoff in lakes and streams by monitoring not just what runs through local watersheds, but when.

The five sensors, installed on tripods and powered by solar panels, are positioned at key points near streams and ponds and are programmed to measure turbidity, temperature, salinity, pH, and nitrate and oxygen levels, plus the depth and flow of the water. Automatic samplers also collect water for analysis of fecal coliforms and pesticides in the laboratory. Four of the sensors send data via radio to a base station, which transmits the compiled data overnight by cell phone to the University's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory for analysis.

While the sensors routinely sample water and runoff at set intervals during their eight-week stint, students back on campus can program the sensors to kick into high gear immediately before, during and after a major rain event to capture data on how the local watershed handles major water and pollutant loads.

"This project is a great example of research that will move environmental monitoring to the next level and improve our understanding and management of water resources," said Deb Swackhamer, WRC director. The project was funded by a seed grant from WRC and with support from state and federal agencies. WRC is affiliated with the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and University of Minnesota Extension.

2,000 area high school students to 'talk it up' Tuesday at U of M for World Languages Day

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May 18, 2009

The University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts, home to around 40 foreign language programs, will play host to nearly 2,000 students from 25 Minnesota high schools during its sixth annual World Languages Day on Tuesday, May 19. During this fast-paced day, each student will have the opportunity to attend three 40-minute classes about or in 22 different languages.

Some highlights of the day:

- The first class to fill: Introduction to Italian (all three sessions). The second? Origami: The Japanese Art of Paper Folding;
- There are so many Chinese language students coming that for the first time “Chinese Jeopardy!” will be offered; and
- 550 students will take an Italian class for the first time.
- Languages being taught or discussed at WLD: Arabic, ASL, Chinese, Danish, Dutch, ESL, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Hmong, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Norwegian, Ojibwe, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili and Turkish.

These students are already studying Chinese, French, German, Spanish, American Sign Language and English as a Second Language in their high schools. High schools attending include: Andover, Apple Valley, Arlington, Brooklyn Center, Cambridge-Isanti, Champlin Park, Chaska, Como Park, Coon Rapids, Eastview, Highland Park, Hmong College Prep Academy, Medford, Melrose, Mounds View, Park Center, Patrick Henry, Pillager, Richfield, Rosemount, St. Anthony Village, St. Francis, Stillwater, Tartan and White Bear Lake South.

Classes will be held from 9:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. and will fill classrooms throughout Folwell, Jones, Nicholson and Peik halls on the university's east bank campus. For more information, visit <http://worldlang.cla.umn.edu>

Playwright Tony Kushner to receive honorary doctorate from U of M College of Liberal Arts

Pulitzer Prize-winning writer to receive degree in recognition of "pioneering interventions into dramatic arts"

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/18/2009) —The University of Minnesota's College of Liberal Arts will award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to playwright Tony Kushner on Thursday, May 21.

Kushner, the subject of the Guthrie Theater's spring "Kushner Celebration" (the playwright's newest work also debuted last Friday at the Guthrie) will be given the highest honor conferred by the University of Minnesota, awarded to individuals who have achieved acknowledged eminence in cultural affairs, public service or in a field of knowledge and scholarship. To date, only 47 other individuals have been awarded honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees from the U of M, and their ranks include Frank Gehry, Dominick Argento, Yanni, Merce Cunningham, Thomas Friedman, Gwendolyn and Jacob Lawrence, James Rosenquist, Charles Schulz, Robert Penn Warren and August Wilson.

Kushner was nominated for this award by faculty members from the U of M's English and American studies departments and Center for Jewish Studies in recognition of his influential and "pioneering interventions into American dramatic arts." Considered one of the great living American playwrights, Kushner has created a body of work that continually circles back to his interests in history, politics, religion, sexuality and power.

"Kushner's work is a call to struggle for justice, for responsibility and for love," said Riv-Ellen Prell, former chair of the U of M's department of American studies and an affiliate faculty member in Jewish studies. "In his work devoted to the experiences of gay men and lesbians, Jews, outsiders, men and women of color and those without power... Tony Kushner changed American theater and became one of the great voices of the citizen artist of our century."

Perhaps best known for his Tony award-winning two-part epic, "Angels in America," Kushner is also the recipient of an Emmy for the HBO adaptation of Angels in America, a Pulitzer Prize for Drama, the Steinberg Distinguished Playwright award and many others.

The Guthrie's Kushner Celebration this spring includes productions of his musical "Caroline, or Change," five rarely seen shorts presented as "Tiny Kushner: An Evening of Short Plays" and the world premiere of Kushner's new play "The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Capitalism and Socialism with a Key to the Scriptures."

Video: U of M fashion historian explains Michelle Obama's fashion impact

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/18/2009) —Since Michelle Obama hit the campaign trail, she has captured the attention of American people for her fashion choices. University of Minnesota Goldstein Museum of Design fashion historian Kathleen Campbell explains that First Lady Obama has now been solidified as a fashion icon from her appearances on the March cover of Vogue to the award she will receive from the Council of Fashion Designers of America in June.

To view a video of Campbell commenting on Obama's fashion, visit:

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

From choosing lesser-known designers to the refining of her hair and makeup, Campbell can provide a deep look into Obama's sartorial choices and the positive impact she is having on America.

Video: U of M researcher develops brain-scanning process that could lead to major breakthroughs in epilepsy treatments

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/18/2009) —University of Minnesota McKnight professor Bin He has developed a new technique that has led to preliminary successes in noninvasive imaging of seizure foci. He's technique promises to play an important role in the treatment of epileptic seizures.

To view a video explaining the procedure, visit:

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

He's research, called Functional Neuroimaging, has completed its first round of testing in epilepsy data collected at the Mayo Clinic. He's medical device images the brain while epilepsy patients have a seizure and then allows surgeons to identify the network where the seizure is caused.

Approximately one-third of people who suffer from epileptic seizures cannot be treated by medication, and this process could lead to further advancements in surgical treatment.

He's research is funded by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

Sick of the Same Old Thing? U of M Researcher Finds Solution for Satiation

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/19/2009) —Have you ever gotten sick of pizza, playing the same computer game, or had a song stuck in your head for so long you never wanted to hear it again? If you have, you may suffer from variety amnesia. In new research, Joseph Redden, professor of marketing at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, may have found a cure for your satiation blues. "People forget about the abundance of different experiences they have had and tend to focus on the repetition," said Redden. "Simply thinking about the variety of songs they have listened to or meals they have eaten will make people enjoy the activity again."

Satiation, the process of consuming products and experiences to the point where they are less enjoyable, is a big problem for consumers and retailers. In the past, time and variety have been seen as the only ways to cure satiation. In their new article forthcoming in the *Journal of Consumer Research*, Redden and co-authors find that just recalling variety may cure satiation faster. "Intuition says that if time passes we will like something again: we call this 'spontaneous recovery,'" said Redden. "This isn't the whole story. People don't fully recover on their own with the mere passage of time. If I'm sick of chocolate, simply thinking about all the other desserts I've had since the last time I had chocolate helps cure my satiation. Time doesn't seem to do that very well."

In one of the three studies conducted for this research, Redden and his co-authors asked participants to listen to the chorus of a favorite song 20 times in a row. Then they were asked to rate the clip. Not surprisingly, after 20 repetitions their enjoyment of the song dropped a great deal. Three weeks later, the participants came back and half were asked to recall any television shows they'd seen since the study, while the other half listed all of the musicians they'd listened to since the first session. The group that listed the TV shows was still just as satiated – they didn't like the song. However, those recalling variety in the music category almost totally recovered. "The participants' comments were the most revealing," said Redden. "Those who recalled the TV shows were actually angry to have a song they like 'ruined,' but the ones who recalled musicians enjoyed taking a study with music, etc. If something seems like 'more of the same,' people are just less interested."

Satiation is a friction. It prevents people from enjoying favorite activities and it prevents retailers from gaining repeat business. "The solution to satiation is to take the time to appreciate all the variety you have," said Redden. "The recommendation is straightforward: if consumers wish to keep enjoying their favorite experiences, then they should simply think of all the other related experiences they have recently had. So next time you get sick of healthy smoothies and think about grabbing a burger instead, try to recall all of the other drinks you have had since your last smoothie. Our findings suggest this will make your smoothie taste just a little bit better."

Joseph Redden's teaching and research focuses on consumer experience with satiation, variety, and quantity. His work has been featured in outlets such as *Psychology Today*, the *Star Tribune* and the *Vancouver Sun*. The paper "Variety Amnesia: Recalling Past Variety Can Accelerate Recovery from Satiation," forthcoming in the *Journal of Consumer Research* was co-authored by Jeff Galak (Carnegie Mellon) and Justin Kruger (NYU). The paper and more information on Professor Redden can be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/jredden

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

Carlson School graduate Lauren McGowan honored with prestigious leadership award

Contacts:

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/19/2009) —Lauren McGowan, a native of Stillwater, Minn., became the 80th recipient of the Carlson School of Management's Tomato Can Loving Cup, the school's oldest and most prestigious award for undergraduate service and leadership. In keeping with the tradition of the Tomato Can Loving Cup Award, the winner was announced at the school's undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 18.

McGowan's name will be engraved on the award, which is an actual tomato can. The Tomato Can Loving Cup dates back to the Great Depression, when the business school's students developed the award to recognize an outstanding senior. Decades later, the honor--and the original tomato can--are still given to the student who performs the most distinctive service to the Carlson School. However, today it also comes with a full-tuition scholarship to the Carlson School's MBA program after the recipient has gained two years of work experience.

McGowan graduated from the Carlson School in May with a bachelor's degree in accounting and a minor in Spanish. In addition to maintaining a grade point average of 3.8, she actively supported the Carlson School and the University of Minnesota through hundreds of hours of volunteer service. During her four years on campus, she served as: president of the student chapter of Women in Business, peer minister for St. Lawrence Catholic Church and Newman Center, member of St. Paul's Outreach, member of the Student Advisory Board, ambassador of the Carlson Ambassador Program, member of the Carlson Honors Program and representative to the Minnesota Student Association.

McGowan is the recipient of several awards, including Carlson's Distinguished Undergraduate Fellowship Scholarship for four years and the Outstanding Emerging Leadership Program Award. She completed internships at the Carlson Companies and PricewaterhouseCoopers, and she studied in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Toledo, Spain. She will begin a full-time position with PricewaterhouseCoopers later this summer.

Carolyn Wieland, program associate in the Carlson School Undergraduate Business Career Center, and staff advisor to the student chapter of Women in Business, said, "As president to one of the largest student groups at the Carlson School, Lauren effectively led with integrity and professionalism and commanded a high level of respect from her peers. She provided the leadership and vision to grow the organization and make it all-inclusive. Lauren has clearly demonstrated her ability to maintain a high level of academic achievement while performing service and leadership to the University and beyond."

"When I look back on my time at the University of Minnesota, I can see that it was my interest in helping my peers find their place and feel empowered that motivated me," said McGowan. "As president of Women in Business, I strived to use my passion for the organization to energize others to make a difference and succeed in their own personal missions. My education, leadership opportunities in student organizations, study abroad experiences, and relationships with my peers have truly prepared me to take the next step in my life."

University of Minnesota Regents professor and former Institute of Technology dean dies

Media Note: Media note: Photograph available by request.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/19/2009) —H. Ted Davis, a University of Minnesota Regents professor of chemical engineering and materials science and former dean of the university's Institute of Technology, died suddenly on May 17. He was 71. For more than 45 years, Davis served the University of Minnesota and its students in various roles, most recently as director of the BioTechnology Institute.

The son of an apple farmer and a textile mill worker, Davis grew up near the small town of Hendersonville in western North Carolina. He completed a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1959. After earning a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Chicago in 1962, he began his career at the University of Minnesota in 1963 as a faculty member in chemical engineering.

In 1980, Davis became head of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, and helped to build the university's chemical engineering program into one of the nation's best. In the process, he inspired and empowered a generation of young engineers. In 1995, he was named dean of the Institute of Technology, the university's college of engineering, physical sciences and mathematics. Davis worked tirelessly to secure the necessary resources to support a top-notch research and learning experience for students.

During his tenure as dean, Davis is credited with developing the Digital Technology Center, establishing the department of biomedical engineering, making strategic hiring decisions to increase diversity within the faculty roster and adding degree programs in biomedical engineering, computer engineering, bio-based products engineering, as well as professional master's programs in software and infrastructure systems engineering. He was also instrumental in raising funds for the renovation and restoration of Walter Library (which now houses both the Digital Technology Center and the Science and Engineering Library), the new Mechanical Engineering Building and the Amundson Hall addition.

Davis also served the broader Minnesota information technology community by helping to secure and maintain the critical National Science Foundation centers for high-tech training including the Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications, the Materials Research Science and Engineering Center, the National Center for Earth-surface Dynamics, and the Multi-Axial Subassembly Testing Laboratory.

After serving for nine years as dean of the Institute of Technology --the third longest serving dean in the college's history --Davis stepped down to return to full-time teaching and research, a position he called "the best job at the University."

In 2008, Davis became the director of the university's BioTechnology Institute (BTI)--a joint effort of the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences and the Institute of Technology. In this role he helped to raise the profile of the university's research in biofuels and renewable energy, especially in the area of biocatalysis

As author or co-author of 500 research papers and three textbooks, Davis' own research and scholarship focused on several areas related to the flow of fluids, including investigation of the molecular mechanisms by which fluid flows, with applications in industrial coating processes, the flow of pollutants in groundwater, oil recovery and nanotechnology.

In 1988, Davis was elected to the National Academy of Engineering. He was named a Regents professor in 1997, the University's highest recognition for faculty excellence, and was inducted into the first class of the Minnesota Science and Technology Hall of Fame in 2008, which honors Minnesotans whose achievements in science and technology have made a lasting impact not only to the state of Minnesota, but worldwide.

"H. Ted Davis was an extraordinary scholar, a revered teacher and a sage leader who served the University of Minnesota and the field of chemical engineering and materials science with remarkable distinction," said University of Minnesota President Robert H. Bruininks. "In 1997, Ted was chosen by his peers to receive a University of Minnesota Regents Professorship, the finest testament we have to greatness. It was a privilege to have Ted as a colleague and an honor to call him my friend. He will be deeply missed, and I extend my heartfelt sympathy to Ted's family, his students and his colleagues at the university and around the world."

The visitation is scheduled for 5-8 p.m. on Thursday, May 21 at Washburn-McReavy Funeral Home, Welander Quist Davies Chapel, 2301 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis. The funeral is at 11 a.m. Friday, May 22 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Memorials are preferred to the American Heart Association or The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Study co-authored by U of M researchers reveals Critical Role of Evolutionary Processes in Species Coexistence and Diversity

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/20/2009) —A team of researchers, led by the University of Minnesota, addressing long-standing conflicts in ecology and evolutionary science, has provided key directions for the future of community ecology. The team comprehensively synthesized emerging work that applies knowledge of evolutionary relationships among different species—phylogenetics—to understanding species interactions, ecosystems and biodiversity.

The work, published in the May issue of *Ecology Letters*, was conducted by a subgroup of researchers participating in an interdisciplinary working group convened by the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The research was supported by funding from NCEAS, the Long-Term Ecological Research Network Office, the National Science Foundation and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

“For a long time, ecologists ignored the importance of evolutionary processes in understanding how species coexist and how diversity is maintained,” said Jeannine Cavender-Bares, a professor at the University of Minnesota, and lead author of the study. “But ecological processes we observe in the present are deeply influenced by evolutionary processes in the past. Thanks to the increasing availability of large DNA and phylogenetic databases, we now have the tools to bring an evolutionary perspective into ecology.”

NCEAS hosts hundreds of scientists a year who analyze vast amounts of existing information from numerous prior research studies, in order to look for patterns and make new discoveries. For this study the researchers synthesized more than 180 major studies from both fields, and developed a comprehensive overview of the forces driving community organization, and the role evolution plays in the assembly of these communities.

What's truly exciting is how we are beginning to accumulate evidence that community structure and interactions through time can feedback to promote or constrain diversification of species,” said Ken Kozak, also a professor at the University of Minnesota. “The blurring of boundaries between classical community ecology and biogeography has been key to recent progress in community ecology.”

“Essentially, we’re going back to the perspective of early naturalists, but with a computational rigor that was never before possible,” according to Cavender-Bares. “This basic understanding of the causes and consequences of community structure has never been more important.”

In the face of increasing habitat destruction around the world, these tools will prove critical to managing and restoring Earth’s flora and fauna.

The National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS) was established in 1995. The organization has hosted more than 4,000 scientists from over 50 countries, and supported more than 430 collaborative projects in ecology and related fields. NCEAS scientists develop new techniques in informatics, and apply general knowledge of ecological systems to specific issues such as the loss of biotic diversity, global change, and sustainability of marine ecosystems. NCEAS is among the top 1 percent of 38,000 institutions evaluated for scientific impact in environmental research. NCEAS is funded by the National Science Foundation, the State of California, the University of California, and numerous other donors.

U of M's sun-powered house project to host preview event

Solar Decathlon team to showcase progress May 27 for local business benefactors and supporters

Media Note: Interested media are encouraged to RSVP before attending this event.

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May 20, 2009

After nearly a year and a half of planning, the U of M's Solar Decathlon team has made significant progress in the construction of a solar-powered house, which will compete against 19 other schools this October in a biennial international competition.

Faculty and student project leaders will be staging a guided walk through for members of the Solar Decathlon Advisory Board, as well as interested media outlets, at the construction site beginning at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27 at the U of M's ReUse Center, 883 29th Ave S.E., Minneapolis.

This is the University of Minnesota's first-ever entry into this prestigious national competition, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. Teams from schools around the world -- including the United States, Canada, Spain, Germany and Puerto Rico -- will compete to see who can build the most full-featured and energy efficient dwelling, using only the power of the sun. Technische Universität Darmstadt (Germany) won the last competition in 2007.

The two-year long process will culminate with a 10-day competition (with judging on all aspects of the house, from energy efficiency to interior design) beginning Oct. 8 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

The Solar Decathlon Advisory Board comprises local business leaders who have supported this ambitious student-run project through donations of money, time and construction materials and includes prominent figures from local organizations including 3M, Mortensen Construction and the Science Museum of Minnesota.

"The construction process is well underway, and we're eager to show off what we have completed so far," said Ann Johnson, project manager and director of the U of M's construction management program. "We believe our house has a good chance to place highly come October, and none of this would have been possible without the generous support of these local organizations. We're happy to give them a 'sneak peek' as the competition grows closer."

The construction team, which is on track to complete the house by July 1, has finished the 800-square foot structure's floor and walls and is working to build the solar panel-lined roof. The team will be hosting a mock competition with the completed house on the university's east bank in late August.

More information, as well as conceptual images of the U of M's solar house, is available at <http://www.solardecathlon.umn.edu>

Floating Laboratory' centerpiece of BioBlitz 2009, a 24-hour race to count Mississippi River's plants and animals beginning Friday, June 12

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May 20, 2009

The Jonathan Padelford Riverboat will serve as the “floating laboratory” for this year’s BioBlitz, a 24-hour race to inventory the plants and animals of the Mississippi River Valley on Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13.

This year’s BioBlitz will take place in one of Minnesota’s five national parks—the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), a 72 mile-long national park that stretches from Dayton to Hastings, running through the downtown areas of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The event, coordinated by the University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History, is free and open to the public.

Every year BioBlitz attracts hundreds of families and scientists from around the state who use sonar detectors, bug lights, live traps and laptops to count and chronicle an area’s flora and fauna. Volunteers of all ages work alongside biologists to collect plants and insects, and live-trap animals, which are identified before being released. Collection stations and inventory “leader boards” will be set up on the decks of the Padelford, which will be docked at Crosby Farm Park, the BioBlitz base-camp.

Also on hand will be legions of National Park Service rangers and wildlife guides from the Bell Museum, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and St. Paul Parks for free, guided tours of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

This year’s BioBlitz will feature a Saturday morning birding cruise aboard the Padelford as it makes its way to dock at base-camp. The cruise leaves St. Paul’s Harriet Island at 8:30 a.m. and arrives at Crosby Farm Park two hours later. Tickets are \$15 and shuttle service is included. The cruise is sponsored by the Padelford Packet Boat Company, National Park Service and Mississippi River Fund.

BioBlitz, which changes location each year, aims to increase the public’s awareness of an area’s biological diversity. It also offers a chance for the public to work with scientists and provides an environmental benchmark for natural resources managers of Minnesota’s environment. The event is co-sponsored by the National Park Service and Mississippi River Fund. For a complete schedule of BioBlitz 2009 activities, go to www.bellmuseum.org/bioblitz. The Bell Museum is part of the university’s College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences.

Video: U Extension educator shows how to get big taste in a small space

Media Note: To interview Karl Foord about container gardening contact Ryan Mathre at (612) 625-0552 or mathre@umn.edu

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/21/2009) —Nothing tastes better than homegrown vegetables, but many people simply don't have the time or the space for a backyard garden. Container gardening offers the possibility of enjoying fresh herbs and vegetables without many of the hassles that come with a traditional garden.

In this video, University of Minnesota Extension Educator Karl Foord shows how simple it is to turn a patio, deck or balcony into your very own vegetable haven.

To watch the video go to:

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

Architectural Alliance/ZGF Selected for Phase 2 design of U of M Biomedical Discovery District

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/27/2009) —University of Minnesota officials announced today that Architectural Alliance of Minneapolis and Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects (ZGF) of Seattle will design Phase 2 of the university's new Biomedical Discovery District being developed north and east of the TCF Bank Stadium.

Architectural Alliance (AA) has extensive experience in the science and technology fields and at the University of Minnesota including design of the Cargill Building of Microbial and Plant Genomics on the St. Paul campus and Jackson Hall in Minneapolis. In addition, AA has been selected to design a new physics building for the Minneapolis Campus.

ZGF has designed hundreds of academic, medical and scientific buildings including more than 30 research facilities. Their work includes the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Mortimer B. Zuckerman Research Center in New York and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle.

"We are excited to have them on board as we embark on establishing a world class environment for interdisciplinary biomedical research," said Frank Cerra, senior vice president for Health Sciences.

Twenty-four design groups submitted proposals for the project. Phase 2 construction is scheduled to begin in the spring, 2010 and be completed in the summer of 2012. The full District is scheduled for completion in 2015.

The development of the Biomedical Discovery District is part of the largest expansion of the Twin Cities campus since the construction of the West Bank in the 1960s. When completed, the District will encompass facilities focused on research in cancer, heart disease, infectious diseases and neuroscience with a goal of transforming lives through biomedical research. The District will also help establish Minnesota as home to the nation's leading biomedical industries.

Student veteran health examined in first-of-its-kind study by University of Minnesota/Minnesota State Colleges and Universities

Survey finds student military veterans face some unique health issues

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/29/2009) —With more military veterans expected to go to school this fall as a result of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, universities and colleges will need to ensure student veterans' unique needs are met, according to a first-of-its-kind comprehensive report issued today (Friday, May 29) by the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU).

The report, "Health and Health-Related Behaviors: Minnesota Postsecondary Student Veterans," found that while student veterans experienced higher rates of some mental health issues and sexual assault (most notably among females), they did not differ substantially from the general student population in most measures of overall health.

"These are the first real health data available on veterans going back to universities and colleges as students," said Ed Ehlinger, the director and chief health officer of the University of Minnesota Boynton Health Service. "We found that in most respects, the veterans look like the rest of the student population."

Ehlinger will be discussing the study's findings at the American College Health Association's annual meeting in San Francisco Friday. To view the full report, visit <http://www.bhs.umn.edu/healthdata/results>

In spring 2008, 1,901 veterans enrolled in 15 Minnesota colleges and universities were surveyed about their experiences and behaviors in the following areas: health insurance and health care utilization, mental health, tobacco use, alcohol and other drug use, personal safety and financial health, nutrition and physical activity, and sexual health. The survey was completed by 813 veterans -- a 42.8 percent response rate.

The survey found that, while similar to the general student population, veteran students do have some unique health needs. For example, student veterans have unique psychological issues related to their military service that impacts their mental health. Among male veterans, 9.1 percent reported post-traumatic stress disorder, compared with 2.8 percent of comparable non-veteran male students. Among female veterans, 14.1 percent reported post-traumatic stress disorder compared with just 5.4 percent of comparable non-veteran female students.

The study's researchers were greatly concerned with the findings regarding female veterans and sexual assault: 43.7 percent of female veteran students report having been sexually assaulted in their lifetime, compared with 29.8 percent of comparable non-veteran female students. When asked if they were sexually assaulted within the past 12 months, 6 percent of female veterans said they had been compared with 3.9 percent of comparable non-veteran female students.

"Sexual and domestic violence is a big issue for female veterans," Ehlinger said. "This is one area that is markedly different from the comparable non-veteran female students."

In other parts of the study, researchers found that veteran students are better immunized and more physically fit compared with the general student population.

And while the common perception is that veterans have automatic access to health insurance, the study results showed that this is not the case. The study found that 18.6 percent of student veterans reported being uninsured, compared with 17.5 percent of comparable non-veteran students. The lack of health insurance for all students concerns university health officials because without insurance, students are less likely to seek medical care when they need it, Ehlinger said.

When it comes to alcohol use, the study dispels the myth that problem drinking is higher among veterans than in the general population, Ehlinger said. While more veterans have used alcohol in the last year (82.5 percent comparable non-veteran college students reported using alcohol in the past year compared with 87.3 percent of student veterans), the high risk drinking rate among veterans is no different than comparable non-veteran students, Ehlinger said.

The report found that the marijuana use rate among student veterans was actually lower, 5.2 percent, compared with a 10.3 percent usage rate among all comparable students. Student veterans reported lower rates of all recreational drug usage (except sedatives) compared to the general student population.

Researchers hope the information in this report will help identify issues affecting student veterans and help college and university leaders in their efforts to develop programs that address the needs of veterans enrolled in their schools.

"These survey findings underscore the importance of having campus veterans centers around the state," said Steven Frantz, system director of students services for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. "Veterans have unique needs, and the veterans centers provide a place that can address some of those issues and support their success in higher education."

Partial funding provided by a 2008 congressionally directed grant award to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Elmer L. Andersen's 100th Birthday to be celebrated at U of M

What: 100th Birthday Celebration Honoring Elmer L. Andersen, Former Governor and U of M Regent

When: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 17

Where: University of Minnesota: Willey Hall, 225 19th Ave., S., Minneapolis; and Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave S., Minneapolis

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/01/2009) —The life and legacy of former governor and University of Minnesota regent Elmer L. Andersen will be the focus of a 7:30 p.m. celebration Wednesday., June 17, the 100th anniversary of his birth. Throughout his 95 years, Andersen's vision and perseverance was applied to a wide range of endeavors—from government, business and education to agriculture, journalism and philanthropy.

A successful businessman, Andersen owned H.B. Fuller Company, a St. Paul manufacturer of industrial and home use adhesives, and ECM Publishing, which continues to produce 24 weekly newspapers in central Minnesota. As Minnesota's 30th governor, he was responsible for the creation of several new state parks, the landmark Fair Housing Bill and highway safety legislation that resulted in a substantial drop in fatal accidents. After losing his re-election bid by 91 votes out of more than 1.2 million cast, Andersen continued serving the state he loved through volunteerism and public service.

Andersen's tireless efforts to persuade landowners, timber industry leaders, politicians and citizens of the value of preserving the forests and lakes along Minnesota's northern border led to the 1975 establishment of Voyageurs National Park. He served on the boards of many organizations, including the Minnesota Historical Society, the Charles Lindbergh Foundation and the Child Welfare League of America. A 1931 graduate of the University of Minnesota, he was a great advocate for and benefactor of the institution, serving on the Board of Regents and as president and chair of the University of Minnesota Foundation. In 1999, he donated the major portion of his rare book collection—nearly 12,500 volumes—to the university. Andersen died in 2004 at the age of 95.

Festivities will begin in Willey Hall, 225 19th Avenue S. Minneapolis, with music by VocalEssence Ensemble Singers. Remarks by university Librarian Wendy Pradt Lougee, Andersen's son Julian Andersen, and Star Tribune columnist and Andersen biographer Lori Sturdevant will preface the showing of "Legacy of a Leader: Elmer L. Andersen," a new TPT documentary.

Following the film will be an opening reception for "A Man's Reach: A Transforming Life," a new exhibit at Elmer L. Andersen Library exploring Andersen's broad interests, his philosophies regarding government and business practices, and his impact on the university, the state and the nation.

The event is free and open to the public; reservations are requested by Wed., June 10 at stangret@umn.edu or 612-624-9339.

U of M study says confusion reigns over whole-grain claims in school lunches

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/02/2009) —While most nutrition experts agree that school lunches should include more whole-grain products, a new study from the University of Minnesota finds that food-service workers lack understanding and the resources to meet that goal.

The study, which involved school food-service directors from across Minnesota, appears in the current issue of the *Journal of Child Nutrition and Management*. Because they serve so many meals to children each day, school food-service directors have a major influence on students' food choices and in turn their overall health, the authors note.

Most experts recommend at least three servings of whole-grain foods a day, but American children fall far short of that goal, averaging about one serving per day.

The U of M researchers found that while food-service workers are aware of the health benefits of whole-grain foods, they aren't always sure whether a food product meets whole-grain criteria. The directors also cited higher costs and difficulty finding vendors who sold whole-grain products.

The latest study is part of an ongoing series in which researchers from the university are measuring awareness of whole grains and testing ways to incorporate them into children's diets, particularly in school nutrition programs.

"The goal is to remove confusion surrounding the definition of a whole-grain food and to provide simple standards to follow when ordering whole grain products for school meals," said Len Marquart, the project's lead researcher and an assistant professor in the university's food science and nutrition department. "This will require working together--enhanced communication among vendors, distributors and manufacturers along with key players in government, industry and school foodservice."

U of Minnesota Three-State Survey Finds U.S. Households Flushing More Organic Material Than Expected Down the Drain

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/03/2009) —Households are flushing more organic material—including medicines and cleaning and personal care products—down the drain compared to historic data, according to researchers at the University of Minnesota's Water Resources Center (WRC).

The yearlong monitoring of households in Colorado, Florida and Minnesota reinforces concerns that Americans in general may be adding more household chemicals and pharmaceuticals to waste water.

This pilot study, done by the U of Minnesota's Water Resources Center Onsite Sewage Treatment Program team and the Colorado School of Mines, sampled the wastewater of 16 households in three states —Minnesota, Florida and Colorado—for one year beginning in fall 2006. By adding a mechanical diverter to the homes' building sewer, researchers were able to sample water both seasonally and around the clock during a seven-day period for each home.

In addition to an increase in medicines and organic chemicals in the wastewater, researchers found caffeine in all samples that were tested; salicylic acid (the active compound in aspirin) was in about three quarters of samples, ibuprofen in half, and detergent additives and plasticizers in more than three quarters. Researchers also found that water use did not vary from season to season, but was affected by the household's age, with younger households using nearly twice the amount of water per person than households with occupants 55 and older.

The good news is a decrease in the amount of oil and grease flushed down the drain. Concentrations of phosphates were also down—due to phosphate-free detergents and household cleansers—while the amount of nitrogen in household wastewater remained the same.

“It's a little like going through someone's trash can—you get a snapshot of what's being used inside the home,” said WRC research assistant Jessica Wittwer, who was the field sampler for Minnesota. “While fewer households are flushing oils and grease down the drain, households across the board are using more pharmaceuticals and stronger, anti-microbial and nonbiodegradable cleansers. The concern with pharmaceuticals and nonbiodegradable chemicals is their long-term effect on the larger ecosystem and food chain.

The Water Resource Center is affiliated with the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and University of Minnesota Extension. For more information, visit wrc.umn.edu.

University of Minnesota will partner with local communities to address healthy food issues

Contacts:

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/04/2009) —Two new research projects are bringing together the University of Minnesota with local communities to help the communities ensure their residents eat more healthy, sustainable diets.

The projects, funded by grants from the university's Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute, involve partnerships between the University of Minnesota and the Little Earth community of Minneapolis, as well as groups in the western Lake Superior region of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The "Little Earth Food Justice and Youth Empowerment Project" is intended to improve the health of young children in Little Earth and the surrounding area by combining education and access to healthy food options, traditional foods and food production opportunities. Researchers will develop and evaluate the success of community-based strategies to address healthy food issues in a manner that is culturally appropriate, sustainable and meaningful to the community. The project investigators are from the Little Earth of United Tribes and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the university.

The second project, "Defining the Agricultural Landscape of the Western Lake Superior Region," will involve describing the agricultural landscape of a 14-county region, including its capacity to provide food for its population. Investigators plan to use the data to analyze how a shift to a local foods diet would affect the collective physical and economic health of the region in contrast to a typical American diet. Tribal groups from the area will provide historical background on regional diets as well as information on how standard diets affect the health of residents. The team includes investigators from the University of Minnesota-Duluth as well as local farmers and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation.

"These are very different projects, but they both demonstrate excellent ways in which the university can perform meaningful research with local communities in a truly collaborative manner," said Mindy Kurzer, director of the Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute.

The Institute fosters interdisciplinary research and outreach from areas as wide-ranging as medicine, agriculture and exercise, through a collaboration of five colleges within the university.

U of M Law School Selects Jean M. Sazevich as Director of Advancement

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/05/2009) —The University of Minnesota Law School has chosen Jean M. Sazevich as the Director of Advancement after an extensive nationwide search. She will assume her duties on June 30, 2009.

Ms. Sazevich brings to the Law School a large portfolio of experience in philanthropy, including executive, program management and advisory positions within private foundations, family offices and corporations.

As Director of Advancement, she will lead the Law School's development and alumni relations office in cultivating the institutional resources to fulfill the Law School's aspirations to be a leading center for innovative teaching and research.

"Jean brings with her a great depth and breadth of philanthropic experience," says Law School Dean David Wippman. "She is clearly committed to the ideals of this university and the Law School."

Sazevich has been a philanthropy consultant at several foundations including Okabena Advisors, the family office of the Dayton family, the Robina Foundation and a corporate giving program at Room & Board.

She also previously served as executive director at Adler Management, LLC providing staff leadership and management of the activities of five foundations of the Gerald Rauenhorst family. The five foundations included four private family foundations and the corporate foundation of Opus Companies.

Sazevich received her B.A. from the University of Minnesota and attended the Shannon Leadership Institute.

University of Minnesota team wins solar car race

Team completes 827 miles powered only by the sun

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/08/2009) —The University of Minnesota Solar Vehicle Project team came away this past weekend with a decisive first-place finish in the 2009 Formula Sun Grand Prix, a closed-track race at MotorSport Ranch in Cresson, Texas.

With its latest solar-powered car, named Centaurus, the team of engineering students from the university's Institute of Technology completed 487 laps on the 1.7-mile, road-style track (827.9 miles total) throughout the three-day race. This was 94 more laps than the second-place finisher University of Kentucky. Northwestern University placed third. The University of Minnesota team also ran the fastest lap at two minutes and 20 seconds. Eleven solar car teams from across the country participated in the event this year.

"The team did a great job, helped others and pulled off a very clean race," said Adem Rudin, the student crew chief of the University of Minnesota Solar Vehicle Project team.

This is the second consecutive Formula Sun Grand Prix victory for the University of Minnesota team. The race was last held in 2005 at the Heartland Park Raceway in Topeka, Kan., where the University of Minnesota solar car Borealis III took first place.

Over the next year the University of Minnesota team will focus its efforts on designing and building the team's next-generation, completely solar-powered car, Centaurus II, the ninth car in the team's 19-year history. The Solar Vehicle Project team is funded by generous private donations from corporations and individuals.

For more information, visit the University of Minnesota Solar Vehicle Project Web site at www.svp.umn.edu

Regents to hear Bruininks' budget recommendations, elect chair and vice chair at meeting this week

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/09/2009) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents meets later this week on the Twin Cities campus. The agenda includes President Robert Bruininks' proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2010 and a preliminary state capital request for 2010. Also as part of the meeting, the board conducts its annual meeting to set meeting dates for 2009-10 and elect a new chair and vice chair. A nominating committee report recommends Regent Clyde Allen for chair and Regent Linda Cohen for vice chair.

The president's proposed FY2010 operating budget takes into account the 7.4 percent biennial reduction in state funding as well as the potential for additional unallotment. It uses federal stimulus money to cap the in-state undergraduate tuition increase at \$300, or 3.125 percent. Between federal stimulus dollars and a new middle-income scholarship, 60 percent of Minnesota students will actually see their tuition decrease under the proposed budget.

"Despite a significant cut in state appropriation, we've shaped a budget that minimizes this year's tuition increase for Minnesota residents," said Bruininks. "In fact, most Minnesota students can expect to pay substantially less to attend the University next year. This is not to say there are not major budget challenges ahead of us, but this is a responsible budget that is mindful of the economic times in which we live."

The schedule for the meeting is as follows:

Thursday, June 11, 2009

8:30 - 10:30 a.m., Facilities committee, West Committee Room. The agenda includes review and action on a resolution regarding the scoping decision document related to the environmental impact statement for sand and gravel mining at the university's UMore Park property in Dakota County as well as review and action on a property acquisition of 1.39 acres of land for an expansion of the Center for Magnetic Resonance Research. The committee will also review a recommendation to deconstruct and demolish the Music Education Building on the Twin Cities campus.

8:30 - 10:30 a.m., Finance and Operations committee, East Committee Room. The committee will take action on an anticipated resolution authorizing the issuance of debt as part of the TCF Bank Stadium project.

10:45 - 11:45 a.m., Board work session, Boardroom. Bruininks, Provost Tom Sullivan and Vice Provost and dean of undergraduate education Robert McMaster will present on the quality of undergraduate education and how it relates to tuition as well as university financial aid initiatives.

2:45 - 4:45 p.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, West Committee Room. Provost Sullivan will present on the Imagine Fund for the Arts and Humanities. The committee will also hear from the deans of the three colleges created as a result of academic restructuring several years ago - the College of Design, the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and the College of Education and Human Development - on their progress.

2:45 - 4:15 p.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, East Committee Room. The committee receives its annual presentation on the UPlan, employee health care plan. In addition, Athletics Director Joel Maturi presents his annual report in Intercollegiate Athletics. The committee will also act on the appointment of Frank Cerra as Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and dean of the Medical School.

Friday, June 12, 2009

9 a.m. - 12 noon, Board of Regents meeting, boardroom. The board conducts its annual meeting first, electing a new chair and vice chair and establishing meeting dates for 2009-10. After the annual meeting adjourns, the monthly meeting is convened. Bruininks and CFO Richard Pfutzenreuter present the president's recommended FY2010 operating budget, a preliminary 2010 state capital request and act on the president's recommended FY2010 annual capital improvement budget. Professor Emily Hoover, chair of the Faculty Consultative Committee, will also give her annual report and be recognized for her service.

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

11:30 a.m., Public forum on the president's recommended operating budget for FY2010, boardroom.

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

10 a.m., Special meeting to act on the president's recommended operating budget for FY2010, boardroom.

More information on the Board of Regents and live streaming of the board meetings can be found at www.umn.edu/regents.

Islam, Minnesota wines and baseball among topics to be tackled at U of M summer "Curiosity Camps"

2009 season of enriching one-day getaways for adults opens June 18

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/10/2009) —What's more exciting for school kids than hearing the best two words in the English language: "field trip?" Adults are invited to recapture that excitement with the University of Minnesota Curiosity Camp program, which offers enriching one-day summer getaways for adults. The 2009 season opens June 18 with "Northeast Minneapolis: A Skyline of Steeples and Spires."

This summer, Curiosity Camp will offer one-day programs on topics that include Islam, Minnesota wine-making, baseball and even ancient Egypt. Most camps begin with lively lectures and discussions with University of Minnesota faculty and community experts. These discussions set the stage for an enriching local field trip.

A complete list of the 2009 camps is below. More information and registration is available at cce.umn.edu/curiosity or by calling (612) 624-4000.

Thursday, June 18: Northeast Minneapolis: A Skyline of Steeples and Spires

Explore the unique history of Northeast Minneapolis through its iconic religious structures. Learn about the history of the neighborhood, the people who have lived there and how the community's built landscape reveals a diverse and fascinating history.

Monday, June 22: Book Lovers' Retreat: Leafing Through the Pages at the Arboretum

Take a "literary tour" amidst the lush natural beauty of the Arboretum, pausing at sites that reflect or illustrate excerpts from favorite pieces of literature selected by award-winning writer Toni McNaron. Learn to prepare a dinner based on favorite recipes of literary greats, from Emily Dickinson's rye bread – which is reputed to have made her more famous in Amherst than her poetry—to Margaret Atwood's baked lemon custard. Continue the discussion of literature with former Star Tribune books editor Sarah Williams and Jim Heynen, author of *Sunday Afternoon on the Porch: Reflections of a Small Town in Iowa, 1939-1942*, among other works.

Tuesday, June 23: Insight Into Islam

Islam is the predominant religion in much of Africa and the Middle East, as well as in major parts of Asia and eastern Europe, with more than one billion adherents worldwide. However, misperceptions about Islamic religious, cultural, and social practices abound. During this Camp, offered in partnership with the Islamic Center of Minnesota, you will spend time at the Center and learn about Islam from a variety of perspectives.

Monday, June 29: A Geology Tour of the Twin Cities

The geology of the Twin Cities preserves a record of startling contrasts. During this Camp you will discover how and why the land looks the way it does. Learn to recognize common rocks, enjoy a bit of fossil hunting and discover clues to Minnesota's glacial past.

Monday, July 13: Blown, Painted, Slumped, and More: The Living Color of American Art Glass

Explore the history of American art glass, learn about the contemporary art glass movement and visit a working glass artist's studio for in-person demonstrations.

Tuesday, July 14: The Art of Collecting and the Art of Letting Go

Learn about preserving your treasures, keeping good records, tax issues and the future of your collections.

Thursday, July 16: Moliere: From Royal Court to Centennial Showboat

Revel in the life and times of Moliere with a leading musicologist and discover why his plays continue to be staged and adapted to great acclaim today. Delve into a discussion and performance of "Is There a Doctor in the House?" – an adaptation of "The Imaginary Invalid" – at the Centennial Showboat.

Tuesday, July 21: A Culture of Clay: Three Aesthetic Practices in the Twin Cities

From the early days of production ceramics epitomized by companies like Red Wing Pottery to the explosion of a contemporary pottery community encouraged by University of Minnesota ceramics professor Warren MacKenzie, Minnesota has long been a hotbed for the ceramic arts. Explore the dynamic clay culture of Minnesota and meet leading ceramic artists working in the area.

Wednesday, July 22: Tall Grass Prairie: From Origins to Backyard

Prairies once extended from the northwestern to the southeastern corners of Minnesota, part of vast grassland that occupied some 18 million acres. Learn about the tall grass prairie and then visit remnants of it near the Twin Cities to encounter firsthand this vanishing and precious landscape.

Monday, July 27: Florence: Birthplace of the Renaissance

Discover why Florence is considered the birthplace of the Renaissance, one of the most brilliant periods in the history of Western civilization, and delve into Italian food, wine and language.

Wednesday, July 29: Wine That's Found Its Time: Minnesota Vineyards

Learn about new grapes developed expressly for Minnesota's climate and taste the new wines that they produce during a field trip to area vineyards.

Tuesday, August 4: Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Delve into baseball's enduring magic during an afternoon and evening at which you will circle the bases from the sport's mythmakers (Fitzgerald, Hemingway and Malamud), to the secret behind what makes a ballpark hot dog taste so good, to why we rise and stretch in the middle of the seventh inning. End the day with an evening of baseball magic, at a St. Paul Saints game.

Wednesday, August 5: See the Pyramids Along the Nile

Learn what life was like during the early centuries of ancient Egypt, a civilization that endured for thousands of years. During an afternoon and evening in the midst of the green surroundings of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, you will explore the sights, sounds and flavors of Egypt.

Each Curiosity Camp costs \$125. There is a reduced rate of \$100 for Circle of Scholars members, University of Minnesota Alumni Association members, and University faculty, staff and full-time students. Costs include meals and refreshments, and transportation to and from most camp destinations.

Curiosity Camp is a program 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.

Medical Industry Leadership Institute interdisciplinary grant awardees to present research findings to public at U of M

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June 10, 2009

After a year of research, the four recipients of the Medical Industry Leadership Institute (MILI) interdisciplinary grants will present their findings at a seminar open to the public on Friday, June 19, at the U of M's Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, room 2-206.

In spring 2008, MILI awarded four grants totaling \$115,000 to fund faculty research focused on the medical industry. The recipients' projects are titled: "Bioresorbable Materials for Use in Cardiac Implants," "Does Ownership Matter in the Selection of Nursing Homes?" "Evidence from Consumer Surveys, Effects of Task Variability and Handoffs on Patient Outcomes in a Heart Attack Treatment Program," "Genetic Influence on Economic Preferences, Behavior in Simple Strategic Games" (ultimatum and trust) and Differential Genetic Performance Across Auction Types."

Awarded through a competitive review process, the grants are designed to provide opportunities to foster a collaborative community of faculty researchers from across the University. Grants were available to inter-collegiate research teams that include at least one Carlson School faculty member and one faculty member from another University of Minnesota unit. Proposed research also requires the endorsement of a local or national firm with revenue from the medical industry. Investigators, or faculty members preparing the proposals, were asked to address the market impact of successful exploration specifically by answering the question, "why care?" if posed by the collaborating firm.

The presentation is free and open to the University of Minnesota, the local research community and the public. For more information about attending the event, contact Jessica Haupt at jahaupt@umn.edu. No RSVP is required.

Summer at Northrop: Free outdoor concerts begin June 11 at U of M

Official launch of series to take place June 15

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June 10, 2009

The University of Minnesota Summer Session and the Department of Concerts and Lectures present "Summer at Northrop" – 25 free, outdoor concerts located on the Northrop Auditorium plaza at the University of Minnesota from noon to 1 pm beginning Thursday, June 11. The series is open to the general public.

Spanning across the months of June and July, "Summer at Northrop" (celebrating its 55th anniversary this year) offers an eclectic variety of musical genres and cultures. The official launch of the summer concert series begins with New Primitives, an energetic reggae/Latino rock band on Monday, June 15. Complimentary Jimmy John's sandwich samples and ice cream treats from University Dining Services will be served while supplies last. Attendees can enter to win many prizes from the university and local organizations.

For more information, visit northrop.umn.edu or call 612-624-2345. Photos and video of the performances will be posted daily on the website.

Lunch is available for purchase at the University Dining Service's Northrop Grill starting June 15. The University of Minnesota Farmers Market, located on Church Street, starts July 8 running every Wednesday until October 7.

The complete 2009 summer lineup can be found online at <http://northrop.umn.edu/summer09.php>

New Hmong studies fellows at the University of Minnesota announced

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/11/2009) —The Program in Asian American Studies and the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Minnesota announced today the selection of the University of Minnesota's first Hmong Studies Postdoctoral Fellow and Graduate Fellow for 2009-2010.

Leena Her, currently a visiting assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, will be the Hmong Postdoctoral Fellow. An educational anthropologist, Her has a Ph.D. from Stanford University and was a Fulbright Scholar in Laos. Her research interests include comparative analyses of educational opportunities and disparities amongst Hmong youth in Laos and the United States.

Alisia Giac-Thao Tran, a Ph.D. candidate in psychology at the University of Minnesota, will be the Hmong Studies Graduate Fellow. Her research interests include minority mental health and parental racial/ethnic socialization amongst Asian American populations.

Funded by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to the University of Minnesota and the University of Wisconsin, Madison, the Hmong Studies Postdoctoral Fellow and Graduate Fellow will help the University of Minnesota contribute to its leading role as an intellectual center for Hmong Studies in the United States.

"The trail-blazing work that Professor Her and Alisia Tran are doing will help us revise our understandings of the Hmong in America," said Erika Lee, Director of the Asian American Studies Program at the U of M.

"Both their research and teaching will offer students and faculty the University of Minnesota a great many opportunities for stimulating course-work and research," said Ann Waltner, Director of the Institute for Advanced Study.

Hmong involvement in one of the Cold War's bloodiest conflicts resulted in thousands of Hmong people being forced to escape from their upland villages in order to take refuge in Thailand, where most became refugees who were resettled around the world in the late 1970s and 1980s. The exodus and resettlement of the Hmong in the "West" is a compelling story and one that can be studied from a variety of perspectives and disciplines, especially in the United States. In less than one generation, many Hmong have transformed from uneducated refugees into increasingly successful Asian Americans in the areas of their major settlement, in particular in the Central Valley of California and in the two Upper Midwestern states of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul urban area has emerged in the past decades as the intellectual and cultural center of the Hmong in America. In addition to the Hmong Cultural Center in St. Paul, a repository for Hmong resources, the Hmong American community of the Twin Cities has been at the forefront of education and communication within the diaspora, including the production of a Hmong American literature (represented by the influential Paj Ntaub Voice) and numerous internet sites.

Her will be teaching one undergraduate course in the spring of 2010 through the Asian American studies program, and both she and Alisia Tran will give a public presentation of their work during the next academic year.

For more information about the Hmong Studies Program contact Erika Lee, Director of the Asian American Studies Program, erikalee@umn.edu

Bruininks to ask Regents to make athletics venues "dry" as a result of new law

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/11/2009) —University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will recommend that the Board of Regents make TCF Bank Stadium, Williams Arena and Mariucci Arena alcohol-free during athletic events as a result of recent legislation enacted by the Minnesota legislature and signed by Gov. Tim Pawlenty. Bruininks will present his recommendation to the Board of Regents on Friday.

"From the beginning of this project, we planned to sell alcohol only in controlled-access, premium seating areas of the stadium, consistent with the practice of the vast majority of college campuses," said Bruininks. "This was the plan we shared publicly and with the legislature three years ago, and the plan that our business model was based upon. Unfortunately, this new legislation leaves us with only two options: to become the only Big Ten campus in the country to sell alcohol throughout its football stadium, or to not sell alcohol at all. Our values do not change, even if our plans must. We have never sold alcohol at student-oriented on campus events in the past, and I do not recommend we start now."

At Friday's Board of Regents meeting, Bruininks will present a resolution to make TCF Bank Stadium, Williams Arena and Mariucci Arena "dry" on game days. The board will review the item on Friday and is expected to take action at a meeting currently scheduled for June 24. The university plans to relinquish its liquor licenses to the state for those venues.

"There is no question this is not our preferred option," said Bruininks. "But it's the best choice for our students and our campus, and I trust that the Board of Regents will support it."

The university has not yet assessed the financial impact of the decision, but said it will definitely have some financial implications.

"While providing alcohol in controlled areas was part of our business plan, its absence does not diminish the excitement and pageantry of Big Ten football," Bruininks said. "We have great fans and strong supporters who have given so much to bring Gopher football back to campus, and we look forward with great anticipation to the opening of the new stadium in September."

U of M Regents elect Clyde Allen chair, Linda Cohen vice chair; approve Frank Cerra as Medical School dean

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/12/2009) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents, in their meeting today, elected Regents Clyde Allen chair and Linda Cohen vice chair. The new leadership assumes their role beginning July 1.

"This is a magnificent institution with stellar students, faculty and staff," said current board Chair Patricia Simmons. "It's been an honor for me to lead this board for two years and I look forward to working with chair-elect Allen and vice chair-elect Cohen as we face the critical challenges that lie ahead."

The board also approved President Robert Bruininks' appointment of Frank Cerra as both senior vice president for health sciences and dean of the Medical School. The new, combined position is a result of administrative restructuring announced earlier this year.

Bruininks also presented his proposed FY2010 operating budget, which takes into account the 7.4 percent biennial reduction in state funding as well as the potential for additional unallotment by Gov. Tim Pawlenty. The budget uses federal stimulus money to cap the in-state undergraduate tuition increase at \$300 - or 3.125 percent. Between federal stimulus dollars and a new middle-income scholarship, 60 percent of Minnesota students will actually see their tuition decrease under the proposed budget.

The board holds a public hearing on the proposed budget on June 17 and is slated to take action at a meeting on June 24.

Bruininks also asked the board to support a resolution to make TCF Bank Stadium, Williams and Mariucci Arenas "dry" during athletic events. As a result of recent legislation, the university was forced to choose between selling alcohol in all areas of these venues or not to sell it at all. No on-campus stadiums in the Big Ten sell alcohol in general seating areas, where a significant portion of the fans are students. The board is expected to act on the resolution at its June 24 meeting.

"We have an obligation to put the safety of our students and fans first," said Simmons. "I support President Bruininks' recommendation and think this is the principled, responsible way for the University of Minnesota to go."

In other action:

- * The board approved a resolution for the scoping decision document related to the environmental impact statement for sand and gravel mining at the university's UMore Park property in Dakota County;
- * Approved the acquisition of 1.39 acres of land near the East Bank campus for an expansion of the Center for Magnetic Resonance Research;
- * Approved a resolution authorizing the issuance of debt as part of the TCF Bank Stadium project.

Upcoming board meetings include:

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

11:30 a.m., Public forum on the president's recommended operating budget for FY2010, boardroom.

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

10 a.m., Special meeting to act on the president's recommended operating budget for FY2010, boardroom.

More information on the Board of Regents and live streaming of the board meetings can be found at www.umn.edu/regents.

Unilever's chief financial officer to present at U's Carlson School

Who: Jim Lawrence, chief financial officer of Unilever, will speak about the "New Unilever"

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

When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 7, 2009

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

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

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

June 16, 2009

Jim Lawrence, chief financial officer of Unilever will speak at the Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 7, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

During the presentation on the "New Unilever," Lawrence will discuss the transformation of Unilever over the past four years, the ways in which Unilever is now changing under chief executive officer Paul Polman and why Unilever is well placed to emerge from the economic downturn even stronger than before.

Prior to joining Unilever in September of 2007, Lawrence worked at General Mills where he was executive vice president and chief financial officer. Previously, he held positions as executive vice president of Northwest Airlines and president and chief executive officer of Pepsi-Cola Asia, Middle East and Africa.

Lawrence has served on a variety of boards at the University of Minnesota, including The Board of Overseers of The Carlson School of Management and The University of Minnesota Foundation Investment Advisors.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from Yale University, and an MBA with distinction from Harvard Business School.

The advance registration deadline for the First Tuesday luncheon is Thursday, July 2. 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, July 3. There are three ways to register: call 612-626-9634, visit carlsonschool.umn.edu/events or e-mail firsttuesday@umn.edu.

University of Minnesota-led study finds that hunters are depleting lion and cougar populations in Africa and United States

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/17/2009) —Sport hunters are depleting lion and cougar populations as managers respond to demands to control predators that threaten livestock and humans, according to a study published in the June 17 issue of PLoS (Public Library of Science). The study was led by Craig Packer, a University of Minnesota professor and renowned authority on lion behavior, who worked with an international team of conservationists.

The study looked at numbers of lions and cougars killed by hunters over the past 15 to 25 years in Africa and the western United States. The analysis suggested that management agencies often adjusted quotas to control rather than conserve the big cats in areas where humans or livestock were threatened. To read the study, see

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0005941>

Sport hunting takes a significant toll on these large feline species because replacement males routinely kill their predecessors' cubs to improve their mating opportunities. (Killing cubs forces female lions into estrus or "heat.") The team of scientists confirmed this effect by comparing the impact of hunting on populations of lions, cougars and leopards with its impact on black bear populations because male black bears do not routinely kill infants of other males.

Lion and cougar populations have suffered the greatest decline in African countries and U.S. states where sport hunting has been most intense over the past 25 years, the researchers found. Leopards were not as affected as lions and cougars, most likely because they benefited from reduced numbers of lions. Black bears, by contrast, appear to be thriving despite the thousands of bears killed by hunters.

The study results point to the need for new approaches to protect humans and livestock and to manage sport hunting without endangering these vulnerable species. One possibility would be to restrict sport hunting to older males whose offspring have matured.

"We need to develop scientifically-based strategies that benefit hunters, livestock owners and conservationists," Packer says. "It's important to educate the public about the risks these large predators pose to rural communities and to help hunters and wildlife managers develop methods to sustain healthy populations."

"Packer's colleagues included co-authors Luke Hunter, Executive Director of Panthera and Kristin Nowell from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission (IUCN/SSC) Cat Specialist Group, as well as Dave Garshelis, Chair of the IUCN/SSC Bear Specialist Group."

Innovative production at the Guthrie Theater draws on expertise from U of M Alzheimer's researchers

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/22/2009) —The latest production from Live Action Set, a Twin Cities-based performance company, tackles the weighty topic of Alzheimer's disease in a unique manner. Its tragic comedy, "My Father's Bookshelf," which opened at the Guthrie Theater June 18 and runs through June 28, examines the life of a man suffering from Alzheimer's and the collective response to the disease from his family and society.

But "My Father's Bookshelf" goes beyond strictly artistic interpretation. The company worked with the local Alzheimer's community, including researchers from the University of Minnesota, to develop a performance piece that educates as much as it entertains.

As Galen Treuer, co-director of "My Father's Bookshelf" and a founding member of Live Action Set was diving into his research on the topic, he contacted researchers at the university, who have been pioneers in research on the disease that affects approximately 5 million Americans. Treuer spoke with U neurologist Karen Ashe, winner of a Potamkin Prize in 2006 (often called the "Nobel Prize in neurology") for research in Alzheimer's from the American Academy of Neurology, as well as neurologist Kathy Zahs.

Research for "My Father's Bookshelf" was conducted with many care providers, scientists and family members across Minnesota including Adine Stokes of the Wayne Caron Family Caregiving Center, part of the U of M's department of family social science.

"They were really open, and we learned a lot of information from them," including how to treat the disease on a family level, Treuer said. "That was extremely helpful."

"My Father's Bookshelf" follows the reality of an affable man (played by Theatre de la Jeune Lune co-founder Bob Rosen) who negotiates life with the disease. "It's primarily from his perspective—from what we're imagining he would see," Treuer says.

The set is centered around 10 moving refrigerators, which are both literal—the kitchen is a central part of the family, Treuer notes—and a vehicle into the imagination. "It allows us to move around abstractly, but we're using really concrete, recognizable objects," he said.

"This show isn't just about Alzheimer's; it's about aging," said Treuer. And "Alzheimer's is really acute aging.... It's also something that a lot of people deal with."

To help audience members address their own thoughts and emotions about the topic, discussions will be offered after most of the performances with the actors and/or members of the Alzheimer's community. Visit the Guthrie Theater site to learn more about the post-show discussions:

http://www.guthrietheater.org/learn/community_programs/pre_and_post_play_discussions

"My Father's Bookshelf" runs from June 18 to 28 at the Guthrie's Dowling Studio. Tickets prices range from \$18 to \$34. For more information, visit the Guthrie Theater online at:

<http://www.guthrietheater.org>

U of M Board of Regents approve FY2010 budget, alcohol ban in athletics venues

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/24/2009) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents approved President Robert Bruininks' proposed budget for fiscal year 2010 today, calling it "lean, focused and mindful of the economic times in which we live."

"Although these were challenging budget decisions to make considering the significant state budget cuts with which we're faced, I'm confident this is a responsible, creative and focused approach to addressing them," said board Chair Patricia Simmons. "In particular, I'm pleased we've been able to hold down tuition for Minnesota undergraduates in these tough times. No one enjoys spending cuts, but this budget approaches them in a prudent, human manner."

The budget will result in a maximum tuition increase for resident undergraduates of \$300 for next school year -- or 3.125 percent -- thanks to federal stimulus dollars and spending reductions. In addition, the creation of a new middle-income scholarship program will result in 60 percent of resident undergraduates actually seeing a tuition reduction. Tuition for graduate, first professional and non-resident undergraduates will increase approximately 7.5 percent under the budget.

The \$2.98 billion budget takes into account a \$81.8 million reduction in state appropriation to the U of M for the fiscal year and makes more than \$90 million in budget reductions and reallocations. Bruininks said it will result in a reduced workforce at the U, with 1,240 fewer jobs, most eliminated through attrition and an early retirement incentive. About 370 are layoffs, most of which have already occurred.

On a separate issue, the board also approved, on a 10-2 vote, Bruininks' recommendation to make TCF Bank Stadium, Williams and Mariucci Arenas all alcohol-free on game days. Legislation passed this year and signed by Gov. Tim Pawlenty required the university to either sell alcohol nowhere in those facilities or everywhere, including general seating areas, where students make up 20 percent of the fans.

"This is not a decision we should have had to make and this legislation was truly unfortunate," said Simmons. "But we were not willing to be the only on-campus football stadium in the Big Ten to sell alcohol throughout the stadium. We're confident our fans will stand with us and will do everything in our power to ensure that TCF Bank Stadium is the best fan experience possible."

Three new Regents Professors named by University of Minnesota

Media Note: Photos available at

http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/photos/09_regents_profs.html

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/25/2009) —Three 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 Bruce Blazar, chief, University of Minnesota Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplantation (BMT) Program, Thomas Johnson, professor of Geological Sciences and Lawrence Que, Jr., Distinguished Professor of Chemistry.

“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 29.

“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 Blazar, Johnson and Que, Jr. 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:

Bruce Blazar (University of Minnesota Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplantation Program)

Blazar is considered to be one of the foremost translational physician-scientists in the world. He is the chief of the University of Minnesota Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplantation (BMT) Program, director of the U's Center for Translational Medicine and assistant vice president, Clinical and Translational Science Programs. Blazar also holds the Andersen Chair in Transplantation Immunology. His career at the University spans more than 30 years, where he has held a variety of leadership roles and mentored 47 trainees and junior faculty in his labs. He has a long track record as both a prolific and highly cited research scientist, having published more than 400 articles, with more than 1800 citations in 2009 alone. Blazar was also instrumental in garnering the \$40 million gift from the Schulze Family Foundation to establish the Schulze Diabetes Institute.

Thomas Johnson (Geological Sciences, University of Minnesota Duluth)

Johnson is a professor of geological sciences and founding director of the Large Lake Observatory, University of Minnesota Duluth. He is considered to be the world's leading scientist studying the evolution of large lakes today. In 1981, he left the Twin Cities campus to accept the position of associate professor of geology and director of limnology at the University of Minnesota Duluth. During this time, he co-founded the International Decade of East African Lakes (IDEAL), a project with results that brought great benefit to the field of paleolimnology, including significant advances in drilling/coring technology, education and training of U.S. and African scientists and students, as well as a better understanding of the physical dynamics, biogeochemistry and paleoclimate history of East African lakes. He is credited with over 100 publications, many of which are found in some of the highest standard journals in his field. In addition to the many students and postdoctoral researchers that he has educated, and the junior faculty he has mentored, he has also directly supervised or advised at least five students from Kenya who obtained their doctoral degrees through IDEAL initiatives and numerous other students who went on to obtain their masters degree.

Lawrence Que, Jr (Institute of Technology)

Que, Jr. is a 3M/Alumni Distinguished Professor of Chemistry in the Institute of Technology. He is considered to be an internationally acclaimed scholar who has made a tremendous impact in the field of bioinorganic chemistry. Que has played a pioneering role in understanding the function that nonheme iron centers play in dioxygen activation in biology. Under his guidance, 33 students received their doctoral degrees and 10 students received their master's degree. In addition, he has served as a research advisor to 66 postdoctoral students. Twenty-two former members of this group hold positions at industrial institutions as research scientists and 50 have tenure-track or tenured positions in colleges or universities. He is credited with establishing the University of Minnesota as a world-renowned center of excellence in bioinorganic chemistry and also led the effort to establish the U's Center for Metals in Biocatalysis, which comprises faculty and students from multiple departments who share interests in exploring the roles of metals in biology. He is the author of over 400 publications, presented 290 invited lectures, including 22 plenary, keynotes or endowed lectureships.

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.

U Law School new home for The Labor Lawyer

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/25/2009) —The University of Minnesota Law School will be the new home for The Labor Lawyer which commences editorship in summer 2009 with the journal's 25th volume. Professors Laura Cooper and Stephen Befort are the journal's new co-editors and will edit collaboratively with a team of students led by editor-in-chief Jack Sullivan. The six-member student editorial board is already at work selecting eight second-year students who will serve as staff members.

The Labor Lawyer is a publication of the American Bar Association's Section of Labor and Employment Law, which selected Cooper and Befort to head the editorial staff following a national competition. The journal's mission is to meet the practical needs of attorneys, judges and administrators working in labor and employment law by providing balanced discussions of developments in the field and the broader policy issues that underlie these developments.

The Labor Lawyer has been published since 1985. The more than 27,000 members of the ABA Section of Labor and Employment Law are automatic subscribers; nonmembers may also subscribe. It features direct and informal articles written largely by professors and practicing attorneys. Beginning with the move to Minnesota, the journal will, for the first time, also publish notes by student staff members.

Formerly, The Labor Lawyer was housed at Syracuse University College of Law and directed by Robert Rabin, who continues to teach labor and employment law at Syracuse and serves as a labor arbitrator, mediator and fact-finder.

U of M to host 20 North African students this summer for U.S. State Department leadership program

Study of the U.S. Institute (SUSI) for Student Leaders program to help students gain understanding of the United States

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/25/2009) —The University of Minnesota will host a Study of the U.S. Institute (SUSI) academic exchange program for future student leaders from North Africa as part of a broader U.S. State Department program designed to promote a better understanding of the U.S. abroad and to help develop future world leaders. The program, organized by the U of M's International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), includes the study of U.S. history, government, institutions, economy, society and culture.

The 20 student participants (hailing from Tunisia, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco and Libya) will also have the opportunity to experience Minnesota hospitality and many recreational and cultural opportunities both within the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota. The institute is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and is administered by the Academy for Educational Development (AED).

The program is one of six institutes taking place concurrently across the country this fall. The approximately 120 participating student leaders arrive in the United States in late June to take part in a five-week program at select institutions. The program then culminates in a conference in Washington, D.C. where the students make presentations highlighting their learning and experiences.

The State Department is supplying the grant under the Fulbright-Hays Act with the purpose "to foster mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries." Other participating institutions include Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville; University of Alabama, Huntsville; Nazareth College and Green River Community College.

Some highlights of the University of Minnesota program will include personal leadership training, tours of the State Capitol and meetings with state representatives, Regional Action Project training by Wellstone Action, a trip to the North Shore and Iron Range and service learning projects with local charity and non-profit groups.

In addition to the North Africa SUSI program, ISSS is also hosting two other custom programs this summer – a U.S. Department of State-sponsored program for 12 undergraduates from Norway focusing on the environment, and a professional development program for 20 South Korean teachers plus one supervisor. The teachers will be participating in a variety of professional activities designed to improve teaching of English and understanding of different cultures. These custom-designed programs allow the university to offer intercultural opportunities that fit the participants' needs, both in length and content.

More information is available through the ISSS office, which can be reached at 612-626-7100 or by visiting <http://www.issss.umn.edu>

The Study of the U.S. Institute (SUSI) for Student Leaders is designed by the Study of the U.S. Branch in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) to promote a better understanding of the U.S. abroad and to help develop future world leaders. Institute participants are among the more than 40,000 academic and professional exchange program participants overseen annually by ECA. Other ECA programs include the Fulbright Program and the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program. For more information about ECA programs, visit <http://exchanges.state.gov>

Environmental cues control reproductive timing and longevity, University of Minnesota study shows

Study has important implications for improving human health and lengthening lifespan

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/25/2009) —When humans and animals delay reproduction because food or other resources are scarce, they may live longer to increase the impact of reproduction, according to a new study by University of Minnesota researchers published in the June 25 issue of PLoS (Public Library of Science) One.

The discovery, which explains why starvation can lead to longer life, has important implications for improving human health and lengthening lifespan.

The basic premise is that individuals use environmental cues to predict population declines, causing them to delay reproduction until the decline has occurred, when each offspring will make a bigger contribution to the gene pool. Conversely, if bad times turn to good times and the population is on the verge of a boom, reproducing sooner rather than later will help their genes thrive.

“If the population is decreasing, future kids make a bigger splash in the gene pool than current kids,” explains Will Ratcliff, a College of Biological Sciences graduate student who came up with the idea for the study. “So, if there are tradeoffs between current and future reproduction, delaying reproduction can be a good idea, even if it reduces the number of kids you have during your lifetime.”

Fluctuations in testosterone levels provide an example of how the environment and organisms interact to guide reproduction, explains R. Ford Denison, adjunct professor in the College of Biological Sciences and Ratcliff’s adviser. Testosterone suppresses the immune system. So when environmental conditions trigger high levels, reproduction is high but longevity drops.

Environmental factors also control the age of menarche. In African countries with chronic food shortages, girls experience menarche (first menstrual period) much later than in the United States, where rich diets trigger early menarche. Food scarcity is a signal that population is likely to decline, so reproduction is delayed, while an abundance of rich food signals an increase, causing reproductive age to drop.

“Our hypothesis may explain hormesis, the mysterious health benefits of low doses of toxins – including those that plants like broccoli make to defend themselves from insects,” says Denison. “When their usual foods are scarce, organisms turn to plants containing chemicals that can suppress reproduction and consequently increase longevity. These toxins may be abundant in ‘famine foods’ that are eaten only when meat and fruit are not available” Denison said.

Graduate student Peter Hawthorne and professor Michael Travisano also co-authored the paper. All four co-authors are in the College of Biological Sciences’ department of ecology, evolution and behavior.



Road construction to close section of University Avenue at the University of Minnesota this weekend

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/25/2009) —In order to complete final work associated with the Metropolitan Council's infrastructure project, ALL lanes of University Avenue near the intersection of University Avenue and Oak Street Southeast at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis will be closed from 7 p.m. Friday, June 26 through 5 a.m. Monday, June 29.

Detour signs will direct traffic north onto Seventeenth Avenue Southeast, east onto Fifth Street Southeast, and south onto 23rd Avenue Southeast. Additional signs will be posted indicating that access remains open to the McNamara Alumni Center and the University Avenue Parking Ramp.

For more information about transportation at the U, go to the U of M Parking and Transportation Services Web site at <http://www1.umn.edu/pts/index.htm>

University of Minnesota experts reveal top 100 rural traffic safety "Hot Zones"

Online map identifies rural areas with most driving fatalities in time for July 4th travel

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/30/2009) —Rural transportation safety experts at the University of Minnesota today launched a new national service to help drivers identify the most dangerous portions of upcoming trips, including trips that will be made this Independence Day, which is often the most dangerous travel day of the year.

SafeRoadMaps.org is a service that immediately identifies the location of crashes through an online, searchable map. The service was launched last summer by the University of Minnesota's Center for Excellence in Rural Safety (CERS), but starting today it will flag the nation's Top 100 "Hot Zones," the rural areas that have experienced the most fatalities over the past five years. The hot zones are presented in a visually arresting Google Map-based format, where viewers can zoom from a national map showing all 100 zones, down to a photo of each individual section of the road.

The newest version of SafeRoadMaps.org offers several other enhancements over the original version released in 2008. SafeRoadMaps now allows anyone visiting www.saferoadmaps.org to enter a zip code, municipality name or street address and immediately see a map or satellite image all of the road fatalities that have occurred in the chosen area over the past five years. Details about each crash are also available, such as whether the driver was wearing a seatbelt, drinking or speeding. The tool also notes which life-saving public policies, such as strong seat belt laws, are being employed in the chosen area.

CERS was created in 2005 through the leadership of Minnesota Congressman Jim Oberstar, chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Oberstar has encouraged CERS to make rural safety more visual, localized and personal to the nation's drivers and leaders.

While U.S. Census figures show that about one out of five (21 percent) Americans live in rural areas, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has found that about six out of 10 (57 percent) highway deaths occur on roads that it considers rural.

"Whether you're a driver, policymaker or a road engineer, this is an eye opener," said Oberstar. "Crash data used to be stored in huge dusty stacks of paper in Washington, D.C. We've made sure the information is instantly available on millions of screens, and it is available in a dramatically visual and customized format. This is as important to better highway safety as the interstate map was to achieving national mobility."

The Safety Advisory Zones include 100 from rural areas. While 29 states have rural areas in the Top 100, the ten states with the most "hot zones" are Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia (in alphabetical order). A searchable map showing all of the hot zones is available at www.saferoadmaps.org.

"Drivers often think of rural safety as an issue only for the least populous states," said Tom Horan, CERS Research Director. "But this analysis shows that drivers need to be extra alert in rural regions of the more populous states as well."

The SafeRoadMaps.org tool is being used in a variety of ways to educate the public about road fatalities. For instance, driver's education leaders have advocated use of the tool as a means to teach new drivers the importance of following the rules of the road. Drivers are exploring their most common routes and being educated about the need to take sensible precautions. Finally, road safety officials are using the tool to better pinpoint where policy, structural and traffic management adjustments are most needed.

"SafeRoadMaps is not about casting blame," said Lee Munnich, CERS Director. "This is about making sure drivers are informed and safe, and policymakers have a user friendly tool to guide their safety related decisions."

In addition to rural hot zones, SafeRoadMaps now also identifies urban hot zones. Eighteen states have urban areas in the Top 100. The 10 states with the most "hot zones" are Arizona, California, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Texas. These urban zones are also viewable on www.saferoadmaps.org.

The Center for Excellence in Rural Safety provides citizen-centered research, training, and outreach to enhance rural safety and to meet the needs of rural transportation practitioners and policymakers. It operates as a joint venture of the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and Center for Transportation Studies.

University of Minnesota Board of Regents to meet this week

When: Wednesday, July 8, 2009

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

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

July 6, 2009

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold its monthly meeting this week on the Twin Cities campus. This will be the first meeting in which newly-elected Chair Clyde Allen and Vice Chair Linda Cohen will preside.

Highlights of the meeting include:

Wednesday, July 8

8:30 - 9:15 a.m., Audit Committee, East Committee Room.

10 - 11:00 a.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, West Committee Room.

The committee will act on a revision to the Board of Regents policy on diversity, equal employment opportunity and affirmative action. A collective bargaining agreement with Teamsters Local 320 will also be reviewed and acted upon.

10 - 11:00 a.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room.

University chief financial officer Richard Pfutzenreuter will brief the committee on strategic purchasing opportunities, reforms and other cost saving measures.

11:15 - 11:45 a.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, East Committee Room.

Committee members will hear an update on the university's initiatives in PreK-12 college readiness programs. Among the presenters will be senior vice president for System Academic Administration Robert Jones.

11:15 - 11:45 a.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room

The committee will review and act upon the schematic plans for phase two of the NOvA project, a large, state of the art physics detector in Ash River, Minn. Phase two consists of building the housing for the detection equipment and all necessary support infrastructure.

2 - 2:45 p.m., Board of Regents Work Session, Boardroom.

University General Counsel Mark Rotenberg will lead a discussion on NCAA compliance rules with particular attention focused on those applicable to members of the Board of Regents.

Immediately following the work session, Board of Regents Meeting, Boardroom.

President Robert Bruininks and senior vice president for health sciences Frank Cerra will present a resolution to better integrate the Academic Health Center's clinical practice with its partners in the Fairview Health System and University of Minnesota Physicians.

Thursday, July 9 and Friday, July 10

Board of Regents retreat, Gainey Conference Center, Owatonna, Minn.

More information on the Board of Regents meeting can be found at www.umn.edu/regents The meeting will be webcast on that site.

U of M water expert Deborah Swackhamer elected president of D.C.-based National Institute of Water Resources

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/07/2009) —Deborah Swackhamer, co-director of the University of Minnesota's Water Resources Center has been named president elect of the National Institutes of Water Resources (NIWR) based in Washington D.C. Swackhamer will assume the one-year appointment Oct. 1 in addition to her regular university duties.

A professor of environmental chemistry in the university's School of Public Health, Swackhamer also holds the Charles M. Denny, Jr. Chair of Science, Technology and Public Policy at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. She is internationally known for her research and leadership on persistent organic compounds including PCBs, dioxins and pesticides in the Great Lakes and the exposure of endocrine disruptors and human-induced hormones in lakes and watersheds.

As president of NIWR, Swackhamer will oversee the network of 54 water resources centers located in land grant institutions across the country, as well as the agency's efforts to coordinate and promote the training and research activities of water quality professionals and researchers in the United States and around the world.

"Each of the country's water resources centers are critical to getting federal funds into the hands of the best and the brightest university-based researchers -- those researchers developing cutting edge monitoring, restoration and prevention methods that dramatically improve the country's water supply," says Swackhamer. "NIWR is the link between the individual state needs and federal water priorities."

In her role as the university's Water Resources Center (WRC), Swackhamer manages the research and educational programs within the center and oversees the program that provides funding to researchers studying water resource problems in Minnesota and the Midwest.

The WRC leverages the federal investment into a \$4 million annual budget, which is put to work to improve the water quality of Minnesota's lake, streams, rivers and groundwater. The WRC was ranked among the top five water institutes in the country in its last national review.

WRC is affiliated with the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and University of Minnesota Extension and is located in McNeal Hall on the university's St. Paul campus. For more information, visit wrc.umn.edu

University of Minnesota releases study of "value capture" for transportation finance

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/07/2009) —The University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) has released its research report on the use of value capture for financing transportation projects, which was requested by the Minnesota Legislature. Value capture is a type of infrastructure financing in which increases in private land values generated by public investment are in part "captured" through a variety of approaches to help pay for infrastructure projects. The full report can be found at <http://www.cts.umn.edu/research/ValueCapture>

Large public investments in state transportation infrastructure—such as new freeway interchanges, highways or transit stations—can increase the value of surrounding private land, sometimes substantially. Capturing the value of this benefit through various tools is gaining interest as a finance mechanism for infrastructure investments, particularly with a growing concern about the adequacy and effectiveness of the current system of transportation funding in the United States.

CTS was commissioned by the state legislature in 2008 to conduct this first-of-its-kind research to look at value capture as a potential finance mechanism for future infrastructure investments in Minnesota.

"The need for this study grew out of the transportation funding debate in the 2008 legislative session," said Robert Johns, Director of the Center for Transportation Studies. "Legislators and interest groups felt new methods needed to be investigated for financing our transportation system and asked CTS to study how value capture policies might be implemented in Minnesota."

The study identified eight policies that can be classified as value-capture strategies: land value tax, tax increment financing, special assessments, transportation utility fees, development impact fees, negotiated exactions, joint development and air rights. Some value-capture strategies target property owners, while others target developers. The strategies differ in how, when and where they may be applied. They also give different outcomes, which can be assessed along four criteria: economic efficiency, equity, sustainability and feasibility.

Important legal considerations for units of government wishing to apply some or all of these policies were also considered. Statutory adjustments in Minnesota law would be needed to allow for implementation of several of the policies.

"The project provides new financing methods that are not currently considered or are not available under current Minnesota state statutes," said David Levinson, the R.P. Braun/CTS Chair in Transportation Engineering at the University of Minnesota and one of the lead investigators of the study.

CTS will offer a series of educational workshops for elected officials and policymakers during the summer and fall of 2009 to explain the study results.

U Law School and Just the Beginning Foundation introduce Minnesota youth to legal profession

Seven-day program consists of classroom lectures, lessons in basic legal research and field trips to area law firms, government offices and state and federal courthouses.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/08/2009) —The University of Minnesota Law School and Just the Beginning Foundation (JTBF) are hosting a reception for the first Twin Cities Summer Legal Institute from 4:30-6 p.m Thursday, July 9 at the Law School's Auerbach Commons, 229 19th Ave. S, Minneapolis.

The Summer Legal Institute is part of JTBF's Pipeline Programming, intended to support diverse young students in pursuing higher education and to help lay the foundation for success in school and beyond. It introduces 28 Minnesota high-school students, JTBF Scholars, to the legal profession and its opportunities.

The seven-day program consists of classroom lectures, lessons in basic legal research and writing, panel discussions by judges and attorneys and field trips to area law firms, government offices and state and federal courthouses. In addition, students gain experience in oral advocacy through mock trials.

At the end of the Summer Legal Institute program, parents attend a closing ceremony recognizing their children's accomplishments. JTBF Scholars take away experiences that are helpful and applicable in any college curriculum as well as skills, resources and the confidence to pursue a career in law.

The sponsors of program include Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Faegre & Benson LLP, Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi LLP, Schiff Hardin LLP, UnitedHealth Group, General Mills, Thrivent Financial, Perkins Coie LLP and the Council on Legal Educational Opportunities.

JTBF was inspired by a celebration honoring Judge James Parsons, the first African-American U.S. District Court Judge, on his retirement. It was founded in 1992 in Chicago as a multiracial nonprofit organization of judges, lawyers and citizens to preserve the rich experiences of judges and lawyers of color. Its focus evolved to emphasize programs that open opportunities for young persons from diverse backgrounds. At the Law School, JTBF offers students resources and assistance in career choices as well as an externship and clerkship program.

The Summer Legal Institute is being hosting for the first time in 2009 in the Twin Cities; Seattle; Jackson, Miss.; and Washington, D.C.

Panoramic tribute to U.S. National Parks "America's Best Idea" opens Aug. 8 at U of M Bell Museum

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/13/2009) —Democratic in design, the U.S. National Park System is quintessentially American and a radical departure from Old World notions that kept large tracts of wild land off limits to common folk. Pulitzer Prize-winning American writer Wallace Stegner boldly called the system “the best idea America ever had” – a phrase that inspired the University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History’s, “America’s Best Idea: A Photographic Journey Through Our National Parks” opening Saturday, Aug. 8.

The exhibit features stunning color panoramic prints of America’s national parks taken by famed landscape photographer Stan Jorstad. One of only a handful of professional photographers who’ve photographed all of the country’s national parks, Jostad captures the stirring landscapes of the Grand Canyon, Denali and Yellowstone, as well as the quieter beauty of the Badlands, the Everglades and Isle Royale.

In addition to the photographs, the exhibit will feature park-specific plant specimens from the museum’s herbarium collected by University of Minnesota scientists whose work has taken them to the featured locales. The exhibit also tells the story of our national parks – many of which were first protected under federal designations like “national monument” or “federal reserve” often due to their perceived health benefits. The system – the first of its kind in the world – inspired the creation of the United Nations’ biosphere reserves and the world heritage sites. And while the National Park Service manages nearly 400 sites across the country and U.S. territories, only 58 hold the designation, “National Park,” offering them the highest level of protection of any federally-managed lands.

The exhibit is presented in cooperation with the National Park Service’s St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, which organized the exhibit that is on display through Sunday, Oct. 4. 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. in Minneapolis. Call (612) 624-7083 for general directions and hours; visit www.bellmuseum.org for a complete list of events.

Online, interactive exhibit illustrates the history of U of M's Memorial Stadium

Public is encouraged to visit site and add their own Memorial Stadium memories

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/15/2009) —In less than two months, the sights and sounds of on-campus football will return to the University of Minnesota with the opening of TCF Bank Stadium. While a stadium in the heart of campus will be a new experience for some fans, many others recall the rich history of Memorial Stadium, the home of Golden Gopher football for 57 years. Gopher fans can now relive many of these memories through an interactive digital archive “Memorial Stadium 1924-1992.” It can be viewed by going to <http://brickhouse.lib.umn.edu>.

To watch a video highlighting the exhibit go to http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/memorial_stadium.htm

Developed by the University Libraries, “Memorial Stadium 1924-1992 ” features historical photos, game footage, programs, correspondence, reports and blueprints from the University Archives. The collections were scanned by the Libraries’ Digital Library Development Lab and uploaded into Omeka, a free, open source, interactive Web-based publishing platform that allows visitors to the site to share their own recollections of Memorial Stadium.

“Watching enthusiasm grow as TCF Bank Stadium came to life these past three years inspired University Libraries staff to explore how the rich archival resources and the digital technology expertise of the Libraries could be channeled to capture, share and honor the history of Memorial Stadium from an institutional perspective,” said university archivist Beth Kaplan. “From the start we knew we wanted to capture personal perspectives as well. It’s our hope that visitors to the site will be inspired to share their own stories, photos, even audio or video clips to transform this into a dynamic and living archive.”

Built in 1924 to pay tribute to the men and women of Minnesota lost in World War I, Memorial Stadium stood for nearly 70 years, hosting not only Gopher football but also track and field, the marching band, cheerleaders, commencement, research experiments and even a production of the opera “Aida.” The Golden Gophers had a stellar record in Memorial Stadium, including six national championships and 12 unbeaten seasons at home.

Among the many features of the exhibit include live game footage of 28 Golden Gopher football games -- highlighted by a 1953 “Game of the Week” television broadcast in which All-American Paul Giel leads the Gophers over Michigan and sets a Big Ten record by handling the ball 53 times on offense. It also includes full-length programs from numerous Gopher football games and letters from community and university leaders debating a move to the newly built Metrodome.

In conjunction with the online exhibit, selected materials will be installed and available for viewing from July 20 through September 26 in the Andersen Atrium Gallery of the U’s Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis. For directions and exhibit hours go to <http://special.lib.umn.edu/hoursdir.phtml>

Eleven leading national experts reach consensus on beneficial biofuels

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/16/2009) —"Done right," biofuels can be produced in large quantities and have multiple benefits, but only if they come from feedstocks produced with low life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions, as well as minimal competition with food production. This consensus emerges in a new journal article by researchers from the University of Minnesota, Princeton, MIT and the University of California, Berkeley.

"The world needs to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy, but recent findings have thrown the emerging biofuels industry into a quandary. We met to seek solutions," said the U of M's David Tilman, a noted ecologist and lead author of the paper. "We found that the next generation of biofuels can be highly beneficial if produced properly."

The article, "Beneficial Biofuels—The Food, Energy and Environment Trilemma," will appear in the July 17 issue of *Science*. Tilman, a resident fellow of the U of M's Institute on the Environment, said the paper resulted from a year of conversations and debate among some of the nation's leading biofuel experts.

In addition to Tilman, the article contributors include the U of M's Jonathan Foley and Jason Hill; Princeton's Robert Socolow, Eric Larson, Stephen Pacala, Tim Searchinger and Robert Williams; Dartmouth's Lee Lynd; MIT's John Reilly; and the University of California, Berkeley's Chris Somerville.

The paper coincides with climate change policy debates in Congress, and tackles land use issues that have generated much controversy in recent years: Specifically, the greenhouse gases released when land is cleared to grow biofuel crops (or when other lands are cleared to compensate for food crops displaced by biofuel crops) can—for decades to centuries—exceed those from petroleum use.

"It's essential that legislation take the best science into account, even when that requires acknowledging and undoing earlier mistakes," said Princeton's Socolow, co-director of the Carbon Mitigation Initiative.

"Careful scientific reasoning revealed accounting rules that separate promising from self-defeating strategies," added Socolow. "Future carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere will tell us when we're kidding ourselves about what actually works. For carbon management, the atmosphere is the ultimate accountant."

To balance biofuel production, food security and emissions reduction, the authors conclude that the global biofuels industry must focus on five major sources of renewable biomass:

- Perennial plants grown on degraded lands abandoned from agricultural use
- Crop residues
- Sustainably harvested wood and forest residues
- Double crops and mixed cropping systems
- Municipal and industrial wastes

These sources can provide considerable amounts of biomass, at least 500 million tons per year in the United States alone, without incurring any significant land use carbon dioxide releases.

"We need to transition away from using food for biofuels toward more sustainable feedstocks that can be produced with much less impact on the environment," said the U of M's Hill, a resident fellow of the Institute on the Environment.

The U of M's Foley, director of the Institute on the Environment, said the consensus reached in this article is remarkable. "Technology experts, energy systems analysts, climatologists, ecologists and policy experts all agreed: Biofuels 'done right' have a bright future in solving our energy and environmental challenges. Both new and existing biofuel strategies have the potential for being among the green energy solutions we need today."

Wolf expert David Mech to give personal tour of Bell Museum's "Wolves and Wild Lands in the 21st Century" exhibit Wednesday

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July 17, 2009

David Mech, an internationally recognized wolf researcher, will give a personal tour of the "Wolves and Wild Lands in the 21st Century" exhibit at the University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, July 22. Developed by the International Wolf Center, the exhibit consists of six beautifully mounted canids – five wolves and one coyote – augmented by photographs of wolves and wild canines from the museum's wildlife art collection.

Mech will speak on the myths and misconceptions of sharing the planet with wolves, as well as the wolf's successful population rebound in Minnesota. Mech, however, warns about the effects of human population growth and development on wild lands. "If Minnesota follows the trend of residential and commercial development reaching into more pristine and rural areas, far more of our wild lands are going to be occupied by humans—which will inevitably make for more conflicts with wolves," he said.

The exhibit takes up Mech's point of disappearing wild lands and fragmented habitat and addresses the question: What can people do to make living with wolves easier? Mech's appointments include chair of the World Conservation Union's Wolf Specialist Group, vice president of the International Wolf Center's advisory board, senior research scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey and adjunct professor at the university's department of fisheries, wildlife and conservation biology.

The event is free with museum admission. The Bell Museum, located at 10 Church St. S.E. in Minneapolis, is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. For more information, visit www.bellmuseum.org.

Today's News: Friday, July 17, 2009

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New online video game from U of M gives high school students insight into engineering and transportation field



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July 17, 2009

A new traffic control online game developed by the University of Minnesota's Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Institute and Web Courseworks lets high school students try their hand at working in the engineering and transportation field.

"Gridlock Buster" is a traffic control game that incorporates tools and ideas that traffic control engineers use in their everyday work. Players must pass a series of levels while acquiring specific skills in exercising control and fixing situations in a simulated environment. To play "Gridlock Buster," go to <http://www.its.umn.edu/trafficcontrolgame>

For example, a player might need to manage a high volume of traffic passing through an intersection, where long lines form if vehicles don't get enough green-light time. The more drivers are delayed, the more frustrated they get – causing the game's "frustration meter" to rise. Sound effects and animation simulate cars honking and drivers' fists shaking to illustrate the realistic results of backed-up traffic queues.

The game is based on work by Chen-Fu Liao, the ITS Institute's education systems engineer and staff member in the U of M's Department of Civil Engineering. The goal is to provide a fun way to engage students in the traffic engineering field, teach what is involved in traffic grid management and make transportation interesting and relevant.

"Kids are really into games, especially online games. We think creating a game like Gridlock Buster is a great way to engage them and get them interested in engineering and transportation," said Max Donath, director of the ITS Institute and a professor in the U of M's Department of Mechanical Engineering. "The best way to learn is by playing."

On Monday, July 20 11th and 12th graders from around the Twin Cities area will partake in a demonstration of the game with ITS researchers from 1-3 p.m. in 24 Lind Hall, 207 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis. On Wednesday, July 22 from 8:45-9:30 a.m., eighth to 10th graders from Leech Lake Indian Reservation will partake in a similar demo (as part of the U of M's Summer Transportation Institute, funded by the Federal Highway Administration) in room 314 of the Mechanical Engineering Building, 111 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis.

The ITS Institute is federally funded through the Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) of the United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT).

University of Minnesota research leads to new technology to protect human health

New test kit detects melamine in infant formula and other food

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/20/2009) —Larry Wackett and Michael Sadowsky, members of the University of Minnesota's BioTechnology Institute, developed an enzyme that is used in Bioo Scientific's new MaxDiscovery™ Melamine Test kit, which simplifies the detection of melamine contamination in food. Melamine is an industrial chemical that killed six Chinese children and hospitalized 150,000 last year after it was added to milk to increase its apparent protein content. Some children may have life-long chronic kidney problems resulting from melamine exposure.

Development of the test responds to a call from the World Health Organization (WHO) for a simple, inexpensive method to detect melamine contamination in infant formula and other liquids. Until now, melamine testing required expensive laboratory equipment and skilled personnel. This kit simplifies the testing and reduces the cost of melamine detection. The MaxDiscovery Melamine Test kit can detect melamine in milk, powdered milk, cream, ice cream and chocolate drink. Bioo Scientific has plans to adapt it to detect melamine in seafood and meat.

Researchers at the BioTechnology Institute (BTI) developed the enzyme, melamine deaminase, used in the MaxDiscovery Melamine Test kit and the enzyme will be produced in the BTI Pilot Plant fermentation facilities. Melamine deaminase works by breaking one of the C-N bonds in melamine to release ammonia, which can be detected by a simple test that turns the liquid blue. Jennifer Seffernick, a research associate in Wackett's lab, discovered the enzyme while conducting research on biodegradation of s-triazine herbicides. It is one of many examples of how basic research can lead to new technologies that benefit society.

"Development of the melamine enzyme and the test kit is an example of how universities and industry can collaborate to foster basic science, education, and technology that benefits society," says Wackett, who is a Distinguished McKnight University Professor in the College of Biological Sciences. To see a video about this research, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BecnISJVD0Y>

"Larry Wackett's research has revealed the power of microbial enzymes to modify and destroy toxic substances in the environment," says Joe Krebs, director of Protein Chemistry and Engineering at Bioo Scientific. "Our new enzymatic detection method takes this work in a new direction to provide a better approach for the detection of melamine contamination in the global food supply."

Research to develop the enzyme for the melamine test was supported by the University's Biocatalysis Initiative.

"This is an example of how a small but strategic investment in scientific research can make a big difference," says Robert P. Elde, dean of the College of Biological Sciences and interim director of the Biotechnology Institute.

Melamine was originally used to make durable plastic for dishes and countertops. It is also a widely used additive to cement. But in recent years it has been misused as a food additive because it contains a large amount of nitrogen (a nutrient), is cheap, and is falsely recognized as protein by the most common chemical assay used to test for food protein. This has led to a practice of adding melamine to any food where its value is enhanced by increasing the apparent protein content. For example, melamine-tainted pet food killed nearly 1,000 U.S. pets during one episode in 2007.

For additional information about the MaxSignal Melamine Enzymatic Assay Kit contact Bioo Scientific at support@biooscientific.com.

U of M Marching Band becomes first group to move into TCF Bank Stadium Saturday morning

New 20,000 square foot state-of-the-art space to end band's 79-year tenure in Northrop Auditorium



Media Note: Marching Band director Tim Diem and other band personnel will be available to conduct interviews and give tours of new space at approximately 9:45 a.m.; unloading begins at 9:15.

When: Saturday, July 25, 9:15 a.m. (first unloading) to around noon. Media tours/interviews available at 9:45

Where: Outside Pope County entrance at TCF Bank Stadium (enter at 23rd Avenue)

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July 21, 2009

For the first time in its 118-year history, the University of Minnesota Marching Band finally has a home it can call its own. On the morning of Saturday, July 25, the "Pride of Minnesota" will move into its own space in the new TCF Bank Stadium. The band is the first group to officially move into the stadium, joining only a few operations administrators, as they prepare for the 2009 football season opener Sept. 12.

Starting at approximately 9:15 a.m., Marching Band members past and present will begin unloading the 323 instruments, 315 uniforms (comprised of 18 pieces each), 150 flags and poles and hundreds of thousands of pieces of music that make up the marching band's operation, bringing them from the band's longtime Northrop Auditorium space to their new 20,000 square-foot home down University Avenue.

Northrop has been the band's rehearsal home for the past 79 years. And while its large stage and locker facilities met basic needs, the facility was never ideal.

"If anyone came to town to perform in Northrop Auditorium, they would take the stage and we were outside, regardless of the weather," said Tim Diem, director of the Marching Band. Having their storage and rehearsal facilities in the same building they perform in will provide savings in money, time and carbon emissions: students would spend at least an hour each day traveling back and forth from Northrop to the band's rehearsal field near Dinkytown, and it took nine buses, at a cost of \$3,000-\$4,000 per game, to move the band and its instruments to the Metrodome.

Minnesota is now believed to be one of only two Big Ten school marching bands to be housed within their respective football stadiums, joining Ohio State.

"The new space really brings us into the 21st century," said Diem. "We'll have audio and video recording abilities there, so we can have nearly instantaneous review of our rehearsals and performances. That means that the band will tighten up new shows much faster than in the past."

With only five days to learn many of their shows, these technology aids will make a significant impact. The 20,000 square foot facility includes a main rehearsal hall as well as two smaller rehearsal spaces, a music library, an archive room, uniform and equipment maintenance and storage rooms, and sufficient locker and shower facilities for the 320 or so musicians who perform at every home game.

Marching Band Moving Day: By the Numbers

Time of first unload: About 9:15 a.m.

Movers: 50+ marching band members past and present

Items to move:

323 instruments including:

24 tubas
40 trombones
24 baritones
28 mellophones
60 trumpets
38 alto saxophones
25 tenor saxophones
30 clarinets
20 flutes and piccolos
34 drums

150 flags and poles
315 regular uniforms (each consisting of 18 parts)
100's of thousands of pieces of music
Assorted PA's, ladders, file cabinets, pep band jerseys, etc.

What is saved by moving into TCF Bank Stadium:

- \$3,000-4,000 for each football game the band no longer has to bus to at the Metrodome
- Environmental effects of driving the 9 buses needed to move the marching band and their equipment to the Metrodome
- Five hours each week, at least, that every student will save time now that they don't have to travel between instrument storage at Northrop and the practice field near Dinkytown.

Band Members:

315 (on average) perform each week
100 new members join each year
200-240 return each year
All are currently registered U of M undergraduate and graduate students

Marching Band miscellany:

- This is the band's 118th season.
- The rotating 'M' and other popular elements of the half-time shows will continue in the new stadium, but all routines need to be re-written to move in the opposite direction.
- The Marching band produces a new show for every football game, which means that some shows are mastered in only five days.
- At 18 minutes, U of M Marching Band's pre-game show is the longest of any in the country.
- Show themes this season will include an opening day celebration (featuring a favorite of the 1982 season, the last one on campus before moving to the Dome), Halloween, Stevie Wonder, and Queen, among others.
- Spat Camp (training camp) begins August 21 for leaders, August 25 for entire band.

University of Minnesota showcases work on cereal rust threats

What: Briefing, demonstration and tours of how the University of Minnesota is leading efforts to stop the threat of diseases that threaten the global food supply

When: Thursday, July 23, 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Cargill Microbial and Plant Genomics Building, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota

Media note: Please contact Becky Beyers at (612) 626-5754 by July 22 if you will be attending to ensure you'll have a spot on the tour of fields and labs.

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July 21, 2009

Worldwide food supplies face significant risks from the combination of low wheat stockpiles and a dangerous new type of wheat-stem rust. But the University of Minnesota has one of the largest groups of scientists working on these threats; a briefing and tour of the U's world-class facilities is intended to bring business and policy leaders up to date on the U's work in this area.

The event will begin at 8:45 a.m. Thursday, July 23 in the Cargill Microbial and Plant Genomics Building on the university's St. Paul campus, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul, and includes tours of research fields and facilities as well as an update on the latest research.

The schedule includes:

8:45-9:15 a.m. - Coffee, welcome, and introductions

9:15-9:40 - Overview of rust research at the university

9:40-10:45 - Tour of rust screening plots

10:45-noon - Tour of Cereal Disease Laboratory, Biolevel-3 Containment Facility, and Plant Growth Facility

Noon-1 p.m. - Catered lunch with short presentations by researchers

University of Minnesota and U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers on campus play a key role in cooperative global efforts to stop the spread of Ug99, a strain of wheat rust that's capable of destroying more than 70 percent of the world's wheat crop. The wind-borne fungus is spreading through eastern Africa and the Middle East and is likely to move into southern Asia in the near future. Some scientists have said it's only a matter of time before the disease spreads around the world, including North America.

AIDS discovered in wild chimpanzees



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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/22/2009) —Although the AIDS virus (HIV-1) entered the human population through chimpanzees, scientists have long believed that chimpanzees don't develop AIDS. But a new study from an international team, including University of Minnesota professors Anne Pusey and Michael Wilson, shows that chimpanzees infected with SIV (simian immunodeficiency virus), the precursor to HIV-1, do contract and die from AIDS. The discovery is published in the July 23 issue of *Nature*.

The authors report that infected chimpanzees in their study group were 10-16 times more likely to die than those who were uninfected. The team also found that infected females were less likely to give birth and infants born to infected mothers were unlikely to survive. The virus, they learned, was transmitted sexually and through mother's milk. Over the nine-year study period, 10-20 percent of the 94 chimpanzees were infected at any one time.

The finding opens up new opportunities for research.

"We hope this will lead to a better understanding of the virus that will benefit both humans and chimpanzees," said Jane Goodall, whose focus has shifted in recent years from research to conservation of chimpanzees and their habitats.

The study focused on chimpanzees at Gombe National Park, Tanzania, where Goodall and her colleagues have studied chimpanzees for nearly 50 years. Researchers used data that Pusey, a long-time associate of Goodall's, archived at the Jane Goodall Institute's Center for Primate Studies at the University of Minnesota, to understand how SIV is transmitted among chimpanzees, and how the virus affects chimpanzee survival and reproduction.

Virologist Beatrice Hahn at the University of Alabama led the *Nature* study, which involved Pusey and her colleagues. Brandon Keele and Rebecca Rudicell in Hahn's lab used techniques they developed to detect SIV in chimpanzee fecal samples. Samples were collected by research staff at Gombe and shipped to Alabama for analysis.

Examination of tissue samples from dead chimpanzees revealed a loss of CD4+ T cells (which are vital to immunity) in SIV-infected chimpanzees. Loss of these cells renders victims susceptible to many other infections – the classic indication of AIDS. Wilson organized a team of Tanzanian and American specialists to conduct the first post-mortem exam of a chimpanzee that died from AIDS.

"From a scientific perspective, it is fascinating to learn that the virus affects chimpanzees in similar ways to humans," Wilson said. "But it is difficult knowing that there isn't much we can do to help those whose lives may be shortened by the virus." Wilson is a McKnight Land-Grant Professor with a joint appointment in Anthropology and Ecology, Evolution and Behavior.

"It isn't practical to treat the chimpanzees for SIV infections, but it appears that SIV in chimpanzees is not quite as pathogenic as HIV-1 in humans," said Pusey, who is a Distinguished McKnight University Professor in the College of Biological Sciences Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior. "So far, the main study community has maintained its size despite mortality from diseases."

Including Pusey and Wilson, six of the co-authors are associated with the University of Minnesota. Doctoral candidate Emily Wroblewski sequenced DNA from fecal samples. Research Administrator Joann Schumacher-Stankey prepared demographic and behavioral data. Elizabeth Lonsdorf (Ph.D. 2003) is now based at Lincoln Park Zoo and leads a health-monitoring project at Gombe. Anna Moser (Ph.D. 2008) is director of Research at Gombe.

The College of Biological Sciences is one of few colleges in the U.S. that specializes in biology, from molecules to ecosystems. CBS offers degree programs in biology, biochemistry, ecology, genetics, microbiology, neuroscience and plant biology. For more information, go to cbs.umn.edu.

Grant makes U of M home to state's first federally funded leadership education program in autism and neurodevelopmental disabilities

Two-year, \$900,000 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant from will fund LEND program

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/23/2009) —The University of Minnesota has become home to the state's first federally funded LEND program (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Related Disabilities), coordinated by the Department of Pediatrics and the Institute on Community Integration (ICI).

Funded by a two-year, \$900,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau to the Department of Pediatrics, the Minnesota LEND is an interdisciplinary training program preparing future leaders who will serve children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other neurodevelopmental and related disabilities, along with their families, in health care, education, human services, and policy settings.

It is estimated that one out of every 10 children and adolescents in the United States has a neurodevelopmental disability (NDD), and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) are among the fastest growing in reported prevalence over the past decade. To respond to the needs of these children and their families, the Minnesota LEND will bring together faculty, staff and students from 11 disciplines across the university to:

- Advance the skills of pediatric health and allied professionals to improve health care delivery systems for children with ASDs and other NDDs, and integrate services from health care, education, and human service agencies.
- Promote innovative practice models that enhance cultural competency, partnerships among disciplines, and family-centered approaches to support.
- Provide training focused on reducing barriers to early screening, identification, and evidence-based interventions in home, school, and community settings.

"The Minnesota LEND gives our state a great opportunity to help prepare future leaders to provide comprehensive services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other neurodevelopmental disabilities, as well as their families," said Dr. Michael Reiff, Minnesota LEND project director and associate professor of pediatrics. "Autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders are complex and require a strong interdisciplinary approach. The funding for this program allows us to be able to work across the university to develop and provide that."

"The Minnesota LEND not only provides the university with an unprecedented opportunity to provide leadership training in neurodevelopmental disabilities to students across many academic disciplines, but to also do so in partnership with community organizations such as Gillette Children's Hospital, and with families," said Dr. Amy Hewitt, LEND training director and researcher in ICI.

"The LEND also offers an important opportunity to coordinate research across a number of disciplines and community partners, exploring cutting-edge practices that can improve the lives of people with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other neurodevelopmental disabilities," added Dr. Joe Reichle, LEND research director and professor of speech-language-hearing sciences and educational psychology.

For more information about the Minnesota LEND visit <http://lend.umn.edu>

U of M Law School announces Robina Post-Graduate Fellowships

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/23/2009) —The University of Minnesota Law School is proud to introduce its new Robina Post-Graduate Fellowships. The Fellowships were funded by the Robina Foundation, which was established through the generosity of a Law School graduate.

The Law School will award up to 15 Robina Public Policy Post-Graduate Fellowships and up to seven Robina Second Judicial District Public Defender's Office Post-Graduate Fellowships to its 2009 graduates.

"We are trying new approaches to help our current graduates secure employment and gain professional experience in this difficult economy," says Alan Hayes, director of the Career and Professional Development Center (CPDC) at the Law School. "We are grateful for the organizations that are willing to help us in those efforts."

Public Policy applicants must design a project or apply for an existing, unfunded project at a nonprofit organization. At present, Public Policy projects are available at the Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, Cancer Legal Line, Center for Victims of Torture, Children's Law Center of Minnesota, Disability Law Center, HOMEline, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, and Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault. Organizations that have public policy project openings and are willing to host a Robina Public Policy Fellow can be identified with assistance from the CPDC.

Public Defender's Office applicants will be trained to interview and represent clients in criminal matters in felony, gross misdemeanor, misdemeanor, and juvenile courts across the Second Judicial District. They also may conduct policy research and have office hours, during which they assist attorney staff and handle incoming information phone calls.

The application deadline for the Public Defender's Fellowship is 5:00 p.m., Monday, August 14; for the Public Policy Fellowship is 5:00 p.m., Monday, August 17.

U of M Law School to host Somali Youth Summit

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July 23, 2009

Youth-program leaders, coordinators and teachers from such locations as London, Toronto, California, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee are heading for the University of Minnesota this weekend to participate in the Second Annual Somali Youth Summit, to be held July 24-26 at the U of M Law School.

The three-day event attracts international attention, both for its agenda and its goals: To educate Somali youth on critical issues so they can develop their own plan of action, to identify and tap leadership potential and to provide opportunities for leadership.

Organizers say that the first Summit, held in Columbus, Ohio, received a tremendous response. By moving the second Summit to the Twin Cities, they intend to enlarge the Somali community—both those dedicated to helping prepare tomorrow's leaders and those receiving that training. In addition, the new venue acknowledges the widening scope of issues that need to be addressed to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

The Somali Youth Summit is sponsored by West Bank CHANCE (Cedar-Humphrey Action for Neighborhood Collaborative Engagement), a collaboration of seven colleges and offices at the University: the Carlson School of Management, College of Liberal Arts, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Law School, Office of Public Engagement, Office of University Relations and Wilson Library.

Housed in the Center for Integrative Leadership, CHANCE was formed to create a partnership between the West Bank University community and the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood in which it resides.

“CHANCE is proud and excited to support this event for our Somali neighbors,” said Merrie Benasutti, coordinator of Community Partnerships/CHANCE Center for Integrative Leadership. “The success and vitality of the university community are interwoven with those of the surrounding neighborhood. This opportunity for engagement and education will strengthen both communities.”

Numerous educators and mentors from diverse settings are coming together to help prepare the next generation of Somali leaders. Among the topics they will discuss are Islamic/cultural identity, surviving peer pressure, community health issues, change through higher education and drugs and violence.

The Second Annual Somali Youth Summit will take place from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., July 24-26, in Room 25 of the Law School, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

For more information, call (612) 886-4614 or e-mail youth.summit09@yahoo.com.

University of Minnesota's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment announces 2009 scholarship winners



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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/24/2009) —The University of Minnesota's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE), in partnership with the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), has selected 14 projects as part of the 2009 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:

- "Agronomic Management of New Corn Genetics to Increase Yield" – Jamie Bachaus, with faculty advisor Jeffrey Coulter, agronomy and plant genetics. Bachaus will explore methods for increasing corn yields.
- "Analysis of Effective Pathogen Reduction by Thermophilic Anaerobic Digestion for Developing World Applications" – Eric O'Hara, with faculty advisor Charles Clanton, bioproducts and biosystems engineering. O'Hara will assess the feasibility of small-scale digesters, which compost organic waste, for use in the developing world.
- "Comparing the Effects of Different Agitation Situations on Anaerobic Digestion" – Andrew Healy, with faculty advisor Charles Clanton, bioproducts and biosystems engineering. Healy will look at ways to improve the methane production of biodigesters and will present this information at a national Engineers Without Borders conference.
- "Dehydration Reactions of Glycerol" – Joshua Kranz, with faculty advisor Aditya Bhan, chemical engineering and materials science. Kranz will research methods for converting biomass to high-value chemicals for use in industrial applications.
- "Energy Systems Analysis: Approaches to Smoothing Power Demand at the University of Minnesota, Morris" – Michael Zajicek, with faculty advisor Arne Kildegaard, economics. Zajicek will investigate the technological and economic viability of several strategies to balance the campus power load.
- "Holographic Tracker/Solar Concentrator" – Philip Greenberg, with faculty advisor James Leger, electrical and computer engineering. Greenberg will research methods for increasing the efficiency of solar power.
- "Increasing Absorption in Organic Solar Cells Through the Use of Molecular Aggregates" – Gareth Westler, with faculty advisor Russell Holmes, chemical engineering and materials science. Westler will study methods for increasing the efficiency of solar photovoltaic cells.
- "Investigation of Optical Microcavities in Organic Photovoltaic Cells" – John Bertram, with faculty advisor Russell Holmes, chemical engineering and materials science. Bertram will research new materials that could decrease the cost and increase the efficiency of organic photovoltaic devices.
- "Methane Biodigesters: Carbon to Nitrogen Ratio of Intake Slurry Experimentation" – Jamil Orfali, with faculty advisor Charles Clanton, bioproducts and biosystems engineering. Orfali will create a pilot-scale biodigester, which processes human waste and provides fuel, as part of an ongoing Engineers Without Borders project.
- "Modeling the Performance of Organic Solar Cells" – Robert Halperin, with faculty advisor Russell Holmes, chemical engineering and materials science. Halperin will model and test the electrical properties of organic photovoltaic cells.
- "Quantum Dot and Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells" – Brent Keller, with faculty advisor Eray Aydil, chemical engineering and materials science. Keller will investigate methods for producing low-cost solar energy.
- "Simulation of an Indium Gallium Nitride Multi-Junction Photovoltaic Cell" – Ethan Torrey, with faculty advisor Philip Cohen, electrical and computer engineering. Torrey will develop a computer model for analyzing the efficiency of solar cells.
- "Solar Cells Based on PbSe Nanocrystals on ZnO Nanowires" – Alan Jacobs, with faculty advisor Eray Aydil, chemical engineering and materials science. Jacobs will attempt to increase the efficiency of thin film solar cells.
- "Solar Panel Inverter" – Brandon Eberle, with faculty advisor Hua Tang, electrical and computer engineering. Eberle will design a DC to AC solar power inverter.

To fulfill the scholarship objectives, the projects must focus on expanding IREE's renewable energy research portfolio at the University of Minnesota.

"This year's proposals were some of our strongest to date," said Dick Hemmingsen, IREE director. "With this new generation of researchers leading the way, there's no doubt that renewable energy research and innovation at the University of Minnesota will continue to grow."

Vicky Munro, UROP coordinator, said the program not only helps students become involved in research, but also strengthens their connections both on and off campus. "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 2008 received generous support from Piper Jaffray, Faegre & Benson LLP, and numerous other sponsors and supporters.

Led by IREE, a signature program of the U of M's Institute on the Environment, the E3 conference focuses on the intersection of new technologies, policies, environmental benefits and market opportunities in the renewable energy sector. This year's conference takes place Nov. 17 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre.

Matt Kramer named director of U of M Academic and Corporate Relations Center

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/24/2009) —Former Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Matt Kramer has been named director of the University of Minnesota's Academic and Corporate Relations Center.

The Academic and Corporate Relations Center (ACRC) builds connections between the global business community and the university's vast network of expertise, technology and talent. ACRC develops and implements a wide variety of strategies to engage, collaborate, partner and support companies worldwide.

"As a talent magnet and a global hub of research and discovery, the University of Minnesota is an economic engine for the entire state," said university President Robert Bruininks. "ACRC acts as our 'front door' to business and job creators looking to tap into the robust resources the university has to offer. Matt Kramer's unique blend of experience, as a business innovator and public official, combined with exceptional relationships and a remarkable 'can do' attitude make him the perfect choice to lead our corporate relations efforts."

Kramer is currently chief of staff to Gov. Tim Pawlenty, a position he has held since December 2006, and served as DEED commissioner from January 2003 until April 2006. While at DEED, he oversaw the merger of two state agencies, the Department of Trade and Economic Development and the Department of Employment Services. He also led the governor's creation of the JOBZ (Job Opportunity Building Zones) initiative, which has generated almost \$1 billion in capital investment in Minnesota. In addition, he led the creation of a new bioscience industry program aimed at increasing the state's competitive advantage in this highly competitive field.

"Matt is a dedicated, innovative and resourceful public official," said Pawlenty. "In today's knowledge-based economy, the convergence of the U of M with small and large job creators can provide enormous economic opportunities for our state. Although I'm sorry to see Matt leave state service, this new role is both good for the state and the university."

Kramer is also a former vice president of marketing at Arden Hills-based Syntegra (a subsidiary of British Telecom), and Des Moines, Iowa-based CE Software.

An alumnus of the University of Minnesota, Kramer received his Bachelor of Science in geography in 1984. He starts his new duties on August 17.

U of M's Center for Integrative Leadership to launch Executive in Residence program with three high-caliber business and non-profit leaders

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/31/2009) —The Center for Integrative Leadership (CIL), a University of Minnesota-wide initiative with oversight and support provided by the Carlson School of Management and the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, has named three area business and non-profit organization leaders to its inaugural CIL Executives in Residence program.

Paul Mooty, president of CDSI Holdings, Inc., and CEO of Bulach Custom Rock, LLC; Steven Snyder, managing director of the Snyder Leadership Group; and Terri Barreiro, director of the Donald McNeely Center for Entrepreneurship at Saint John's University and the College of Saint Benedict, will serve as Executives in Residence at the University of Minnesota from July 2009 through June 2010. Throughout the year, they will share their knowledge and experience with the university community and promote the CIL's mission of understanding and practicing leadership that aligns business, government, and civil society organizations to address issues of common importance.

"We are fortunate to bring aboard three distinguished executives to launch this program," said Paul Vaaler, the CIL co-director. "Such accomplished leaders will help us engage University of Minnesota students, faculty, and staff as well as business, government, and non-profit organizations who are seeking a deeper, practical understanding of how to work across sectors to address 'big' challenges related to education, healthcare, energy and the environment. Paul, Steven and Terri personify such integrative leaders and leadership."

A University of Minnesota alumnus, Mooty holds degrees in business and law. In addition to leading CDSI Holdings and Bulach Custom Rock, he is the president of Brown Farms, Inc., and Traverse, Inc. Mooty has also been involved in numerous corporate and community organizations, including Special Systems Design, Inc., the Rotary Club of Edina, the Edina Rotary Club Foundation, the Edina Transportation Commission, an advisory commission to the Edina City Council and the Greater St. Paul YMCA. Mooty will be researching and writing about Rotary's contributions to polio vaccination and eradication in the developing world.

Snyder, an adjunct faculty member at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, holds a doctorate in psychology from the University and an MBA from the Harvard Business School. An early pioneer in the microcomputer software industry, Snyder was an executive at Microsoft and Personnel Decisions International, as well as a co-founder of Net Perceptions. He is active in several Twin Cities community organizations including Bet Shalom Congregation, the Minneapolis Jewish Federation, and the Jewish Community Foundation of Minneapolis. At Microsoft, Snyder led teams that twice won the prestigious PC Magazine Award for Technical Excellence. He was also the recipient of the World Technology Award for contributions to electronic commerce innovation. Snyder's work at the university will focus on ethical leadership in business, government, and the non-profit world during times of crisis.

Barreiro is also a University of Minnesota graduate with undergraduate degrees in psychology and Spanish as well as an MBA from the Carlson School. As director of the McNeely Center for Entrepreneurship, Barreiro leads teaching, research, and service initiatives designed to help Saint John's and Saint Benedict students understand the role of business and social entrepreneurs in community development. Prior to this, she was on the senior leadership team of the Minneapolis and Greater Twin Cities United Way, a foundation program officer at Dayton Hudson Corporation (now Target Corporation), and executive director at Enablers, a Minneapolis-based program providing grants, training, and research on youth services. As a CIL executive in residence, she will be teaching courses and writing on philanthropy and social entrepreneurship at the University's Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs.

All three CIL executives in residence will help coordinate occasional public lectures and forums touching on effective leaders and leadership across business, government, and civil society sectors.

"Entrepreneurs leading businesses, politicians leading agencies, and executives leading non-profit organizations are less likely to thrive if they 'go it alone,'" said university President Robert H. Bruininks. "Instead, they need to think, speak and act together for mutual benefit. And truly collaborative and integrative leaders must be able to translate between these partners, align their incentives and motivate them to take action toward a common goal."

The CIL, established in 2007, is part of the university's broader efforts to develop leadership capacity for 21st century challenges linking Minnesota businesses, government and non-profits.

University of Minnesota researchers discover breakthrough method for chemical separations

New process could greatly reduce energy used in the production of biofuels

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/31/2009) —A team of researchers, led by chemical engineering and materials science professor Michael Tsapatsis in the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology, have developed a more energy-efficient method of chemical separations that could revolutionize processes in the petrochemical and biofuels industries. The new discovery is published in the July 31 issue of *Science*, a leading journal of scientific research published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The ability to separate and purify specific molecules in a chemical mixture is essential to chemical manufacturing. Many industrial separations rely on distillation, a process that is easy to design and implement but consumes a lot of energy.

With a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), Tsapatsis and his team have developed a new method for creating high-performance membranes from crystal sieves, called zeolites. The method could significantly increase the energy efficiency of chemical separations over conventional methods and enable higher production rates. The researchers developed a rapid heating treatment to remove structural defects in zeolite membranes that limit their performance, a problem that has plagued the technology for decades.

“Using membranes rather than energy-intensive processes such as distillation and crystallization could have a major impact on industry,” said NSF program officer Rosemarie Wesson. This discovery could increase the energy efficiency of producing important chemical solvents such as xylene and renewable biofuels, such as ethanol and butanol, she said.

Tsapatsis explained that a universal challenge for biofuel production is the significant energy input required to separate and purify the desired products. Distillation is a commonly-used but energy-intensive separation method. Some experts project that the production of biofuels, such as ethanol, will reach 20 million barrels per day worldwide by 2030, Tsapatsis said. Assuming that technologically mature processes such as distillation continue to be used, the equivalent of 3 percent of the world's current total energy consumption would be needed for biofuel separations, he said.

Other biofuels, such as butanol, are also growing in popularity because of their compatibility with existing pipeline infrastructure, mixing capability with existing hydrocarbon fuels, and higher energy content. However, these heavier biofuels, with higher boiling points than water, are even more challenging to purify, Tsapatsis said. Membrane-based separation processes, like those developed by University of Minnesota researchers, can eliminate all but a small fraction of the energy usage associated with this type of biofuel production.

“We are very excited about our breakthrough research and the possibilities for the future,” Tsapatsis said. “Great things can happen if these zeolite membranes work in industry the way we've seen them work in the lab.”

Tsapatsis involved several University of Minnesota graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in this project. They include: Jungkyu Choi, now a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, Berkeley, who performed most of the experiments; Mark Snyder, now an assistant professor at Lehigh University, who performed confocal microscopy experiments while a postdoctoral fellow in Tsapatsis's group, and Jared Stoeger, currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Minnesota, who performed permeation measurements using stainless steel tube supported membranes. Hae-Kwon Jeong, now an assistant professor at Texas A&M University, also performed some early rapid heating treatments while a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with engineering professor Richard Masel.

Tsapatsis and collaborators are now working on making zeolite membranes 10 to 100 times thinner to allow molecules to pass through more quickly. They hope to eventually implement their treatment process with its beneficial effects to these membranes as well.

University of Minnesota researchers identify new function for protein missing in Duchenne muscular dystrophy

Findings will hopefully lead to therapies to combat the disease

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/03/2009) —Researchers at the University of Minnesota and National Institutes of Health have identified a new function for the protein missing in people with the most common and ultimately lethal form of childhood muscular dystrophy.

Patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy lack the protein dystrophin, which causes their muscles to become weak and eventually die. Since its discovery in 1987, research has shown that dystrophin protects muscle cells by directly connecting to two of the three filament types that give cells their shape and durability. The new study demonstrates that dystrophin also directly links to the third structural filament type named microtubules. Microtubules form a highly ordered lattice in muscle, and the new study finds that microtubules become disorganized when dystrophin is missing.

“It’s remarkable that scientists have been intensively studying dystrophin for more than 20 years, yet we continue to identify new features that better define its important contribution to healthy muscle.” said James Ervasti, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology & Biophysics, who directed the investigation.

The new findings suggest that loss of microtubule organization might contribute to the devastating symptoms of Duchenne muscular dystrophy, information that will hopefully lead to the development of therapies to combat the disease. The study appears online Aug. 3, 2009 and will be published in the Aug. 10 issue of *The Journal of Cell Biology*.

The research was funded by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.

Famous alumni chosen as grand marshals for U of M's "Ultimate Homecoming" parade

Pep fest and fireworks in new stadium follow the parade

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/05/2009) —Six distinguished University of Minnesota alumni will serve as grand marshals for the university's 2009 Homecoming parade, scheduled for Friday, Oct. 9. The parade begins at 7 p.m. from its starting point at 15th Avenue Southeast and University Avenue. The parade will proceed down University Avenue to the new TCF Bank Stadium for a pep fest and fireworks.

The 2009 Homecoming grand marshals are:

Bobby Bell, NFL Hall of Famer and two-time All-American Gopher football great, who led the Gophers to a Rose Bowl victory and a national championship and, as a linebacker, took the Kansas City Chiefs to Super Bowl victory in 1970;

Norman Borlaug, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and Congressional Gold Medal and known as the "Father of the Green Revolution;"

Deb Hopp, vice president of publishing for MSP Communications, publisher of Minneapolis-St. Paul Magazine; influential community leader who headed the 2007 United Way campaign;

Garrison Keillor, author, humorist and creator of A Prairie Home Companion radio show and co-writer and star of A Prairie Home Companion movie whose essays have been published in Time, The Atlantic Monthly and The New Yorker;

Walter Mondale, former vice president of the United States and world leader who also served as ambassador to Japan and as a United States senator; and

Lindsay Whalen, the Gopher women's basketball standout who as a point guard with the WNBA Connecticut Sun, led the team to the WNBA Finals in her first and second seasons and to second place in the Eastern Conference in the 2008 season.

The alumni grand marshals were chosen by the University of Minnesota Homecoming Committee because they represent the depth and breadth of university alumni talent, leadership and knowledge.

"The alumni who are serving as this year's grand marshals are truly exceptional individuals," said Robert Bruininks, President. "They reflect the faces and achievements of the more than 400,000 living U of M alumni who've changed millions of lives through their contributions to the economic and cultural vitality of the state, nation and world."

Homecoming 2009 – "The Ultimate Homecoming" – will be a historic and extraordinary celebration, according to Margaret Sughrue Carlson, the University of Minnesota Alumni Association's chief executive officer. "With the opening of the new TCF Bank Stadium, the sounds, sights and excitement of homecoming week will spread across campus and the state as old traditions are embraced and new traditions are born," she said.

"We estimate that nearly 30,000 jubilant students, alumni, fans and friends of the U will line the streets to cheer on the parade and wrap themselves up in the excitement of homecoming," said Sughrue Carlson. "What a highlight it'll be to watch the parade being lead by our distinguished grand marshals, people we've seen on television, read about in books and listened to on the radio."

As the parade concludes, parade goers can follow the University of Minnesota Marching Band into the new stadium for an old-fashioned pep fest and fireworks, expected to begin at 9 p.m.

The parade and pep fest are just two of many exciting traditional and new events of homecoming week that begins Oct. 4 with free tours of the stadium. For a full schedule of events and information go to www.homecoming.umn.edu/

Grand marshal photos and bios are available by contacting Mark Cassutt (612) 396-5332 or going to www.homecoming.umn.edu

University of Minnesota researchers discover high levels of estrogens in some industrial wastewater

Study is the first of its kind to examine a wide range of processing industries

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/10/2009) —In a groundbreaking study, civil engineering researchers in the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology have discovered that certain industries may be a significant source of plant-based estrogens, called phytoestrogens, in surface water. They also revealed that some of these phytoestrogens can be removed through standard wastewater treatment, but in some cases, the compounds remain at levels that may be damaging to fish.

Civil engineering associate professor Paige Novak and her graduate student researcher Mark Lundgren studied wastewater streams from 19 different industrial sites in Minnesota and Iowa and analyzed them for six phytoestrogens. They found very high concentrations of these hormone-mimicking phytoestrogens -- up to 250 times higher than the level at which feminization of fish has been seen in other research -- in the wastewater discharged from eight industrial sites, including biodiesel plants, a soy milk factory, a barbecue meat processing facility and a dairy. They also detected high concentrations of phytoestrogens in the water discharged by some municipal wastewater treatment plants.

The good news is that the researchers revealed that phytoestrogens can be removed from water as it goes through standard treatment. In fact, they saw more than 90 percent removal of these compounds from the water. Unfortunately, sometimes 99 percent removal is needed to reach levels that are considered harmless to fish.

Plant-based phytoestrogens are naturally occurring but have been shown to function as hormone mimics and alter development and reproductive patterns in fish. These effects include decreased aggression, immunosuppression, and decreased testosterone production. Other estrogens that cause similar effects have been linked to population-level collapse in fish, Novak said.

"Many people have looked at human-related chemicals such as those in birth control pills as the primary source of estrogens in the water supply, but they have not looked at plant-based estrogens from a wide variety industries," Novak said. "Our research is the first study of its kind to provide a snapshot in time of what is going on in these industries. We hope that it can be used in planning new industrial sites and expansion of current sites."

Novak pointed out that some of these industrial facilities are in small towns without sophisticated wastewater treatment plants. In these locations, there is potential for impacts on fish and wildlife, she said.

"Our nation needs to do some careful planning as we rapidly expand various plant processing industries," Novak said. "We need to include good wastewater treatment into our industrial plant designs. We also need to think broadly as we look for the causes of fish feminization in various streams, rivers and lakes, as well as possible solutions."

The research findings will be published this fall in the journal *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* published by the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, an international professional organization dedicated to the study, analysis and solution of environmental problems. The research was funded by the Water Environment Research Foundation and the University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA).

To read the entire research report, visit the Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Web site at: <http://www.setacjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-abstract&doi=10.1897%2F09-029.1>

Golden Gophers' youngest fans to get their own game day experience at Bell Museum's Gopher Nature Academy

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/11/2009) —While adult fans of the University of Minnesota's football team cheer on the home team, their kids ages 6 to 12 can enjoy a special game-time camp only blocks away at the university's Bell Museum of Natural History's Gopher Nature Academy beginning with the first home game Saturday, September 12.

During every Golden Gopher home game of the 2009 football season, the museum—located just three blocks west of the new TCF Bank Stadium—will offer quality, science-focused learning and entertainment for future Gopher fans ages 6 to 12 years old. The camp is timed to the season's seven regular home football games with pick-up and drop-off time factored in for parents in route to and from the game.

Each week, kids will learn a new craft, watch an animal movie while snacking on pizza, tour museum exhibits and learn about animal behavior through games and structured age-appropriate play. Better than a baby sitter, young fans will also learn about the real Goldy Gopher, as well as get the scoop on Goldy's athletic rivals including the falcons, badgers, jackrabbits and bears.

Gopher Nature Academy is open to all children whether their parents attend football games or not. Registration is \$35 per child per game; registration is required one week prior to game day. Discounts are available with the purchase of a three-game package and with two or more children per registration. Call (612) 624-9050 for registration. For a complete list of times and more info, visit, www.Bellmuseum.org.

The Bell Museum is located on the southwest corner of University and 17th Avenues, at 10 Church St. S.E. on the university's Minneapolis campus. For details, visit www.bellmuseum.org.

U of M Alumni Association kicks off 2009-10 Statewide Speakers' Tour

Year's new theme is U of M Amplatz Children's Hospital and children's health issues

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/11/2009) —Every year the University of Minnesota Alumni Association (UMAA) travels across the state talking about current university issues and the university's impact on the state.

The 2009-10 UMAA Statewide Speakers' Tour will focus on children's health and the upcoming University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital. The program will feature University of Minnesota physicians and researchers speaking on children's health issues and the University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital, the largest and oldest children's hospital in the state of Minnesota. The program, "Finding Tomorrow's Answers Today," will address children's health topics like: childhood obesity, heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, adolescent and pediatric health, among many others.

The first stop on the tour took place today, Aug. 11, at the Edina Morningside Rotary Club and featured Sarah Jane Schwarzenberg, director of the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at the U of M, who spoke about childhood obesity.

Other planned stops on the 2009-10 Statewide Speakers' Tour can be found at http://www.alumni.umn.edu/UMAA_08-09_Tour.html or by contacting Mary Kay Delvo at delvo003@umn.edu or (612) 626-1417.

Opening in 2011, University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital will be an ecologically friendly, 227,000-square-foot facility that consolidates the hospital's 50 pediatric specialties in one patient- and family-centered location. This new facility for mothers and children will ensure that children and families have access to leading health care and new thinking -- all in a world-class, state-of-the-art setting.

Female supervisors more susceptible to workplace sexual harassment, says U of M study

Research is first to examine trend over time and clearly demonstrate use of harassment as a workplace equalizer

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/12/2009) —Women who hold supervisory positions are more likely to be sexually harassed at work, according to the first-ever, large-scale longitudinal study to examine workplace power, gender and sexual harassment, conducted by sociologists at the University of Minnesota.

The recently-released study reveals that nearly 50 percent of women supervisors reported sexual harassment in the workplace, while only one-third of women who do not supervise others reported such harassment. In more conservative models with stringent statistical controls, women supervisors were 137 percent more likely to be sexually harassed than women who did not hold managerial roles. While supervisory status increased the likelihood of harassment among women, it did not significantly impact the likelihood for men.

“This study provides the strongest evidence to date supporting the theory that sexual harassment is less about sexual desire than about control and domination,” said Heather McLaughlin, a sociologist at the U of M and the study’s primary investigator. “Male co-workers, clients and supervisors seem to be using harassment as an equalizer against women in power.”

McLaughlin and her co-authors examined data from the 2003 and 2004 waves of the Youth Development Study (YDS), a prospective study of adolescents that began in 1988 with a sample of 1,010 ninth graders in the St. Paul public school district and has continued near annually since. Respondents were approximately 29 and 30 years old during the 2003 and 2004 waves. The analysis was supplemented with in-depth interviews with a subset of the YDS survey respondents.

The sociologists found that, in addition to workplace power, gender expression was a strong predictor of workplace harassment. Men who reported higher levels of femininity were more likely to have experienced harassment than less feminine men. More feminine men were at a greater risk of experiencing more severe or multiple forms of sexual harassment (as were female supervisors).

In a separate analysis examining perceived and self-reported sexual orientation, study respondents who reported being labeled as non-heterosexual by others or who self-identified as non-heterosexual (gay, lesbian, bisexual, unsure, other) were nearly twice as likely to experience harassment.

Researchers also found that those who reported harassment in the first year (2003) were 6.5 times more likely to experience harassment in the following year. The most common scenario reported by survey respondents involved male harassers and female targets, while males harassing other males was the second most frequent situation.

McLaughlin co-authored the study with sociologists Christopher Uggen, chair of the University of Minnesota’s sociology department and a distinguished McKnight professor of sociology, and Amy Blackstone, associate professor of sociology at the University of Maine. The multi-method research was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Mental Health and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

U of M to hold Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza dedication ceremony

Media Note: Media parking will be available beginning at 12:30 p.m. on the west side of TCF Bank Stadium along Oak St. S.E.

Images of the plaza can be obtained by going to

http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/photos/tribal_nations_plaza.html

What: Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza dedication ceremony

When: 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17

Where: West entrance of TCF Bank Stadium, 2009 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

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

August 13, 2009

The University of Minnesota and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) will host a dedication ceremony for TCF Bank Stadium's Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza at 1 p.m., Monday, Aug. 17. The event is open to the public.

Made possible as part of a \$12.5 million gift from the SMSC, Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza encompasses the largest and most central west entrance of TCF Bank Stadium. The architecturally-innovative design includes a water feature and 11 18-foot-tall sky markers. Each sky marker incorporates information about one of the eleven Minnesota tribal nations. Tribal flags, images, and important facts are also displayed on the soaring glass structures.

The dedication ceremony will include remarks from dignitaries, including Stanley Crooks, Chairman of SMSC, University of Minnesota Board of Regents Chair Clyde Allen and President Robert Bruininks, a presentation by the Mazukute Drum Group and the formal blessing of the 11 tribal nation's sky markers.

The \$12.5 million gift to the U includes \$2.5 million that went to a matching fund to create a \$5 million endowment for scholarships, with a preference given to American Indian students. Recipients of the student scholarships will also be acknowledged during the ceremony.

Chairman Crooks and President Bruininks will be available for media following the event.

U of M language resource center receives new grant to improve Asian language instruction

Contacts: Jennifer Schulz, Office of International Programs, (612) 624-0557, schul160@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/13/2009) —The Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA) at the University of Minnesota has received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's International Research and Studies Program that will provide professional development for teachers of four critical Asian languages. The grant, Asian Learner Language: Tools for Teachers, will total over \$440,000 over the next three years and will begin in September 2009. CARLA director Elaine Tarone is the principal investigator of the grant.

“We believe that the Asian Learner Language: Tools for Teachers project will improve the overall quality of language instruction and learning by investing in the development of the skills of teachers of these critical languages, helping them realign their teaching to better meet the learner language development needs of their students,” said Tarone, who is also a professor of English as a second language.

The grant will fund CARLA to develop multimedia materials for teachers to better understand and support their students' developing language skills in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Farsi (Persian). The project builds on the work done by Professor Tarone and Dr. Bonnie Swierzbinska using an innovative approach to language teacher education, which was recently published in a book and DVD set for English as a Second Language teachers entitled Exploring Learner Language.

CARLA is one of 15 Language Resource Centers funded by the U.S. Department of Education and works to improve language teaching to benefit learners of all languages. CARLA also has a special interest in supporting improved teaching in languages that the U.S. deems "critical" for the future, such as Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Farsi (Persian). CARLA is a unit of the Office of International Programs at the University of Minnesota.

U of M's Office of Public Engagement and Urban Research and Outreach Engagement Center to host community forum in North Minneapolis

Contacts: Peggy Rader, Office of Public Engagement, (612) 625-5716

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/18/2009) —The University of Minnesota's Office of Public Engagement, in collaboration with the Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC), will host a community forum in North Minneapolis to gather additional feedback on community-university engagement and collaborations. The forum will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27 in the Laura Scott Williams Room at the Minneapolis Urban League, 2100 Plymouth Ave. N., Minneapolis. It is open to all who RSVP, until room capacity is reached.

The community forum is part of the university's Public Engagement Symposium Series. The series has been organized based on community feedback. Community members said they want the university to hold more community-based sessions to hear first-hand what it is like to partner with the university and to discuss both successes and potential improvements.

This particular community forum is specific to North Minneapolis, and is one of several place-based forums the Office of Public Engagement will hold across the state to learn about the needs and opinions of the university's community partners.

This forum builds upon the university's commitment to an urban vision and public engagement; it represents another opportunity to further the dialogue between the university and the Northside fostered through UROC and the University Northside Partnership (UNP). One focus will be how to best leverage community and university resources and knowledge to create solutions to complex urban challenges and improve quality of life in the Northside's neighborhoods.

Please RSVP to Michelle Kuhl, Office for Public Engagement, (612) 624-1562, witt0160@umn.edu by Aug. 24.

Battle of the Brands: U of M research finds branded components changing industry structures

Contacts: Rebecca Monroe, Carlson School of Management, rmonro@umn.edu, (612) 626-7940
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, mathre@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/19/2009) —Back in the day, planes, trains and automobiles all sported one brand name. If you bought a Boeing, you got, nose to tail, a Boeing. These days, however, complex industrial equipment is starting to look like NASCAR vehicles festooned with logos. Why does it matter? “When component brands become powerful it changes the industry,” says George John, Marketing Department Chair at the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management. “What becomes more important, the product brand or the component? The Dodge truck or its Cummins engine?”

John and co-author Mrinal Ghosh (University of Arizona) investigate component branding in a forthcoming study in the *Journal of Marketing Research*. Various technologies that provide benefits like fuel efficiency, higher download speeds and better safety ratings all arise from component branding. But the innovation that makes these products superior often doesn’t come from the primary brand, it comes from the component brand. To assure the makers of component technologies that the partnership will endure for long enough to make their investment worthwhile, visible acknowledgments of the added benefit – and which company brought the consumer that added benefit – have become common.

On 30% of the industrial products in their sample, everyday users will see at least one brand displayed in addition to the primary brand. No longer are they using a Dell computer, they’re using a Dell with Intel Inside. “The component brand name, right there on a product, is, in a way, insurance that the company won’t be dropped for a newer, cheaper, competitor next year,” says John. “The co-branding is enough of a deterrent that the product brand won’t switch to a different supplier. This gives the component maker the ability to put effort and resources into developing the product,” says John.

Beyond simple consumer curiosity, this shift to visibly branded components should be noted by policy makers and regulators. “When an industry changes from a vertical structure with dominant primary brands to a horizontal structure with dominant component brands, suppliers become more powerful. And if the industry is in trouble, who gets bailed out? Detroit Diesel or GM? Cummins or Dodge? The right answers must depend on a deep understanding of who offers the real value,” notes John.

George John is the General Mills-Gerot Chair in Marketing and Chair of the Carlson School Marketing Department. His research and opinions have been featured in *Forbes*, *USA Today*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Star Tribune*, and other outlets. More information on Professor John and a copy of the article can be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/gjohn.

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.

Increase in number of farmer and lenders using debt mediation, according to U of M program

Contacts: John Byrnes, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, byrnes@umn.edu, (612) 625-4743

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/20/2009) —The number of farmers and lenders using mediation to resolve farm debt has increased dramatically, according to the Minnesota Farmer-Lender Mediation program. At the end of July 2009, there were 488 open farmer lender mediation cases in Minnesota — more than triple the 133 such cases that were open a year earlier. Activity in the University of Minnesota Extension Farmer-Lender Mediation program began showing sizable increases in January of this year.

The steady increase in the number of farm loans in trouble is expected to increase because of low livestock prices and ripple effects of the general economy. “I am receiving more phone calls inquiring about Farmer-Lender Medication from farmers experiencing financial stress that may or may not already be in foreclosure,” said Rob Holcomb, extension educator in Agricultural Business Management.

Minnesota law requires that creditors with a secured debt of more than \$5,000 against an agricultural property offer Farmer-Lender Mediation before proceeding with foreclosure, repossession, cancellation of contract or collection of a judgment. Farmers offered mediation can choose to take advantage of a 90-day period to work with their lenders to renegotiate, restructure or resolve their debts. A team of mediators, financial analysts and other University of Minnesota Extension professionals manage the program as neutral parties. Mediation is an informal and confidential process that generally requires less cost and time than adversarial court litigation.

The Minnesota Farmer-Lender Mediation program is part of USDA's Certified State Agricultural Mediation Program. More information on the program is available either on the web at extension.umn.edu/Community/Mediation or by calling Extension's Farmer-Lender Mediation office at (218) 935-5785.

University of Minnesota physicist is lead author on research about early evolution of the universe

Article in Nature is first major paper to result from international collaboration

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Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, (612) 626-7959, rzurn@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/20/2009) —University of Minnesota Institute of Technology physicist Vuk Mandic is the lead author of new research that significantly advances scientific understanding of the early evolution of the universe. Mandic is co-chair of the Stochastic Working Group of the LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) Scientific Collaboration (LSC), a National Science Foundation collaboration of about 700 scientists from around the world. The research findings are published in the Aug. 20 issue of Nature, an international weekly journal of science.

Founded in 1997, the LSC seeks to directly detect gravitational waves, use them to explore the fundamental physics of gravity, and develop the emerging field of gravitational wave science as a tool of astronomical discovery. Gravitational waves carry with them information about their violent origins and about the nature of gravity that cannot be obtained by conventional astronomical tools. This is the first major paper to result from LIGO research on the early universe.

Analysis of data taken over a two-year period, from 2005 to 2007, has set the most stringent limits yet on the amount of gravitational waves that could have come from the Big Bang in the gravitational wave frequency band where LIGO can observe. In doing so, the gravitational-wave scientists have put new constraints on the details of how the universe looked in its earliest moments.

"This paper is exciting," said Beverly Berger, NSF program manager for gravitational physics. "LIGO is making real astronomical measurements and looking at the universe in a completely new way."

Much like it produced the cosmic microwave background, the Big Bang is believed to have created a flood of gravitational waves--ripples in the fabric of space and time — that still fill the universe and carry information about the universe as it was immediately after the Big Bang. These waves would be observed as what is called the "stochastic background," similar to a mixture of many waves of different sizes and directions on the surface of a pond. The amplitude of this background is directly related to the parameters that govern the behavior of the universe during the first minute after the Big Bang.

Earlier measurements of the cosmic microwave background have placed the most stringent upper limits of on the stochastic gravitational wave background at very large distance scales and low frequencies. The new measurements by LIGO directly probe the gravitational wave background in the first minute of its existence, at time scales much shorter than accessible by the cosmic microwave background.

The authors of the research report that the stochastic background of gravitational waves has not yet been discovered. But the nondiscovery of the background described in the Nature paper already offers its own brand of insight into the universe's earliest history.

The research also constrains models of cosmic strings, objects that are proposed to have been left over from the beginning of the universe and subsequently stretched to enormous lengths by the universe's expansion; the strings, some cosmologists say, can form loops that produce gravitational waves as they oscillate, decay and eventually disappear.

"We now know a bit more about parameters that describe the evolution of the universe when it was less than one minute old," Mandic said. "We also know that if cosmic strings or superstrings exist, their properties must conform with the measurements we made — that is, their properties, such as string tension, are more constrained than before."

This is interesting, he added, "because such strings could also be so-called fundamental strings, appearing in string-theory models. So our measurement also offers a way of probing string-theory models, which is very rare today."

"This result was one of the long-lasting milestones that LIGO was designed to achieve," Mandic said. In 2014, Advanced LIGO, which will utilize the infrastructure of the LIGO observatories and be 10 times more sensitive than the current instrument, will allow scientists to detect cataclysmic events such as black-hole and neutron-star collisions at 10-times-greater distances.

Mandic said his research group at the University of Minnesota specifically conducted the analysis of the LIGO data that produced the result published in the Nature paper and studies of implications of this result for different theoretical models of the stochastic background. The University of Minnesota group is also performing other searches for gravitational waves leading some of the research and development efforts for future generations of gravitational wave detectors, and is contributing to the ongoing new science run of LIGO.

The LIGO project, which is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), was designed and is operated by Caltech and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Research is carried out by the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, a group of about 700 scientists from more than 60 institutions and 11 countries worldwide.

U of M to host first international cold climate wine competition

Media Note: Reporters and photographers are welcome to interview and film the judges between 11:30 and 12 noon; after that the judging area is closed to everyone but the judges. To arrange interviews outside this time frame, please contact Becky Beyers or Gordon Rouse. Winning entries will be available on Wednesday.

What: The International Cold Climate Wine Competition

When: 11:30 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, Aug. 25

Where: Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota

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

Gordon Rouse (651) 636-3039 or gfrouse@iccwc.org

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

August 20, 2009

A panel of experts will taste and judge wines from commercial wineries in 16 states Tuesday, Aug. 25, on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus. The competition is the only such event for wines made from fruit grown in cold climates.

The first-of-its-kind competition is a partnership between the Minnesota Grape Growers Association, the Minnesota State Fair and the University of Minnesota, which developed several of the cold-hardy grapes used to make the wines in the competition. The winning wines will be displayed at the 2009 Minnesota State Fair.

The awards will be based on blind tastings by 15 expert judges. Judges include prominent wine writers, restaurateurs, retailers and wine educators.

Five-judge panels will determine the initial awards, with top-scoring wines evaluated by all 15 judges for "best of" categories and the Governor's Cup award.

The "Minnesota Governor's Cup" award will go to the Minnesota winery placing highest in the competition. Only professional wineries are eligible to compete. The Fair's annual winemaking competition, with categories for amateur winemakers, will continue as a separate entity.

For further details on the event, see <http://www.iccwc.org>

What the World Eats is focus of U of M Bell Museum's "Hungry Planet" exhibit opening Oct. 17

Contacts:

Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum, (612) 624-7389
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

August 25, 2009

The grocery lists and dining tables of people around the globe are the subject of a provocative exhibit called “Hungry Planet: What the World Eats,” which opens Saturday, Oct. 17 at the University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History.

Based on the national best-selling book by Peter Menzel and Faith D’Alusio that explores the dinner tables of families around the world, “Hungry Planet: What the World Eats” combines mesmerizing photos with hands-on displays that explore issues of food in the 21st century —what people eat, how much it costs and where it comes from—as well as learning how different cultures approach the growing and processing of food and eating it.

The Bell Museum’s exhibit focuses on 10 cultures, many with ties to Minnesota, and lets visitors “shop” for global produce from world markets and track that food as it travels from field to fork. The exhibit features special sections on the rise of fast food culture, the evolution and history of food plants, current and ancient agricultural methods and the practice of raising and eating meat.

Menzel’s large format photos of outdoor markets, restaurants and kitchen tables from around the globe also provide the backdrop for displays of real food products. Museum visitors also can contribute photos of their own family dinners for posting on a digital display within the exhibit.

The exhibit’s opening reception event at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22 will feature snack foods from many cultures around the world. In addition, every Thursday evening during the exhibit’s 26-week run, the museum will host a range of provocative programming on the topic of food — from panel discussions on food-related topics in the news, to presentations by university experts and local food gurus, to tastings of locally produced foods and beverages. Thursday evening programming is free with museum admission.

The Bell Museum, located at 10 Church St. S.E. in Minneapolis, is part of the university’s College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. More than a half a million Minnesotans are reached each year by programs operated by the Bell Museum, which is Minnesota’s official natural history museum. For more information, visit www.bellmuseum.org.

Ag producers likely to save money, adopt water-friendly practices after attending nutrient workshops, according to U of M study

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Water Resources Center, (612) 599-1148
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/25/2009) —Minnesota farmers and producers who participated in University of Minnesota-sponsored small group manure management workshops are likely to adopt water-friendly practices that also save them money, according to a survey by the university's Water Resources Center.

During the winter of 2008-2009, Water Resources Center researchers held "Value of Manure" small group workshops in 22 counties across the state. The 267 workshop participants — 87 percent of whom were agricultural producers — learned to use a university-developed spreadsheet program to compare costs and returns from alternative manure management practices on their own farms.

As a result of the workshop and spreadsheet findings, 74 percent of workshop attendees said they would change their application rates and timings. And between one-quarter and one-third of all attendees who weren't already testing, calibrating and keeping a record of their manure applications said they would start as a result of the workshops.

In addition to helping farmers reduce the amount of phosphorus and pathogens that enter surface and ground water as a result of over-application, the plans had the added benefits of saving farmers money by lowering costs. Nearly 75 percent of attendees said they could improve manure economic return per acre by \$5 or more based on their spreadsheet calculations.

"The result is win-win," said Water Resources Center agronomist and education coordinator Les Everett. "Producers are finding they can save fertilizer expense, while reducing the amount of nitrogen, phosphorus and pathogens that could potentially reach surface waters and ground water as a result of over-application."

The workshops were organized by the Water Resources Center and University of Minnesota Extension, with assistance from Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and County Feedlot Officers. They were funded by a federal grant through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. WRC is affiliated with the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and University of Minnesota Extension and is located in McNeal Hall on the university's St. Paul campus. For more information, visit <http://wrc.umn.edu>

First-year U of M students move to campus, begin "Welcome Week" programming Sept. 2 to prepare for college life

Week long orientation highlighted by "Pride and Spirit" event at new TCF Bank Stadium Sept. 3

Media Note: The Sept. 3 "Pride and Spirit" event at TCF Bank Stadium, as well as New Student Convocation and the Jermaine Davis Keynote Speech are ticketed events. Interested media outlets are required to RSVP with the University News Service in order to attend.

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

August 25, 2009

The University of Minnesota is rolling out the welcome mats next week for more than 5,000 first-year undergraduate students by hosting "Welcome Week," six days of fun and informative programming designed to give the Class of 2013 a running start as they embark on their college careers beginning Sept. 2. First-year students move into their residence hall rooms from 2-8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1 as well as all day Sept. 2.

This highly successful program, which debuted a year ago, aims to improve student engagement, first year retention and ultimately graduation rates by helping first-year college students make a successful transition from high school to collegiate life. Welcome Week allows new students to make new friendships, learn how to navigate the Twin Cities campus, meet faculty and staff and take advantage of the opportunity to get involved in campus life and the greater Twin Cities community.

Welcome Week will also feature the first chance for U of M students to see the inside of the new on-campus home for Golden Gopher Football, TCF Bank Stadium, at a special "Pride and Spirit" pep rally at 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 3. Students will hear from Gopher football coach Tim Brewster and athletics director Joel Maturi, and immediately following, the entire class of 2013 will form a giant "M" on the playing field (with assistance provided by the U of M Marching Band) to document this new U of M tradition.

"Welcome Week had a very successful debut last fall and we're excited to be coordinating it again this year. The entire campus and all 400-plus Welcome Week leaders are excited to greet new students and assist them with their transition," said Beth Lingren Clark, director of the U of M's office of Orientation and First-Year Programs. "Ours is a model that is emulated around the country and we feel the intentional programming we offer gives new students a real leg up as they start their four-year journey at the U."

A complete schedule of Welcome Week activities is available at welcomeweek.umn.edu. Selected day-by-day highlights include:

Tuesday, Sept. 1

2 – 9 p.m. – Residence Hall move-in for selected first-year students ("Superblock" area between Oak and Fulton Streets Southeast in Minneapolis).

Wednesday, Sept. 2

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Residence Hall move-in (Superblock).

10 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. – After hours Target run (Minneapolis Quarry location) for first-year students.

Thursday, Sept. 3

10 a.m. – New Student Convocation; featuring official welcome message from U of M President Robert Bruininks (Mariucci Arena, ticketed event).

11 a.m. – 5 p.m. – College Day activities; each first-year-admitting college has created specific activities designed to familiarize students with their classmates and faculty.

8:30 – 9:45 p.m. – "Pride and Spirit" event (TCF Bank Stadium, ticketed event).

Friday, Sept. 4

8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. – University Day sessions; will allow students to attend presentations and activities on money management, health and wellness, career, diversity and community topics.

9 – 10 p.m. – Keynote motivational speaker Jermaine Davis shares how to create an intentional first year of college and make it your own (Mariucci Arena, ticketed event).

Saturday, Sept. 5

9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Community Engagement Day; students will either go on a short field trip around the Twin Cities area or engage in a service project for a local community organization.

9:30 p.m. – 1 a.m. – Late Night at Mall of America's Nickelodeon Universe.

Sunday, Sept. 6

10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Community Engagement Day; students will either go on a short field trip around the Twin Cities area or engage in a service project for a local community organization.

Sunday, Sept. 7

Free time/residence hall events/Additional educational session/class tours

The U of M at the "Great Minnesota Get Together"

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

August 25, 2009

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. 27 through Monday, Sept. Sept. 7.

This year's activities at the U of M building include pictures with Goldy, meet and greets with university athletes and the chance to speak with a U geology professor about diamonds underneath Minnesota.

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 enjoy dynamic stage programs from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. daily, meet horticulture experts and learn about soon-to-open TCF Bank Stadium.

All five U campuses and more than 30 colleges and offices will showcase their programs and services at locations throughout the fairgrounds.

Maroon and Gold Day is Sunday, Aug. 30. Visitors are encouraged to proudly wear their maroon and gold attire.

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 <http://www.statefair.umn.edu/>

University News Service will issue daily news releases featuring the next day's U fair events. The U of M building is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

U of M education professor to discuss link between educational leadership and student learning in live interview

What: Karen Seashore UCEA interview

Date: August 26

Time: 1 p.m., CST

Information regarding calling in and posting questions is available at <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/UCEA>. The interview will be archived on the UCEA interview series site, <http://www.ucea.org/interview-series> for future reference.

Contacts: Diane Cormany, College of Education and Human Development, (612) 626-5650, dcormany@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/25/2009) —Karen Seashore, Rodney Wallace Professor for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning at the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development will inaugurate a new interview series from the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA) at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26. Seashore will discuss the link between educational leadership and student learning, in relation to her recent article "State Leadership for School Improvement: An Analysis of Three States." Listeners can hear the interview live, online and submit questions via phone or the Web at <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/UCEA>.

UCEA recently awarded Seashore with its Roald F. Campbell Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes senior professors in the field of educational administration whose professional lives have been characterized by extraordinary commitment, excellence, leadership, productivity, generosity, and service. She was appointed a professor in the former Department of Educational Policy and Administration — now part of the Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development — in 1987. Her prolific scholarship includes a national study linking leadership at state, district, and school levels to student learning; research into professional and ethical values in graduate school; and the study of academic-industry relations in science.

Introducing cold-hardy kiwifruit to Minnesota

What: Field day tour of new kiwifruit orchards When: 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29 Where: Apple House at the University of Minnesota Horticultural Research Center on the corner of Minnesota Highway 5 and Rolling Acres Road (County Road 13)

Contacts: Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, (612) 626-5754 bbeyers@umn.edu Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu James Luby, department of horticultural science, (612) 624-5599, Lubyx001@umn.edu

August 26, 2009

Cold-hardy kiwifruit will be the focus of field day tour being hosted by the University of Minnesota and Minnesota Department of Agriculture Sustainable Agriculture Grant Program at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29. The tour will feature two new orchards of cold hardy Actinida (kiwifruit) highlighting a project sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Sustainable Agriculture Grant Program and the University of Minnesota. The tour will feature two types of orchard trellising systems specifically designed for this new crop. One system at the University of Minnesota Horticultural Research Center near Victoria features a pergola system that maintains an overhead fruiting canopy.

A second site, at the new orchard of grower Eric Theship-Rosales, near Chanhassen, features a terraced hillside planting established in 2008 with a T-bar training system. Attendees will be able to see and discuss how a kiwifruit orchard is established with Eric Rosales, Jim Luby from the University of Minnesota Department of Horticultural Science and Bob Guthrie, curator of the kiwifruit collection at the Horticultural Research Center and one of the leading experts on this fruit in the United States. In addition to the new plantings, a mature, fruiting orchard containing many different varieties of cold-hardy kiwifruit (*Actinidia kolomikta* and *Actinidia arguta*) on a T-bar trellis system will be on display at the Horticultural Research Center providing an opportunity to see the mature vines and taste the fruit.

The field day tour begins at 1 pm on Saturday, August 29 meeting at the Apple House at the University of Minnesota Horticultural Research Center on the corner of Minnesota Highway 5 and Rolling Acres Road (County Road 13) approximately two miles east of Victoria and one mile west of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Following a tour of the orchards there, the tour will also proceed to the Theship-Rosales orchard at 9201 Audubon Road, Chanhassen.

U of M Marching Band's first-ever "Spat Camp" at TCF Bank Stadium to get underway Thursday

All 320 members of "Pride of Minnesota" will practice daily on field and in brand-new 20,000 square foot facility

Media Note: Media outlets interested in watching Marching Band practice in TCF Bank Stadium must clear entry with the University News Service.

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

August 26, 2009

With the start of a new chapter of Golden Gopher football set to get underway this fall at TCF Bank Stadium, the "Pride of Minnesota" -- the U of M's Marching Band -- is already making preparations.

Thursday, Aug. 27 marks the first full-squad practice session of the band's annual "Spat Camp," a 10-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 "Rookie Camp" Tuesday, Aug. 25, but Thursday will mark the first day of practice for all other returning members. Rehearsal sessions take place both on the field and in the band's new 20,000 square foot facility inside TCF Bank Stadium.

"Spat Camp will carry a special meaning this year," said U of M band director Tim Diem. "Not only will it be the first opportunity for many of our members to see our new in-stadium facility, it also helps mark the start of a new era of on-campus football, something that we're proud to be a part of."

The band's recent move into TCF Bank Stadium marks the first time in its 118-year history that the group has had its own dedicated facility on campus, and caps a 79-year run in the lower level of Northrop Auditorium.

The 320-member band's first official performance of 2008-09 will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 30 at Maroon and Gold Day at the Minnesota State Fair Parade. The parade will serve as the band's tune-up for the 2009 Golden Gopher football home opener Sept. 12 against Air Force at TCF Bank Stadium.

U of M at the Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Thursday, Aug. 27

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/27/2009) —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. 24:

August 27 on the U of M Stage

- 10 a.m. Alumni Band, Rowing Team and Goldy**
- 11 a.m. Athletics Director Joel Maturi & Women's Swimming**
- 12 p.m. Men's Swimming & Women's Gymnastics**
- 1 p.m. Gopher Men's Basketball**
- 2 p.m. Men's & Women's Track & Field**
- 3 p.m. Wrestling & Alumni Band**
- 3:30 p.m. Goldy**
- 4 p.m. Music with Radio K**

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. 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.

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Healthy Lives Institute

The Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute will display information related to food and health research taking place at the U. Visitors will receive information on a major food and health symposium to be sponsored by the Institute this fall.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Weisman Art Museum

Representatives from the Weisman will present trivia about the museum's architecture, its collection of art, and other fun facts.

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. It All Adds Up

It All Adds Up is a campus-wide educational and outreach effort that stresses the importance of personal actions while showing that the combined efforts of an engaged University community can make a significant difference. Using the It All Adds Up campaign, the University of Minnesota is working to reduce annual campus energy usage by five percent by the end of 2010. A five percent reduction will save the University \$2.25 million each year and result in 25,000 fewer tons of CO₂ being released into the atmosphere.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota Athletics

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota, Duluth

3 p.m. - 9 p.m. Health College of Veterinary Medicine

This interactive display booth will focus on the history of veterinary medicine. Visitors will have the opportunity to see first hand the history of veterinary medicine with microscope views of various parasites & small insects, a cow hairball, and other artifacts from the past.

U of M at the Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Friday, Aug. 28

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

August 28, 2009

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 from 9 a.m to 9 p.m. For more information about the U at the State Fair visit <http://www.statefair.umn.edu>

The U of M State Fair highlights for Friday, Aug. 28:

August 28 on the U of M Stage

10:15 a.m. Following the U on Social Media and Twitter Quiz

11 a.m. UMD Music Students

12 p.m. UMD Marching Band

1 p.m. UMD Tweed Museum of Art

2 p.m. UMD Music Students

3 p.m. UMD Marching Band

4 p.m. Music with Radio K

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. CFANS and Powell Center for Women's Health

This year CFANS will focus on the college's research and extension and education work on food safety in the Department of Food Science and Nutrition. The Healthy Foods Healthy Lives collaboration involving faculty from CFANS, SPH and CVM will be highlighted and displays of current projects and handouts about educational opportunities will be available to visitors.

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-rekowned 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 at the University of Minnesota are researching the best ways to remove the dam without damaging the ecosystem.

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Support the U

Connect with the U through its grassroots network.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Weisman Art Museum

Representatives from the Weisman will present trivia about the museum's architecture, its collection of art, and other fun facts.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota Athletics

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota, Duluth

noon - 1 p.m. Goldy

3 p.m. - 9 p.m. The Aurora Center & Department of Emergency Medicine

This display will provide literature and information on getting involved as a U of M community member, and helpful resources on how to Get Help, Get Educated and Get Involved. Visitors will have the opportunity to test their knowledge with a quiz, which will discuss common myths about forms of violence from one of the center's popular presentations, The Green M&M Project. Prizes will be given for those who participate.



University of Minnesota researcher to testify on "The Expanding Role of Biofuels for America"

Contacts: Todd Reubold, Institute on the Environment, (612) 624-6140, reub0002@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/28/2009) —U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) has invited the Institute on the Environment's John Sheehan, program coordinator for biofuels and the global environment, to testify as part of Senate field hearing on the "The Expanding Role of Biofuels for America."

The hearing of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Sept. 1 at Western Iowa Tech Community College in Sioux City, Iowa. U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar is also a member of this Senate committee.

"Biofuels are a critical element in a sustainable energy portfolio for America," said Sheehan. "I look forward to testifying before Senator Harkin's committee in Iowa on the potential of biofuels as a sustainable energy resource and how biofuels can revitalize rural communities in the Midwest."

U of M At The Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Saturday, Aug. 29 and Sunday, Aug. 30

Sunday is Maroon and Gold Day at the Fair

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/28/2009) —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 from 9 a.m to 9 p.m. For more information about the U at the State Fair visit <http://www.statefair.umn.edu>

The U of M State Fair highlights for Saturday, Aug. 29

10 a.m. Moles, Voles and Rabbits; Oh My! Managing Yard and Garden Pests
 11 a.m. Who wants to be a nutritionist?
 Noon Honeybees, Beekeeping and Research
 1 p.m. U Connects Stage Stars
 2 p.m. Honeybees, Beekeeping and Research
 3 p.m. U Connects Stage Stars 2009
 4 p.m. Music with Radio K

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Wangensteen Historical Library
 Focusing on never-been-seen-before, rare books, this booth gives visitors the chance to discover new literature. These books feature materials from the historical library's oldest collections such as an anatomy atlas, early instrument catalogs and herbal catalogs.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power
 Learn all about hydraulic and pneumatic technology with several hands-on activities sponsored by the Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power. Visitors will see the Portable Fluid Power Demonstrator and be able to operate the Excavator Arm Trainer, which allows them to control and manipulate a toy earth-moving machine.

9am - 9pm University of Minnesota, Morris
 Morris' vision for 2010 is to achieve carbon neutrality and energy self-sufficiency.

9am - 9pm Women's Basketball Fast Break Club
 Have a chance to meet some of the 2009-10 players, talk to them about the upcoming season and get their autographs.

The U of M State Fair highlights for Sunday, Aug. 30 (Maroon and Gold Day)

10 a.m. President Bob Bruininks and the Alumni Band
 11 a.m. Homecoming Royalty
 12 p.m. Know Your U Trivia
 1 p.m. Know Your U Trivia
 2 p.m. Homecoming Royalty
 3 p.m. Access Minnesota radio interview with President Bob Bruininks and Athletics Director Joel Maturi
 4 p.m. Music with Radio K

Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. College of Pharmacy
 This interactive display will provide visitors with a chance to test their Pharmaceutical knowledge with the Pharmacy Quiz on Medication Therapy Management.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. 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 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. CFANS - Department of Forest Resources
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. CFANS - Department of Applied Economics
 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Golden Gopher Football Goal Line Club
 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota Athletics
 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Homecoming 2009: The Ultimate Homecoming
 Fairgoers can stop by the Homecoming Exhibit booth for some fun promotional items, information on Homecoming events, and an opportunity to connect with U of M students working on the events.

Noon - 1 p.m. Goldy

U of M at the Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Monday, Aug. 31

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

August 31, 2009

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 from 9 a.m to 9 p.m. For more information about the U at the State Fair visit <http://www.statefair.umn.edu>

The U of M State Fair highlights for Monday, Aug. 31

- 10 a.m. Alumni Band, Softball Team and Goldy
- 11 a.m. Baseball & Men's and Women's Golf
- Noon Women's Basketball & Men's Gymnastics
- 1 p.m. Men's & Women's Tennis
- 2 p.m. Gopher Men's Hockey
- 3 p.m. Women's Hockey & Alumni Band
- 3:30 p.m. Goldy
- 4:00 p.m. Music with Radio K

Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital
Focusing on living a healthy lifestyle, this booth will provide useful health and fitness tips about eating well and exercising regularly. Information about U of M Amplatz Children's Hospital programs will also be available. Children will also enjoy this display with a special interactive activity.

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. Bell Museum of Natural History
Visit the Bell Museum booth and get a sneak peek at our upcoming exhibit, Hungry Planet: What the World Eats.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota Athletics

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota, Rochester
General information about programs and events at the Rochester campus; staff available to answer questions.

3 p.m. - 9 p.m. School of Dentistry
This School of Dentistry interactive booth gives visitors a chance to test their knowledge about oral health. Kids can practice their drawing skills with oral hygiene coloring books while parents take a quiz and win a prize! Information and brochures on clinics and oral health will be on display as well.

U of M at the Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Tuesday, Sept. 1

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

September 1, 2009

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 from 9 a.m to 9 p.m. For more information about the U at the State Fair visit <http://www.statefair.umn.edu>

The U of M State Fair highlights for Tuesday, Sept. 1

- 10 a.m. Raptors of Minnesota; Peripheral Artery Disease; Nun Brain Study
- 11 a.m. H1N1 Virus; Raptors of Minnesota; Peripheral Artery Disease
- Noon Nun Brain Study; Oh, My Aching Neck!; How To Stay Away From Orthopaedic Surgeons
- 1 p.m. Stroke Risk Factors & Treatment Options; Oh, My Aching Neck!; How To Stay Away From Orthopaedic Surgeons
- 2 p.m. Stroke Risk Factors and Treatment Options; Preparing for the Pan Flu
- 3 p.m. It All Adds Up Campaign
- 4 p.m. Music with Radio K

Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Department of Surgery

This interactive display focuses on laparoscopic surgery and different surgical weight loss procedures. Visitors will also have a chance to win prizes for participating in a game show on healthy eating, exercise, obesity, and diabetes.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Observational Cosmology Lab

This amazing exhibit by the University of Minnesota's Observational Cosmology Lab in the School of Physics and Astronomy showcases various technologies and techniques used by the University of Minnesota to examine the beginning of the Universe.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota Athletics

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota, Rochester

General information about programs and events at the Rochester campus; staff available to answer questions.

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Research in the Anthropology Labs

This exhibit provides a sampler of research projects faculty and graduate students in the Department of Anthropology are running. Artifacts and research equipment will be on display.

3 p.m - 9 p.m. Center for Bioethics

This interactive display focuses on handling a pandemic. Visitors have the chance to experience a new style of BINGO as the Center for Bioethics tests their knowledge relating to the ethical decisions of what to do in a pandemic. Visitors will also have the chance to spin the BINGO wheel to collect prizes.

Sadowsky appointed director of U of M's BioTechnology Institute

Contacts: Peggy Rinard, College of Biological Sciences, (612) 624-0774, rinar001@umn.edu
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801, mattern@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/01/2009) —Michael Sadowsky, a recognized authority on using microorganisms to clean up the environment, has been appointed director of the University of Minnesota's BioTechnology Institute (BTI) effective today, September 1.

Sadowsky, who is a professor in the university's Department of Soil, Water and Climate and co-director of the Microbial and Plant Genomics Institute, has been a BTI faculty member since 1997. He joined the university in 1989 after spending three years as a microbiologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a year as a molecular biologist in industry.

In addition to his achievements in the bioremediation, Sadowsky has shed light on symbiotic relationships between soil microbes and plants, and developed DNA fingerprinting methods to identify bacteria in the environment. Time magazine cited his research on sources of water pollution as a key contribution to environmental microbiology. Sadowsky's achievements have earned him membership in the American Academy of Microbiology and in the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

More recently, Sadowsky has led development of the University's Minnesota Mississippi Genome Project (M3P), which aims to create a DNA database of microorganisms at the headwaters of the Mississippi and to evaluate human impact, notably from agriculture, at points downstream.

As director, Sadowsky plans to build on BTI's success at developing environmentally friendly biochemical and microbial technologies for industry. Supported by the University's Biocatalysis Initiative, BTI researchers have developed enzymes to produce energy, plastics and chemicals from renewable resources to replace petroleum-based products. They are also developing biosensors, nanotechnology and novel biological compounds with applications for the environment, medicine and the food industry.

"Most of the work being done at BTI revolves around biocatalysis," Sadowsky says. "We clearly have expertise in this area, and this is where we really can make a big impact in the future."

Sadowsky hopes to promote BTI as a place for collaborative research among university faculty, to raise its visibility within Minnesota and beyond, and to build stronger relationships with more biotechnology companies.

"I want biotechnology companies to know more about how we can help them and I want to know what they need from us," Sadowsky says. "There's a lot we can learn from each other."

BTI is jointly administered by the College of Biological Sciences (CBS) and the Institute of Technology. Faculty members come from these two colleges as well as the Medical School and the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences. They have a variety of expertise ranging from biochemistry and microbiology to chemical and agricultural engineering. In addition to research, BTI provides educational programs for students who aspire to careers in academia and industry.

U of M at the Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Wednesday, Sept. 2

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

September 2, 2009

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 from 9 a.m to 9 p.m. For more information about the U at the State Fair visit <http://www.statefair.umn.edu>

At 3 p.m., U of M women's basketball head coach Pam Borton will be a celebrity guacamole chef at Tejas Express (Dan Patch and Underwood), where she'll whip up a batch of guacamole for fairgoers.

The U of M State Fair highlights for Wednesday, Sept. 2

- 10 a.m. Engineers Without Borders
- 11 a.m. Memorial Stadium Memories
- Noon Robot Show
- 2 p.m. Voices Merging Student Group
- 3 p.m. It All Adds Up Campaign
- 4 p.m. Music with Radio K

Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Center for Drug Design

This interactively focused booth gives visitors the opportunity to see molecular modeling close up, and examine cheek swabs using a microscope. Kids of all ages will also enjoy the Slime table!

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Engineers Without Borders-U of M Student Chapter

No water, no toilets, no waste removal, no electricity! EWB-UMN provides unique opportunities to interdisciplinary teams of students to address these issues in developing countries around the world. Learn how EWB has successfully implemented environmentally and economically sustainable projects. The students have partnered with disadvantaged communities to improve sanitation and recycling in Haiti, energy efficiency in low-income housing in Minnesota, and clean water supply in Guatemala and Uganda.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Memories of Memorial Stadium

The University of Minnesota Archives honors the history of Memorial Stadium -- the football games, the commencement ceremonies and special events, the scientific research and experiments, the Marching Band performances -- as the community prepares to celebrate the opening of the "new" brick house--TCF Bank Stadium.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota Athletics

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. The Minnesota Daily

Visit with staff from the Minnesota Daily, the University of Minnesota's award-winning student newspaper. More than 100 years old, The Daily has grown from a small arts weekly founded near the 19th century's close to become one of the nation's largest college newspapers and one of the very few that are entirely student-operated.

1 p.m - 5 p.m. It All Adds Up

It All Adds Up is a campus-wide educational and outreach effort that stresses the importance of personal actions while showing that the combined efforts of an engaged University community can make a significant difference. Using the It All Adds Up campaign, the University of Minnesota is working to reduce annual campus energy usage by five percent by the end of 2010. A five percent reduction will save the University \$2.25 million each year and result in 25,000 fewer tons of CO₂ being released into the atmosphere.

3 p.m. - 9 p.m. Pediatric Endocrinology & Department of Emergency Medicine

Pediatrics Endocrinology: Focused on pediatric diabetes, this booth will be engaging the public with educational questions about anatomy, pancreatic function, diabetes (type 1 diabetes in particular), epidemiology and demographics.

U of M Bell Museum hosts "Minnesota's National Park Legacy" film premiere; kicks off America the Beautiful National Park pass sweepstakes

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum, (612) 624-7389
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801 or mattern@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/02/2009) —The University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History continues its celebration of the U.S. National Park System and its “America’s Best Idea” exhibit with an exclusive premiere of the upcoming public television special, “Minnesota’s National Park Legacy” with filmmaker and producer Steve Spencer.

The event, set for 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24 at the Bell Museum, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis, will feature a screening of the Twin Cities Public Television (tpt) special, followed by an informal question-and-answer discussion with Spencer.

The 30-minute television special, set to air on tpt at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4 explores the natural and cultural legacy of Minnesota’s six national park sites: Grand Portage National Monument, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, North Country National Scenic Trail, Pipestone National Monument, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and Voyageurs National Park, as well as projects completed by the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.

The film, produced by tpt and the national park sites, will also air on tpt’s statewide Minnesota Channel (tptMN in the Twin Cities) at 8 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4.

The film presents Minnesota’s national parks and historic sites as dynamic, living, evolving places with important histories and vibrant futures,” said Spencer. “They were places set aside for citizens by citizens, which also means that citizen stewardship is critical to their preservation for generations to come.”

The screening event will conclude with a self-guided tour of the museum’s “America’s Best Idea.” The exhibit showcases stunning, color-drenched panoramic prints of America’s national parks by famed landscape photographer Stan Jorstad, one of only a handful of American artists to photograph all of the country’s 58 national parks.

Also, through September 30, visitors to the museum’s web site can vote for their favorite U.S. National Park and be entered to win a one-year vehicle pass to all U.S. National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands. Visit www.bellmuseum.org for contest details.

The event, made possible by Voyageurs National Park Association, St. Croix River Association, Fredrikson & Byron P.A and the Mississippi River Fund, is free with regular museum admission.

The Bell Museum, which reaches half a million Minnesotans each year through exhibits, events, adult and youth programming, in-class curriculum and television productions, 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.

Gopher alumni help make TCF Bank Stadium drainage system one of nation's greenest

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/02/2009) —TCF Bank Stadium is one of the nation's most environmentally friendly sports stadiums, thanks in part to a storm water management system that will return rainwater to the Mississippi River as clean as it was before encountering humankind. And a lot of the credit for this eco-conscious water management goes to Minnesota-based businesses such as Rehbein Environmental Solutions, Inc. (RESI).



Download and embed this video on how two U of M College of Design alumni, including former academic All-Big Ten Gopher fullback Jason Lamers, helped RESI make TCF Bank Stadium's revolutionary storm water management system, visit:

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

In addition, to read an article about TCF Bank Stadium's impending LEED certification (making it the first football stadium in the country to achieve the feat), visit:

http://www1.umn.edu/news/features/2009/UR_CONTENT_128820.html

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

U of M at the Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Thursday, Sept. 3

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

September 3, 2009

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 from 9 a.m to 9 p.m. For more information about the U at the State Fair visit <http://www.statefair.umn.edu>

The U of M State Fair highlights for Thursday, Sept. 4

10 a.m. Raptors of Minnesota; Anatomy Bequest Program; U of M Arboretum

11 a.m. Aerobic Exercise for People with Alzheimer's; Raptors of Minnesota; Medical Instruments...What's This Used For?

Noon U of M Arboretum; Aerobic Exercise for People with Alzheimer's; Anatomy Bequest Program

1 p.m. Medical Instruments...What's This Used For?; College of Veterinary Medicine; Pediatric Endocrinology

2 p.m. Center for Prostate Cancer; College of Veterinary Medicine; Pediatric Endocrinology

3 p.m. Nutrition & Cancer; Center for Prostate Cancer

4 p.m. Music with Radio K

Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Masonic Cancer Center & Schulze Diabetes Institute

Masonic Cancer Center: This interactive booth focuses on cancer's affect on the human body. Visitors get a chance to take the Cancer Quiz and see first hand from real human tissue displays distress caused by cancer on the human body. Schulze Diabetes Institute: Focusing on diabetes health and prevention this booth gives visitors a chance to learn about what the Schulze Diabetes Institute is doing to find a cure for diabetes. Visitors can find out what they can do to help and receive information about clinical trials while hearing previous patient testimonials on living with diabetes and finding a cure.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Medical Devices Center

Come see the future of medical device research at the University of Minnesota. This display will include body part models, rapid prototyped parts and devices, a visible heart demonstration, a demo using the Nintendo Wii to fly through the heart and many surgical devices. Test your skills in retrieving kidney stones and Laproscopic Knot Tying. 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. - 9 p.m. Women's Gymnastics 10.0 Club

Have a chance to meet some of the 2010 gymnasts, talk to them about the upcoming season and get their autographs! Visitors will also be able to obtain a Gymnastics tattoo and learn more about the 10.0 Club, the booster club of Women's Gymnastics. Information will also be available on incredible ticket offers for the meets and Season Tickets.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota Athletics

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Connect to the U through Social Media

Record your own video message to the Web of what the U means to you. Find out how to follow the U of M on Twitter and Facebook and be one of the millions of viewers of the University's leading and award-winning YouTube channel.

3 p.m. - 9 p.m. Center for Prostate Cancer & Mill City Clinic

Center for Prostate Cancer: Focusing on male health, this booth gives visitors the opportunity to show off their football skills with a surprise NFL player. They also get a chance to answer questions on male health to win prizes! Mill City Clinic: This display focuses on heart disease education and prevention. Visitors have a chance to take a quiz on the risk factors for heart disease and win prizes which include UMP backpacks or pocket medical record keepers. The public will also have the opportunity to get their blood pressure checked and collect information about the Mill City Clinic.

U Academic and Corporate Relations Center's new director discusses challenges of Minnesota's business climate

Who: Matt Kramer, director, University of Minnesota's Academic and Corporate Relations Center
What: Carlson School of Management's "First Tuesday" Luncheon Series
When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6
Where: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis

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

September 3, 2009

Matt Kramer, director of the University of Minnesota's Academic and Corporate Relations Center (ACRC), will speak at the Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at the University's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Joining the University of Minnesota staff after several years in public service where he focused on issues of economic development, Kramer, in his "First Tuesday" address, will offer "Observations from a Public Stakeholder on the Challenges of Doing Business in Minnesota."

Prior to joining the ACRC in August, Kramer served as chief of staff to Gov. Tim Pawlenty. Kramer joined the governor's office in 2006, after being appointed commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Employee and Economic Development (DEED) in 2003. While at DEED, Kramer oversaw the merger of the Department of Trade and Economic Development and the Department of Employee Services, as well as spearheading several key initiatives, including creation of the Job Opportunity Building Zones (JOBZ), and creation of a new bioscience industry program.

Prior to his stint in public service, Kramer was a vice president of marketing at Minnesota-based Syntegra (a subsidiary of British Telecom) as well as holding a similar position at CE Software in Iowa.

Kramer is a 1984 graduate of the University of Minnesota, where he received a bachelor of science in geography.

The advance registration deadline for the "First Tuesday" luncheon 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, October 2. To register: call 612-626-9634, visit carlsonschool.umn.edu/events, or send an e-mail firsttuesday@umn.edu.

Former U of M College of Liberal Arts Dean Fred Lukermann passes away

Lukermann was instrumental in elevating ethnic studies, urban studies and public affairs

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/03/2009) —Fred Lukermann, University of Minnesota geography professor and former dean of the College of Liberal Arts, passed away on September 1, 2009 from injuries he suffered in a fall outside his home. He was 87. A Minneapolis native, Lukermann graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1940 and entered the University of Minnesota the following fall. After U.S. Army service, he returned to the University, earning his B.S., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees.

Lukermann joined the University of Minnesota's geography faculty in the early 1950s. The geography department steadily achieved national and international eminence, with Lukermann nurturing a pervasive spirit of wide-ranging and creative intellectual inquiry within the department and across the University.

He assumed several leadership and administrative roles at the University of Minnesota: chair of the Department of Geography; associate dean for social sciences in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA); assistant vice president for academic affairs; and dean of CLA. Working with CLA Dean E. W. Ziebarth and university Vice President Jerry Shepherd, Lukermann was instrumental in establishing the Departments of African American & African Studies, American Indian Studies and Chicano Studies; the Urban Studies Program; the School of Public Affairs (later renamed the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs) and the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs.

In addition to his inspired teaching, generous advising of graduate students and creative scholarly output, Lukermann pursued a life-long interest in proto-geography in Classical Greece, in the development of modern geographic thought and practice within the history of science, in the historical geography of North America, and in cultural pluralism.

Lukermann was preceded in death by his wife Barbara, son Bruno and his parents; he is survived by daughters Carla Lukermann and Kathryn (Warren) Plaisance and two grandsons.

A memorial service is being planned for later this month.

U of M postdoctoral fellows will research Cambodian education, homeless youth and Chinese immigrants' notions of race

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/04/2009) —The three recipients of the 2009-10 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.

Vichet Chhuon will hold an appointment in the department of curriculum and instruction with an affiliation in the Asian American Studies Program. His research focuses on the influence of school structures on the ethnic and pan-ethnic identity of Cambodian high school youth. His doctoral degree is in curriculum and instruction from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Jarrett Gupton will hold an appointment in the department of organizational leadership, policy and development with an affiliation in the School of Social Work. His research is on educational experiences of homeless youth and access to higher education. His doctoral degree is in urban education policy from the University of Southern California.

Wendy Marie Thompson will hold an appointment in the department of history with an affiliation in the Asian American Studies Program. Her research focuses on Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans' notions of race. Her doctoral degree is in American studies from the University of Maryland, College Park.

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.

“We are honored that these top scholars will be part of the University of Minnesota for the coming year,” said vice president for research Timothy Mulcahy, whose office oversees postdoctoral programs. “We look forward to the energy and ideas they will bring to our classrooms and the community connections they will make.”

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 131 applicants representing 57 institutions within and outside the United States. The selection process involved 50 University of Minnesota departments and programs across 8 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 third year of the program.

For more information, see www.grad.umn.edu/postdocfellowship

University of Minnesota to hold dedication ceremony for Veterans Tribute at TCF Bank Stadium

Media Note: Media parking will be available on the west side of TCF Bank Stadium along Oak St. S.E.

An image of the Veterans Tribute can be downloaded at
http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/downloads/vet_tcf.jpg

What: Public dedication for Veterans Tribute at TCF Bank Stadium
When: 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 11
Where: TCF Bank Stadium, 2009 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

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

September 4, 2009

The University of Minnesota will host a dedication ceremony for the Veterans Tribute at TCF Bank Stadium, 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 11. The event is open to the public.

The dedication program will feature a flyover from three WWI “replica” airplanes and performances from the Metropolitan Boys Choir, the U of M Marching Band and Dorothy Benham, Miss America 1977. Military leaders including General John W. Vessey (ret.), Former Chairman, U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be in attendance. The program will also include the historic first raising of the American flag over the stadium.

The Veterans Tribute at TCF Bank Stadium honors all Minnesota veterans of past, present and future conflicts. The tribute is located on the southwest corner of the stadium, between the main scoreboard and Gate E. It incorporates a bench and a lighted inscription similar to the message that was on Memorial Stadium. From the inside of the stadium, the tribute is conceived as a stage where, as part of the game day tradition, a color guard can raise the flag of the stadium. The tribute stage will be used for many military ceremonies throughout the year.

Retired Air Force Brigadier General Dennis Schulstad, a former national president of the U of M Alumni Association, co-chaired the Veteran Tribute Committee. “The original Memorial Stadium was built in honor of WWI Veterans, it is important to remember and honor the sacrifices made by all veterans,” he said. “They are the reason we can enjoy Saturday football games at the University of Minnesota.”

The inaugural football game at TCF Bank stadium will take place at 6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 12 when the Gophers host the Air Force Academy.

The U of M at the Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Friday, Sept. 4

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

September 4, 2009

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 from 9 a.m to 9 p.m. For more information about the U at the State Fair visit <http://www.statefair.umn.edu>

The U of M State Fair highlights for Friday, Sept. 4

- 10 a.m. Rick Moore, author of the University of Minnesota Football Vault
- 11 a.m. 4-H Project Demonstrations
- Noon Salsa Dancing Organization
- 1 p.m. Transportation Jeopardy
- 2 p.m. U Student and Author of "Subterranean Twin Cities," Greg Brick
- 3 p.m. Transportation Jeopardy
- 4 p.m. Music with Radio K

Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Health Sciences Libraries

This health science focused booth gives visitors a chance to learn about two free consumer health web sites. Demonstrations on how to use the web sites will be provided along with a game called "Stump the Librarian," where participants can ask health related questions and find out where to find the answer on easily available resources.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Transportation Safety and Road Mobility

Center for Transportation Studies and the Intelligent Transportation Systems Institute: The exhibit will engage people with a traffic control game called Gridlock Buster. Gridlock Buster is a game that incorporates tools and ideas that traffic control engineers use in their everyday work.

SafeRoadMaps.org will also be featured. SafeRoadMaps.org is a powerful and visually innovative crash-mapping tool that maps out every roadway fatality in the nation to the local level. The exhibit will also feature a safety kiosk that will have several fun and interactive games and exercises associated with transportation safety.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Women's Basketball Fast Break Club

Have a chance to meet some of the 2009-10 players, talk to them about the upcoming season, and get their autographs. Visitors will also be able to obtain a Goldy tattoo and learn more about the Fast Break Club, one of the most active and fun booster clubs on campus.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota Athletics

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota, Morris
A renewable, sustainable education.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Bell Museum of Natural History

Visit the Bell Museum booth and get a sneak peek at our upcoming exhibit, Hungry Planet: What the World Eats.

noon - 1 p.m. Goldy

The U of M at the Minnesota State Fair Schedule for Sept. 5 - Sept. 7

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/04/2009) —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 from 9 a.m to 9 p.m. For more information about the U at the State Fair visit <http://www.statefair.umn.edu>

The U of M State Fair highlights for Saturday, Sept. 5:

10:00 am Physics Force Show
11:30 am Physics Force Show
1:00 pm UMC Students in Free Enterprise Trivia
2:00 pm Minne Ami Rueda
3:00 pm Speech, Language and Hearing
4:00 pm Music with Radio K

Exhibitors:

9am - 3pm Department of Neuroscience
Learn everything you need to know about the brain, its functions, and so much more at this year's Brain Demonstration!

9am - 9pm Department of Chemistry 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.

9am - 9pm Bell Museum of Natural History
Visit the Bell Museum booth and get a sneak peek at our upcoming exhibit, Hungry Planet: What the World Eats.

9am - 9pm University of Minnesota Athletics

9am - 9pm University of Minnesota, Crookston
Learn more about the Crookston Campus of the University of Minnesota

9am - 9pm Speech, Language and Hearing

9am - 9pm The Minnesota Daily
Visit with staff from the Minnesota Daily, the University of Minnesota's award-winning student newspaper. More than 100 years old, The Daily has grown from a small arts weekly founded near the 19th century's close to become one of the nation's largest college newspapers, and one of the very few that are entirely student-operated.

noon - 1pm Goldy

3 - 9pm Health Department of Neuroscience
This interactive display focuses on everything a person needs to know about the brain, its functions, and so much more! Visitors get a chance to see this year's brain demonstration up close and personal.

The U of M State Fair highlights for Sunday, Sept. 6:

10:00 am UMC Students in Free Enterprise Trivia
11:00 am U of M Tai Chi Student Group
12:00 pm Salsa Dancing Organization
1:00 pm Student Juggling Club
2:00 pm Judo Club
3:00 pm Student Juggling Club
4:00 pm Music with Radio K

Exhibitors:

9am - 3pm Health Anatomy Bequest Program
Focusing on anatomy and donations, this booth will give the public a chance to examine various brain and heart plastinated specimens and browse anatomy posters while discussing various anatomical structures. Also, visitors can pick up program information and watch a video of the anatomy memorial services. A quiz regarding anatomy and donation will be available with a prize for answering questions correctly.

9am - 9pm 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 won the 2009 Formula Sun Grand Prix, a closed-track race at MotorSport Ranch in Cresson, Texas. See the inner workings of the car and talk to members of the solar car team.

9am - 9pm University of Minnesota Athletics

9am - 9pm University of Minnesota, Crookston
Learn more about the Crookston Campus of the University of Minnesota

noon - 1pm Goldy

3 - 9pm Health Student Sight Savers
Members of Student Sight Savers, a group of medical students that are interested in the field of Ophthalmology and want to work to prevent vision loss are teaming up with local Ophthalmologists at this interactive display to provide screenings and educational materials to prevent vision loss in Minnesota.

The U of M State Fair highlights for Monday, Sept. 7:

10:00 am U Swing
11:00 am Sending your kids off to college: U of M Parent Program Director and author Marjorie Savage
12:00 pm 7 Days A Cappella
1:00 pm Robot Dog Show
2:00 pm Institute of Child Development Q&A
3:00 pm 7 Days A Cappella
4:00 pm Music with Radio K

Exhibitors:

9am - 3pm Health Mini Medical School
This interactive booth focuses on the AHC's 21st session of Mini Medical School. Visitors will have the opportunity to browse information on Mini Medical School and sign up to explore the wonders of Anatomy, Physiology, Neurology, Pharmacology, and much more with some of the University of Minnesota's premiere faculty.

9am - 9pm 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 won the 2009 Formula Sun Grand Prix, a closed-track race at MotorSport Ranch in Cresson, Texas. See the inner workings of the car and talk to members of the solar car team.

9am - 9pm University of Minnesota Athletics

9am - 9pm Child Participant Pool
Information will be on display about the kind of research projects currently being conducted at the U of M's Institute of Child Development, one of the premiere centers in the country devoted to the understanding and fostering of child development. ICD will also be recruiting children from birth to 18 years of age for potential participation in future child development research.

2 - 3pm 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.

3 - 9pm Health Pandemic Flu: H1N1 Virus
Medical students from the University of Minnesota will answer questions about the H1N1 virus and distribute important information designed to educate the public about the potential pandemic flu which is posing a threat to the health of the public.

U of M's School of Music to confer Honorary Degree on acclaimed conductor Marin Alsop at fall convocation concert Oct. 6

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra music director became first woman to head a major American symphony in 2007

Contacts: Lisa Marshall, School of Music, (612) 626-1094, marsh396@umn.edu
Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

September 8, 2009

Marin Alsop, internationally-acclaimed conductor and music director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, will receive an honorary degree from the University of Minnesota at the U of M School of Music Fall Convocation program at 10 a.m., Oct. 6 in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. S., Minneapolis.

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. Alsop became the first woman to head a major American orchestra when she was appointed in 2007.

The convocation program will include a keynote address by Maestra Alsop on "Education and the Arts: Musicians as Engaged Leaders" and a performance of Leonard Bernstein's "Make Our Garden Grow" by the U of M Symphony Orchestra and Combined Choirs. The School of Music will host Alsop in residence on October 5-6, where she will talk with students and faculty.

"Maestra Alsop has been invited to the university as the quintessential professional model of integrated artistry, publicly engaged musicianship and civic leadership in the world today," said School of Music director David Myers. "She is an artist-conductor who succeeds creatively across musical styles and genres, and is widely respected for her ability to relate to a wide range of audiences and constituencies. She is highly regarded for her mentorship to young musicians, universally recognized as a role model for contributing to the public good, and deeply valued as an articulate spokesperson for American music and the place of classical music in society.

"Ms. Alsop is the logical musician-leader to inspire faculty and students around public engagement, and to energize collaborative potential among the university and Twin Cities communities for nurturing attitudes of public value and service among musicians," said Myers.

In September 2007, Alsop made history with her appointment as the 12th music director of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the first woman to head a major American orchestra. This mirrored her ongoing success in the United Kingdom where she was Principal Conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony from 2002-08 and is now Conductor Emeritus. Alsop also continues her association as Conductor Laureate of the Colorado Symphony following 12 years as its Music Director, and since 1992 has been Music Director of California's acclaimed Cabrillo Festival which has won the coveted ASCAP award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music every single year since her appointment.

Maestra Alsop's visit to the U of M coincides with the launch of a new initiative to integrate public engagement into the curriculum and research of the School of Music. Supported by a \$10,000 grant from the University of Minnesota's Office of Community Engagement, the school will undertake a career enhancing effort for aspiring professional musicians of the 21st century: preparing them, through projects, internships, and entrepreneurial efforts, to become engaged artist-leaders among the increasingly diverse societies and communities in which they live and work.

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 500 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of more than 50 artists, scholars and teachers. The School of Music presents more than 400 free concerts per year. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.music.umn.edu or call (612) 626-1094 for a brochure.

Federal stimulus, H1N1 preparedness and TCF Bank Stadium among topics at upcoming U of M Board of Regents meeting

When: Thursday-Friday, Sept. 10-11, 2009

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

Contacts: University News Service, (612) 624-5551, unews@umn.edu

September 8, 2009

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold its monthly meeting this week on the Twin Cities campus on Thursday and Friday, Sept. 10-11. The Regents will recognize new Regents Professors, discuss the university's H1N1 flu preparedness and examine how the university can utilize federal stimulus dollars.

The Regents will also get a tour of TCF Bank Stadium Thursday evening. Other notable topics of discussion include a review of the university's accountability report, UMore Park and the 2010 state capital request.

Highlights of the meeting include:

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009

8:15 - 9:30 a.m. Audit Committee, East Committee Room

The committee will get both internal and external audit updates, as well as discuss how the university has utilized funds from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

9:45 - 11:15 a.m. Finance & Operations Committee, East Committee Room

The committee will discuss issues related to the Annual Asset Management Report, as well as federal stimulus ARRA funds.

9:45 - 11:15 a.m. Faculty, Staff & Student Affairs Committee, West Committee Room

Collective bargaining agreements with local AFSCME units will be reviewed and acted upon, as well as a discussion on the university's H1N1 flu preparedness plan.

1 - 3 p.m. Board of Regents Work Session, Boardroom

The work session will include a presentation on the quality, tuition and financial aid of graduate and professional education at the U of M. The relationship of the University of Minnesota Physicians with the university and Fairview Health Services will also be discussed.

3:15 - 4:45 p.m. Educational Planning & Policy Committee, West Committee Room

The committee will receive a university facilities assessment update from Vice President of University Services Kathleen O'Brien, as well as discuss the donation that financed the new brick covering for the TCF Bank Stadium field wall.

Friday, Sept. 11, 2009

9 a.m. - noon, Board of Regents Meeting, McNamara Alumni Center, Boardroom

University President Robert Bruininks will open the meeting by recognizing the 2009 Regents Professors. The meeting will also include a review of the 2010 state capital request with Bruininks, O'Brien and CFO Richard Pfutzenreuter; a resolution related to the creation, organization and use of UMore Park and the UMore Park Legacy Fund; and a review of the University's Plan, Performance and Accountability Report.

More information on the Board of Regents and live streaming view of board meetings can be found at <http://www.umn.edu/regents>

U of M Carlson School's "Brand Matters" forum featuring Mayo Clinic's Lee Aase discussing social media

Media Note: Lee Aase will be available for interviews immediately following his presentation. The registration fee can be waived for members of the media wishing to attend and cover the event. Interested members of the media should contact Erin Rath.

Contacts: Erin Rath, Carlson School of Management, erath@umn.edu or (612) 624-8770
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, mathre@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

September 8, 2009

Who: Lee Aase, Mayo Clinic syndication and social media manager

What: "Brand Matters" forum, offered by the Carlson School of Management, Yamamoto Moss Mackenzie and Twin Cities Business with featured speaker Lee Aase discussing how the Mayo Clinic uses social media to manage and accelerate its international reputation

When: Tuesday, Sept. 22

7:30 a.m. breakfast & registration

8- 9:30 a.m. features speaker presentation

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

How to Register: Registration is available until Friday, Sept. 18 by email at brandmatters@umn.edu or online at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/brandmatters. A registration fee of \$25 covers the event and breakfast.

Digital River CEO Joel Ronning to be Named U of M's Entrepreneur of the Year at Sept. 10 Minnesota Cup Event

Contacts: Erin Rath, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770, erath@umn.edu

September 9, 2009

Joel Ronning, founder and CEO of Digital River, will be presented with the University of Minnesota's Entrepreneur of the Year award at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10, 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 2009 Minnesota Cup, a competition that encourages entrepreneurial spirit and highlights the position of the University of Minnesota as a hub for innovation.

"Joel and his team have built a company that is recognized in technology circles as the leading provider of global e-commerce services. Today, Digital River builds and manages online businesses for some of the world's biggest brands," said John Stavig, professional director of the Gary S. Holmes Center for Entrepreneurship at the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. "It is appropriate to recognize Joel at this event as Digital River is one of the best examples in the last 20 years of the type of innovative businesses needed in Minnesota."

Ronning attended the University of Minnesota before venturing into his first start-up at the age of 20. He founded two other technology-based businesses, learning the lessons that would provide the foundation for long-term growth at Digital River. Since its founding in 1994, Digital River has grown to manage over \$3 billion in annual online sales and has a market cap in excess of \$1.3 billion. Joel is a frequent guest lecturer in MBA entrepreneurship classes at the Carlson School.

In five years since its inception, the Minnesota Cup competition has spurred over 3,500 entries from 48 counties around the state. The competition's mission is to seek out, support, celebrate and promote Minnesota's newest, most innovative business ideas and connect resident entrepreneurs with leading executives, investors and the University of Minnesota. The Holmes Center and alumni founders of the competition hope it will inspire new business ventures and drive economic growth in the state of Minnesota.

Higher food prices will prevail without productivity increases, U of Minnesota scientists say

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/10/2009) —Without significant increases in agricultural productivity – and the research that helps create productivity growth – food will become scarcer and more expensive in coming years, according to a new policy paper co-authored by University of Minnesota economists.

The paper, which is published in the Sept. 4 edition of the journal *Science*, notes that even though food prices have fallen from their recent highs, consumers are still paying higher prices by recent historical standards; growth in agricultural output is failing to keep pace with increasing demand. That trend is likely to get much worse if countries and multi-national agencies fail to ramp up their investments in agricultural research and development, the authors say.

Phil Pardey, an applied economist at the University of Minnesota, and his co-authors, who have written numerous books and papers on similar topics, note that over the past half-century, research has led to advances in agricultural productivity that allowed the growth in the world's food supply to keep up with the growth in population and per capita incomes, even as land and water become increasingly constrained. But the team's review of trends since 1990 shows that not only has the pace of productivity growth slowed generally, the slowdown is especially evident in the countries that provide most of the four major food crops – corn, wheat, rice and soybeans.

Part of that decline must be blamed on reduced rates of growth in R&D spending. And the focus of those funds has also shifted, Pardey says. Research funds that once were spent on maintaining or enhancing farm productivity now are directed toward research on environmental, food safety and consumer health concerns, as well as finding other uses for agricultural products.

“Revitalizing these R&D investments is critical to reviving productivity growth,” Pardey says. “The social payoffs to investing in agricultural R&D take time to be fully realized, but they continue to be large and will help mitigate hunger and poverty and take the pressure off our natural resources over the decades ahead.”

Pardey's co-authors include Jason Beddow at the University of Minnesota and Julian Alston of the University of California-Davis.

U of M Board of Regents hear about H1N1 preparedness, federal stimulus and get their first TCF Bank Stadium experience

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/11/2009) —Just days before the first game in the new TCF Bank Stadium, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents hosted former members of the board in the stadium and also recognized a number of individuals who were instrumental in completing the \$288.5 million project.

"Bringing Gopher football back to campus was a massive undertaking and we're proud it was done on time and on budget," said Board of Regents Chair Clyde Allen. "This stadium means so much more to this university than football - it will be a central part of campus life for students, alumni and visitors. The important recognitions it provides for all 87 Minnesota counties, our tribal nations and Minnesota's veterans, make this a lasting and meaningful addition to the University of Minnesota."

Both Allen and Regent Dean Johnson will speak at a Friday evening dedication of the Veterans Tribute at the stadium. The event, which starts at 7 p.m., is open to the public and will include a fly-over of vintage World War I aircraft.

In other action:

- Four collective bargaining agreements were approved with several labor unions: AFSCME Local 3800 and 3801, AFSCME Local 3260, AFSCME Local 3937 and 3801 and IBEW Local 292;
- A board committee heard from university public health and emergency management officials on its plans and response to the H1N1 pandemic influenza. (Complete information on the university's H1N1 activities can be found at www.umn.edu/h1n1)
- The board approved a capital budget amendment to TCF Bank Stadium to add a brick wall to the inside of the field, thanks to a \$500,000 gift;
- Provost Tom Sullivan led a review of the annual University Plan, Performance and Accountability Report;
- A work session was held to discuss the quality, tuition and financial aid of graduate education;
- A work session was also held to discuss the university's relationship with the University of Minnesota Physicians and Fairview Health Services; and
- University officials outlined how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has been positively impacting the university

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



U of M President statement regarding the passing of Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/13/2009) —The following is a statement from University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks about Nobel laureate and U of M alumnus Norman Borlaug, who died on Saturday at the age of 95:

“Norman Borlaug remains one of the University’s most distinguished alumni — a scientist, educator, humanitarian, and Nobel laureate whose work made him a hero around the world. From his early wheat research in Mexico to his ongoing advocacy for modern farming practices and policy, he saw the human face of hunger in the world and never strayed from his principles. Even in recent years, Dr. Borlaug continued to push the University — and me personally — to a greater understanding of the world’s food needs in the face of growing environmental concerns. Without a doubt, he was still the tough-minded grappler from Iowa who first came to the University more than 75 years ago.”

– President Robert H. Bruininks

U of M Law School to present Constitution Day Commemoration

Contacts: Cynthia Huff, Director of Communications, (612) 625-6691, Huffx070@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0552, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/14/2009) —The University of Minnesota Law School, on behalf of the entire university, will host a Constitution Day program 12:15 - 1:15 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 17 in honor of the day in 1787 when delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia signed the U.S. Constitution. The program will feature presentations by members of the Law School faculty. It will be held in Rm. 25 at Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S. Minneapolis.

In “Upcoming Supreme Court Cases,” Professor David Stras, Vance K. Opperman Research Scholar and co-director of the Law School’s Institute for Law and Politics, will speak on important constitutional law cases coming before the Supreme Court. He will focus on *Free Enterprise v. PCAOB*, a separation of powers case concerning the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board; *FEC v. Citizens United*, a First Amendment case addressing portions of McCain-Feingold campaign finance legislation; and *Sullivan v. Florida/Graham v. Florida*, an Eighth Amendment case questioning life imprisonment for juveniles for non-homicide offenses.

In “Protecting the Great Lakes Against Thirsty Southerners,” professor Fred Morrison, Popham, Haik, Lindquist & Venum Professor of Law, will examine the constitutional and international dimensions of the Great Lakes Water Resources Council Compact that was approved by Congress last year.

In “Torturing the Constitution,” Professor Oren Gross, Irving Younger professor of Law and director of the Law School’s Institute for Legal & Security Studies, will evaluate the constitutionality of waterboarding and other forms of interrogational torture.

One CLE credit has been requested for the program, which also will be presented as a live Webcast at <http://www.law.umn.edu/news/law-school-host-constituion-date-sept-18.html>

U of M panels tackle tough food-health issues

What: Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Symposium

When: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 21

Where: Hubert H. Humphrey Institute, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

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

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

September 14, 2009

National and international experts will present state-of-the-art science on four highly controversial topics related to food and human health at the first University of Minnesota Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives symposium 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Sept. 21 at Hubert H. Humphrey Institute, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Speakers will present the latest research on processed food and how it affects health; whether organic food is healthier; the effects of high fructose corn syrup on obesity, and on whether antibiotic use in animals affects humans.

Each presentation will be followed by an interactive discussion involving local academic and industry experts and the audience. A lunchtime panel will debate the issue of diet versus drugs for obesity prevention and treatment.

The conference is sponsored by the university's Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute, an interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach consortium that includes specialists in food, agriculture and health. It is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Obesity Center.

For a complete symposium agenda, go to <http://www.hfhl.umn.edu>.

Weeding out marijuana: Researchers close in on engineering recognizable, drug-free Cannabis plant

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/14/2009) —In a first step toward engineering a drug-free Cannabis plant for hemp fiber and oil, University of Minnesota researchers have identified genes producing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive substance in marijuana. Studying the genes could also lead to new and better drugs for pain, nausea and other conditions.

The finding is published in the September issue of the *Journal of Experimental Botany*. Lead author is David Marks, a professor of plant biology in the College of Biological Sciences.

The study revealed that the genes are active in tiny hairs covering the flowers of Cannabis plants. In marijuana, the hairs accumulate high amounts of THC, whereas in hemp the hairs have little. Hemp and marijuana are difficult to distinguish apart from differences in THC.

With the genes identified, finding a way to silence them—and thus produce a drug-free plant — comes a step closer to reality. Another desirable step is to make drug-free plants visually recognizable. Since the hairs can be seen with a magnifying glass, this could be accomplished by engineering a hairless Cannabis plant.

The researchers are currently using the methods of the latest study to identify genes that lead to hair growth in hopes of silencing them.

“We are beginning to understand which genes control hair growth in other plants, and the resources created in our study will allow us to look for similar genes in *Cannabis sativa*,” said Marks.

“Cannabis genetics can contribute to better agriculture, medicine, and drug enforcement,” said George Weiblen, an associate professor of plant biology and a co-author of the study.

As with Dobermans and Dachshunds, marijuana and hemp are different breeds of the same species (*Cannabis sativa*), but marijuana contains much more THC than hemp, which is a source of industrial fiber and nutritious oil.

Hemp was raised for its fiber — which is similar to cotton but more durable — in the United States until legislation outlawed all Cannabis plants because they contain THC. Today, marijuana contains as much as 25 percent THC, whereas hemp plants contain less than 0.3 percent.

Hemp was once a popular crop in the upper Midwest because it tolerates a cool climate and marginal soils that won't support other crops but, after drug legislation, hemp fiber was replaced by plastic and other alternatives. Recent popular demand for hemp products has led some states to consider the economic and environmental benefits of hemp. North Dakota legislation aims to reintroduce it as a crop, and Minnesota is considering similar legislation. At the same time, California and other states permit the medicinal use of marijuana.

“I can't think of a plant so regarded as a menace by some and a miracle by others,” says Weiblen, who is one of the few researchers in the United States permitted to study Cannabis genetics. In 2006, Weiblen and colleagues developed a DNA “fingerprinting” technique capable of distinguishing among Cannabis plants in criminal investigations.

U of M Solar Decathlon team to hold first viewings of house for media, public Sept. 16

Open viewings Sept. 16-18 will be only opportunity for public to see solar home before October competition

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu
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September 15, 2009

With the start of the 2009 U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon competition less than three weeks away, the University of Minnesota's first-ever entry into the contest has finally taken shape. The U of M solar house team has finished its initial assembly of the full-featured, completely solar-powered house and will hold its first public viewing from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16 on the U of M's St. Paul campus on the north side of Buford Place just east of Gortner Ave.

Members of the media will have the opportunity to visit the house during Wednesday's initial viewing hours and discuss the inner workings of the U of M's solar house with student and faculty project leaders.

The house also will be open for public tours from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17 and Friday, Sept. 18. Visitors are encouraged to park in the Gortner Avenue Ramp (1395 Gortner Ave., St. Paul), follow the signs past Buford Ave. and turn right on Buford Place to reach the site.

"These public tours give the U of M community and the public a chance to see the solar house in completed form before competition," said Ann Johnson, team project manager and faculty member in civil engineering. "We can't wait to show off the results of our many months of hard work and preparation."

This state-of-the-art, fully functional 800-square-foot home, powered solely by the sun, was built to be broken down into several pieces and re-constructed on site. Following the end of the team's simulation on the St. Paul campus, the house will be disassembled to be transported to Washington, D.C., where it will be re-constructed (beginning Oct. 1) for entry into the bi-annual international Department of Energy competition that will begin on the National Mall Oct. 9.

For more information on the U of M's Solar Decathlon project, visit solardecathlon.umn.edu.

The Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon runs Oct. 9 through Oct. 18 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. and features 20 teams of college and university students competing in 10 different contests (giving the Decathlon its name) to design, build, and operate the most attractive, effective and energy-efficient solar-powered house.

Open to the public: Free tours of TCF Bank Stadium, Oct. 4

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September 16, 2009

On Sunday, Oct. 4, from 1 to 4 p.m., the University of Minnesota will open the gates of TCF Bank Stadium for free public tours as part of the TCF Bank Stadium Tours and University Open House. This event marks the kick off of an exciting week of homecoming events culminating in the game against Purdue on Saturday, Oct. 10.

The self-guided stadium tours will include the opportunity to step on the field, visit the M Club Room and football-shaped locker room, sit in the seats and much more. This will be the only time the locker room will be open to the public.

The event is free and no RSVP is required, but visitors are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item for the Emergency Foodshelf Network. Discounted parking is available at selected surface lots around the stadium.

In addition to the tours, the stadium concourse will hold more than 40 interactive exhibits presented by colleges and other academic units at the U. Visitors can watch a demonstration by the Physics Force, see the award-winning, student built solar car and take a digital history tour of Memorial Stadium and more.

“This event is an exciting opportunity for Minnesotans to bring their families and friends to take an inside look at their new stadium, learn more about their great university and be a part of this historic homecoming celebration,” said Margaret Sughrue Carlson, CEO of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association.

To take the tour, enter TCF Bank Stadium at Gate E (Oak Street and University Avenue). No other entrances will be open. No outside food or beverages may be brought into the stadium. A concession stand will be open for food and beverage purchases.

Go www.homecoming.umn.edu for all of the TCF Bank Stadium Tours, University Open House and Ultimate Homecoming information.

Lifelong learners invited to boost their brainpower with U of M's Saturday Scholars

WHO: College of Education and Human Development

WHAT: Saturday Scholars

WHEN: September 26, 2009

WHERE: Coffman Memorial Union, University of Minnesota

CONTACT: Heather Peña, alumni relations director, 612-626-8782, hpena@umn.edu

Contacts: Diane Cormany, College of Education and Human Development, dcormany@umn.edu

September 16, 2009

Lifelong learners are invited to boost their brainpower by participating in Saturday Scholars, an informal day of learning sponsored by the College of Education and Human Development Alumni Society. Alumni and the general public are invited to stretch their intellect with lectures by distinguished college faculty and staff that apply to their personal or professional lives. Topics include preparing for the future of dementia care, positive youth development through sport, the psychological relationships between mothers and daughters, and applying lessons on effective teaching and learning.

The event includes a continental breakfast and lunch and an optional post-luncheon docent-led tour of the Weisman Art Museum's exhibit, "Stories from the Somali Diaspora." Continuing Education Units are available for teachers and administrators.

Cost is \$15 for University of Minnesota students, \$25 per person for University of Minnesota Alumni Association members and \$30 for non-members. For more information and a registration form, go to www.cehd.umn.edu/alumni

U of M Alumni honored for leadership, service

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Mark Cassutt, Student Unions & Activities, (612) 396-5332, cassutt@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/16/2009) —Twelve University of Minnesota alumni will receive the prestigious Alumni Service Award from the University of Minnesota for their long-time service and legacy of volunteerism. The awards will be presented at a celebration hosted by the University of Minnesota Alumni Association held Oct. 8, as part of Homecoming 2009, at the University's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street, Minneapolis.

"Many of the University of Minnesota's 400,000 living graduates support their alma mater in important ways," said Margaret Sughrue Carlson, chief executive officer of the Alumni Association. "But there is a unique group of 12 individuals that care deeply about the University of Minnesota, and they devote an incredible amount of time and talent as volunteers. They are often 'unsung' heroes, but they make a huge difference to the vitality and future success of our great University. As part of Homecoming 2009, the Alumni Association will be singing the praises of these outstanding alumni volunteers."

Award recipients include:

Donna Anderson, St. Paul, is being honored for her public health leadership role and her many volunteer contributions to the School of Public Health. She has been a top public health administrator in Minnesota counties for nearly 40 years and has served a range of nonprofit and governmental clients as a public health policy consultant.

Ronald Christenson, Waconia, is being honored for his dedicated volunteer service as a student advocate and as chair of the dean's advisory board at the Institute of Technology. A student mentor and a volunteer speaker, helping students shape their careers and understand the world of industry, Christenson is corporate vice president and chief technology officer at Cargill, Inc.

Donna Dvorak, Arden Hills, is being honored for over two decades of volunteer leadership and service to the Program of Mortuary Science at the University of Minnesota. She has participated in and held a variety of leadership positions on the Mortuary Science Alumni Board throughout the years. She has also coordinated fund raising activities through the decades, including an annual silent auction.

Duane Engebretson and **Glenn Engebretson**, natives of Devil's Lake, North Dakota, and currently residents of Sun City West, Arizona, are being honored for their vision and leadership to the College of Pharmacy. Duane and Glenn have served as sole sponsors of five major drug development symposia held over the past decade. The twin brothers also serve as sole sponsors of the college's new "Engebretson Drug Design and Development Grant" faculty award research program. Their visionary leadership to improve health care by enhancing drug discovery and development is a legacy that benefits society at large.

M. Constance Kozlak, Woodbury, is being honored for 14 years of dedicated and effective service to the Humphrey Institute's mentor program. Kozlak is well respected in the planning community and provides an invaluable resource to the institute's career services operation through her pipeline to planning organizations and agencies for internship and employment opportunities for students. Kozlak works for the Metropolitan Council as its manager of transportation systems planning and programming.

Thomas LaSalle, Edina, is being honored for more than a decade of outstanding volunteer service in key leadership roles on the Alumni Association national board of directors. LaSalle Group, the Bloomington, Minn. company that he founded and heads, helped develop many University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus building projects, including the McNamara Alumni Center.

Janice Linster, Minneapolis, is being honored for her service to students and for her leadership to the College of Design. An award-winning interior designer and a LEED accredited professional, Linster is credited as an outstanding role model and University advocate whose efforts enhance the student experience and supports the development, competency, and professionalism of countless future design professionals. Linster is the founding partner and principal of the architecture and interior design firm, Studio Hive.

Dr. Stephen Litton, Golden Valley, is being honored for his volunteer work with the U of M's School of Dentistry. He has served on numerous committees for the School of Dentistry, from faculty searches to major fundraising campaigns, in addition to two terms on the University of Minnesota Alumni Association National Board. Even though he maintains a busy orthodontic practice, he finds or makes time to stay active in the myriad professional organizations.

Daniel Mallin, Golden Valley, is being honored for his volunteer work with the Carlson School of Management. His efforts have led to partnerships that have spurred the U of M's educational, research and outreach efforts and have contributed to the vitality of the state's economic base. He founded the Minnesota Cup with his venture partner, Scott Litman. The cup competition is a joint project of the University and Wells Fargo that aims to encourage entrepreneurial endeavor and support the state's best innovative ideas.

Paul Meierant, Edina, is being recognized for his volunteer service to enhance College of Liberal Arts (CLA) students' career development. He has been an active participant in many career-related programs and has dedicated himself to helping CLA students succeed. Meierant is the business support manager at Supervalu, Inc.

Robert Roesler, Sherburn, is being recognized for his service to the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences (CFANS). He facilitated stakeholder meetings that brought together community leaders, high school teachers, alumni, students, and University of Minnesota representatives to further strengthen agricultural education for undergraduates. Roesler teaches business management at Minnesota West Community & Technical College in Welcome, Minn and serves as the Mayor of the city of Sherburn.

Barbara Stephens Foster, Spring Lake Park, is being honored for her volunteer work with the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). Through her dedication, passion, and respect for others, Stephens Foster has made a significant impact at the University of Minnesota. Stephens Foster has been a strong advocate for engaging alumni with students and is a mentor for African American students.

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a 60,000-member organization that has advocated for the University's important work for more than a century. By joining the Alumni Association, alumni become ambassadors for the University. For more information, go to www.minnesotaalumni.org or call 800-862-5867.

University of Minnesota TCF Bank Stadium achieves LEED Silver Certification

Stadium becomes the first collegiate or professional football facility to achieve LEED status

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/17/2009) —The University of Minnesota announced today that TCF Bank Stadium has been awarded LEED Silver Certification established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). LEED is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. With this designation, TCF Bank Stadium becomes the first LEED certified collegiate or professional football facility in the country.

Located on the East Bank of the Twin Cities campus, the 50,805-seat TCF Bank Stadium is the new home for Golden Gopher Football and the University of Minnesota Marching Band. Construction of the stadium began in July 2007 and was completed July 2009. Populous (formerly HOK Sport Venue Event) served as the primary architect for the building, while Mortenson Construction was the general contractor.

"TCF Bank Stadium is an historic project for the university and it was important to us to do it right," said University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks. "This designation, in particular, underscores the commitment of the Board of Regents and the leadership of the university to principles of sustainability, energy conservation and responsible stewardship of our environment and our resources."

LEED Certification of TCF Bank Stadium was based on a number of green design and construction features that positively impact the project itself and the broader community. These features include:

- A storm water management system that allows rain water to be captured into a comprehensive underground filtering system outside the stadium, where it is harvested, filtered and drained into the Mississippi River.
- Steel for the stadium is 90 percent recycled and was fabricated primarily in Minneapolis.
- A reflective roof to reduce heat island effect.
- Paint, carpet, sealants and adhesives that are low in volatile organic compounds, which can aggravate health problems.
- 98 percent of the construction waste from the site was recycled.
- A 50 percent reduction in the use of potable water for landscape irrigation.
- A 30 percent reduction in indoor potable water use.

"The green building movement offers an unprecedented opportunity to respond to the most important challenges of our time, including global climate change, dependence on nonsustainable and expensive sources of energy and threats to human health," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & founding chair, U.S. Green Building Council. "The work of innovative building projects such as TCF Bank Stadium is a fundamental driving force in the green building movement."

By using less energy and water, LEED certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community.

"There's no better experience than seeing 50,000 Gopher fans coming back to campus to celebrate Minnesota football, and to be able to do that in a stadium that's respectful of the environment was paramount for us from day one," said Scott Radecic, senior principal of Populous.

"Mortenson is honored to work with an outstanding team to build the first football stadium, collegiate or professional, to become LEED certified," said Ken Sorensen, vice president and general manager of Mortenson's Minneapolis office. "This is a meaningful testament to the university's commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility within our community."

The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. 35,000 projects are currently participating in the LEED system, comprising over 5.6 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 91 countries.

Transatlantic Science Week brings leading environmental scientists together in Minnesota

Media Note:

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/17/2009) —Three of the world's leading ecologists – University of Minnesota's David Tilman (United States), David Schindler (Canada) and Nils Stenseth (Norway) – will share views and insights on critical environmental issues during Transatlantic Science Week, which will be held at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis from Sunday, Sept. 27 to Tuesday, Sept. 29.

Tilman, University of Minnesota Regents Professor of Ecology, is widely known for proving that diversity stabilizes ecosystems and for discovering the economic and environmental benefits of using perennial grasses to make biofuel. Schindler, a University of Alberta ecology professor, has helped shape global environmental policy through his discoveries of the human impact on freshwater ecosystems. And Stenseth, who heads the Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Synthesis at the University of Oslo, has been highly cited for his research on the ecological effects of climate change. All three have received major international awards for their work.

During their presentation at 11:20 a.m. Monday, Sept. 28, the three scientists will discuss climate change and its effect on global biodiversity; the impact of renewable energy on the global food supply; preserving global biodiversity; and the impact of population growth and climate change on global demand for clean water.

Former Vice President Walter Mondale, Norway's Honorary Consul General in Minneapolis, will kick-off the annual event at 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 28. University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks and Tora Aasland, Norway's Minister of Research and Higher Education, will co-host the event.

The focus of Transatlantic Science Week 2009 is on developing partnerships to preserve the environment and develop renewable energy and clean technologies. Other speakers include Cora Marrett, acting deputy director of the National Science Foundation; Jon Foley, director of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment; Robert Elde, dean of the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences; Wegger Strommen, Norway's Ambassador to the United States; Arvid Hallen, director general of the Research Council of Norway; Lois Quam, founder of Tysvar, LLC, which focuses on private sector solutions to climate change; and Doug Cameron, managing director and Chief Science Advisor for Piper Jaffrey.

These transatlantic meetings were initiated by the Norwegian government in 2001 to strengthen cooperation in research, innovation and higher education among Norway, the United States and Canada. They are organized by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Washington, D.C. This is the eighth annual forum and the first to be held in Minnesota.

For details about the program, go to

<http://www.norway.org/restech/science+week/Science+Week+2009.htm>



U of M Board of Regents to hold special meeting on Monday

Contacts: University News Service, 612-624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/17/2009) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold a special meeting on Monday, Sept. 21, 2009 at 4 p.m. in their boardroom at the McNamara Alumni Center. The purpose of the meeting is to consider a resolution to hold a nonpublic meeting to discuss attorney-client privileged matters, specifically, authorizing possible commencement of litigation with respect to certain specific statutory, environmental, constitutional and other claims of the University of Minnesota.

U of M Center for Transportation Studies director Robert Johns accepts position with USDOT

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/21/2009) —Robert Johns, director of the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies (CTS), has accepted an offer by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) to be director of the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, Mass. He begins his new position on Sept. 28.

Johns was appointed CTS director in 2001. Previously, he served as the center's deputy director and associate director. Johns also chairs the Board for the Intelligent Transportation Systems Institute, a federal university transportation center.

Since Johns became CTS director, the university's total annual expenditures for transportation research, technology transfer, and outreach has grown from \$8 million to \$21 million, which has moved CTS to second place in the national ranking of university transportation centers.

"This is an exciting opportunity to be challenged by a large research operation and to more directly serve our country," Johns said. "But it is a great loss to leave CTS and the wonderful transportation community here in Minnesota."

CTS works with more than 70 faculty members and researchers at the university to carry out research programs that advance ideas and innovations in a variety of transportation-related topics. The center also provides interdisciplinary education programs for transportation students and offers training and outreach programs for transportation professionals and policy leaders.

Johns has led interdisciplinary teams of faculty and research staff for four major CTS studies: the Transportation and Regional Growth Study, the Access to Destinations Study, the Value Capture for Transportation Finance Study and the American Institute of Architects Study on Transportation, Design, and Communities. He also led a study of the MnROAD pavement research facility, which resulted in the formation of the Transportation Engineering and Road Research Alliance (TERRA).

Nationally, Johns is active in the Transportation Research Board (TRB) of the National Academies. He currently is chair of the TRB Technical Activities Council, providing oversight to TRB's 200 technical committees that address all aspects of transportation.

Prior to joining the University in 1988, he worked in research and management positions for the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities Area, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway. He earned a bachelor of science in Engineering Operations from Iowa State University and a master of business administration and a master of arts in English from the University of Iowa.

The Volpe Center, part of the USDOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration, is considered a global leader in transportation research. Johns was chosen to be director of Volpe from a wide range of senior individuals at leading organizations in the private and public sectors following broad national search.

U hosts free Math

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/21/2009) —Math plus science equals a day of fun and learning at the University of Minnesota's Math & Science Family Fun Fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 26 at the university's Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public.

The Family Fun Fair features entertaining, hands-on math and science experiences including hovercrafts, microscopes, miniature race cars and a Exploradome inflatable planetarium. Enjoy Physics Force performances, chemistry experiments, a Steel Bridge Team demonstration 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 Katherine Cramer, outreach coordinator for the Institute of Technology, the university's college of science and engineering.

Several corporations and Twin Cities organizations will also sponsor interactive exhibits including the Minnesota Planetarium Society, B*E*S*T Outreach, 3M and the Minnesota Microscopy Society.

University of Minnesota sponsors and presenters include the department of Chemistry, School of Physics and Astronomy, School of Mathematics Center for Educational Programs, Minnesota Space Grant Consortium, Steel Bridge Team and many others.

For more information, visit www.it.umn.edu/outreach.

U of M faculty member plays crucial role in designing new World Health Organization radon gas level recommendations

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/21/2009) —Bill Angell, a housing studies faculty member in the University of Minnesota's College of Design and Extension housing technology specialist, is one of the world's foremost experts on the presence of radon gas in homes and played a crucial role in designing new radon recommendations published today in Geneva by the World Health Organization (WHO). The new guidelines say that radon gas levels in homes should be lowered by about one-third of the previously recommended threshold.

Radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer and a class-A carcinogen. The lower threshold means that the number of homes needing radon mitigation in Minnesota will increase by 400,000.

Angell, president of the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists and chair of the Prevention and Mitigation Working Group in the WHO International Radon Project, said the revisions were necessary.

"WHO's advocacy for more protective guidance to home buyers, builders and residential property owners reflects the growing evidence of the serious toxic risk posed by indoor radon," said Angell. "It is important that all home buyers and property owners test homes they are considering purchasing or living in and consider reducing concentrations that exceed the new WHO recommendation."

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ranks Minnesota fourth highest in the nation with dangerously high levels of radon.

"Our risk is higher in Minnesota partly due to our geology—soil in the Upper Midwest contains widespread uranium—and partly due to having our homes closed up so much of the year to stay warm," Angell said. Many homes in Minnesota and this region have basements with greater amounts of soil contact than other types of foundations and thus have a greater chance of elevated indoor radon.

In Minnesota, about 42 percent of homes that have been tested have indoor radon concentrations higher than EPA's current threshold for action. At WHO's recommended threshold for action, the portion of Minnesota homes with elevated radon increases to 60 percent, or from 900,000 to about 1.3 million.

In the "WHO Handbook on Indoor Radon: A Public Health Perspective," the organization recommends that countries adopt a threshold equal to 2.7 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). The previous level, supported by the EPA for the past 40 years, was 4 pCi/L. While the lung cancer risks of high dose radon, typically found among uranium miners, have been known for many years, new studies summarized in the new WHO handbook confirm that low levels of exposure to indoor radon contribute substantially to the occurrence of lung cancer. Radon is the primary cause of lung cancer in people who have never smoked.

WHO is calling on countries to establish or strengthen plans to control radon, which occurs naturally outdoors but indoors is the result of construction lacking proper methods of keeping the radioactive gas from seeping in through basement floors and walls. Although the best option may be to live in a home that is built with radon defense in mind, testing for radon and lowering the level is simple and inexpensive in any home. Angell says that if new recommendations are followed there would be 9,000 fewer lung cancer deaths per year in the United States, including several hundred fewer annual deaths in Minnesota.

For more information on radon in homes, visit:

WHO Handbook on Indoor Radon: A Public Health Perspective:
http://www.who.int/ionizing_radiation/env/radon/en/index1.htm

University of Minnesota Extension Housing Technology resources:
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/HousingTech/>

WHO Radon Web site: http://www.who.int/ionizing_radiation/env/radon/en/index.html

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov/radon/>

Minnesota Department of Health: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/indoorair/radon/>

To order low-cots radon test kits: <http://www.radon.com/sub/mn/>

U of M Selects Mortenson Construction as Construction Manager for the Biomedical Discovery District Phase 2

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Lynette Todd, Mortenson Construction, (763) 287-5331, Lynette.Todd@mortenson.com

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/21/2009) —The University of Minnesota today announced the selection of Mortenson Construction as the construction manager for Phase 2 of the Biomedical Discovery District. The selection was made through a competitive process that reviewed qualifications, experience, cost, safety and commitment to using targeted businesses.

The Biomedical Discovery District is the result of a \$292 million funding program approved by the State of Minnesota in 2008 that will provide appropriations to the university for up to 75 percent of the costs to design and construct new and expanded research laboratory facilities on the Twin Cities campus. When complete, the Biomedical Discovery District will include facilities and related infrastructure to house as many as 1,260 faculty researchers and staff.

“After a very thorough process that involved outstanding, highly qualified local contractors, Mortenson Construction stood out as providing the best team to oversee construction of the buildings to be constructed in Phase 2 of the Biomedical Discovery District,” said Kathleen O’Brien, Vice President of University Services. “Mortenson has extensive experience with preconstruction cost estimation, laboratory planning and with the construction of large projects. We’re pleased with the strong interest in this project and look forward to moving on to the next stage”

“Mortenson is honored to be a part of this next major phase of the Biomedical Discovery District,” says Ken Sorensen, vice president and general manager of Mortenson’s Minneapolis office. “This state-of-the-art research campus will support collaborative learning and foster modern scientific advancements, which will further the university’s vision to become one of the top three public research universities in the world.”

“We are proud of our long and trusted relationship with the university and look forward to partnering once again to make this project a reality.”

The Biomedical Discovery District brings scientists and researchers together to collaborate in state-of-the-art facilities to find cures and treatments to today’s most devastating health conditions – cancer, heart disease, diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease and more.

Phase 1 of the Biomedical Discovery District includes the expansion of the Center for Magnetic Resonance Research, for which ground was broken in July, and the Medical Biosciences Building which will open in December 2009. Phase 2, which is in pre-design planning, will include research space devoted to cancer and heart disease. These facilities are located next to the McGuire Translational Research Facility and north of TCF Bank Stadium.

“The Biomedical Discovery District is critical to the university’s research in the health sciences, and to our goal of preventing and finding treatments and cures to diabetes, infectious disease, neurological conditions, cancer and cardiovascular disease,” said Dr. Frank Cerra, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean of the Medical School. “State-of-the-art research facilities are critical to recruiting new faculty and to educating and training the next generation of health professionals.”

Mortenson Construction, a Minneapolis-based family-owned business, is the largest construction organization in Minnesota. The company has managed construction of numerous higher education research facilities across the nation, including University of Minnesota campus projects such as the expansion of the Center for Magnetic Resonance Research (CMRR), Kolthoff Hall and Jackson Hall. In addition to scientific laboratories, the company is involved in a wide variety of building types with expertise in higher education, healthcare, corporate, cultural and public assembly and sports facilities.

For more information, go to www.bdd.umn.edu.

Mathematics of voting expert to speak at U tonight

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September 22, 2009

Donald Saari, author of the book "Disposing Dictators, Demystifying Voting Paradoxes", will speak at the University of Minnesota, 7 p.m, Tuesday, Sept. 22. in 125 Willey Hall, 225 19th Ave. S. His talk is titled "Chaotic Elections: Why don't voters elect whom we really want?" Saari is a distinguished professor of mathematics and economics at the University of California-Irvine and the first speaker in this year's Institute of Mathematics public lecture series.

"The plurality vote, as used here and in many countries, is a terrible way to determine an election," said Saari "because a voter cannot register who they prefer in second or third place."

Whenever there are three or more candidates in a race, this election tool is flawed, Saari pointed out. Jesse Ventura, for instance, would not have won the three-way vote in the 1998 governor's race if voting allowed a way to rank candidates. Similarly, the close tally for the Coleman/Franken race may not have happened with a better voting system. In his lecture, Saari also will discuss why instant run-off voting is not a solution.

The Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) brings together the best minds in math and the sciences to solve pressing problems facing our society, our industries, and our planet. It receives major funding from the National Science Foundation and the University of Minnesota.

University of Minnesota files suit seeking protection from adverse effects of Central Corridor light rail line

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/22/2009) — The University of Minnesota filed suit against the Metropolitan Council today in Hennepin County District Court, seeking protection from the adverse effects of construction and operation of the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) project on the university's East Bank Campus.

"This action is being taken because we are simply not far enough along in reaching a solution to the very real challenges this light rail line poses for the University of Minnesota's core research mission," said President Robert Bruininks. "The Board of Regents and I have a solemn responsibility to protect the university's core research mission, decades of public investment in research infrastructure and hundreds of millions of dollars in research grants brought into this state each year by faculty research in facilities that are at risk."

Bruininks added that the university has long been a supporter of the CCLRT project and is eager to reach agreement with the Metropolitan Council on scientifically effective mitigations so that the project can move forward. "But the consequences of not protecting our land grant university's research infrastructure along the Washington Avenue corridor from the adverse effects that could result if this public works project is not done right are just too great to risk."

University researchers along the corridor are working to develop treatments and cures for life-threatening illnesses like cancer and diabetes, and the state's medical device and high-tech industries depend upon research happening in these labs. There are 80 laboratory facilities in 17 buildings along or in close proximity to the proposed CCLRT Washington Avenue route.

"We have said on a number of occasions that our fundamental objective is to identify effective solutions, based on sound science, that will move this transit project forward while protecting our public research mission and resources from potentially serious degradation. It remains the university's goal to find these solutions. This lawsuit does not preclude us from continuing to sit down with our project partners and work through the remaining issues to find scientifically effective solutions that will protect our research mission." said Bruininks.

The suit's timing was largely dictated by Minnesota law that requires filing of environmental claims within 30 days of the Metropolitan Council's final decision on the adequacy of its environmental review of the project in August. The suit alleges that the final environmental impact statement and related decisions about the project fail to adequately address serious adverse effects the rail line will cause, according to university General Counsel Mark Rotenberg, who filed the claim today.

Global environmental "tipping points" can no longer be ignored, international team of researchers says

University of Minnesota's Jon Foley and Peter Snyder among leading scientists who authored new paper in Nature

Media Note:

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/23/2009) —Over the past century, human activity has changed the global environment more than any natural process in Earth's recent history. Due to such massive, human-caused change, many parts of the planet are quickly approaching a breaking point, most scientists say. In response, an international team of researchers including University of Minnesota researchers, Jon Foley director of the Institute on the Environment, and Peter Snyder, assistant professor in the department of soil, water and climate, have taken the first step toward defining a "safe planetary operating space" that will guide civilization into a secure and sustainable future.

In the article "Planetary Boundaries: A Safe Operating Space for Humanity" -- published Sept. 24 in the journal Nature -- 28 leading scientists attempt to quantify the safe biophysical boundaries outside which, they believe, Earth's natural systems cannot function in a stable state, the state in which human civilizations have thrived for 10,000 years.

Human pressures on the planet have reached a scale where abrupt global environmental "tipping points" can no longer be ignored, says lead author Johan Rockström, director of the Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University.

"To continue to live and operate safely, humanity has to stay away from critical thresholds in Earth's environment and respect the nature of our planet's climatic, geophysical, atmospheric and ecological processes," Rockström explains.

The article introduces important thresholds and boundaries that humans must recognize to avoid irreversible, and potentially catastrophic, changes to the global environment. The nine boundaries include climate change; stratospheric ozone; land use change; freshwater use; biological diversity; ocean acidification; nitrogen and phosphorus inputs to the biosphere and oceans; aerosol loading; and chemical pollution.

We may have already crossed three of these boundaries, according to the authors. Perhaps the most recognized among them is climate change. "Observations of a climate transition include the rapid retreat of summer sea ice in the Arctic Ocean, the melting of almost all mountain glaciers around the world, and an increased rate of sea-level rise in the past 10-15 years," says co-author John Schellnhuber, director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

Co-author Foley points to another example: Through fertilizers and industrial pollution, we've already doubled the natural cycling of nitrogen and phosphorus globally. "And may need to double that amount again to feed 3 billion more people in the next 40 years," he says. "How long until the whole system unravels?"

The authors also emphasize that the boundaries are interconnected; crossing one may threaten the ability to stay within safe levels of the others.

"Everything we've based the success of our civilization on, including agriculture, coastlines, and patterns of weather, could be severely disrupted," says Foley. "It wouldn't be the end of the world, but it would be the end of the world as we know it."

While the planetary boundaries aren't 100 percent definitive, they do serve as a preliminary map. The authors hope the next generation of scientists will refine and perfect the ideas in the Nature article.

"What we present is a novel framework through which our scientific understanding of Earth's systems can potentially be used more directly in the societal decision-making process," says co-author Katherine Richardson, a professor at the University of Copenhagen's Earth System Science Center.

"Imagine you're driving on top of a mesa at night, without headlights, and you're stomping on the accelerator. You probably want to know where the edge is," says Foley. "This paper is the first attempt to show where the edges of the cliff are because they're not that far away."

To view a video of an interview with Jon Foley,
see http://environment.umn.edu/multimedia/video_planetaryboundaries.html

USDA Secretary Vilsack to Speak at U of M

Former Iowa governor to address food policy

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/23/2009) —The University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and College of Continuing Education will host a Freeman Lecture/Great Conversation featuring U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack at 7:30 p.m. Monday, October 5, at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis. U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar is scheduled to introduce him.

As head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Vilsack oversees a \$134 billion portfolio that includes leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources and rural development. The conversation is expected to cover a wide-ranging conversation about food aid and international development, obesity and nutrition, food security, farm and foreign trade policy and other topics related to the USDA's mission.

Following a talk on "Feeding the World: At Home and Abroad," Vilsack will converse with Dean J. Brian Atwood of the university's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and Dean Allen Levine, College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences.

The program is free and open to the public, but tickets are required (limit of four per person). For tickets, call (612) 624-2345 or visit <http://northrop.umn.edu/event/feeding-world-home-and-abroad>.

The Orville Lothrop Freeman Lecture series honors Freeman's lifetime commitment to the University of Minnesota and to public service. The 29th governor of Minnesota, Freeman went on to serve as secretary of agriculture in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. He cared deeply about world hunger and is credited with creating the food stamp program to provide better nutrition to this nation's poor. Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item.

Great Conversations is produced by the College of Continuing Education. For subscription information, visit www.cce.umn.edu/conversations.

This event is part of The Ultimate Homecoming at the University of Minnesota.

U of M confers honorary doctorate on alumnus David Dilcher, who discovered the 'first flower'

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/23/2009) —The University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences will confer an honorary doctorate on David Dilcher, the world's leading authority on the evolution of flowering plants, at Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories on Saturday, Sept. 26, as the college celebrates the field station's 100th anniversary.

Dilcher, who earned bachelor of science and master of science degrees in biology, geology and zoology at the University of Minnesota in 1958 and 1960, went on to earn his doctorate at Yale University and spent most of his career as professor of botany for the University of Indiana. Now retired, he continues his work as an adjunct professor at the University of Florida.

According to Dilcher, his lifelong passion for plant evolution was sparked by his studies at Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories when he was a student. Itasca State Park, which was preserved by the Minnesota Legislature in 1891, is a living library of Minnesota's native plant species, which include many varieties of orchids and fungi as well as rare plants, such as the carnivorous Pitcher.

Dilcher's work has been recognized with two Guggenheim fellowships and election to the National Academy of Sciences, among other honors. In 1986, the NAS selected him as a visiting scholar to China, where he uncovered some of the world's oldest fossils of flowering plants.

In 1998, Dilcher and a colleague at Jilin University in Changchun, China, where Dilcher is an honorary professor, uncovered a fossil of what they believe to be the world's oldest flowering plant, which lived at least 125 million years ago. Their discovery was featured in a 2007 Nova program called "The First Flower."

"I spent my entire career, probably 35 years, looking for that flower," Dilcher said.

The discovery secured Dilcher's reputation for solving what Darwin termed the "abominable mystery" of how flowering plants (which encompass species as different as roses, apple trees and wheat) evolved from green plants and became the dominant plant group on Earth. He is also known for paleoclimatological studies of how fluctuations in carbon dioxide levels, temperature and precipitation affected plant evolution.

Second Annual Discover Exceptional Women Event at the U of M

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/23/2009) —This fall, the Women's Center at the University of Minnesota is hosting the second annual weeklong series of events titled "Discover Exceptional Women." The series is designed to engage female students, faculty, staff and members of the community in the wide range of resources, programming, and services available to women at the U of M.

"Discover Exceptional Women" will run from October 5 to 9, and feature lectures, films, performances and workshops on topics like women's leadership, domestic violence, women's mental and physical health and strategies for student involvement and success.

African American educator and lecturer Tish Norman will kick off the series on Monday, October 5 with a lecture titled, "Women in Charge! Communication Strategies for Confident Women," which offers communication tips to help increase their personal effectiveness on campus, in the workplace and in their personal relationships.

Highlights from "Discover Exceptional Women" include a workshop from the Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education about feminism and female student involvement, as well as a film screened by student group Black Motivated Women that focuses on domestic violence and sexual assault in the African American community. Stamp Out Stigma will close out the series with a panel discussion featuring women's stories about mental health.

Most events are free and open to the public. For more information about the series or any individual event, visit the Women's Center web site at <http://www.umn.edu/women> or e-mail women@umn.edu.

U of M to hold memorial for alumnus Norman Borlaug Oct. 8

Open-to-the-public ceremony to feature notable speakers, video tribute to Nobel laureate

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September 24, 2009

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association will hold a memorial service for 1970 Nobel Peace Prize winner and distinguished U of M alumnus Norman Borlaug beginning at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 8 in Memorial Hall of McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public.

Confirmed speakers include: U of M President Robert Bruininks; Kenneth Quinn, president of the World Food Prize Foundation; Judith Rodin, president of The Rockefeller Foundation; Carol Ishimaru, head of the U of M's plant pathology department; U of M Regents Professor Ron Phillips; former Borlaug-Ruan Intern and U of M alumnus David Johnson; and J Robinson, longtime Golden Gopher wrestling coach. Also in attendance will be Borlaug's daughter, Jeanie Laube, as well as other family members and close friends.

The memorial will feature a musical tribute to Borlaug (including a special piece composed by College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Sciences Dean Allen Levine) as well as a video highlighting his legacy.

Arguably one of the university's greatest alumnus, Borlaug is called the "father of the Green Revolution" for collaborating with scientists in places like Mexico, India and Pakistan on problems of wheat improvement, helping stave off starvation for perhaps as many as one billion people worldwide.

Borlaug, a native of Cresco, Iowa, was a member of the U of M's wrestling team and received his Bachelor of Science degree in forestry from the University of Minnesota in 1937, and returned to Minnesota to gain his master's (1939) and doctorate degrees (1942) in plant pathology.

"Norman Borlaug remains one of the university's most distinguished alumni -- a scientist, educator, humanitarian, and Nobel laureate whose work made him a hero around the world," said Bruininks. "From his early wheat research in Mexico to his ongoing advocacy for modern farming practices and policy, he saw the human face of hunger in the world and never strayed from his principles."

Borlaug was originally scheduled to be one of six grand marshals for the U of M's "Ultimate Homecoming" parade on Oct. 10. Homecoming runs from Oct. 4-11 this year.

For a more information on Borlaug as well as updated details of this event, visit <http://www.cfans.umn.edu/borlaug>

New study of Minnesota recreational trail users shows economic impact

Study coordinated by University of Minnesota

Media Note: The study can be found at <http://www.forestry.umn.edu/publications/staffpapers/Staffpaper203.pdf>

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/24/2009) —Recreational trail users in Minnesota spent nearly \$2.41 billion on travel expenses in the past year, according to a new study of the state's trail user groups.

The study, coordinated by the University of Minnesota, provides useful information for recreation and trail managers, planners and advocacy groups. In addition to spending totals, the study explores users' motivations for trail activity and their concerns about trail use.

The mail survey of trail users across Minnesota and across 20 types of recreational user groups (all-terrain vehicle riders, road and mountain bicyclists, cross-country skiers, horseback riders, off-highway motorcycle riders, off-road vehicle riders, inline skaters, snowmobile riders and walkers/hikers) revealed a range of travel expenditures among the groups. Walking/hiking activities accounted for \$1.42 billion. These total trip expenditures culminate in more than 30,000 jobs in Minnesota and nearly \$205 million in state and local taxes.

Recreational trail users said that they participate in their activity most often for physical activity, to view scenery and be close to nature, or to get away from day-to-day routines. Physical activity was among the top three highest percentages for six of the 20 groups surveyed, including off-highway motorcycle users. Of the 20 groups surveyed, six groups ranked getting physical activity as one of the top main reasons for participating in their activity – this included off-highway motorcycle users. When on the trail, nearly half of all recreational trail users noted some concerns that affected their experiences.

The project was funded by the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, under the Recreation Trails Program and the University of Minnesota Tourism Center's Carlson Chair for Travel, Tourism and Hospitality. Collaborators of the project included the Minnesota Recreational Trail Users Association, University of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources (MN-DNR) and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Nancy Hanson, president of the Minnesota Recreational Trail Users Association notes, "This project will be incredibly useful for our membership and for Minnesota trail users as we advocate for trails locally and statewide."

Forrest Boe, deputy director of the DNR Parks and Trails Division added, "The MN-DNR is pleased to be a partner in such an important and innovative project. We look forward to using the information for trail planning and management."

The core mission of the Department of Forest Resources is to advance science and management of forest and related natural resources. That is done by unique research, education, and outreach that informs the conservation, protection and use of these resources. Visit www.forestry.umn.edu for more information.

The Tourism Center (www.tourism.umn.edu) is the source for Minnesota tourism education and research offering relevant and research-based education as well as research. The Tourism Center is a collaboration between the University of Minnesota Extension and College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

U of M Alumni Association to honor top volunteers, groups and programs

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/24/2009) —The University of Minnesota Alumni Association will honor its outstanding alumni volunteers, groups and programs at a celebratory event to be held at the McNamara Alumni Center on Oct. 8.

“Many of the University of Minnesota’s 400,000 living graduates support their alma mater in important ways,” said Margaret Sughrue Carlson, chief executive officer of the Alumni Association. “But there are unique individuals and groups that care deeply about the University of Minnesota, and they devote an incredible amount of time and talent as volunteers. Every year during Homecoming we honor them for making significant contributions to the strength and vitality of our university.”

Seven groups and two individuals will receive Alumni Association awards in recognition of outstanding service and programming during the past year. For outstanding overall programming in support of the mission and goals of the Alumni Association and the college or chapter, the Institute of Technology Alumni Society will be honored as the Outstanding Alumni Society and the Northern Dakota County Chapter will receive the Outstanding Alumni Chapter Award.

Receiving Program Extraordinaire Awards for outstanding and especially creative, innovative and engaging activities are the College of Biological Sciences Alumni Society; the College of Design Student and Alumni Board; the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences Alumni Society; the School of Nursing Alumni Society; and the School of Dentistry Alumni Society.

Two individuals, a faculty/staff member and a student, will receive Volunteer of the Year Awards. The Faculty Staff Volunteer of the Year award will be presented to Marie Baudek, Association Director, Continuing Dental Education from the School of Dentistry and the Student Volunteer of the Year will be presented to Amanda Lange from the College of Design.

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a 60,000-member organization that has advocated for the University’s important work for more than a century. By joining the Alumni Association, alumni become ambassadors for the university. For more information, go to www.MinnesotaAlumni.org or call 800-862-5867.

African American educator to speak on women's leadership at the U of M

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September 25, 2009

African American educator Tish Norman will deliver a lecture entitled, "Women in Charge! Communication Strategies for Confident Women" at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 5 in the Cowles Auditorium of the Hubert H. Humphrey Center for Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Norman is the founder of Transforming Leaders Now, an educational leadership and transformation consulting company. A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Phi Delta Kappa Honor Society and The Links, Inc., this former educator is a veteran of the Monster Diversity Leadership Program, where she served as workshop presenter and program emcee for four years.

More than one-half million high school and college students have been positively influenced by Tish Norman's words. In "Women in Charge! Communication Strategies for Confident Women," Norman reaches out to women on a meaningful, personal level. Norman gives women confident and powerful communication tips that will help them increase their personal effectiveness on campus, in the workplace, and in their personal relationships. Infusing her lecture with humor, Norman highlights strategies for women to improve themselves through time management, their associations and the careful choosing of their role models.

A dessert reception with Norman will follow the lecture.

Norman'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 20+ offices and organizations that comprise the University Women's Consortium, is designed to engage women students, faculty, staff, 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>.

New Arts, Design and Humanities Chair announced at the University of Minnesota

Seeks path to utilize the humanities to address global issues

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/25/2009) —A new Arts, Design and Humanities Chair program was announced today by University of Minnesota Provost Thomas Sullivan. The first chair will be held by professor Susan Noakes of the Department of French and Italian for her project, "Globalization of the Middle Ages." The program is part of the University of Minnesota's Imagine Fund.

"At a time of decreasing financial support nationally for the arts, design and humanities, the university underscores its commitment to a broad range of excellence by committing additional resources that reward creativity and innovation," said Sullivan. "I'm delighted to announce professor Noakes as the first chair. The new chair will help her to bring together teams of scholars from around the world, utilize the very latest in technology and leverage future resources for an important and urgent initiative."

The new chair in the Arts, Design and the Humanities will be awarded every year for a two-year period. These chairs are intended to enable professors with a record of distinguished scholarship, teaching and service to conduct a research project that will further their own scholarship, generate curricular innovation and forge intellectual communities in the university or wider community. The chair will provide up to \$70,000 over a two-year period.

Noakes's project is innovative and "demonstrates that the humanities and the methods of 21st-century humanities are fundamental to contemporary national and global issues," she said. "Humanists need to lead again, promoting the need for all to be mindful of history and of international cultures."

Her two year project will provide seed funding for a longer range initiative building an international community of problem definers and solvers to develop sophisticated technologies to share knowledge, in some cases through annotated Web-based visualizations of the latest in research. There will be public performances and workshops all in an effort to help in understanding the deep relevance of the Middle Ages to contemporary political and social issues.

"The Middle Ages are far from dusty," said Noakes. "The more we realize about the complex relationship of the United States today to the long great histories of the Middle East, Europe and Asia the more we understand that events of many centuries ago resonate powerfully -- and often politically -- to this very day."

For more on the University of Minnesota's Imagine Fund, visit:
<http://www.artsandhumanities.umn.edu/>

U of M 'Headliners' lecture to feature expert Larry Jacobs on politics of the healthcare debate

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September 28, 2009

The 2009-10 season of the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education "Headliners" lecture series kicks off at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1 with a discussion led by U of M professor Larry Jacobs, a leading expert on American politics and health care policy.

"Touching the Third Rail: The Politics of American Health Care" will be a civil discussion of health care policy in America, including:

- What can we learn from the history of major health care policy debates?
- How did Lyndon Johnson win passage of Medicare and Medicaid, when Harry Truman and Bill Clinton failed to advance their versions of health care reform?
- How does the process work on Capitol Hill, and when, if ever, can we expect to see this issue come to a vote?

The event includes an audience Q&A and will be held at the Continuing Education & Conference Center (formerly the Earle Brown Center) on the U of M St. Paul campus, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased by calling (612) 624-4000, at cce.umn.edu/headliners or at the door.

Jacobs holds the Walter and Joan Mondale Chair for Political Studies and directs the Center of the Study of Politics and Governance at the U of M's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. An expert in American politics and policy, he is the author of 10 scholarly books including "The Health of Nations: Public Opinion and the Making of U.S. and British Health Policy" and "Healthy, Wealthy, and Fair," as well as articles on health reform in *The New England Journal of Medicine* and elsewhere. He has received numerous awards, including the Robert Wood Johnson Investigator Award in Health Policy Research.

Jacobs received a Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University and joined the faculty of the University of Minnesota in 1988.

Headliners is a program 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, call (612) 624-4000 or visit www.cce.umn.edu

Faculty from Iraq, U of M team up to discuss impact of clean water Sept. 30

12 Iraqi academic and civic leaders christening "sister city" partnership with Minneapolis

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September 28, 2009

Experts and community leaders from the University of Kufa, located in Najaf, Iraq, will join University of Minnesota faculty for a public symposium on the importance of clean water for health, education and public life. "Water for Peace: An Iraqi-U.S. Partnership" will be held Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 64 of the University of Minnesota Biological Sciences Building, 1455 Gortner Ave., St. Paul.

This program brings together a multidisciplinary panel of speakers to discuss the impact of clean water on many dimensions of civic life and how a bilateral community organizing effort can mobilize citizens around community health issues. The panel will be followed by small group discussions with Iraqi community leaders.

A delegation of 12 Iraqi scholars and civic leaders arrived in Minnesota Sept. 12 for the first official exchange in a new sister city relationship between Najaf and Minneapolis. The university has played a vital role in the ongoing partnership, and future collaborations are expected. The Iraqis have spent their time in Minnesota exploring opportunities for future partnerships with faculty at the U of M and touring the Twin Cities and the state.

According to a recent report by the United Nations, lack of access to clean water poses a significant threat to the health of Iraqi children. In the province of Najaf, 100 miles south of Baghdad, a unique partnership has developed to help meet the challenge of providing clean water at schools, hospitals and clinics. An Iraqi NGO, the Muslim Peacemaker Teams, has worked with a Minnesota nonprofit, the Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project, to install water filtration systems in important public sites in Najaf.

"In Mesopotamia, the land of the mighty Tigris and Euphrates, over the last decade, due to war and occupation, our water has become polluted and undrinkable," said Malfa Al-Haddad, lecturer at the University of Kufa. "Given we are made up of water and our brains have so much water our thinking becomes polluted when our water continues to be so dirty. We are looking for support to bring the life of water to all our fellow citizens."

The Water for Peace symposium is sponsored by the Iraqi and American Reconciliation Project, the Muslim Peacemaker Teams and U of M's Department of Family Social Science, College of Education and Human Development and Office of International Programs.

For more information, visit <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/Events/Water-Peace>

U of M Misel Lecture will unravel mysteries of gravity

Lecture features leading expert in theoretical high energy physics

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/28/2009) —Helen Quinn, a professor of physics at Stanford University and a leading expert in theoretical high energy physics, will discuss the mysteries of gravity at the University of Minnesota Fine Theoretical Physics Institute's Misel Lecture 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 6, in Memorial Hall of the McNamara Alumni Center, Memorial Hall, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

In her presentation, "Wandering planets, falling apples, curving spaces, whirling stars: How unraveling the mysteries of gravity has taught us about the universe," Quinn uses the history of understandings about gravity as a template for understanding how science works. She also will show how our understanding is driven forward by the interweaving of threads that arise in observations and in theory building. Quinn stresses the importance of seeking consistent interpretations of apparently inconsistent ideas or observations as a key to progress in science.

A world-renowned theoretical physicist, Quinn is credited with many outstanding achievements in advancing our knowledge of the material world. Her work has laid the foundation for studies of Grand Unification, a unified theory of the strong, electromagnetic and weak interactions. In collaboration with Roberto Peccei she suggested the existence of a new approximate symmetry of nature, the Peccei-Quinn Symmetry. Quinn has also provided theoretical guidance for the major BaBar experiment at the B factory at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) which has unveiled the mechanism of the weak asymmetry between matter and antimatter.

In addition to her scientific research, Quinn spends much of her time promoting science education. She works with teachers on enhancing the teaching of physics and science to students in her home state of California.

She is currently a professor and chair of the Department of Particle Physics and Astrophysics at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, operated by Stanford University for the U.S. Department of Energy. Quinn has received numerous awards and honors.

The Irving and Edythe Misel Lecture Series, hosted by the William I. Fine Theoretical Physics Institute at the University of Minnesota, is endowed by a generous gift from Irving and Edythe Misel. The lecture series honors the lifelong friendship between the Irving and Edythe Misel family and William and Bianca Fine.

For more information, visit www.ftpi.umn.edu/misel.

University of Minnesota takes home Emmy

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/28/2009) —The University of Minnesota received a 2009 Upper Midwest Regional Emmy award Saturday, Sept. 26 for the video “The Science of Watchmen,” featuring physics professor Jim Kakalios. The video won in the Advanced Media Arts-Entertainment category.

The full video can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmj1rpzDRZ0>

Kakalios was tapped by Warner Bros. as a science consultant for the popular comic book movie, “Watchmen.” “The Science of Watchmen” looks at his involvement with the film and the physics behind its extraordinary characters. The video enjoyed enormous success, garnering over 1.5 million views on YouTube, making it one of the most widely viewed videos ever in higher education.

"If anyone had asked me back in grad school if I could imagine winning an Emmy for a YouTube video -- I would have answered, 'what's a YouTube?'" said Kakalios. "This award is a testament to the University News Service who conceived and created the video."

Recognized by his colleagues for his research in condensed matter physics, most students know Kakalios for his popular freshman seminar “Everything I Know About Physics I Learned By Reading Comic Books.” A professor in the Institute of Technology’s School of Astronomy and Physics since 1988, he is also the author of the science book “The Physics of Superheroes.”

Award winners from the News Service include, Daniel Wolter, Justin Ware, Elizabeth Giorgi and Drew Swain.

The Upper Midwest Emmys is an awards event celebrating regional excellence in television production. The Emmy Awards are put on by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) and recognize a variety of categories including news, sports and documentary programming, as well as individual talent. The Upper Midwest region includes Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, western Wisconsin and most of Iowa.

Call for Entries for 'Powerhouse Plants' 2010 Summer Exhibition at University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Contacts: Barb DeGroot, U of M Landscape Arboretum, (952) 443-1459 Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/29/2009) —The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum has chosen 'Powerhouse Plants' as its 2010 summer exhibition theme. Powerhouse Plants will explore the energizing links between plants and people. A major part of the exhibition will be an outdoor juried exhibit of five interactive, dynamic public artworks to be displayed for the duration of the exhibition.

Artists, designers, educators, performance artists, scientists and all other interested parties are invited to enter this juried exhibition. A mandatory pre-proposal meeting for all interested artists will be from 3 to 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12, in the MacMillan Auditorium of the Oswald Visitor Center. Please RSVP by noon Friday, Oct. 9, with Sandy Tanck at (952) 443-1451 or tanck001@umn.edu. Only those who attend this meeting may submit an entry.

Deadline for design submissions is Friday, Nov. 20. Winning designs will be announced on Monday, Dec. 7. Each winner will receive a \$3,000 stipend. In mid-January, winners will meet with Arboretum staff to discuss design details, installation and maintenance. Installation will be scheduled May 10-28.

Powerhouse Plants will run from June 5, 2010 through Oct. 10, 2010. Several other summer events and educational exhibits are also planned to communicate the Powerhouse Plants theme.

U of M student radio station moves to 24/7 broadcasting on 104.5 FM in Minneapolis and 100.7 in St. Paul

Minnesota's oldest radio station KUOM "Radio K" to launch new signals Thursday, Oct. 1

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September 30, 2009

Radio K, the University of Minnesota student-run radio station and also the state's oldest, will launch 24-hour, seven-days-a-week broadcasts on two FM signals in the Twin Cities starting Thursday, Oct. 1.

Starting at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, Radio K will be broadcast on 104.5 FM in Minneapolis and 100.7 FM in St. Paul, as well as on 770 AM (although only during daylight hours) and on radiok.org.

Previously the station was limited to an AM signal, 770 AM, which by FCC regulation was only allowed to broadcast during daylight hours, a significant shortcoming in the wintertime due to short Minnesota days.

KUOM began broadcasting on 770 AM Jan. 13, 1922, likely making it Minnesota's oldest radio station.

"Radio K broadcasting on FM 24/7 is what our listeners have been requesting for many years, and we're thrilled to reach this historic milestone," said station manager Sara Miller. "The FM signal will improve over time - our goal is to raise funds that will allow us to improve the sound quality as well as increase the height of the FM tower to increase our audience size."

Radio K has also been selected as one of six college radio stations in the country to broadcast live at the CMJ09 Music Marathon and Film Festival in New York City. The festival is run by College Music Journal (CMJ). Radio K will broadcast live on the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 23, 1-3 p.m. from the studios of WNYU.

Radio K is the award-winning student-run radio station of the University of Minnesota, playing an eclectic variety of independent music both new and old. The station is an empowering educational opportunity for University of Minnesota students to develop and enhance unique broadcast and media skills. For more information visit <http://radiok.cce.umn.edu>

U of M Immigration History Research Center awards two prestigious graduate fellowships

Contacts: Tessa Eagan, College of Liberal Arts, (612) 625-3781, teagan@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/30/2009) —The Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) at the University of Minnesota has awarded two of its most prestigious graduate fellowships: the Francis Maria Graduate Fellowship in Arab American Studies and the American Latvian Association (ALA) Graduate Fellowship in Latvian American Studies.

Charlotte Albrecht, a Ph.D. candidate in feminist studies, was awarded the Francis Maria Fellowship. Her research focuses on Arab migration history in the United States and how class, gender, sexual and religious norms have affected processes of racial formation for Arab migrants.

“I am very grateful to be awarded the Francis Maria Fellowship. The IHRC has a rich legacy of supporting both Middle East area studies and Arab American studies and I am excited and honored to be a part of it,” Albrecht said. “This fellowship will enable me to work in the IHRC collections, and to travel to a national conference to present my work and learn from others in my field.”

The fellowship was established in 2003 with a major gift from the Francis Maria Foundation for Justice and Peace. Its objective is to further research in the Near Eastern collections of the IHRC and to promote scholarship on Arab American identity.

Ilze Garoza, a masters student in comparative and international development education, was awarded the ALA Fellowship. Garoza’s research looks at how Latvian immigrants have both successfully integrated themselves in the United States and also managed to maintain their national identity for over 50 years.

“Receiving the ALA Fellowship sets the highest possible standards for my research,” said Garoza. “It acknowledges the importance of my research on Latvian diaspora in the United States and provides me with the necessary resources to do my work.”

The ALA Fellowship was established in 2004 with a combined gift from the American Latvian Association, the Latvian Welfare Association, and the World Federation of Free Latvians, and an additional contribution from the Diaspora Fund of the Republic of Latvia in 2005.

University of Minnesota's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/30/2009) —The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) at National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded the University of Minnesota's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences a grant of \$911,559 for a 2-year project to develop normative consensus recommendations on managing incidental findings and individual research results in genomic research using biobanks and large archives.

Professor Susan Wolf, JD, is the Principal Investigator. Co-Investigators are Professors Jeffery P. Kahn, Frances Lawrenz and Brian Van Ness. The project builds on the Consortium's highly successful prior NIH-funded project on "Managing Incidental Findings in Human Subjects Research."

The new two-year project will convene a multidisciplinary working group of national experts in order to analyze and generate recommendations on managing incidental findings and individual research results in genomic research using biobanks and large archives. In order to understand the genetic contribution to a host of diseases and conditions of great importance to public health, scientists are increasingly assembling large biobanks, archiving many individuals' DNA and health information for scientific reanalysis over time.

However, there is no clarity about what individual health information, if any, should be given back to those people generous enough to participate by contributing their DNA and health information. Some prominent biobanks are giving back none at all. This project will convene leading experts on bioethics, genomics, biobanking and law to recommend policies and practices on return of both incidental findings and individual research results that may have importance for the donor.

Wolf is McKnight Presidential Professor of Law, Medicine & Public Policy; Faegre & Benson Professor of Law; professor of medicine; and a faculty member in the Center for Bioethics at the University of Minnesota. She is Founding Chair of the university's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences (www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu) and Founding Director of the university's Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences

The Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences links 18 centers and programs at the University of Minnesota to address the societal implications of biomedicine and the life sciences. For more information, visit www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu.

Construction begins on Weisman Art Museum's expansion project

Contacts: Christopher James, Weisman Art Museum, (612) 625-9685, james052@umn.edu Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801, mattern@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/01/2009) —Construction crews began work this week on the Weisman Art Museum's multimillion-dollar expansion project, slated for completion in October 2011. The 8,100-square-foot addition is designed by internationally renowned architect Frank Gehry, who also designed the Weisman's existing building.

The project will add five new gallery spaces. Four will display objects from the Weisman's permanent collection of more than 17,000 works of art. The new spaces will double the number of collection objects the Weisman can display at any given time.

"Our new galleries will show more of our collection on a long-term basis," said Weisman director Lyndel King. "This means students—and all our visitors—can come many times over their years here to look at the same work of art time after time. They will have a chance to develop a deep understanding that only comes with the opportunity to see the same art many times—and see something new in it every time."

These four new galleries will be added to the east- and south-facing sides of the existing structure. Two galleries will be devoted to works of American art, one gallery will house ceramics, and one gallery will house photography and works of art on paper.

A fifth new gallery, funded by a \$2 million gift from Target, will be known as the Target Studio for Creative Collaboration. The Target Studio will showcase work resulting from cross-disciplinary collaborations between university faculty, other scholars, and artists from across the globe.

"The Target Studio takes advantage of our place in a great university that offers the largest number of disciplines in the country," said King. "The process of collaboration will create the great ideas of the 21st century. The space will be flexible and set up to accommodate new technology. It could host exhibits, videos, performance art, meetings, conferences, and public presentations. Whatever goes on in the Studio will be exciting and innovative."

The Weisman completed a capital campaign for the expansion project in August 2008, raising \$10.655 million from private sources. The University of Minnesota contributed an additional \$3.5 million—\$2 million in matching funds and \$1.5 million to cover the cost of reinstalling the steel-skirted pedestrian bridge on the museum's north side.

Building materials—predominantly stainless steel and brick—will echo the exterior surfaces of the existing Weisman structure. The museum has engaged Minneapolis-based HGA Architects and Engineers as the local architects for the project and JE Dunn Construction as contractors.

The Weisman will remain open to the public through mid-October 2010. The museum will close during the final phase of the expansion project and will reopen to the public in fall 2011. The museum will continue to offer limited public programming while it is closed.

ABOUT FRANK GEHRY

Frank Gehry is a Pritzker Prize-winning architect based in Los Angeles. His groundbreaking style has earned him international acclaim, and many of his buildings have become tourist attractions. His best-known works include the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain; Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles; Experience Music Project in Seattle; Dancing House in Prague; and his own private residence in Santa Monica, Calif. The Weisman Art Museum, the only Gehry-designed art museum in the United States, exemplifies Gehry's signature deconstructivist style with wild, undulating forms forged from stainless steel. The Weisman's existing building was completed in 1993.

ABOUT THE WEISMAN

Since its origin in 1934, the Weisman Art Museum has been a teaching museum for the University of Minnesota. Today, education remains central to the museum's mission to make the arts accessible -- intellectually, emotionally, and physically -- to the University and public communities.

The Weisman Art Museum is located at 333 East River Road, Minneapolis, on the University of Minnesota campus. Admission to exhibition galleries is always free. For more information on museum hours, driving directions, and parking options, visit weisman.umn.edu.

U's Carlson School Sponsors October Hispanic MBA Conference and Career Expo in Minneapolis

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/01/2009) —The Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota will be the lead academic sponsor of the National Society of Hispanic MBA's (NSHMBA) 2009 Conference and Career Expo coming Oct. 8-10 to the Minneapolis Convention Center, 1301 2nd Ave S. Minneapolis.

With an estimated 5,000 attendees, the conference and career expo, themed, "Think Ahead, Move Forward," will be the largest gathering of Hispanic MBAs in the country.

"We are proud to partner with Target to sponsor such an outstanding conference," said Leanne Wirkkula, assistant dean for Strategic and Academic Initiatives at the Carlson School. "This nationally recognized event brings together students, professionals and corporations from around the country in a tremendous learning, networking and career-building experience. Minnesota, home to so many leading companies, is an ideal location for this event, and we are delighted to help host the conference."

"Bringing NSHMBA to Minneapolis provides an exceptional opportunity for our students," said Brent Opall, director of Student Diversity Initiatives at the Carlson School. "While attending, students are able to network for jobs, reconnect with alumni, and meet face to face with people and organizations that are not often in the Twin Cities area. The conference also helps to provide our students a greater understanding of diversity in the workplace. The Carlson School is very proud to have a strong contingent of students attending and volunteering at this event."

Available to students and professionals, the NSHMBA conference and career expo will feature three days of speaking events and forums, interview clinics, career management assistance and company information systems among its many events and opportunities.

To register or learn more about the NSHMBA conference, visit <http://www.nshmba.org/Conference>

U of M homecoming parade to be led by distinguished alums, highlights big day of activities on campus

Parade preceded by party at McNamara Alumni Center, followed by pep rally at TCF Bank Stadium

Contacts: Mark Cassutt, Student Unions and Activities, (612) 396-5332, cassutt@umn.edu
Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu,

October 1, 2009

Five distinguished alums of the University of Minnesota will lead the U of M's "Ultimate Homecoming" parade starting at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9. The alums are NFL Hall-of-Famer Bobby Bell; Mpls.St.Paul Magazine publisher Deb Hopp; 'A Prairie Home Companion' creator Garrison Keillor; former Vice President Walter Mondale; and former Gopher women's basketball star Lindsay Whalen. They will be joined by Jeanie Borlaug Laube, the daughter of alumnus and Nobel Prize winner Norman Borlaug, who recently passed away.

The first night parade in more than 20 years features numerous entries from student organizations, academic colleges and programs, university departments and many local area businesses. The parade will travel a six block stretch from the corner of 15th Avenue Southeast and University Avenue to Williams Arena.

After the parade, TCF Bank Stadium will rock with a homecoming pep fest that will feature the marching band, spirit squad, a pep talk from Gopher football coach Tim Brewster, the crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen and a fireworks show set to music. Also, Grand Marshal Keillor will speak and university alumnus Dave Mona will be the master of ceremonies. Parade goers have the option of watching along the parade route or watching a live video feed of the parade on the video board inside the stadium. Stadium gates will open at 7 p.m. or slightly earlier, depending on the conclusion of previously scheduled activities.

Prior to the parade there will be a Maroon & Gold Pre-Parade Party at the McNamara Alumni Center and Plaza starting at 4 p.m. featuring food, fun and festivities for the entire family. U of M students, graduates and friends of the U around the world are encouraged to wear maroon and gold on Friday. The Gophers will host Purdue University at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10 at TCF Bank Stadium in the homecoming football game.

For a full schedule of events and information, please visit www.homecoming.umn.edu

Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis names U of M economist Kocherlakota new president

Unique partnership between the Department of Economics and Federal Reserve Bank deepens

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/02/2009) —Narayana Kocherlakota, professor of economics at the University of Minnesota, will become president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis effective Oct. 8, 2009.

Kocherlakota, who previously chaired the economics department at the U of M, is currently a consultant to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Kocherlakota's appointment strengthens the unique connection between U of M macroeconomists and Federal Reserve policymakers.

"The prestige of this important appointment reflects Dr. Kocherlakota's strong leadership and experience with macroeconomic research and policy," said U of M President Robert Bruininks. "That he was chosen for this position at this critical time in our economic history speaks volumes about his reputation, expertise, judgment, and ability to work with others to find practical solutions to real problems. We are proud to have a faculty member recognized in this way – I believe it is reflective of the quality and strength of the university's world-class economics department."

Over half of U of M economics professors are (or recently were) staff, consultants, or long-term visitors to the Federal Reserve's research department. This rare and intensive collaboration between the Department of Economics and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis encompasses current policy questions, macroeconomic theory discussions with bank officials and contributions to ongoing debates over the future direction of monetary and fiscal policy.

"I'm certain that as president, Narayana will remain a strong friend and advocate of the university, and that the more than 30-year partnership between the Department of Economics and the Fed will continue to thrive and bring top economic scholars to the Twin Cities," said James Parente., dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "I am delighted for Narayana and for the entire Federal Reserve that a scholar of his exceptional talents and wisdom will be playing this leadership role locally and nationally."

Kocherlakota joined the economics faculty at the University of Minnesota in 1998, left for three years to teach at Stanford University, and then returned to Minnesota in 2005. As chair of the Department of Economics, Kocherlakota shepherded the hires of 10 new faculty members, enhancing the department's strength and reputation.

"I am excited about this new opportunity for many reasons, and the special bond between the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota is certainly one of them," Kocherlakota said. "I plan to keep the partnership between these two great institutions strong and vital."

Prior to his tenure at the University of Minnesota, Kocherlakota was an associate professor at the University of Iowa and an assistant professor at Northwestern University. Kocherlakota entered Princeton at age 15 and graduated four years later (1983) with an A.B. in mathematics. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago in 1987 on the topic of pricing financial assets.

As president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Kocherlakota will lead one of the 12 regional Reserve Banks that, with the Board of Governors in Washington, make up the Federal Reserve System, the nation's central bank. The Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis participates in setting national monetary policy, supervises numerous banking organizations and provides a variety of payments services to financial institutions and the U.S. government. Kocherlakota will have overall responsibility for these functions and will represent the Ninth Federal Reserve District at meetings of the Federal Open Market Committee, the policy-making body within the Federal Reserve that sets monetary policy for the nation.

U of M Board of Regents to act on 2010 state bonding request, hear report on 2009-10 enrollment

When: Thursday, Oct. 8 - Friday, Oct. 9

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

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

October 2, 2009

At its meeting next week, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents will act upon President Robert Bruininks' recommended 2010 state capital budget request.

The state capital request, which asks for \$194.7 million in state bonds to be matched by \$47.3 million in university bonds, would fund \$100 million in maintenance to existing facilities, renovation of Folwell Hall, a new physics and nanotechnology building on the Twin Cities campus, a new American Indian Learning Research Center on the Duluth campus and improvements to the Itasca Biological Station in Itasca State Park.

The schedule for the meeting is as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 8

10 - 11:45 a.m., Educational Policy and Planning Committee, East Committee Room. The chancellors of the Crookston, Duluth, Morris and Rochester campuses will give updates on their strategic positioning work. Also, Provost Tom Sullivan will present his report on system wide enrollment for Fall 2009.

10 - 11:45 a.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will act on schematic plans for phase 4 of the St. Paul Chilled Water Facility. It will also act on a budget amendment for the Center for Magnetic Resonance Research. In addition to a real estate transaction, the committee will also hear an update on the university's sustainability goals.

1:45 - 4:30 p.m., Board work session, Boardroom. CFO Richard Pfutzenreuter and VP for Cultural and Scholarly Affairs Steven Rosenstone will present the report of their "Financing the Future Task Force". In addition, Sr. Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean of the Medical School Frank Cerra will present on the impact of clinical integration on the health sciences.

Friday, Oct. 9

9 - 11:30 a.m., Board of Regents, Boardroom. The board will act on the president's 2010 State Capital Budget Request as well as a resolution about the future governance of UMore Park, the university's property in Dakota County. Sullivan will also present the "University Plan, Performance and Accountability Report."

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 Homecoming participants give back to community

Activities include a food drive, a blood drive and more

Contacts: Mark Cassutt, Student Unions and Activities, (612) 396-5332, cassutt@umn.edu

October 7, 2009

In return for the hard work of the campus community during the University of Minnesota's homecoming week, university students, faculty and staff will perform various service projects to better the surrounding area as part of the "Ultimate Volunteer Experience." The event runs from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11, beginning at Coffman Union's Great Hall, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Projects range from removing litter to getting involved with an established organization such as YMCA. Volunteers are also given the opportunity to become a project leader and assist in leading a service project.

For additional opportunities to give back to the community, the U of M's Homecoming committee invites volunteers to donate blood to the American Red Cross or bring nonperishable food items for a "Stuff the Truck" food drive. The Stuff the Truck event will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, at Coffman Union. During the event there will be free food and entertainment.

Visit www.homecoming.umn.edu/community to find out more information about these events and to register for the blood drive.

Homecoming is the University of Minnesota's largest campus wide activity. Since 1914, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities has celebrated Homecoming, a week dedicated to honoring the spirit and energy of the maroon and gold. For more information, visit www.homecoming.umn.edu



University of Minnesota receives top marks for being champion of sustainability

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Drew Swain at (612) 770-3309 or dswain@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/07/2009) —The University of Minnesota is one of 26 universities nationwide to be named an Overall College Sustainability Leader in the 2010 edition of the College Sustainability Report Card.

Minnesota received an "A-" -- the top grade in the Big Ten for the second straight year and an improvement from last year's grade of "B+." The U of M also received "A's" in the categories of administration; climate change and energy; food and recycling; transportation; investment; and shareholder engagement and scored well in the categories of green building, student involvement and endowment transparency.

This is the fourth 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 U's full-page profile can be found on the GreenReportCard.org Web site.



TCF Bank Stadium documentary set to air to national audience

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

October 7, 2009

A documentary on the University of Minnesota's TCF Bank Stadium will be featured this week before a national audience on the Big Ten Network. "The Road to TCF Bank Stadium," will air at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. CST, Thursday, Oct. 8 and also at 3 a.m., Friday Oct. 9. Future air dates information can be accessed on the Big Ten Network Web site, <http://www.bigtennetwork.com>

Produced by the University of Minnesota, "The Road to TCF Bank Stadium" captures the excitement and spirit of the stadium built for all of Minnesota. The half-hour video includes interviews and stories with those involved with the process of planning, funding and building the new home to Golden Gopher Football and the University of Minnesota Marching Band.

A full web version of the video and a time-lapse of the opening game against Air Force Academy will be available at <http://www.umn.edu> beginning Thursday, Oct. 8.

University of Minnesota honors distinguished economist and university alum Harry Kaiser

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/07/2009) —Renowned economist and professor Harry Kaiser 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. It is the highest non-degree award granted by the university.

Kaiser, who earned his Ph.D. in agricultural and applied economics at the university in 1985, studies the social implications of agricultural economic policies and how such programs can best benefit producers. He and his staff at Cornell University conduct the annual federal economic analysis for the national dairy and fluid milk processor advertising programs, the pre-eminent tool in evaluating such programs' effectiveness.

He also has worked in experimental economics with an emphasis on the private provision of public goods, and was involved with some of the first research that investigated the economic impacts of climate change on the U.S. agricultural sector.

At Cornell, where he has been on the faculty for 23 years, Kaiser is the Gellert Family Professor of Applied Economics and Management. He has published and edited many journal articles and is an active member and leader in numerous economics associations.

"Harry Kaiser's career offers us a rare model of excellence in the areas of research, outreach and teaching," said Allen Levine, dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS). "We're proud to have him as a CFANS distinguished alumnus."

University of Minnesota releases enrollment numbers for current school year

Twin Cities campus's sophomore class sees record retention rate

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/08/2009) —The University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus earned a record retention rate in 2008, with 90.6 percent of last year's freshman class returning, the university's Board of Regents Educational Policy and Planning Committee learned today. The rate is part of a trend of improvement, up from 86.2 percent three years ago.

The Board also heard that the undergraduate campuses saw improvements in the academic profile of the 2009 freshman class. Total enrollment at the Crookston, Duluth, Morris and Twin Cities campuses increased by 1.6 percent, from 66,312 in Fall 2008 to 67,364 in Fall 2009. Included in the 2009 count is the first class of the new Rochester campus.

"We are extremely proud to see yet another outstanding group of students to all of our campuses," said Provost Thomas Sullivan. "As always has been our commitment, we are dedicated to ensuring those students receive an excellent education, continue to challenge themselves inside and outside the classroom and graduate in a timely manner. I am pleased with the continuing progress we have made over the past several years."

TWIN CITIES: Applications for the incoming Twin Cities freshman class increased by 4,745 over Fall 2008 to 33,910. For the class, the average ACT composite score continued a seven-year trend of improvement, reaching a new high of 26.6, which is up from 26.2 last year. Overall enrollment grew by 1 percent, from 50,140 in 2008 to 51,659 in 2009. 112 National Merit Scholars enrolled this fall compared to 79 in Fall 2008. And, the percentage of freshman students of color was 19.1 percent.

DULUTH: The Duluth campus saw a total enrollment increase of 2.6 percent, from 11,366 in 2008 to 11,664 in 2009. Undergraduate enrollment increased 1.1 percent. The average ACT composite score for freshman remained the same at 23.6.

CROOKSTON: Crookston campus total enrollment saw an increase of 3.6 percent, from 2,199 last year to 2,279 this year. Undergraduate degree-seeking enrollment is up 8.5 percent over last year. For the freshman class, average ACT composite scores increased from 21.5 last year to 21.8 this year. Students of color increased to 13.3 percent, up from 7.6 percent in 2008.

MORRIS: At the Morris campus, total enrollment increased to 1,705, up 6.1 percent from 1,607 last year. Undergraduate degree-seeking enrollment grew by 5.9 percent. The percentage graduating in the top ten percent of their freshman class grew from 27.8 percent in 2008 to 29.6 percent in 2009. The average ACT composite score held steady at 25. And, the percentage of students of color increased by 1 percent.

ROCHESTER: An inaugural class of 57 freshmen was welcomed at the Rochester campus. Of the 50 incoming recent high school graduates, 18.5 percent and 70.4 percent graduated in the top 10 and 25 percents of their classes respectively. The average ACT composite score was 23.8.

Coach Tubby Smith discusses leadership in athletics at U's Carlson School

Media Note: Media interested in attending this event should contact Erin Rath, manager of school relations for the Carlson School, by noon on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at erath@umn.edu or (612) 624-8770 to make arrangements.

Contacts: Erin Rath, Carlson School of Management, erath@umn.edu or (612) 624-8770
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, mathre@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

October 8, 2009

Who: Coach Tubby Smith, University of Minnesota Men's Basketball head coach

What: As part of the ongoing Securian Leadership Lecture Series, Coach Smith will talk about "Leadership in Athletics." The Securian Leadership Lecture Series, sponsored by the Securian Financial Group, bridges educational experience to real life.

When: Noon - 1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14

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

How to Attend: This event is intended for an undergraduate audience and tickets are required for admission. The tickets are being distributed on a first come, first serve basis to undergraduate students. Carlson students should contact bsborgs@umn.edu for more information.

University of Minnesota honors distinguished economist Harry Kaiser

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

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/08/2009) —Renowned economist and professor Harry Kaiser 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. It is the highest non-degree award granted by the university.

Kaiser, who earned his doctorate in agricultural and applied economics at the university in 1985, studies the social implications of agricultural economic policies and how such programs can best benefit producers. He and his staff at Cornell University conduct the annual federal economic analysis for the national dairy and fluid milk processor advertising programs, the pre-eminent tool in evaluating such programs' effectiveness.

He also has worked in experimental economics; with an emphasis on the private provision of public goods, and was involved with some of the first research that investigated the economic impacts of climate change on the U.S. agricultural sector.

At Cornell, where he has been on the faculty for 23 years, Kaiser is the Gellert Family Professor of Applied Economics and Management. He has published and edited many journal articles and is an active member and leader in numerous economics associations.

"Harry Kaiser's career offers us a rare model of excellence in the areas of research, outreach and teaching," said Allen Levine, dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. "We're proud to have him as a CFANS distinguished alumnus."

U of M Bell Museum kicks off Thursday evening Hungry Planet programs with International Snack Food Tasting Oct. 22

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum, (612) 624-7389, sheph001@umn.edu
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801, mattern@umn.edu

October 8, 2009

From potato chips to Pocky, culturally significant snack foods from around the world will be featured at the opening reception of the new exhibit "Hungry Planet: What the World Eats" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22 at the University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The International Snack Food Tasting event marks the start of 29 weeks of Thursday evening programming on the topic of food. Thursday events will explore a range of food-related topics, from lectures on the anthropology of table manners and exhibit walkabouts on food and culture to tastings of local produce and films like "Julie and Julia." Thursday evening programming is free with museum admission.

The "Hungry Planet" exhibit is a colorful examination of the issues of food in the 21st century -- what people around the world eat, how much it costs and where it comes from. Based on the bestselling book by Peter Menzel and Faith D'Alusio, Hungry Planet focuses on 10 cultures, many with ties to Minnesota, and lets visitors "shop" for global produce from world markets and track that food as it travels from field to fork. The exhibit features special sections on the rise of fast food culture, the evolution and history of food plants, current and ancient agricultural methods and the practice of raising and eating meat.

Thursday evening programming is free with museum admission. For a complete listing of Thursday night events, visit www.bellmuseum.org

The Bell Museum is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. More than a half a million Minnesotans are reached each year by programs operated by the Bell Museum, which is Minnesota's official natural history museum.

TCF Bank Stadium gates open from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Friday for homecoming parade, pep fest

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October 8, 2009

The gates to TCF Bank Stadium will open at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9 for people wishing to watch a live video feed of the 7 p.m. homecoming parade, the University of Minnesota announced today. Homecoming goers may also procure an early seat for the homecoming pep fest, which is set to begin at 9 p.m. The gates will be closed promptly at 9:30 p.m.

The U of M's "Ultimate Homecoming" pep fest features the marching band, spirit squad, a pep talk from Gopher football coach Tim Brewster, remarks by Grand Marshal Garrison Keillor, the crowning of the Homecoming King and Queen and a fireworks show set to music.

Prior to the pep fest, the U's first night parade in 20 years will travel a six-block stretch from the corner of 15th Avenue Southeast and University Avenue to Williams Arena. Following the parade, parade goers are invited into the stadium for the pep fest.

There will be a Maroon & Gold Pre-Parade Party at the McNamara Alumni Center and Plaza starting at 4 p.m. featuring food, fun and festivities for the entire family.

U of M students, graduates and friends of the U around the world are also encouraged to wear maroon and gold on Friday.

Deloitte executive at U's Carlson School to discuss public company auditing

Who: Robert J. Kueppers, deputy CEO, Deloitte LLP

What: Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Speaker Series

When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3

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

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

Contacts: Erin Rath, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770, erath@umn.edu
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, (612) 625-0553, mathre@umn.edu

October 8, 2009

Robert J. Kueppers, deputy CEO of Deloitte LLP, will speak at the U's Carlson School of Management's "First Tuesday Speaker Series" at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 3, at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis.

In the address, Kueppers will deliver remarks on the "Impact of the Current Environment on Public Company Auditing."

Kueppers has 30 years of professional experience, including extensive work with issues involving the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), rulemaking and oversight of accounting. In his current position, Kueppers is responsible for regulatory and public policy matters and works closely with the CEO, while also serving as a vice chairman of Deloitte LLP.

Kueppers' past positions include serving as the senior technical partner with Deloitte & Touche LLP, overseeing the professional practice group, serving as the national director of SEC Services, and serving as the national director of Independence. He also served a stint in the office of the chief accountant at the SEC in Washington DC.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota and a member of the Carlson School's Board of Overseers, Kueppers is also chairman of the SEC Historical Society and a member of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board's Standing Advisory Committee.

The advance registration deadline for the "First Tuesday" luncheon is Thursday, Oct. 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, Oct. 30. To register: call (612) 626-9634, visit carlsonschool.umn.edu/events, or e-mail firsttuesday@umn.edu.

U of Minnesota's Water Resources Center to hold Statewide Minnesota Water Resources Conference Oct. 26 and 27

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Water Resources Center, (612) 599-1148
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/08/2009) —Cutting-edge research and the latest hands-on practices in the area of Minnesota's water quality management will be spotlighted at the Minnesota Water Resources Conference, a two-day event hosted by the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center Oct. 26 and 27 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, 175 West Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul.

The event will feature speakers from around the country on topics such as preserving wetlands, using plants as purification systems and the latest legislation on protecting Minnesota's drinking water. Speakers include:

- University of Iowa engineering professor Jerry Schnoor, widely considered the “founding father” of phytoremediation, the science of using plants to clean the environment. Schnoor is the co-director of Iowa's Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research and editor-in-chief of the world's leading environmental journal, *Environmental Science and Technology*;
- U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, who recently proposed an amendment to the National Water Research and Development Initiative Act aimed at protecting the nation's water supply from pharmaceuticals and endocrine disrupting compounds, including human-grade hormones;
- Paul Capel, a researcher with the U.S. Geological Survey's Water Resources Division who's part of a national 20-year study on pesticides and their behavior and transport in the air, surface water and ground water; and
- Rex Johnson, a researcher with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Program and expert on the impacts of wetland drainage on migratory bird populations whose focus is on the American Prairie Pothole Region that stretches from southwestern Minnesota to Alberta, Canada.

In its fourth year, the annual event typically attracts about 600 water quality and environmental researchers, environmental agency professionals, practitioners in water management, civil and environmental engineers and students. The event is sponsored by the WRC and the university's College of Continuing Education and co-sponsored by the Department of Civil Engineering, Minnesota Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Minnesota Sea Grant and the Natural Resources Research Institute. For registration details, visit wrc.umn.edu. WRC is affiliated with the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and University of Minnesota Extension.

U of M Board of Regents approves 2010 state capital request, governance for UMore Park

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/09/2009) —On Friday, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents approved a 2010 state capital request, which asks for \$193.3 million in state bonds to be matched by \$46.7 million in university bonds. If funded by the Legislature, it would fund \$100 million in maintenance to existing facilities, renovation of Folwell Hall and a new physics and nanotechnology building on the Twin Cities campus, a new American Indian Learning Research Center on the Duluth campus, and improvements to the Itasca Biological Station in Itasca State Park.

“This request is a realistic statement of the university’s capital infrastructure needs,” said board Chair Clyde Allen. “Preserving our existing facilities and making much needed improvements are an important part of protecting the quality of the education and research the university provides.”

The board also approved creation of a limited liability corporation to oversee the management and development of UMore Park in Dakota County as well as a “Legacy Fund”, an endowment created from the proceeds of environmentally-responsible gravel mining on the property that would be used to support university academic education, research and outreach not otherwise funded through other means.

In other action, the board:

- Approved schematic plans for phase 4 of the St. Paul Chilled Water Facility, additional wind generation capacity on the Morris campus, a capital budget amendment for the Center for Magnetic Resonance Research (funded primarily by an outside grant) as well as a real estate transaction; and
- Accepted the annual University Plan, Performance and Accountability Report.

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

Ethicist Kenneth Goodman to speak at U of M on the impact of computers and the Internet on health care

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Ryan Mathre, University News Service, 612-624-2801, mathre@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/12/2009) —Bioethics expert Kenneth Goodman, professor and co-director of University of Miami's Ethics Programs, will speak on "Computers, Patients and the Health of Populations: Next Steps in Ethics and Informatics" at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 28 at the University of Minnesota's Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E. Goodman's lecture is the first in the 2009-10 Lecture Series on Law, Health and the Life Sciences on "How the Internet and Computers Are Changing Biomedical Practices and Policy" and is sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment and the Life Sciences.

Goodman's talk will focus on how platitudes about the transformation of health care don't begin to capture the scope of the challenges facing 21st century medicine in an information-intensive world. From electronic personal health records to digitized genomes and public health surveillance, computers are forcing experts to rethink some of medicine's most fundamental principles — consent, privacy, and access to care. Goodman will also argue that the tension between emerging technology and tried-and-true values is not new, and that when it comes to adopting new technology, once applied, there is rarely any turning back.

The lecture is free and open to the public. It is co-sponsored by the University's Joint Degree Program in Law, Health and the Life Sciences. The Joint Degree Program and Consortium are celebrating 10 years of groundbreaking research, leadership, programming and training in law and the life sciences. For more information, visit www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu.

A professor of medicine, Goodman also holds appointments in the University of Miami's Departments of Medicine, Philosophy, Nursing and Health Studies, Epidemiology and Public Health, and Anesthesiology. Goodman is co-director of the University of Miami's Business Ethics Program, the Bioethics Programs' Pan American Bioethics Initiative, and its World Health Organization Collaborating Center in Ethics and Global Health Policy. He's been widely quoted in the national media on the ethics surrounding such hot-button issues as human cloning and the case of Terri Schiavo.

U of M students get a chance to make their own music videos with help of music industry professionals

Free public tours of John Lennon Educational Tour Bus also available

Media Note: Media members will have access to the bus on both days of the visit.

When: Wednesday, Oct. 14 and Thursday, Oct. 15

Where: Behind the Tate Laboratory of Physics, 116 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Drew Swain, University News Service, (612) 625-8962, dswain@umn.edu
Kari Erbenbach, University Bookstores, (612) 625-6564, kari@umn.edu

October 13, 2009

University of Minnesota students will have a chance to "lay down some tracks" where the likes of superstars The Black Eyed Peas, Fergie and Mos Def have made some of their most memorable music. On Wednesday, Oct. 14, the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus, a state-of-the-art mobile recording and multimedia studio, will be on campus to give university music and digital journalism students the opportunity to make their own music videos. The bus will also be open for free tours on Thursday, Oct. 15 behind the Tate Laboratory of Physics, 116 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Pre-selected students will come on board and work with the bus's professional engineers to write and record their own original song and multimedia video project and leave with an original video and recording -- all in the same day. The tours on Thursday will give visitors the chance to view the technology on board and interact with the professional staff.

Now in its 12th year, the Lennon Bus is a mobile audio and video recording studio that provides young people across the country and Canada with free hands-on opportunities to create music, video and still photo projects. The three on-board engineers introduce visitors to the studios, explain and demonstrate music and video production and introduce an array of possible opportunities within the music and multimedia industries -- one of the few growing industries in today's tough economy.

For more information, visit: <http://www.lennonbus.org/>

U of M School of Music Collage Concert set for Oct. 17

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

October 13, 2009

The University of Minnesota School of Music presents its Collage Concert, an annual ensemble concert with more than 400 students and faculty performing in a non-stop, surround-sound, musical extravaganza at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17 at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

This year's program will feature the University of Minnesota Symphony Orchestra and Combined Choirs performing Leonard Bernstein's "Make Our Garden Grow" as well as several School of Music ensembles, including University Opera Theatre, Jazz Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble and more.

The Ted Mann Concert Hall is located on the university's West Bank campus in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for U of M students, faculty, staff, alumni and children. General admission seating. To purchase tickets, call (612) 624-2345 or visit tickets.umn.edu. All proceeds will support the School of Music Community Engagement Initiative.

Parking is available in the 21st Ave. ramp, one block southwest of the concert hall. Email requests for photographs to marsh396@umn.edu. For more information, visit music.umn.edu

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 650 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of more than 50 artists, scholars and teachers. The School of Music presents more than 400 free concerts per year.

U of M transportation experts help hundreds of middle schoolers prepare for robotics competition

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/13/2009) —More than 250 students, ages 9 to 14 from across Minnesota, and nearly 100 parents and coaches will get hands-on experience as transportation researchers at the University of Minnesota Minneapolis campus from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Oct. 15. The students will learn more about transportation issues and begin preparing for “Smart Move,” the 2009 Minnesota FIRST LEGO League robotics competition.

Examples of the many hands-on sessions for kids include:

Minnesota Transportation Observatory--9:50-10:35 a.m. and 11-11:45 a.m., Civil Engineering Building, Room 790, 500 Pillsbury Dr. S.E., Minneapolis

Students will interact with the latest high tech equipment used by the Minnesota Traffic Observatory, a world-class university lab that helps researchers design roadways that are safer and easier to drive. A highlight for students will be the GIS/MAP Table which projects road maps on a large surface, about the size of a large conference room table, where researchers can examine roadmaps in detail.

Introduction to a Driver Assistance System--9:50-10:35 a.m. and 11-11:45 a.m., Transportation and Safety Building, Room 200, 511 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

This workshop introduces students to the Intelligent Vehicles Laboratory’s driver assistance system, which aids vehicle operators in poor visibility conditions, heavy traffic congestion, and narrow lanes. Students will see an actual vehicle equipped with this technology.

Introduction to Robotics and Computer Vision--9:50-10:35 a.m. and 11-11:45 a.m., Lind Hall, Room 114, 207 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis

This workshop will focus demonstrating computer vision and robots. After watching a video, students will get to interact with the robots and ask questions of researchers.

Transportation Challenges of Returning to the Moon--9:50-10:35 a.m. and 11-11:45 a.m., Akerman Hall, Room 227, 110 Union St. S.E., Minneapolis

This workshop will investigate some of the many challenges associated with human lunar exploration, one of the most complicated and difficult transportation projects of our time.

In other workshops, students will try their hand at the new Gridlock Busters game developed by University of Minnesota transportation researchers, visit a specialized Web site to see how safe the roads are in their neighborhood, explore how bridges solve transportation problems, discover how transportation decisions are made, and find out what is beneath the pavement of our roads.

The university event also will include a keynote address by renowned transportation researcher and mechanical engineering professor Max Donath from 9-9:30 a.m. in the Mayo Memorial Auditorium, 425 Delaware St. S.E., Minneapolis.

This year’s LEGO League competition theme, “Smart Move,” will help middle school students discover how people, animals, information, and things travel. 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 transportation. Students must also complete an eight-week research project in which they identify a problem caused by transportation in their community and create an innovative solution. Through their research, students will explore what problems keep people and things from getting where they are going safely, efficiently, using the least amount of energy.

About 3,000 Minnesota students are expected to compete in this year’s Boston Scientific MN FIRST Lego League Tournaments organized 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 hosted by the Institute of Technology (the university’s college of science and engineering) in cooperation with the university’s Center for Transportation Studies and HighTechKids. Participating academic departments within the Institute of Technology included the Department of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics, the Department of Civil Engineering, the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, and Department of Mechanical Engineering. Participants also include the University’s Humphrey Institute for Public Policy and the Academic Health Center.

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

U's Humphrey Institute and Minnesota Daily to host Minneapolis City Council debates

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

October 14, 2009

The Minnesota Daily and the U of M's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs will host two Minneapolis City Council debates this month. The two-part series is open to the public and will feature all candidates seeking City Council seats in Ward 2 and Ward 3, the two regions that encompass a large part of the University of Minnesota and off-campus student housing.

The first debate will be between candidates seeking seats in Ward 2. It will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday Oct. 15 in Rm. 130, Murphy Hall, 206 Church St. S.E, Minneapolis.

The debate between candidates seeking seats in Ward 3 will occur at 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 22 in Rm. 130, Murphy Hall, 206 Church St. S.E, Minneapolis

The debates will be in a panel type format. Candidates will receive two minutes to give an opening statement or comments. This will be followed by a series of eight questions. Candidates will have one minute to answer each question and there will be a two minute discussion period following each question. Questions will be asked to candidates in a rotating order. The debate will conclude with each candidate giving a two minute closing statement or comments.

Questions will be asked by Minnesota Daily editors. The debate, as a whole, will be moderated by professor Larry Jacobs of the Hubert H. Humphrey Center for the Study of Politics and Governance. Jacobs is the Walter F. and Joan Mondale Chair for Political Studies and director of the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. He also is a professor in the University of Minnesota's Department of Political Science.

Facing off over Facebook: Social media and women's sport is topic of U of M Tucker Center lecture

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

October 15, 2009

Social media in sport is a hot topic -- whether its athletes "Tweeting" from the sidelines or blogging about their experiences after the game, it's hard to ignore the impact social media has had on the games many of us follow and love. But is it also possible that these up-and-coming communication tools could be utilized to provide more visibility for women's sports?

It's a topic the University of Minnesota's Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport will tackle in its Fall 2009 Distinguished Lecture, which takes place from 7-9 p.m. Monday, Oct. 19 at the Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The lecture, titled "Facing Off Over Facebook: The Impact of Social Media on Women Sports," will feature sport media scholar Marie Hardin, Star Tribune sport journalist Rachel Blount and ice hockey Olympian Angela Ruggiero.

To view a video previewing the topic, visit

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

Over the past 30 years, scholars have documented numerous ways in which traditional sport media marginalize and sexualize female athletes. Into this vast -- and influential -- media landscape appears the recent and exponential explosion of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Will this technological paradigm shift challenge or reproduce the ways in which female athletes are traditionally portrayed in mainstream sport media? Will the unprecedented popularity of social media -- and the alternative "ways of knowing" it provides to traditional media -- fundamentally alter how we view women's sports? The panelist will "face off" and take on these important and largely unexplored questions.

About the panelists:

Marie Hardin is an associate professor of journalism and associate director of the John Curley Center for Sports Journalism at Penn State University. Her research explores diversity, ethics and professional practices in sports media. Hardin has published extensively in *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, *Sociology of Sport Journal* and *Sex Roles*. In 2006, she received the Mary Ann Yodelis Smith Award for Feminist Scholarship from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. Her recent research focuses on social attitudes of sports journalists and bloggers, as well as career paths of women in sport journalism.

Rachel Blount, a sports reporter and columnist for the Star Tribune, has covered a wide range of sports including the NHL, NBA, WNBA, college hockey and the last six Olympic Games. One of the few female sports columnists in the country, Blount has won numerous journalism awards including national recognition from the Associated Press Sports Editors and state-wide honors from the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists for her sports features and columns. Blount graduated from the University of Notre Dame and has a Master's degree from the University of Missouri's prestigious School of Journalism.

One of the most accomplished women's hockey players in the world, **Angela Ruggiero** is a three-time Olympic medalist and World Champion, leader of the 2010 U.S. Women's Hockey National Team, record holder for most games played for Team USA and Hockey Hall of Fame inductee. Ruggiero graduated cum laude with a degree in government from Harvard University, where she was an NCAA First-Team Academic All-American. She is currently pursuing her Master's degree in Sports Management at the University of Minnesota. Ruggiero uses multiple social media platforms to promote her individual career as well as women's hockey.

The lecture is free and open to the public. More information about the event, including live streaming information and supporting materials, is available at www.tuckercenter.org/lecture

University of Minnesota outshines competition in lighting design contest at Solar Decathlon

U currently in fifth place, overall competition winners to be announced Friday morning

Media Note:

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/15/2009) —The University of Minnesota grabbed first place today in the Lighting Design contest at the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon in Washington, D.C. The U of M won over the lighting designers and industry experts that made up the panel of jurors with its solar home's aesthetically pleasing lighting design, which creatively used natural and artificial light to meet the needs of the user while maintaining high efficiency.

Currently, 20 university-led teams from the United States, Canada, Germany and Spain are competing in the fourth DOE Solar Decathlon to design, build and operate houses powered by the sun. The event, held on the National Mall, concludes tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 16, when an overall winner will be announced at 7 a.m. Central time in the Solar Village.

As of noon Thursday, the University of Minnesota and its ICON Solar Home sits in fifth place with 604.10 points. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign leads in the overall standings with 629.19 points, followed by Team California (627.40 points) and Team Ontario/BC (620.85 points).

Teams are competing in ten contests that evaluate several aspects of a home's appearance, such as architecture, market viability, and comfort, and that measure the way it optimizes efficiency and provides energy for space heating and cooling, hot water, home entertainment, lighting and appliances.

"The array of LED lighting in the home and its control system is intuitive and easy to operate," lighting juror Ron Kurtz said about the U of M's home. "The team's use of adjustable shading panels provides excellent natural day lighting, with no difference in sunlight entry into the home, from summer to winter."

The University of Minnesota finished with 72 points in lighting, followed by the University of Illinois with 70.50 points and Team Germany and Penn State tied for third place with 69.75 points.

For the Lighting Design contest, teams earned points based on a number of subjective criteria, including electric lighting quality, natural daylight quality, ease of operation, energy efficiency and building integration. Contest officials evaluated aesthetic factors such as light distribution within the architectural spaces, as well as human factors such as user-friendliness and illumination levels needed for daily tasks. Jurors also considered whether the lighting system would provide a pleasing atmosphere for the activities of life throughout the four seasons. Teams had the potential to earn up to 75 points.

The ten contests that make up the Solar Decathlon measure many aspects of a home's performance and appearance. A perfect total score for all ten contests in the Solar Decathlon is 1,000 points. Five of them -- Architecture, Communications, Engineering, Lighting Design, and Market Viability -- are scored subjectively. Others, including Appliances, Comfort Zone, Home Entertainment, Hot Water and Net Metering, accumulate points daily and will not be tallied up until the end of the competition.

The overall winner of the 2009 Solar Decathlon will be honored at the awards ceremony tomorrow at 9 a.m. Central on the National Mall. Results from the cumulative five contests, worth a total of 550 points, as well as the results from the Engineering contest, will be announced at the ceremony.

For full event information, current standings, high-resolution photos and videos, an event schedule and daily results, visit www.solardecathlon.org

WCCO-TV anchor Don Shelby donates rare historic books to U of M's College of Biological Sciences in honor of Itasca centennial

Media Note: Media who would like to arrange a private viewing of the books may contact Peggy Rinard at (612) 624-0774. To get photos of the books, contact Patty Mattern at mattern@umn.edu

Contacts: Peggy Rinard, College of Biological Sciences, (612) 624-0774
Patty Mattern, University News Service, (612) 624-2801 or mattern@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/16/2009) —WCCO-TV News Anchor Don Shelby has donated a set of rare books by Itasca explorer Henry Schoolcraft to the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences in honor of the 100th anniversary of the university's field station at Itasca State Park.

The six-volume set is the first comprehensive effort to document the history, geographic distribution and cultures of the Native American tribes of North America. Published between 1851 and 1857, the first edition set is valued at \$20,000.

Schoolcraft, an American geographer and ethnographer, is best known for his discovery of the Mississippi headwaters and for his Native American studies. Accompanied by an Ojibwe guide named Ozawindib, he discovered the headwaters in 1832 and named the area Itasca, which combines adjacent syllables from the Latin words *veritas* (true) and *caput* (head).

Born near Albany, New York in 1793, Schoolcraft attended college and joined his father in the family's glassmaking business. But at the age of 25, he left to explore the western frontier. He took part in several government expeditions, and began his studies of Native American tribes in 1822. His wife, Jane Johnston, whose mother was the daughter of an Ojibwe chief, shared her knowledge of Ojibwe language and customs with him.

Congress commissioned Schoolcraft to write his opus, "Historical and Statistical Information, Respecting the History, Conditions and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States," in April 1847. The material was collected and prepared under the direction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Illustrated by Seth Eastman, the six books were published by Lippincott between 1851 and 1857.

Shelby presented the set to the College of Biological Sciences at Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories during a recent centennial celebration for alumni and donors. The occasion also marked the beginning of a campaign to raise \$8 million to rebuild and modernize the station's rustic facilities. The university will seek two-thirds of that amount from the Minnesota Legislature, and the College of Biological Sciences will seek one-third from private donors.

"I am very grateful to Don Shelby for his generosity and for his interest in supporting the university's field station at Itasca," said Robert Elde, dean of the College of Biological Sciences.

The books will be displayed from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, in the Cargill Building, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul. The display is part of a centennial celebration for the university community and the public that will include a presentation on environmental research at Itasca, screening of a new video about the station, and drawings for prizes and refreshments. Admission is free, but reservations are required. RSVP to Katie Hoffman at hoff0530@umn.edu or (612) 625-2247. For more information about Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories, go to <http://www.cbs.umn.edu/itasca/>

Children's literature critic Leonard S. Marcus to appear at University of Minnesota

Who: Leonard S. Marcus, writer, literary historian, and children's literature critic

What: Kerlan Collection 60th Anniversary Celebration and Exhibit Opening

Where: Elmer L. Andersen Library, Rm. 120

When: 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15

Contacts: Marlo Welshons, University Libraries, (612) 625-9148, welsh066@umn.edu

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

October 16, 2009

Children's literature critic Leonard S. Marcus will help the University of Minnesota commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Kerlan Collection at the University of Minnesota Libraries, 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15. at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The lecture will be followed by a dessert reception and a viewing of a new exhibit highlighting the treasures in the Kerlan Collection, which contains over 110,000 children's books, as well as original manuscripts, artwork, galleys and color proofs for more than 18,000 titles. Featured in the exhibit will be materials from notable children's and young adult literature authors and illustrators, including "Goodnight Moon" illustrator Clement Hurd; National Book Award finalist Walter Dean Myers; Newbery Medal winners Kate DiCamillo, Katherine Paterson, and Lois Lowry; and Caldecott Medal winners Stephen Gammell and Chris Van Allsburg.

The exhibit will be open to the public from Thursday, Nov. 12 through Thursday, Dec. 31; exhibit hours and directions to Andersen Library are available at <http://special.lib.umn.edu/hoursdir.phtml>

The Marcus lecture is free and open to the public; reservations are encouraged by Nov. 6 to (612) 624-9339 or stangret@umn.edu.

U of M places fifth overall in Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon

Minnesota tops all other first-time entries in international solar home competition, places first in engineering and lighting design categories

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/16/2009) —After over two years of preparation and hard work, the University of Minnesota's first-ever entry into the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Solar Decathlon ended successfully Friday. The U of M placed fifth overall (838.544 points) in the 20-team competition, which featured entries from the United States, Canada, Germany and Spain.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman announced the winners of the fourth biennial competition this morning from the "Solar Village" on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Finishing in the top three were, in order, Team Germany (908.297 points), the University of Illinois (897.300) and Team California (863.816).

"Our team performed extremely well, especially for a first-time entry," said civil engineering faculty member and U of M project manager Ann Johnson. "All the teams ahead of us in the overall standings had previously competed in the Decathlon, so to place fifth on our first try is truly a monumental achievement."

The 2009 Solar Decathlon challenged students to create a modern, full-featured and livable home powered solely by the sun. Teams competed in 10 contests (hence the "decathlon" name), some of which evaluated aspects of the home's appearance, such as architecture, market viability and comfort, and others that measured the way it optimized efficiency and provided energy for space heating and cooling, hot water, home entertainment, lighting and appliances. The competition ran from Oct. 8 to 15.

Minnesota's entry (called the ICON Solar House for the iconic shape of its gabled roof) finished first in the engineering and lighting design competitions, and placed highly in several other categories throughout the competition. The U of M finished third in the appliances and home entertainment contests and fifth in both market viability and hot water.

More than 150 undergraduate and graduate students worked on U's solar home, which began taking shape in late 2007. This interdisciplinary project brought together students from multiple university colleges and departments, including engineering students from the Institute of Technology, architecture and design students from the College of Design and construction management students from the College of Continuing Education.

"Many of the same students have been working on this project for two years, and it's really rewarding to see their dedication and commitment pay off," said Johnson. "Being able to bring together students from so many different disciplines really gave us a leg up on the competition here in D.C."

The U of M does not yet have definitive plans for its ICON Solar House, with an estimated value around \$500,000, once it leaves the National Mall next week. The team has discussed selling the house in order to jumpstart fundraising for an entry into the next Solar Decathlon, scheduled for 2011.

For complete team standings and information about the competition, visit solardecathlon.org. More information about the ICON Solar House can be found at solardecathlon.umn.edu.

U of M's Center for Writing to host first-ever "National Day on Writing" Tuesday

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October 19, 2009

Tuesday, Oct. 20 has been declared the "National Day on Writing" by the United States Senate, and in honor of this new event, the University of Minnesota's Center for Writing has planned a day of activities to recognize the role that writing plays in our lives.

From mundane activities such as driving directions or list-making, to the highest levels of creativity in novel-writing and poetry, writing fills our lives. To celebrate the act of writing, students, faculty and staff at the U of M are invited to:

- The Writing Pod, a specially outfitted space with a variety of writing implements and technology (pen and paper, computer, typewriter) as well as webcams that will capture and broadcast writers writing via a live webcast. People will also have the opportunity to write on giant Post-it notes that will be displayed. The interactive displays will be out from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the lounge outside 15 Nicholson Hall, 216 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis.
- Write on Site (<http://writing.umn.edu/writeonsite>) will offer another opportunity for people to write in response to a prompt -- in this case, the question "What does writing mean to you?"
- Students may also contribute to a national Web site of writing sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English, the primary sponsor of the National Day on Writing, at <http://galleryofwriting.org/galleries/56018>

U of M students and non-students are welcome to participate. More information, with additional events across campus and online, is available at <http://writing.umn.edu/dayonwriting/index.html>

Yearlong celebration of U of M's Itasca field station's centennial to wrap up with a birthday party on the St. Paul campus

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/19/2009) —The University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences will bring a little bit of the the Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories to the St. Paul campus next month to culminate a yearlong celebration of the field station's 100th birthday. The birthday party will be held from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, on the lower level of the Cargill Building, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul. The public is invited to this free event, but reservations are required.

The program will feature a presentation about the Minnesota Mississippi Metagenome Project (M3P), a new research effort to characterize the microbial diversity at the headwaters of the Mississippi and use it to evaluate human impact along the river. M3P recently received \$400,000 in federal stimulus funds.

Other highlights of the event:

- Details about the university's \$8 million plan to renovate the Itasca campus;
- Screening of a new video about the Itasca field station;
- A display of rare, 150-year-old books by Itasca explorer Henry Schoolcraft that have been donated to the university by WCCO anchor Don Shelby;
- A drawing for a weekend at a beautifully restored faculty cabin at Itasca and other prizes;
- Birthday cake and other refreshments.

For reservations, contact Katie Hoffman at hoff0530@umn.edu or (612) 625-2247.

For more information about Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories, go to <http://www.cbs.umn.edu/itasca/>

Acclaimed African American Authors to Headline Sixth Annual NOMMO Authors series at U of M

What: Sixth annual NOMMO African American Authors Series

Who: Series host Alexs Pate, U of M professor and author of "Amistad"; Ishmael Reed, poet, publisher, editor, and author of 25 books, including "Conjure" nominated for a Pulitzer Prize;

Quincy Troupe, American Book Award-winning author of 17 books, co-author of "The Pursuit of Happiness," and recipient of the Peabody Award

When: Wednesday, Nov. 11, (Ishmael Reed); Wednesday, April 28, 2010 (Quincy Troupe). Both events begin at 7 p.m.

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

Tickets: \$15 per event; \$25 for the two-event series. Complimentary tickets available to U of M Students and Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries. Call (612) 624-2345 or visit <http://www.tickets.umn.edu>

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/20/2009) —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, featuring two widely acclaimed contemporary African American writers: Ishmael Reed and Quincy Troupe. Each event features a writer reading from his or her work and engaging in spirited dialogue with host Alexs Pate, University of Minnesota professor and author of the novel "Amistad." The events take place on Wednesday, Nov. 11, (Ishmael Reed) and Wednesday, April 28, (Quincy Troupe). Both events begin at 7:00 p.m. in Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

Background

The Givens Foundation has presented the NOMMO African American Authors Series annually since 2004. This is the third year the series has been co-presented by the Givens Foundation and the University of Minnesota Libraries.

"Nommo" is a Dogon word meaning "the magic power of the word."

"Too many vital African American writers, and I count myself among them, find our work sprouting shallow roots on the periphery of public awareness," said Pate. "My conversations with these authors present rare opportunities to publicly define the state of the art of African American literature and to locate our work and contributions within the present authoring of our literary tradition."

About Ishmael Reed

Ishmael Reed is the author of 25 books, including "New and Collected Poems, 1964-2006," which was listed as one of the four best books of poetry in 2006 by The New York Times Book Review, and "Conjure," which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. He is also a publisher, television producer, radio and television commentator, teacher and editor of numerous anthologies and magazines. He is the founder of the Before Columbus Foundation, which annually presents the American Book Awards; the Oakland chapter of PEN; and There City Cinema, an organization that furthers the distribution and discussion of films from throughout the world. For over 30 years, Reed taught creative writing courses in the English Department at the University of California, Berkeley, before retiring in January 2005.

About Quincy Troupe

Quincy Troupe is the author of 17 books, including American Book Award winners "Snake-Back Solos" and "Miles: The Autobiography." In 1991, he received the prestigious Peabody Award for "The Miles Davis Radio Project," broadcast in seven parts on National Public Radio. Troupe co-authored the best seller "The Pursuit of Happiness" with Chris Gardner, which chronicled Gardner's journey from homelessness to success on Wall Street. The book became the basis of an award-winning movie of the same name, starring Will Smith. Troupe is professor emeritus of creative writing and American and Caribbean literature at the University of California, San Diego, and the founding editorial director for Code Magazine. He is currently editor of Black Renaissance Noire, published by the Institute of African American Affairs at New York University.

About the Series Sponsors

For more than 20 years, the Givens Foundation for African American Literature has been the only organization in the Twin Cities exclusively dedicated to advancing and celebrating black literature and writers. The Givens Foundation's literary arts education programs, African American author series, and writers retreats enrich the quality of education, cultivate literary minds, and promote the crafting of excellence in African American literature. Each year, the Givens Foundation's programs connect more than 4,000 youth and adults in the Twin Cities with the unfolding treasure of African American literature. Learn more at <http://www.givens.org>

The University of Minnesota Libraries are among the university's and the state's greatest capital and intellectual assets. With a collection of more than 6.8 million volumes, the University Libraries rank as the 15th largest research library in North America. Located in Elmer L. Andersen Library, the Givens Collection includes rare books, literary manuscripts, correspondence, pamphlets, photographs, playbills, ephemera, magazines, audiovisual media, and the like. It consists of over 5,000 items dating from the late 18th century to the present and covering such literary periods as the Harlem Renaissance and the Black Arts Movement. The collection is available for research by students, faculty, staff, and the general public. The Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries is a vibrant group that combines advocacy for the University Libraries with an exciting outreach program celebrating a love of books, authors, knowledge, and curiosity. More information is available at <http://www.lib.umn.edu>.

The University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center anchors the University's presence anchor in the North Minneapolis community; coordinates and facilitates new and existing University research, outreach, and engagement activities related to North Minneapolis; and creates inter- and multi-disciplinary teams able to foster sustainable partnerships. Learn more at <http://www.uroc.umn.edu>

Relationship values transcend gender, sexual orientation in young people, U of M study finds

Ideas of romantic love, faithfulness and commitment still valued highly by 18-28 year-olds, say researchers

Media Note: A full text copy of the article can be obtained through Tessa Eagan or Ryan Maus.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/21/2009) —A new study by University of Minnesota sociologists says that "traditional" relationship values -- ideas of romantic love, faithfulness and commitment -- are still valued highly by today's young people, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. The results come from a survey of 18-28 year-olds that were recently published in the Journal of Marriage and Family.

"Given increases in cohabitation, divorce and debates about same sex marriage, it is easy to think that traditional relationship values have gone out the window," said Ann Meier, U of M sociology professor and one of the study's lead investigators. "In fact, young people still place a very high premium on love, faithfulness and commitment."

The study found modest but significant differences by gender and sexual orientation in relationship values. Some of the findings included:

Straight women valued faithfulness and lifelong commitment more than straight men. Sexual minorities (gay men, lesbians and bisexuals) valued both slightly less than heterosexual women, but about the same as heterosexual men, and there were no significant differences among the different genders of sexual minorities when it came to faithfulness and lifelong commitment.

"The lack of differences in the responses of gays and lesbians may be due to the fact that both groups share the legal obstacle to marriage – marriage tends to reinforce different gender norms, but if marriage is off the table, these gender differences may not exist," said Meier.

When all groups were compared, in most cases sexual minorities shared the same relationship values as straight men. It is straight women who appear to have values somewhat different from all other groups – they are particularly enthusiastic supporters of traditional relationship values.

Despite small variations in the importance of these values, however, the study found that the ideal of romantic love continues to be accepted regardless of gender or sexual identity. An overwhelming proportion of young people rated love, faithfulness and lifelong commitment as extremely important for their relationships.

"The pervasiveness of the romantic love ideal across gender and sexual identity groups really speaks to how culturally ingrained it is. Nearly all of us think love, faithfulness and commitment are essential ingredients for our relationships," said Timothy Ortyl, a doctoral candidate and co-author of the study.

The study's authors are U of M professors Meier and Kathleen Hull, as well as Ph.D. candidate Ortyl. It was published in the August 2009 Journal of Marriage and Family.

Greater tolerance for early failure yields greater corporate innovations says U of M research

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/21/2009) —“If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again” may be more than a cliché when it comes to venture capital firms spurring greater innovation.

According to a study by Tracy Y. Wang , assistant professor of finance at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management and Xuan Tian, assistant professor of finance at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, when venture capital investors allow for failure and missed targets early on by start-up entrepreneurial firms in which they are investing, the end result is greater innovation from these firms down the line.

"Motivating innovation remains a big challenge for many organizations because innovation is unpredictable and involves a high probability of failure. Therefore, tolerating failures in the exploration process is critical for achieving successful innovation," said Wang.

Wang and Tian find that when venture capital investors allow entrepreneurial firms to tackle and overcome difficulties at the early stages of development and resist terminating their investment prematurely even though targets aren't met, they allow firms to realize their innovation potential. Additionally, when venture capital investors have a high tolerance for failure early on, this allowance affects the underlying culture of the corporation and encourages and sustains innovation productivity even after the venture capital investors are no longer involved with the corporation. These findings are reached through the development of a novel empirical approach measuring the venture capital investors' failure tolerance based on the average investment duration in their past failed projects.

To read the full paper, visit: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1399707

U of M researchers receive nearly \$1 million NIH stimulus grant to fund math education study

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/21/2009) —University of Minnesota educational psychology professors Asha Jitendra and Jennifer McComas, both Rodney Wallace Professors for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, were recently awarded a \$995,929 National Institutes of Health (NIH) stimulus grant to fund a study on improving problem-solving for students who struggle with math. This two-year project will test the efficacy of schema-based instruction, as compared to the standard math-tutoring intervention, for approximately 260 third graders with chronic mathematical difficulties.

The study will take place in approximately 40 Twin Cities classrooms and will represent diverse student populations and low-income neighborhoods. Jitendra and McComas will also measure if the intervention improves attitudes about mathematics among the students.

“Students who do not develop academic competence in areas such as math are at risk for poor outcomes in school, as well difficulties that limit their vocational opportunities in later years,” Jitendra said. “We’re very excited to receive this grant, which will address the chronic and pervasive difficulties that third-grade students who struggle with math evidence.”

The stimulus funds fall under NIH funding for promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

Shuttle astronaut visiting U of M to honor engineering students with "The Right Stuff"

What: Visit by Space Shuttle astronaut Col. Fred Gregory

When: Friday, Oct. 23, 2009, 11:15 a.m.-12:05 p.m.; media interviews and photographs, 12:05-12:25 p.m.

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

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Beth Higdon, Astronaut Scholarship Foundation, (321) 455-7013, beth@astronautscholarship.org

October 21, 2009

Three-time Space Shuttle astronaut Col. Fred Gregory will give a talk to students and present two University of Minnesota engineering students with prestigious \$10,000 scholarships from the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF) from 11:15 a.m. to 12:05 p.m., Friday, Oct. 23 in the University's Van Vleck Auditorium, Tate Laboratory of Physics, 116 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Gregory will kick off the event with a talk to students about his out-of-this-world travels and how hard work made it possible for him to log more than 455 hours in space. Selected as an astronaut in 1978, Gregory piloted his first shuttle mission in 1985 and went on to become the first African American to command a space shuttle mission. Gregory was inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2004 and today is very active in the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation. He currently serves as the managing director of Aerospace and Defense Strategies for the Lohfeld Consulting Group.

In addition to the talk, Gregory will present seniors, Cole Kazemba and Rebecca Jo Szarkowski each with a \$10,000 scholarship.

The Astronaut Scholarship is the largest monetary award given in the United States to science, engineering and math undergraduate students based solely on merit. Only 18 of these prestigious awards were dispersed this year through the ASF. More than \$2.8 million has been awarded in scholarships to date with \$150,000 going to University of Minnesota students.

Kazemba is an aerospace engineering and mechanics major in the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology graduating in May 2010. He was a team leader for a student group in charge of developing the attitude determination and navigation systems for a satellite at the Air Force University Nanosatellite-6 Competition. After graduation, Kazemba plans on attending graduate school to continue his studies in spaceflight dynamics, control and propulsion and finally earn a Ph.D.

Szarkowski is a biomedical engineering major in the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology who will graduate in 2010. She plans on pursuing a master's degree in biomedical engineering. Szarkowski is involved with a team project on brain computer interface research and her goal is to head a team whose mission is to conceive of, design, and manufacture a device used by people to improve their daily lives. She is proficient in French and Spanish in addition to English.

"Students, like Cole and Rebecca, are the pioneers of our future," said Gregory, "They will forever be included in the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation's elite group of Astronaut Scholars. Our scholars have gone on to work with the Hubble telescope discovering the furthest galaxy documented to date, helped design several of the world's most prestigious fighter jets, have been named some of the top 50 technical leaders by Scientific America and much more."

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.

The university's Office for National and International Scholarships, housed in the university Honors Program, oversees nominations for the Astronaut Scholarship each spring semester and invites applications from outstanding science and engineering undergraduates from across the Twin Cities campus.

Wolves lose their predatory edge in mid-life, new U of M study shows

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/22/2009) —Although most wolves in Yellowstone National Park live to be nearly six years old, their ability to kill prey peaks when they are two to three, according to a study led by Dan MacNulty and recently published online by Ecology Letters. The study will appear in the journal's December print issue.

The finding challenges a long-held belief that wolves are successful predators for their entire adult lives. It now appears that like human athletes, they are only at the top of their game for about 25 percent of that time. It also shows that physiology can limit predation.

"Wolves are not perfect predators," says MacNulty, a postdoctoral researcher in the College of Biological Sciences' Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior. "They lack physical characteristics to kill prey swiftly, so they rely on athletic ability and endurance, which diminishes with age. They're like 100-meter sprinters. They need to be in top condition to perform."

By comparison, mountain lions, with their short snouts, powerful muscles and retractable claws, are designed to kill, MacNulty says. Not surprisingly, they live and hunt alone.

In Yellowstone, wolves, who hunt in packs, depend on elk for survival. The finding is timely because the park's elk population is shrinking and wolves are being blamed. Wolves were hunted out of the area in the 1930s and re-introduced in 1995. But the study shows there isn't a strong correlation between the number of wolves in the park and the number of elk killed.

MacNulty says that number fluctuates based on the age structure of the wolf population at any given time. The higher the proportion of wolves over age three, the lower the rate at which they kill elk. For every 10 percent rise in the proportion of wolves older than three, the kill rate declined 10 to 15 percent. He notes that the drop in the elk population is also attributable to drought and to Grizzly Bears.

"Wolves are not the sole factor limiting Yellowstone's elk population," MacNulty says.

When older wolves can no longer hunt successfully, younger wolves share their kill with them, in what MacNulty describes as a lupine version of Social Security. While a high ratio of old-to-young wolves may benefit elk, it could strain the wolf population because there aren't enough workers to support retirees.

Montana legalized hunting wolves after they were removed from the endangered species list in 2007. Although hunting is prohibited in the park, packs wander beyond its boundaries and radio-marked wolves have been killed. MacNulty says hunting won't put the species at risk, but it actually skews the population towards younger wolves, which could mean more deaths, not fewer, for the elk.

MacNulty became a field biologist at Yellowstone after graduating from the University of Colorado in 1995, the year wolves were reintroduced, and focused his doctoral studies on their predatory behavior. He has continued tracking Yellowstone's wolves as a University of Minnesota postdoctoral researcher for Craig Packer, the world's foremost authority on lions.

MacNulty's next step is to create mathematical models to study the long-term effects of fluctuations in the age structure of Yellowstone's wolf population on the elk population. His collaborators include Douglas Smith (Yellowstone Center for Resources); John Vucetich, Michigan Technological University; David Mech (US Geological Survey); Daniel Stahler (Yellowstone Center for Resources) and Craig Packer (University of Minnesota).

University of Minnesota exhibit celebrates 40th anniversary of pioneering programs

What: Exhibit opening, "Celebrating 40 Years of African American and American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota"

Where: Room. 120, Elmer L. Andersen Library 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis

When: 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/22/2009) —In 1969, the University of Minnesota established the first American Indian Studies and second African American Studies departments in the United States. To celebrate the anniversary of this historic event, the University Libraries are exhibiting archival materials that chronicle the establishment of these pioneering programs. An opening reception will be held from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, in the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The program will feature remarks by Nancy "Rusty" Barceló, vice president and vice provost, Office for Equity and Diversity; Carolyn (Carrie) Schommer, retired Dakota Instructor, department of American Indian Studies; and John S. Wright, Morse-Amoco distinguished teaching professor, departments of African American & African Studies and English.

The exhibit is open to the public now through Saturday, Dec. 5; exhibit hours and directions to Andersen Library are available at <http://special.lib.umn.edu/hoursdir.phtml>

U of M's Water Resources Center Receives \$750,000 To Create Framework for Sustainable Management of State's Water Resources

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/23/2009) —The University of Minnesota's Water Resources Center has received \$750,000 from the Minnesota State Legislature to develop a 25-year framework for the sustainable management of Minnesota's water resources. The Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework will serve as a roadmap, with timelines and benchmarks for the investment of an estimated \$86 million a year earmarked for the protection of water as a result of Minnesota's Clean Water, Land and Legacy Act.

The framework's goal is to identify investments that will protect Minnesota's lakes, rivers and ground waters without compromising people's current needs or natural ecosystems.

"The Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework is intended to serve as a roadmap for decision makers—with clear recommendations on how and when to invest and on what initiatives—based on the latest research, expert opinion and input from citizens around the state," says Deborah Swackhamer, Water Resources Center co-director and project leader.

An advisory committee has been named, and experts from state agencies, universities, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations are being appointed to work teams charged with identifying key issues and determining gaps in knowledge, management and policy.

And because water policy involves values as well as science, a Citizen/Stakeholder Advisory Group has been charged with gathering citizen opinion via surveys and listening sessions on a range of water issues—from boating to agricultural practices. As a result, Minnesotans will have a chance to give input, as well as reaction to the framework's proposals throughout the year.

In a critical first step, the project will identify the volume and whereabouts of Minnesota's groundwater supply. In Minnesota, drinking water and water used for industry and agriculture are monitored and managed by independent agencies. "As a result, we don't have a good idea of how much water we're using relative to how much is being replenished," Swackhamer says.

The framework will be presented to the Legislature January 15, 2011. For more information on the Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework and to access the citizen survey, visit wrc.umn.edu. The Water Resources Center is affiliated with the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and University of Minnesota Extension.

U of M Opera Theatre to present "Stravinsky in Paris," three short operas by Igor Stravinsky, Nov. 19-22

Media Note: Photographs available upon request. Please e-mail Lisa Marshall at marsh396@umn.edu.

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October 26, 2009

Nov. 19 through 22, the University of Minnesota School of Music's University Opera Theatre will celebrate Igor Stravinsky, one of the 20th century's most influential composers, by presenting three of his operas created during his time in the "City of Light" (Paris). The program is titled "Stravinsky in Paris" and will feature: "Le Renard" ("The Fox"), a burlesque, in English; "Mavra," a satirical folk tale, in Russian; and "Le Rossignol" ("The Nightingale"), a fantasy piece, in French.

Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19 through Saturday, Nov. 21 and at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 22 in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

This trio of short and pithy operas showcases Stravinsky at his witty and satirical best. "Le Renard" represents Stravinsky's take on the fable of the vain Cock who almost succumbs to the wily Vixen Fox before being rescued by the Goat and the Cat. "Mavra" is a classic "lover disguised as cook" parody that suits Stravinsky's comic touch. "Le Rossignol" transforms Hans Christian Andersen's beloved fairy tale into a musical fantasy that brilliantly combines the mystical with exotic baroque caricature to produce a poignant and very moving finale.

David Walsh, U of M Opera Theatre Director, will direct "Stravinsky in Paris." Foster Beyers, Christina Chen-Beyers and Jeffrey Specht, School of Music D.M.A. conducting students, will take on the artistic challenge of conducting an opera by the Russian composer.

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 Avenue Ramp, one block southwest of the concert hall. For more information on University Opera Theatre, visit opera.umn.edu

Siehl Prize for Excellence in Agriculture seeks nominations

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Patty Mattern, University of Minnesota News Service, (612) 624-2801 or mattern@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/26/2009) —The Siehl Prize for Excellence in Agriculture is requesting nominations for the 2010 awards. The prize recognizes outstanding contributions to agriculture and the alleviation of world hunger.

The University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences administers the awards. Recipients are chosen in three categories: knowledge (teaching, research and outreach), production agriculture and agribusiness. Each laureate receives 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.

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 by relatives are not allowed.

Nomination instructions are available online at <http://www.cfans.umn.edu/siehlprize>. Deadline for nominations is Jan. 15, with award winners expected to be announced during National Ag Week, March 14-20, 2010.

Coroner, author Janis Amatuzio to give lecture at U of M: "Beyond the Threshold of Death: A Forensic Pathologist's Perspective on Living"

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October 27, 2009

Local coroner and author Janis Amatuzio will give a talk on "Beyond the Threshold of Death: A Forensic Pathologist's Perspective on Living." The event will be held Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 6 p.m. in the University of Minnesota's Mayo Memorial Auditorium, 425 Delaware Street S.E., Minneapolis.

Known as the "compassionate coroner," Amatuzio is an internationally recognized authority in forensic medicine. She serves as coroner and provides forensic pathology services for several counties in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Trained at the University of Minnesota, the Hennepin County Medical Center and the Medical Examiner's Office in Minneapolis, she has been in the field of forensic medicine for nearly twenty-five years.

Amatuzio will sign copies of her book "Forever Ours" following the discussion.

This event, free and open to the public, is part of the Magraw-Fuller Lecture Series. The Magraw-Fuller Lecture Series was established through the generous support of a College of Liberal Arts alumna and aims to improve the communication skills of pre-med and pre-health students through interdisciplinary topics in the liberal arts.

University of Minnesota announces recipients of SEED awards for outstanding diverse students

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/27/2009) —The Office for Equity and Diversity at the University of Minnesota has announced the recipients of the 2009 Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity (SEED) awards to twelve undergraduate students and one graduate student. The thirteen students will receive their awards at the annual University of Minnesota Equity and Diversity Breakfast on Thursday, Nov. 19.

The SEED Award program honors high-achieving students at the University of Minnesota with diverse identities, including students of color, women, GLBT students and students with disabilities. 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.

This year's SEED Award winners are:

- Ifeanyirochukwu G. Anwah, a senior majoring in genetics, cell biology & development in the College of Biological Sciences, Twin Cities
- Ochuko L. Binitie-Cassidy, a senior majoring in chemical engineering in the Institute of Technology, Twin Cities
- Krystal M. Bradford, a senior majoring in strategic communication in the College of Liberal Arts, Twin Cities
- Christopher L. Davila, a junior majoring in education at the University of Minnesota, Duluth
- Pa Lee, a junior majoring in business marketing and education in the College of Education and Human Development, Twin Cities
- Thuy D. Nguyen-Tran, a senior double-majoring in biochemistry and physiology in the College of Biological Sciences and the College of Liberal Arts, Twin Cities
- Juliana Pegues, postdoctoral candidate in American studies in the College of Liberal Arts, Twin Cities
- Yurida Ramirez, a junior double-majoring in history and journalism in the College of Liberal Arts, Twin Cities
- Asha Sharma, a junior majoring in marketing in the Carlson School of Management, Twin Cities
- Thomas J. Toley, a senior majoring in communication studies in the College of Liberal Arts, Twin Cities
- Sarah G. Winikoff, a senior biology major at the University of Minnesota, Morris
- Allison R. Witham, a senior majoring in English in the College of Liberal Arts, Twin Cities
- Yee Xiong, a junior double-majoring in neuroscience and physiology in the College of Biological Sciences and the College of Liberal Arts, Twin Cities

SEED Award recipients receive an honorarium for their achievement ranging from \$1000 to \$2500.

The presentation of the SEED Awards will be the highlight of the annual University of Minnesota Equity and Diversity Breakfast, 7:30-9:30, Nov. 19 at McNamara Alumni Center's Memorial Hall, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis. The breakfast, sponsored by the Office for Equity and Diversity, connects university faculty, staff, students and administrators with community and corporate partners in support of the university's equity and diversity work. The breakfast is presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield and supported by ten additional corporate sponsors.

In addition, the Office for Equity and Diversity will sponsor a Diversity Networking Reception that afternoon for diverse undergraduate students to explore career opportunities with employers from around the Twin Cities who are committed to organizational diversity. The event will be held from 3-5 p.m. at the Radisson University Hotel and is sponsored by Target.

University of Minnesota researchers win \$2.2 million federal stimulus grant to use bacteria to produce biofuel

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/27/2009) —A team of University of Minnesota researchers and BioCee, a university start-up company, have been awarded \$2.2 million from the Department of Energy for a research proposal using bacteria to produce biofuel.

Lead investigator Larry Wackett, University Distinguished McKnight Professor in the College of Biological Sciences, is working with faculty from the BioTechnology Institute; Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics; Department of Microbiology; and the Institute of Technology's Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science.

The university's project was one of three featured in Monday's New York Times. In essence, the team proposes to develop a bioreactor using bacteria embedded in a thin latex coating to produce hydrocarbon fuel. They are one of the only groups in the world with the ability to make biohydrocarbons. Hydrocarbon fuel has many advantages because society has invested trillions of dollars in the infrastructure to produce, transport and use it.

The grant is one of 37 totaling \$151 million announced by Energy Secretary Steven Chu. The grants are administered by the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), which was created to stimulate American leadership in renewable energy technology. This is the first round of projects funded under the agency, which is receiving \$400 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"This is part of a new effort by the United States to spur the next Industrial Revolution in clean energy technologies," said Chu, who received the 1997 Nobel Prize in Physics. All of the proposals are creative longshots, any one of which could help solve global energy problems if successful, he said.

"We have been laying the foundation for this award for decades by hiring the right people," said Bob Elde, dean of the College of Biological Sciences. "Thanks to university and state support for the BioTechnology Institute, the Biocatalysis Initiative, and renewable energy research, we have a team with the academic horsepower to compete at a national level."

The innovative process aimed at producing hydrocarbon fuel combines the work of several University of Minnesota faculty. Michael Flickinger, a former College of Biological Sciences professor, and the late L. E. (Skip) Scriven, an Institute of Technology professor, devised the latex coating technology. BioCee, a Twin Cities start-up company, has exclusively licensed the coating technology IP from the U of M and is developing it for commercial applications.

Wackett (Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics) brings expertise on the biochemistry of hydrocarbon biosynthesis. Jeffrey Gralnick (BioTechnology Institute and Department of Microbiology) contributes extensive knowledge of *Shewanella*, the organism used to produce hydrocarbons. Lanny Schmidt and Aditya Bahn (Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science) will investigate the conversion of the biohydrocarbons into gasoline and diesel fuels. The U of M scientists will collaborate with researchers at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, who bring expertise at using blue-green algae to capture CO₂ from the atmosphere and culture it with *Shewanella* bacteria to produce hydrocarbons.

The grant will be used to integrate the expertise of the group to develop a new and scalable technology for producing biohydrocarbons as fuels.

A team of 500 top scientists in the United States, identified by university presidents, screened 3,700 pre-proposals for the highly competitive grants. Only one percent was selected for funding.

The Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE), a signature program of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, provided early-stage support and matching funds of \$300,000 to support the project. The Biocatalysis Initiative, administered by the University's BioTechnology Institute, also provided support.

U of M presents rare Chinese opera performance

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October 27, 2009

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota will present Peking and Kunqu Opera performed by China's National Academy of Chinese Theater Arts on Sunday, Nov. 1. The performance, "Highlights of Classical Chinese Theater," includes excerpts from some of the most famous Peking and Kunqu Operas in the Tedd Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. S., Minneapolis.

Peking and Kunqu Opera are forms of traditional Chinese theater that combine music, vocal performance, mime, dance and acrobatics with vibrant makeup and costumes. Kunqu Opera, often called the "mother" of Chinese Opera, has been around for more than 600 years. In 2001, UNESCO declared Kunqu Opera as a "Masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity." This designation has helped to revive this valuable and "endangered" art form within China.

"It's a great treat to see excerpts from Kunqu Opera and Peking Opera," said U of M Asian Languages and Literatures faculty member Ann Waltner. Waltner, whose research focuses on the social history of 16th and 17th century China, notes that "The Peony Pavilion" – one of the operas excerpted in Sunday's performance – is one of the best loved of all Kunqu Operas.

"While it was very popular in 16th-century China, it was also regarded as somewhat scandalous," Waltner said. "Its recent revival has been important in a revival of interest in Kun Opera in China in general."

"Highlights of Classical Chinese Theater" will also include excerpts from Peking Operas "At the Crossroads," "Reed Jungle," "Picking Up the Jade Bracelet," "Fourth Son Visiting His Mother" and "Autumn River." This performance is sponsored by the Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota and co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Office of International Programs and China Center, the Chinese American Association of Minnesota (CAAM) and the Confucius Institute at the University of South Carolina.

The performance begins at 7 p.m. at Ted Mann Concert Hall at the University of Minnesota. To purchase tickets, contact the University of Minnesota Arts Ticket Office at <http://northrop.umn.edu/tickets> or (612) 624-2345.

U of M hosts program to help farmers impacted by competition from imports complete new business plans

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/28/2009) —Farmers who have been negatively affected by competition from imports could qualify for training and help shifting to new enterprises through a new program coordinated by the Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers Program, part of the federal economic stimulus plan, includes a grant of \$17.6 million to the U of M center to establish a national training coordination center. Four Extension regional risk management education centers around the country also will help deliver technical assistance. The program will be in effect through December 2010.

“Changes in global markets sometimes cause financial consequences for U.S. agricultural programs,” said Kevin Klair, Extension economist. “Trade Adjustment Assistance offers programs to help producers adjust to the negative impacts of increased imports. Farmers were first included in Trade Adjustment Assistance in the 2002 Trade Act and CFFM was asked to help coordinate the training component of the program. We are pleased to be able to continue providing leadership for the new version of this program.”

In Minnesota, if commodities qualify for the program, eligible producers will receive research-based education from University of Minnesota Extension agricultural business management educators. Training and information will cover topics such as improving the yield and marketability of a commodity or substituting for an alternative enterprise. Extension also will offer eligible producers a series of courses on topics relevant to the commodity and help develop business plans.

In other states, educators working under approved land-grant university extension programs will provide similar training and education.

The university’s Center for Farm Financial Management is part of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and University of Minnesota Extension.

Researchers discover links between city walkability and air pollution exposure

Study reveals the role of neighborhood design in reducing pollution and improving physical activity

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/30/2009) —A new study compares neighborhoods' walkability (degree of ease for walking) with local levels of air pollution and finds that some neighborhoods might be good for walking, but have poor air quality. Researchers involved in the study include University of Minnesota faculty member Julian Marshall and University of British Columbia faculty Michael Brauer and Lawrence Frank.

The findings highlight the need for urban design to consider both walkability and air pollution, recognizing that neighborhoods with high levels of one pollutant may have low levels of another pollutant.

The study, done for the city of Vancouver, British Columbia, is the first of its kind to compare the two environmental attributes, and suggests potential environmental health effects of neighborhood location, layout and design for cities around the globe.

The research study is published in the November 2009 issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives*, the peer-reviewed journal of the United States' National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The research team found that, on average, neighborhoods downtown are more walkable and have high levels of some pollutants, while suburban locations are less walkable and have high levels of different pollutants. Neighborhoods that fare well for pollution and walkability tend to be a few miles away from the downtown area. These "win-win" urban residential neighborhoods--which avoid the downtown and the suburban air pollution plus exhibit good walkability--are rare, containing only about two percent of the population studied. Census data indicate that these neighborhoods are relatively high-income, suggesting that they are desirable places to live. Neighborhoods that fare poorly for both pollution and walkability tend to be in the suburbs and are generally middle-income.

"Research has shown that exposure to air pollution adversely affects human health by triggering or exacerbating a number of health issues such as asthma and heart disease," said Marshall, a civil engineering faculty member in the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology. "Likewise, physical inactivity is linked to an array of negative health effects including heart disease and diabetes. Neighborhood design can influence air pollution and walkability; more walkable neighborhoods may encourage higher daily activity levels."

In the study, researchers evaluated concentrations of nitric oxide, a marker of motor vehicle exhaust, and ozone, a pollutant formed when vehicle exhaust and other pollutants react, for 49,702 postal codes (89 percent of all postal codes) in Vancouver. The researchers assigned a walkability score by analyzing four common attributes of neighborhood design: land-use mixing, intersection density, population density and for retail areas, the relative amount of land area for shopping versus for parking.

More walkable neighborhoods tend to have mixed land uses, with destinations such as stores and shops within walking distance of people's houses. A conventional street grid and other more walkable road networks tend to have a higher intersection density, while less walkable neighborhoods often have circuitous road networks and low intersection density, thereby increasing average travel distances and reducing the likelihood that people will walk. More walkable areas generally have higher population density. Finally, in less walkable areas, stores devote a greater fraction of their land to parking.

"The finding that nitric oxide concentrations are highest downtown, while ozone concentrations are highest in the suburbs, is not surprising," said Marshall. "Motor vehicle exhaust is most concentrated downtown, leading to the high nitric oxide concentrations downtown. In contrast, ozone takes time to form. Air masses have moved away from downtown--often, to suburban areas--by the time ozone concentrations reach their highest levels. Thus, reductions in vehicle emissions can benefit people who live near high-traffic areas and also people living in less dense areas."

Creating neighborhoods that are more walkable and that allow for alternative travel modes such as walking, biking or public transportation is one approach to reducing motor vehicle emissions, the study suggests. Another approach is reducing emissions per vehicle, for example through mandated emission standards. The research did not study conditions for individual people, but points out that high-rise buildings may allow people to live in walkable neighborhoods while being somewhat removed from street-level vehicle emissions.

The study's new findings indicate that neighborhood design is an important consideration for improving pollution levels and providing opportunities for daily physical activity. The study identified neighborhoods that are walkable yet have low levels of pollution, but those neighborhoods encompass a very small percentage of the population. Researchers hope that future investigation of those "win-win" neighborhoods will suggest urban design features that could usefully be applied elsewhere.

In the future, the researchers hope to investigate changes over time in pollution and walkability, and also study other urban areas to see how spatial patterns may differ elsewhere.

To read the current research study in its entirety, visit the *Environmental Health Perspectives* Web site at www.ehponline.org/members/2009/0900595/0900595.html.

Jean Quam named dean of the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development

Media Note: To download a photo of Dean Quam, visit <http://bit.ly/3gXwZf>

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/30/2009) —University of Minnesota Provost Thomas Sullivan today named professor Jean K. Quam as dean of the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), subject to approval by the university's Board of Regents at its November meeting.

Quam has served as interim dean of CEHD since October 2008.

“Dean Quam has served with great distinction as interim dean,” Sullivan said. “It is clear that she enjoys extensive support from within CEHD and beyond. She is a leader of calm and careful judgment, with strategic vision, and, very importantly, she has that very special set of skills needed to share and help realize that vision.”

Quam holds a Ph.D. in social welfare from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She conducts research broadly in the fields of aging and marginalized populations. Quam has been active in a number of professional organizations including the state and national organizations of the National Association of Social Workers, the National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work, the Council on Social Work Education and the American Society on Aging.

“I'm honored to serve the University of Minnesota and to lead the College of Education and Human Development forward into the future. As dean, I am eager to continue our work on creating an 'engaged college' internally and externally by further diversifying the college and our disciplines, being innovative in all that we do, and last but not least, in deepening our excellence in research,” Quam said. “Our college is ready, and I'm ready to help each and every one of us to pursue our full potential and our vitally important mission.”

The College of Education and Human Development is the third largest college at the University of Minnesota. The college is home to eight departments, 57 programs, 25 centers/institutes, 189 faculty, over 500 staff and 5,100 students.

To download a photo of Dean Quam, visit <http://bit.ly/3gXwZf>

Henning Schroeder named new University of Minnesota vice provost and dean of graduate education

Media Note: To download a picture of Schroeder, visit <http://bit.ly/15763E>

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/02/2009) —Following an extensive internal search, University of Minnesota Provost Thomas Sullivan today named professor Henning Schroeder the new vice provost and dean of graduate education, subject to approval by the university's Board of Regents.

If approved, Schroeder will start the new position Jan. 19, 2010, at the start of the spring semester.

"Dr. Schroeder has demonstrated that he is an exceptional scholar and a thoughtful, collegial and highly respected academic leader who will foster excellence and provide strategic direction for graduate education," Sullivan said. "He brings a fresh perspective to graduate education, and his international and comparative background is an important fit with the large international population of graduate and professional students at the university."

Schroeder is currently associate dean for Research and Graduate Studies and a professor in the Department of Pharmaceutics in the U of M's School of Pharmacy, posts he has held since 2007. His responsibilities cover both Ph.D. and masters programs as well as aspects of the professional doctorate program. He previously was a visiting professor at Stanford University and served on the faculty of the Martin Luther University School of Pharmacy in Germany (where he was chair of the Department of Pharmacology for 12 years) and Düsseldorf University.

"I am very honored and excited to be chosen for this position," said Schroeder. "I know that this appointment comes with great responsibilities, particularly in times when we have to compete with graduate programs not only at a national level but worldwide. The U of M has an enormous breadth of graduate programs and experiences. I look forward to serving all members of the university community and am grateful for the trust they have put in me."

Schroeder earned both his doctorate and professional pharmacy degree from Düsseldorf University, and was a postdoctoral scholar at Stanford University where he worked in the group of Nobel laureate Ferid Murad.

An active international scholar himself, Schroeder's research focuses on cardiovascular disease and the regulation of antioxidant genes. He has published over 80 peer reviewed articles and over 60 review articles and book chapters. The work of his group and graduate students has been honored with numerous awards.

To download a picture of Schroeder, visit <http://bit.ly/15763E>

University of Minnesota Supercomputing Institute to hold Open House on Wednesday, Nov. 4

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/02/2009) —The University of Minnesota Supercomputing Institute for Advanced Computational Research (MSI) will hold an open house from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4 to showcase the institute's resources to the university's research community. MSI is on the fourth and fifth floors of Walter Library, 117 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis.

MSI has established itself as a vital resource to the University of Minnesota by facilitating ground breaking research, attracting top faculty and students, and enhancing researchers' competitive advantage in the search for external funding.

Schedule:

- 2-12:30 p.m. Presentation by Richard Kaufmann, Hewlett Packard Distinguished Technologist
- 12:30-12:45 p.m. Address from the University of Minnesota VP for Research, Tim Mulcahy
- 12:45-1:45 p.m. Panel discussion: "Research Computing in the Life Sciences as It Impacts the State of Minnesota" Moderator: Dean John Finnegan, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota. Participants in the discussion are:

Minnesota State Sen. Kathy Saltzman (DFL–District 56);

Drew Flaada, director of Emerging Solutions Development, IBM;

Professor Bin He, Department of Biomedical Engineering, University of Minnesota, and;

Professor Julie Jacko, director, Institute for Health Informatics, University of Minnesota

- 2-3:30 p.m. Tours of the machine room; visualizations and software demonstrations in MSI's computing laboratories
- 3:30 p.m. Drawing for door prizes

Posters of research being performed at MSI will be displayed throughout the event. Food will be provided. MSI's Open House is free and open to the public. For more information and to preregister, visit <https://www.msi.umn.edu/events/openhouse2009/>.

For more information about the Minnesota Supercomputing Institute for Advanced Computational Research, visit www.msi.umn.edu

Chinese officials examine food safety systems in Minnesota

U of M leads efforts-FAO, Cargill, General Mills, Ecolab among partners

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/03/2009) —Twenty-two senior Chinese food safety delegates from government, industry and academic sectors arrive in Minnesota this week to conclude a two-week program focused on how nations achieve international food safety standards for protecting public health.

The Global Initiative for Food Systems Leadership (GIFSL), a public-private-academic partnership, organized the exchange which has included meetings with international policy experts, visits to food facilities and discussions with food safety leaders from the public and private sectors as well as university experts. GIFSL receives expertise and financial support from the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Cargill, General Mills, Ecolab, the Dutch Food Safety Authority, the University of Minnesota and numerous other partners.

"Everyone in the food supply chain has some responsibility for ensuring food safety," said international food safety expert Will Hueston, GIFSL executive director and professor of veterinary medicine and public health at the University of Minnesota. "It takes a collaborative effort to ensure safety, and that's one of the goals of this project."

The program in Minnesota includes:

- Wednesday, November 4-- Meetings with the Minnesota departments of agriculture and health and the Board of Animal Health and a tour of a General Mills facility in Chanhassen.
- Thursday, November 5--an examination of food safety protections in the dairy supply-chain with visits to a dairy farm in Buffalo, a dairy processing plant, a grocery store, and Ecolab's research and development facility in Eagan.
- Friday, November 6--Roundtable discussion with industry food safety leaders at Cargill headquarters.

"Food safety is the concern and responsibility of every country in the world. It is a top priority for the Chinese government. Through the program, we can share ideas, experience and even lessons for food safety administration. We hope to enhance food safety management through the whole food supply chain in China and other countries so as to bring safer and higher quality food for people with these joint efforts,"said Mr. Li Hai Qing, the head of delegation. "We highly appreciate the University of Minnesota, Cargill, General Mills, Ecolab and all other partners which are making great efforts to drive the program."

"Safe food is fundamental to our business at Cargill," said Mike Robach, vice president of Food Safety and Regulatory Affairs. "By partnering with GIFSL, we hope to advance a cooperative approach that strengthens global food safety while ensuring food availability."

The Chinese delegation visit advances the food safety seminars that General Mills has conducted in the last several years with local officials in China, said Mark Fryling, director of quality and regulatory operations. "As a global consumer food company, food safety is our highest priority at General Mills. This partnership helps us build and connect more broadly with food safety leaders around the world in advancing our shared goal of strengthening and improving food safety worldwide."

"Ecolab is dedicated to making the world a cleaner, safer, healthier place," said Katherine Swanson, vice president of Ecolab Food Safety. "GIFSL provides a critical leadership network of key stakeholders from government, industry, and academia to act together to identify needs and harmonized approaches for enhanced food safety globally, and we are proud to be a sponsor and participant."

The group began its intensive program with two days in Rome at the FAO focusing on international food safety standards. It toured a Cargill oilseed crushing facility near Amsterdam and met with Dutch officials and industry representatives, followed by two days in Washington, D.C., with multiple government agencies, industry associations and news media.

This scientific and policy exchange program is the second in a five-year program GIFSL has committed to providing for the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspections and Quarantine (AQSIQ), a government agency of the People's Republic of China. AQSIQ took the lead in organizing participation from industries, academic and government agencies, which included AQSIQ, Ministry Of Health(MOH), State Food and Drug Administration(SFDA) , State Administration for Industry and Commerce(SAIC), State Administration for Certification and Accreditation(CNCA) and State Administration for Standardization(SAC).

Mathematician who uses 3-D graphics and games to explain the universe will speak at the U of M Nov. 12

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/03/2009) —When we look out on a clear night, the universe seems infinite, yet this is an illusion, says Jeffrey Weeks, a freelance mathematician, who will speak at the University of Minnesota at 7 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 12 in Willey Hall, Room 125, 225 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. In fact, it is a “multi-connected universe” and the best way to explain it is through interactive 3D graphics and games that show several possible shapes for space, Weeks says.

A noted author and mathematician, Weeks is the second speaker in the public lecture series sponsored by the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) at the University of Minnesota. The lecture is appropriate for anyone fascinated with space and the universe — from middle school students to adults.

Weeks says understanding the universe is based on mathematics, but in teaching, it is essential to start with great visuals. “I let the audience experience the games to understand the math,” he said.

Weeks received his doctorate in mathematics from Princeton University in 1985. He was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 1999. His research focuses on the use of powerful mathematical tools to solve problems in physical cosmology, a branch of astronomy that studies the largest scale structures and dynamics of our universe, particularly how it was formed and how it evolves.

For more information on this and other public lectures sponsored by the IMA, visit <http://www.ima.umn.edu/public-lecture>

The Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) brings together the best minds in math and the sciences to solve pressing problems facing our society, our industries, and our planet. It is funded by the National Science Foundation and the University of Minnesota.

U of M one of top Fulbright schools in nation, according to new rankings

University produced 14 Fulbright Students for 2009-10 school year

Media Note: For a complete list of 2009-10 Fulbright rankings, visit http://us.fulbrightonline.org/documents/Chronicles/chronicle_09.pdf

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/04/2009) —The University of Minnesota was recently honored as one of the top Fulbright Student-producing institutions in the nation, according to rankings released by The Fulbright Program and featured in Oct. 19 edition of The Chronicle of Higher Education. Only 14 research institutions in the nation produced more than Minnesota's 14 Fulbrights last year, a total that tied with the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the University of Indiana.

The U of M also boasted the highest application success rate amongst the top 15 institutions listed. Minnesota's 14 Fulbrights came from a pool of 39 applicants, a 35.8 percent success rate.

"We are extremely proud to be recognized for the achievement of becoming one of the leading recipients of Fulbright scholarships in the nation," said Myrna Smith, director of the U of M's Graduate Fellowship Office. "We congratulate these top-flight students for their outstanding achievements, and we wish them well for the future."

The achievement also reflects the work of Fulbright advisers Alison Skoberg and Sally Lieberman, as well as on U of M President Robert Bruininks' long-standing interest in internationalizing the university, added Smith. President Bruininks served on the Fulbright Scholars Advisory Board in Washington, D.C. until this past September.

The 14 Fulbrights won by University of Minnesota students this year represent an increase from last year's total of 13 and the university's average of approximately eight Fulbright Scholars in recent years.

Since its inception in 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided approximately 294,000 participants worldwide 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. In the past 63 years, more than 42,000 students from the United States have benefited from the Fulbright experience.

For a complete list of 2009-10 Fulbright rankings, visit: http://us.fulbrightonline.org/documents/Chronicles/chronicle_09.pdf

U of M to host day honoring student veterans Nov. 11

Over 700 student veterans currently enrolled on U of M campuses, 535 in the Twin Cities

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November 4, 2009

University of Minnesota student veterans and family members, along with student, faculty, staff and the public are invited to attend the University of Minnesota's Third Annual Student Veterans Appreciation Day activities Wednesday, Nov. 11, to honor student veterans' service and sacrifice to the United States.

The University of Minnesota currently has 726 student veterans enrolled system-wide, including 535 on the Twin Cities campus.

Activities begin at 10 a.m. in the Great Hall of Coffman Memorial Union (300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis), with a Veterans Resource Fair featuring campus services and organizations until 4 p.m. Also on exhibit throughout the day are Minnesota History Center veterans memorabilia, The Oral History Project, and the art work of a Vietnam veteran.

A free lunch will be served beginning at 11 a.m. in the Great Hall and snacks will be available throughout the afternoon. The university's Military Color Guard and the Marching Band will kickoff a program at noon featuring veterans of all major U.S. conflicts since World War II as speakers.

The day's activities are co-sponsored by the Coca-Cola Beverage Partnership, TCF Bank and the Walmart Foundation, in cooperation with the U of M's Student Veterans Association, Office for Student Affairs and One Stop Student Services.

For more information, please contact Mary Koskan at m-kosk@umn.edu or (612) 625-0160.

U reports increase in number of farmers, lenders using debt mediation

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/04/2009) —An increasing number of farmers and lenders are using mediation to resolve farm debt issues, according to the University of Minnesota Extension Farmer-Lender Mediation program's annual report.

Every measure of activity in the program showed sizeable increases during the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2009, said Richard Senese, Extension Associate Dean for Community Vitality and Public Engagement.

For the 12 months prior to Oct. 1, 2009, there was a 55 percent increase in the number of notices filed by lenders for loans eligible for mediation, totaling 3,107 such notices. These notices resulted in 1,192 requests for mediation, a dramatic 86 percent increase over the previous year. The total amount of debt involved in mediation was \$322 million, more than double the amount in 2008.

The report showed 422 notices that led farmers and lenders to reach agreement about a debt. For an additional 533 notices, farmers and lenders are currently in mediation in hopes of reaching an agreement.

"This is important because it demonstrates that farmers and their lenders are using the program to work together and agree how to renegotiate, restructure or resolve their debts," Senese said.

A chart comparing program activity between 2008 and 2009 can be accessed at www.extension.umn.edu/go/1011 (PDF).

Low livestock prices and ripple effects from the general economy are contributing to the increase in the number of troubled farm loans. Pork and dairy prices have been below the cost of production for more than a year on many farms.

"Many well-managed operations are experiencing financial stress because of large changes in feed costs and market values," said Brian Buhr, Extension economist and head of the university's Department of Applied Economics. "Farmer-lender mediation provides a way to restructure debt and give the operation a chance to stay in business until better times. Mediation also helps other related businesses such as feed dealers, veterinarians and equipment suppliers who depend on livestock producers for income as well."

Buhr explains that while losses are expected to continue into 2010, futures prices suggest profitability may return during the second quarter of 2010.

Minnesota law requires that creditors with a secured debt of more than \$5,000 against an agricultural property offer farmer-lender mediation before proceeding with foreclosure, repossession, cancellation of contract or collection of a judgment. Farmers offered mediation can take advantage of a 90-day period to work with their lenders to renegotiate, restructure or resolve their debts. A team of mediators, financial analysts and other University of Minnesota Extension professionals manage the program as neutral parties.

Mediation is an informal and confidential process that generally requires less cost and time than adversarial court litigation. To be eligible for farmer-lender mediation, a debtor must own or lease more than 60 acres and have more than \$20,000 in gross of agricultural products the preceding year.

The Minnesota Farmer-Lender Mediation program is part of USDA's Certified State Agricultural Mediation Program. The 2009 annual report is available at www.extension.umn.edu/go/1012

For more information on Extension's Farmer-Lender Mediation program visit www.extension.umn.edu/Community/Mediation

Plug In America president to discuss electric cars at U of M's Center for Transportation Studies fall luncheon

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

November 5, 2009

Dan Davids, president of Plug In America, will discuss how electric cars (EVs) can be a major force in reducing our nation's dependence on petroleum and improving the global environment at the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies Fall Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10 at the A.I. Johnson Room, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis

At this annual event, Davids will give a brief history of electric cars in America and discuss the vehicles that are coming to the marketplace soon. Plug In America is a nonprofit coalition formed to raise public awareness of and advocate for plug-in transportation.

Davids' career spans oceanography, aviation, and software design. He is an active environmentalist promoting electric vehicles, solar power and sustainable building.

For more information on the event, visit www.cts.umn.edu/Events/Luncheon/2009/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.

Experts from eight countries to present initiatives on education for marginalized youth at U of M

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November 5, 2009

As part of an ongoing partnership between the University of Minnesota and CARE-USA, one of the world's leading humanitarian organizations, 20 representatives from eight CARE countries will visit the U of M campus for an open-to-the-public research workshop Nov. 9 from 3:30 – 5 p.m. in the University International Center, 331 17th Avenue S.E., Minneapolis.

The public is invited to learn more about CARE education partnerships (including the U of M research partnership) for marginalized youth in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Malawi, Mali and Tanzania, and to meet these international guests. More information can be found at <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/edpa/CARE>

The University of Minnesota College of Education and Development and its private partner Miske Witt & Associates are in the middle of a two-and-a-half year, \$1.1 million dollar grant as part of CARE's Patsy Collins Trust Fund Initiative. Through this \$20 million, 20-year endowment, CARE is building ongoing partnerships in eight countries where they are working to improve educational access and quality for marginalized children -- especially girls. The focus is on rights to, within and through education.

University of Minnesota faculty are providing critical support for in-country partners to document and measure how culturally relevant programs are helping girls realize their right to education and empowerment. The CARE Research Partnership for Girls' Education involves co-principal investigators, Joan DeJaeghere, assistant professor, Chris Johnstone, director of CEHD international initiatives and relations, and professors David Chapman and Fran Vavrus, along with 18 graduate students from the College of Education and Human Development.

While at the University of Minnesota, the CARE country partners will attend a five-day workshop on how to measure and evaluate the effectiveness of their educational efforts. Changu Mannathoko, UNICEF senior education adviser, will be the keynote speaker at a Nov. 13 reception for invited guests. U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.) will also speak at the event.

U of M researchers awarded prestigious grants from ARRA funds

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/05/2009) —A total of 15 University of Minnesota research projects have been awarded more than \$10.3 million in funding from the prestigious “Challenge” and “Grand Opportunities” grant programs offered by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) through funds authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The “Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research” is a new NIH initiative that supports research on specific knowledge gaps, scientific opportunities, new technologies, data generation, or research methods that would benefit from an influx of funds to quickly advance the area in significant ways. Research funded by a Challenge grant is intended to have a high impact in biomedical or behavioral science and/or public health. The grants generated a great deal of interest and were highly competitive: the NIH received more than 20,000 proposals and awarded only 840 grants nationally.

“Grand Opportunities” is another new NIH initiative that supports high-impact ideas that might lay the foundation for new areas of investigation and which lend themselves to short-term, non-renewable funding. Grand Opportunities funding will provide investigators and institutions with the opportunity to engage in new avenues of research with a high likelihood of significant impact on growth and investment in biomedical or behavioral research and development, public health and health care delivery.

“These grants are a wonderful tribute to the caliber of research taking place at the U,” said Tim Mulcahy, vice president for research. “We are extremely proud of the researchers who have received this recognition from the NIH and we look forward to the positive impact that their discoveries will have on key health and social issues.”

Following is a list of the 10 Challenge grants received by U researchers, followed by the five Grand Opportunities grants. Amounts listed are funds available for first year of grant; some grants are eligible for additional funds for a second year of research.

National Institutes of Health “Challenge” Grants

A population-based study of a common heart disease

Alonso, Alvaro (Epidemiology)
National Heart, Lung, Blood Institute
\$499,997

Description: Epidemiologist Alvaro Alonso will use stimulus funding to discover new insights into the causes of a heart disease called atrial fibrillation. The most commonly diagnosed heart arrhythmia, atrial fibrillation risk factors and biomarkers will be examined in a bi-racial group of more than 15,000 people that has been studied over several years. Alonso expects better understanding of the triggers and predictors of atrial fibrillation to contribute to the development of new treatments and new approaches to prevention.

Strategies to prevent Alzheimer’s disease

Ashe, Karen Hsiao (Neurology)
National Institute on Aging
\$369,833

Description: Alzheimer’s disease researcher Karen Hsiao Ashe will continue her studies of this disease that impacts millions of people in America and the world. Recently, she has focused on the material that makes up Alzheimer’s plaques. In this latest project, she will determine whether specific kinds of these plaque molecules appear early enough in Alzheimer’s to become a target for therapies aimed at preventing the illness. This study will be carried out in collaboration with Srinand Sreevatsan, a University of Minnesota researcher exploring cutting-edge DNA-mediated detection of disease, and Ronald Petersen, a Mayo Clinic physician who has recruited a group of elderly patients.

Developing reliable statistical models to study the health effects of climate change

Banerjee, Sudipto (Biostatistics)
National Institute of General Medical Sciences
\$306,736

Description: Climate change is expected to affect incidences of asthma, skin cancers and food-borne diseases, among other health effects. Developing better statistical methods to predict the relationship between climate change and these health effects is the project for which bio statistician Sudipto Banerjee received federal funding. A key challenge involves handling large data sets from disparate sources. As Banerjee and his team carry out this project, they will create software packages that can be delivered to health and environmental researchers and data analysts.

Will brain stimulation help paralyzed children?

Carey, James (Physical Med and Rehabilitation)
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
\$499,939

Description: Thousands of children experience paralysis of half of their bodies (hemiplegia) due to stroke, infection, or another trauma to the brain. This study, led by Program in Physical Therapy Director James Carey, seeks to discover a new method of brain stimulation to help these children recover the function of their hands. A non-invasive magnetic stimulation technique will target areas of the brain and be combined with another form of therapy. If successful, it will improve the quality of life for these children.

A New Paradigm for Biomolecular Simulations

Gao, Jiali ; Truhlar, Donald G. (Chemistry)
National Institute of General Medical Sciences
\$454,160

Description: It is difficult to make accurate quantitative predictions of biochemical processes due to the complexity and size of biomolecular systems in cells. Our research will focus on developing a novel computational approach that represents a paradigm change in the way intermolecular interactions are described to understand biological properties and function. The research is expected to significantly increase the accuracy of computational results. This, in turn, may help to design inhibitors and engineer specialized proteins for biomedical and industrial applications.

A new approach for treating nicotine and gambling addiction

Grant, Jon (Psychiatry)
National Institute on Drug Abuse
\$475,600

Description: Psychiatrist Jon Grant will research how a dietary supplement, N-acetyl cysteine, combined with brief behavioral therapy will affect both smoking and gambling behaviors. Grant and his colleagues believe this approach will greatly reduce nicotine dependence and pathological gambling symptoms both during treatment and long afterward. If this approach is successful, it will have the potential to set a new standard of care for a range of psychiatric disorders that happen along with nicotine dependence.

Improving Problem-Solving Performance of Students with Mathematics Difficulties

Jitendra, Asha Kiron; McComas, Jennifer (Educational Psychology)
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
\$499,046

Description: The mathematical underachievement of students in the United States is particularly severe for students with disabilities, those with limited-English proficiency, students from impoverished backgrounds, and minorities. This proposed two-year study will address the problem-solving difficulties of third grade students who are identified as struggling with mathematics by providing small group tutoring using schema-based instruction (SBI). The SBI curriculum aims to improve mathematics outcomes by teaching students problem-solving strategies that support their understanding of a range of word problems. Given the focus of the study on addressing the chronic and pervasive mathematical difficulties (i.e., problem-solving) of children in elementary schools in an area of Minneapolis that has a diverse student population and is representative of low-income neighborhoods, this proposal is directly responsive to the public health of individuals.

Reprogramming patient cells to discover the causes of muscular dystrophy

Kyba, Michael (Pediatrics); Perlingeiro, Rita (Medicine); Day, John (Pediatrics)

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

\$959,036

Description: The third most common type of muscular dystrophy is the target of a study by four experts, led by principal investigator Michael Kyba. The team also includes Minnesota scientists Rita Perlingeiro and John Day and Baylor College of Medicine’s Thomas Zwaka. While it is known what variation in the DNA causes this facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD) it is not known how it causes the progressive, muscle-loss disease that affects 25,000 people in the United States. By removing cells from those with muscular dystrophy and re-programming them to become induced pluripotent or iPS cells, similar to embryonic stem cells, the team expects to gain new insights into the genetic basis of this form of muscular dystrophy and discover possible new cell therapies. The University provided pairing funds of \$100,000 for a study by Kyba aimed at generating iPS cells under clinical conditions.

Microsystems and Modeling Approach to Glioma Migration and Metastasis

Odde, David J.; Rosenfeld, Steven S. (Biomedical Engineering)
National Cancer Institute
\$480,504

Description: Brain cancer is a devastating disease because of the way the malignant brain tumor cells spread. Effectively blocking the way these cells spread throughout the brain could prevent the disease from involving the whole brain and containing it to a localized area, which could be effectively treated with local therapies such as surgery or radiation. Understanding the movement and invasion of how malignant cells migrate is at the core of this research. Our research will develop new tools for understanding the mechanical basis of brain cancer cell movement, which will then guide novel therapeutic strategies.

Building Research Ethics and Oversight in Nanomedicine

Wolf, Susan M. (Law, Medicine & Public Policy)
National Human Genome Research Institute
\$433,066

Description: Nanomedicine is carried out at an atomic or a molecular scale. This project will produce the first systematic and comprehensive recommendations on how to protect human participants in research on nanodiagnosics and nanotherapeutics, including drugs, devices, and gene therapy. Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences Chair Susan Wolf is the principal investigator for the two-year project on “Nanodiagnosics and Nanotherapeutics: Building Research Ethics and Oversight.” Co-investigators include Institute for Engineering in Medicine Director Jeffrey McCullough; law professor Ralph Hall; and Center for Bioethics Director Jeffrey Kahn. The project working group includes top scholars from across the nation.

National Institutes of Health “Grand Opportunities” Grants

Hibernation

Andrews, Matthew (Biology)
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
\$545,342

Description: Animals that hibernate can survive extreme cold that would be fatal for humans. Yet if better understood, hibernation’s slowing of body function might buy time for humans suffering stroke, heart attacks or blood loss. Biologist Matt Andrews will use this funding in his ongoing studies of hibernation. He seeks to find the genes that control hibernation in 13-lined ground squirrels. His collaborators include mathematician Marshall Hampton, commercial partner Tethys Bioscience, as well as the Biomedical Genomics Center, Minnesota Supercomputing Institute, Medical School Duluth Campus, and University of Minnesota Duluth Departments of Biology and of Mathematics & Statistics.

Create first-ever Consumer Research Network

Jacko, Julie (Health Informatics)
National Institute of Nursing Research
\$900,131

Description: Julie Jacko, lead faculty for the Institute for Health Informatics, and her team will build a novel and innovative consumer-based health information technology infrastructure called the Consumer Research Network (CRN). The CRN will leverage an extensive network of secure, web-based Personal Health Records through an alliance of employers within the Buyers Health Care Action Group. This network will be able to offer about 300,000 people in Minnesota the opportunity to be better informed about, and participate in, clinical research, if they so choose. No personal health information will be accessed without individuals’ consent. The network’s first study will compare the effectiveness of consumer strategies for weight management and obesity prevention. In the long run, Jacko and her team expect this model network to power epidemiological and genetic studies of large diverse populations, potentially improving the translation of research from bench to bedside while reducing the costs of conducting research. This project received Grand Opportunity (GO) grant funding

Measuring children’s exposure to secondhand smoke and analyzing racial disparities

Joseph, Anne (Medicine); Murphy, Sharon (Masonic Cancer Center)
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
\$641,593

Description: Tobacco researchers Anne Joseph and Sharon Murphy received funding to develop an analytical chemistry method to measure the level of cotinine—a substance that indicates secondhand smoke exposure—in blood samples. The measurement method the researchers develop will be applied to dried blood spots that have been collected from a large, diverse population of children under the age of 3. The goal of this project is to study racial disparities in childhood exposure to secondhand smoke.

Accurate, objective data about these disparities may lead to health policies that focus on reducing secondhand smoke exposure in children in minority populations. The methods developed in this project will provide an important resource for future epidemiological and clinical research.

Re-programming cells using a new approach for bone marrow transplantation

Kyba, Michael (Pediatrics);
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
\$354,349

Description: Michael Kyba and his team are using this federal funding to explore new ways to re-program cells. The goal is to re-program an individual’s cells into blood stem cells that can be used for bone marrow transplantation. If successful, this would be an important advance in regenerative medicine, expanding the donor pool for those who need bone marrow transplantation, expanding the potential for treatments of genetic diseases, and improving quality of life for people who have organ transplants.

Enhancing Minority Participation in Clinical Trials (EMPaCT)

Vickers, Selwyn (Surgery)
National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities
\$2,954,832

Description: This Grand Opportunities (GO) grant funds the Enhancing Minority Participation in Clinical Trials (EMPaCT) program, which will create a national consortia of five regional lead institutions to improve health disparities in America. EMPaCT will do so by addressing minority participation in clinical research through education and infrastructure. Currently, minorities make up more than a third of the U.S. population, yet minorities number less than 10 percent of participants in cancer clinical trials. Principal investigator Selwyn Vickers is an expert in pancreatic cancer and head of the Department of Surgery. His University of Minnesota team and co-principal investigator Mona Fouad at the University of Alabama at Birmingham are nationally recognized leaders in the areas of health disparities and cancer care.

U of M student radio station, Radio K (KUOM), wins national award for Web site

College Broadcasters, Inc. names www.radiok.org “Best Student Media Web site”

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Ryan Maus, University News Service, (612) 624-1690, maus@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/05/2009) —College Broadcasters, Inc., a national organization representing student-run media ventures, named the University of Minnesota's student radio station, “Radio K,” as the “Best Student Media Web site” for 2009. The station’s Web site is www.radiok.org

The award, which was announced in Austin, Tex. on Oct. 30, is part of the 2009 National Student Production Awards. Other winners included television and radio productions from Harvard University, Purdue University, the University of North Carolina and Columbia College. St. Cloud State’s UTVS-Channel 21 won in the “Best Live Sports Production” for “Husky Productions.”

Broadcasting at 104.5 FM in Minneapolis, 100.7 FM in St. Paul, 770 AM, and online at radiok.org, Radio K is the award-winning, student-run radio station of the U of M, playing an eclectic variety of independent music both new and old. KUOM began broadcasting on 770 AM Jan. 13, 1922, likely making it Minnesota's oldest radio station.

More information about College Broadcasters, Inc., is available at www.askcbi.org

U of M students to construct a 'This is It' floral display blanket to honor Michael Jackson

Media Note: Best time for visuals is between 4 and 6 p.m.

What: Construction of a floral “grave blanket” by University of Minnesota horticulture students

When: 3 to 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9 (best time for visuals is between 4 and 6 p.m.)

Where: 423 Alderman Hall, 1970 Folwell Ave., St. Paul

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

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

November 6, 2009

Students enrolled in a University of Minnesota floral design class are creating a “grave blanket” this year to honor singer Michael Jackson, who died last summer. Construction of the blanket will begin at about 4 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 9 in Room 423 Alderman Hall, 1970 Folwell Ave., on the university’s St. Paul campus. Photo opportunities will be available anytime after that.

The ‘This Is It’ Grave Blanket will be installed Tuesday, Nov. 10 at the AMC Rosedale 14 Theaters, 850 Rosedale Center, Roseville. It will be on display for a week near the theaters showing the movie about Jackson, ‘This Is It.’

The grave blanket project is under the direction of horticultural science professor Neil Anderson, who in the past has overseen similar blanket projects to commemorate victims of the Interstate 35W bridge collapse and for ‘El Dia de los Muertos’ (the Day of the Dead). The class, working in teams, will gather flowers, newspaper clippings and photographs for the memorial.



University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks to visit Moorhead on Sunday and Monday

What: University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks visits Moorhead to meet with business, university and community leaders, visit U of M Extension Regional Center, visit with U of M School of Pharmacy faculty and students at Migrant Health Service

When: Sunday, Nov. 8 and Monday, Nov. 9, 2009

Who: University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, (651) 485-3214 cell

November 6, 2009

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will visit Moorhead, Minn. on Sunday Nov. 8 and Monday Nov. 9, 2009. His visit will include a number of events, including a community reception on Sunday evening, a visit to the U of M Extension Regional Center and a tour of Migrant Health Service, where he'll meet with U of M faculty and students from the School of Pharmacy.

Events are as follows (all include media availability):

Sunday, Nov. 8 - Moorhead

5 - 6:30 p.m. - Community Reception, Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N.

Monday, Nov. 9 - Moorhead

8 - 9:15 a.m. - Visit to U of M Extension Regional Center, 715 11th St. N, Suite 107C

9:30- 10:30 a.m. - Visit with U of M Pharmacy faculty and students, Migrant Health Service, 810 4th Ave. S., Suite 101

Local foods and consumer eating trends spotlighted at U of M symposium

What: “Local Food and Consumer Demand”

When: 1 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 10

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

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

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

November 6, 2009

“Locally grown” is one of the hottest phrases in the food industry today, but what does it really mean? Is local necessarily healthier or safer? A seminar at the University of Minnesota next week will address those questions.

The conference, “Local Food and Consumer Demand,” will take place beginning at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, at Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Speakers from the university include economist Robert King, who will discuss local food supply chains; food safety expert Francisco Diez-Gonzalez, who will talk about the microbial risks of natural and organic foods; and Rebecca Monro, associate director of the university’s Institute for Research in Marketing, who will talk about cooperative business models.

For more information, including registration and the conference agenda, visit <http://foodindustrycenter.umn.edu/Events.html>. The conference is hosted by the university’s Food Industry Center; the Institute for Research in Marketing at the Carlson School of Management; and the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture. Corporate sponsors include CHS, Inc.; General Mills, H. Brooks & Co.; and Nash Brothers Trading Co.

U of M hosts Bioeconomy Conference

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/09/2009) —Bringing together players from Minnesota's bioeconomy to explore renewable energy opportunities will be the focus of a conference titled, "Growing the Bioeconomy: Solutions for Sustainability," Dec. 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul. The conference is co-hosted by University of Minnesota Extension and the University of Minnesota Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment.

Agricultural producers, landowners, community and business leaders, and citizens interested in economic development and biorenewables are encouraged to attend and identify ways they can participate in agriculturally- and forest-based solutions to the global climate change and energy supply issues facing Minnesota.

"Our goal is to help Minnesotans interested in renewable energy share information and make the necessary connections so these businesses can succeed," said Greg Cuomo, Extension Associate Dean for Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

The conference will feature speakers on topics such as feedstocks, conversion technologies, anaerobic digestion and biomass utilization. Successful examples from Minnesota businesses and communities, including the White Earth Reservation, will also be shared, as well as information on community district heating with wood and future technologies worth watching.

Speakers include faculty and staff from the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and the Institute of Technology, as well as businesses, government agencies and nonprofit organizations.

Registration is \$50 for the Dec. 2 part of the program. For details and registration, visit www.extension.umn.edu/biorenewables

A separate portion of the program runs Dec. 1 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and will be broadcast live to host universities throughout the Midwest, including the U of M. The Dec. 1 part of the program features cutting-edge researchers in biofuels, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack and U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu. An in-person panel discussion will also take place in St. Paul on Dec. 1. Registration cost is \$50 each day or \$85 for both days. Participants may also view the Dec. 1 broadcast from a personal computer for \$50.

University of Minnesota Board of Regents to meet this week

When: Thursday, Nov. 12 and Friday, Nov. 13

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

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

November 9, 2009

At this month's meeting, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hear a report on private giving to the U in fiscal year 2009, including two of the largest gifts in the history of private support at the university, and review the six-year capital improvement plan. Part of the plan is the proposed 2010 Twin Cities East Bank Recreation Center expansion, a project which will add approximately 140,000 additional square feet to the current center in order to help meet student demand for recreational space. The Board will also act upon the first phase of financing for the new Biomedical Sciences Research Facilities.

Other highlights of the meeting include:

Thursday, Nov. 12

8:45 - 10:15 a.m., Audit Committee, East Committee Room

The committee will hear from the Office of Institutional Compliance and discuss changes to the university's conflict of interest policies.

10:30 - 11:30 a.m., Work Session, Boardroom

President Robert Bruininks will present the first in a series of reports that outline the university's performance through select indicators and measurements.

1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room

Committee members will review and act upon a variety of issuance of debt matters including the first allotment of funding for the Biomedical Sciences Research Facilities, a \$292 million research hub which seeks to find the cures for some of the world's most prolific diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's.

1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, West Committee Room

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Robert McMaster will present a report on university transfer students and what the school is doing to engage them. Additionally, the committee will discuss a presentation on trends in retirement and how late-career workers might reinvent the next phase of their lives.

3:45 - 4:45 p.m., Work Session, Boardroom

A discussion will be held about the role of private giving in the university's financial future after a report by University of Minnesota Foundation president Steven Goldstein and Minnesota Medical Foundation president Becky Malkerson.

Friday, Nov. 13

9 - 11:30 a.m., Board of Regents Meeting, Boardroom

Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics professor Graham Candler will first be recognized as a McKnight Presidential Professor.

Goldstein and Malkerson will report that the university has had a successful year of giving, including two of the largest gifts in the history of private support.

President Bruininks, chief financial officer Richard Pfitzenreuter and vice president of University Services Kathleen O'Brien will outline the six-year capital improvement plan which includes the 2010 Twin Cities East Bank Recreation Center expansion. The Twin Cities campus has not added recreation space since 1993 despite student enrollment growing by 38 percent. This project begins to address shortages of recreation, fitness and wellness space for the student body, as well as faculty and staff who use the facility.

Finally, the Board will act on the appointments of the dean of the College of Education and Human Development, Jean Quam, and the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education, Henning Schroeder.

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.

Carlson School team takes second place at prestigious Corporate Restructuring Case Competition

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/09/2009) —A team from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota beat out competition from other leading business schools to finish second at the sixth annual American Bankruptcy Institute's (ABI) Corporate Restructuring Case Competition held Nov. 5-6 at Northwestern University.

The Corporate Restructuring Case Competition is a challenging opportunity for student teams from participating business schools to propose solutions to a hypothetical case of a distressed company. The Carlson School team was made up of MBA students Mia Adams, Ben Bowman, Adam Engebretson and Karen Vasko. The team had to be knowledgeable on state of the art bankruptcy issues, including Section 363 asset sales, private equity leveraged recapitalizations, and post-2005 bankruptcy reform limits on executive compensation. In just one week, they synthesized all of this information and presented a full restructuring proposal with rigorous quantitative analysis to demonstrate the hypothetical company's survival prospects. They then presented their proposal to an audience of crisis management and restructuring industry experts who played the roles of management, the board of directors, and senior and junior creditors. Only three of the 12 participating teams advanced to the final round.

"The competition took a lot of time and preparation, but we are all very glad we participated," said Engebretson on behalf of the team. "It was a great experience as we had the opportunity to immerse ourselves in a topic with which we had little familiarity. This was the first time Carlson participated in this competition and we are very proud of our team and our results."

Other schools participating in this year's competition include the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, the Kellogg School of Management, the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, the Columbia Business School, the New York University Stern School of Business, the University of Michigan Ross School of Business, the University of Virginia Darden School of Business, the University of California at Berkeley Haas School of Business, the Krannert School of Management at Purdue University, the College of Business at Illinois and this year's top winner the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. The competition has been put on for the past six years by the ABI and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.



Mondale course "once in a lifetime" experience for students

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/10/2009) —When University of Minnesota students begin Spring 2010 registration today, they will have a unique opportunity to enroll in a public affairs course taught by former U.S. Vice President and U graduate Walter Mondale.

The course, PA 1005: Topics in Social Policy: America's Constitutional Crisis with Walter Mondale, will examine the ongoing battle between the President and Congress over control of the country's most vital decisions. Students will have the opportunity to learn from someone who was in the middle of many of these crisis and who current Vice President Joe Biden recently described as the "single most prominent vice president in American history."

To watch Mondale and co-instructor Humphrey Institute professor Larry Jacobs discuss the course, go to http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/mondale_class.htm

University of Minnesota's Deborah Swackhamer receives international award for Environmental Leadership and Research

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/10/2009) —Deborah L. Swackhamer, co-director the University of Minnesota's Water Resources Center (WRC), is the 2009 recipient of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry's (SETAC) Founders Award.

The highest honor given by the international organization, the Founders Award recognizes outstanding career accomplishments that promote research, education, communication and training in the environmental sciences. Swackhamer was chosen for her research on the behavior and bioaccumulation of persistent organic pollutants in the Great Lakes, as well as her contributions to environmental education and leadership in key environmental science organizations.

In addition to her position at the WRC, Swackhamer is an environmental chemistry professor in the university's School of Public Health and holder of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute's Charles M. Denny Jr. Chair in Science, Technology, and Public Policy. She chairs the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board, is a member of the Science Advisory Board of the International Joint Commission of the United States and Canada and she serves on various committees of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. She also chairs the Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of Environmental Monitoring and serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of the journal Environmental Science & Technology. She is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Swackhamer was recently appointed by Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty to Minnesota's Clean Water Council and is the project leader for the Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework, a project commissioned by the 2009 Minnesota State Legislature to develop a 25-year investment framework for the sustainable use of Minnesota's water resources.

"I am delighted that the 2009 SETAC Founders Award has been awarded to Professor Swackhamer of the University of Minnesota," said SETAC President Mike McLaughlin. "Swackhamer is a highly deserving recipient whose impressive level of commitment, achievement and service deserves the highest recognition. It also gives me great pleasure to announce this award to her as a longstanding SETAC member and superb scientist."

The award will be presented at SETAC North America's 30th annual meeting this month.

Harper's Magazine former editor and author Lewis H. Lapham to speak at University of Minnesota

Who: Lewis H. Lapham, author, editor emeritus of Harper's Magazine, and founding editor of Lapham's Quarterly

What: Lecture and Book Signing

When: 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 3

Where: University of Minnesota, Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis

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November 10, 2009

The New York Times has likened him to H.L. Mencken; Vanity Fair has suggested a strong resemblance to Mark Twain and best-selling author Tom Wolfe compared him to Montaigne. On Thursday Dec. 3, author and editor Lewis H. Lapham will speak at the University of Minnesota about the tribulations of the printed word in the wilderness of cyberspace.

"Mixed Media" will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis, and will be followed by a reception and book signing.

Lewis Lapham is editor emeritus of Harper's Magazine and the founding editor of Lapham's Quarterly, a journal of the history of ideas. The author of 13 books, among them "Theater of War" and "Money and Class in America," Mr. Lapham is the host of Bloomberg Radio's weekly program, "The World in Time."

Presented by the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries, the event is free and open to the public. Reservations are requested by Nov.25 at (612) 624-9339 or stangret@umn.edu.

University of Minnesota to host Midwest's Premier Energy, Economic and Environmental Conference

Media Note: To attend the E3 conference for free, contact Eve Daniels at danie419@umn.edu or (612) 626-2670 for a press registration code. To request an interview with an E3 conference presenter, contact Todd Reubold reub0002@umn.edu or (612) 624-6140.

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November 11, 2009

How do we provide sustainable fuel, food, fiber and freshwater to a global population of 9 billion people in our lifetime? That's one of many urgent questions on the agenda during E3 2009: The Midwest's Premier Energy, Economic and Environmental Conference, taking place Nov. 17 in St. Paul.

Hosted annually by the University of Minnesota's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE), a signature program of the Institute on the Environment, the E3 conference explores current technologies, environmental benefits and market opportunities in renewable energy. Each November since 2004, representatives from academia, business and industry, government and other sectors join together to share new knowledge and discoveries.

Lawrence Kazmerski, executive director of science and technology partnerships at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, will deliver the keynote presentation. The former director of the National Center for Photovoltaics, Kazmerski joined NREL (formerly called the Solar Energy Research Institute) in 1977 as the first staff member in photovoltaics. He'll offer an overview of the latest photovoltaic technologies, as well as the inside scoop on his work at NREL.

Other highlights include a "super panel" discussion, moderated by Institute on the Environment Director Jonathan Foley, with representatives from all sides of the food-versus-fuel debate: Michael Doane, director of agricultural economics and sustainability with Monsanto; Kevin Stringer, director general of petroleum resources with Natural Resources Canada; Nathanael Greene, director of renewable energy policy with the Natural Resources Defense Council; and Rick Tolman, chief executive officer with the National Corn Growers Association.

Along with a variety of research posters and exhibitor displays, the conference will feature 15 breakout sessions focused on a series of big questions in five different tracks: Renewable Fuels and Products; Renewable Electricity; Energy Policy, Environment and Economy; Special Topics; and Workshops.

The big questions range from "What's the best use for biomass?" and "What are the biggest bottlenecks to the deployment of solar energy systems in the United States?" to "Where is the climate change debate headed?" and "What can we learn from renewable energy leaders in other countries?" And, as a new highlight this year, a series of workshops will showcase student-led renewable energy projects, sustainable campus initiatives and energy-efficient business efforts.

E3 2009 takes place Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, 150 Kellogg Blvd. W. St Paul. Free transportation to and from the event is available on both the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses. E3 attendees can also receive a discount registration rate for a half-day conference on Nov. 18: "Putting Minnesota on the Map: Next Steps for Building a Smart Grid Coalition."

The E3 conference is presented by IREE, in partnership with lead sponsors Faegre & Benson and Piper Jaffray, in addition to more than a dozen category sponsors. Proceeds from E3 2009 will help fund scholarships for University of Minnesota students studying renewable energy and the environment.

Visit www.iree.umn.edu/e3 for complete details, including the agenda, speaker bios, shuttle schedule, conference hotel and more.

University of Minnesota achieves second-best year on record for philanthropy

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/12/2009) —More than 83,000 donors to the University of Minnesota gave \$267 million in gifts and pledges in fiscal year 2009, which ended June 30, 2009. This follows the best year of giving to the university. The total given in FY 2008 was a historic \$289 million.

"I'm humbled every day by the generosity of the people of Minnesota, our donors, friends and alumni," said university President Robert Bruininks. "Despite the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, donors to the University of Minnesota seek to fund research that changes our lives, to support talented students who feed our economic vitality as a state and to build assets only the university can bring to our state and our world."

The giving total was boosted by the second- and third-largest gifts ever made to the university. Caroline Amplatz, pledged \$50 million to name University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital. Her gift was inspired by the work of her father, longtime university professor and medical device pioneer Kurt Amplatz. The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation pledged \$40 million to cure type 1 diabetes. Richard Schulze, the founder of Minnesota-based Best Buy Co., Inc., has a daughter with type 1 diabetes.

Donors also gave \$11 million during the fiscal year for TCF Bank Stadium, for a total of \$89 million raised in private gifts and sponsorships for this historic capital project, surpassing the fundraising goal.

The \$267 million raised in FY 2009 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. It includes current cash gifts, pledges and other future gift commitments.

The foundations distributed more than \$160 million to the university in FY 2009 -- up 16 percent compared with FY 2008 -- for the purposes designated by donors. This includes funds for facilities, student scholarships and fellowships, faculty support, research and academic programs. Disbursements come from current cash gifts and payouts on endowed funds.

"This is the true measure of the impact that donors make on the university through their giving," said Steve Goldstein, president and CEO of the University of Minnesota Foundation. "And we are particularly proud that, despite a year of economic uncertainty, we maintained support for all U programs supported through endowed funds. Strong investments in previous years and careful management of the endowment made this possible."

Donors made new gifts and pledges totaling \$35 million for student support in FY 2009, and \$27 million was distributed in scholarships and fellowships during the year. Helping students meet the cost of their education is a major university goal that is being addressed through fundraising as well as through state and university grant programs to help low- and middle-income families.

Psychologist Andrea Braverman to speak at U of M on the how the Internet is reshaping assisted reproduction

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/12/2009) —Renowned psychologist and professor Andrea Braverman will speak on “How the Internet is reshaping assisted reproduction” 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 18 at the University of Minnesota’s Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. Braverman’s lecture is the second in the 2009-10 Lecture Series on Law, Health & the Life Sciences on “How the Internet and Computers Are Changing Biomedical Practices and Policy” and is sponsored by the U’s Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment and the Life Sciences.

Braverman’s lecture will focus on how — in the traditional medical model — assisted reproductive technologies featured the doctor acting in the role of the primary decision-maker choosing what was in the best interests of the patient. In the past, patients were passive participants in the building of their families — in fact, it was frequently the doctor or nurse who selected the sperm donor for an infertile couple. In the past few decades, however, options for family building have grown. Intended parents have evolved from passive patients to informed consumers. Braverman will argue that the biggest change is only now coming into view, as offspring themselves become active, seeking information about their conception, looking for information about their gamete donor, and trying to find other offspring who share the same donor. Braverman’s lecture will analyze these changes, explore future implications for policy and practice and discuss the importance for the practitioner, intended parents and people conceived through the donor process.

A clinical assistant professor in the department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Braverman is a licensed psychologist in the state of Pennsylvania, and director of the Psychological and Complementary Services at Reproductive Medicine Associates of New Jersey. She has written extensively on assisted reproduction and the psychological effects of infertility, and leads a complementary care program addressing the needs of patients who may be experiencing infertility.

The lecture is free and open to the public. It is co-sponsored by the University’s Consortium on Law, Health & the Life Sciences and Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences.

U of M horticulture students' Floral Grave Blanket honoring Michael Jackson put on display at AMC Theatres Rosedale

Media Note: To download b-roll of students making the floral blanket, visit:

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

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/13/2009) —Moviegoers headed to the AMC Theatres Rosedale 14 this weekend will get a chance to view a unique tribute to Michael Jackson. A “Floral Grave Blanket” created by the University of Minnesota Floral Design class has been installed outside the theater showing the film “Michael Jackson’s This Is It.” The AMC Rosedale 14 Theaters are located at 850 Rosedale Shopping Center, Roseville.

Often students enrolled in the U of M department of Horticultural Science’s floral design class work individually on their creations, but the grave blanket project brings them together as team, said horticultural science professor Neil Anderson. “Working as a team, they share ideas and build on one another’s creativity,” he said.

A class of 22 undergraduate students built the floral grave blanket during lab on Nov. 9. The class, worked in four teams, creating designs for four connected panels that make up the 4’ x 16’ blanket.

Description of the blanket

- One part of the panel depicts the Jackson 5 who launched Michael Jackson’s career. Students used sphagnum moss to create the Afro hairdos, along with Magnolia grandiflora leaves and marigolds to create their costumes.
- Another panel piece depicts Jackson’s dancing shoes and socks along with lettering ‘MJ 09’. Carnations, magnolia leaves and palm fronds were some of the floral materials used to make this panel.
- Another panel features a silhouette of Michael in concert on a shiny stage with floral spotlights above (made out of Stephanotis flowers and rose hips), floral fireworks (consisting of Pittosporum leaves) and yellow lights at the base of the stage made from Craspedia flowers.
- The right-hand panel honors the ‘King of Pop’ with a crown of marigolds and carnations, a boom box and various stars in his shows or music.

In the past, Anderson has overseen similar blanket projects to commemorate victims of the Interstate 35W bridge collapse and for ‘El Dia de los Muertos’ (the Day of the Dead).

Could Facebook make America smarter? New U of M study finds social media engages young people in content better than traditional sites

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/16/2009) —In an era in which 85 percent of American college students actively update Facebook profiles but more than one-third report paying no attention to current events on a daily basis, it's natural that social networking sites could help educate young people on today's most pressing issues. A new study from a University of Minnesota researcher found that a Facebook application focusing on social issues facilitated self-expression and critical conversation more than traditional news Web sites, suggesting new strategies for engaging young people in critical content.

"One key to engagement is finding young people where they already read, write and exchange views -- and piggy-backing on their existing routines," said Christine Greenhow, the U of M researcher behind the project. "Facebook is a place teenagers and young people already choose to frequent, are comfortable and willing to share opinions and eager to contribute to a discussion, which makes it a potentially ideal place to locate applications that create enthusiasm around education."

Greenhow, a research fellow at the U of M's Institute for Advanced Study surveyed, interviewed and observed 346 young people (ages 16-25) as they participated in a newly designed Facebook application called "Hot Dish." The application, targeting environmental science issues and climate change, challenged members to engage with the issues by posting, sharing and discussing articles online, inviting peers to join and reaching out to take action in their own communities, in exchange for points redeemable for prizes.

Greenhow's study found that users associated Facebook with a community, not simply a place to post thoughts. Hot Dish successfully facilitated substantive discussion that can be difficult to generate face-to-face, Greenhow said, while at the same time stimulating activism in the local community.

Nearly three-quarters (71 percent) of the group surveyed said they used the Hot Dish site to interact with like-minded people, compared to about a third who said they seek that interaction on a general news site. Users saw Hot Dish as more receptive to their views and contributions than they did other more general Web sites. Site statistics showed that the majority of articles on the site were actually read and users contributed more than two-thirds of the content. Users' interest in the focal topic also increased.

Greenhow partnered with NewsCloud's Jeff Reifman, developer of the Facebook application, on a \$249,529 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to study how young people engaged in a content-rich and topic-focused site designed within Facebook. Greenhow and her team studied young people's engagement in the application by looking at their interest and knowledge development, community formation, online reading and writing practices and civic engagement/real-world impact.

"This experiment shows that you can inform and engage young people in the digital age by going where they are and using the tools they use," said Gary Kebbel, Knight Foundation journalism program director.

According to a January 2009 Pew study, 65 percent of online teenagers have a social networking site. Meanwhile, another Pew study has shown that the proportion of young people getting no news on a typical day has increased from 25 to 34 percent since 1998.

"These findings present an interesting opportunity for educators and others who care about promoting the literacy and public engagement of youth today," said Greenhow. "We need to inform, educate and mobilize an engaged citizenry not only for the future of news industries but also for full participation in a 21st century democracy."

Learn more about the research at <http://newscloud.com/research>

U launches custom Zimride Rideshare Community to enhance commuting opportunities for students, faculty and staff

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/16/2009) —University of Minnesota's Parking and Transportation Services recently partnered with Zimride to create the U's new private rideshare community.

The Zimride platform connects University of Minnesota community members through an easy-to-use private network that reduces campus traffic, provides substantial cost-savings and helps people to find and share rides.

Through the U's Zimride Website (www.zimride.com/umn), students, faculty and staff create profiles and post their ride offers or requests. They can find friends, classmates and colleagues with similar commute patterns to partner for a long drive or a ride home for Thanksgiving or other holidays.

The U's Zimride system also integrates with Zipcar, allowing users to find others to split their Zipcar reservations and reduce costs.

The Thanksgiving holiday is one of the biggest travel times for students and a great opportunity to use Zimride, said Jacqueline Brudlos, communications coordinator at Parking and Transportation Services. With 50,000 students on campus, many are making the same drive home for the holiday. By adding their ride request or ride offer, they can find others from the U headed the same way and save money on the trip.

"Zimride is a great partner for our organization," Brudlos said. "It makes it easy for our students, faculty, and staff to save money and reduce our carbon footprint. It provides our community with a fun way to find and share rides."

Since launching in September, more than 850 members of the U community have signed up to find and share rides at www.zimride.com/umn.

TCF Bank Stadium to host U2 concert in June 2010

When: Tickets go on sale Saturday, Nov. 21 at 10 AM through Ticketmaster

Contacts: University News Service

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/16/2009) —Rock band U2 will be playing at the University of Minnesota's new TCF Bank Stadium, concert producer Live Nation announced today. As part of U2's "360* Tour", the iconic band, formed in Dublin, Ireland, will appear at an evening concert on Sunday, June 27, 2010.

"To have a band of this caliber be the first large-scale concert in TCF Bank Stadium really is a great opportunity for the University of Minnesota and the entire Twin Cities community," said university Athletics Director Joel Maturi. "I'm particularly pleased that 10,000 tickets to this concert will be available for pre-sale to U of M students. From the beginning, we've said TCF Bank Stadium was bigger than football - and this really proves that point."

U of M, Twin Cities campus students should have already received an email communication explaining how and when they can access the pre-sale opportunity. The public on-sale will be on November 21 through Ticketmaster.

For the concert, U2 has a state-of-the-art sound system that Maturi said is "arguably the best in the world right now." The group has been successful with outdoor concerts in urban venues around the world and engineers with the group will be on-site to balance noise levels throughout the seating bowl and to minimize noise spillover.

"Open Doors" report shows U of M near top in study abroad participation, international student enrollment

Twin Cities ranks third nationwide among research institutions, highest ranking ever for U

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/16/2009) —The annual "Open Doors" report on international study abroad, released Monday by the Institute of International Education (IIE), shows that the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus ranks third in the nation among research institutions in the number of students who participated in an education experience abroad in 2007-08, with 2,521 students.

This is the highest the university has ever ranked on this list, up from fourth place and 2,079 students in last year's report (which included statistics from the 2006-07 school year).

In addition, the university ranked 20th among research institutions with 4,120 international students in 2008-09, up from 23rd place with 3,756 students in last year's report. (Study abroad statistics are reported one year behind international student statistics.)

The Open Doors report measures international student mobility — the official report on the number of American students going abroad to study and international students coming to the United States.

"This report confirms that our hard work is paying off," said Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean for international programs. "On the study abroad side, we are continuing our successful project to integrate education abroad into the curriculum, while emphasizing longer-term programs and participation by non-traditional study abroad students. For international students, we have implemented a strategic recruitment program that is bringing the best and brightest students to Minnesota from around the world."

Other University of Minnesota campuses also ranked high in the report:

- The Crookston campus ranked 36th among baccalaureate institutions in the number of international students, with 144 students.
- The Morris campus ranked 37th among baccalaureate institutions in study abroad, with 270 students.
- The Duluth campus ranked 40th among master's institutions in study abroad, with 385 students.

The Open Doors report is published by the Institute of International Education, the leading not-for-profit educational and cultural exchange organization in the United States. A full press kit and further details on the Open Doors 2009 surveys and their findings can be accessed on

www.opendoors.iienetwork.org

Consumers are aware, concerned and taking precautions over H1N1, University of Minnesota study finds

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/17/2009) —Nearly 98 percent of consumers are aware of the H1N1 virus and many are concerned about it, according to new data from the University of Minnesota's Food Industry Center.

Since April, researchers at the center have been tracking consumers' knowledge and attitudes about the H1N1 flu via an online survey in which a new group of about 175 consumers from across the nation is surveyed each week.

In the latest survey, taken in late October, nearly three-quarters of respondents (73 percent) rated H1N1 as a serious threat to the country, meaning they ranked the threat 4 or higher on a scale of 6, where 6 was the most serious. About 42 percent said they had the same level of concern about H1N1 in their own households.

Consumers also said they've changed some of their behaviors since the outbreak of H1N1 last spring. Hand-washing and use of hand sanitizers has risen dramatically; about 78 percent now say they wash frequently, up from 67 percent earlier. About 55 percent use hand sanitizer, compared with 41 percent earlier. The percentage of people who say they avoid public places due to concerns about the H1N1 flu rose from 16 percent in the first 13 weeks of the survey to 20 percent in October.

More consumers now apparently understand that eating pork does not cause the flu; while 3.7 percent said at the beginning of the survey that they were avoiding pork, 1.7 percent answered the same way in October.

The late-October survey asked consumers for the first time about their vaccination plans. Of those who said they had not had an H1N1 vaccination, 19.5 percent said they would seek one. About 8 percent said they had tried to get an H1N1 vaccination but were unsuccessful. (The base for these questions did not include 24.9 percent of respondents who said they had already had an H1N1 shot, most of whom were probably confusing the H1N1 vaccine with seasonal flu vaccine, said Dennis Degeneffe, research fellow at The Food Industry Center.)

The ongoing survey monitors consumer concerns, expectations and perceptions of the safety of the food supply from natural/accidental contamination. The study is funded by the National Center for Food Protection and Defense, which has an interest in tracking consumer awareness and concern over H1N1 as well as food safety and defense. It is being conducted in collaboration with the LSU Ag Center, and is fielded using the TNS national online panel of consumers.

The indicator is unique because of its continuous tracking feature, said Jean Kinsey, director of The Food Industry Center.

Degeneffe noted that "the continuous nature of the study also enables us to understand how news coverage of H1N1 affects consumer concern and behavior. We saw consumer concerns increase as the WHO declared H1N1 a pandemic back in June, and again when school started in the fall."

University of Minnesota receives funding for development of EthicShare, an online research and collaboration site

Project provides model for virtual communities of scholars

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/17/2009) —A new research and collaboration Web site for scholars working in the field of ethics has received a 14-month, \$264,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, aimed at capitalizing on the site's emerging success.

EthicShare (www.ethicshare.org), a partnership of the University of Minnesota Libraries, Center for Bioethics and Department of Computer Science and Engineering, aggregates relevant resources and provides an easy, accessible way for ethics scholars to share and collaborate with each other.

During the project's planning process, scholars identified the shortcomings of existing services. "Ethics scholars often find discovery of resources challenging because materials and resources in our fields are dispersed in multiple, diverse databases," said Jeffrey Kahn, director of the Center for Bioethics and project co-principal investigator. "Gathering relevant resources into one repository is a tremendous asset to scholars who can then use EthicShare's social features to connect with others interested in the same issues."

The grant, the third from Mellon, will support further development of the bibliographic database and enhanced collaborative features. Additional support for the project has been provided by the Council on Library and Information Resources and the National Science Foundation.

University of Minnesota Supercomputing Institute offers enhanced high performance computing resources to researchers with new Supercomputer powered by HP

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/17/2009) —The University of Minnesota Supercomputing Institute for Advanced Computational Research (MSI) announced today its addition of HP ProLiant blade servers for a new high performance computing (HPC) system to support research across a broad range of disciplines. This powerful new system placed No. 67 on the November 17 TOP500 list of the world's most powerful supercomputers.

The new system will increase MSI's high-performance computing capacity, improving its ability to support researchers at the University of Minnesota and across the state. Powered by 1,083 HP ProLiant BL280 G6 servers with 8,664 computing cores, the new supercomputer, named "Itasca" by MSI, delivers 97 teraFLOPS of theoretical computing performance—three times the aggregate theoretical peak performance of MSI's other core computing resources.

The HP supercomputer at MSI features 24 gigabytes of RAM per node, a 40 Gb QDR InfiniBand interconnect, and more than 150 terabytes of attached storage. With a dramatic increase in its number of cores, MSI anticipates substantially improved capacity for running applications to resolve research problems.

More than 4,000 active users across a wide range of disciplines utilize MSI's diverse computational resources, making MSI a focal point of collaborative research at the University of Minnesota. MSI currently supports almost 500 active research groups by providing complete high-performance computing environments including systems, software, storage, support, and services. MSI resources have helped these researchers to be awarded \$103.9 million in external funding in the past year. With the new HP supercomputer, MSI will be well poised to expand its established role of serving engineering and the physical and life sciences, and to provide services to many disciplines not traditionally served by MSI.

"Today, high-demand computation is absolutely central to a wide array of important research areas that are vital to putting the University of Minnesota in a leadership position," said Tom Jones, interim director of MSI. "This new computing system is a big step above what most other universities can call on, so our faculty and students are really excited by the big boost in computational resources they will have to drive the frontiers of knowledge."

"To maximize the effectiveness of their new supercomputer, MSI needed high system performance combined with ease of deployment and energy efficiency," said Steve Cumings, director of marketing, Scalable Computing and Infrastructure, HP. "MSI's choice of HP ProLiant BL280c blade servers for their new system shows its value in a complex HPC environment, enabling MSI to expand their support and speed of active research, ultimately driving innovation."

Top 500 Rankings

The TOP500 ranking of supercomputers is released twice a year by researchers at the University of Tennessee, University of Mannheim, Germany, and at NERSC Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The list ranks supercomputers worldwide based on the Linpack N*N Benchmark, a yardstick of performance that is a reflection of processor speed and scalability.

About MSI

The University of Minnesota Supercomputing Institute for Advanced Computational Research (MSI) is celebrating its 25th anniversary as an interdisciplinary research program spanning across all colleges of the University of Minnesota. MSI has established itself as a vital resource to the University of Minnesota by facilitating groundbreaking research, attracting top faculty and students, and enhancing researchers' competitive advantage in the search for external funding. For more information, visit www.msi.umn.edu.

MSI at SC09

Visit MSI in booth 155 at the SC09 supercomputing conference in Portland, Oregon, today through Nov. 20 for demonstrations showcasing research at the University of Minnesota. More information about MSI at SC09 is available at <https://www.msi.umn.edu/events/sc09/>.

Minnesota high school students compete for "Golden Femur" in U of M YouTube video contest Wednesday

University program tasked students explain concepts in human anatomy, physiology with creative video entries

Media Note: To view an example YouTube video entry in the contest, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTmCZBYxi8M>

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November 17, 2009

More than 350 students representing 10 high schools across Minnesota will gather Wednesday at the U of M to see who can make the best and most creative YouTube video to explain concepts of human anatomy and physiology. The winners of the contest – which is part of the university's College in the Schools (CIS) program – will take home the coveted Golden Femur trophy.

The video awards ceremony will take place from 11-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18 in the U of M's Mayo Memorial Auditorium, 425 Delaware St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Teams produced 20- to 60-second videos that explain an anatomy or physiology concept. Students developed a script and a storyboard, selected or designed an appropriate setting and demonstrated creative shooting and editing.

The winner of the first-time video awards gets to inaugurate the Golden Femur, which will be a traveling trophy. Second place winners will earn a Silver Spleen, while the third team walks away with a humerus bone trophy. A number of runners up will also be honored during the ceremony.

Murray Jensen, associate professor in the U of M's College of Education and Human Development, developed the video competition as the faculty coordinator for the U of M course "Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology" offered through CIS.

College in the Schools at the University of Minnesota develops partnerships between the University of Minnesota and high school teachers and administrators. Students get firsthand experience with a faster pace of study and increased academic rigor while earning university credits. For more information, visit <http://www.cce.umn.edu/College-in-the-Schools>

Minneapolis YWCA Executive to speak on leadership at U

Who: Becky Roloff, chief executive officer, YWCA of Minneapolis

What: Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Speaker Series

When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2009

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

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

Contacts: Erin Rath, Carlson School of Management, (612) 624-8770, erath@umn.edu

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/17/2009) —Becky Roloff, chief executive officer of the YWCA of Minneapolis, will speak at the Carlson School of Management's "First Tuesday Speaker Series" at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1 at the University's McNamara Alumni Center.

In her First Tuesday remarks, Roloff will discuss "Lessons To Share: The Journey from Corporate to Non-Profit Leadership."

Roloff is responsible for leading the strategy and operations of the YWCA of Minneapolis' six divisions: Health and Fitness, Early Childhood Education, Girls and Youth, Racial Justice, Public Policy and Women's Wellness. Formerly she was the senior vice president of Global Financial Advice and Systems and a member of the senior leadership team at American Express Financial Advisors. Roloff is a graduate of St. Catherine University and holds a MBA with distinction from the Harvard Business School.

Throughout her business career, Roloff has received recognition for her ability to be a caring and results oriented leader. She was recognized on the cover of Business Week as one of the nation's "Fast Track Kids" at age 32. She has been featured in other publications including Business Ethics, Industry Week, Distribution, Women in Business, Minnesota Business and the Minnesota Women's Press. She received the New York City YWCA Academy of Women Achiever's Award, the College of St. Catherine Outstanding Alumnae Award, Pillsbury's Best Leadership Award, the Archdiocese Leading With Spirit Award, the Minnesota Lynx Community Assistance Award and the Alexandrine Award given to women outstanding in their field by St. Catherine University.

The advance registration deadline for the First Tuesday Speaker Series is Wednesday, November 25. 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. 27. To register; call 612-626-9634, visit carlsonschool.umn.edu/events or email firsttuesday@umn.edu.

University of Minnesota is awarded \$2.7 million grant for forest biomass research project

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/18/2009) —A new \$2.7 million grant from the federal agriculture and energy departments will fund a University of Minnesota-led multistate study of whether forest-based biofuels are viable and sustainable.

The study, led by Anthony D'Amato, an assistant professor in the U of M's Department of Forest Resources, will involve analyzing the potential ecological and economic costs and benefits of harvesting woody biomass from the more than 50 million acres of forestland in the lake states of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Harvesting woody biomass involves collecting and processing the leftover branches and leaves from logging large trees, as well as gathering smaller trees and shrubs from woody areas.

All three states currently have large-scale experiments under way to assess how different levels of woody biomass removal affect forest vegetation, soil nutrients, and carbon cycling over varying lengths of time as well as quantifying how much biomass is available and whether harvesting it makes sense logistically and economically. The newly funded project provides a more regional, comprehensive approach to those questions, D'Amato said, and also will help estimate the amount of fossil-fuel emissions that could be sustainably offset by using woody biomass as fuel.

The northern lake states, with their large tracts of forest land, have been identified as a region with great potential for supplying a woody biomass industry, D'Amato said.

"But the key is to make sure we're not compromising the long-term sustainability of the benefits we value from forests to achieve short-term benefits," he said

The grant is part of a \$24 million, 12-grant package from the USDA and Department of Energy aimed at researching and developing technologies to produce biofuels, bioenergy and other high-value biobased products. Energy secretary Steven Chu said in announcing the grants that the goal of the projects is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent.

Most of the grants are to private industry, but four were made to universities. Each grant recipient must contribute a minimum of 20 percent in matching funds; the U of M's project is co-funded by the Minnesota Forest Resources Council and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Collaborators on this project include researchers from the University of Wisconsin USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station, and University of Missouri.

U of M plant scientist uncovers clues to yield-boosting quirks of corn genome

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/19/2009) —When it comes to corn, 1 + 1 = more than 2: The offspring of two inbred strains tend to be superior to both of their parents. Characterizing the gene-level variability that leads to this phenomenon, known as heterosis or hybrid vigor, could boost our ability to custom-tailor crops for specific traits, such as high protein content for human consumption or high glucose content for biomass fuel.

With help from the newly released DNA sequence of the common corn strain B73, University of Minnesota plant biologist Nathan Springer and colleagues from Iowa State University, Roche NimbleGen, and the University of Florida have begun doing just that and come up with some surprising findings.

In a study reported in the Nov. 20 issues of *Science* and *PLoS Genetics*, the researchers compared the genetic sequence of B73 with that of a second inbred strain, Mo17. They discovered an astonishing abundance of two kinds of structural variations between the pair: differences in the copy number of multiple copies of certain stretches of genetic material, and the presence of large chunks of DNA in one but not the other. In fact, at least 180 genes appearing in B73 are not found in Mo17, and Springer, an associate professor of plant biology in the College of Biological Sciences, suspects that Mo17 likely has a similar number of genes that B73 lacks.

"The genomes of two corn strains are much more different than we would have thought, Springer said. "What struck us is how many major changes there are between two individuals of the same species."

The researchers think that this diversity, which is almost as great as the difference between humans and chimpanzees, is what's behind the superiority of hybrids. When the genetic material from the two very different parents combines, the offspring end up with more expressed traits than either parent - the best of both worlds, gene-wise.

The findings are important because corn is important. Domesticated some 10,000 years ago, the crop produces billions of bushels of food, feed, and fuel feedstock each year in the United States alone. If we understand the molecular underpinnings of hybrid vigor, Springer says, we can potentially produce true-breeding lines of corn with specific traits for specific uses. That means better use of land, fertilizer, fuel, and other inputs needed to grow crops, and, ultimately, less environmental impact than might otherwise accrue as we work to meet the needs of a growing population.

The University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences is one of the few colleges in the United States dedicated to all areas of biology, from molecules to ecosystems. To learn more, go to www.cbs.umn.edu.

University of Minnesota hosts college planning night for American Indian students

What: College Planning Night for American Indian students

When: 5:30-8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19

Where: Minneapolis American Indian Center, 1530 E Franklin Ave., Minneapolis

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November 19, 2009

The University of Minnesota will host a college planning night for American Indian students 5:30- 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19 at the Minneapolis American Indian Center, 1530 E Franklin Ave, Minneapolis. The event will include information sessions for grades 9-12 from One Stop Financial Aid and a presentation on Minnesota Indian Scholarship programs. An American Indian student panel will also be part of the evening's activities.

The event is open to the public and RSVPs are not required.

Sponsors for the event include the University of Minnesota Office of Admissions, U of M Office for Equity and Diversity, department of American Indian Studies, the Ginew/Golden Eagles Youth Program, the Minneapolis American Indian Center and the Minnesota Office of Higher Education.

University of Minnesota invention will help speed development of drug treatments for heart failure

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Stacie Byars, Celladon, (206) 660-2588

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/23/2009) —Research conducted by University of Minnesota scientists, in collaboration with Celladon Corporation, has led to the invention of technology to more rapidly identify compounds for the treatment of heart failure.

Chronic heart failure is an increasingly important health problem. It is the leading medical cause of hospitalization and is expected to result in an estimated direct and indirect cost to the health care system of \$37.2 billion in 2009 alone. About 5.7 million people in the United States have heart failure, and it contributes to or causes some 290,000 deaths annually. However, developing new treatments is an extremely costly and time-consuming process, taking nearly a decade to gain regulatory approval and requiring hundreds of millions of dollars.

The technology, developed by the university's David Thomas and Razvan Cornea and Celladon Corporation's Krisztina Zsebo, allows for increased screening efficiency of compounds capable of disrupting the interactions of proteins implicated in the development of heart failure. Fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) is used to measure disruption of the calcium regulatory system, which has long been implicated in cardiovascular disease. This will provide key information on a particular drug's likelihood of success early in the screening process, since compounds that decrease FRET are good candidates for further development.

"Dr. Cornea and I, along with our students, have worked for more than a decade developing methods for preparing membranes from purified components, and using FRET to detect changes in protein interactions," Thomas said. "Scientists from Celladon saw the potential for drug discovery, and this resulted in a breakthrough that has added an exciting new dimension to our research program."

The high-throughput assay, developed by the university team, is based on a reconstituted membrane system composed of purified lipid and protein components. This technique is especially important because the interactions of integral membrane proteins are more complex than soluble proteins, making it very difficult to produce a synthetic system that recapitulates the cellular interactions in a large-scale and reproducible manner.

Celladon, based in La Jolla, Calif., has acquired an exclusive license for the technology from the University of Minnesota for the development of molecular therapies for cardiovascular diseases. Celladon also provided funding for the research that allowed Thomas to further refine the assay.

"This technology is very important to the efficient selection and advancement of compounds with the potential to increase cardiac contractility and potentially accelerates product opportunities that will ultimately benefit patients and development partners alike," said Krisztina M. Zsebo, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of Celladon Corporation. "Celladon's investigation and development of first-in-class CDN small molecules as intravenous and oral drugs for the treatment of acute and chronic heart failure sets us apart in the cardiovascular field and presents multiple partnering opportunities."

U of M students reveal results of experiments in 'near space'

Media Note: To see photos from the recent balloon launch, visit http://www.flickr.com/photos/umn_inst_tech/

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November 23, 2009

How do solar panels work in space? Can you inexpensively measure cosmic radiation? University of Minnesota students will answer these questions and share their findings from scientific experiments recently carried by a weather balloon to an altitude of more than 100,000 feet.

The students will reveal the results at a special Spaceflight with Ballooning Open House from 11 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24 in the lobby and main stairwell of Akerman Hall, 110 Union St. S.E., Minneapolis. An inflated weather balloon and payload boxes will be on display. A video of the recent launch near Hinkley, Minn., will also be on display.

Students conducted the experiments as part of the class "Spaceflight with Ballooning," a freshman seminar that challenges students to design and build mini-spacecraft and use inexpensive high-altitude helium balloons to launch them into "near-space," the upper reaches of the atmosphere where physical properties are the same as in outer space. Since the launch, students have been analyzing data from the balloon mission.

"Conducting experiments in space has always been difficult due to the tremendous expense of rocket launches," said James Flaten, an aerospace engineering and mechanics faculty member who teaches the class. "Students in this class gained a new appreciation for space hardware and spaceflight by designing and building their own inexpensive, functioning spacecraft and flying it to the very edge of outer space. This memorable activity took them closer to space than they've ever been before."

For more information about the class, visit the Web site at <http://www.aem.umn.edu/people/faculty/flaten/ballooningfreshmenseminar>

University of Minnesota researchers develop virtual streams to help restore real ones

Media Note: A computer simulation of the Outdoor StreamLab can be viewed at <http://mediamill.cla.umn.edu/mediamill/display/52947>

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/24/2009) —Researchers at the University of Minnesota have developed a unique new computer model called the Virtual StreamLab, designed to help restore real streams to a healthier state. The Virtual StreamLab, which demonstrates the physics of natural water flows at an unprecedented level of detail and realism, was unveiled for the first time this week at the 2009 American Physical Society Division of Fluid Dynamics meeting in Minneapolis, one of the largest conferences in fluid dynamics with more than 1,500 attendees from around the world.

The University of Minnesota team of researchers led by civil engineering professor Fotis Sotiropoulos, director of the University's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL), developed the Virtual StreamLab to help improve stream restoration processes. They have completed their first simulation of SAFL's Outdoor StreamLab, a scaled natural stream along the Mississippi River. More than 90 million data points have been mapped into the team's computer model resulting in the most accurate model of a real stream to date. The Virtual StreamLab employs sophisticated numerical algorithms that can handle the arbitrarily complex geometry of natural waterways, features advanced turbulence models, and utilizes the latest advances in massively parallel supercomputers.

The ability to simulate water flow over topography with this degree of realism provides researchers with the insights necessary to improve sustainable stream restoration strategies, helping to optimize techniques to fight erosion, help prevent flooding and restore aquatic habitats in degraded waterways.

Recent national data shows that 44 percent of the nation's 3.5 million miles of rivers and streams have become degraded due to sedimentation and excess nutrients. This decline has led to impaired water quality over entire watersheds, rendering many streams unhealthy for recreation and public contact. The effects also have serious consequences for the health of aquatic life. Efforts to restore these bodies of water have resulted in an annual cost of more than \$1 billion in the United States alone.

Historically, efforts have involved installing structures in the stream to change the direction and speed of the water, but with little ability to fine-tune a stream's reactions. Past computer models often oversimplify the stream systems and can't accurately simulate the beds, complicated bank shapes, turbulence, and natural or man-made structures within them.

"The practice of stream restoration has had a rocky rate of success as practitioners have struggled to alter a natural system with countless unknowns," Sotiropoulos said. "The need for more effective and reliable stream restoration strategies is clear, but the underlying physical processes which govern the behavior of a stream and its inhabitants are very complex. Our new Virtual StreamLab should provide researchers with a deeper understanding of those complexities."

University of Minnesota women faculty featured in History Center exhibit opening Nov. 27

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/24/2009) —A photography exhibit featuring women science, engineering and mathematics faculty in the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology opens Nov. 27 at the Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. The exhibit will run concurrently with the Benjamin Franklin exhibit until July 4, 2010.

The exhibit, entitled "Inventive Women: Portraits of Scientists and Engineers from the University of Minnesota," is a collection of black and white portraits by Nancy G. Johnson, a communications specialist in the Institute of Technology's Department of Mechanical Engineering. Each portrait is accompanied by a statement written by the faculty member about her research.

To view an online slideshow of the exhibit, visit
<http://it.umn.edu/students/women/inventive/index.html>

"I wanted to show these women, who could be your sister, mother, neighbor or friend, in their research environments, in hopes that they will inspire young people, especially young women, to consider these fields of study," Johnson said.

Johnson received a \$5,000 IDEA (Innovation, Diversity, Equity, and Achievement) grant from the university's Office of Equity and Diversity to produce the exhibit.

A free public exhibit opening reception where visitors can meet the women featured in the exhibit is 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 1, at the Minnesota History Center. The exhibit is sponsored by the Institute of Technology Dean's Office.

The Institute of Technology is the University of Minnesota's college of science and engineering.

U of M School of Music University Symphony Orchestra to premiere Swan Composer Prize winner Jonathan Kolm's "Prophecies" Dec. 9

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November 25, 2009

The University of Minnesota School of Music recently announced that the winning work of the 2009 Craig and Janet Swan Composer Prize is "Prophecies" by Jonathan Kolm. This work will be premiered by the university's Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Mark Russell Smith at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009 in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th Street S., Minneapolis.

Also featured on the program will be Joseph Schwantner's New Morning for the World ("Daybreak of Freedom") for speaker and orchestra with texts by Martin Luther King, Jr. (to be narrated by noted Minnesota sports physician Dr. Joel Boyd), as well as Beethoven's Symphony no. 3 in E-Flat Major (Eroica).

Kolm, the Swan Composer Prize winner, will attend dress rehearsals and the premiere performance. The \$2,500 Swan Composer Prize will be awarded formally at the work's premiere. Kolm's works have been heard in the U.S. and abroad. He recently participated in the 2008 Vocal Essence/American Composers Forum workshop for new choral music. In 2007 the Young New Yorker's Chorus premiered one of his commissioned works, and he won first place in the Austin Peay State Composition Competition. Crystal Fantasy, for violin, cello, flute and clarinet was performed at the Dallas Museum of Art where it won second place in the 2005 Voices of Change Composition Contest. His work for SATB chorus, Cedo Maiori, was premiered in October 2006 by the New York Virtuoso Singers at Columbia University.

Kolm holds degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Texas at Austin and currently serves as assistant professor of music at Grove City College in Pennsylvania. As winner of the Swan Commission, he will be in residence at the U of M School of Music from December 7 through 9 at the University of Minnesota School of Music.

Dr. Boyd, narrator of Schwantner's New Morning for the World, is the team doctor for the Minnesota Vikings, Wild, Lynx and Swarm, and provides orthopaedic expertise when players sustain injuries during play. Dr. Boyd is also a United States Olympic Team Physician and has served the men's and women's hockey teams in Nagano, Japan in 1998, in addition to many United States World Championship hockey teams.

The Swan Composer Prize competition is an annual event and the emphasis rotates among choral, wind ensemble and orchestral works, created in response to the generosity, vision and abiding interest in music as a living art on the part of Craig and Janet Swan. The Swan Prize competition is open to composers in the earlier career stages currently residing in the United States; all entries remain anonymous throughout the entire two-tier adjudication process. The American Composers Forum and the University of Minnesota School of Music administered the competition.

The American Composers Forum is committed to supporting composers and developing new markets for their music. Through granting, commissioning, and performance programs, the Forum provides composers at all stages of their careers with valuable resources for professional and artistic development. By linking communities with composers and performers, the Forum fosters a demand for new music, enriches communities and helps develop the next generation of composers, musicians and music patrons.

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 500 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of over 50 artists, scholars and teachers. The School of Music presents more than 400 free concerts per year. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.music.umn.edu or call (612) 626-1094 for a brochure.

Will newspapers survive? U of M media expert Nora Paul to speak about future for news organizations

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November 30, 2009

Will newspapers survive the changes undergoing today's media landscape? University of Minnesota new media expert Nora Paul will speak about how news organizations are changing in response to tough financial realities and new methods of communication. Her talk is part of the College of Continuing Education's "Headliners" series and will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3 at the Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

Last year was the worst on record for the U.S. newspaper industry. Already hit hard by decreasing circulation and declining ad revenues, newspapers across the country laid off staff and cut editions to counter the combined effects of online competition and economic recession. Locally, the Star Tribune filed for bankruptcy protection in January, only emerging in late September. It subsequently announced staff cuts, including several in the newsroom. Just months after Star Tribune workers agreed to concessions in bankruptcy, the St. Paul Pioneer Press opened discussions with its Guild members seeking similar cuts.

For most of the 20th century, newspapers were the primary source of information for the American public. At their best, they held governments and corporations accountable and set the news agenda for the rest of the mass media. Until the early 1990s, the newspaper business was doing extremely well, earning staggering returns for its owners and shareholders. But more recently, it has been forced to rethink its place in a world of wireless communication.

Are today's diminished news organizations capable of sustaining the informed citizenry on which democracy depends? Are newspapers an endangered species? Or are they just obsessing too much over the "paper" part of their names?

Paul will speak to these issues as part of the December Headliners event. Her talk will be followed by a Q&A with audience members.

Tickets are \$10, and can be purchased at cce.umn.edu/headliners, by calling (612) 624-4000, or at the door. The Continuing Education and Conference Center (formerly the Earle Brown Center) is located on the university's St. Paul campus.

Nora Paul was named the first director of the Institute for New Media Studies at the University of Minnesota in 2000. A seasoned journalist, researcher, and news librarian, she worked for nine years at the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Florida, one of the top journalism schools in the country, and served as the editor of information services at the Miami Herald from 1979-91 where she developed one of the earliest electronic news archives. A national authority on new media, she is the author of several books on the subject including "Computer Assisted Research: A Guide to Tapping Online Information," which is now in its fourth edition.

Headliners, offered by the University of Minnesota, 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.

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

TPT, U of M Extension film highlights tourism in Minnesota

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/01/2009) —“Tourism in Minnesota: Ideas at Play,” a half-four film co-produced by Twin Cities Public Television (TPT), University of Minnesota Extension and the University of Minnesota Tourism Center, debuts at 8:30 p.m. Dec. 6 on TPT’s Minnesota Channel. The production will air through December 2010 and can also be accessed online at <http://www.tourism.umn.edu/NewsEvents/Videos/index.htm>

The film explores the importance of tourism to the economic well-being and vitality of communities. Tourism is an \$11 billion industry in Minnesota, according to Explore Minnesota Tourism, producing 15 percent of all state sales tax and 10 percent of the state’s jobs, or more than 244,000.

Five tourism initiatives are featured in the production: the St. Paul Festival Association; the Three Rivers Wine Trail (St. Croix, Mississippi and Cannon River valleys); the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission and its Arts Meander (west central Minnesota); the Brainerd Lakes Area; and sustainability efforts at The Mall of America.

All five initiatives partnered with the university’s Tourism Center to examine options, educate volunteers and staff and research important questions. The Tourism Center’s commitment to support Minnesota tourism is also highlighted.

“The University of Minnesota is a network of educators and specialists who apply their research and education to the tourism industry and to community leaders,” said Ingrid Schneider, University of Minnesota Tourism Center Director. “We conduct research about critical questions; we provide education; we reach out to strengthen this important segment of Minnesota’s economic and civic vitality. We make a difference in tourism. That’s our mission.”

Said TPT executive producer Tom Trow: “University of Minnesota Extension is an ideal partner for our productions. They know Minnesota and what’s important to Minnesotans, and we offer a way to reach every community in the state. ‘Tourism in Minnesota’ is a great example of how to best use the tool of television to inform and inspire.”

TPT’s Minnesota Channel features a variety of programming from or about Minnesota and its close neighbors. Many of the programs are produced by TPT in partnership with Minnesota nonprofit and public service organizations.

The University of Minnesota Tourism Center is a collaboration of University of Minnesota Extension and the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. For more information on the Tourism Center, visit www.tourism.umn.edu.

Symposium addresses animal sustainability issues

What: “Sustainable Animal Agriculture in the 21st Century”

When: 1 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3

Where: St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul

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

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

December 1, 2009

The term "sustainability" is used a lot, but what does it really mean for animal agriculture? A symposium this month at the University of Minnesota is intended to answer that question.

The Solution-Driven Science Symposium, “Sustainable Animal Agriculture in the 21st Century,” will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, at the St. Paul Student Center, on the university’s St. Paul campus at 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

Speakers will discuss global food production, the environment and livestock production, and animal-welfare audit. The symposium includes presentations from nationally known experts as well as responses from U of M scientists and a Q&A with the audience.

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 pre-registration 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.

University of Minnesota researchers reveal that states must use comprehensive approach to reduce greenhouse gases

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/02/2009) —Individual states within the United States can have an impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles, but only if they use a comprehensive approach that includes improved vehicle efficiency, lower carbon fuels and reduced distances traveled, say researchers at the University of Minnesota. The new research on reducing motor vehicle greenhouse gas emissions is published in the current issue of *Environmental Science and Technology*, an environmental journal published by the American Chemical Society.

Transportation is the largest end-use source of greenhouse gas emissions in the country. Using Minnesota as a case study, the new research focuses on state efforts to reduce emissions. Approximately 18 U.S. states would rank in the top 50 greenhouse gas emitting nations if they were considered as independent countries.

As of mid-2009, approximately 33 states have a climate change action plan and about 15 states have adopted California's vehicle greenhouse gas emission standards. California also has enacted a low-carbon fuel standard.

While California is well-studied, the researchers decided to study Minnesota because it is more representative of a typical state in relation to several factors affecting greenhouse gas emissions including population, registered vehicles, typical distances traveled, and gasoline consumption. Minnesota also recently enacted legislation in 2007 regarding emissions. The greenhouse gas emission reduction targets in Minnesota are 15 percent by 2015 and 30 percent by 2025, relative to 2005.

In their research, the team modeled several technology and policy options for reducing Minnesota's emissions. They studied a wide range of scenarios, from doing nothing, to adopting strict standards for fuels and vehicle efficiency, to increasing mass transit.

The University of Minnesota researchers concluded that Minnesota has a viable approach to meeting these goals only if advancements are made in all three areas—vehicle efficiency, decreased carbon content of fuels, and reduction of distances traveled by car. If the approach is not comprehensive and policies focus on only one or two areas, potential improvements may be negated by backsliding in another area, the report stated.

“States can play an important and unique role in environmental policy,” said Julian Marshall, a lead researcher on the study and a civil engineering assistant professor in the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology. “States have different legal constraints and opportunities compared to the federal government. With their diversity of political views, states often can serve as policy laboratories on issues like this.”

In addition to Marshall, other University of Minnesota members of the interdisciplinary research team include Adam Boies (graduate student, mechanical engineering, Institute of Technology), Steve Hankey (graduate student, civil engineering, Institute of Technology), David Kittelson (professor, mechanical engineering, Institute of Technology), Peter Nussbaum (graduate student, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs), Winthrop Watts (research associate, mechanical engineering, Institute of Technology), and Elizabeth Wilson (assistant professor, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs).

To view the full research report, visit <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es902019z>

Personality predicts success in medical school, says new study by U of M professor

Conscientiousness breeds continued success, while extraverts fare well in later years

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/03/2009) —Personality characteristics play a major role in determining who succeeds in medical school, according to new research published in the November issue of the *Journal of Applied Psychology*. The study, co-authored by University of Minnesota psychology professor Deniz Ones, followed an entire cohort of Belgian students through their seven-year medical school career, investigating which personal characteristics contribute to learning and performance in general.

During the early, pre-clinical years, where success is mostly defined in terms of learning in basic science courses (e.g., biochemistry, microbiology, anatomy, physiology), conscientious individuals do much better than those who display lower levels of this trait, especially achievement striving and dependability. During this time, extraversion (being active, energetic and sociable) is detrimental to success – most likely because it detracts attention away from learning endeavors, say researchers.

However, the study, conducted by Ones (U of M), Filip Lievens (Ghent University) and Stephan Dilchert (Baruch College, CUNY), revealed some interesting patterns among the over 600 students who participated. Students completed a standardized personality test at the beginning of their studies. Success was measured in terms of end-of-year grades over a seven-year time-span after which half of the students persisted to graduate.

As the curriculum changed over the years, interpersonal aspects (for example, performance during internships or patient interaction) became more important for success. While conscientiousness continued to relate to high grades, other personality traits also became important. Extraverted individuals (those who were assertive and warm) also received high grades in later years. The same pattern was displayed for agreeableness, which includes traits such as altruism. Students who exhibited these characteristics did drastically better in medical school than those who exhibited low conscientiousness, extraversion and agreeableness.

The study has wide ranging implications for the medical school admissions process, says Ones, which seeks to identify those individuals who are most likely to thrive in medical school and develop into successful doctors. Student success is determined by a multitude of factors, many of which are cognitive in nature and already assessed by standardized admissions tests (e.g., the MCAT). Researchers point out that these cognitive factors are very important in determining learning success, but that they do not speak to the interpersonal aspects important for a successful medical career.

“Personality traits predict the acquisition of knowledge, persistence on tasks, and performance in patient interactions, and thus should also be considered in medical school admissions,” said Ones. “Standardized tests have typically been found to be more reliable, objective and valid measures of personality compared to other methods such as unstructured interviews or reference letters. As such, they will be useful tools to supplement already existing tests of cognitive ability that are currently being used in making medical school admissions decisions.”

At the University of Minnesota Medical School (which was not a part of this study), the Admissions Committee chooses candidates for admission using a broad whole-person review process. Each candidate is thoroughly reviewed by a minimum of two individuals that look at the following factors: academic aptitude, performance on standardized test scores, demonstrated interest in medicine, commitment to improving the human condition, extra-curricular involvement and compelling support by the candidate’s recommenders -- as well as the candidate’s legal residence (being the state of Minnesota’s primary medical school). If all of these indicators are very positive, the candidate may be invited to interview.

“The interview isn’t a mere formality of an inevitable acceptance, but truly an opportunity to learn if the person on paper is indeed someone we believe will be both an excellent medical student and a successful physician,” said Paul T. White, associate dean of admissions for the U of M Medical School.

“We also want to learn firsthand if the applicant indeed meets our essential and desired qualities,” White added.

Elevated CO₂ levels may mitigate losses of biodiversity from nitrogen pollution

U of Minnesota study involved a 10-year outdoor grassland experiment

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/03/2009) —Rising levels of carbon dioxide may overheat the planet and cause other environmental problems, but fears that rising CO₂ levels could directly reduce plant biodiversity can be allayed, according to a new study by a University of Minnesota scientist Peter Reich. In fact, rising CO₂ may actually help counteract losses of diversity from another environmental villain: the global rain of nitrogen from fertilizers and exhaust fumes. The study, published in this week's edition of *Science* magazine, involved a 10-year open-air outdoor experiment in which 48 plots planted with 16 different species of grasslands plants were tested using ambient and elevated levels of nitrogen and carbon dioxide. Researchers measured the number of species observed in each plot, the plant biomass both above and below ground, as well as factors related to soil, water and light that might affect plant growth.

Over time, the diversity of plants growing in the research plots changed significantly, depending on the combinations of plants and the way added CO₂ and nitrogen affected the health of different species. One of the study's key findings is that while the combination of ambient carbon dioxide and nitrogen pollution reduces species richness by 16 percent, adding more CO₂ to the mix reduces that change by half.

"From a biodiversity perspective, there was no evidence to support the worst-case scenario, in which impacts of rising CO₂ and nitrogen deposition combine to suppress diversity by 30 percent, 40 percent or even 50 percent or more," Reich said. "Instead, their interaction ameliorated the diversity loss due to nitrogen enrichment that occurs under ambient CO₂. Given the importance of biodiversity to the effective health and function of our ecosystems this is good news, or perhaps better labeled as "not quite as bad news".

Reich, a Regents professor in the department of forest resources, notes that "while it is a relief to find out that rising CO₂ and nitrogen together may not directly cause enormous losses of diversity, any loss of diversity is troubling, and in any case, this finding does not detract from the urgent need for us to curb CO₂ emissions given the other critical CO₂ effects, such as overheating the planet and threatening marine life through ocean acidification."

U of M researchers discover how a brain hormone controls insect metamorphosis

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/03/2009) —A team of University of Minnesota researchers have discovered how PTTH, a hormone produced by the insect brain, controls the metamorphosis of juvenile insects into adults.

The finding, published in the December 4 issue of *Science*, will help scientists understand how insect body size is programmed in response to developmental and environmental cues and offers the opportunity to develop a new generation of more environmentally safe ways to control agricultural pests as well as insects that carry human pathogens.

Scientists have known for 100 years that a brain-derived neuropeptide known as PTTH controls metamorphosis and although its specific sequence was identified 20 years ago, the way it signaled endocrine tissue has remained elusive until now.

“Understanding the signaling pathway that controls metamorphosis has been a long-term goal for many insect physiologists,” says lead author Michael O’Connor, professor of genetics, cell biology and development at the University of Minnesota’s College of Biological Sciences, where he holds the Ordway Chair in Developmental Biology.

Although humans don’t undergo metamorphosis, passage from childhood through puberty and development of adult sexual characteristics is also regulated by a brain-derived neuropeptide that is controlled by genetics, environment and nutrition. Understanding how this process works in insects sheds light on human development.

“In its overall design, insect metamorphosis is very much like passage through puberty,” O’Connor says. “From a biological point of view, both puberty and metamorphosis accomplish the same goal - to provide reproductive capacity for the species at the appropriate developmental time.” The brain hormone becomes active when insects have reached a threshold body weight, which is also a trigger for human puberty.

Fruit flies and silk moths were used for the study; however, all insects that undergo complete metamorphosis appear to use this signaling system, O’Connor says. His next step is to learn how environmental and nutritional cues regulate the production of PTTH (prothoracicotropic hormone).

O’Connor is one of the University of Minnesota’s most distinguished researchers working in the biological sciences. In addition to holding the Ordway Chair, he is an Investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. After earning a B.S. in biochemistry from Brown University and his Ph.D. from Tufts University School of Medicine, he conducted postdoctoral studies in the laboratory of Welcome Bender at Harvard Medical School. The O’Connor lab focuses on determining how signaling systems control animal development and studies the roles of several different types of growth factors in both insects and mice.

Co-authors for the *Science* paper are U of M postdoctoral researchers Kim Rewitz and Naoki Yamanaka and Lawrence Gilbert, who is an emeritus biology professor at the University of North Carolina.

College of Biological Sciences faculty conduct research in all areas of biology, from molecules to ecosystems. Their work contributes to advances in medicine, renewable energy, agriculture and biotechnology. The college offers degree programs in biochemistry, molecular biology and biophysics; genetics, cell biology and development; ecology, evolution and (animal) behavior; plant biology; microbiology and neurosciences. Admission to undergraduate programs is highly competitive. The college received approximately 5,000 applications for 400 places in this year’s freshman class.

Bush Foundation commits \$4.5 million to University of Minnesota for teacher education

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/03/2009) —The Bush Foundation has committed up to \$4.5 million to support the University of Minnesota as it restructures teacher preparation programs in the College of Education and Human Development.

Through ongoing collaboration with K-12 schools, the university's Teacher Education Redesign Initiative (TERI) will have a long-lasting, positive impact on the children of Minnesota, new teachers and programs within the college. Improved partnerships with K-12 districts are designed to benefit the university, district and prospective teachers.

Teachers prepared through TERI will strongly focus on student learning and have the ability to adapt to the needs of all learners. The university will diversify its teaching candidate pool and provide pathways into its teacher preparation programs for both exceptionally qualified undergraduate students and for career changers.

The first group of prospective teachers will enter the redesigned program during summer 2011.

The University of Minnesota is one of seven higher education partners allying with the Bush Foundation to transform teacher-preparation programs in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. The Bush Foundation plans to invest more than \$40 million over the next decade in the partnership, intended to improve high school graduation rates and reduce disparities in student achievement across the region.

“Ensuring that our schools have the best teachers in the country is critical to meeting the region's employment needs going forward,” said University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks. “In order to be competitive in the global economy, all students need to graduate from high school prepared for some form of post-secondary education. I am very excited that the University of Minnesota will play a strong role in revamping the teacher education curriculum to improve teaching and learning -- for all students -- throughout the state and region.”

Susan Heegaard, vice president and educational achievement team leader for the Bush Foundation, commented, “As part of their agreement with the Bush Foundation, each of the schools has agreed to guarantee that its program will produce effective teachers. The key to the guarantee is that they each will partner with the K-12 schools where their graduates will teach, and the university will provide continued support to the teachers for several years after graduation. This type of guarantee has never been offered before that we know of.”

A fact sheet about TERI, as well as the Bush proposal, are available online at <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/teri>.

Founded in 1905, the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development comprises eight departments and 184 tenured and tenure-track faculty. U.S. News & World Report ranked the college No. 21 among all professional schools of education and No. 14 among all public professional schools. Each year the college educates more than 5,300 full-year equivalent students; about 375 students complete teacher preparation annually.

The Bush Foundation was established in 1953 by 3M executive Archibald Bush and his wife Edyth. The Foundation strives to be a catalyst to shape vibrant communities in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota and the 23 Native nations that share the states' geography by investing in courageous and effective leadership that significantly strengthens and improves the well being of people in these areas.

University of Minnesota's GoNorth! travels with delegation of students from arctic countries to United Nations Climate Change conference in Copenhagen

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/04/2009) —University of Minnesota professor Aaron Doering and program director Mille Porsild, both part of the GoNorth! adventure learning series, will travel with a group of 20 teachers and students from the United States, Canada, Norway and Greenland to next week's 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen, Denmark.

While at the conference, the youth will speak and perform at numerous events with the highlight coming on Dec. 10 when they will open a photo exhibition of their lives in the arctic at the Danish National Museum. The event was developed in partnership with Chris Germano of the Many Strong Voices program (part of the Global Risk Identification Program within the United Nations Environment Programme) and the unique exhibit will travel around the world following the Danish premiere.

"Climate change is the greatest challenge facing humankind today," Doering said. "No one speaks more powerfully and has more vested in this conversation than children and teens in the Arctic today. For them climate change isn't a matter of if and when it's impacting their lives right now."

"By attending the conference, we hope to spur and engage in a global conversation about climate change and what it means to each one of us," Porsild said. "Through our What is Climate Change to You? (WCCY) project and the exhibit at the Danish National Museum, we're providing a very personal window into how climate change is affecting residents of the arctic."

Canadian Inuit leader and Nobel-prize nominee Sheila Watt-Cloutier will also be part of the delegation traveling to COP15.

Doering is the Bonnie Westby Huebner Endowed Chair in Education and Technology in the College of Education and Human Development.

U of M Regents to hear update on state of U research, graduation rates, Bioscience Discovery District

When: December 10-11, 2009

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

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/04/2009) —At its December meeting next week, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents will be updated on a number of key initiatives, including the state of university research funding, initiatives to improve graduation rates for undergraduate students and the new Bioscience Discovery District. In addition, there will also be updates on the university's strategic positioning effort as well as UMore Park.

Highlights of the meeting include:

Thursday, Dec. 10

8:15 - 10:15 a.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room

The committee will be updated on the annual financial report and discuss issues related to the financing of UMore Park.

8:15 - 10:15 a.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, West Committee Room

The chancellors of the Crookston, Duluth, Morris and Rochester campuses will discuss faculty and staff recruitment challenges and opportunities. Vice President for Equity and Diversity Rusty Barcelo will also give an update on equity and diversity pathways to success.

10:30 - 11:45 a.m., Board of Regents work session, boardroom

State Economist Tom Stinson and State Demographer Tom Gillaspay will join Chief Financial Officer Richard Pfutzenreuter to give an update on the state of Minnesota's economic forecast, released earlier this week.

1:30 - 2:45 p.m., Board of Regents meeting, boardroom

Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy will give his annual report on the status of university research. In addition, Senior Vice President for Health Science and Dean of the Medical School Frank Cerra and Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien will provide an update on the East Gateway District, which includes the new Bioscience Discovery District.

3 - 5 p.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room

The committee will review and act upon a number of schematic plans, real estate transactions and a capital budget amendment. In addition, U of M Morris Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson will review the Morris campus master plan.

3 - 5 p.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, East Committee Room

The committee will review its "Openness in Research" policy. In addition, Provost Tom Sullivan and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Robert McMaster will present an update on undergraduate initiatives and efforts to improve graduation rates.

Friday, Dec. 11

9 a.m. - Noon, Board of Regents meeting, boardroom

The board will act upon the proposed six-year capital improvement plan. Vice President for Statewide Strategic Resource Development Charles Muscoplat will give an update on the work underway with UMore Park, in Dakota County. President Robert Bruininks and Provost Tom Sullivan will provide an update on the university's strategic positioning work. Also, Pfutzenreuter will present the university's Annual Financial Report.

More information on the Board of Regents meeting can be found at www.umn.edu/regents The meeting will be webcast on that site.

Brad Hokanson named Director of U of M's Design Institute

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/04/2009) —The College of Design at the University of Minnesota has named Brad Hokanson, associate professor of graphic design (Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel) as the new director of the Design Institute (DI), effective Dec. 1.

“Brad’s positive vision for the Design Institute and his grounded intellect and multidisciplinary background make him the perfect person to direct the DI,” said College of Design Dean Thomas Fisher.

Hokanson’s objectives for the Design Institute are to:

1. Build and rebuild active relationships with the faculty of the college and the design community.
2. Establish a sustainable financial capacity through fundraising, earned monies, and direct support from the university.
3. Develop a series of initiatives that advance understanding of the cause of design at the university, including an ongoing electronic presence using static and dynamic Internet tools, social networking software and print-on-demand publishing.

“My view of design is broad, encompassing the field from graphic design to urban design,” Hokanson said. “This position in the College of Design gives me the chance to connect and create in a wide range of venues and to advance design at the university and in the state of Minnesota.”

Hokanson’s scholarship and teaching involve design, creativity and innovation. He earned a Bachelor’s degree in studio arts from Carleton College, a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Minnesota, a Master of Architecture degree in urban design from Harvard University and also a doctorate in instructional systems technology from the U of M. Honors he has received include the outstanding teaching award from the College of Design in 2008.

The Design Institute established a reputation internationally as a think tank for design. Under the leadership of its previous director, Janet Abrams, the Design Institute did innovative work in areas ranging from digital typography to knowledge mapping to design in K-12 education.

“We hope to build on the past accomplishments of the Design Institute,” said Fisher, “and refocus it on the pressing issues that face us in a very different social, economic and environmental context than existed a decade ago. We all need to be much smarter about how we use resources and allocate funds to achieve the greatest benefit. Design plays a pivotal role in that, and the DI is ideally positioned to lead in that effort.”

Sandra Pappas, Claire Robling named U of M Alumni Association 2009 Legislators of the Year

Pair honored at U of M Alumni Association National Board of Directors Meeting Dec. 5

Media Note: To download high-resolution images of the 2009 Legislators of the Year with U of M President Robert Bruininks, visit <http://bit.ly/5PF7gN> (Sandra Pappas) or <http://bit.ly/5FeP2r> (Claire Robling).

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/07/2009) —Minnesota Senators Sandra Pappas and Claire Robling were named University of Minnesota Alumni Association 2009 Legislators of the Year at the association's national board meeting on Dec. 5.

Pappas and Robling received this award for their strong, enthusiastic support and commitment to the University of Minnesota and to higher education. They are especially committed to excellent University of Minnesota governance, co-authoring legislation that sets term limits for members of the Regent Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC). The RCAC is a citizen council, appointed by members of the Minnesota Senate and House of Representatives, that assists the legislature in determining criteria and identifying and recruiting candidates for the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

Prior to the legislation authored by Pappas and Robling that sets six-year terms and limits service to two full terms, there had been no limit to the terms of service for members of the RCAC. Term limits now mean that new people be appointed to the RCAC on a periodic basis.

This is an unprecedented third year in a row that Pappas has received the Legislator of the Year award. She was recognized in 2008 for her work on behalf of the Minnesota Biomedical Science Program and strategic investment, and in 2007 she received the award for her unwavering commitment to funding higher education.

"Senators Pappas and Robling are true champions for effective university governance," said Archie Givens, national president of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. "They are passionate and knowledgeable about the important work of the University of Minnesota and the need for a pool of excellent candidates for the University of Minnesota Board of Regents."

Pappas, who represents District 65 in St. Paul, is serving her eighth Senate term. Robling is serving her fourth term, representing District 35 in the southern Twin Cities metropolitan area. Pappas chairs the Higher Education Budget and Policy Division of the legislature's Finance Committee, and Robling is its ranking minority member.

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a 60,000-member organization whose members are ambassadors for the outstanding teaching and discovery that happens at the university every day. For more information, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org or call (612) 624-4982.

Autobiography of legendary Minnesota artist, naturalist Walter J. Breckenridge published by U of M's Bell Museum

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/08/2009) —The life and times of one of Minnesota's most legendary naturalists is the subject of "My Life in Natural History by Walter J. Breckenridge," an autobiography recently published by the University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History.

Written by Breckenridge and edited by his daughter Barbara Breckenridge Franklin and wildlife biologist John Moriarty, the book traces Breckenridge's life from his boyhood in Brooklyn, Iowa through his travels to the Arctic and Galapagos Islands. The 178-page softcover book also features 44 pages of color plates of his paintings, many of which became limited edition prints.

Breckenridge (1903-2003), known to his friends and colleagues as "Breck," began his career as an exhibit preparator and a museum curator before being named Bell Museum director in 1946 until his retirement in 1970. Known for his paintings of birds and wildlife settings, Breckenridge also was the creative force behind many of the Bell Museum's nationally known dioramas. He also is widely recognized for pioneering the craft of wildlife filmmaking — many done in passionate response to human pressures facing animals and their ecosystems.

Breckenridge is a key figure in Minnesota's environmental heritage. His scientific work and environmental advocacy led to the establishment of parks, wetlands and wildlife areas, including Nerstrand Woods State Park, the Springbrook Nature Center and the university's Cedar Creek Natural History Area.

By many accounts, Breckenridge was a humble man to whom writing an autobiography didn't come easily. Writes Bell Museum Breckenridge Chair in Ornithology Robert Zink in the book's foreword: "Breck wasn't the richest of men, but he had at least two qualities that cannot be bought: absolute class and an absence of ego."

Proceeds from the book will benefit the Walter J. and Dorothy S. Breckenridge Education Endowment Fund in support of the museum's education programs, exhibit development, diorama restoration and production of educational films. Publication was made possible by the financial support of the Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, the Minnesota Ornithologist's Union, the Minnesota Herpetological Society and the Nongame Wildlife Program of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The book is available for \$29.95. Call (612) 624-9660 or visit www.bellmuseum.org for ordering information.

U of M brings nearly \$500,000 to Minnesota schools for Chinese language education

Twelve Minnesota schools to be among just 25 nationally to house “Confucius Classrooms”

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/08/2009) —The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota has helped 12 Minnesota K-12 schools receive funding totaling \$486,501 through the “Confucius Classroom” initiative of the Confucius Institute Headquarters in Beijing, China.

The Confucius Classroom designation is granted to schools outside of China to encourage Chinese language and culture instruction. Funding is provided to address the needs of each school based on a submitted proposal. Minnesota schools will use their funding to hire Chinese language teachers, purchase textbooks and authentic language materials and to fund cultural learning opportunities. In addition to funding, each site can order 1,000 complimentary textbooks or other resource materials from the Confucius Institute Headquarters.

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota facilitated the proposal process and will oversee the 12 Minnesota Confucius Classrooms by conducting site visits, convening a best practices conference and acting as a resource for districts, schools and Chinese language teachers. Funding of these Confucius Classrooms is expected to continue for five years in order to develop sustainable Chinese language and culture programs.

The 12 schools receiving funding are Battle Lake Public School, Centennial School District, Concordia Language Villages, Fergus Falls High School, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minnetonka Public Schools, Rochester Public Schools, St. John’s Preparatory School, South Washington County Public Schools, Willmar High School, Xin Xing Academy at Hopkins Public Schools and Yinghua Academy.

The recent announcement from Confucius Institute Headquarters of 16 new Confucius Classrooms included the 12 Minnesota schools, which brings the total number in the United States to 25

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota promotes the study of Chinese language and culture throughout Minnesota. It is a collaborative initiative between the University of Minnesota, the Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters and Capital Normal University in Beijing. The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota is one of 67 in the United States and nearly 400 worldwide.

U of M students present largest robot show in Twin Cities

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December 10, 2009

An electric can crushing robot, an automatic strumming guitar and robot dancing frogs will be among more than 200 machines on display at the University of Minnesota Robot Show from 2:40 to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14 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 people of all ages.

The show is the culmination of six weeks of work for University of Minnesota engineering students in the Introduction to Engineering class 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 University of Minnesota 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 measuring yarn or automatically removing water from your windshield--or exist solely to amuse and delight.

For more information on the event, visit, www.me.umn.edu/robotshow

University of Minnesota posts big increases in research, tech transfer

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/10/2009) —Tim Mulcahy, University of Minnesota vice president for research, today gave his annual report on the state of the university's research enterprise to the Board of Regents. Highlights from the report include:

- The latest annual survey conducted by the National Science Foundation (NSF), covering research performance for 2008, shows that the university posted the largest percentage increase (9.5 percent) in research and development (R&D) expenditures among all institutions listed in the NSF's top 20 ranking list.
- Research expenditures have increased nearly 30 percent since 2004, giving the university the third-largest growth in research volume among the 12 public institutions included in the top 20, and the fourth-largest among the top 20 private and public institutions.
- The university maintained its rank as the nation's ninth leading public research university based on the NSF R&D expenditure data, and also ranks among the top public universities in rankings based on citations of scholarly works of the faculty.
- Gross revenues from patent and licensing activity posted excellent results in fiscal year 2009, increasing to \$95 million — nearly 10 percent higher than the previous year. This is an exceptional achievement given the dismal economic conditions that prevailed during this period.

“Based on these common, recognized metrics, the University of Minnesota has established a record of performance that unquestionably identifies it as one of the leading research universities in the country,” said Mulcahy.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) played a large role in the university's research efforts in calendar 2009. As of Dec. 9, university researchers have received 244 ARRA awards totaling \$130.6 million, recognition of the high caliber of research taking place in colleges and departments across the institution.

While the university's record of performance has been strong and positive in the past four years, fiscal year 2009 award data mark the first change in that trajectory since 2003. Sponsored research awards totaled \$607 million, a decrease of nearly 10 percent from the previous year. However, early reporting results indicate a rebound in the first quarter of fiscal year 2010, suggesting that the slide in the past year is temporary.

U of M Board of Regents names Board of Governors for UMore Park Development LLC

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/11/2009) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents approved nine individuals to serve as the Board of Governors for the UMore Development Limited Liability Company (LLC) Friday. The Board of Governors will provide oversight and management of planning and development of the university's 5,000-acre property in Dakota County. The vision for UMore Park is to create a sustainable community for 20,000 to 30,000 people over the next 25 to 30 years.

The appointments by the Board of Regents follow the October 2009 resolution approving the articles of organization for the LLC.

The nine members of the Board of Governors—consisting of four University governors and five community governors—are:

- Kathryn F. Brown, vice president and chief of staff, University of Minnesota
- Thomas Fisher, professor and dean, College of Design, University of Minnesota
- Sarah B. Harris, chief operating officer, Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District
- Peggy Lucas, partner, Brighton Development Corporation
- R. Timothy Mulcahy, vice president for research, University of Minnesota
- Michael O'Keefe, president emeritus, Minneapolis College of Art and Design
- Richard Pfutzenreuter, vice president and chief financial officer, University of Minnesota
- David Sellergren, attorney, Fredrikson & Byron
- Roger J. Sit, chairman, chief executive officer, president and global chief investment officer, Sit Investment Associates, Inc.

“The unique expertise in real estate development, finance, organizational management and academic mission of these individuals will combine to advance the UMore Park project,” said university vice president Charles Muscoplat, responsible officer for UMore Park. “The Board of Governors will help to ensure that the university reaches its goals for sustainability, stewardship, economic development and support for the academic mission.”

The Board of Governors is expected to convene a first meeting in early 2010.

More information about UMore Park is available online at www.umorepark.umn.edu.

University of Minnesota Institute of Technology changing name to College of Science and Engineering

Change will more clearly describe unique combination of science and engineering disciplines

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/11/2009) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents has approved a name change for the University's Institute of Technology to the College of Science and Engineering, effective July 1, 2010.

The purpose of the change is to more clearly describe the unique combination of science and engineering disciplines within the college to prospective students and faculty, business partners and research-granting agencies.

"The current college name of the Institute of Technology (with its acronym IT) has become increasingly problematic in terms of securing financial support and recognition for critical academic programs," said Steven L. Crouch, dean of the college. "Today, IT has come to mean Information Technology to virtually everyone. In addition, few people outside the university have an understanding of the difference between the Institute of Technology and various research institutes at the University that do not have academic degree programs."

The Institute of Technology Dean's Advisory Board, comprised of alumni and business leaders, recommended the change at their fall 2008 meeting and asked Dean Crouch to pursue a name change for the college. Over the last year, the dean and his staff have gathered input from a variety of stakeholders, including alumni, students, faculty, staff, business leaders and other groups.

Members of the Institute of Technology Dean's Advisory Board have agreed to donate private funds to cover the costs of the name change to ensure that no funds are taken away from any other important financial matters this year due to this change.

Preparations for the name change will begin this month, with full implementation this summer including the launch of a new College of Science and Engineering Web site and revised materials for new student orientation and prospective student events.

The Institute of Technology was formed in 1935 when the university combined programs in engineering, chemistry, architecture and mining. Today, the college encompasses 10 engineering programs, computer science, mathematics, statistics and five physical sciences including physics, chemistry, astrophysics, geology and geophysics. The University of Minnesota is the only major research institution in the United States that combines the science and engineering disciplines within one academic unit of the university.

The Institute of Technology also oversees or is part of more than a dozen interdisciplinary research centers and facilities, including major National Science Foundation centers such as the National Center for Earth-surface Dynamics at the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications, and the Engineering Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power.

The college currently enrolls more than 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students and employs about 400 faculty. The college has more than 58,000 living science and engineering alumni. About half of those alumni live in the Twin Cities metro area.

University of Minnesota computer scientists to help track global climate change through new data mining tools

University of Minnesota is one of the first academic partners to join Planetary Skin Institute, which was recently named as one of TIME magazine's 50 Best Inventions of 2009



Vipin Kumar (left), head of the department of computer science and engineering, and graduate student Shyam Boriah (right), are developing algorithms and software being used by NASA to mine satellite images that create a history of changes in Earth's landcover.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/15/2009) —The University of Minnesota and the Planetary Skin Institute have announced a new partnership to use data mining tools to track historical changes in the Earth's forest ecosystems and better determine their relationship to climate change. The University of Minnesota is one of the first academic partners to join the Planetary Skin Institute. The partnership was announced today at COP15, the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

The Planetary Skin, started as a joint collaboration between NASA and Cisco Systems, Inc., aims to develop a global "nervous system" that will integrate land-, sea-, air- and space-based sensors, helping the public and private sectors make decisions to prevent and adapt to climate change. The Planetary Skin platform was recently named as one of TIME magazine's 50 Best Inventions of 2009. Planetary Skin Institute will provide \$3.2 million over three years to the University of Minnesota.

The Planetary Skin will use novel data mining methods developed by University of Minnesota computer science and engineering professor Vipin Kumar and his research team to identify and characterize global land use changes. These new data mining methods have dramatically advanced our ability to monitor global land cover using satellite data. Initially the Planetary Skin will focus on global forests, but the project is expected to expand to cover agriculture and degraded lands to examine vital global issues such as energy use, water scarcity, and food security.

By applying the data mining methods developed at the University of Minnesota on a global scale, the researchers are creating comprehensive histories of large-scale changes in the ecosystem due to fires, logging, droughts, flood, farming, and other events. Kumar's team is also developing a planetary information system under the Planetary Skin initiative that can help researchers study these ecosystem disturbances and their relationship to global climate variability and human activity.

"We are excited to be an academic partner of Planetary Skin Institute," Kumar said. "This will allow us to greatly expedite the development and integration of advanced data-mining capabilities for the monitoring of the global ecosystem that is urgently needed in the context of climate change."

Researchers say changes in forests account for as much as 20 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions, an amount second only to fossil fuel emissions. Yet, the contribution of greenhouse gases from the degradation of forests is one of the most uncertain elements of the global carbon cycle. Software and events produced by University of Minnesota computer scientists will be a key part of the first prototype of the Planetary Skin to be released in 2010 that will track how much and where carbon is held by rain forests.

"We are honored to have this new academic partnership," said Juan Carlos Castilla-Rubio, president of the Planetary Skin Institute. "The University of Minnesota Department of Computer Science and Engineering's unique expertise and global reputation will be key to developing the infrastructures that the world urgently needs to address climate change."

University of
Minnesota
journalism
students
explore
changing
American
Dream in
new
magazine

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The Changing American Dream
FLUX
 FALL 2009

THE NOT-SO-WHITE-HOUSE

NO ONE'S HOME
 WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MUMANSON

5 WAYS TO MAKE YOURSELF
 MORE MARKETABLE

KISS & TELL
 (VIA FACEBOOK)



FLUX Magazine is the culmination of a semester's worth of work for the University of Minnesota students in Journalism 5176: Magazine Editing and Production.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/16/2009) —With our country's economy, politics and media in constant flux, it's inevitable that society's perception of the American Dream never stops changing. A magazine production class in University of Minnesota's School of Journalism and Mass Communication chose to focus their semester's magazine on exploring and interpreting what the American Dream means to the millennial generation.

FLUX Magazine, the culmination of a semester's worth of work for the students of Journalism 5174: Magazine Editing and Production, uncovers current and past influences on the evolution of the American Dream and provides advice and encouragement to build new dreams. FLUX contains four departments: DEBATE, LEARN, LIVE and TALK. DEBATE focuses on politics and current issues, including debt, environmental sustainability and diversity. LEARN provides information on education and careers, posing the question: Is college necessary? LIVE reports on past and present lifestyle including a fashion spread on past fashion's influence on today's styles. TALK explores modern communication and the influence technology and relationships have on the American Dream.

"Not only did we learn far more from this experience than a textbook could ever teach us, but we professionally produced a quality magazine that will influence people's lives," said Katie Pelton, editor-in-chief.

A copy of FLUX magazine can be found at University of Minnesota Libraries, residence halls, Stadium Village Books on 825 Washington Ave. S.E. and Student Bookstore at 1501 University Ave. S.E. Electronic copies will be available on the FLUX Web site at www.changingamericandream.com. The Web site includes a blog for each department, additional multimedia and full-length articles for readers to comment on and interact with the FLUX staff.

For more information on FLUX magazine or how to receive a copy, contact Jena Barch by e-mail at ellis259@umn.edu or phone at (612) 850-7833.

University of Minnesota, community receive \$2.9 million grant to help close digital divide in Twin Cities

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/17/2009) —The University of Minnesota, in partnership with 12 community organizations, has received \$2,862,333 in federal funds to develop and improve 11 computer labs throughout underserved neighborhoods in the Twin Cities as part of the federal stimulus law. The award was selected from among 2,200 proposals received by the Department of Commerce. The grant was the only one given to a university and the largest grant given in its category.

The university will work with its partners to improve 10 existing public computer labs and establish a new computer lab at a public housing site, Glendale Homes in Minneapolis. This will add 93 new workstations and replace 49 existing stations and is based upon a model developed by the Office for Business and Community Economic Development (BCED).

The grant also will allow the labs to hire local residents as training and support staff and will provide software programs and culturally sensitive curriculum relevant to education, health and economic development. The project will be implemented by the Office for Business and Community Economic Development and the Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC), established in 2007. University of Minnesota Extension also will be involved.

“We are deeply gratified that our application was approved, considering the strong competition throughout the country to make use of these essential funds,” said Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration Robert Jones, who led the effort to establish UROC. “We have been told our proposal was one of the most highly regarded by the reviewers due to its targeted nature and its genuine involvement of community partners. This work is of the highest strategic priority for us as we work in partnership to solve community-identified issues that affect urban residents.”

“This is a powerful partnership -- leveraging the strengths of the community and the university to work for a common goal right where the people are,” said Barbara Milan, director of the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center.

The partners project that almost 400 nonprofits and women- and minority-owned businesses serving vulnerable populations in the metro area will benefit from the computer labs. The project also will provide Internet computer training over the life of the project for 17,000 individuals who rely on public, community-based computer centers.

The partners estimate the project will create 36 new jobs and save 12 existing jobs. The community partners involved in the development stage of the project include the Minnesota Multicultural Media Consortium (MMMC), the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Housing Authority and Hennepin County. Existing community computer centers provided important data to complete the proposal.

Existing lab sites are located in north and south Minneapolis and the Frogtown area of St. Paul. These labs will be standardized and upgraded, and training provided using materials designed in a culturally, linguistically and technologically appropriate manner.

Broadband Apprenticeship Teams, designed to create both new jobs and training, will support each computer lab, provide training for the users, and upgrade the skill set of existing computer center staff. A public awareness and advertising campaign by MMMC, which is a group of newspapers, radio stations and online media serving primarily Twin Cities ethnic communities, will draw users to the sites.

Populations with no or restricted access to broadband and the Internet are concentrated in the urban cores of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Although these areas are fully served by multiple high-speed broadband providers, the reality is that few residents have access to broadband and the majority of the community remains underserved in 2009. These neighborhoods are largely populated by low-income African Americans, Hmong, Latino, Somali immigrants, public housing residents and seniors.

Project partners are: Asian Community Technology Center, Centro, Church of St. Phillip/Nellie Stone Johnson School, Glendale Townhomes-Minneapolis Public Housing, Hmong American Partnership, Lifetrack Resources, MMMC, Patchwork Quilt at Kwanzaa Freedom School, Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, Project for Pride in Living in its new Northside location, Sabathani Community Center and the YWCA's Youth Achiever Program in Frogtown, St. Paul.

U of M
Extension
Web site
offers
resources for
all types of
holiday
celebrations



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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/21/2009) —Hannukkah, Las Posadas, Kwanzaa, Christmas. The list of holidays families gather to celebrate in December is as diverse as the families and their cultures. University of Minnesota Extension has developed a Web site dedicated to families and holiday celebrations at www.extension.umn.edu/Parenting/Celebrations.html.

The site features informative, research-based articles and podcasts by Extension educators, as well as links to other university extension resources. Some of the topics include the evolution of holiday traditions, holiday spending, and gifts and divorce.

"This is the time of year when many families gather to observe religious and seasonal celebrations important to their cultures," said Colleen Gengler, University of Minnesota Extension educator in family relations. "This site features many different topics from holiday spending to family traditions to healthy eating."

AAAS and University of Minnesota announce 2009 Fellows

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/21/2009) —Three University of Minnesota professors have been named Fellows to American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). These professors have been elevated to this rank because of their efforts toward advancing science applications that are deemed scientifically or socially distinguished. Election as a Fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers.

The university professors named Fellows are:

Marc A. Hillmyer, a professor in the Department of Chemistry in the Institute of Technology: For outstanding contributions to the field of biorenewable polymers, particularly for using block copolymers to control properties and structure on the nanoscale.

David J. Norris, a professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science in the Institute of Technology: For distinguished contributions to the field of semiconducting nanocrystals and photonic crystals.

Carol E. Windels, a professor in the Department of Plant Pathology in the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences: For definitive research on ecology of soil borne plant pathogens on field crops and integrated control of diseases, and for national professional leadership. Windels works out of the Northwest Research and Outreach Center in Crookston

This year 531 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 during the AAAS Fellows Forum from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 20 at the 2010 AAAS Annual Meeting in San Diego.

This year's AAAS Fellows were announced in the AAAS News & Notes section of the journal *Science* this month.

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 council is the policymaking body of the association, chaired by the AAAS president, and consisting of the members of the board of directors, the retiring section chairs, delegates from each electorate and each regional division and two delegates from the National Association of Academies of Science.

U of M Energy Conservation Campaign Collects 10,000 Energy Pledges

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/21/2009) —Getting 10,000 people at the University of Minnesota to agree on any one subject is difficult. But 10,000 students, faculty and staff do agree on one thing: saving energy on campus is important.

The U of M has just met its goal of collecting 10,000 energy conservation pledges from students, faculty and staff as part of the *It All Adds Up* campus energy conservation campaign. The 10,000 pledge marked was topped early Thursday after a flurry of pledges came in response to a university-wide e-mail from President Robert Bruininks asking the Twin Cities Campus to take the pledge.

The university rolled out *It All Adds Up* last spring in an effort to increase campus awareness about how each person at the U could play a part in saving energy. The energy conservation pledge asks individuals to take seemingly small actions – like turning off lights or powering down computers at the end of the day – with the understanding that if each member of the 80,000 person campus community did those small actions, it would all add up.

In 2008, the university set the goal of reducing annual campus energy usage five percent by the end of 2010. University Energy Management officials estimate that a five percent reduction would save \$2.25 million each year and reduce CO2 emitted into the atmosphere by 25,000 tons. In addition to enlisting the help of individuals, the Energy Management group has started an aggressive building recommissioning program designed to increase energy efficiency in 40 buildings each year.

To date, Energy Management has implemented more than \$1.9 million in energy savings measures and identified another \$2.4 million in savings that they expect to implement next year. These changes should reduce CO2 emissions by nearly twice the 25,000 ton goal for 2010, saving the University approximately \$4.3 million annually.

Designed to enlist the campus community's help in lowering energy consumption, *It All Adds Up* asks students, faculty and staff to commit to the following saving energy saving behaviors by taking an Energy Conservation Pledge:

- Power down my computer at night and over the weekends.
- Turn off my lights when I'll be out of the room for more than 10 minutes.
- Unplug my cell-phone charger or appliances that draw "vampire" power.
- Avoid the use of space heaters or personal fans. Instead, I'll dress for the weather an extra layer in winter and lighter in summer.
- Use the stairs: walk up one floor and down two to reduce use of the elevator.
- Use the handicapped entrance button only when necessary.
- Print or copy on two sides instead of one.

U of M to hold public meetings around the state on Minnesota's investments in water priorities

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Minnesotans will have the chance to voice their opinion in person on how the state should invest resources to protect clean water at statewide public meetings coordinated by the U of M's Water Resources Center.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/30/2009) —Minnesotans will have the chance to voice their opinion in person on how the state should invest resources to protect clean water at statewide public meetings beginning Jan. 19, 2010 coordinated by the University of Minnesota's Water Resources Center.

The meetings, called "listening sessions," will be facilitated by staff from the Water Resources Center and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and are a chance for people to voice their opinions on a range of water-related issues from boating and water recreation, to priorities for cleaning up polluted lakes and streams.

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- **Jan. 19** Holiday Inn and Suites, 75 S. 37th Ave, St. Cloud
- **Jan. 21** Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, 3675 Arboretum Dr., Chaska
- **Feb. 3** University of Minnesota, Crookston's University Youngquist Auditorium, 2900 University Ave., Crookston
- **Feb. 4** Northland Auditorium, 14250 Conservation Dr., Baxter
- **Feb. 10** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Building, 525 S. Lake Ave., Duluth
- **Feb. 11** Holiday Inn South, 1630 S. Broadway, Rochester
- **Feb. 16** Best Western Marshall Inn, 1500 E. College Dr., Marshall
- **Feb. 18** Thompson County Park Center's Dakota Lodge, 1200 Stassen Lane, West St. Paul

From 12:30-3:30 p.m. each meeting will focus on the concerns of professionals associated with local units of government, state and federal agencies and other water resource organizations. Citizens, community leaders and elected and appointed officials will have a chance to share their concerns from 4 to 6 p.m.

The effort is part of the Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework, a project spearheaded by the Water Resources Center which was charged by the 2009 Minnesota State Legislature to develop a set of recommendations to protect and preserve Minnesota's lakes, streams, rivers and ground waters for the 21st century. The project's final report due to the 2011 legislature, will integrate citizens' values and concerns and serve as a roadmap, with timelines and benchmarks for the investment of an estimated \$86 million a year earmarked for the protection of water as a result of Minnesota's Clean Water, Land and Legacy Act.

All Minnesotans are encouraged to take the project's "Minnesotans and Their Water" online survey at wrc.umn.edu where they can also sign up to receive monthly updates on the project's progress.

The statewide meetings are co-sponsored by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. The Water Resources Center is affiliated with the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and University of Minnesota Extension.