

University of Minnesota students show how they are Driven to Discover in video scholarship contest

Public voting on the videos starts Jan. 3 at www.facebook.com/uofmn

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/03/2012) —University of Minnesota, Twin Cities students were challenged last month to get behind the camera and submit a video showing how they are “Driven to Discover” at the University of Minnesota.

Starting today, anyone with a Facebook account can vote for his or her favorite submissions at www.facebook.com/uofmn by clicking “like” on their favorite videos.

From the 79 video submissions, the top 16 “liked” videos will earn scholarships up to \$5,000 for the spring 2012 semester.

“Our students have shared their passions, their career ambitions and their love of the University of Minnesota through these videos,” said Ann Aronson, senior director of marketing in the U of M’s Office of University Relations. “Students are the heart of the university and turning the spotlight on them for this contest allows Minnesotans to see the depth of talent, excitement and creativity our students have for the U of M as well as their future.”

The contest is part of the new iteration of the university’s Driven to Discover marketing campaign launched in October 2011. The campaign’s advertisements focus on the value and distinctiveness of the student experience at the U of M and are an evolution of previous years’ Driven to Discover themes and have a youthful feel, signaling a renewed commitment to the student experience. The spots aired through December 2011.

A total of \$30,000 in scholarships will be awarded thanks to the University of Minnesota Foundation.

R. Scott Studham named vice president, chief information officer at University of Minnesota

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/04/2012) —R. Scott Studham has been named the University of Minnesota's vice president and chief information officer. He will begin the position February 13, 2012, pending approval by the university's Board of Regents.

Studham most recently served as the chief information officer at the University of Tennessee, where he was responsible for the strategic direction and management of the university's information resources.

As the chief information officer, Studham will be responsible for ensuring the strategic and operational excellence of both academic and administrative information technology for the entire University of Minnesota system. This includes establishing a strong IT platform for evidence-based decision-making, managing systemwide IT projects and services, pursuing standardization through disciplined innovation, and deploying tools to meet the needs of academic programs and administrative operations across the University's five campuses.

Studham received his undergraduate degree from Washington State University in 1997 and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Tennessee in 2008. An expert in computer-related security issues, Studham has served as project manager and chief architect for a top ten supercomputer six times during the course of his career. He is an internationally recognized researcher in the area of high-performance computing, and has been called upon to give expert testimony before the U.S. Congress.

"The University of Minnesota has distinguished itself as a national leader in innovative and efficient information technology," said Studham. "I look forward to joining the university's Office of Information Technology team and continuing its outstanding work across the system and across the state.

"Scott brings broad experience in enterprise application integration and resource planning in complex organizations and multi-campus environments," said Robert J. Jones, the university's senior vice president for System Academic Administration. "President Kaler and I believe that Scott is a highly capable and visionary leader who will build upon our existing strengths to ensure operational excellence in support of the University's mission in education, research and public engagement benefiting the state and region."

Studham, who was recommended by a systemwide search committee, replaces Steve Cawley, who left the university in April for a position at the University of Miami. Ann Hill Duin, who has served as interim VP and CIO since April, will return to her role as associate vice president and associate CIO.

University of Minnesota School of Music announces spring 2012 events

Contacts: Lisa Marshall, School of Music,



Hailed as extraordinary by the New York Times, the Grammy Award-winning The Parker Quartet visits as part of the U of M School of Music's Creative Instructional Residency Initiative program.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/04/2012) —The University of Minnesota School of Music's spring 2012 events offerings include a concert by visiting artists The Parker Quartet; a presentation of Benjamin Britten's "War Requiem"; the University of Minnesota Jazz Festival; the University Opera Theatre's premiere of Robert Aldridge's dramatic cantata "Parables"; and the school's Jazz Ensemble I and Symphonic Band present: "Meet in the Middle – Crossover works for Jazz and Concert Bands."

For a complete schedule of events, visit www.music.umn.edu or call (612) 626-1094 for a brochure.

Season highlights

All events will be held in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. South, Minneapolis.

Guest Concert: The Parker Quartet

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8

Hailed as extraordinary by the New York Times, the Grammy Award-winning The Parker Quartet visits as part of the School of Music's Creative Instructional Residency Initiative program. Program to include works by Mendelssohn, Kirchner and Dvořák.

Choral Event: Benjamin Britten's "War Requiem"

7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1

University of Minnesota Jazz Festival Concert

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25

A concert featuring the U of M Jazz Ensembles and special guests the Hornheads.

Robert Aldridge's "Parables"

7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19 – Saturday, April 21; and 2 p.m. Sunday, April 22

Tickets: \$22/\$12 students and children. Two-for-one-tickets for U of M students, faculty, alumni, staff, and retirees general admission. For tickets, call (612) 624-2345 or visit tickets.umn.edu.

This dramatic cantata by Robert Aldridge and Herschel Garfein is a response to the growing racial and religious intolerance in the United States and abroad, the composers say.

Jazz Ensemble I and Symphonic Band present: "Meet in the Middle – Crossover works for Jazz and Concert Bands"

7:30 p.m. Monday, April 30

School of Music events are free unless otherwise noted, and all events are open to the public.

Convenient parking is available at the university's 19th Avenue and 21st Avenue parking ramps. Parking fees apply.

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 550 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. Follow the School of Music on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/umn.music) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/umn.music).

Energy and U' shows to bring 4,500 K-12 students to campus to learn about science

University of Minnesota President Kaler to join in the fun at Jan. 10 show



Media Note:

Members of the media should check in with Eileen Harvala when arriving at the show to ensure that only students with media releases are photographed and videotaped.

With an educational slide show set to music, and some demonstrations that include loud explosions, bright flashes and flames, "Energy and U" ignites students' interest in science. It also brings students to the University of Minnesota campus, and gives them the opportunity to meet and engage with university professors.

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January 6, 2012

Explosions, flames and rock music—they're all part of a unique and fun University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering outreach program that aims to interest elementary and secondary school students in science.

About 4,500 students from metro area schools are expected to attend the "Energy and U" shows at the University of Minnesota at 9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9, through Friday, Jan. 13, in 100 Smith Hall, 207 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis. University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will be attending the 9:30 a.m. show with students on Tuesday, Jan. 10. Due to space constraints, the shows are not open to the public.

This month's shows include additional presenters, reorganized demonstrations, new music, and extended outreach to students in the seven-county metro area. With an educational slide show set to music, and some demonstrations that include loud explosions, bright flashes and flames, "Energy and U" ignites students' interest in science. It also brings students to the University of Minnesota campus, and gives them the opportunity to meet and engage with university professors.

"We try to emphasize that they, too, could do what we do every day," said chemistry professor David Blank, one of the creators of "Energy and U."

"Energy and U" shows focus on how energy can be stored and interconverted in many ways, and that chemical conversions play a key role. "We teach kids that they cannot make or destroy energy, they can just change its form," Blank said.

"Energy and U," which began in 2006, is a specialized outreach program of the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering and its Department of Chemistry and Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science. In addition to the shows this month, another 4,500 students are expected to attend "Energy and U" shows in May.

Outreach to schools with high percentages of students of color and students receiving free or reduced-priced lunch—an indicator of poverty—is an important component of the Energy and U outreach efforts. The University of Minnesota Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) offsets bus transportation costs for participating schools.

University of Minnesota researchers to be featured on Big Ten Network's new 'Impact the World' series

Biomedical engineer Bin He will be profiled in the premiere episode on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 8:30 p.m. CST

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/09/2012) —University of Minnesota researchers will be featured in the Big Ten Network's debut of "Impact the World," a powerful new original series that highlights the academic side of Big Ten universities. The debut program airs Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 8:30 p.m. CST and features the work of University of Minnesota biomedical engineering professor Bin He and his students in the College of Science and Engineering.

He and his team are pioneering technology that allows immobilized or speechless individuals to control real objects with their minds. No other research group has designed a system that allows a person to move objects on a screen at will through 3-D space using noninvasive technology requiring nothing more than thought.

Watch a video about He's 3D mind control technology:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EumtMewe2Ko>

Watch a video preview of the "Impact the World" series:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yni1CwfGsPI>

The Feb. 28 episode of "Impact the World" will feature University of Minnesota computer science and engineering professor Nikos Papanikolopoulos in the College of Science and Engineering and his team from the Center for Distributed Robotics. The center is at the forefront of research in robotics and has developed a wide range of robots for search and rescue missions monitoring the environment and a wide range of other applications. The successful company ReconRobotics was founded in 2006 to commercialize the center's Scout Robots which are now used by the military and law enforcement agencies in more than 30 countries to save lives.

The Big 10 Network's "Impact the World," hosted by actor Dennis Haysbert, is an eight-part series highlighting 24 stories from all 12 Big Ten universities that demonstrate the benefits of the scientific, medical and sociological advances to people in the U.S. and around the world.

University of Minnesota startup Drive Power uses mobile app DriveScribe to monitor and coach teen driving skills

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/12/2012) —Some 16.5 million drivers are involved in traffic accidents in the United States each year, and more than 12 percent of them are under the age of 20—despite the fact that teenage drivers constitute less than 5 percent of the total driving population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Using research from the University of Minnesota, Drive Power, LLC, aims to change those grim statistics by introducing DriveScribe, a revolutionary mobile app that encourages safe driving habits and provides real-time coaching to novice drivers.

“For the first time, the same technology that has significantly increased the prevalence of distracted driving will be used to reduce distractions and promote safe driving behaviors,” said William England, founder and CEO of Drive Power. “While the National Transportation Safety Board has recently called for a nationwide ban on using cell phones while driving, DriveScribe provides a much more practical, engaging and ultimately effective solution to combat distracted driving as well as provide assistance to novice drivers.”

Developed by university mechanical engineering department researchers Alec Gorjestani, Arvind Menon, Eddie Arpin; Craig Shankwitz, Janet Creaser, Michael Manser and Max Donath, the technology combines several functions to promote safe driving. It provides real-time feedback to the driver; blocks calls, emails and text messages while the vehicle is in operation; notifies parents in real time when traffic violations occur in real time; and logs driving activity to the DriveScribe web portal for later review.

“We’re trying to help teens become better drivers, sooner,” said Gorjestani, who also serves as Drive Power’s vice president for technology. “The crash rate for new drivers is very high, especially in the first six months of driving, so we decided to do something about it.”

Social comparisons, points and rewards for safe driving and a sophisticated scoring system to quantify the attributes of safe driving, referred to as the Safe Driver Score, are the major features Drive Power is incorporating into DriveScribe on top of what was built at the university in preparation for the application’s public release in the spring of this year. DriveScribe is not only for teen drivers and their parents, but eventually senior drivers, commercial vehicle fleets and insurance companies.

The technology behind DriveScribe was licensed exclusively to Drive Power by the University of Minnesota’s Office for Technology Commercialization. The research was funded by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Intelligent Transportation Systems Institute, which is housed in the College of Science and Engineering’s Department of Mechanical Engineering and is part of the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota.

More information

DriveScribe Mobile App: <http://www.drivescribe.com>
Drive Power corporate: <http://www.drvpwr.com>
Intelligent Vehicles Laboratory: <http://www.ivlab.umn.edu>

The Intelligent Vehicles Lab is housed in the university’s College of Science and Engineering’s Department of Mechanical Engineering and is part of the Center for Transportation Studies.

The mission of the University of Minnesota’s Office for Technology Commercialization is to translate university research into new products and services that provide growth opportunities for its licensees, benefit the public good, improve the quality of life and generate revenue to support the university’s research and education goals.

A Scarcity of Women Leads Men to Spend More, Save Less

University of Minnesota Research Finds Sex Ratios Influence Financial Decisions



Professor Vldas Griskevicius

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/12/2012) —The perception that women are scarce leads men to become impulsive, save less, and increase borrowing, according to new research from the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management.

“What we see in other animals is that when females are scarce, males become more competitive. They compete more for access to mates,” says Vldas Griskevicius, an assistant professor of marketing at the Carlson School and lead author of the study. “How do humans compete for access to mates? What you find across cultures is that men often do it through money, through status and through products.”

To test their theory that the sex ratio affects economic decisions, the researchers had participants read news articles that described their local population as having more men or more women. They were then asked to indicate how much money they would save each month from a paycheck, as well as how much they would borrow with credit cards for immediate expenditures. When led to believe women were scarce, the savings rates for men decreased by 42 percent. Men were also willing to borrow 84 percent more money each month.

In another study, participants saw photo arrays of men and women that had more men, more women, or were neutral. After looking at the photographs, participants were asked to choose between receiving some money tomorrow or a larger amount in a month. When women were scarce in the photos, men were much more likely to take an immediate \$20 rather than wait for \$30 in a month.

According to Griskevicius, participants were unaware that sex ratios were having any effect on their behavior. Merely seeing more men than women automatically led men to simply be more impulsive and want to save less while borrowing more to spend on immediate purchases.

“Economics tells us that humans make decisions by carefully thinking through our choices; that we’re not like animals,” he says. “It turns out we have a lot in common with other animals. Some of our behaviors are much more reflexive and subconscious. We see that there are more men than women in our environment and it automatically changes our desires, our behaviors, and our entire psychology.”

“The Financial Consequences of Too Many Men: Sex Ratio Effects on Savings, Borrowing, and Spending” will be published this month in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. Co-authors of the study include Joshua Tybur (VU University Amsterdam), Joshua M. Ackerman (M.I.T.), Andrew Delton and Theresa Robertson (University of California, Santa Barbara), and Andrew E. White (Arizona State University).

Sex Ratios Affect Expectations of Women

While sex ratios do not influence the financial choices women make, they do shape women’s expectations of how men should spend their money when courting. After reading a news article informing women that there are more men than women, women expected men to spend more on dinner dates, Valentine’s gifts, and engagement rings.

“When there’s a scarcity of women, women felt men should go out of their way to court them,” adds Griskevicius.

In a male-biased environment, men also expected they would need to spend more in their mating efforts.

Population Data Supports Research Findings

In addition to conducting laboratory experiments, the researchers reviewed archival data and calculated the sex ratios of more than 120 U.S. cities. Consistent with their hypothesis, communities with an abundance of single men showed greater ownership of credit cards and had higher debt levels.

One striking example was found in two communities located less than 100 miles apart. In Columbus, Ga., where there are 1.18 single men for every single woman, the average consumer debt was \$3,479 higher than it was in Macon, Ga., where there were 0.78 single men for every woman.

Research Implications for Marketers and Society

Whereas previous research has found that merely seeing an attractive woman in advertising would make a man more aggressive or make a man more interested in conspicuously consuming, “The Financial Consequences of Too Many Men” study suggests it may not be that simple. According to the findings, whether a woman is alone or surrounded by many or few men can have a great impact on the reaction it elicits.

Griskevicius says the effects of sex ratios go beyond marketing and influence all sorts of behavior. He cites other studies showing the strong correlation between male-biased sex ratios and aggressive behavior.

“We’re just scratching the tip of the iceberg when it comes to financial behavior,” says Griskevicius. “One of the troubling implications of sex ratios for the world in general is that it’s about more than just money. It’s about violence and survival.”

About the Carlson School of Management

Established in 1919 and based in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota is a recognized leader in business education and research. Its focus on experiential learning, international education and maintaining strong ties to the business community exemplify the school’s commitment to excellence. More information about the school can be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu.



U of M Board of Regents Litigation Review Committee to meet Tuesday, Jan. 17

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/12/2012) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents Litigation Review Committee will hold a nonpublic meeting at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17 in Room 600, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. The meeting will address attorney-client privileged matters regarding Carol Bruzzone.



U of M, Twin Cities to test campus wide emergency alert system Friday, Jan. 13

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/12/2012) —The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities will be testing the Campus Wide Emergency Alert system beginning at 8 a.m. Friday, Jan. 13. Testing will end by 4 p.m.

The Campus Wide Emergency Alert System includes 21 outdoor loudspeakers mounted on poles and rooftops on the West Bank and East Bank and in St. Paul. The system will allow for an alert tone and vocal instructions in the event of a campus emergency.

In the test, the loudspeakers will broadcast an audible alert tone, followed by a voice message stating "Attention! This is a test of the University of Minnesota Campus-Wide Emergency Alert System. This is only a test."

Each test should last only 30 seconds or so, but may last longer if necessary.

African American Women Chemists' author book signing is Jan. 18 at the U

Jeannette Brown was the first African American to receive a degree from the University's chemistry graduate program

Media Note: To schedule an interview with Jeannette Brown, contact Rhonda Zurn at rzurn@umn.edu or (612) 626-7959.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/13/2012) —University of Minnesota chemistry alumna Jeannette Brown will present a brief lecture and sign her book “African American Women Chemists” at a special book signing event from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, in the University Bookstore, Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Two meet-and-greet events are also planned with Brown: 2:30-3:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 17 in Kolthoff Hall, Room 568A, 225 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis and 1:30-3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18, in the Black Student Union, on the second floor of Coffman Union.

In 1958, Brown was the first African American to receive a master's degree from the University of Minnesota Department of Chemistry's graduate program.

In her book, Brown profiles the lives and accomplishments of 25 chemists, from the earliest pioneers to the late 1960s—a time when an explosion of career opportunities opened up to African Americans due to the passage of the Civil Rights Acts. Each mini-biography is a thorough account of the chemist's passion for the field, what inspired her, and what she accomplished in her career. Brown rounds out this study with a narrative of her own life and achievements and a look at what's in store for the future of African American female chemists.

For 25 years, Brown worked as a research chemist at Merck & Co. Inc. She is an advocate for science education, and is passionate about serving as a mentor to and role model for underrepresented students. She was honored by the University of Minnesota with an Outstanding Achievement Award in 2005.

EPA administrator to visit the University of Minnesota

Jackson will address the latest national environmental policies and challenges to environmental laws

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/13/2012) —Lisa P. Jackson, administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will visit the University of Minnesota at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, January 17, at Coffman Memorial Union. Administrator Jackson will address the role of science in decision making protecting our health, and promoting a healthy economy, as well as recent challenges to national environmental laws.

Professor Deb Swackhamer will moderate the discussion. The conversation will be hosted by the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs' Center for Science, Technology, and Public Policy; Water Resources Center; the Institute on the Environment; the Consortium for Law and Values; and the School of Public Health.

The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required by Monday, January 16, at <http://jacksonumn.eventbrite.com>. Space is limited and doors will close promptly at 11 a.m. If you are unable to attend in person, you may view the conversation online at <http://www.livestream.com/umntv>. It also will be recorded for future viewing. Parking is available for a fee behind Coffman Memorial Union in the East River Parkway Garage.

Lisa P. Jackson was appointed by President Obama as EPA Administrator in 2009. Jackson oversees a staff of more than 18,000 professionals who work across the nation to usher in a green economy; address health threats from pollution in our air, water, and land; and renew the public's trust in the agency's work. As a scientist herself, Jackson has vowed that EPA's efforts will use the best science as "the backbone" for EPA programs. She has been featured on Time magazine's 2010 and 2011 lists of the "100 Most Influential People in the World."

Professor Deborah Swackhamer is the Denny Chair in Science, Technology, and Public Policy and co-director of the University of Minnesota's Water Resources Center. She also is a professor of Environmental Health Sciences in School of Public Health. She currently serves as chair of the EPA's Chartered Science Advisory Board.

The University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs ranks among the top professional schools of public affairs at public universities in the country. The School is widely recognized for its role in examining public issues and shaping policy and planning at the local, state, national, and international levels, as well as for providing leadership and management expertise to public and nonprofit organizations. The School offers five graduate degrees, including a master of development practice degree in international development that welcomed its first cohort in August 2010.

The Center for Science, Technology, and Public Policy (CSTPP)'s mission is to improve people's lives by advancing the application of science and technology to solve public problems. CSTPP explores the increasingly important role that science and technology plays in society and examines its implications for public policy at the international, national, and state levels. Their aim is to increase civic understanding of the connections between science and policy through outreach and research, and has helped to influence improvements in regulation and innovation.

University of Minnesota biologists replicate key evolutionary step

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/17/2012) —More than 500 million years ago, single-celled organisms on the Earth's surface began forming multicellular clusters that ultimately became plants and animals. Just how that happened is a question that has eluded evolutionary biologists.

But scientists in the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences have replicated that key step in the laboratory using natural selection and common brewer's yeast, which are single-celled organisms. The yeast "evolved" into multicellular clusters that work together cooperatively, reproduce and adapt to their environment – in essence, precursors to life on Earth as it is today.

Their achievement is published in the January 16 issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

It all started about two years ago with a casual comment over coffee that bridging the famous multicellularity gap would be "just about the coolest thing we could do," recall postdoctoral researcher Will Ratcliff and associate professor Michael Travisano, both from the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior.

So they decided to give it a try. Then came the big surprise. It wasn't actually that difficult. Using yeast cells, culture media and a centrifuge, it only took them one experiment conducted over about 60 days, says Travisano, who is senior author on the PNAS paper.

"I don't think anyone had ever tried it before," says lead author Ratcliff. "There aren't many scientists doing experimental evolution, and they're trying to answer questions about evolution, not recreate it."

Despite their modesty, the achievement has earned praise and admiration from evolutionary biologists around the world.

"To understand why the world is full of plants and animals, including humans, we need to know how one-celled organisms made the switch to living as a group, as multicelled organisms," said Sam Scheiner, program director in the National Science Foundation (NSF)'s Division of Environmental Biology. "This study is the first to experimentally observe that transition, providing a look at an event that took place hundreds of millions of years ago."

Funding for the research was obtained in February 2011, with coauthors R. Ford Denison and Mark Borrello, adjunct and associate professors, respectively, in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior.

Ratcliff and Travisano gave the scientific community a glimpse of their discovery at a conference last summer and have subsequently been invited to talk about it at other meetings. The PNAS article represents the first time full details about the research have been disclosed. "The article provides us with the first opportunity to show the breadth of evolutionary change that we've observed," Travisano says.

In essence, here's how the experiments worked. The two chose brewer's yeast or *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, a species of yeast used since ancient times to make bread and beer, because it is abundant in nature and grows easily. They added it to a nutrient-rich culture media and allowed the cells to grow for a day in test tubes. Then they used a centrifuge to stratify the contents by weight. As the mixture settled, cell clusters landed on the bottom of the tubes faster because they are heavier. They removed the clusters, transferred them to fresh media, and grew them up again. Sixty cycles later, the clusters – now hundreds of cells – looked roughly like spherical snowflakes.

Analysis showed that the clusters were not just groups of random cells that adhered to each other, but related cells that remained attached following cell division. That was significant because it meant they were genetically similar, which promotes cooperation. When the clusters reached a critical size, some cells essentially committed suicide (apoptosis) to allow offspring to separate. The offspring reproduced only after they attained the size of their parents.

"A cluster alone isn't multiellular," Ratcliff said. "But when cells in a cluster cooperate, make sacrifices for the common good, and adapt to change, that's an evolutionary transition to multicellularity."

In order for multicellular organisms to form, most cells need to sacrifice their ability to reproduce, an altruistic action that favors the whole but not the individual, Ratcliff said. For example, all cells in the human body are essentially a support system that allows sperm and eggs to pass DNA along to the next generation. Thus, multicellularity is by its nature extremely cooperative. "Some of the best competitors in nature are those that engage in cooperation, and our experiment bears that out," said Travisano.

Evolutionary biologists have estimated that multicellularity evolved independently in about 25 groups. Travisano and Ratcliff wonder why it didn't evolve more often in nature, since it's not that difficult to recreate it in a lab. Considering that trillions of one-celled organisms lived on the Earth for millions of years, it seems as if it should have, Ratcliff said.

Maybe that's a question they will answer in the future, using the fossil record for thousands of generations of their multicellular clusters, which is stored in a freezer in Travisano's lab. Since the frozen samples contain multiple lines that independently became multicellular, they can compare them to learn if similar or different mechanisms and genes were responsible in each case, Travisano said.

The research duo's next steps will be to look at the role of multicellularity in cancer, aging and other critical areas of biology.

"Our multicellular yeast are a valuable resource for investigating a wide variety of medically and biologically important topics," Travisano said. "Cancer was recently described as a fossil from the origin of multicellularity, which can be directly investigated with the yeast system. Similarly the origins of aging, development, and the evolution of complex morphologies are open to direct experimental investigation that would otherwise be difficult or impossible."

Travisano joined the College of Biological Sciences faculty in 2007. The multicellularity discovery adds to his record of "firsts" in experimental evolution over the past 25 years. Before joining the Travisano lab group, Ratcliff earned his Ph.D. at the College of Biological Sciences, with Denison as his adviser. Ratcliff has become something of a rock star on the academic conference circuit, and he won the W.D. Hamilton Award for best student presentation at Evolution 2011, the premier conference for evolutionary biologists.

University of Minnesota, Crookston Chancellor Charles H. Casey announces retirement

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/17/2012) —University of Minnesota, Crookston, Chancellor Charles H. Casey, D.V.M., plans to retire at the end of the 2011–12 academic year. Casey has been UMC chancellor since September 2005 and has held other University leadership roles over nearly 35 years, including serving as a member of the Board of Regents and as dean and director of University of Minnesota Extension.

Casey, whose last day as chancellor will be June 30, 2012, made the announcement during his “state of the campus” address to the UMC community. He expressed pride in the growth of the campus during his tenure, citing accomplishments such as new programs, gains in enrollment and diversity, strategic facility investments, and completion of a comprehensive strategic plan.

“This is the right time for me to step down after a long and satisfying career,” said Casey. This is a time of significant challenges for higher education, but by most measures, the University of Minnesota, Crookston is thriving and well positioned for further growth. I have great confidence in the future under the leadership of University President Eric Kaler.”

Casey added, “I will always be grateful for the support I’ve received. The faculty and staff of the University of Minnesota, Crookston are incredibly talented and committed to the campus as well as to the success of our students.”

University Senior Vice President Robert J. Jones, who with Kaler oversees the university’s four coordinate campuses, said Tuesday that plans for a national search for Casey’s replacement will be announced soon, with the goal of having a new chancellor on board at Casey’s departure.

“Chancellor Casey has been an exceptional leader for the Crookston campus and for the greater university,” said Jones, who was on campus for Casey’s address. “He has steered the campus to a new level of excellence as a teaching and applied research hub for northwestern Minnesota.”

“Chuck’s contributions to the entire University and state have been significant, including his leadership for UMC, Extension, and on the Board of Regents,” said Kaler. “I thank him for his exemplary service and look forward to working with him to ensure a smooth transition for the Crookston campus.”

During Casey’s tenure, the campus added several new degree programs, including bachelor’s degrees in biology, criminal justice, environmental sciences, marketing and software engineering. The number of online degree programs, and student enrollment in such programs, expanded significantly, with an emphasis on high-quality educational services for nontraditional or continuing students, community organizations and the workforce. In 2009 the campus also became home to an online-learning support and referral center serving the entire university system.

The Crookston campus saw significant enrollment gains, including four consecutive years of record high enrollment. The number of degree-seeking students hit an all-time record of 1,600 for fall semester 2011, a 52 percent enrollment increase over the six-year period from 2005 to 2011. Two new residence halls, Centennial Hall (2006) and Evergreen Hall (2009), were built to accommodate the influx of students. Casey said that securing approval from the Board of Regents for construction of an additional residence hall will be a priority during his final semester as chancellor.

The diversity of the UMC student body also grew under Casey’s leadership, with increased enrollment of both students of color and international students. In fall 2011, students of color represented approximately 11 percent of the student body, compared with 8 percent prior to Casey’s arrival in 2005. International students were 9 percent of the student body in 2011, compared with just under 3 percent. Agreements that Casey signed with schools in Korea and China accounted for much of the international growth; overall, UMC now welcomes students from 30 countries and 40 states.

Casey, who holds a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from the University of Minnesota, was a two-term member of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, from 1979 to 1991 (from 1989 to 1991 as chair). Prior to his appointment as chancellor, he served six and a half years as dean and director of University of Minnesota Extension; before that, he spent seven years as director of outreach services for the University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. He was the vice chair of the North Central Extension Directors and served on the University of Minnesota Foundation Board, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute Advisory Board, and the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development Board.

Early in his career, Casey served as a captain in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps, worked for 27 years as a practitioner in rural veterinary medicine, and was a partner in the Dodge Veterinary Clinic in West Concord and Dodge Center, Minnesota. He is a lifetime member of both the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association. He has served on a number of local volunteer organizations.

He is a member of Phi Zeta Honor Society of Veterinary Medicine and Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture. His awards include the Outstanding Achievement Award from the University of Minnesota, Director’s Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota Extension Service, Torch & Shield Award from the University of Minnesota, Crookston, and Minnesota Veterinarian of the Year.

Casey is married to Barbara Muesing and has three adult children and three grandchildren.

University of Minnesota response to Gov. Dayton's proposed 2012 bonding bill

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/17/2012) —University of Minnesota officials have reviewed Governor Dayton's 2012 Capital Budget Recommendations as they relate to the U's capital bonding request.

"Governor Dayton has been a vocal and tireless advocate for the University of Minnesota, and we are thankful for his support. We realize the challenge Governor Dayton faces when weighing the many worthy statewide capital projects. While Governor Dayton's bonding recommendations for the University of Minnesota fall short of our request, University of Minnesota leadership looks forward to working with him and the Legislature on funding important building and infrastructure projects that will create jobs and enhance the educational experience for University of Minnesota students," said Kathleen O'Brien, vice president, University Services.

The university is requesting \$209 million in this year's bonding bill. Dayton's proposal funds \$107 million of that request, including the Combined Heat and Power Plant and improvements to the Itasca Biological Station. The governor's recommendation provides \$20 million of the \$90 million university officials requested for maintenance of existing facilities, known as HEAPR (Higher Education Asset Preservation and Renovation).

"While we are grateful for Governor Dayton's support of these projects, we are disappointed in the greatly diminished level of funding for HEAPR," said O'Brien. "Given that the U manages 29 million square feet of property statewide and more than 70 percent of our facilities are more than 30 years old, we are deeply concerned about our ability to properly steward our investment at the governor's recommended level of funding.

"These and other elements of the University of Minnesota's bonding request represent shovel-ready projects that will advance the academic, research, and public engagement mission of the institution while creating more than 4,000 jobs for Minnesotans."

More information on the University of Minnesota's 2012 capital bonding request can be found at www.umn.edu/urelate/govrel.

Vice President O'Brien is available for interviews. Contact Tim Busse, (612) 624-2863 or busse006@umn.edu.



Statement from Board of Regents Chair Linda Cohen

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/17/2012) —"Steve Sviggum has a long and distinguished record of public service in the Legislature. The announcement that he has been appointed to a senior staff position with the majority caucus in the Minnesota Senate reflects his desire to continue public service to the citizens of Minnesota.

The University's Charter, later codified in the Minnesota Constitution, created the Board of Regents to be an independent, non-partisan governing body that acts strictly in the best interest of the University of Minnesota. The Board has a long history of performing its role with integrity to uphold this principle, and we will continue to do so.

Although the Board's Code of Ethics does not anticipate this exact circumstance, it is the Board's duty to evaluate whether Regent Sviggum's new employment at the Legislature could present a conflict of interest with his obligations as a Regent. The Board will carefully consider this situation under the terms of its Code of Ethics and determine what steps are necessary to take in the best interest of the Board and the University."

U of M announces hires in Office for Equity and Diversity

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/18/2012) —The U of M today announced two new hires, Frederic MacDonald-Dennis as director of the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence and Matthew Antonio Bosch as director of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Ally Programs Office within the Office for Equity and Diversity (OED).

"Frederic and Matthew Antonio each bring a wealth of experience to the University of Minnesota--not only through their previous positions, but as community activists and educators committed to social change. These are important appointments within the Office for Equity and Diversity, and as advocates for equity in higher education, both Frederic and Matthew Antonio will be tremendous assets to the University and external communities," said Rickey Hall, assistant vice president in OED.

Most recently, MacDonald-Dennis was interim director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Haverford College. He has also been associate dean of students and director of residence life at the Art Institute of Philadelphia, and director of the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs at the University of Michigan. He earned B.A. and M.A. degrees at the University of Alabama.

Most recently, Bosch served as the chief diversity officer at North Hennepin Community College and as the coordinator (a volunteer position) of state divisions for the American College Personnel Association. A Latino hailing from New York City, Bosch has immersed himself in local communities as an active nonprofit volunteer, a member of the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus and a member of numerous LGBTQ sports teams. He earned a B.A. from Cornell University and an Ed.M. from Harvard University.

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler has made equity and diversity a priority for the university. These new hires are part of moving this priority forward. The mission of the OED is to infuse the core values of equity and diversity into all aspects of teaching, learning, research, service and outreach throughout the statewide University of Minnesota system.



Joint statement from U of M Board of Regents Chair Linda Cohen and university General Counsel Mark Rotenberg

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/18/2012) —"It is important to clarify media reports relating to Regent Steve Sviggum's decision to accept a senior staff role with the majority caucus of the Minnesota Senate.

"Regent Sviggum did not discuss the job or consult about it with either the chair or vice chair of the Board of Regents prior to taking the position. Nor did Regent Sviggum discuss taking this position with the university general counsel or seek his advice about doing so.

"The general counsel will be providing legal advice to the board as it considers this situation under the terms of its Code of Ethics and determines what steps are necessary to take in the best interests of the board and the university."



U of M, Twin Cities to test campus wide emergency alert system Friday, Jan. 20

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/19/2012) —The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities will be testing the Campus Wide Emergency Alert System beginning at 8 a.m. Friday, Jan. 20 . Testing will end by 4 p.m.

The Campus Wide Emergency Alert System includes 21 outdoor loudspeakers mounted on poles and rooftops on the West Bank and East Bank and in St. Paul. The system will allow for an alert tone and vocal instructions in the event of a campus emergency.

In the test, the loudspeakers will broadcast an audible alert tone, followed by a voice message stating "Attention! This is a test of the University of Minnesota Campus-Wide Emergency Alert System. This is only a test."

Each test should last only 30 seconds or so, but may last longer if necessary.

Ezekiel Emanuel, instrumental in drafting the Affordable Care Act, to give Deinard Memorial Lecture Jan. 25

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January 19, 2012

Ezekiel Emanuel, a former health care adviser to President Obama, will give an insider's view of the future—and cost—of American medicine and how the Affordable Care Act will affect the delivery of care on Wednesday, Jan. 25, in the Cowles Auditorium of the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Former health care advisor for the Office of Management and Budget, a prominent bioethicist and chair of the Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy at the University of Pennsylvania, Emanuel will give the annual Deinard Memorial Lecture on Law & Medicine.

Stephen Parente, director of the Medical Industry Leadership Institute at the U's Carlson School of Management, will provide comments and a counterpoint after the lecture.

Emanuel speaks from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and Parente from 12:15 p.m. to 12:25 p.m. Both speakers are followed by a moderated Q&A session.

You can read a series of Emanuel's recent opinion pieces about health care costs on his New York Times [blog](#).

The Deinard lecture is co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences and the Center for Bioethics, and is thanks to the family of Amos S. Deinard, Sr. and the law firm Leonard, Street and Deinard.

University of Minnesota unveils 'Driven to Discover' video contest winners

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/23/2012) —The University of Minnesota today unveiled the winners of its “Driven to Discover” student video contest. The contest awarded \$30,000 in scholarship assistance to 16 students who received the top number of “likes” on the official University of Minnesota Facebook page for their respective 30-second videos showing what they are “Driven to Discover.”

The top two most “liked” videos for this contest were submitted by Shawn Zwonar and Robert Nordstrom. They each will be awarded \$5,000. Zwonar and Nordstrom’s winning videos, along with the 14 other winners, can be viewed at <http://discover.umn.edu/contest/winners.html>.

The video contest is a facet of the university’s “Driven to Discover” marketing campaign, which highlights the distinct experience students receive when they attend the U of M. This experience includes exposure to world-class faculty and a wide array of learning opportunities to make their own self-discoveries, be they new solar systems, cures for diseases or an untold form of dance.

“I’m impressed with the skill and originality U of M students showcased in their video submissions,” said Bob McMaster, vice provost and dean of undergraduate education. “These students only reflect a few of the thousands of talented and enthusiastic U of M undergraduates who are driven to discover great things each semester.”

Prizewinners are:

\$5,000

Shawn Zwonar (Edison, N.J.)

Robert Nordstrom (Eden Prairie, Minn.)

\$2,500

Meghan Palmer (Dallas, Texas)

Annie Favreau (Plymouth, Minn.)

Ryan Goltz (South Milwaukee, Wis.)

Nicholas Hallett (Byron, Minn.)

\$1,000

Daniel Worku (St. Paul, Minn.)

Brian Butterfield (Rochester, Minn.)

Rachel Nelson (Big Lake, Minn.)

Baylen N Wagner (North Prairie, Wis.)

Nicole Huo (Minneapolis, Minn.)

Michael Garlinghouse (Maple Plain, Minn.)

Joel Valdez (Janesville, Wis.)

Nathan Wong (Moorhead, Minn.)

Adam Hoffman (White Bear Lake, Minn.)

Kevin Nguenkam (Douala, Cameroon)

U of M announces 2012 Imagine Fund Annual Award and Special Events winners

More than 150 faculty members receive more than \$800,000 to support arts, design and humanities systemwide

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/23/2012) —The University of Minnesota has chosen the more than 150 recipients of its 2012 Imagine Fund Annual Awards and Special Events Grants.

Supported by a grant from the McKnight Foundation, the Imagine Fund is a unique systemwide program that supports projects in the arts, humanities and design at the University of Minnesota.

“These disciplines at the University of Minnesota advance rigorous ways of thinking about the changing world, and on behalf of the entire Imagine Fund committee, I want to thank all of the applicants, as well as the university and outgoing Provost Tom Sullivan, for their steadfast commitment to the arts, humanities and design,” said professor Renee Cheng, chair of the U of M Imagine Fund Awards Committee and head of the School of Architecture. “The work these awards and grants fund will go a long way toward advancing critical, creative thinking and scholarship.”

The Imagine Fund annual awards support a variety of faculty activities, ranging from the development of unique teaching materials to new research directions for established scholars, creative works and performances. Imagine funded Special Events often connect the U to its larger community, promoting discussion on difficult topics such as migration and culture or hosting public events that add vibrancy to communities across Minnesota.

More information on the Imagine Fund can be found online here: <http://z.umn.edu/imaginefund>. A complete listing of the 2012 Annual Award winners and Special Events Grant recipients, is available at <http://z.umn.edu/annualaward> and <http://z.umn.edu/specialevents> respectively.

Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota named 'Institute of the Year'

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/23/2012) —The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota was named a 2011 Confucius Institute of the Year by the Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters. Qijie Li, assistant director, accepted the honor on behalf of the institute at a ceremony in Beijing, China, in December.

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota was one of just four U.S. Confucius Institutes that received the award. Hanban supports nearly 400 Confucius Institutes worldwide and awarded 30 Institute of the Year honors in 2011.

“We are honored by this award and delighted that Hanban has chosen to recognize the good work of the Confucius Institute, the Confucius Classrooms and the Mandarin programs in Minnesota’s schools,” said Confucius Institute Director Joan Brzezinski. “We look forward to our continued collaboration with schools, administrators, students and teachers to bring Chinese language and culture to Minnesota.”

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 was honored for its commitment to promoting Chinese language and cultural teaching programs among students from preschool to 12th grade. The institute was recognized for its efforts in increasing the number of students learning Chinese in Minnesota. That number has doubled since 2008, when the institute opened. The institute was also spotlighted for organizing and administering the Youth Chinese Test in Minnesota’s Mandarin immersion schools, which achieved a 100 percent passing rate for levels one and three in 2011.

“The Institute [at the University of Minnesota] has accumulated unique and successful experience in developing and managing Confucius Classrooms [grants] and provides a brand new perspective in teaching Chinese language for children,” said the Hanban on its website.

The Institute provides language- and culture-learning opportunities for elementary students, high school students and business professionals, professional development and networking opportunities for educators. Its resource center houses an extensive collection of Chinese language textbooks and supplementary materials, including workbooks, CDs, software and flashcards that are available to the public. There is also a selection of Chinese films, television programs and serials and many bilingual books about Chinese culture on topics such as Chinese cities, cooking, literature, travel and philosophy. Spring Chinese language classes will begin in February.

Learn more about the Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota by visiting <http://confucius.umn.edu>

U of M President Kaler to hold legislative priorities briefing for media Jan. 27

What: U of M legislative priorities 2012 briefing

When: 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 27

Where: Room 125, State Capitol

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January 23, 2012

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will provide media an overview of the university's 2012 legislative priorities, in particular the \$209 million capital request, at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 27, in Room 125 of the State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul.

Kaler will be joined by Jason Rohloff, the university's new special assistant to the president for government relations. In this role, Rohloff will lead the university's local, state and federal government relations program and grassroots advocacy efforts.

If passed by the Legislature, the capital request would enable the university to preserve its current infrastructure and construct new facilities to meet growing demands—work that is estimated to create more than 4,000 jobs for Minnesotans. This state investment would also advance the university's goals to increase access and excellence at the University of Minnesota.

For more information about the university's 2012 capital bonding request, see www.umn.edu/urelate/govrel.

U of M survey: Minnesotans predict higher leisure travel spending in 2012

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/23/2012) —A majority of the state's residents spend their leisure time in Minnesota, and 78 percent said they plan to spend as much or more money on leisure travel in 2012 compared to 2011, a new survey by the University of Minnesota Tourism Center reveals.

Among respondents surveyed during the fourth quarter of 2011, a majority (54 percent) said they plan to spend the same amount of money on leisure travel in 2012 compared to 2011, while 24 percent said they plan to spend more. Previous visitor research indicates travelers spend nearly equal amounts on shopping, recreation and food.

"This demonstrates that travel and tourism-dependent communities and businesses can be optimistic for 2012," said Ingrid Schneider, director of the U of M Tourism Center. "Traveler dollars flow through economies at all levels, and tourism attractions and opportunities add to Minnesotans' quality of life."

Beyond their own leisure spending, nearly 70 percent of respondents said they view tourism as "important" to their local economy. This is a first-ever focus on importance to the local economy.

Previous Tourism Center surveys found that 99 percent of Minnesotans saw tourism as "important" or "very important" to the state's economy. "These numbers indicate that travel continues to be an important part of consumer behavior," said John Edman, director of Explore Minnesota Tourism. "Travel means huge dollars for every region of our state."

The tourism industry generates \$11.3 billion in leisure and hospitality sales in Minnesota, including \$732 million in sales tax, and accounts for close to 250,000 jobs, according to Explore Minnesota Tourism.

The research study was supported by the Carlson Chair of Hospitality, Travel and Tourism, and was conducted as part of the 2011 Minnesota State Survey by the Minnesota Center for Survey Research. More than 800 telephone interviews were conducted with state residents aged 18 or older from October to December 2011. The margin of error was 3.5 percent.

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 tourism research and Extension programs, visit www.tourism.umn.edu.

U of M President Kaler to visit Hutchinson Jan. 26

Who: U of M President Eric Kaler

What: Community visits in Hutchinson

When: Thursday, Jan. 26

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January 24, 2012

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler, joined by U of M Extension Dean Bev Durgan, will visit Hutchinson this Thursday, Jan. 26, to meet with community leaders, Extension staff working in the McLeod County area and the Hutchinson Leader editorial board.

The university's roots in the Hutchinson area run deep. This semester, 206 university students hail from Hutchinson, and nearly 800 alumni, accounting for nearly 1,000 degrees, live and work there. In addition, former U of M basketball all-star Lindsay Whalen is a native of Hutchinson.

The president's public events:

12 noon Remarks and Q&A at the Hutchinson Rotary luncheon. Kaler will be introduced by Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Judge G. Barry Anderson, a U of M Law School graduate.

Crow River Golf Club
915 Colorado St. N.W.

2 p.m. Remarks and Q&A at a Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce event. Kaler will again be introduced by Judge Anderson.

Victorian Inn (Best Western)
1000 Highway 7

Deputy Secretary of Energy Poneman and Sen. Franken to tour U of M wind energy research station at UMore Park Friday, Jan. 27

Who: Sen. Al Franken, Deputy Energy Secretary Daniel Poneman and University of Minnesota Professor Fotis Sotiropoulos

What: Tour of University of Minnesota wind energy research station and press availability

When: 11 am., Friday, Jan. 27

Where: UMore Park Contracts and Leasing Building, 15325 Babcock Ave. East, Rosemount

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Rhonda Zurn, College of Science and Engineering, rzurn@umn.edu, (612) 626-7959

[Kristin Anderson](#), University News Service, kma@umn.edu, (612) 624-1690

January 26, 2012

Deputy Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman and Sen. Al Franken will tour the University of Minnesota wind energy research station at UMore Park at 11 am Friday, Jan. 27. Fotis Sotiropoulos, director for the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory and civil engineering professor, will host the tour, showcasing cutting-edge academic research and industry partnerships related to wind energy.

Earlier this week in his State of the Union address, President Obama highlighted the importance of investing in clean energy technology to create jobs and secure America's economic future.

The Wind Energy Research Station includes a 415-foot, 2.5 megawatt wind turbine and a 426-foot meteorological research tower. The facility is equipped with state-of-the-art instruments and sensors to simultaneously measure the approach wind fields and the impact they have on the turbine structural reliability and wind energy capturing ability.

Poneman, Franken and Sotiropoulos will hold a brief press availability at 11:45 am.

About the Wind Energy Research Consortium

The University of Minnesota was one of only three university consortia to be awarded a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) wind energy research grant in 2009. The \$7.9 million award to the University's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory in the College of Science and Engineering, funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), supports an academy-industry consortium focused on wind energy research and education activities. It also includes construction of the U.S.-made 2.5 megawatt Clipper Liberty wind turbine. The Wind Energy Research Station will host not only active consortium research, but also education and training of next generation wind industry workers.

The consortium has stimulated new educational initiatives and helped establish collaborative research projects that are helping accelerate the development of new wind power technologies. Ongoing research projects deal with capturing more energy from the wind, improving wind farm design, minimizing turbine impact on radar, reducing turbine noise, preventing ice build-up on blades, monitoring turbine performance, and improving turbine blade structure.

Consortium partners are the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, the Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power, Syracuse University, Dakota County Technical College, Mesabi Range Community and Technical College, 3M, Barr Engineering, Clipper Windpower LLC., United Technologies Research Center, Lockheed Martin, Micron Optics, Ryan Companies, WindLogics, Xcel Energy, Sandia National Laboratories, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. The University of Minnesota's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE) and UMore Park provided early-stage research funding to support consortium collaborations.

For more information about the Wind Energy Research Consortium, visit www.eolos.umn.edu.

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

Contacts: [Jeff Falk](#), University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

January 27, 2012

The University of Minnesota will hold its annual Legislative Briefing from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 1, at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, Minneapolis.

The Legislative Briefing brings together alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the university to rally behind the U's legislative priorities. The event will include remarks from university President Eric Kaler.

Participants will be encouraged to increase their grassroots advocacy efforts on behalf of the U throughout the legislative session. New this year, university students from around the state will interact with event attendees and share advocacy methods via Facebook, Twitter and through the U's Support the U website (supporttheu.umn.edu).

The event is expected to draw more than 600 people. Advocates may participate in the briefing via live webcast at z.umn.edu/watchlive. Registration is open for online participation through Jan. 29.

The 2012 Legislative Briefing is sponsored in part by the University of Minnesota Alumni Association.

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a membership organization that has advocated for the university's work for more than a century. For more information, go to www.MinnesotaAlumni.org or call (800) 862-5867.

For more information about U of M advocacy programs or other initiatives, see supporttheu.umn.edu.

University of
 Minnesota
 School of
 Music
 presents
 Grammy-
 winning
 Parker
 Quartet Feb.
 8



Contacts: Lisa
 Marshall, School of
 Music,

Hailed as extraordinary by the New York Times, the Grammy Award-winning The Parker Quartet visits as part of the U of M School of Music's Creative Instructional Residency Initiative program.

marsh396@umn.edu, (612) 626-1094

[Jeff Falk](mailto:jfalk@umn.edu), University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/30/2012) —The University of Minnesota School of Music presents the Parker Quartet in concert at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8 in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. S., Minneapolis. The concert is free and open to the public.

Paid parking is available in the university's 19th Ave. and 21st Ave. parking ramps.

Hailed by the New York Times as extraordinary, the Grammy Award-winning Parker Quartet visits as part of the School of Music's Creative Instructional Residency Initiative program.

The Parker Quartet has distinguished itself as one of the preeminent ensembles of its generation. The quartet began its professional touring career in 2002 and garnered international acclaim in 2005, winning the Concert Artists Guild Competition as well as the Grand Prix and Mozart Prize at the Bordeaux International String Quartet Competition in France. In 2009 Chamber Music America awarded the quartet the prestigious biennial Cleveland Quartet Award for the 2009-2011 seasons.

The Parker Quartet has been profiled in Time Out NY, the Boston Globe, Chamber Music Magazine and on Musical America.com for their performances in nontraditional venues. In addition to concerts in bars and clubs nationwide, the ensemble was the first string quartet-in-residence at Barbès Bar and Performance Space in Brooklyn, New York, in 2007. The residency embraced a series of collaborative concerts with artists of various genres, including jazz, folk and world music. The Parker Quartet served as quartet-in-residence with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra from 2008 through 2010 and were the first-ever artists-in-residence with Minnesota Public Radio for the 2009-2010 season. This year they will work with chamber music students at the University of Minnesota.

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 550 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.

"Conservation Madness" encourages U of M students to reduce waste, energy use and water consumption

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January 30, 2012

Students are being encouraged to think about their environmental footprint this coming month by participating in the University of Minnesota's office of Housing and Residential Life and Facilities Management's second annual "Conservation Madness" contest.

Residence halls will compete throughout the month of February to reduce their waste, energy use and water consumption. The hall with the largest combined percentage reduction in all three categories will be awarded a college basketball national championship pizza party on April 2.

In 2011's two-week long competition, Comstock Hall reduced its electrical consumption by 6.45 percent – a similar percentage reduction of electricity in residence halls campus wide would save \$85,000 over the course of a year.

Housing and Residential Life will also introduce the university's first Green Resident Certification program as part of Conservation Madness. Residents who complete the Green Resident Certification Pledge (www.housing.umn.edu/sustainability) by Wednesday, Feb. 1, will be awarded "It All Adds Up" t-shirts. The pledge asks students to incorporate sustainable actions, such as taking shorter showers and using public transportation, into their campus life.

Additional contest details are available at www.umn.edu/italladdsup/madness.

U of M President Kaler to speak at APEX annual meeting in Duluth Jan. 31

Who: U of M President Eric Kaler

What: Speech at APEX annual meeting in Duluth

When: 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31

Contacts: [Jeff Falk](#), University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

January 30, 2012

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler, joined by U of M, Duluth Chancellor Lendley Black and his leadership team, will attend the APEX annual meeting in Duluth on Tuesday, Jan. 31. APEX is a private sector-led business development organization for northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin.

The meeting takes place at the Kitchi Gammi Club, 831 E. Superior St., Duluth, and Kaler will address the gathering at 4 p.m.

Kaler's address will focus on the strengths of UMD, the strengths of the entire University of Minnesota system, the role the U plays in developing talent for all regions of the state and the university's legislative agenda.

This is Kaler's second visit to Duluth since taking office in July 2011.

For more information about Kaler, visit the President's Office website, www.umn.edu/president.

U of M announces finalist interviews for dean of the Carlson School of Management

Public interviews will begin today

Contacts: [Jeff Falk](#), University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/30/2012) —University of Minnesota Provost-designate Karen Hanson has announced the schedule of the public interviews for finalists for the new dean of the Carlson School of Management. The public interviews will begin today, Monday, Jan. 30.

The new dean will lead a school nationally recognized for its rich history of preparing and educating the world's current and future business leaders. Established in 1919, the Carlson School has a special focus on experiential learning, international education and maintaining strong ties to the business community.

"President Kaler and I are thankful to the search committee for fielding a rich and diverse group of finalists," Hanson said. "We encourage the university community as well as our friends and partners in Minnesota's business community to attend the interview forums and join us in support of the continuation and expansion of the Carlson School's excellence in teaching and research."

The identity of candidates will be made public approximately 48 hours prior to the start of their public interview, along with their interview schedule, CV, application letter and link to a live webcast or video file of their public presentation.

Each candidate will make a public presentation in the Carlson School's 3M Auditorium, 321 - 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, followed by open Q&A and public greeting of attendees. All interview and candidate-related information can be viewed at the dean search webpage, www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/about/dean-search/index.html.

The following sets of dates have been held for public interview of proposed finalist candidates:

Jan. 30-31

Randall S. Peterson, deputy dean of faculty and professor of organisational behavior, London Business School

Public presentation: Monday, Jan. 30, 2 to 3:15 pm

Candidate 2: Feb. 2-3

Public presentation: Thursday, Feb. 2, 3 to 4:15 pm

Candidate 3: Feb. 6-7

Public presentation: Monday, Feb. 6, 3 to 4:15 p.m.

Candidate 4: Feb. 13-14

Public presentation: Monday, Feb. 13, 3 to 4:15 p.m.

Outgoing Provost Tom Sullivan initiated the search following the departure of Alison Davis-Blake to the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan in June 2011.

Institute for Advanced Study to host panel discussion on why universities should offer more interdisciplinary education opportunities

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[Kristin Anderson](mailto:kma@umn.edu), University News Service, kma@umn.edu, (612) 624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/31/2012) —The Institute for Advanced Study will host a forum Monday, Feb. 13 to discuss "Questions Without Borders: Why Future Research and Teaching Will Be Interdisciplinary" from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

This panel, designed to start a conversation on the challenges of developing more interdisciplinary education in large research universities where the established disciplines have traditionally been dominant, will feature remarks by Myron Gutmann, assistant director at the National Science Foundation (NSF), with discussion by David L. Fox, Department of Earth Sciences, College of Science and Engineering; J. B. Shank, Department of History, College of Liberal Arts; and Dominique Tobbell, Program in the History of Medicine, Medical School. The forum will also be moderated by U of M provost Karen Hanson.

Dr. Gutmann heads NSF's Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences. He is a distinguished demographer and economic historian whose interests include interdisciplinary historical population studies, especially relating population to agriculture, the environment and health. He also studies ways that digital materials can be properly preserved and shared, and how the confidentiality of research subjects can be protected when data about them is made available for secondary use. He is an expert on historical demography and the social, demographic and economic history of Europe and the Americas.

For more information about the event, visit at <https://events.umn.edu/016968>.

U.S. and India student teams compete to launch environmental social ventures

Acara Challenge Finals scheduled for Feb. 3 in St. Paul

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January 31, 2012

Twelve international teams of student entrepreneurs will present business plans for initiatives that address global societal challenges at the Acara Fall 2011 Challenge Finals Feb. 2 and 3 in St. Paul and India.

Acara, a program of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, will award up to eight scholarships to the Acara Summer Institute in Bangalore, India, where winners can continue work on ventures they developed over fall semester. Acara Fall 2011 Challenge focuses on creating businesses that improve food security and/or the environment in India.

The St. Paul-based competition finals event is from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Feb. 3 at CoCo, 213 4th St. E., and is open to the public. Five teams of U.S. and Indian students, selected previously from a field of more than 20 teams, will present to a panel of judges from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Three of the five finalist teams include students from the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering, College of Design and Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

After judges provide individual feedback to teams, an open house with appetizers and poster presentations from all the teams is planned from 5 to 6:30 p.m. A session from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. will feature three-minute pitches from the competing teams, a talk from Ashoka fellow and World Savvy founder Dana Mortenson, and award presentations. The morning presentations and evening poster session and presentations are open to the public. The morning presentation will also be webcast live at https://umconnect.umn.edu/acara_webinar.

Presentations by teams from India will be made online on Thursday, Feb.2; the URL is available upon request.

"Our students are really motivated to take on big global problems," said Fred Rose, co-director of the Acara Institute. "The Acara Challenge gives them the tools to address those problems on a local level by creating businesses suited to specific markets. I'm quite impressed by what they have come up with, and I believe that they have the passion and skills to make a real difference."

U.S.-India teams and their projects:

BlueFood (University of Minnesota, TERI University in India) – providing consulting and marketing services to street food vendors in Delhi communities to improve the safety of street food for consumers.

Easy Rasoi (Cornell University, Somaiya Institute of Management Science & Research (SIMSR), India) – providing fresh-cut vegetables, recipes and ingredients to young professionals.

Food Miles (TERI University, U of M) – mitigating the effects of food on the wallets of New Delhi consumers while increasing the income of farmers in the region through a produce-delivery service.

Renew Waste Compactor Service (University of Cincinnati and IIT Roorkee, India) – providing an efficient, profitable way to collect waste while providing income to community members.

Rot2Roti (U of M, TERI University in India) – In Delhi, converting compost waste from the Azadpur Mandi market into fuel for the adjacent Shalimar Slum.

Ujjwal (Cornell University and SIMSR) – addressing the gap in prenatal care knowledge and guidance among pregnant women in Mumbai, India.

India-only teams and their projects:

Aahar (Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)) – improving the condition of landless, marginalized poor in Odisha by allowing them to farm on leased land.

Anvita (TISS) – developing low-priced splints and distributing them in Tier II and Tier III cities in India to address disability due to amputation, paralysis or deformity.

Green Caps (Vellore Institute of Technology) – developing biodegradable lids for plastic water bottles.

Dharohar (Xavier Labour Research Institute) – providing producer groups and artisan clusters in Jharkhand with marketing linkages and training modules to enhance their skills.

Nirmal (Xavier Institute of Management (XIMB)) – purifying water and removing excess iron content from drinking water.

Vidyut (XIMB) – for post-harvest processing of chilies and turmeric, increasing processing speed and efficiency and reducing wastage.

In addition to the competing schools, a nonprofit organization that participated in a January term class for U of M students interested in starting a social venture also will present its business plan. Eat for Equity (E4E), which organizes monthly benefit dinners to raise money for good causes, will bring its community-driven model to cities across the country.

Acara is a program of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment that prepares young leaders to take on the environmental grand challenges facing the world. The program's annual Acara Challenge teaches international teams of students how to develop entrepreneurial solutions to specific sustainable development challenges, then helps the best teams launch their ventures. For more information go to environment.umn.edu/acara.

U of M Physics Circus brings large-scale stunts and physics lessons to the public Feb. 9

Media Note: Members of the media may attend a daytime school group show at the Minneapolis Convention Center to get photos or video, but please contact Rhonda Zurn at rzurn@umn.edu to make arrangements.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/31/2012) —If you've never seen a physicist drop 20 feet through thin air while a friend shoots a ball at him from a cannon, or grown men and women shooting streams of toilet paper over an audience with a leaf blower, the University of Minnesota Physics Force has a show for you.

The Physics Force will present its largest show of the year, the "Physics Circus," at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

The show is unique mix of physics demonstrations and slapstick humor suitable for adults and children of all ages. The show is free, but registration is requested at <http://umnphysicsforce2012.eventbrite.com/>.

The Physics Force is a successful and entertaining outreach program of the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering. The group's goal is to show that difficult subjects like physics and math can be fun and interesting. Each year the group performs for more than 20,000 school-age kids at its annual shows.

The Force consists of high school teachers and University of Minnesota physics professors and graduate students. The group has performed variations of their show at Disney's Epcot Center, on Newton's Apple, and the Knoff-Hoff Show, a popular German television science program, and locally at various venues, including the Minnesota State Fair.

Physics Circus demonstrations include dropping one of the Physics Force members from a 20-foot garret while shooting a ball at him to demonstrate the effect of gravity on projectiles, collapsing a 55-gallon drum using only ambient air pressure, and one of the Force members propelling across the stage on a cart by emptying a fire extinguisher to demonstrate how forces come in pairs.

For more information and a video preview of the demonstrations, visit <http://www.physics.umn.edu/outreach/pforce/index.html>.

Bell Museum Hosts 2nd Annual Sustainability Film Series: Stories From a Changing Planet

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THE BELL MUSEUM PRESENTS:
**SUSTAINABILITY
FILM SERIES '12**
STORIES FROM A CHANGING PLANET

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/31/2012) —Beginning February 2, the University's Bell Museum of Natural History and Institute on the Environment are inviting visitors to explore sustainability issues through the medium of film. From China to Brazil and Europe to Appalachia, this year's four-part Sustainability Film Series takes a global look at the impacts of large-scale human activities on four landscapes and the people that inhabit them.

"I think of this year's films as a portrait of the interaction between humans and a variety of critical landscapes," said film series coordinator Leah Peterson. "Not only do they offer thought-provoking images that challenge viewers to examine their relationship with the planet, but they are also beautiful to look at. Each of these films will stay with you long after you've left the theater."

Launched in 2011, the Sustainability Film Series is presented in partnership with the Sustainability Studies Minor of the Institute on the Environment. It has become a popular addition to the Bell's education film programming, providing an opportunity to engage students, community members and subject experts.

Visitors to the film can take advantage of additional programming on the first Thursday of the month, including special exhibit tours and Sketch Night. Tickets to the film will be available at the door. The film is free with regular museum admission—a \$5 donation is suggested.

Additional information can be found at bellmuseum.org.

Sustainability Film Series 2012: Stories from a Changing Planet

Thursday, February 2, 2012

The Last Mountain (Dir. Bill Haney & feat. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., 2011)

Film 7:30 p.m., Doors open at 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Up the Yangtze (Dir. Yung Chang, 2007)

Film 7:30 p.m., Doors open at 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 5, 2012

Our Daily Bread (Dir. Nikolaus Geyrhalter, 2005)

Film 7:30 p.m., Doors open at 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 3, 2012

Waste Land (Dir. Lucy Walker, 2010)

Film 7:30 p.m., Doors open at 7 p.m.

The Bell Museum is part of the University's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and strives to advance the quest to discover, document and understand life in its many forms and to inspire curiosity, delight and informed stewardship of the natural world. For details, visit bellmuseum.umn.edu/.

New U of M video game teaches consequences of distracted driving

Innovative Distraction Dodger game battles leading cause of vehicle crashes

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/01/2012) —Being in a life-threatening vehicle crash due to distracted driving teaches a painful lesson, but makers of the new video game Distraction Dodger hope there is a much safer way to teach the same lesson.

Distraction Dodger is an Internet-based video game developed by the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Institute at the University of Minnesota. The game, designed to help teens and young adults understand the importance of concentrating on driving, will premiere at the Teen Safe Driving Summit on Thursday, Feb. 2, at the Rosemount Community Center, 13885 S. Robert Trail, Rosemount.

In the video game, players drive a virtual pizza delivery vehicle in the pizza-loving city of Little Moots. To help build a successful pizza business, players are tempted to use a smart phone, social media, and GPS while driving. If they choose to distract themselves, they must do so while avoiding obstacles, traffic tickets, damage to the vehicle, and personal danger.

“This is a video game, but the choices presented in the game are true to life,” said Max Donath, director of the ITS Institute and a professor of mechanical engineering.

According to the National Safety Council, distractions are the leading cause of motor vehicle crashes. The use of a cell phone for texting or calling is a particularly well-documented danger, significantly slowing a driver’s reaction time and increasing the likelihood of a crash. Other demonstrably dangerous driving distractions include visiting with passengers, eating and drinking, using a navigation system, applying make-up, shaving and adjusting audio systems.

As the Distraction Dodger player progresses through the game’s levels, feedback is offered about driving performance and the level of distraction. The feedback can be an eye opener.

“For young drivers who believe they can do it all and not negatively affect driving, the Distraction Dodger game offers a reality check,” said Michael Manser, director of the HumanFIRST Program at the ITS Institute. The HumanFIRST program, which helped develop the game, studies how drivers interact with in-vehicle technologies on a psychological, perceptual and behavioral level and how those technologies may then support or detract from driving.

“Improving road safety isn’t just about improving infrastructure, technology and laws,” Manser said. “Improving road safety is also about teaching and changing behaviors. For young people, video games offer a particularly teachable moment.”

The game, developed by the ITS Institute with the help of Web Courseworks and educational consultant David B. Glick & Associates, has already received attention with an award at the 2011 International Serious Play Conference. It has also gotten the attention of national transportation leaders.

“This is a valuable new tool for fighting distracted driving that delivers its message in a fun and interactive way,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. “I hope everyone who plays this game applies its lessons to the real world: Keep your eyes on the road, your hands on the wheel and your focus on driving.”

The ITS Institute, housed at the U of M Center for Transportation Studies, is a federally funded university transportation center dedicated to enhancing the safety and mobility of road- and transit-based transportation through a focus on human-centered technology.

Distraction Dodger can be played online at www.its.umn.edu/DistractionDodger.

Student Unions

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/01/2012) —Student Unions & Activities presents An Evening with Bo Burnham, starring the musician, comedian and YouTube sensation Bo Burnham. Burnham will be at the University of Minnesota on Saturday, February 25 at the Great Hall in Coffman Memorial Union. Doors will open at 8 p.m., and the show will begin at 9 p.m.

Burnham, a comedian and singer-songwriter, began recording YouTube videos for fun while in high school. His videos have received more than 50 million views worldwide, and he has made his way onto the comedy scene with film roles, a full-length LP, and an hour-long Comedy Central special.

Tickets are general admission. Online tickets are \$5 for U of M students and \$20 for the general public (plus service fees). If tickets remain available, they will be sold at the door for \$10 for U of M students and \$25 for the general public. U of M students must present their U Card at the door. If a student is unable to present a valid U Card at the door, they forfeit their ticket.

Student Unions & Activities Program Board is the main campuswide 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, please visit www.sua.umn.edu/boburnham.

Poet Elizabeth Alexander to appear at the University of Minnesota

Who: Poet Elizabeth Alexander **What:** Eighth Annual NOMMO African American Authors Series

When: Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey Center, University of Minnesota West Bank campus, 301 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis

Tickets: \$15. Complimentary tickets available to U of M students and Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries. Call 612-624-2345 or visit www.tickets.umn.edu

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[Kristin Anderson](mailto:kma@umn.edu), University News Service, kma@umn.edu, (612) 624-1690

February 1, 2012

Best known for composing and delivering President Barack Obama's inaugural poem "Praise Song for the Day," poet, essayist, playwright and teacher Elizabeth Alexander will read from and discuss her work on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012 at 7 p.m. in Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. South, Minneapolis, on the University's West Bank.

Alexander is appearing as part of the eighth annual NOMMO African American Authors Series, co-sponsored by the Givens Foundation for African American Literature and the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries and hosted by Alexis Pate, U of M professor and author of the novel "Amistad."

Alexander has published five books of poems, including "American Sublime," which was listed on the American Library Association's 2006 "Notable Books of the Year" and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize that same year. Her first young adult collection (co-written with Marilyn Nelson), "Miss Crandall's School for Young Ladies and Little Misses of Color," received the 2008 Connecticut Book Award. Her two collections of essays are "The Black Interior" and "Power and Possibility," and her play "Diva Studies" was produced at the Yale School of Drama. She has also composed words for musical projects with composers Elana Ruehr and Lewis Spratlan.

More about the NOMMO African American Authors Series

Presented annually since 2004 by the Givens Foundation for African American Literature (givens.org), the series provides rare opportunities to publicly define the state of the art of African American literature and to locate the work and contributions of national as well as Twin Cities African American writers within the present authoring of our literary tradition.

A Dogon word meaning "the magic power of the word," NOMMO has been co-sponsored since 2007 by the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries (lib.umn.edu/friends). This activity is made possible in part by a grant provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature from the state's general fund and its arts and cultural heritage fund with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008. Additional sponsors include the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (uroc.umn.edu) and the Minnesota Humanities Center (minnesotahumanities.org).

U Law School's Human Rights Center sponsors 2012 Human Rights and Law Speakers series

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Cynthia Huff, Law School Communications Director, huffx070@umn.edu, (612) 625-6691
[Jeff Falk](mailto:jfalk@umn.edu), University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/01/2012) —The University of Minnesota Law School's Human Rights Center is sponsoring the 2012 Human Rights and Law Speakers series, presented by the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows, on Tuesdays from 12:15 to 2:15 p.m. in Room 45 Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The presentations will focus on a variety of human rights law issues from legal assistance, children's rights and law enforcement to customs and trade. The presentations are free and open to the public.

Presentations scheduled:

- February 7: "Children in Charge: Role of Adults in Child and Youth Participation," Parul Sheth, India
- February 14: "Protection of Prisoners' Rights in the African Human Rights System," Abdoul Diop, Senegal
- February 21: "Abortion and Adoption: Fetal/Children's Rights," Ricardo Sandcroft, Jamaica
- February 28: "Social, Economic and Cultural Impacts on Ecuadorian Immigrants in the U.S.," Isabel Arias Larsson, Ecuador
- March 6: "Economic Policy for Development," Seung Ha Jin, South Korea
- March 20: "Roles of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)," Haykuhi Harutyunyan, Armenia
- March 27: "The Arrest Powers of the Police," Talaat Einshouka, Egypt
- April 3: "Child Bombers and Drone Attacks," Tajik Sohail Habib, Pakistan
- April 10: "Law Enforcement Development: A Challenge for Pakistan," Ahmed Ali, Pakistan
- April 17: "Uruguay: Recent History and Human Rights," Horacio Garcia Daglio, Uruguay

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program was initiated in 1978 to honor the late Senator and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and his life long commitment to human rights, international cooperation and public service. The program brings accomplished mid-career professionals from designated developing nations and emerging democracies to the United States for a year of professional development, related academic study and cultural exchange.

For more information contact Vicky Nguyen at nguye386@umn.edu or (612) 626-0041.

U of M President Eric Kaler and Athletics Director Joel Maturi to make announcement during news conference at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 2

Who: President Eric Kaler and Athletics Director Joel Maturi

What: News conference

When: 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 2

Where: Media Room, TCF Bank Stadium, enter through Dodge County entrance

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](#), University News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

February 1, 2012

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler and Athletics Director Joel Maturi will hold a news conference at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 2, in the media room at TCF Bank Stadium, 2009 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

The media room will open for set-up at 10:30 a.m. Media are asked to enter through the Dodge County entrance on the stadium's east side. Brief remarks will be followed by an opportunity for Q & A. There will be no media availability following the news conference.

Parking is available at the University Avenue Ramp, 1926 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. Media with sports media parking permits may park in the sports media parking at Williams Arena and Mariucci Arena.

Gopher Athletics Director Joel Maturi to retire

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](#), University News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/02/2012) —After a decade of successfully leading University of Minnesota athletics, Joel Maturi is retiring as the Golden Gophers' director of athletics. Maturi will step down at the end of his current contract, which expires June 30.

For the following year, Maturi will remain a member of the University community, assisting with course development and teaching classes in the College of Education and Human Development's Department of Kinesiology, helping the University with fund raising and working on special projects assigned by the president.

"Joel's legacy as the Gophers athletics director will be a lasting and shining one," said University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler. "Personal integrity, a remarkable record of NCAA and Big Ten compliance, increased academic excellence by our student athletes, a deep commitment to gender equity, business and operational acumen and overall athletic success have been among Joel's hallmarks."

Maturi said: "It has been a wonderful journey for me here at Minnesota. To cheer for thousands of student athletes, and watch them mature and graduate, has made these 10 years fly by. I look forward to my next adventure both at the University of Minnesota and beyond."

Throughout his tenure, Maturi's priority has been to make sure student athletes received an education and earned their degrees. Secondly, he worked tirelessly to make sure they had a meaningful and positive athletic experience. And finally, that the affairs of Gopher athletics would be conducted with integrity, candor and compliance.

During his 10 years of service to the University, Maturi oversaw the difficult merger of the men's and women's athletic departments, the grueling fund raising and construction of TCF Bank Stadium, and men's and women's hockey and wrestling national championship titles.

Golden Gopher athletes have won more than 40 Big Ten or WCHA championships during Maturi's tenure.

Most importantly, Gopher athletics has not committed any major Big Ten or NCAA infractions under his leadership. In addition, the Athletics Department's graduation success rate, as indexed by the NCAA, has steadily improved.

In 2011, 255 Gopher athletes were honored as Academic All-Big Ten, and more than 1,200 have received this honor in the past five years.

"History will show that Joel thoughtfully and sensitively tackled the merger of our men's and women's departments, which was an especially challenging and delicate task," said Kaler.

"Under Joel's leadership, our athletics budget was balanced, football returned to campus, fund raising for facilities and scholarships has grown, and Gopher sports – unlike so many other big-time athletics programs – has proudly upheld a culture of compliance and academic excellence."

Maturi said: "I am very proud of what we have accomplished during my tenure with the Gophers. Like all Gopher fans, I appreciate all of our victories on the field. But I am equally proud of what we have accomplished off the field. We have worked hard to develop a culture of compliance, diversity, equity and fiscal responsibility."

After leaving the Athletics Department, Maturi's salary will be paid by the University with funds provided by the University of Minnesota Foundation.

The University will form a selection committee and begin an inclusive national search for the next director of athletics that seeks input from a variety of stakeholders. Kaler said he hopes to have a new director in place by July 1.

University of
 Minnesota
 School of
 Music
 presents
 Benjamin
 Britten's War
 Requiem
 March 1

Contacts: Lisa
 Marshall, School of
 Music,



The University of Minnesota School of Music will present Benjamin Britten's contemporary masterpiece War Requiem at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1 in Ted Mann Concert Hall.

marsh396@umn.edu, (612) 626-1094

[Jeff Falk](mailto:jfalk@umn.edu), University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/03/2012) —The University of Minnesota School of Music will present Benjamin Britten's contemporary masterpiece War Requiem at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1 in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. South, Minneapolis. The concert is part of the School of Music's Britten Peace Project, an international collaboration celebrating the 50th anniversary of the premiere of Britten's War Requiem, a large-scale, non-liturgical setting of the Requiem Mass (mass for the dead) with nine poems by English poet and fallen World War I soldier Wilfred Owen interwoven throughout the piece.

The concert will feature the University of Minnesota School of Music Orchestra, Choirs, William Ferguson (tenor), Philip Zawisza (baritone), Mark Russell Smith, conductor, and Kathy Saltzman Romey, chorus master; members of Detmold Hochschule für Musik Orchestra, Choir, Caroline Thomas (soprano), Karl-Heinz Bloemeke, conductor, and Anne Kohler, chorus master (Detmold, Germany); Macalester College Concert Choir, Matthew Mehaffey, director; Kantorei, Axel Theimer, director; Minnesota Boychoir, Mark Johnson, director; and members of Quad City Choral Arts, Jon Hurty, director (Davenport, Iowa).

Event media is sponsored by Classical Minnesota Public Radio.

A pre-concert talk with U of M School of Music conductors Mark Russell Smith and Kathy Saltzman Romey will take place from 5 to 6:15 p.m. at Ted Mann Concert Hall.

Tickets \$35/\$29/\$21; \$11 U of M students. Call (612) 624-2345 or visit tickets.umn.edu to order.

Paid parking is available at the University's 19th Avenue and 21st Avenue parking ramps.

NorthStar Initiative launches corporate sustainability webinar series

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/03/2012) —The NorthStar Initiative for Sustainable Enterprise at the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment is launching a free quarterly webinar series this month aimed at identifying new challenges and opportunities for advancing corporate sustainability through research.

The first webinar in the series, “Procurement in Sustainability: From Buying Green Products to Creating Green Solutions,” will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. CST Tuesday, Feb. 21. Featuring four national experts (Kevin Dooley, The Sustainability Consortium, Arizona State University; Nancy Gillis, federal General Services Administration; Timothy Smith, NorthStar Initiative, University of Minnesota; and Rolf Nordstrom, Great Plains Institute), the webinar will explore how procurement might be made more sustainable by sharing the risks of product development with suppliers and creating wider commercialization of successes through standardization and scale.

“We are looking for ways to accelerate the design for sustainability in products, particularly where the market has not yet responded to the increasing new calls from large buyers,” says Smith, the director of NorthStar and an associate professor in the University’s College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. “We are excited to explore where research into pre-commercial procurement might pay off for business and society.”

The webinar is the first installment of the quarterly Initiative inFocus, NorthStar’s new dialogue-oriented program aimed at identifying new challenges and opportunities requiring collaborative inquiry. The webinars are designed to bring many ideas into the discussion and identify the most fruitful avenues for research and application. Outcomes from inFocus events will directly influence broader dialogue and research conducted at the NorthStar Initiative and partner organizations.

The webinar is open to all interested persons. To register, go to z.umn.edu/infocus. For more information on NorthStar, email Michelle Linhoff at mlihoff@umn.edu or see northstar.environment.umn.edu/.

Physics and Cooking' lecture on Feb. 9 uncovers secrets of top chefs

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/06/2012) —Do you want to understand how (and why) food foams are made or why the elasticity of steak matters? Why do some chefs use liquid nitrogen (at about -320 degrees F) to freeze ingredients?

You can find out the answers to these and other intriguing questions at an upcoming public lecture sponsored by the University of Minnesota School of Physics and Astronomy at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, Tate Laboratory of Physics, 116 SE. Church St., Minneapolis.

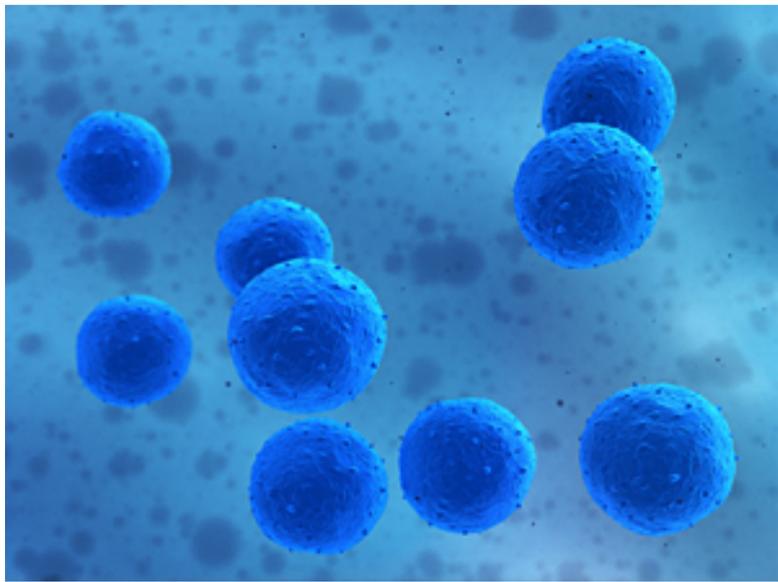
The lecture by Harvard University Professor David Weitz is inspired by understanding the science of pioneering approaches to preparation and presentation of food at several famous restaurants. His talk will present some examples of physics and science of cooking and will include demonstrations. The lecture will explore the science of several innovative techniques in cooking, including foams and use of gelation, as well as more common processes.

The examples are based on an introductory science course, "Science and Cooking: From Haute Cuisine to the Science of Soft Matter," offered at Harvard University by Weitz and a team of top international chefs, including Ferran Adrià, founder of the Alícia Foundation. The course explores a new way of motivating interest in science and teaching it to non-scientists. The theme of the course is the connections between cooking, soft matter physics, materials science, and organic chemistry.

Weitz received his Ph.D. from Harvard. He worked at Exxon Research and Engineering as a research physicist for nearly 18 years, then became a physics professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He is currently a professor of physics and applied physics and the director of Harvard's Materials Research Science and Engineering Center. Weitz is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Hormel Institute study makes key finding in stem cell self-renewal

Institute's cancer research is published in top scientific journal



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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/06/2012) —A University of Minnesota-led research team has proposed a mechanism for the control of whether embryonic stem cells continue to proliferate and stay stem cells, or differentiate into adult cells like brain, liver or skin.

The work has implications in two areas. In cancer treatment, it is desirable to inhibit cell proliferation. But to grow adult stem cells for transplantation to victims of injury or disease, it would be desirable to sustain proliferation until a sufficient number of cells have been produced to make a usable organ or tissue.

The study gives researchers a handle on how those two competing processes might be controlled. It was performed at the university's Hormel Institute in Austin, Minn., using mouse stem cells. The researchers, led by Hormel Institute Executive Director Zigang Dong and Associate Director Ann M. Bode, have published a report in the journal *Nature Structure and Molecular Biology*.

"This is breakthrough research and provides the molecular basis for development of regenerative medicine," said Dong. "This research will aid in the development of the next generation of drugs that make repairs and regeneration within the body possible following damage by such factors as cancer, aging, heart disease, diabetes, or paralysis caused by traumatic injury."

The mechanism centers on a protein called Klf4, which is found in embryonic stem cells and whose activities include keeping those cells dividing and proliferating rather than differentiating. That is, Klf4 maintains the character of the stem cells; this process is called self-renewal. The researchers discovered that two enzymes, called ERK1 and ERK2, inactivate Klf; this allows the cells to begin differentiating into adult cells.

The two enzymes are part of a "bucket brigade" of signals that starts when a chemical messenger arrives from outside the embryonic stem cells. Chemical messages are passed to inside the cells, resulting in, among other things, the two enzymes swinging into action.

The researchers also discovered how the enzymes control Klf4. They attach a small molecule--phosphate, consisting of phosphorus and oxygen--to Klf4. This "tag" marks it for destruction by the cellular machinery that recycles proteins.

Further, they found that suppressing the activity of the two enzymes allows the stem cells to maintain their self-renewal and resist differentiation. Taken together, their findings paint a picture of the ERK1 and ERK2 enzymes as major players in deciding the future of embryonic stem cells--and potentially cancer cells, whose rapid growth mirrors the behavior of the stem cells.

Klf4 is one of several factors used to reprogram certain adult skin cells to become a form of stem cells called iPS (induced pluripotent stem) cells, which behave similarly to embryonic stem cells. Also, many studies have shown that Klf4 can either activate or repress the functioning of genes and, in certain contexts, act as either an oncogene (that promotes cancer) or a tumor suppressor. Given these and their own findings reported here, the Hormel Institute researchers suggest that the self-renewal program of cancer cells might resemble that of embryonic stem cells.

"Although the functions of Klf4 in cancer are controversial, several reports suggest Klf4 is involved in human cancer development," Bode said.

Established in 1942, the Hormel Institute is a world-renowned medical research center specializing in research leading to cancer prevention and control. It is a research unit of the University of Minnesota and a collaborative cancer research partner with Mayo Clinic.

History of North Minneapolis kicks off U of M's Critical Conversations, public discussions on urban issues and ideas

Event includes screening of TPT/U of M documentary 'Cornerstones' and community reception

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/06/2012) —The history of Minneapolis's north side is the topic of Critical Conversations, a new series of public discussions with scholars, historians, artists and community leaders on urban issues and ideas debuting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23 at the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC), 2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Minneapolis.

The kick-off conversation will focus on the people in front of—and behind—the camera in the recent university-produced documentary, "Cornerstones: A History of North Minneapolis." The documentary, which premiered in November on Twin Cities Public Television, traces the history of Minneapolis's north side communities through place-based stories interwoven with themes of immigration, race relations and social change. Cornerstone's director and Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Daniel Pierce Bergin will moderate a panel of experts, historians and community leaders:

- Roxanne Givens, businesswoman, philanthropist and founder of the Minnesota African American Museum and Cultural Center;
- Linda Schloff, historian, lecturer and former executive director of the Jewish Historical Society of the Upper Midwest;
- Katherine Solomonson, associate professor in the university's School of Architecture and an architectural historian featured in "Cornerstones;"
- John Wright, professor in the university's Department of African American and African Studies.

Discussion topics will include the stories behind the documentary, social dynamics and changes on Minneapolis's north side landscape over the past century and the importance of neighborhood connections and community common ground. The discussion and question and answer session will be introduced by university Senior Vice President Robert Jones. A public reception will precede the event at 5 p.m., followed by screening of "Cornerstones" at 6 p.m.

"Critical Conversations builds upon the Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center's role as a vibrant campus-community gathering place for urban-focused research, dialogue and cultural events," says UROC Executive Director Heidi Barajas. "A conversation about the place-based history of North Minneapolis lays the perfect foundation for future discussions about one of Minnesota's most vital urban neighborhoods and the people who shape its future." +

The event is free and open to the public.

UROC's mission is to link the university in public partnership with urban communities to advance learning, improve quality of life and discover solutions to complex urban challenges.

For more information, visit uroc.umn.edu.

The Arboretum Asks: Which Plants Changed Minnesota Forever?

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/07/2012) —Which plants changed Minnesota and transformed how we live today? The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum wants to know and is encouraging the public to nominate specific plant(s) for a state's Top 10 list.

It's all part of "10 Plants that Changed Minnesota: Growing Solutions to How the World Lives Today," a new initiative to build awareness of the crucial role plants play in nourishing and sustaining life on Earth. The program is being spearheaded by Mary Meyer, a professor in the University of Minnesota Department of Horticultural Science. She is the former interim director of the Arboretum.

"In asking for nominations, we hope to start conversations about plants, and their role in the historic and economic factors that changed the course of our state," said Meyer, who seeks to engage students from elementary through university levels, as well as the general public.

The Arboretum is a natural fit for this project. With its 1,137 acres of display gardens, collections and natural areas, it is a nationally known resource for horticultural and environmental information, research and public education. Its children's educational programs are extensive and well received. Its native plant communities include the Big Woods (maple and basswood forest) and restored prairie.

"We hope to start discussions in classrooms around the state that will encourage students to look at plants in a whole new holistic approach to learning," she continued. "We will continue and enliven the conversation online and through print media, as well as onsite visitor experiences at the Arboretum."

On the university level, the initiative will include Arboretum-based freshman and public seminars on the topic of historically significant plants and plants of the future. These will be implemented as part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences curriculum during the 2012-13 academic year, along with other educational activities sponsored by University of Minnesota Extension.

Nominations will be accepted through April 15 and may be entered via the Arboretum website at www.arboretum.umn.edu/10plants.aspx or in person at the Oswald Visitor Center. You can also enter by mail to: 10 Plants, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, 3675 Arboretum Dr., Chaska, MN 55318. Kindergarten through eighth-grade schools or clubs who nominate plants will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate redeemable for Arboretum educational programs. A VIP academic and community panel will determine the 10 most important plants from all the entries submitted.

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, comprising 1,137 acres, is located in Chanhassen, Minn., on State Hwy 5, nine miles west of the intersection with I-494. The largest public garden in the Upper Midwest, the Arboretum is part of the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and is open 363 days a year. Admission is \$9 adults; free for members and ages 15 and under.

University of Minnesota begins search for new Crookston chancellor

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/07/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler and Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration Robert Jones have launched a national search for a new chancellor of the Crookston campus.

University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) Chancellor Charles H. Casey will retire on June 30, 2012, following seven years at the post.

President Kaler and Jones have appointed Bill Peterson, professor in UMC's Department of Math, Science and Technology, along with Carol Carrier, special assistant to the senior vice president for System Academic Administration and professor in the Department of Organizational Learning, Policy and Development on the Twin Cities campus, to co-chair the search committee.

Other search committee members are:

- Alisha Aasness, undergraduate student, UMC, and president, Crookston Student Association
- Sue Brorson, professor and head, Department of Business, UMC
- Pam Elf, associate professor, Department of Math, Science & Technology, UMC
- Stephanie Helgeson, department director, Department of Athletics, UMC
- Soo-Yin Lim-Thompson, associate professor, Department of Liberal Arts and Education, UMC
- Denis Maier, assistant professor, Department of Business, UMC
- Harouna Maiga, associate professor, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, UMC
- Roger Moe, former majority leader, Minnesota Senate, and president, National Strategies, Inc.
- Albert Sims, associate professor and director of operations, Northwest Research and Outreach Center, Crookston
- Pete Wasberg, director of Human Resources and Safety, Otter Tail Power Co., and chair, UMC Advisory Council
- Deb Zak, regional director, University of Minnesota Extension, Crookston

The search committee aims to develop as rich and diverse a candidate pool as possible, and invites both nominations and applications for the position. The search committee's goal is to name the next Crookston chancellor this summer.

"The Crookston campus strengthens the University and the state as a vital hub for applied research, teaching and outreach in Northwestern Minnesota," said Jones. "President Kaler and I seek a visionary leader for UMC who will build on Chancellor Casey's significant accomplishments – including new degree programs, enrollment gains, increased diversity and technological innovation."

For more information about the search, please go to www.umcrookston.edu/chancellorsearch.

About the University of Minnesota, Crookston

Established as an institution of higher learning in 1966 and offering baccalaureate degree programs since 1993, the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) proudly carries on a tradition of a century of educational service to Northwestern Minnesota. As a coordinate campus of the University of Minnesota, UMC is integral to the University's statewide land grant mission. The college provides its unique contribution through applied, career-oriented learning programs that combine theory, practice and experimentation in a technologically rich environment. UMC, with an enrollment of 1,600 students, connects its teaching, research and outreach to serve the public good. To learn more about UMC, please go to www.crk.umn.edu.

U of M seeks Minnesota National Guard and Reserve families to evaluate parenting resources during and after deployment

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/08/2012) —University of Minnesota researchers are recruiting more than 300 Minnesota National Guard and Reserve families to participate in an ongoing study that provides and evaluates parenting resources for children’s resilience as parents deploy and return home from military service.

Military families with children between the ages of 4 and 12 who have experienced one deployment since 2001 and live in the Twin Cities, Mankato and St. Cloud are eligible to join the study.

All families in the study are offered parenting resources. Some families may be invited to join a parenting program, in which parents receive on-site childcare and homework help for their school-aged children while they attend groups. Families are paid up to \$595 over the course of the study.

Since Project ADAPT (After Deployment: Adaptive Parenting Tools) launched last year, nearly 100 families have participated. Groups are now forming for this spring. More groups will follow with the next wave of returning parents—about 2,500 soldiers are expected back in Minnesota in May.

“What impresses me about this program is that it offers parents proven and practical strategies for managing family life,” said Col. Greg Haase, commander of the 133rd Airlift Wing of the Minnesota Air National Guard. “It accomplishes this by demonstrating simple but effective skills.”

Abi Gewirtz, an associate professor in the College of Education and Human Development’s Department of Family Social Science, is the study’s principal investigator, and the research team includes Melissa Polusny at the Minneapolis VA. The investigators joined with the Minnesota National Guard and Reserve Units to develop and assess parenting resources for families of school-aged children who have gone through the military deployment process. They hope to learn how best to support military families.

For more information visit: <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/fsos/ADAPT/getinvolved.html>

University of Minnesota Board of Regents to discuss capital planning and other issues this week

What: University of Minnesota Board of Regents meeting

When: Thursday, Feb. 9 and Friday, Feb. 10

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

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February 8, 2012

During its meetings on Thursday, Feb. 9 and Friday, Feb. 10, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents will focus on multiple key issues including the 2012 six-year capital plan, which aligns future investments at University of Minnesota campuses statewide with President Eric Kaler's vision for the University.

The \$1.3 billion six-year capital plan will help ensure student success and access, contribute to the University's research excellence, ensure more efficient use of space and protect the assets of U of M campuses.

Development of the plan was a collaborative and inclusive process between the University's colleges, campuses and President Eric Kaler. The plan fulfills the Board of Regents' 2008 goal of taking a broader, more interdisciplinary approach to planning, as well as focusing on collaboratively controlled space and aligning assets to the University's strategic goals.

The Board will also receive an update on an initiative to recalibrate risk in the University's research enterprise. The initiative is a key element for achieving operational excellence and provides a framework to guide the University community toward a more strategic approach to the management of risks across all aspects of its operations. Such an approach will better inform decision making in the interest of enhancing innovation, creativity, productivity, morale and overall performance. These efforts could also provide relief from some of the financial, personnel and systems costs associated with the University's highly regulated culture.

President Eric Kaler will also present results of the 2011 public perception and attitude survey and introduce the new Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Karen Hanson.

Other key discussion issues will include:

- Carlson School of Management tuition surcharge proposal
- University of Minnesota, Duluth strategic vision

Board of Regents committee meetings will begin at 8 a.m. Thursday. The full Board of Regents meeting will begin at 9 a.m. Friday. More information on the Board of Regents meeting, including the time and locations for committee meetings and a full agenda, can be found at www.umn.edu/regents.

Law

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/08/2012) —The University of Minnesota Law School and a consortium of law student organizations has named Feb. 27-March 2 “Law & Religion Week,” with each day featuring a lunchtime event focusing on the interplay between law and religion. All events except that of Thursday, March 1, will take place at 12:15 p.m. Room 20 Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. All events are open to the public.

Topics of the week’s events are:

- Monday, Feb. 27: “The Moral Responsibilities of Investment Bankers”
- Tuesday, Feb. 28: “Faith in the Workplace: Praying for Accommodation”
- Wednesday Feb. 29: “Sex and Religion in the Law”
- Thursday, March 1: No event scheduled due to “The Great Gay Marriage Debate,” co-hosted by the Federalist Society, Law School Democrats, OutLaw, and St. Thomas More Society, at 12:15 p.m. in Room 25
- Friday, March 2: “Religion in the Public Square”

The March 2 event will feature a panel discussion by U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison (Law School class of 1990), former gubernatorial candidate and current chair of the Minnesota Faith & Freedom Coalition Tom Emmer, and Executive Director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference Jason Adkins (Law School class of 2006). Professor Richard Painter will moderate.

Among the questions the panel will address: Are religious views discounted in today’s pluralistic and secularizing culture because they stem from a proponent’s belief about ultimate reality? To what extent are they discounted? To what extent should they be? Are religious views legitimate only if they are also supported by secular arguments?

Law & Religion Week is the brainchild of the Muslim Law Student Association, Christian Legal Society, Jewish Law Student Association, and St. Thomas More Society.

University of Minnesota and startup to develop antidote to cyanide poisoning

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/09/2012) —Cyanide poisoning is often fatal and typically affects victims of industrial accidents, terrorist attacks, or structural fires. Based on research conducted at the Center for Drug Design at the University of Minnesota, startup Vytacera Pharma Inc. will develop and market Sulfanegen, a treatment for cyanide poisoning. Sulfanegen could be administered by first responders in the case of a mass casualty emergency, or to victims of smoke inhalation from a house fire.

Cyanide poisoning prevents the body from using oxygen. Hydrogen cyanide, a colorless gas, is released into the air when certain types of plastics and other household items burn. A victim who inhales too much experiences dizziness, rapid breathing, convulsions and respiratory failure. The key to survival for these victims is rapid and appropriate treatment, but current treatments require an intravenous injection by a medical professional and can require upward of 20 minutes to take effect.

“There is no effective cyanide antidote that can be administered rapidly,” said Steve Patterson, co-inventor and associate director of the university’s Center for Drug Design, where Sulfanegen was invented. “In the case of a mass casualty situation, the emergency responders wouldn’t be able to treat most of the victims. Sulfanegen can be administered rapidly by intra-muscular injection, so emergency responders could treat people faster. And it takes far less skill to use an auto-injector than it does for an intravenous injection.”

The antidote also functions as a prophylactic, and could protect firefighters or emergency personnel if taken prior to cyanide exposure.

“There is a critical need for better treatments for cyanide poisoning, ones that are more user-friendly,” said Vit Lauermann, CEO of San Francisco Bay Area-based Vytacera. “Sulfanegen could be a big step toward fulfilling that need.”

“We intend to move forward as rapidly as financing and regulations permit,” added Jon S. Saxe, chair of Vytacera. “Our goal is to make this important advance available to those in need of it and to enable governments to be better prepared, which, ultimately, may help deter terrorism.”

Sulfanegen will require FDA approval. The drug candidate has rapid approval potential under the FDA Animal Rule, which holds that only animal efficacy experiments and Phase I safety clinical trials are required for regulatory approval; the compound has already demonstrated safety and efficacy in several animal models.

Sulfanegen was invented by Patterson; Robert Vince, director of the Center for Drug Design; and Herbert Nagasawa, adjunct at the Center for Drug Design and adjunct professor of medicinal chemistry. The research was funded by the Center for Drug Design and the National Institutes of Health CounterACT (Countermeasures Against Chemical Threats) program, an effort involving a number of NIH institutes that enhances the nation’s diagnostic and treatment response capabilities during a chemical emergency.

The technology was licensed exclusively to Vytacera by the university’s Office for Technology Commercialization.

44th annual University of Minnesota Senior Fashion Show, 'twelve,' hits the runway Feb. 18

Two Saturday evening shows to highlight work by U of M student designers

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/09/2012) —“Twelve,” the 44th annual University of Minnesota Senior Fashion Show, will take place on Saturday, Feb. 18, with runway shows at 5:30 and 8 p.m. in the courtyard of Ralph Rapson Hall, 89 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. The event will exhibit the work of 11 talented senior designers from the university's College of Design.

The seniors have conceived and developed a personal clothing line while simultaneously working as a group to plan a cohesive event. The showcased collections represent their final venture as students in the Apparel Design program. A standing exhibition of work by the sophomore class and pre-runway show from the junior class will also be included.

The annual fashion show attracts an audience of more than 1,000, including local designers, retailers, students, faculty and industry professionals. Ticket prices are \$20 in advance (\$50 VIP), \$25 (non-VIP) at the door, and \$10 balcony (\$12 at the door). Tickets sell quickly, and may be purchased online at <http://fashionshow.design.umn.edu>.

To learn more about the show, visit <http://fashionshow.design.umn.edu>, www.twitter.com/SrFashionShow official hashtag #12FashionShow or www.facebook.com/seniorfashionshow.

University of Minnesota campuses to host 2012 Minnesota Job and Internship Fair in Minneapolis Feb. 23

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February 9, 2012

All five University of Minnesota campuses will partner to host the 2012 Minnesota Job and Internship Fair, the biggest student career fair in Minnesota, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Minneapolis Convention Center, 1301 Second Ave. S., Minneapolis. More than 2,500 qualified University of Minnesota students and alumni from a wide variety of academic majors and experiences are expected to attend.

The fair aims to connect students with employers and organizations seeking to recruit for hundreds of diverse jobs and internships. More than 200 organizations—large and small, businesses and nonprofits, representing a variety of fields—will attend.

"In this economic environment, it's a particularly important opportunity for our students," said Jerry Rinehart, the university's vice provost for student affairs.

Notable employers presenting at the fair include Cargill, Target Corp., Thomson Reuters and TCF Bank. Registration is \$10 online until Feb. 20 and \$25 at the door.

The fair is open to all U of M undergraduates, graduate students and U of M alumni who have graduated in the past three years. More information about registration, how to prepare, transit, parking and organizations in attendance is available at www.umjobfair.org.

Global challenges conference to showcase U of M's international research

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/09/2012) —Cutting-edge international research projects involving food security, agriculture, energy, health, environment and economics will take the spotlight at the University of Minnesota “Addressing Global Challenges Through International Research” conference Friday, Feb. 17, at Coffman Union on the university’s Twin Cities campus in Minneapolis.

The one-day event brings together national experts, local business leaders and philanthropists, and National Science Foundation-awarded (NSF) university scientists for a symposium befitting a world-class science fair. The conference features panel discussions, poster sessions and lecture presentations on research projects ranging from HIV to urban migration, water shortages, global warming and famine.

Sponsored by the university’s Global Program and Strategy Alliance (GPS Alliance), the conference is the first system wide gathering of university scientists involved in international research. The GPS Alliance serves as a catalyst to increase international engagement across the university. Encouraging research that includes international content or partners, the GPS Alliance also emphasizes the cultural understanding required to translate research findings into reality for people around the world.

Conference highlights include:

- 8:45 a.m. Keynote lecture by David M. Stonner, NSF’s Office of International Science and Engineering executive officer, on “Viewing U.S. Science from Across the Atlantic: Some Lessons Learned from Four Years in Europe.”
- 9:45 to 11 a.m. University expert panel discussion on “How Should Global Governance Shape the International Research Agenda?” moderated by Eric P. Schwartz, Humphrey School of Public Affairs dean.
- 2:30 to 4 p.m. Corporate and philanthropic panel discussion on “Addressing Global Challenges through Private and Public Partnerships” moderated by Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean of international programs.

“Today’s problems and challenges don’t recognize geographical borders,” said McQuaid. “Financial crises, health outbreaks, civil unrest and natural disasters all have ripple effects around the world. The work of the university researchers attending the conference, whether conducted at home or abroad, will impact us all no matter where we live.”

The event is free and open to the public.

This event is part of the University of Minnesota Land Grant 150, a yearlong celebration of the Morrill Act of 1862—legislation that laid the groundwork for the public research university’s ongoing mission: learning, discovery and engagement for the common good.

For more information and a complete list of conference activities, visit:
global.umn.edu/spotlight/conference/.

About the Global Program and Strategy Alliance

GPS Alliance, part of the Office of the Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration, is the central international office for the university system and a driving force for the university in globalizing teaching, learning, research and engagement. For more information on the GPS Alliance, visit: global.umn.edu.

University of Minnesota blog shares research to improve the lives of children, families and communities

The new CEHDVision2020 blog offers perspectives on human development across the lifespan

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/09/2012) —The University of Minnesota’s College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) has launched a new blog —CEHDVision2020.umn.edu—that presents research-driven solutions to complex problems in a simple, accessible format for families, educators and communities. The blog will share knowledge gained from across the college on a diverse group of education and child development topics, including science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education; literacy and reading comprehension; child welfare; parenting; and teaching.

The new blog draws on the strengths of CEHD—its extensive research across the lifespan—with content centered on the theme of ideas, research and impact. Blog authors will include research center directors, professors, research fellows, curriculum developers and teaching specialists.

“By sharing our insights on the psychological, physical and social development of children into adulthood, we aim to make a real difference in our communities by positively impacting people’s lives,” explains CEHD Dean Jean Quam. “Our research has long offered practical suggestions for improving student engagement and enhancing classroom achievement. But CEHD is not just for teachers anymore. By creating this blog, we now have an avenue to share our perspectives gained from extensive research across a variety of topics and to reach a broader audience.”

The blog kick offs with a six-part series on STEM education, with answers to the following questions:

- How can U.S. education and our global competitiveness be positively impacted by STEM?
- How does STEM content differ from the traditional textbook approach?
- How can STEM become culturally and socially relevant to better engage students?

The STEM series offers insights from Gillian Roehrig and Tamara Moore, co-directors of CEHD’s STEM Education Center. Their research centers on STEM integration and teaching from early childhood through graduate education.

Board of Regents Chair Linda Cohen's Statement on Regent Sviggum's Employment

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/10/2012) —"As Regents are aware, on January 16, 2012 Regent Steve Sviggum announced that he had accepted employment as Communications Director and Executive Assistant for the Minnesota Senate Majority Caucus. The General Counsel and I promptly began discussing the possibility of an employment-related conflict of interest under Board policy.

The Code of Ethics policy is clear in stating that Regents are expected to put aside parochial interests, keeping the welfare of the entire University, not just a particular constituency, at all times paramount. It also declares an employment-related conflict exists whenever a Regent's employment relationships may impair independence of judgment.

Following his announcement, I have spoken with Regent Sviggum about this matter and have met with him on two occasions. At my request, he has abstained from voting at this month's committee and Board meetings so we could have time to consider this matter. Based upon my understanding of his employment responsibilities, this position appears to me to constitute an employment-related conflict of interest with his duties as a Regent.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 6, Subd. 3 of the Code of Ethics, I have asked our General Counsel to provide an opinion as to whether an employment-related conflict of interest exists and, if so, the degree or pervasiveness of that conflict. I have also directed the Office of the General Counsel to engage an independent attorney at my discretion and with my approval to consult and render an opinion on this matter. That attorney is John Stout of the Fredrikson & Byron law firm in Minneapolis. Mr. Stout currently chairs the Corporate Governance Committee of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section, has extensive experience in corporate and non-profit governance and is widely recognized as an expert in this field. Both opinions are to be provided to me by February 24, 2012.

After I have considered the opinions of our attorneys, I will make a determination regarding the conflict and bring forward a recommendation to the Board, or I will appoint an ad hoc group to assist me with these tasks.

This is a complex and serious matter that warrants our careful review and due diligence. My rationale for taking this approach is to ensure that we have the benefit of our General Counsel's judgment and experience as well as an independent outside counsel's review of the situation. This process is consistent with the Board's governing documents, deliberative nature, duty to act in the best interests of the University and history of acting with the highest degree of integrity to advance the University's mission and serve Minnesota's citizens. Together we will use our best informed judgment to arrive at a decision.

It is my intent to have the full Board discuss and act upon any recommendation before, or at the beginning of, our regular March meeting.

The questions raised in this matter are well beyond the current and particular future interests of a Regent. It is important that we be objective, judicious, and fair and I believe this process lives up to those principles."

University of Minnesota selected as a Tillman Military Scholar University Partner by Pat Tillman Foundation

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/10/2012) —The Pat Tillman Foundation has chosen the University of Minnesota as a University Partner in support of the Tillman Military Scholars program, which provides educational scholarships for veteran and active servicemembers and their spouses.

The University of Minnesota, Arizona State University and Eastern Kentucky University are the three new Tillman Military Scholar partners for the 2012/2013 academic year, joining 11 returning university partners nationwide.

With its selection, the University of Minnesota is recognized by the Pat Tillman Foundation as being among the nation's leaders in support services for student veterans, active servicemembers and their spouses on campus.

"We are honored by our selection as a University Partner for the Tillman Military Scholars program," said Sue Van Voorhis, director of Academic Support Resources. "Ensuring access to a university education for the men and women who serve our country is critical, and the financial assistance provided by this program is invaluable to that endeavor."

In 2008, the Pat Tillman Foundation established the Tillman Military Scholars program, dedicated to supporting educational opportunities for servicemembers and their spouses by filling financial gaps in the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. The program covers not only direct study-related expenses such as tuition and fees, but also other needs including housing and childcare.

Over the past three years, the Pat Tillman Foundation has awarded more than \$2.2 million in scholarship funds to 171 Tillman Military Scholars pursuing education at every level from freshmen undergraduates to doctoral degrees.

Along with its fellow university partners, the University of Minnesota will help identify and select final candidates during the screening process.

The application to become a Tillman Military Scholar opens on Monday, Feb. 13. To learn more about eligibility and criteria, visit: www.pattillmanfoundation.org/tillman-military-scholars/apply/.

About the Pat Tillman Foundation

Family and friends established the Pat Tillman Foundation following Pat's death in 2004 while serving with the U.S. Army 75th Ranger Regiment in Afghanistan. Created to honor Pat's legacy and pay tribute to his commitment to leadership and service, the Pat Tillman Foundation is a national leader in providing educational support and resources to veterans, active servicemembers and their spouses. Inspired by Pat's attributes of leadership, passion for education and spirit of service, the Foundation annually awards educational scholarships through Tillman Military Scholars program. To date, the Foundation has provided over \$2.2 million in scholarships to 171 active servicemembers, veterans and dependents. For more information, visit:

www.pattillmanfoundation.org.

Father of the cybercar concept to discuss how new transportation systems shape cities at U of M Center for Transportation Studies event

Who: Michel Parent, scientific adviser, INRIA

What: How New Transportation Systems Shape Cities: The Example of Greater Paris

When: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14

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

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February 13, 2012

Michel Parent, considered the father of the cybercar concept, will explore how automation in transportation can help improve urban mobility during a presentation at the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies winter luncheon. The event begins at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 14, at the University Hotel Minneapolis, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Parent's presentation, "How New Transportation Systems Shape Cities: The Example of Greater Paris," will describe how intelligent transportation systems (ITS) technologies can transform the use of private automobiles and how this might affect the vehicle industry. In particular, Parent will talk about the European CityMobil project.

From antiquity to modern times, cities have adapted to and been shaped by new transportation technologies. Parent will use the example of the greater Paris region to explore how new transportation technologies can help cities meet the challenges of mobility—for people as well as goods—while satisfying the constraints of ecology and quality of life.

Parent is scientific adviser to IMARA (Informatique, Mathématiques et Automatique pour la Route Automatisée), a project team from INRIA, the French National Institute for Research in Computer Science and Control. The team focuses on the research and development of information and communication technologies for road transport, particularly on fully automated vehicles (cybercars). Parent was the creator and director of this team from 1991 to 2010.

More information about the CTS fall luncheon is available online at cts.umn.edu/Events/Luncheon/2012/winter.

Researchers find that China's pollution related to e-cars may be more harmful than gasoline cars



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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/13/2012) —Electric cars have been heralded as environmentally friendly, but new findings from an international research team suggest that electric cars in China have an overall impact on pollution that could be more harmful to health than gasoline vehicles.

University of Minnesota civil engineering assistant professor Julian Marshall and researcher Matthew Bechle are part of an international team studying the issue. The team is led by University of Tennessee, Knoxville assistant professor Chris Cherry and graduate student Shuguang Ji, and includes Ye Wu from Tsinghua University in Beijing. The study was published in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*.

The researchers analyzed the emissions and environmental health impacts of five vehicle technologies in 34 major Chinese cities, focusing on dangerous fine particles. What the researchers found defies conventional logic: electric cars cause much more overall harmful particulate matter pollution than gasoline cars.

"An implicit assumption has been that air quality and health impacts are lower for electric vehicles than for conventional vehicles," Cherry said. "Our findings challenge that by comparing what is emitted by vehicle use to what people are actually exposed to. Prior studies have only examined environmental impacts by comparing emission factors or greenhouse gas emissions."

For electric vehicles, combustion emissions occur where electricity is generated rather than where the vehicle is used. In China, 85 percent of electricity production is from fossil fuels, about 90 percent of that is from coal. The authors discovered that the power generated in China to operate electric vehicles emit fine particles at a much higher rate than gasoline vehicles. However, because the emissions related to the electric vehicles often come from power plants located away from population centers, people breathe in the emissions at a lower rate than they do emissions from conventional vehicles.

Still, the rate isn't low enough to level the playing field between the vehicles. In terms of air pollution impacts, the study found that in China electric cars are more harmful to public health per kilometer traveled than conventional vehicles.

"Our findings are specific to China, which has electrical power plants that emit high amounts of particulate matter pollution and a population that has high numbers of people living in rural areas where power plants are located," Marshall said. "We're curious to take this research to the next step to see if we find similar results in other countries."

The researchers estimated health impacts in China using overall emission data and emission rates from literature for five vehicle types—gasoline and diesel cars, diesel buses, e-bikes and e-cars—and then calculated the proportion of emissions inhaled by the population.

E-cars' impact was lower than diesel cars but equal to diesel buses. E-bikes yielded the lowest environmental health impacts per passenger per kilometer.

"Our calculations show that an increase in electric bike usage improves air quality and environmental health by displacing the use of other more polluting modes of transportation," Cherry said. "E-bikes, which are battery-powered, continue to be an environmentally friendly and efficient mode of transportation."

The findings also highlight the importance of considering exposures and the proximity of emissions to people when evaluating environmental health impacts for electric vehicles. They also illuminate the distributional impact of moving pollution out of cities. For electric vehicles, about half of the urban emissions are inhaled by rural populations, who generally have lower incomes.

"The study emphasizes that electric vehicles are attractive if they are powered by a clean energy source," Cherry said. "In China and elsewhere, it is important to focus on deploying electric vehicles in cities with cleaner electricity generation and focusing on improving emissions controls in higher polluting power sectors." The scientists conducted their study in China because of the popularity of e-bikes and e-cars and the country's rapid growth. Electric vehicles in China outnumber conventional vehicles 2:1. E-bikes in China are the single largest adoption of alternative fuel vehicles in history, with over 100 million vehicles purchased in the past decade, more than all other countries combined.

To read the full research paper, visit the [Environmental Science and Technology website](#).

Caryn Schultz Korman named as U of M Alumni Association vice president

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/13/2012) —The University of Minnesota Alumni Association has named that Caryn Schultz Korman vice president for outreach. Schultz Korman, hired after an extensive search, currently serves as the associate vice president of outreach and engagement at the University of Illinois Alumni Association. She will assume her position on February 27.

Schultz Korman brings nearly 15 years of higher education and advancement experience to the Alumni Association. Currently, she oversees all alumni outreach on the University of Illinois' three campuses, including award and recognition programs, collegiate board development and planning, regional outreach and student programs. In addition, she was recently elected as chair-elect of CASE District V. Schultz Korman received a bachelor's degree in sociology from Eastern Illinois and a master's degree from Loyola University, Chicago in higher education administration.

In her new role, Schultz Korman will lead outreach efforts to the more than 400,000 alumni of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities campus and help develop strategy for programs and events that engage alumni, students and friends of the university.

“Caryn’s role will be vital to our efforts to better engage the University’s global community,” said Phil Esten, Alumni Association President and CEO. “She has a proven track record of strategically developing alumni programs that deliver on identified outcomes.”

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a more than 50,000-member organization dedicated to engaging the University of Minnesota’s global community to support and advance the university’s excellence. For more information, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org.

U of M's American Indian Cultural House to host film series

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/13/2012) —The University of Minnesota's American Indian Cultural House will host the third annual American Indian Film Series, with screenings Feb. 16, March 20 and April 19. The series aims to help raise awareness and celebrate the works of American Indian and First Nation films that challenge racial stereotypes.

The development of this series is also intended to provide leadership opportunities to students participating in the American Indian Cultural House. Students gain experience in organizing community events and building collaborations with other departments and student organizations.

The theme for this year's series is "Misappropriation of Culture."

"In Whose Honor?" (6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16)

The first film in the series takes a critical look at the long-running practice of "honoring" Native American Indians by using them as mascots and nicknames in sports. In this moving and award-winning documentary, Native Americans speak out about the hurtful and harmful effects of stereotyped sports images on both Natives and non-Natives alike.

"Edward S. Curtis: Coming to the Light" (6 p.m. Tuesday, March 20)

The series' middle film explores the history of Edward Sheriff Curtis' accumulated works. Called the "Shadow Catcher" by some tribes, Curtis took over 40,000 images and recorded rare ethnographic information from over eighty American Indian tribal groups, ranging from the Eskimo or Inuit people of the far north to the Hopi people of the Southwest.

"Reel Injun: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian" (6 p.m. Thursday, April 19)

The series finale is an entertaining and insightful look at the Hollywood Indian, exploring the portrayal of North American Natives through a century of cinema. Traveling through the heartland of America and into the Canadian North, Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond looks at how the myth of "the Injun" has influenced the world's understanding – and misunderstanding – of Natives.

Each screening is free and open to the public. They will be held at the Rapson Hall Auditorium, located at 89 Church St. S.E. on the university's Twin Cities campus in Minneapolis. Light refreshments will be served at 5:30 p.m. before each show.

For more information on the American Indian Film Series, visit:
<http://blog.lib.umn.edu/mcae/aich/film/>.

Sponsored by the University of Minnesota's American Indian Student Cultural Center, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Circle of Indigenous Nations, Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence, University Libraries and the Office for Equity and Diversity.

About the American Indian Cultural House

The University of Minnesota's American Indian Cultural House is a living and learning community for first-year students with American Indian heritage or those interested in learning more about American Indian culture. Created in 2003, it is one of only a few such programs in the nation.

U of M President Kaler to speak at Minnesota Bankers Association event Feb. 14

Who: U of M President Eric Kaler

What: Remarks at Minnesota Bankers Association's "Bank Day at the Capitol"

When: 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14

Where: Hilton Garden Inn, 411 Minnesota St., St. Paul

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February 13, 2012

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will give the keynote speech at the Minnesota Bankers Association's "Bank Day at the Capitol" event from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the Hilton Garden Inn, 411 Minnesota St., St. Paul.

Kaler will discuss the university's new tech transfer and intellectual property initiative, his operational excellence ideas, the university's capital request at the Legislature and the economic power and cultural influence of the University of Minnesota system.

The Minnesota Bankers Association (MBA) is the state's largest trade association devoted exclusively to the representation of commercial banks. The MBA was founded in 1889 and represents 95 percent of Minnesota's chartered banks.

University of Minnesota researchers discover that cell phone hackers can track your physical location without your knowledge

Using a cheap phone, readily available equipment, and no direct help from a service provider, hackers could listen to unencrypted broadcast messages from cell phone towers

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/16/2012) —Cellular networks leak the locations of cell phone users, allowing a third party to easily track the location of the cell phone user without the user's knowledge, according to new research by computer scientists in the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering.

University of Minnesota computer science Ph.D. student Denis Foo Kune, working with associate professors Nick Hopper and Yongdae Kim, and undergraduate student John Koelndorfer, described their work in a recently released paper "Location Leaks on the GSM Air Interface" which was presented at the 19th Annual Network & Distributed System Security Symposium in San Diego, California.

"Cell phone towers have to track cell phone subscribers to provide service efficiently," Foo Kune explained. "For example, an incoming voice call requires the network to locate that device so it can allocate the appropriate resources to handle the call. Your cell phone network has to at least loosely track your phone within large regions in order to make it easy to find it."

The result is that the tower will broadcast a page to your phone, waiting for your phone to respond when you get a call, Foo Kune said. This communication is not unlike a CB radio. Further, it is possible for a hacker to force those messages to go out and hang up before the victim is able to hear their phone ring.

Cellular service providers need to access location information to provide service. In addition, law enforcement agencies have the ability to subpoena location information from service providers. The University of Minnesota group has demonstrated that access to a cell phone user's location information is easily accessible to another group—possible hackers.

"It has a low entry barrier," Foo Kune said. "Being attainable through open source projects running on commodity software."

Using an inexpensive phone and open source software, the researchers were able to track the location of cell phone users without their knowledge on the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) network, the predominant worldwide network.

In a field test, the research group was able to track the location of a test subject within a 10-block area as the subject traveled across an area of Minneapolis at a walking pace. The researchers used readily available equipment and no direct help from the service provider.

The implications of this research highlight possible personal safety issues.

"Agents from an oppressive regime may no longer require cooperation from reluctant service providers to determine if dissidents are at a protest location," the researchers wrote in the paper. "Another example could be thieves testing if a user's cell phone is absent from a specific area and therefore deduce the risk level associated with a physical break-in of the victim's residence."

Foo Kune and his group have contacted AT&T and Nokia with low-cost techniques that could be implemented without changing the hardware, and are in the process of drafting responsible disclosure statements for cellular service providers.

Visit <http://z.umn.edu/fookuneresearch> to read the full research paper.

U of M Water Resources Center to bring LiDAR technology, expertise to natural resource managers throughout Minnesota

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/16/2012) —The University of Minnesota Water Resources Center (WRC) is offering statewide workshops designed to put the powerful technology of LiDAR in the hands of Minnesota's natural resource practitioners beginning March 12.

LiDAR, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging, is a remote sensing technology that uses laser light pulses sent from low-flying aircraft to detect and measure surface features on the earth. Begun in 2009, Minnesota's LiDAR mapping project, spearheaded by the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office's Digital Elevation Committee, will be complete when the state's North-Central Region is mapped this spring. Minnesota is one of only 10 states in the country to complete LiDAR mapping.

LiDAR's ultra-high-resolution maps are a cost-effective way of helping planners make precise decisions based on multiple scenarios by allowing them to visualize landscape surfaces, map contour lines and manipulate elevation data into 3D models.

Natural resource managers will use LiDAR for wetland mapping, soil conservation and restoration efforts, estimating forest density and structure, and flood control. Engineers can incorporate LiDAR data into computer-aided design (CAD) software when designing things like retention ponds and containment structures. Decision-makers can incorporate LiDAR into geographic information system (GIS) software to help with targeted and cost-effective resource management strategies.

"LiDAR represents a huge dataset that's very complex, yet very powerful once mastered," said WRC education coordinator Les Everett, who expects the workshops to reach 300 natural resource managers this year. "Until now, very few people have been trained to use the data to its full capability."

WRC's LiDAR workshops begin March 12 and 13 on the university's St. Paul campus and will continue statewide in cities such as Brainerd, East Grand Forks, Morris, Rochester and Winona. For a complete schedule visit <http://tsp.umn.edu/lidar>. Funding for the workshops is made possible by a grant from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

The Water Resources Center is affiliated with the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and University of Minnesota Extension.

Food policy lecture examines the real costs of obesity epidemic

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/20/2012) —The economics of the obesity epidemic will be examined by a U.S. Department of Agriculture expert in a University of Minnesota lecture at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24 in the Cargill Building, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul.

Lauren Unnevehr, director of the food division of the USDA's Economic Research Service, will discuss how widespread obesity and fast-growing health care costs can be addressed through public policy interventions such as food taxes, improvements in food access, calorie information in restaurants and school nutrition standards. While many experts have recommended similar interventions, Unnevehr's thinking is unique in taking economic consequences into consideration.

Unnevehr is an expert on consumer demand and food policy and a past president of the international Agricultural and Applied Economics Association.

This lecture is the annual James P. Houck Lecture on Food and Consumer Policy, a series sponsored by the university's applied economics department.

This event is free and open to the public, and a reception will follow the lecture. To register, visit <http://foodindustrycenter.umn.edu/NewsEvents/index.htm>.

Earthducation Expedition 3 heads to Australia

U of M adventure learning team will explore the links between education and sustainability in far-reaching outposts of the driest inhabited continent

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/20/2012) —How can education advance sustainability? Led by Aaron Doering and Charles Miller of the University of Minnesota's College of Education and Human Development, the Earthducation team is traveling to climate hot spots on each continent in search of local answers to this question—and to share what it learns with teachers, students and the general public around the world.

For its third expedition, Earthducation is heading Down Under to the driest inhabited continent on Earth: Australia. Home to plants and animals found nowhere else on the planet as well as the world's largest coral reef system. Australia is one of the most biologically diverse countries on Earth. Unfortunately, the continent also has one of the highest extinction rates, and is typically cited as being one of the countries most at risk from climate change.

Doering, who has explored the entire circumpolar Arctic over the past 10 years addressing the issue of climate change, said, "The environment is continually changing, and we are documenting how people on every continent are adapting to this change to secure a sustainable future. Our goal is to create a global tapestry of voices throughout the world around this important issue."

The expedition is the third in a series of a seven-continent exploration investigating the intersection between education and sustainability. The Earthducation team will travel from the most densely populated region of Australia (the city of Sydney in New South Wales) to the most sparsely populated (the Northern Territory), before heading east to visit the Great Barrier Reef communities along the Queensland coast from February 27 to March 12. During Expedition 3: Australia, topics investigated will include biodiversity, uranium mining, sustainable tourism, the School of the Air (a government-sponsored distance education program for students living in remote communities), the worldwide importance of the Great Barrier Reef, the role of reconciliation in the recent history of Australia, and the contributions and insights of the Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to both the environment and the culture in this ancient and unique continent.

Visit <http://lt.umn.edu/earthducation/> to join the conversation and view the archived expedition field reports and media scrapbooks from Earthducation 1: Burkina Faso and Earthducation 2: Norway.

President Eric W. Kaler announces search plan for new University of Minnesota athletic director

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/21/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric W. Kaler has named a search committee and selected Parker Executive Search to lead the search for the next director of athletics.

A 25-member search advisory committee and a four-person search committee will work with the leading national executive search firm in collegiate athletics to advise Kaler regarding a successor to Joel Maturi, who will retire from his duties as director of athletics June 30.

“A strong, diverse athletics program committed to academic and competitive success is important to the overall excellence and vitality of the University of Minnesota,” Kaler said. “As a public window to our tremendous university, Gopher Athletics connects students, alumni, faculty, staff and the greater community to this great institution.

“The search for our next athletics director demands a thorough and inclusive process. I am confident the search will produce a candidate who ensures University of Minnesota athletics operates with the highest integrity, and is dedicated to the development of the student athlete and committed to athletic success.”

The next University of Minnesota athletics director will lead a program nationally lauded for both academic and competitive success. Gopher Athletics has recorded top-15 finishes in Directors’ Cup standings two of the last three academic years, and has been in the top 30 for 16 consecutive years. Befitting its stature as one of the nation’s premier public research universities, Minnesota placed 68 student-athletes on the Big Ten Conference Distinguished Scholar Athletes list in 2010-11, matching Michigan State for most honorees by an individual school.

Minnesota’s 25-sport program boasts impressive facilities, including TCF Bank Stadium, the conference’s first new on-campus stadium in nearly 50 years. With more than 400,000 “U” alumni, the Twin Cities campus draws an average of nearly 1 million fans to Gopher athletic events annually.

The search advisory committee will identify the qualities desired in a new athletics director, review and finalize the job description, advance names of qualified candidates to the search committee, participate in on-campus interviews and assist with the on-boarding process. The four-person search committee will conduct confidential semi-finalist interviews and will recommend finalists to President Kaler for on-campus interviews. To ensure a clear and direct line of input between the committees, both committees will be co-chaired by Tim Mulcahy, vice president for research, and Mary Jo Kane, professor of kinesiology and director of the Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport.

The search committee aims to have finalists identified by late April. Kaler’s goal is to name the next director of athletics in early May, with a new AD starting at the University July 1.

The search committee reflects the university’s core mission, representing its academic, research and community-driven values. The four members of the search committee are:

R. Timothy Mulcahy, vice president for research, University of Minnesota (co-chair)

Tim Mulcahy was appointed vice president for research on Feb. 1, 2005. He is responsible for the oversight and administration of externally funded research on the five campuses of the University of Minnesota system and with overseeing the overall vitality of the university research environment. Mulcahy earned a Ph.D. in pathology and radiological sciences from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and was a faculty member at that university from 1985 to 2005. Since his appointment as vice president for research, Mulcahy has chaired the search committees for the positions of chancellor, University of Minnesota-Rochester, and senior vice president for academic affairs and provost.

Mary Jo Kane, director, Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport, University of Minnesota (co-chair)

Mary Jo Kane is professor and director of the Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport in the School of Kinesiology. Kane, who earned a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, is an internationally recognized scholar on the social and economic impact of Title IX. She has been involved in faculty governance, serving on the Faculty Consultative Committee (1999-2000 and 2002-05) and as vice chair of the University Senate (2006-08). In 2007 Kane was named one of the 100 most influential sport educators by the International Institute for Sport. Kane recently received the Distinguished Merit Award from the Minnesota Coalition of Women in Athletic Leadership.

Amy Phenix, chief of staff, Office of the President, University of Minnesota

Amy Phenix oversees several functions reporting to the president’s office, including day-to-day operational reporting of intercollegiate athletics, communications, marketing, compliance and the University Senate office. A veteran of communications management roles in the private and public sector, Phenix holds a master of business administration degree from the Carlson School of Management.

John E. Lindahl, managing general partner, Norwest Equity Partners

John Lindahl is the managing general partner at Norwest Equity Partners (NEP), where he is credited with growing the firm into one of the nation’s leading private equity firms. A 1968 graduate from the Carlson School of Management, he is a dedicated alumnus whose generosity and commitment is demonstrated through his civic leadership and service. In addition to several endowed professorships and scholarships, John and his wife, Nancy, took a lead role in the TCF Bank Stadium fundraising campaign.

The larger search advisory committee brings together faculty, staff, students, community leaders and alumni. Its members:

- Co-chairs - Mulcahy and Kane
- Student Athletes – MarQueis Gray, football; Mia Tabberson, volleyball
- Coaches – Don Lucia, men’s hockey; Meg Stephenson, women’s gymnastics
- Athletic Staff – Dan O’Brien, football operations
- Faculty and Academic leadership – Perry Leo, professor and department director, aerospace engineering, and faculty athletic representative; Linda Brady, professor, food science and nutrition, and faculty athletic representative; Virginia Zuiker, associate professor, family social science, and chair, Advisory Committee on Athletics; Walt Jacobs, associate professor and chair, African American & African Studies, and vice chair, Faculty Consultative Committee; Robert McMaster, vice provost and dean of undergraduate education
- Compliance – JT Bruett, director, athletic compliance
- Community Members – Julianne Bye, Archie Givens, Tom Jasper, Nancy Lindahl, Peggy Lucas, Dave Mona, Lou Nanne, Mark Sheffert and Darrell Thompson
- Former student athletes – Quincy Lewis, basketball; and Sue Grimm, swimming, president, M Club; Heather Dorniden Kampf, track and field

Parker Executive Search, led by President Dan Parker, has completed successful athletics director searches at 41 public and private universities, including 18 schools from a Bowl Championship Series (BCS) automatic qualifying conference. This list also includes four from the Big Ten Conference: Indiana University, Ohio State University, University of Illinois and University of Iowa.

Parker and his firm have completed more than 1,000 senior level searches and, in 2007, Parker was named by the Chronicle of Higher Education as one of the 10 most influential people in collegiate athletics.

For more information on the search for the University of Minnesota’s next director of athletics, visit: <http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/athletic-director-search/>

Lecture explores implications of new Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)

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Martha Coventry, Consortium on Law and Values, coven002@umn.edu, (612) 625-2948

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/21/2012) —Robert Brackett, vice president and director of the Institute for Food Safety and Health (IFSH) at the Illinois Institute of Technology, will examine how the FDA will manage the demands of the Food Safety Modernization Act, the most comprehensive overhauling of U.S. food safety laws in over 70 years. His talk is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28 in the Cowles Auditorium of the U of M's Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Among other things, Brackett will discuss the authority FSMA gives the FDA, the controls it imposes on imported food products and the effect it may have on the relationship between the food industry and the FDA.

Prior to going to the IFSH, Brackett served as senior vice president and chief science and regulatory affairs officer at the Grocery Manufacturing Association (GMA) and director of the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.

Craig Hedberg, professor of environmental health sciences at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, will comment on the lecture.

This event is a presentation of the Consortium on Law and Values and is moderated by Shaun Kennedy, director, National Center for Food Protection and Defense. It is free and open to the public. To register, visit www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/events?id=521.

Bell Museum of Natural History celebrates 140th birthday March 1

What: Bell Birthday Party. Birthday cake for the first 140 museum visitors beginning at 2 p.m., and a special appearance by Goldy Gopher

When: 2 p.m. Thursday, March 1

Where: Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. SE, Minneapolis

Contacts: Andrea Klaassen, Bell Museum of Natural History, aklaasse@umn.edu, (612) 624-7389
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/22/2012) —Thursday, March 1 marks the 140th birthday of the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History, the official natural history museum of the state of Minnesota. The public is invited to join in the celebration at the Bell Museum during the afternoon or as part of the evening's BIG programming, a series of special events held on the first Thursday each month.

On March 1, 1872, the Minnesota Legislature approved "an act to provide for a geological and natural history survey of the state" with the added provision that "natural history and geological specimens be prepared and a museum to be established at the university."

One hundred and forty years later, the Bell continues this legacy through its mission to discover, document and understand nature, and promote informed stewardship of the natural world.

"Since 1872, the Bell Museum of Natural History collections have documented our state's biological diversity, and its artistic public displays have educated us on environmental issues," says museum director Susan Weller. "Rather than rest on our laurels, we strive to be a place where creativity will flourish in the sciences and arts--a cradle of innovation. Just last year, we added a portable planetarium to our educational programs and embraced the disciplines of astrophysics and planetary sciences. It's exciting to think about all that lies ahead for the museum."

Thursday's celebration will include events open to the public. Birthday cake will be provided for the first 140 visitors beginning at 2 p.m., at which time a brief presentation will be made, along with a visit from University of Minnesota mascot Goldy Gopher. Those unable to attend during the afternoon can enjoy birthday cake beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The Bell Museum is part of the University's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. For details, visit bellmuseum.org.

Corporate sustainability advocate Mindy Lubber to speak March 1

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/22/2012) —Mindy Lubber, an international leader in efforts by investors to lead and pressure multinational companies to adopt environmentally sustainable business practices, will deliver a free public lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 1 in the St. Paul Student Center theater, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

The lecture, “Investing in Sustainability: Building Water Stewardship Into the Bottom Line,” is the seventh in the Moos Family Speaker Series on Water Resources honoring the late Malcolm Moos, president of the University of Minnesota from 1967 to 1974.

Lubber’s lecture will focus on the risks businesses and their shareholders face as a result of a population-driven demand for increased water use colliding with a fixed global supply, aggravated by more pronounced droughts and flooding resulting from climate change. She will offer specific examples of companies that are changing their business models to become more sustainable.

“From farms to power plants, mining to microprocessors, water is indispensable,” Lubber says. “But many in the private sector continue valuing water using outdated assumptions: It’s often seen as cheap, stable and uncontested when increasingly it’s none of those.”

Lubber is president of Ceres, a 22-year-old Boston-based nonprofit that encourages firms such as Coca-Cola, Levi Strauss and IBM to make their products and processes more water-efficient and less vulnerable to climate change. She directs the Investor Network on Climate Risk, an alliance of 100 institutional investors who manage \$10 trillion in assets. In 2011 she was voted one of the “100 most influential people in corporate governance” by Directorship Magazine.

Lubber, who holds a law degree and an MBA, founded the National Environmental Law Center in 1990, and later launched the Green Century Capital Group, a mutual fund owned by nonprofit public interest organizations. She was one of the founders of Ceres, which was started by a group of investors in response to the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

In 1998-2000, Lubber was deputy regional administrator, and later regional administrator, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in New England. She became Ceres’ president in 2003.

This lecture is sponsored by the Freshwater Society and the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences.

About the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences

The College of Biological Sciences provides education and conducts research in all areas of biology, from molecules to ecosystems, supporting applications in medicine, renewable energy, ecosystem management, agriculture and biotechnology. For more information about research and degree programs, go to www.cbs.umn.edu/.

About the Freshwater Society

The Freshwater Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating and inspiring people to value, conserve and protect water resources. Located in Excelsior, Minn., adjacent to Lake Minnetonka, it has a long history of association with the University of Minnesota. Learn more at www.freshwater.org.

President Kaler to give his first State of the University Address, March 1

Media Note: Media planning to cover the address, must please RSVP to jfalk@umn.edu.

Contacts: [Jeff Falk](#), University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

February 22, 2012

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will give his first State of the University Address at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 1, in Coffman Memorial Union Theater, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

The speech, “Balances,” will outline Kaler’s vision and priorities for Minnesota’s land-grant public research university, expanding on his signature themes of driving excellence in and access to the U’s teaching, research and community engagement. Particular priorities Kaler plans to address include his efforts to push for the state’s reinvestment in higher education, stemming the rise in tuition and student debt and improving the university’s operational excellence.

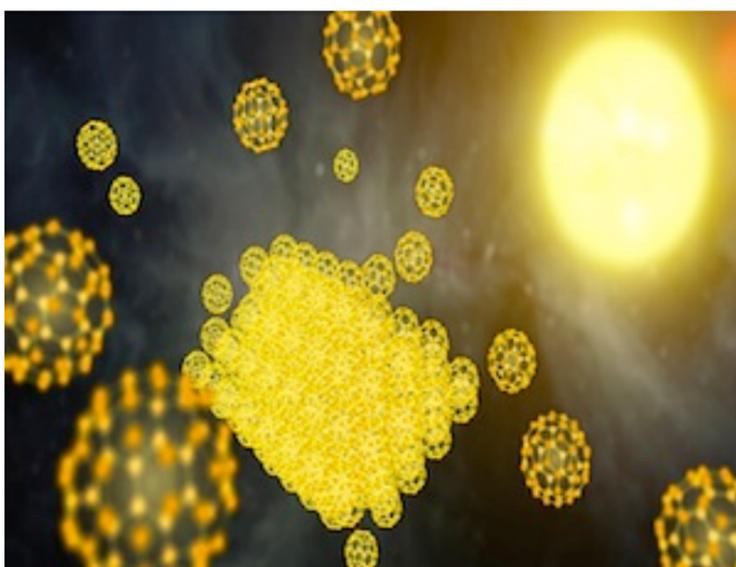
A question and answer session will follow the speech.

The address can be viewed online at www.livestream.com/umntv. Interactive broadcasts will also be shown at the following sites:

- 101 Dowell Hall, 2900 University Ave., University of Minnesota, Crookston
- 173 Kirby Plaza, 1208 Kirby Dr., University of Minnesota, Duluth
- Studio A, Humanities Fine Arts Building, University of Minnesota, Morris
- 419 University Square, 111 Broadway Ave. S., University of Minnesota, Rochester
- Southwest Research and Outreach Center, Lamberton

Kaler’s term as the university’s 16th president began on July 1, 2011. For more information about Kaler and his priorities, visit www.umn.edu/president.

U of M astronomers part of team that has discovered solid buckyballs in space



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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/23/2012) —University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering astronomers Robert Gehrz and Charles Woodward are part of an international team that have, for the first time, discovered buckyballs in a solid form in space. The discovery of these carbon molecules in space may provide clues about the origins of the Universe and if life could exist on other planets.

Formally named buckminsterfullerene, buckyballs are named after their resemblance to the late architect Buckminster Fuller's geodesic domes. They are made up of 60 carbon molecules arranged into a hollow sphere, like a soccer ball. Their unusual structure makes them ideal candidates for electrical and chemical applications on Earth, including superconducting materials, medicines, water purification and armor.

Prior to this discovery, the microscopic carbon spheres had been found only in gas form in the cosmos. In the latest discovery, scientists used data from NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope to detect tiny specks of matter, or particles, consisting of stacked buckyballs. They found the particles around a pair of stars called "XX Ophiuchi" or "XX Oph" that are 6,500 light-years from Earth, and detected enough to fill the equivalent in volume to 10,000 Mount Everests.

"These buckyballs are stacked together to form a solid, like oranges in a crate," said Nye Evans of Keele University in England, lead author of a paper appearing in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. "The particles we detected are minuscule, far smaller than the width of a hair, but each one would contain stacks of millions of buckyballs."

Buckyballs were detected definitively in space for the first time by Spitzer in 2010. Spitzer later identified the molecules in a host of different cosmic environments. It even found them in staggering quantities, the equivalent in mass to 15 Earth moons, in a nearby galaxy called the Small Magellanic Cloud.

In all of those cases, the molecules were in the form of gas. The recent discovery of buckyballs particles means that large quantities of these molecules must be present in some stellar environments in order to link up and form solid particles. The research team was able to identify the solid form of buckyballs in the Spitzer data because they emit light in a unique way that differs from the gaseous form.

Gehrz and Woodward were involved in designing the program of infrared spectroscopic observations using Spitzer to determine the mineral content of the grains being produced in the XX Oph system. Such information helps scientists determine the essential building blocks of our Universe. Gehrz and Woodward also were involved in analyzing and interpreting the data. Some of the information they uncovered was surprising.

"Although gaseous C₆₀ molecules had already been detected in space in low density vapor form, it was a big surprise to find that they actually had condensed into solid grains," Gehrz said. "Our research suggests that buckyballs are even more common in space than we ever imagined."

"We are all still surprised by nature," Woodward said. "The presence of C₆₀ and other organic molecules in space holds some interesting clues to whether life in the Universe may also be common."

Buckyballs have been found on Earth in various forms. They form as a gas from burning candles and exist as solids in certain types of rock, such as the mineral shungite found in Russia, and fulgurite, a glassy rock from Colorado that forms when lightning strikes the ground. In a test tube, the solids take on the form of dark, brown "goo."

"The window Spitzer provides into the infrared universe has revealed beautiful structure on a cosmic scale," said Bill Danchi, Spitzer program scientist at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "In yet another surprise discovery from the mission, we're lucky enough to see elegant structure at one of the smallest scales, teaching us about the internal architecture of existence."

To read the full paper in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, visit: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1745-3933.2012.01213.x/abstract>

Minnesota Center for Reading Research to honor schools for achievement in reading

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/23/2012) —The Minnesota Center for Reading Research will honor 136 Minnesota K-12 schools for their achievement in reading Wednesday, February 29 at 10:00 a.m. at the annual School Recognition Lecture and Ceremony at the University of Minnesota. The event will take place in the center's Johnson Great Room at the McNamara Alumni Center (200 Oak Street SE, Minneapolis, MN).

Schools chosen for the honor are the Minnesota K-12 schools that made adequate yearly progress in reading during both school years 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 after failing to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) in reading in the previous year.

Donald Bear, a professor in the College of Education at the University of Nevada-Reno, will present a lecture, "Their Way is Your Way: Development, Success and Courage", at 10 a.m.

The event is free and open to the public. To attend, RSVP with Meaghan at lars1636@umn.edu.

Following the lecture, a few of the schools will share significant factors that led to their success and certificates will be awarded.

The Minnesota Center for Reading Research is part of the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development. For more information, please visit

<http://www.cehd.umn.edu/reading> or call 612-624-4561.

Schools to be honored listed on the following page (by school district or city):

- Discovery Middle School, Alexandria Public School District
- Lincoln Elementary, Alexandria Public School District
- Crooked Lake Elementary, Anoka-Hennepin Public School District
- Madison Elementary, Anoka-Hennepin Public School District
- Oxbow Creek Elementary, Anoka-Hennepin Public School District
- Ramsey Elementary, Anoka-Hennepin Public School District
- Barnum Secondary, Barnum Public School District
- Becker Intermediate Elementary, Becker Public School District
- Oak Crest Elementary, Belle Plaine Public School District
- Lincoln Elementary, Bemidji Public School District
- Bertha Elementary, Bertha-Hewitt Public School District
- Bertha Secondary, Bertha-Hewitt Public School District
- Blooming Prairie Elementary, Blooming Prairie Public School District
- Hillcrest Elementary Bloomington Public School District
- Westwood Elementary, Bloomington Public School District
- Braham Elementary Braham Public School District
- Hidden Valley Elementary Burnsville Public School District
- Cedar Mountain Elementary Cedar Mountain School District
- Golden Lake Elementary Centennial Public School District
- Central Middle Central Public School District
- Valley View Elementary, Columbia Heights Public Schools
- Cromwell-Wright Secondary, Cromwell-Wright Public Schools
- Highland Elementary Crookston Public School District
- Crosby-Ironton High School Crosby-Ironton Public School District
- Lionsgate Academy Crystal, MN
- East Senior High, Duluth Public School District
- Chaska Elementary Eastern, Carver County Public School
- Chaska Middle School East, Eastern Carver County Public School
- Central Middle School, Eden Prairie Public School District
- Prairie View Elementary, Eden Prairie Public School District
- Hassan Elementary, Elk River Public School District
- Meadowvale Elementary, Elk River Public School District
- Parker Elementary, Elk River Public School District
- Zimmerman Middle, Elk River Public School District
- Franklin Elementary, Eveleth-Gilbert School District
- Faribault Senior High, Faribault Public School District
- Meadowview Elementary, Farmington Public School District
- Foley Intermediate Elementary, Foley Public School District
- Fridley Middle, Fridley Public School District
- Global Academy, Global Academy
- Goodhue Elementary, Goodhue Public School District
- Green Isle Community School, Green Isle Community School
- Henning Elementary Henning, Public School District
- Hermantown Middle Hermantown, Public School District
- Hinckley-Finlayson High School, Hinckley-Finlayson School District
- Falls Elementary, International Falls School District
- Pine Bend Elementary, Inver Grove Heights Schools
- Kenyon-Wanamingo Middle, Kenyon-Wanamingo School District
- Kimball Elementary, Kimball Public School District
- Lafayette Public Charter School, Lafayette Public Charter School
- Minnehaha Elementary, Lake Superior Public School District
- Le Center Elementary, Le Center Public School District
- Le Center Secondary, Le Center Public School District
- Le Sueur-Henderson High School, Le Sueur-Henderson School District
- Lester Prairie Elementary, Lester Prairie Public School District
- Wagner Elementary, Litchfield Public School District
- Lyle Secondary, Lyle Public School District
- Lynd Elementary, Lynd Public School District
- Maccray Senior High, M.A.C.C.R.A.Y. School District
- Mahnomen Secondary, Mahnomen Public School District
- Eagle Lake Elementary, Mankato Public School District
- Garfield Elementary, Mankato Public School District
- Kennedy Elementary, Mankato Public School District
- Beacon Academy, Maple Grove, Minn.
- Maple Lake Elementary, Maple Lake Public School District
- Menahga Elementary, Menahga Public School District
- Dowling Elementary, Minneapolis Public School District
- Field Elementary, Minneapolis Public School District
- Heritage Science & Technology, Minneapolis Public School District
- Lake Nokomis Community-Keewaydin, Minneapolis Public School District
- Augsburg Fairview Academy, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Cedar Riverside Community School, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Fraser Academy, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Friendship Academy of Fine Arts, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Lighthouse Academy Of Nations, Minneapolis, Minn.
- International Middle Charter, Minneapolis, Minn.
- New Millennium Academy Charter, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Stonebridge Community School, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Minnewaska Area Middle, Minnewaska School District
- Montevideo Middle, Montevideo Public School District
- Montgomery-Lonsdale International, Montgomery-Lonsdale School District
- Little Mountain Elementary, Monticello Public School District
- Highview Middle, Mounds View Public School District
- Mesabi Academy School, Mountain Iron-Buhl School District
- New Prague Middle School, New Prague Area Schools
- Jefferson Elementary, New Ulm Public School District
- New York Mills Secondary, New York Mills Public School District
- Carver Elementary, North St Paul-Maplewood School District
- Webster Elementary, North St Paul-Maplewood School District
- Orono Middle, Orono Public School District
- Osseo Junior High, Osseo Public School District
- Weaver Lake Elementary, Osseo Public School District
- Owatonna Junior High, Owatonna Public School District
- Pact Charter Secondary, Pact Charter Schools, Ramsey, Minn.
- Paynesville Middle, Paynesville Public School District
- Pine City Secondary, Pine City Public School District
- Pine River-Backus Elementary, Pine River-Backus School District
- Hidden Oaks Middle School, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools
- Redwood Valley Middle, Redwood-Area School District
- Meadow Lake Elementary, Robbinsdale Public School District
- Robbinsdale Armstrong Senior High, Robbinsdale Public School District
- Century Middle High, Rochester Public School District
- Kellogg Middle Rochester, Public School District
- Pinewood Elementary, Rochester Public School District
- Rochester Math And Science Academy, Rochester, Minn.
- Greenleaf Elementary, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan
- Scott Highlands Middle, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan
- Rothsay Secondary, Rothsay Public School District
- Sauk Centre Secondary, Sauk Centre Public School District
- Pleasant View Elementary, Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools
- Sibley East-Arlington Elementary, Sibley East School District
- Sibley East-Gaylord Elementary, Sibley East School District
- South St. Paul Secondary South, St. Paul Public School District
- Cottage Grove Elementary South, Washington County School District
- Pine Hill Elementary South, Washington County School District
- Royal Oaks Elementary South, Washington County School District
- Woodbury Elementary South, Washington County School District
- Woodbury Middle School, South Washington County School District
- Technical Senior High, St. Cloud Public School District
- Adams Magnet Elementary, St. Paul Public School District
- Highland Park Elementary, St. Paul Public School District
- St. Anthony Park Elementary, St. Paul Public School District
- St. Peter Middle, St. Peter Public School District
- Central Elementary, Stewartville Public School District
- Oak Park Elementary, Stillwater Area Public School District
- Swanville Elementary, Swanville Public School District
- Challenger Elementary, Thief River Falls School District
- Franklin Middle, Thief River Falls School District
- Verndale Elementary, Verndale Public School District
- Waseca Junior High, Waseca Public School District
- Watertown-Mayer Elementary, Watertown-Mayer Public School District
- Waterville Elementary, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown
- Ogema Elementary, Waubun-Ogema-White Earth Public
- Fair School Downtown West Metro Education Program
- Vessey Leadership Academy West St. Paul, Minn.
- Westbrook-Walnut Grove Secondary, Westbrook-Walnut Grove Schools

U Law School Announces Inaugural Annual Conference of the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/23/2012) —“Crime and Justice in America, 1975-2025,” the Inaugural Annual Conference of the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, will take place Thursday, April 26, in the Law School.

The conference will bring together a group of the world’s leading authorities on criminal justice policy to discuss major developments in U.S. criminal justice in recent decades, including the war on drugs, mass incarceration, gun violence, policing, offender rehabilitation, and juvenile violence. The conference will examine why policies and research have evolved as they have, what we’ve learned, and where we should be headed.

“There’s a growing consensus that America’s criminal justice policies are too expensive, too often ineffective, and in many cases inhumane,” Wippman said. “The time is right to rethink how we respond to crime, and the Robina Institute has brought together an outstanding collection of experts to offer guidance on where to go from here.”

Speakers at the conference include Philip J. Cook (Duke University), the nation’s leading authority on gun control and gun violence; Francis T. Cullen (University of Cincinnati), the top U.S. authority on criminology and correctional policy; Jeffrey Fagan (Columbia University), one of the nation’s top experts on racial profiling by the police; David P. Farrington (Cambridge University), who has done landmark research into juvenile delinquency; Daniel Nagin (Carnegie-Mellon University), who is renowned for his research on the deterrent effects of punishment; Peter Reuter (University of Maryland), one of the world’s leading drug control policy scholars; Lawrence Sherman (Cambridge University), a world-renowned expert on policing; and Franklin Zimring (University of California at Berkeley), a leading authority on adolescent offending.

“This really is an all-star lineup,” said Michael Tonry, director of the Robina Institute. “The breadth and depth of knowledge they bring about crime policy in America is unsurpassed. We’re fortunate to have attracted such a distinguished group.”

The Robina Institute, supported by a major long-term grant from the Robina Foundation, works with policy-makers, practitioners and a wide range of leading scholars to improve criminal justice systems that are widely recognized to be ineffective, overly costly, overly severe, and insufficiently attentive to the needs and interests of victims. The Institute engages in interdisciplinary, policy-oriented study of the criminal justice system.

The Minneapolis-based Robina Foundation was established by James H. Binger, a St. Paul native and 1941 graduate of the Minnesota Law School, shortly before his death in 2004. In creating the Foundation, Binger charged it to support projects with potential to transform existing institutions, policies and practices. The new Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice aims to participate in the work of creating criminal justice systems fit for the 21st century and for the citizens of a contemporary democracy.

Tonry and Antony Duff head the new institute. Tonry, who came to the Law School in 1990 and for five years also headed the Institute of Criminology at Cambridge University, is one of the world’s leading experts on criminal justice policy. Duff, who joined the Law School in 2010, is one of the world’s preeminent philosophers of criminal law and punishment.

The institute focuses on three core, interrelated program areas: criminal law theory, headed by Duff; criminal justice policy, led by Tonry; and sentencing law and practice, led by professors Richard Frase and Kevin Reitz. Projects in the three areas will be focused on documenting problems and developing practical, achievable, cost-effective solutions.

The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

U of M Law School's Theatre of the Relatively Talentless to present "Alawddin: The Tale of 1001 All-Nighters"

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/24/2012) —The University of Minnesota Law School's Theatre of the Relatively Talentless (TORT) will present its 10th anniversary show, "Alawddin: The Tale of 1001 All-Nighters," on Friday and Saturday, March 2-3, at the Pantages Theatre, 710 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis.

Like all TORT productions, it is written, produced and performed entirely by Law School students, with reckless disregard for talent. Tradition dictates cameo appearances by faculty and prominent members of the legal community. Scheduled to elevate the atmosphere for the 2012 production are cameo appearances by a former U.S. vice president, politicians and Minnesota Supreme Court justices.

"Alawddin" tells the story of a server at a local bar who meets the dean's daughter, Jasmine, when she graces his establishment one fateful happy hour. It is truly love at first sight, at least for Alawddin. After breaking into the attic of the Law School to pursue his newfound love, he finds a genie in a fish bowl and wishes to become a law student so he can finally woo the beautiful Jasmine. Will Alawddin succeed in winning the heart of the dean's daughter and the respect of the University of Minnesota Law School? Or will an evil 3L spoil his plans?

Tickets are available in the subplaza of the Law School from noon to 1:15 p.m. weekdays until Feb. 29 (general public, \$18; students, \$13). For on-campus ticketing procedures, visit www.lawschoolmusical.com. Advance purchase of tickets is recommended.

Tickets will go on sale to the general public through the Pantages Theatre website (<http://www.hennepintheatretrust.org/events/alawddin-tale-1001-all-nighters>) or at the State Box Office. For information on group ticket rates (10 or more) or special accommodations, email tort@umn.edu.

Pantages Theatre doors open at 6 p.m. and performances start at 7 p.m.

Study shows charter schools still lag behind traditional public schools in test scores and are increasingly segregated by race and income

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/24/2012) —New work, which both updates and supplements a 2008 study by the Institute on Race and Poverty at the University of Minnesota Law School, shows that after two decades of experience, most charter schools in the Twin Cities still underperform comparable to traditional public schools and are highly segregated by race and income.

The new data, collected in 2010-11, shows that although charter school enrollment growth has slowed, little else has changed in the three years since the original study was released. Charters still lag behind their traditional counterparts academically and remain more highly segregated by race and income.

“Despite some significant changes in the state’s charter laws aimed at improving accountability in charter schools—at least partly as a result of studies like our 2008 report—charter schools as a group continue to fail to meet the academic and social objectives set forth by proponents,” said Myron Orfield, director of the Institute on Race and Poverty.

Increasingly Segregated Charter Schools

The study shows that a very high proportion of charters are essentially single-race schools. In sharp contrast with the traditional system, where the percentage of schools that are integrated has increased steadily, the share of integrated charter schools has been stagnant. As a result, charter school students of all races are still much more likely to be attending segregated schools than their counterparts in traditional schools, and the gaps are widening. For instance, in 2010-11, 89 percent of black charter students attended segregated schools, up from 81 percent in 2000-01. By comparison, just 44 percent of black students in traditional public schools in the metro were in segregated settings, down from 56 percent in 2000-01. Hispanic, Asian and Native American charter students were also roughly twice as likely to be in segregated settings as their traditional school counterparts in 2010-11.

Recent trends also show some changes in the average composition of charter schools. Charter enrollments peaked at 68 percent non-white in 2003-04, but growth since then has been split more evenly and the percentage of non-white students in charters fell to 57 percent in 2010-11. Increasing white enrollments have been accompanied by a dramatic increase in the share of white charter students in segregated settings (predominantly white schools). In 2000-01, 56 percent of white charter students were in predominantly white schools. By 2010-11, this had increased to 74 percent. In contrast, the percentage of white students in traditional schools in predominantly white schools fell from 81 to 57 percent during this time.

“The high rates of racial and economic segregation matter because research shows that students do worse in segregated school environments than in integrated settings,” said Tom Luce, research director of the institute. “Given that, it’s not surprising that this work, along with virtually every other comprehensive study of charter schools in Minnesota, shows that charter schools are outperformed by their traditional counterparts in standardized testing, even after controlling for school characteristics such as poverty.”

Lagging Test Scores

Although both the original study and the updated data show that a few charters perform well on standardized tests, the Institute’s analysis of 2010-11 test score data, which controls for a wide variety of school characteristics, shows that charters as a group still lag behind traditional schools. Proficiency rates are 7.5 percentage points lower for math and 4.4 points lower for reading in charter elementary schools than in traditional elementary schools. Choice is Yours schools outperform charter schools by 10.5 percentage points in math and 6.8 points in reading.

Patterns of Mismanagement

“The problems are not only with the academic and social performance of charter schools,” Orfield adds. “Some charter schools have also been managed very badly.” Although explanations for all charter school closings are not available, the charter system has exhibited management problems, sometimes criminal in nature, not often seen in the traditional system. The study documents the reasons for closure of charter schools where it is possible to track down reasons in the public record. Among the 14 closures where records exist (out of 39 total), four resulted from illegal misappropriation of funds and another seven involved financial mismanagement that didn’t cross the threshold into illegality.

About the Institute on Race and Poverty

Established in 1993, the IRP investigates the systemic ways that policies and practices disproportionately affect people of color and the disadvantaged, and it promotes alternative strategies to address these conditions. Through research, communications, mapping, and legal advocacy, the institute provides resources to policymakers, civil rights advocates and the general public to address structural disadvantages based upon race and class.

For more information about the report, contact Myron Orfield at (612) 625-7976 (orfield@umn.edu) or Thomas Luce at (612) 625-5344 (tluce@umn.edu).

Premack Awards to feature PolitiFact developer Matt Waite

Event honors the best of Minnesota's public affairs reporting

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/27/2012) —PolitiFact developer Matt Waite will speak at the 35th annual Premack Public Affairs Journalism Awards ceremony at 5 p.m., Thursday, April 19, 2012 at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public.

Waite is the principal developer of PolitiFact, a Pulitzer Prize-winning, data-driven website that fact checks what politicians and public figures say (politifact.com). Waite is also co-founder of Hot Type Consulting LLC, a company that specializes in web development for media companies, and was the news technologist for the St. Petersburg Times and TampaBay.com.

Waite will be available for phone or e-mail interviews prior to the event. To arrange an interview, contact Sarah Howard at (612) 625-8095 or showard@umn.edu.

The Premack Public Affairs Journalism Awards will be presented to five winners in the following categories: Public Affairs Reporting—Print/Online (one award each for large and small organizations), Public Affairs Reporting—Broadcast/Online, and Opinion Writing (one award each for large and small organizations). Finalists for the awards will be announced on March 3, 2012.

The Premack Public Affairs Journalism Awards honor excellence in Minnesota journalism and are sponsored by the Minnesota Journalism Center and the University of Minnesota School of Journalism & Mass Communication (SJMC). For more information, visit premackaward.org.

The Minnesota Journalism Center improves the practice of journalism, promotes interaction between media professionals and the academy, and serves as the outreach arm of the SJMC.

The School of Journalism & Mass Communication is part of the College of Liberal Arts and is accredited by the Accrediting Council for Journalism and Mass Communication.

U of M Alumni Association's Bruce Rader named 2012 Robert G. Forman Fellow

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/27/2012) —Bruce Rader, vice president for membership and marketing analytics for the University of Minnesota Alumni Association, has been named a 2012 Robert G. Forman Fellow by the Council of Alumni Association Executives (CAAE).

As a fellow, Rader will conduct research on alumni engagement and present a report at the CAAE Summer Institute. He will evaluate alumni engagement at the University of Virginia and University of California – Los Angeles alumni associations, as well as survey alumni associations across the country, in order to better define, establish metrics for, and increase alumni engagement.

“This recognition is a testament to Bruce’s commitment to advancing knowledge, innovation, and best practices in our industry,” said Phil Esten, Alumni Association president and CEO. “On behalf of the Alumni Association, we are proud that he received this esteemed honor, and we know that his research over the next year will have a significant impact.”

Rader has worked at the University of Minnesota Alumni Association since 2004. He received an MBA degree from the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management in 2001.

The Robert G. Forman Fellowship is named in honor of Robert “Bob” Forman, the founder of CAAE and former executive director of the University of Michigan Alumni Association. The fellowship is awarded annually to two outstanding professionals in the alumni relations field.



University of Minnesota Board of Regents Ad Hoc Group to hold special meeting

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](#), University News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, (612) 625-8510

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/28/2012) —A University of Minnesota Board of Regents Ad Hoc Group will hold a special meeting at 11 a.m. Friday, March 2, in the West Committee Room, 600 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and determine whether a conflict of interest exists for a regent and make recommendations to the full Board of Regents.

National security and our energy future: A public forum featuring Rear Admiral Neil Morisetti

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/28/2012) —The U of M's [Institute on the Environment](#) will hold a public forum on economic and national security threats posed by overreliance on fossil fuels from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 2, in the lobby level conference room of the Cargill Building, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul.

The forum will focus on improving national security and economic security through investments and policies that lead toward energy independence. Dick Hemmingsen of IonE's [Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment](#) and Tim Smith of the [NorthStar Initiative for Sustainable Enterprise](#) will be joined by Rear Admiral Neil Morisetti, the United Kingdom's climate & energy security envoy. Morisetti will highlight opportunities for Minnesota to benefit from investment in clean energy and efficiency. A reception will follow the event.

Rear Admiral Neil Morisetti CB joined the Royal Navy in 1976. After attending the Higher Command and Staff Course, in 2004 Morisetti took command of the aircraft carrier HMS Invincible. In November 2005 he was promoted to rear admiral and appointed Commander United Kingdom Maritime Forces, also serving as NATO High Readiness Force Maritime Commander. In July 2007 he was appointed commandant of the Joint Services Command and Staff College. He became the United Kingdom's climate and energy security envoy in November 2009.

U of M's Immigration History Center to host naturalization ceremony

What: Naturalization ceremony at the University of Minnesota

When: 1 p.m. Friday, March 2

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

Who: Judge Janie Mayeron (presiding); words of welcome from Provost Karen Hanson, CLA Dean James A. Parente and Humphrey School of Public Affairs Dean Eric Schwartz

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February 29, 2012

The Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) at the University of Minnesota, in collaboration with the American Immigration Lawyers Association-Minnesota/Dakotas chapter, will host a naturalization ceremony at 1 p.m. Friday, March 2 in 125 Willey Hall, 225 19th Ave. S, Minneapolis.

One hundred immigrants from more than 25 countries will take part in the ceremony.

The event will begin with the Immigrant of Distinction Award Ceremony, at which the American Immigration Lawyers Association-Minnesota/Dakotas Chapter will recognize two immigrants who have contributed in significant ways to American society. The Immigration History Research Center archives oral histories by the award recipients, among their many archival activities on the immigrant experience.

"We're thrilled to welcome these new Americans as they become part of Minnesota's long immigration history," said Donna R. Gabaccia, IHRC director and Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair in Immigration History.

Magistrate Judge Janie S. Mayeron will preside over the naturalization ceremony, which begins at 1:30 p.m. Judge Mayeron is an alumna of both the College of Liberal Arts (sociology and English) and the Law School at the university. University Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Karen Hanson will lead the new Americans in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Immigrants from the following countries are expected to participate on Friday: Bahrain, Burma, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, China, Ethiopia, Guyana, India, Iran, Israel, Kenya, Laos, Liberia, Mexico, Moldova, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Somalia, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, and Vietnam.

The audience will be limited to participants, guests and volunteers, with live webcasting for off-site viewers. For information about off-site access, contact IHRC@umn.edu.

Author and activist Winona LaDuke to speak on environmental justice at U of M

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/29/2012) —Author, orator and activist Winona LaDuke will deliver a lecture, “Honoring the Earth, Transforming Our Communities: Winona LaDuke on Environmental Justice,” at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 29 in Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The lecture is free and open to the public.

LaDuke will address questions such as: What is environmental justice and what does it have to do with each person in their everyday lives? How does environmental justice go beyond “going green?” and What can individuals do to effect change in their communities?

Winona LaDuke (Anishinaabe) is an internationally acclaimed author, orator and activist. LaDuke has devoted her life to protecting the lands and life ways of Native communities. LaDuke is a founder and co-director of Honor the Earth, a national advocacy group encouraging public support and funding for native environmental groups. With Honor the Earth, she works nationally and internationally on issues of climate change, renewable energy, sustainable development, food systems and environmental justice. In her own community in northern Minnesota, she is the founder of the White Earth Land Recovery Project, where her work includes efforts to protect indigenous plants and heritage foods from patenting and genetic engineering.

LaDuke's lecture is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Women's Center as part of its Women's History Month events. “Honoring the Earth, Transforming Our Communities: Winona LaDuke on Environmental Justice” is designed to engage students, faculty, staff, students and members of the community in conversation about environmental justice, activism and leadership.

A reception and book signing will follow the lecture.

For more information about and to RSVP for the event, visit z.umn.edu/winona.

Statement by Board of Regents Chair Linda Cohen about release of legal opinions in Regent Steve Sviggum conflict of interest matter

Media Note: To request PDF copies of the legal opinions, please contact the University News Service at (612) 624-5551.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/29/2012) —Below is a statement from Board of Regents Chair Linda Cohen about the release of legal opinions in the conflict of interest matter regarding Regent Steve Sviggum:

"On Feb. 10, I announced that I would seek two opinions on a conflict of interest question regarding Regent Steve Sviggum, one from our general counsel, Mark Rotenberg, and another from John Stout, who is outside the university and an expert in corporate governance. I have received and reviewed these two opinions. Because I believe it is vital for the public to fully understand the issues involved, I have decided to make the opinions public.

"The process being undertaken by the Board of Regents is governed by our Code of Ethics, and will be conducted in a deliberative manner with integrity to advance the university's best interests. Each member of the board is committed to use our best informed judgment to arrive at an appropriate decision in this matter."

Classes Without Quizzes features everyday science

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/01/2012) —Climate change, winemaking, healthy eating and invasive species are among the featured topics at this year's "Classes Without Quizzes" on Saturday, March 31 at the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus.

Nationally recognized experts from the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences will present mini-seminars designed for the general public, including students of all ages. The event will be from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with an optional lunch afterward.

Well-known climatologist, author and media personality Mark Seeley will present the keynote speech at 9 a.m. Climate scientists agree that three regional climate attributes are changing in Minnesota: higher temperatures, especially in winter and in overnight lows; more frequent high-dewpoint periods of sultry weather; and variable, increasing precipitation. These climate trends are clearly linked to measurable consequences: new plant hardiness zones, changes in agricultural drainage, and watershed management, transportation issues, public health concerns, and energy usage. Seeley will explain what's changing now, what might change in the future and how Minnesotans' lives will be affected.

The nine mini-seminars are:

Vines and Wines: An Introduction to U of M Grapes and the MN Wine Industry

Horticultural science professor Jim Luby will discuss the history of grape growing and winemaking in the state, current varieties' characteristics and how they are grown, and what makes a good vineyard site in Minnesota.

Is Higher Education Worth the Cost? An Economic Perspective

Applied Economics assistant professor Elton Mykerezi will explain how parents and students can analyze their own situations and will discuss why generalizations about the benefits of post-secondary education don't work.

Should You Buy an Alternative Car for Economic and Environmental Reasons?

Applied Economics Extension educator Doug Tiffany will demonstrate an online decision tool he's developed to help consumers compare economic costs and carbon footprints of most vehicles in today's market.

Invaders From Other Ecosystems: How the Carp Got Here and What You Can Do About Them

Fisheries professor Peter Sorensen thinks the answer lies in a complex combination of factors that must be fully understood to solve the problem; he'll explain how learning more about the carp might help reduce the damage they cause.

The New USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map: What it Means for Gardeners

Horticultural science professor Mary Meyer will explain how to use the new interactive map, where it is warmer in Minnesota, which new plants Minnesota gardeners may want to try, micro-climates around homes and how to take advantage of warmer or colder locations.

Got Carrots? Discovering the Effects of Plant Foods on Cancer Risk

Sabrina Peterson Trudo, assistant professor in the Department of Food Science and Nutrition, shares her research on the effects of plant foods on cancer risk.

Eco-Palms, Preachers and Tropical Forest Conservation. What's the Connection?

For more than a decade, the Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management (CINRAM) at the University of Minnesota has partnered with conservation and faith-based organizations as well as the private sector to help conserve tropical forests through the Eco-Palms program, which distributes sustainably harvested palm leaves to church-goers throughout the United States every Palm Sunday. Dean Current, research associate in the Department of Forest Resources, directs CINRAM.

Feeding a Hungry World

Learn how scientists are working to make farming in the world's most challenging agricultural areas more productive and profitable. Department of Applied Economics professor Phil Pardey is co-director of the Gates Foundation's HarvestChoice initiative, a global information and decision-making resource that is deeply involved in this research.

No Longer a Ticket to a Job: Leveraging the College Experience for Career Success

Career and Internship Services Director Sara Nagel Newberg and CFANS Admissions Director Stacie Vennewitz will discuss strategies to help students compete effectively in the modern job market. Using anecdotes as well as survey data, they'll explore the behaviors that lead to success for college graduates. They'll also discuss factors to consider when selecting a college or major program.

This year's kids' sessions, presented by staff from the Bell Museum of Natural History and the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, are aimed at two groups: kindergartners through second graders, and third- through sixth-graders. Each group will study plants and pollinators, and tour the Bell Museum's Exploradome.

Registration for Classes Without Quizzes costs \$30 with discounts for University of Minnesota Alumni Association members and students. An optional lunch following the seminars is \$10.

For information and to register, go to: <http://z.umn.edu/cwq> or call (612) 624-0822.

U of M's Heller-Hurwicz Economics Institute presents 'Globalization: The Promise and The Challenge' on Apr. 10

Former Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo to discuss global economic issues

Contacts: [Jeff Falk](#), University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

March 1, 2012

The University of Minnesota Heller-Hurwicz Economics Institute (HHEI) will present "Globalization: The Promise & Challenge" from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Apr. 10, in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. S., Minneapolis.

The event will feature two keynote speakers: Ernesto Zedillo, director of the Yale Center for the Study of Globalization and former president of Mexico, and Timothy Kehoe, a Distinguished McKnight University Professor and adviser to the Federal Bank of Minneapolis.

Each speaker will present, followed by a Q&A. This event is free and open to the public. Please register at hhei.umn.edu to attend.

This event is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Heller-Hurwicz Economics Institute.

About the speakers

Kehoe is currently a Distinguished McKnight University Professor and adviser at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. His research and teaching focus on the theory and application of general equilibrium models. Kehoe has also advised the Spanish government on the impact of joining the European Community in 1986, the Mexican government on the impact of joining NAFTA in 1994 and the Panamanian government on the impact of unilateral foreign trade and investment reforms in 1998. More information about Kehoe is available at: hhei.umn.edu/profile.php?UID=tkehoe.

Zedillo is currently the director of the Yale Center for the Study of Globalization and served as president of Mexico from 1994 to 2000. Since his presidency, Zedillo has been a leading voice on globalization and its impact on relations between developed and developing countries. More information about Zedillo is available at: www.ycsg.yale.edu/center/zedillo.html.

About the U of M Department of Economics and HHEI

Launched in late 2010, HHEI is a global initiative in the U of M College of Liberal Arts' Department of Economics, created to inform and influence public policy by supporting and promoting frontier economic research and by communicating its findings to leading academics, policymakers and business executives around the world.

The institute is named after Walter Heller and Leo Hurwicz, world-leading economics scholars who were faculty members at the University of Minnesota from the early 1950s through the 1980s.

For more information about HHEI, Heller and Hurwicz, visit <http://hhei.umn.edu>.

University of Minnesota President Kaler holds line on administrative costs, announces new initiatives in teaching, learning, research and engagement in his first State of the U address

Kaler stresses need for U to balance its many responsibilities in challenging times

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/01/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler this afternoon outlined his vision and key priorities in his first State of the University address in the university's Coffman Union Theater.

Kaler's speech, "Balances," expanded on the balances the university must strike as it moves forward in a challenging time, including the need for public support to balance tuition support, training for a job to balance educating for a life of learning, balancing the university's research mission and its education goals and, most importantly, he said, the balance of risk and reward.

Kaler particularly emphasized his priority to minimize tuition increases and reduce student and family debt, saying, "My hope is that the State of Minnesota will engage us in the important work we do at a level that minimizes or eliminates tuition increases."

Additionally, Kaler announced a range of initiatives to improve student, faculty and staff productivity and success, including kicking off a discussion that could move the university to a three-semester, year-round academic calendar.

The following are key excerpts from the speech, which is currently being livestreamed at www.umn.edu/president/speeches-and-writing/2012-state-of-the-u/index.html.

On minimizing tuition increases and reducing student and family debt

"... tuition and student and family debt, critical issues that are directly tied to state support. Simply put, as the State of Minnesota's investment in the University has declined, our need for tuition dollars to replace part of that state support has increased ... The fantasy that the University could somehow advance its mission and hold the line on tuition as state support dwindles is just that: a fantasy ... My hope is that the State of Minnesota will engage us in the important work we do at a level that minimizes or eliminates tuition increases."

On "operational excellence" at the U

"Operational Excellence isn't a buzzword or a project or an initiative.

"It is about innovation and operating differently, not simply about cutting costs. It is about fundamentally changing the culture of this University, and how we manage change. Culture change is not easy, and it is not fast. But we absolutely have to move to a more nimble and responsive way of doing our administrative work, and we have to do it at a lower cost."

On administrative costs

Kaler also discussed his proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, 2013, saying, "I pledged to hold the line on administrative costs, and this budget does that."

On examining everything to achieve excellence

"I was surprised to find out—and you may be surprised, too—that we have 265 academic centers and institutes and they have budgets totaling more than \$200 million annually ... I have directed all of our deans to look at and examine the mission centrality, value, and scope of each of these centers and institutes. Administrative centers will also be examined. We may find that some, and maybe even most, remain valuable and relevant, but I'm willing to bet others are not."

On new academic investments in fiscal year 2013

Kaler also reiterated his promise to support and reward innovative faculty research and teaching, saying, "... there is a pool of about \$21 million for academic investments. This substantial pool of money will be awarded competitively through the annual compact budget process. I encourage your best ideas—and those of your deans and chancellors."

On a new academic calendar

"... I'd like to take a serious and rigorous look at moving to a year-round academic calendar. This would include three 14- or 15-week periods ... First, it would give more students a real chance at graduating in less than four years. On such a calendar, a full-time, year-round student could earn 120 credits in less than three years.

"... [it] would also give students more opportunity to study abroad, have meaningful internship or service opportunities, or complete honors or other significant senior projects."

President Kaler Appointed to Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/01/2012) —U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano has appointed University of Minnesota President Eric W. Kaler to the Homeland Security Academic Advisory Council (HSAAC).

The new council, comprised of prominent university presidents and academic leaders, is charged with advising the Secretary and senior leadership at the Department on several key issues.

“President Kaler’s extensive experience and expertise will make him a valuable asset to the Council,” said Secretary Napolitano. “I look forward to working with him on these critical issues.”

The new council underscores the Department’s commitment to working with the academic community. In this noteworthy role, Kaler will provide advice and recommendations on issues related to student and recent graduate recruitment; international students; academic research; campus and community resiliency, security and preparedness; and faculty exchanges.

“This is a great opportunity for the University of Minnesota and the state of Minnesota, and I’m honored to join my colleagues from across the country on this council,” President Kaler said. “The University has a great deal of expertise that will help advance the interests of this council.”

President Kaler has been president of the University since July 1, 2011. Previously, he served as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs and vice president for Brookhaven National Laboratory affairs at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, NY.

Kaler received his undergraduate degree from the California Institute of Technology in 1978 and his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1982.

Before his appointment as provost of Stony Brook in October 2007, Kaler was a member of the faculty at the University of Delaware from 1989-2007. He served as chair of the Chemical Engineering Department from 1996 to 2000 and dean of the College of Engineering from 2000 to 2007. Kaler was named the Elizabeth Inez Kelley Professor of Chemical Engineering in 1998. He was an assistant professor and an associate professor of chemical engineering at the University of Washington from 1982 to 1989.

Kaler will attend the council’s inaugural meeting on March 20 in Washington, D.C.

Iconoclast Madman George Lois to speak at See Change conference

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/06/2012) —The University of Minnesota School of Journalism and Mass Communication will host advertising legend George Lois, who will present keynote address at the third annual See Change conference at 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 15. The conference, which runs May 15 and 16, also features local and national speakers from across the visual spectrum.

Registration is now open at www.seechangeconference.com.

Lois, an "iconoclast Madman," developed what he called "The Big Idea" in advertising, gave new life to MTV with the "I Want My MTV" campaign, created the advertising that launched the Tommy Hilfiger brand and designed covers presenting controversial statements on life in the 1960s for Esquire magazine—all now installed in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art.

On Tuesday, May 16, See Change will welcome photographer Tim Mantoani and his "Behind the Photographs" project; data visualizer Wesley Grubbs, founder of Pitch Interactive; Minneapolis creative director Joe Duffy; Dan Ibarra and Mike Myzewski of Aesthetic Apparatus, recently featured at the Walker Art Center's Graphic Design: Now In Production installation; former skate park builder and co-founder of eco-friendly outdoor furniture company Loll Designs Greg Benson; Kickstarter's Stephanie Pereira; and Mark Wheat, disc jockey at The Current. Additional speakers are still to be announced.

The conference concludes with a Wednesday evening reception at the Weisman Art Museum.

"For two years in a row, See Change has presented a diverse range of speakers that have inspired, delighted, and motivated audience members from the design, advertising, interactive, journalism, photography, and other creative communities here in Minneapolis," said See Change co-director Mary Kay Baumann of design firm Hopkins-Baumann. "This third year, we're curating an equally stimulating lineup of speakers."

See Change is a conference for curious creative people to refresh their talents with innovative ideas and imagery presented by visualists from across the ever-morphing communication landscape. This exchange is important as visual creators struggle to reinvent themselves for the next best thing, new technology and evolving media.

Tickets for the conference are \$99 for members of sponsoring organizations (the University of Minnesota and AIGA Minnesota, the professional organization for design), \$149 for nonmembers and \$25 for students with valid ID.

About See Change

See Change was created by R. "Smitty" Smith and Pat Schuneman. Smith was a faculty member at the University of Minnesota School of Journalism and Mass Communication from 1960 to 1977 and was instrumental in creating the school's accredited sequence in photographic communication. While on the Minnesota faculty, Smith conceived of the Minnesota Symposium on Visual Communication and implemented it with Will Hopkins in 1973. Smith and Pat established an endowment to develop an annual program at the University of Minnesota School of Journalism and Mass Communication that brings together national and local luminaries to share current insights on innovative projects, working philosophies, and survival techniques in today's fast-paced business climate. The result is [See Change](#).

Momentum 2012 Event Series Kicks Off Apr. 5

Internationally renowned nature photographer Paul Nicklen to lead off spring event series of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment



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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/06/2012) —Following in the footsteps of last spring's popular Momentum 2011 event series, the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota announces an all-star lineup for Momentum 2012, to be held Apr. 5, May 10 and May 23 at the Ted Mann Concert Hall in Minneapolis.

Headlining Apr. 5 will be National Geographic photographer Paul Nicklen, with a featured performance by Mu Daiko Drumming. Using images of the stark beauty and wildlife found in Earth's coldest regions, Nicklen will tell stories of his travels around the world and share a photographic tribute to some of the world's most vulnerable habitats and their inhabitants. Master of ceremonies for the evening will be meteorologist, entrepreneur and philanthropist Paul Douglas.

Second up in the Momentum 2012 event series is conservation visionary M. Sanjayan, who will be hosted May 10 by IonE director Jonathan Foley and accompanied by a featured performance by Zorongo Flamenco Dance Company. Sanjayan, lead scientist for The Nature Conservancy, will deliver a presentation on "Awakening the Environmental Movement." Instead of talking about a planet that will be destroyed if we do nothing, he'll discuss how people, and nature, will thrive if we change the conversation and reboot the environmental movement by engaging three often ignored constituents: the business community, the two billion poor, and today's kids.

Environmental theologian Martin Palmer will wrap up the season with a May 23 talk on the intersection of the conservation movement and the religious community. Palmer's organization – the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in England – currently works with 11 major religions worldwide, as well as with a variety of international secular organizations such as WWF, the United Nations and the World Bank. Preluding his presentation will be a featured performance by In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre. The evening's events will be emceed by Karen Hanson, senior vice president for academic affairs and provost at the University of Minnesota.

All three events in the series will begin at 7:30 p.m. For tickets and more information, contact the Northrop Box Office, 612-624-2345, or visit environment.umn.edu/momentum/eventseries.

Momentum 2012 is made possible by premier sponsor General Mills, media sponsor Minnesota Public Radio and other supporters and benefactors.

Momentum talks are professionally videotaped and archived for viewing on IonE's YouTube channel, youtube.com/UMNIonE. Talks currently available on the the site are Majora Carter, "You Don't Have to Move Out of Your Neighborhood to Live in a Better One"; Hans Rosling, "A Fact-Based World View"; and Sylvia Earle, "Sustainable Seas: The Vision, the Reality."

The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment seeks lasting solutions to Earth's biggest challenges through research, partnerships and leadership development. For more information, visit environment.umn.edu.

Bentson Foundation gives \$6.65 million to the University of Minnesota

Gift will support nursing education, undergraduate scholarships

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/07/2012) —The University of Minnesota has received a gift of \$6.65 million from the Bentson Foundation for a high-tech teaching laboratory in the School of Nursing and to further strengthen the existing Bentson Scholarship Program.

The gift is a continuation of the philanthropic relationship between the university and the Bentson family, which began in the 1970s. In 2003, Larry and Nancy Bentson established the Bentson Scholarship Program with a gift of \$10 million. In January of 2011 the Bentson Foundation gave the University of Minnesota \$1 million for TCF Bank Stadium.

“We are pleased to continue to build on the investments in the University of Minnesota that my family began many years ago,” said Laurie Bentson Kauth, daughter of Larry and Nancy Bentson and chair of the Bentson Foundation. “My parents both graduated from the University of Minnesota and firmly believed their success in life was firmly rooted in the education that they received at the U of M. They were dedicated to strengthening the University and to helping students achieve their educational goals. This gift is an extension of our family’s commitment to the University of Minnesota and underscores our belief in the value of higher education.”

“I am deeply grateful to the Bentson family for their longstanding support in helping us achieve critical progress in areas important to our mission,” said university President Eric W. Kaler. “This kind of private philanthropy plays a pivotal role in building and maintaining excellence at the university, and ensuring access to excellence for talented students.”

The new gift, the largest in the history of the School of Nursing, provides \$3.65 million to construct a new skills-learning environment, replacing the 25-year-old facility currently used by bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral students. Renovating this space is a major step toward achieving the school’s goals for reshaping nursing education to meet the dramatic changes in the interdisciplinary health care environment.

The renovation will create high-tech learning spaces that more closely match the settings in which health care is delivered, making it possible to teach advanced nursing skills in environments that span the continuum of care. It also will support team-based, interprofessional learning. The project will include acute, skilled, ambulatory and home-care settings, equipped with electronic health record technology, portable computers and wireless mobile technology used in telehealth.

“As our nation’s health care system continues to evolve, we must find new and resourceful ways to prepare nurse leaders to advance holistic efforts in improving health,” said Connie Delaney, dean of the University of Minnesota School of Nursing. “Nationally, nurses have gained recognition for the fundamental role they play in transforming our health care system. With the Bentson Foundation’s generous support, we will ensure that our graduates are prepared to meet their full potential.”

The new teaching laboratory will be called the Healthy Communities Innovation Center, a School of Nursing initiative in collaboration with the university’s other health sciences colleges to establish an inter-professional learning community for students and practicing professionals. With the Bentson Foundation gift, more than \$6 million has been raised to date for the \$7.8 million project and construction will begin in May.

“We believe this is a transformative project for the School of Nursing, and hope that our gift will inspire others to give as well,” said Laurie Bentson Kauth.

Another \$3 million of the gift will provide additional funding for the current Bentson Scholarship Program. More than 500 undergraduate students representing a range of majors have received Bentson scholarships since the start of the program in 2003. The new gift will expand support for students in their junior and senior years to ensure that they successfully complete their degrees on time and get a good start on their careers or graduate education.

“Gifts from the Bentson family for student support have made an incredible difference in the lives of so many students, who in turn will go on to make an impact in their communities,” Kaler said. “The vision that Larry and Nancy Bentson had in creating the Bentson Scholarship Program has led to student success and is critical to the University of Minnesota living up to the promise of excellence and access.”

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The University of Minnesota School of Nursing, ranked in the nation’s top 5 percent of nursing schools, is a leader in improving health care through research, education and service. The oldest continuing university-based school of nursing in the nation, it has a combined undergraduate and graduate enrollment of approximately 850 students. The school educates 55 percent of the faculty in Minnesota’s public and private nursing schools, advanced practice nurses and nurses who can assume leadership positions. The School of Nursing is part of the Academic Health Center, one of the most comprehensive facilities for health professionals in the nation, fostering interdisciplinary study, research and education. For additional information, please visit www.nursing.umn.edu.

Update and preliminary action by University of Minnesota Board of Regents expected this week on ambulatory care center

What: University of Minnesota Board of Regents Meeting

When: Thursday, March 8 and Friday, March 9

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

Contacts: Chuck Tombarge, University of Minnesota News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, (612) 625-8510

March 7, 2012

A new ambulatory care center on the Twin Cities campus, which would house patient clinics for use by University of Minnesota Physicians, students and Fairview Health Services, will be discussed by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents during its meetings on Thursday, March 8 and Friday, March 9. The care center would replace outdated clinic space located in the Phillips-Wangensteen Building, which was built in 1974.

The \$182.5 million ambulatory care center will fulfill four guiding principles for the project and reflects President Eric W. Kaler's vision for the university:

- Patient and family-centered care – provide safe, welcoming and accessible clinic space
- Collaborative environment – promote multidisciplinary space that integrates patient care, education and research
- Flexibility – adapt and accommodate changes in program development, health care best practices and innovation
- Recruitment and retention – invest in educational excellence for students and a suitable space for University of Minnesota Physicians to practice medicine

Regents will be briefed on the proposed center, including its financing, ownership and governance during a work session on Thursday. The Board is tentatively scheduled to act on a preliminary resolution related to the project on Friday.

Other Board of Regents agenda items include:

- President Kaler will provide an update from his State of the University address, his experience at the Capitol and outreach that is occurring in Greater Minnesota
- A vote on the \$1.3 billion six-year capital plan, which aligns future investments at U of M campuses statewide with President Kaler's vision for the university
- A presentation on the university's land grant mission. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act, the legislation which gave birth to land grant universities
- Consideration of a recommendation from a Board Ad Hoc Group about the conflict of interest question regarding Regent Steve Sviggum

The Board will begin its meetings at 11 a.m. Thursday. It will also meet from 9 a.m. to noon Friday. More information about the Board meeting, including the full agenda, can be found at www.umn.edu/regents.

Provost Hanson, President Kaler to announce dean-designate of University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management

Appointment subject to Board of Regents approval

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March 7, 2012

What: Announcement of dean-designate for Carlson School of Management

When: Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

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

University of Minnesota Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Karen Hanson and President Eric W. Kaler will announce the dean-designate for the Carlson School of Management during an event in the Carlson School's atrium Thursday, March 8 at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday's event, featuring the formal introduction and a brief discussion with Provost Hanson, President Kaler and the dean-designate, will be streamed live on the Carlson School of Management website (www.carlsonschool.umn.edu). Interested parties are invited to submit discussion questions via Twitter using the hashtag #CarlsonDean at any time prior to the announcement event.

Provost Hanson, President Kaler and the dean-designate will be available for brief interviews immediately after Thursday's announcement.

The appointment will be made pending approval by the Board of Regents.

The 12th dean of the Carlson School of Management succeeds Alison Davis-Blake, who on July 1, 2011 became dean of the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan.

Outgoing university Provost Tom Sullivan initiated the search process in June 2011. An 18-member search committee that included faculty, staff, students, alumni and members of the business community was convened September 2011 and worldwide search firm Korn/Ferry was retained to assist in fielding a highly qualified and diverse group of finalists. The four finalists participated in public interviews in January and February 2012.

About the Carlson School of Management

Established in 1919, the Carlson School of Management is a recognized leader in business education and research. Its focus on experiential learning, international education and maintaining strong ties to the business community exemplify the school's commitment to excellence. For more information, please visit: www.carlsonschool.umn.edu

University of Minnesota announces 2012 Siehl Prize for Excellence in Agriculture laureates

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/07/2012) —A longtime state agriculture commissioner, a University of Minnesota economist who works to improve agricultural productivity around the world and a wheat farmer with a long record of community service are this year's recipients of the prestigious Siehl Prize in Agriculture.

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

Bruce Hamnes (production agriculture): Since taking over his family's Stephen, Minn., farm in the early 1960s, he has served on agricultural lobbying and advisory groups at the local, state, national and international levels. As a small-grains producer, he helped lead research initiatives of the Minnesota Wheat Council and Wheat Growers and later worked with national organizations to expand international wheat markets. He also played an important role in developing leadership programs through the Northwest Minnesota Foundation.

Gene Hugoson (agribusiness): As Minnesota's agriculture commissioner for 15 years—in three different administrations—his priorities were expanding markets for agricultural products and enhancing the protection of the state's food supply. The southern Minnesota farmer also modernized the agriculture department and was elected by his fellow state ag commissioners to lead their national association.

Philip Pardey (knowledge): The University of Minnesota professor of applied economics uses science and technology to help alleviate hunger, through his strategic analyses for development foundations, agribusiness companies, governmental and non-governmental agencies. The native of Australia is co-founder of Harvest Choice, a Gates Foundation-funded initiative that gathers and analyzes agricultural productivity data to help address food needs in developing nations.

The recipients were announced today as part of the celebration of National Ag Week. They will be honored at a ceremony on May 24 on the university campus.

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.

Sri Zaheer named dean of University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management

*Appointment Subject
to Board of Regents
Approval*



Dr. Srilata A. Zaheer

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/08/2012) —University of Minnesota Provost Karen Hanson today named Dr. Srilata A. Zaheer dean of the University's Carlson School of Management.

Pending approval by the Board of Regents, which is expected to act at its meeting Friday, March 9, Zaheer will begin her formal term immediately.

"Dean-designate Zaheer is a rare combination of someone who is renowned for her insights on international business, highly regarded for her understanding of the global and local businesses that drive the Minnesota economy, and acutely aware of the needs of the Carlson School as it continues to educate the world's current and future business leaders," Provost Hanson said. "I am delighted that Dr. Zaheer will lead the Carlson School, and I am confident she will position the school, its students, and alumni for future success."

The announcement concludes an extensive and inclusive international search, which yielded four finalists. Dr. Zaheer's work as interim dean during the past nine months, which included strengthening business partnerships, developing innovative business and research practices, and a commitment to diversity, makes her appointment consistent with university President Eric W. Kaler's other recent appointments, and with the Carlson School's mission.

"In Dr. Zaheer, the Carlson School has a dedicated and visionary leader who shares my belief that the University of Minnesota can and will be an institution that solves the challenges facing our state, the nation and the world," said President Kaler. "She has charted a course for excellence that, while forged by her own unique experience, builds upon Carlson's mission and closely mirrors my vision for an efficient, effective and engaged institution. I look forward to her aggressive engagement with our business community."

Zaheer, the Elmer L. Andersen Chair in Global Corporate Social Responsibility, joined the Carlson School in 1991 and most recently held the position of associate dean of faculty and research prior to her appointment to interim dean in June 2011. She earned a Ph.D. in international management from the Sloan School of Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a master's in business from the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad.

Zaheer, whose research has centered around the risks faced by multinational corporations and on the impact of technology on international location and organization, has won several international awards for her research including the Eldridge Haynes Award for the best interdisciplinary work in international management. She was named a 2007 Fellow of the Academy of International Business, the highest honor in the field, and was a consulting editor of the *Journal of International Business Studies*. She is a founding member of the International Academic Council of the Indian School of Business, set up by McKinsey, Kellogg, and Wharton in Hyderabad, India. Zaheer also served as co-director of the Center for Integrative Leadership at the University of Minnesota.

"I am honored and truly grateful to be appointed dean of the Carlson School, an institution to which I have a deep connection and for which I have great passion," Zaheer said. "For the last 20 years, it has been my privilege to work alongside a faculty regularly rated among the nation's elite and with students who represent the best and brightest. Carlson holds enviable strengths in its faculty and staff, its alumni, its students and its links to the corporate community. I will work tirelessly on our shared pursuit, guided by a sense of purpose, to make the Carlson School a crucible for the ideas that will shape the future of business worldwide."

The salary of the new dean will be \$480,000, of which \$270,000 will be paid for with private funds from the Elmer Andersen Chair, which Zaheer will continue to hold, and the Leadership Distinguished Chair, which was created to support the deanship.

Zaheer's candidacy received strong support from faculty, students, staff, alumni and Minnesota's business community. She succeeds Alison Davis-Blake, who on July 1, 2011 became dean of the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan.

Outgoing provost Tom Sullivan initiated the search process in June 2011. An 18-member search committee was convened September 2011 and worldwide search firm Korn/Ferry was retained to assist in fielding a highly qualified and diverse group of finalists. The four finalists participated in public interviews in January and February 2012.

About the Carlson School of Management

Established in 1919, the Carlson School of Management is a recognized leader in business education and research. Its focus on experiential learning, international education and maintaining strong ties to the business community exemplify the school's commitment to excellence. For more information, please visit: www.carlsonschool.umn.edu

Office of the VP for Research to host event recognizing inventors

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/08/2012) —Researchers who were awarded a patent or whose technology was licensed during the past fiscal year will be recognized this evening at an event hosted by the Office of the Vice President for Research. A total of 134 inventors representing 13 colleges from across the university will be honored. Their efforts generated 65 patents and 74 license agreements in fiscal 2011, including the launch of nine startup companies — the most in the university's history.

The program will include remarks from Linda Cohen, Board of Regents chair; Eric W. Kaler, president; R. Timothy Mulcahy, vice president for research; and Jay Schrankler, executive director of the Office for Technology Commercialization. The event will take place at the McNamara Alumni Center from 4 to 6 p.m., with the program beginning at 5 p.m.

Over the past five years, inventions by university researchers have brought more than \$341 million in revenue into the state and helped fund numerous initiatives across the university, including fellowships for graduate students, critical research infrastructure and major equipment needs, development investments for university technologies, and funding for additional research.

For more information, visit

<http://www.research.umn.edu/forresearchers/innovations.html#.T1kAE8zO8i1>.

U of M President Kaler makes first to visit Moorhead Mar. 12-13

Who: U of M President Eric Kaler

What: Community visits in Moorhead

When: Monday, Mar. 12 and Tuesday, Mar. 13

Contacts: [Jeff Falk](#), University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

March 9, 2012

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will make his first visit to Moorhead this Monday and Tuesday, Mar. 12-13, to meet with community leaders, Extension staff in the Moorhead area and the Fargo Forum editorial board. He will be joined by U of M Regent Clyde Allen, of Moorhead.

The university's ties within the Fargo-Moorhead area run deep. This semester, 285 students from Moorhead are enrolled at one of the U's five statewide campuses.

In addition, 1,159 Moorhead residents are U alumni, and together they hold 1,428 degrees, including advanced degrees in medicine, law, engineering and veterinary medicine.

The president's public events:

12 noon Tuesday, March 13

President Kaler will give a speech to the Moorhead Rotary
Courtyard by Marriott
1080 28th Ave. S.
Moorhead

Territorial Hall repeats as "Conservation Madness" champion

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/09/2012) —Territorial Hall is once again "Conservation Madness" champion, winning the University of Minnesota's second annual residence hall sustainability competition. Held throughout February, Conservation Madness is a partnership between the university's Office of Housing & Residential Life and Facilities Management Department aimed at encouraging students to conserve campus resources year-round. Territorial residents will enjoy a national college basketball championship viewing party on April 2 for earning the highest overall ranking in electricity savings, water conservation, waste per capita and recycling.

Territorial edged out Yudof Hall to take the crown by finishing first in the electricity reduction portion of the contest with a 4.4 percent decrease in electricity use and finishing fourth in water conservation and by tying for fourth in recycling/waste. Frontier Hall was first in recycling/waste by recycling 22.5 percent of their waste and they only generated 11.9 pounds of waste per person during February. Roy Wilkins Hall led all residence halls in water conservation with a 9 percent reduction in water use.

If all residence halls conserved resources over the course of an entire year at the same rate as the top ranking residence halls did during Conservation Madness, the university would save more than \$120,000 annually.

For complete results of Conservation Madness, go to www1.umn.edu/italladdsup/madness/winners.php.

Board of Regents commit to working with U president to ensure prudence in senior leader compensation

Other Board actions: approvals of new Carlson School Dean Zaheer, six-year capital improvement plan

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/09/2012) —During its regular meeting today, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents addressed recent public and legislative concern about senior leader compensation and transition agreements. Board discussion echoed remarks from University President Eric W. Kaler, who committed to more closely following university policies and guidelines on compensation.

“Students, families and all Minnesotans expect us to be careful stewards of the public, tuition and private funding the University of Minnesota utilizes to achieve our mission as a land grant and research institution focused on doing what’s best for students,” said Board of Regents Chair Linda Cohen, following Friday’s meeting. “We have confidence in President Kaler’s responsiveness to this issue and his careful, watchful and prudent approach to financial management. The Board of Regents will work closely with President Kaler to review senior leader compensation and transition policies, and will make any changes necessary to ensure appropriate oversight of the university’s financial resources.”

Other agenda items addressed during today’s Board meeting included:

- Approval of the appointment of Dr. Srilata Zaheer as the new Carlson School of Management dean. Provost Karen Hanson and President Kaler first announced the selection of Dr. Zaheer during a Carlson School program on March 8. Dr. Zaheer’s term as dean will begin immediately.
- Presentation of the McKnight Land-Grant Professors, a program that began in 1987 to strengthen and nurture promising junior faculty. Recipients are honored with the title, which they hold for two years, as well as research grant support. Recognized recipients included Yingling Fan, public affairs; Joshua Feinberg, earth sciences; Melissa Gardner, genetics, cell biology and development; Jason Hill, bioproducts and biosystems engineering; Daniel Keefe, computer science and engineering; and Dominique Tobbell, surgery.
- Approval of the \$1.3 billion six-year capital plan for the university, which invests in projects to help ensure student success and access, contributes to the U’s research excellence, ensures more efficient use of space and protects the assets of campuses statewide. The plan fulfills the Board of Regents’ 2008 goal of taking a broader, more interdisciplinary approach to planning, as well as focusing on collaboratively controlled space and better aligning assets to the university’s strategic goals.
- A presentation about the university’s land grant mission, which was established by the Morrill Act 150 years ago.
- Planned action on a new ambulatory care center on the Twin Cities was tabled until the May board meeting to align with the timing of consideration by the Fairview Health Services Board of Directors. The care center would house patient clinics for use by University of Minnesota Physicians, students and Fairview.
- Chair Cohen confirmed that she has accepted the resignation of Regent Steve Sviggum, which leaves the 2nd Congressional District seat vacant.

The next Board of Regents meetings will occur on May 10-11, 2012.

U of M to open American Cultural Center for Sport in China on March 20

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/12/2012) —On March 20 the University of Minnesota will celebrate the grand opening of a unique center that will share U.S. culture with the Chinese people through the medium of sport. The American Cultural Center for Sport is funded by a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of State and will be a partnership between the University's China Center and School of Kinesiology and the Tianjin University of Sport in Tianjin, China.

The main objective of the center is to demonstrate to the Chinese people how sport culture and values are integrated into the larger American society and how these cultural values influence American viewpoints, global outlook and engagement in everything from business and politics to arts and communication.

“Many concepts drawn from sport, such as ‘fair play’ and ‘pursuit of excellence,’ are infused in the values and beliefs of Americans, regardless of whether they participate in sports,” said Joan Brzezinski, executive director of the China Center. “This center will help the Chinese develop a deeper understanding of how sport culture impacts all of our interactions, whether person-to-person or country-to-country.”

The center will organize events and provide resources such as athletic exchanges and collaborations, guest lectures by university faculty and other experts, a reading room of print and online resources, and training for teachers to integrate the culture of sport into their curricula.

The new center will take advantage of the many resources of the University of Minnesota, including its highly ranked School of Kinesiology and its NCAA Division I athletics programs. The School of Kinesiology is ranked among the top 10 programs nationally, and its faculty have expertise in sport-related culture programs. The School's Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport is dedicated to exploring the impact of sport, recreation and physical activity on the lives of girls and women. Dr. Li Li Ji, the school's director, has experience bringing Chinese Olympic athletes to the United States to study sports management and U.S. culture.

“Sport is a tie between cultures without dispute. It served to open the doors for new relations between the United States and China in the '70s and continues to serve as a strong connection between the two peoples,” said Ji. “The new center in Tianjin will be a window to showcase American sports and physical education to promote health, fitness, human development and social-culture integration in China.”

The University of Minnesota has a long history of exchange with China. The university's relationship with China practically began with an exchange of sport—the first three students from China enrolled in 1914 and excelled as star players on the soccer team. Today, the University hosts more than 1,400 students from China, and its faculty are working with Chinese researchers to address some of the world's most pressing challenges. The University of Minnesota opened its first overseas office in Beijing, in 2008.

About the University of Minnesota's China Center

The China Center was established in 1979 to manage the University of Minnesota's exchanges with the People's Republic of China. For more than three decades, the China Center has reflected the firm and long-standing commitment of the University to international research, teaching and outreach. <http://chinacenter.umn.edu>.

About the School of Kinesiology

The University's School of Kinesiology in the College of Education and Human Development is one of the premier institutes in the nation to study exercise and movement. Its academic endeavor focuses on the biological, developmental, social and behavioral bases of physical activity, recreation, sport and human performance through its programs in kinesiology, sport management, and recreation, park, and leisure studies. It prepares students for a variety of professional opportunities in both public and private sectors that include teaching, research, health promotion, rehabilitation, medicine, coaching, sport administration and services related to physical activity and fitness. <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/kin/>

U of M mathematics professor receives prestigious Sloan Research Fellowship

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/12/2012) —Anar Akhmedov, a University of Minnesota mathematics assistant professor in the College of Science and Engineering, has been selected to receive a prestigious Sloan Research Fellowship for 2012-14.

The honor recognizes his research on low dimensional topology and symplectic topology. Akhmedov was among 126 U.S. and Canadian researchers selected. He is the only recipient from the University of Minnesota this year.

“I am very honored to receive a Sloan Research Fellowship,” Akhmedov said. “Receiving this honor is an amazing opportunity and great motivation for me. I am grateful to the Sloan Foundation for considering my work and to the University of Minnesota’s School of Mathematics in nominating me for this award.”

Awarded annually since 1955, Sloan Research Fellowships are given to early-career scientists and scholars whose achievements and potential identify them as rising stars, the next generation of scientific leaders. Awards are given in eight scientific fields—chemistry, computer science, economics, mathematics, evolutionary and computational molecular biology, neuroscience, physics, and ocean sciences.

Sloan Research Fellowships are awarded in close cooperation with the scientific community and administered and funded by the Sloan Foundation. To qualify, candidates must first be nominated by their peers and are subsequently selected by an independent panel of senior scholars. Fellows receive \$50,000 to be used to further their research.

About the College of Science and Engineering

Created in 1935, the College of Science and Engineering (formerly known as the Institute of Technology) brought together the University's programs in engineering, mining, architecture, and chemistry. Today, the college is ranked among the top engineering and science academic programs in the country. The college includes 11 academic departments offering a wide range of degree programs at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels. The College of Science and Engineering is uniquely positioned to provide the vision, leadership, and intellectual capital that underwrite progress in the 21st Century. To learn more, please visit: www.cse.umn.edu.

U of M American Indian Studies Department Launches Groundbreaking Online Ojibwe Dictionary

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/14/2012) —The University of Minnesota's Department of American Indian Studies, in the College of Liberal Arts, has launched a ground-breaking online Ojibwe-English dictionary, the Ojibwe People's Dictionary, at <http://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu/>. The dictionary will be celebrated with a launch party on Monday, April 2, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the McNamara Alumni Center's Maroon & Gold Room. Ojibwe elders who contributed to the project will attend.

A New Standard for Indigenous Languages

"This sets the standard for how indigenous languages will be learned and preserved into the future," said James A. Parente, Jr., dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

The Ojibwe People's Dictionary was conceived as a logical expansion of "A Concise Dictionary of Minnesota Ojibwe," published by the University of Minnesota Press and co-written by John D. Nichols, professor in the American Indian studies department and one of the foremost Algonquian language experts. The printed dictionary contains 7,000 words, but the new website has 8,000 words and could grow to 30,000.

More than just a translation tool or a dictionary, the Ojibwe People's Dictionary provides context. The entry for wild rice, for example, includes audio clips of four Ojibwe elders speaking the word manoomin; photos from the collections of the Minnesota Historical Society and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission; and snippets from texts, including meeting minutes, reports and research manuscripts dating from 1922.

Within the Ojibwe dictionary, objects "are in conversation with the language," said Brenda Child, chair of the Department of American Indian Studies at the university. It's a way of establishing cultural context through language. By merging the academic expertise of University scholars like Nichols with the visual resources of the Historical Society and others, the site is both casual and scholarly, cutting edge and useful to Native people who speak the language.

Why Preserve Ojibwe?

Like other indigenous languages around the world, Ojibwe is in decline for a number of reasons, including urban life, popular culture, the use of boarding schools for Native American children in the 19th and early 20th centuries and many more.

Linguists contend that language diversity is as important to our systems of knowledge as biological diversity is to our ecosystems. The Ojibwe language is a place where its people turn for philosophy, history, science, medicines, stories and spirituality.

Launch Event

The April 2 launch party will feature remarks by dean Parente and chair Child, plus a demonstration of the dictionary and an honoring of the elders who contributed their voices to the dictionary.

Significant funding for the Ojibwe People's Dictionary came from Minnesota's Historical and Cultural Heritage Fund (i.e. Legacy fund), and the project has just been awarded another grant to support phase 2 of the dictionary, which will incorporate feedback from users, enhance the virtual museum and add youth-friendly features.

Professors from the Department of American Indian Studies, including Child and linguist Brendan Fairbanks, are available for interviews.

Quick facts:

- Ojibwe is the heritage language of 200,000+ people in the Great Lakes region and Canada.
- Ojibwe People's Dictionary currently contains 30,000 words and 60,000 audio clips
- Project partners: University of Minnesota Department of American Indian Studies, U of M Libraries, Minnesota Historical Society
- Visual resources from: Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Historical Society
- Funding from: Minnesota's Historical and Cultural Heritage Fund (Legacy fund), National Science Foundation

"Flagrant Conduct" by U Law Professor Dale Carpenter Acclaimed in New York Times, New York Review of Books, New Yorker

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Erin Lovett, Assistant Director of Publicity, W.W. Norton, elovett@wwnorton.com, (212) 790-4388

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/19/2012) —Critics are calling University of Minnesota Law School Professor Dale Carpenter's new release, *Flagrant Conduct: The Story of Lawrence v. Texas*, a landmark book on a landmark case.

Pulitzer Prize winning historian David Oshinsky calls the book "stirring and richly detailed" and says in the *New York Times Book Review* of March 18, 2012, that it "turns conventional wisdom about *Lawrence* on its head." Georgetown University law professor and award-winning author David Cole says in the April 5, 2012, *New York Review of Books* that *Flagrant Conduct* "provides a rich, meticulous, and fascinating account of the most important constitutional decision so far on the status of gays and lesbians in American society."

Flagrant Conduct is the first complete history of *Lawrence v. Texas*, the 2003 U.S. Supreme Court decision that invalidated America's sodomy laws. Drawing on interviews he conducted over the course of nine years, Carpenter tells the story chronologically—before the arrests, the arrests, and after the arrests of John Lawrence and Tyron Garner on Sept. 17, 1998, in Houston, Texas, by sheriff's deputies responding to a call that a black man was "going crazy with a gun."

The four arresting officers reported walking in on the men having sex. But in what Dahlia Lithwick, senior editor and legal correspondent for *Slate*, says in the March 12 *New Yorker* is "Carpenter's most fascinating revelation," their accounts of what they saw that night never agreed. The two men said they were never sexually involved. And as Carpenter writes, "there is no reason, other than blind faith in the word of two sheriff's officers with lots of reason to misrepresent what they saw, to believe that there was any actual sex in the U.S. Supreme Court's heralded sexual freedom decision."

Flagrant Conduct's power and significance are due in large part to Carpenter's placement of *Lawrence v. Texas* within the larger American legal and historical context—his portrayal of events from a perspective within a growing social movement.

Lawrence and Garner were charged with sodomy under a Texas statute that human rights communities had been poised to challenge for some time. Lambda Legal, a national gay-rights advocacy group, took on the case and soon convinced the two to enter a no-contest plea, accepting the "facts" as filed in the police report.

The plea allowed *Lawrence* litigators to concentrate on the law which, they argued, violated not only the constitution's equal-protection guarantee but the plaintiffs' liberty. "The legal issue was not that free societies must let drunken gay Texans have sex," Lithwick comments in the *New Yorker*. "It was that gay families around the country, in the words of one of the lawyers in the case, 'are essentially just like everybody else.'"

The transformation of once-criminalized conduct into a constitutional right was extraordinary, Cole says, and "The story of how it happened is one of the great success stories of public interest law." Carpenter's book justifies beyond question a prominent place for *Lawrence v. Texas* in American civil rights history.

To learn more about the book and read an excerpt, go to <http://books.wwnorton.com/books/detail-inside.aspx?ID=20515&CTYPE=E>

Heather LaMarre to discuss role of social media in reshaping politics and global geopolitics at U of M 'Headliners' event



Who: Heather LaMarre, associate professor and social media expert, School of Journalism and Mass Communication

What: "Headliners" monthly forum

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, April 5

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

Contacts: Rachel Wright, College of Continuing Education, wright474@umn.edu, (612) 624-7770
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March 19, 2012

Alongside the boom in popularity of social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter has come a change in the face of reporting. Social media have given the average citizen a new voice, and politicians and government officials are taking notice.

At 7 p.m. Thursday, April 5, University of Minnesota School of Journalism and Mass Communication associate professor and social media expert Heather LaMarre will discuss how this "new public square" is impacting global geopolitics and the American presidential campaign.

LaMarre answers the question: How do social media affect the relationship between the public, the policy makers, and the media? And what effect will social media have on civic discourse and public engagement in the election season and beyond? A moderated Q&A will follow.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by calling (612) 624-4000 or on the Headliners website at www.cce.umn.edu/headliners. An audio recording of LaMarre's presentation will be available on the Headliners website after the event.

This event is the last of the U of M College of Continuing Education (CCE)-sponsored 2011-12 "Headliners" series. The series offers a monthly chance to meet with U of M 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. Media sponsorship for Headliners is provided by MinnPost and Minnesota Public Radio.

Mark your calendar: "Headliners" will return next fall. In the meantime, check out CCE's new discussion series, "MinnPost Asks Presented by LearningLife," which begins at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 12, with a discussion of "The Marriage Amendment: The Meaning Behind the Messages." More information is available at www.cce.umn.edu/minnpost.

U of M Police to share safety messages and mingle with students during 'Coffee and Donuts with the Cops' event

Media Note: Media interested in covering should arrive early as donuts go quickly.

What: University of Minnesota Police to hand out donuts, coffee and safety information

When: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 20, Wednesday, March 21 and Thursday, March 22

Where: Tuesday, March 20: U of M East Bank, Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis
Wednesday, March 21: U of M West Bank Skyway, 219 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis
Thursday, March 22: U of M St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul

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March 19, 2012

University of Minnesota Police bearing donuts and personal safety messages will greet students from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 20, Wednesday, March 21, and Thursday, March 22 at three locations on the Twin Cities campus.

Provost Karen Hanson will join the police in their efforts to raise awareness about campus safety Tuesday at Coffman Union. President Eric Kaler will lend his support Wednesday from 8 to 8:30 a.m. in the West Bank Skyway. The week's events will wrap up Thursday, with police handing out donuts inside the St. Paul Student Center.

"Coffee and Donuts with the Cops" is an event where students, police and university leaders can get to know each other and discuss how they can be partners in keeping the campus safe.

"Everyone plays a role in creating a safe environment. Police officers can't be everywhere at one time, so it's important for students, faculty and staff to be the extra eyes and ears of police and to report suspicious activity or possible crimes," said Greg Hestness, chief of the University of Minnesota Police Department and assistant vice president for public safety.

The university is promoting a variety of safety campaigns this spring, including "Safety is Easy. The Pavement is Hard," which encourages pedestrians, bikers, and drivers to use extra caution as they navigate campus while Washington Avenue is under construction.

For more information about university initiatives to promote a safe environment, visit: www.umn.edu/prepared.

U of M Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy to retire

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/20/2012) —The University of Minnesota today announced that Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy will retire in December 2012. President Eric Kaler has appointed Aaron Friedman, vice president for health sciences and dean of the Medical School, and Steven Crouch, dean of the College of Science and Engineering, as co-chairs of a national search for Mulcahy's successor.

During his first meeting with incoming President Kaler in 2011, Mulcahy discussed his longstanding plan to retire within the next two years. Earlier this year, Mulcahy told the president he had decided to retire in December, at the end of his eighth year as vice president for research.

"As Minnesota's only research university, the U of M is fortunate to have had the leadership and vision that Tim has provided as vice president for research," said Kaler. "He has made many contributions and is recognized as a solid leader by those inside and outside the university. We understand that it will be a big pair of shoes to fill."

Mulcahy was appointed vice president for research at the University of Minnesota in February 2005. He is responsible for the oversight and administration of an externally funded research program of nearly \$800 million, which encompasses all five campuses in the U of M system. He has primary responsibility for the overall vitality of the university wide research enterprise, including supporting evolution of new research, maintaining a competitive research infrastructure, developing and managing campus wide research policies and overseeing administrative management of all sponsored research activity.

Under his leadership, the university initiated a series of programs and organizational changes designed to enhance commercialization of university-based technologies and to enrich university-business relations. Most recently, the launch of Minnesota Innovation Partnerships (MN-IP) introduced a unique approach to industry-funded research that makes it easier for business partners to sponsor research at the university. He also has been instrumental in overseeing the re-investment of technology transfer royalty revenue into research and scholarly initiatives at the university, including \$50 million for the 21st Century Graduate Fellowship Endowment and nearly \$40 million for major equipment purchases, facility improvements and support for the arts and humanities.

This transformation of the university's research environment, technology transfer operations and business relations functions under Mulcahy's leadership now positions the university to effectively fulfill Kaler's objectives in those areas.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed my time at the U and am grateful for the many friends I've made while here," said Mulcahy. "We set out on a bold agenda eight years ago, and I'm extremely proud of the great progress we've made toward its realization. I'm at a great jumping-off point personally, and the U is well positioned for continued success."

Mulcahy said that spending more time with his wife, Patti, and their family was the key driver behind his retirement decision.

A full search committee, under Friedman and Crouch, will be appointed in early April, and a new vice president for research is expected to be named in the fall.

To learn more about the Office of the Vice President for Research, please visit:
www.research.umn.edu.

Gates Foundation global development official to speak at U of M March 23



Prabhu Pingali will outline “A Bold Vision for Feeding the World: The Future of Global Agricultural Development” in a speech webcast to students at the University of Western Cape in South Africa

Who: Prabhu Pingali, deputy director of Global Development, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

When: 8 to 9:15 a.m. Friday, March 23

Where: Cowles Auditorium, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

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March 20, 2012

Prabhu Pingali, deputy director of Global Development at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, will speak at the University of Minnesota at 8 a.m. Friday, March 23, outlining “A Bold Vision for Feeding the World: The Future of Global Agricultural Development.”

The presentation is open to the public and will be webcast to students at the University of Western Cape in South Africa, a partner to the University of Minnesota’s Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change. The U of M / Western Cape collaboration is funded by the Mellon Foundation and involves faculty exchanges and co-taught courses using web and ITV technologies. Students and faculty in both locations will have the opportunity to ask questions of Pingali at the forum following his remarks.

Pingali has nearly 30 years of experience in assessing the extent and impact of technological change on agriculture in Asia, Africa and Latin America. He has held a number of prestigious positions in his field, including director of the Agricultural and Development Economics Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) at the United Nations.

He has written or co-written nine books and more than 90 journal articles and chapters focusing on technological advances and environmental and agricultural policy.

A webcast will be provided at www.livestream.com/umntv, and Pingali’s presentation will be recorded for future viewing.

Pingali’s presentation is being hosted by the university’s Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

The public presentation is part of a two-day visit to the University of Minnesota by Pingali and other officials from the Gates Foundation, UN FAO and private sector, to learn more about the U of M’s commitment to help sustainably feed the planet.

Pingali will meet with leading researchers in sustainable agriculture, public policy and climate change and discuss the university’s data and technology tools for reducing hunger in the developing world. He will also meet with the university’s private sector partners in the global food industry.

In addition to the public speech, Pingali is available for individual interviews. Media wishing interviews may request a 30-minute slot during the following times:

Thursday, March 22: 11 a.m. to 12 noon

Friday, March 23: 7 to 8 a.m.

Movie theater architecture, botanical art, African American literature, and the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act among topics covered in upcoming U of M Libraries exhibits

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/21/2012) —The University of Minnesota Libraries will open the following exhibits over the coming year in the galleries of Andersen, Wangensteen and Wilson Libraries. All exhibits are free and open to the public. Dates and times for any opening receptions will be listed as they are scheduled at lib.umn.edu/events/.

Bibliophilia: Collecting Black Books

Now through April 20, 2012: Andersen Gallery

As early as the 1830s, free African Americans began collecting books and memorabilia documenting the history and literary work of Americans of African descent. In addition to celebrating the beauty, romance and workmanship of African American material culture, this exhibit from the Givens Collection demonstrates the intimate ties between collecting African American literature and locating African American life in every thread of American history and culture.

Life and Limb: The Toll of the American Civil War

Now through April 28, 2012: Wangensteen Historical Library

The perspectives of surgeons, physicians and nurses are richly documented in the history of Civil War medicine, which highlights the heroism and brutality of battlefield operations and the challenges of caring for the wounded. Yet the experiences of injured soldiers are less well known. This traveling exhibit from the National Library of Medicine explores the experiences of disabled Civil War veterans and their role as symbols of the fractured nation.

Wild Green Things: The Art of Anne Ophelia Todd Dowden

Now through May 2, 2012: Andersen Horticultural Library

Original artwork and sketches as well as pre-publication mock-ups by popular botanical illustrator Anne Ophelia Dowden, from the collections of the Andersen Horticultural Library, the Children's Literature Research Collections and the Bio-Medical Library.

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933–1945

April 2 – May 11, 2012: Andersen Atrium Gallery

Between 1933 and 1945, the Nazi German regime promoted racial health policies that sought to eliminate all sources of biological corruption to its dominant “Aryan” race, including Germany's homosexual men. Believing them to be carriers of a “degeneracy” that weakened society and hindered population growth, the Nazi state incarcerated tens of thousands of men. This traveling exhibition from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum examines the Nazi regime's attempt to eradicate homosexuality, which left thousands dead and shattered the lives of many more.

Pacific Encounters (ca. 1250 to ca. 1850)

April 2 – June 25, 2012: T.R. Anderson Gallery

This exhibit features items from the James Ford Bell collection that tell the story of European encounters with the peoples of the Pacific—from China to Polynesia to the Bering Strait—told by explorers, merchants, missionaries, sailors, naturalists, and cartographers.

Marquees on Main

May 1 – June 29, 2012: Andersen Gallery

Movie theater buildings played an important role in the experience of moviegoers, whether they lived in a small town in central Minnesota or a metropolitan area. The Hollywood “dream machine” often came to life in the lights and sounds of the theater building itself, and the new “streamlined deco” quickly became a popular style. This exhibit from the Northwest Architectural Archives showcases dozens of these by the Minneapolis architectural partnership of Liebenberg and Kaplan.

Proud Heritage: 156 Years of Building Community

June 11 – August 24, 2012: Andersen Atrium Gallery

Before Minnesota was a state the YMCA was active in building community in Minnesota. This exhibit from the Kautz Family YMCA Archives reflects on 156 years of community building throughout Minnesota: from building camps that connect youth to nature, to building University YMCAs that help freshmen orient to life on their own; and from transitional housing that help families get back on their feet, to after-school programs that bring out the best in youth.

First Contacts: Native Americans and Champlain in New France

July 9 – September 14, 2012: T.R. Anderson Gallery

Samuel de Champlain first ventured to North America in 1603, as geographer for a French fur-trading expedition. He opened up relations with Native Americans in the region, established the city of Quebec and served as governor of New France. This exhibition explores the relationships between native peoples and Europeans and the impact of French exploration and settlement in the 17th century and beyond. Produced by the James Ford Bell Library in cooperation with faculty in American Studies, Native American Studies and Anthropology.

Happy 100th Birthday, Dr. Kerlan!

July 16 – September 26, 2012: Andersen Gallery

Dr. Irvin Kerlan, started collecting children's books as well as the manuscripts and artwork from which they sprang in 1945 and would have turned 100 on September 18, 2012. Dr. Kerlan began donating his amazing collection to the university in 1949 and the balance of the books came in 1963 after a tragic automobile accident ended his life. This exhibit honors Dr. Kerlan's collecting acumen with highlights from the collection.

For the Common Good

September 10 – November 30, 2012: Andersen Atrium Gallery

The Land Grant Agricultural College Act—signed by President Lincoln in 1862—set aside public lands, the sale of which were used to fund public colleges to “promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes.” The legislation provided much needed financial support for the University of Minnesota, then a fledgling and struggling institution. This exhibit examines the ongoing question of how the University should fulfill its role as a “land grant” university.

If we can get the beast out of his lair...

October 8 – December 31, 2012: Andersen Gallery

The exhibit of documents, posters and photographs from the American Social Health Association records in the Social Welfare History Archives will explore how the Association used research, education, undercover investigation, and civic action in an effort to eradicate prostitution and human trafficking and promote the prevention and proper treatment of STDs.

Celebrating Venice: On Land and Sea

October 8, 2012 – January 15, 2013: T.R. Anderson Gallery

At one time, Venice was a major maritime power, a staging area for crusades and pilgrim travel, renowned for early printing, and a flourishing trade center between Western Europe and the rest of the world. This exhibit features items from the James Ford Bell Library that illustrate these aspects and more of the long and richly colored pageant of Venetian history.

Creating the World for the Stage 1893–1929: An Exhibit of Scenic Sketches

January 15 – March 15, 2013: Andersen Gallery

Before movies and television, American audiences filled theatres and vaudeville stages to escape the monotony of everyday life. This exhibit from the Performing Arts Archives explores the exotic worlds created by the scenic artists of both public theatres and private fraternal spaces of the Freemasons.

Feminist Art: Then and Now

January 22 – February 23, 2013: T.R. Anderson Gallery

This exhibit, a collaboration of the Libraries and Katherine E. Nash Gallery, features women artists from the 1970s who founded feminist art programs and organizations, and achieved high cultural impact with their work. Funded by the Department of Art and the University Libraries with support from the College of Liberal Arts Freshman Research and Creative Awards Program.

Gallery Locations and Directions

Andersen Gallery is located on the first floor of Elmer L. Andersen Library; the **Andersen Atrium Gallery** on the second and third floors.

222 21st Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55455

hours and directions: andersen.lib.umn.edu/visitors.html

The **T.R. Anderson Gallery** is located on the fourth floor of Wilson Library, at the entrance to the James Ford Bell Library.

309 19th Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55455

hours and directions: wilson.lib.umn.edu/andersongallery

Andersen Horticultural Library is located at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

3675 Arboretum Boulevard

Chaska, MN 55318

hours, fees, and directions: www.arboretum.umn.edu

Wangensteen Library is located on the fifth floor of Diehl Hall.

505 Essex Street S.E.

Minneapolis, MN 55455

hours and directions: hsl.lib.umn.edu/wangensteen/about/location

The full listing of galleries is available at <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/lib-web/events/exhibit-locations.html>.

U of M's UROC hosts family-focused Summer Resource Fair Saturday, Apr. 7

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/21/2012) —Summer opportunities for youth of all ages will be showcased at the second annual North Minneapolis Summer Resource Fair from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 7 at the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) in North Minneapolis.

The event will feature activities ranging from sports to performing arts, small business and animal care, offered to young people by more than 20 local organizations, including Junior Entrepreneurs of Minnesota, Lundstrum Center for Performing Arts, Minnesota Children's Museum, Sumner Library and Venture North. Representatives and volunteers from all organizations will be on hand with scholarship, registration and general information.

"It's sometimes difficult for parents with limited time to research summer opportunities for their children, to track down what scholarship opportunities are available and how and when to sign up," says Makeda Zulu-Gillespie, UROC's community liaison. "UROC's resource fair is a way for parents and their children to browse options and set up a plan for summer all in one place."

The event is free and open to the public and will feature refreshments and live entertainment by Jasir "Ja Boogie" Johnson.

The Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center, located at 2001 Plymouth Avenue N. in Minneapolis, is an initiative of the university's Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Administration, UMN System. UROC links the university in vital public partnership with urban communities to advance learning, improve quality of life and discover breakthrough solutions to critical urban problems. Visit www.uroc.umn.edu for information.

Science Under Siege' topic of U of M event with national environmental policy expert Thomas A. Burke Tuesday, March 27

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/21/2012) —The perils of mixing politics with science is the subject of "Science under Siege: Balancing Science and Politics in Managing Chemical Risks," featuring nationally known environmental policy expert Thomas A. Burke, at 3 p.m. Tuesday, March 27 at the University of Minnesota Humphrey School's Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Burke's talk will focus on the 2009 landmark National Academy of Science (NAS) report "Science and Decisions: Advancing Risk Assessment"—commonly known as the 'Silver Book' report—which examines some of the greatest challenges to the country's assessment, management and communication of environmental risks.

Burke is associate dean for public health practice and training at Johns Hopkins University and director of the school's Risk Sciences and Public Policy Institute. He is chair of the NAS Committee on Improving Risk Analysis, a fellow of the Society for Risk Analysis and a lifetime national associate of the National Academies. His research interests include environmental epidemiology and surveillance, evaluation of population exposures to environmental pollutants, assessment and communication of environmental risks, and application of epidemiology and health risk assessment to public policy. He has been awarded the Johns Hopkins Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching four times.

"In today's anti-regulatory political climate, the science behind risk assessment and evaluation is under unprecedented scrutiny," said Deborah Swackhamer, the Humphrey School's Charles M. Denny Jr. Chair of Science, Technology and Public Policy. "We need to make the risk assessment process more efficient, and use science to reduce uncertainties. I think both business and government want to see better risk assessment procedures and better use of science in decision making, and that's what Tom Burke and the NAS report recommend."

The event is hosted by the university's Center for Science, Technology & Public Policy and School of Public Health in partnership with the university's Consortium on Law and Values and the Environmental Initiative, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Department of Health.

The event is free and open to the public. For reservations, visit <http://tom-burke-umn.eventbrite.com/>.

University of Minnesota professor and colleagues call on genomic researchers to make individual research results and findings available to human subjects

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/21/2012) —The debate over the return of individual research results (IRRs) and incidental findings (IFs) to participants in human subjects research has entered a new arena -- the brave new world of large-scale genetic and genomic research using biobanks and archived datasets. Together, these biobanks hold more than 300 million samples of human tissue. A special issue of the journal *Genetics in Medicine* offers more than 20 articles on this topic, including groundbreaking consensus recommendations in an article by University of Minnesota professor Susan M. Wolf and 25 colleagues from the United States and Canada. *Science* magazine calls the question of returning results to individuals “the most pressing issue in genetics today.”

This April 2012 issue is the result of a grant to University of Minnesota investigators from the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) at NIH. The principal investigator is Wolf, chair of the University’s Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences. Co-investigators include University of Minnesota professors Frances Lawrenz and Brian Van Ness.

“This article offers the first set of consensus recommendations on how to handle a huge problem in genomic research -- what to do with findings about individual research participants when those findings have high health importance. Indeed, some of these findings can make a life-or-death difference,” Wolf says. One example she points to is the discovery of a genetic variant in an individual that makes it dangerous for them to receive a certain drug or medication. “The tradition in research has been to maintain silence about individual findings, even when they have great health importance. Our paper calls instead for communicating important findings, while ensuring that researchers can continue to generate knowledge moving medicine and science forward. It is a difficult balancing act, but a crucially important one.”

In the consensus article, the authors recommend that biobanks take substantial responsibility for making sure that their research system, including the researchers feeding materials to the biobank and those using materials from it, addresses the IFs and IRRs return question unambiguously. If the biobank is able to identify individual specimen and data contributors, the authors advise that findings that are “analytically valid, reveal an established and substantial risk of a serious health condition, and are clinically actionable should generally be offered to consenting contributors.”

The article is now online at www.nature.com/gim/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/gim201223a.html

U of M to host student Regional Steel Bridge Competition March 24 at Mariucci Arena

What: University Regional Steel Bridge Competition

When: Saturday, March 24, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Practice rounds on Friday, March 23, 1-5 p.m.)

Where: University of Minnesota Mariucci Arena, 1901 4th St. S.E., Minneapolis

Who: Engineering students from five states and Canada



Photo courtesy of American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC). © Daniela Weaver Photography

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[Matt Hodson](mailto:mjhodson@umn.edu), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

March 21, 2012

Engineering students from 11 universities spanning five states and Canada will face off in a steel bridge competition 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 24 at the University of Minnesota's Mariucci Arena, 1901 4th St. S.E., Minneapolis. The competition is free and open to the public.

Student teams will race the clock as they compete to assemble the strongest steel bridge model. The models are about 23 feet long and about 3 to 5 feet tall and must hold up to 2,500 pounds of weight. Most teams build their model in less than 15 minutes creating an exciting and action-packed competition.

In addition to speed of construction, teams also are judged on bridge lightness, stiffness, construction economy and structural efficiency. The winning team and a runner-up will advance to the national steel bridge competition in May.

Civil engineering students from the following universities will be competing: University of Minnesota; Minnesota State University, Mankato; North Dakota State University; University of North Dakota; University of Iowa; Iowa State University; Dordt College (Sioux Center, Iowa); South Dakota State University; University of Wisconsin-Platteville; and Lakehead University (Thunder Bay, Ontario).

The event is hosted by the University of Minnesota American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) student chapter, the University of Minnesota, and local engineering firms. The national competition is sponsored by the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) and ASCE.

University of Minnesota student Grant Remmen receives prestigious Hertz Fellowship Award

Hertz Fellowship is valued at more than \$250,000

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/22/2012) —The Fannie and John Hertz Foundation announced today that University of Minnesota Honors Program student Grant Remmen has been awarded a prestigious Hertz Fellowship to support his future graduate studies. Considered to be the nation's most prestigious and generous support for graduate education in applied sciences and engineering, the Hertz Fellowship is valued at more than \$250,000 per student, with support lasting up to five years.

Remmen will graduate summa cum laude from the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering this spring in each of his three majors: astrophysics, physics, and mathematics. He has been admitted to numerous top Ph.D. programs across the country in physics and astrophysics and will begin graduate study this fall.

Remmen has been conducting original research since his freshman year, and his work on the Milky Way's dark matter and on the cosmic ray muon velocity distribution has appeared in two publications in the Journal of Undergraduate Research in Physics. At the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Remmen has investigated aspherical black holes under the mentorship of Professor Robert Gehrz and is currently conducting Hubble Space Telescope research on Eta Carinae, a complex star system, with Professor Kris Davidson.

Last summer, with the support of an international student scholarship from University College London, he engaged in research on general relativistic spin orbit coupling and its effect on multiple-body gravitational systems with Professor Kinwah Wu, head of theory at Mullard Space Science Lab in England. For his work on galactic dark matter, he was awarded the American Astronomical Society's Chambliss Medal for exemplary student research. Remmen was named a Goldwater Scholar in his sophomore year. He is also a U.S. Presidential Scholar and a National Merit Scholar, and has received many awards and honors at the University of Minnesota.

Remmen was one of only 15 students selected nationwide for the Hertz Fellowship from more than 600 applications and the only student chosen in the physics/astrophysics area. The highly competitive selection process includes a comprehensive written application, four references, and two rounds of technical interviews by recognized leaders in applied science and engineering. The scholarship is open to graduate students as well as college seniors.

Other 2012 Hertz fellows are from MIT, Harvard, Caltech, Princeton, University of California-Berkeley, Indiana University and the University of Texas, Austin.

Support the U Rally Day' to be held at State Capitol March 30

U of M President Eric Kaler and Governor Mark Dayton to speak

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March 22, 2012

The annual, University of Minnesota student-organized “Support the U Rally Day” will be held Friday, March 30, at the Minnesota State Capitol. The system-wide event provides students with the opportunity to voice their support for the university at a Capitol rotunda rally and in meetings with their elected officials.

In particular, students will rally for the university’s 2012 bonding request. If passed by the Legislature, the capital request would enable the university to preserve its current infrastructure and construct new facilities to meet growing demands, which would create an estimated 4,000 jobs for Minnesotans. This state investment would also advance the university’s goals to increase access to and excellence at the University of Minnesota.

University President Eric Kaler and Governor Mark Dayton will address the students at the Capitol rotunda rally. Transportation is provided to and from the Capitol, with shuttle buses running between Coffman Memorial Union and the Capitol’s front steps.

The day’s events are as follows:

- 11 a.m. - Registration, Capitol rotunda
- 12 p.m. - Rally, Capitol rotunda
- 12:30 p.m. - Lunch, Capitol Great Hall
- 1-4 p.m. - Meetings with legislators
- 1-4 p.m. - 'Discover the U' exhibits, Capitol rotunda

For registration and more information about Support the U Rally Day, visit <http://supporttheu.umn.edu/events/register-support-the-u-day.html>.

National Geographic Photographer Paul Nicklen to kick off Momentum 2012 on April 5

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/26/2012) —National Geographic photographer Paul Nicklen kicks off the second season of the Institute on the Environment's popular Momentum event series Thursday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., at the Ted Mann Concert Hall in Minneapolis.

Nicklen's talk, "From Pole to Pole: Diary of a National Geographic Photojournalist," will share breathtaking images of life in the extremes of our planet. His presentation includes a cross section of images (both polar and nonpolar), a description of his encounter with a leopard seal in Antarctica, his dedication to telling the story of the spirit bear in British Columbia, and his 12-year pursuit to capture narwhals on film in the harsh environment of the Canadian Arctic.

The evening begins with a featured taiko drumming performance by Mu Daiko Drumming. Master of ceremonies for the event will be meteorologist, entrepreneur and philanthropist Paul Douglas.

Nicklen uses his camera to reveal the nature of a world melting away under human-induced global warming. "I call myself an interpreter and a translator," he says. "I hope we can realize through my photography how interconnected these species are to ice. It just takes one image to get someone's attention."

From ice diving among leopard seals in Antarctica and covering terrain in -40F temperatures, to mastering aerial shots from his ultralight plane, Nicklen has specialized in photographing polar regions since 1995. A unique childhood among the Inuit in Canada's Arctic and a professional background as a biologist in the Northwest Territories enable him to take on the most inhospitable places on our planet. His images reflect a reverence for the creatures inhabiting these isolated and endangered environments. Nicklen has published 10 stories for National Geographic Magazine, including 2011's August [cover story](#) on the elusive Spirit Bear. His latest book, "[Polar Obsession](#)", was published by National Geographic in November 2009.

The April 5 event, made possible by premier sponsor General Mills, media sponsor Minnesota Public Radio and others, is the first of three environment-themed evenings presented by the Institute on the Environment as part of its Momentum 2012 series. The other two will feature conservation visionary M. Sanjayan with a performance by Zorongo Flamenco Dance Company May 10; and environmental theologian Martin Palmer with a featured performance by In the Heart of the Beast May 23. For tickets, contact the Northrop Box Office, 612-624-2345 or z.umn.edu/momentum2012.

The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment seeks lasting solutions to Earth's biggest challenges through research, partnerships and leadership development. For more information, visit environment.umn.edu.

U to host panel discussion today about issues of race and privilege as it relates to domestic human trafficking

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/26/2012) —“Girls Like Us,” a panel discussion regarding issues of race and privilege as they relate to domestic trafficking, will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. today, March 26 in the Great Hall, Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The event is a prelude to Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) at the University of Minnesota in April. The Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education and Women’s Center at the U of M, along with several organizations, are sponsoring the panel and the question and answer period that will follow.

Panelists include:

- Rachel Lloyd, executive director and founder of Girls Educational & Mentoring Services, author of "Girls Like Us" and recipient of the Reebok Human Rights Award. She is also a leading advocate for the Safe Harbor for Exploited Youth Act, which makes New York the first state to protect, not prosecute, sexually exploited children.
- Joy Friedman, case manager, outreach specialist and program manager for Breaking Free, an agency in St. Paul that aims to educate and provide services to women and girls who have been victims of abuse and commercial sexual exploitation. Friedman knows firsthand the importance of Breaking Free’s Women’s Program. After being trafficked as a teen and 27 years of surviving “the life,” she was one of the first women to successfully complete the Breaking Free program and then join their staff.
- Stephanie Holt, founder and executive director of Mission 21, the first organization in Minnesota to open a children’s residential facility for girls 15 and younger. It is an anti-trafficking organization in Rochester, Minn., committed to the complete restoration of victims of human trafficking.

To learn more about events that are part of the university’s Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which begins in April, go to www1.umn.edu/aurora/events/upcoming.html

U of M grad assistants vote down unionization

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/26/2012) —University of Minnesota graduate assistants elected to remain in their non-union status, voting down union representation by United Auto Workers of America (UAW/GSWU). The on-site election, which took place March 19-23, affects over 4,000 graduate assistants on the Twin Cities and Duluth campuses.

The university is pleased with the election outcome because it allows graduate assistants to continue to enjoy a competitive employment package without paying union dues or negotiating through a third party. The decision supports the partnership between graduate students and their faculty mentors and allows the colleges continued flexibility to offer packages that are most appropriate for their individual employee groups.

In a memo to all graduate assistants announcing the election result, Kathryn Brown, vice president for the Office of Human Resources, thanked all employees who participated in the election. "Graduate assistants are vital to the education, research and outreach mission of the university," she said. "The university has done and will continue to do everything possible to ensure a flourishing graduate assistant program. Now that the vote is behind us, we are ready to work together with you to continue that legacy."

U of M School of Music's University Opera Theatre Presents Robert Aldridge and Herschel Garfein's 'Parables' April 19-22

Aldridge & Garfein in residence and the 'Parables' Engagement Project

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/28/2012) —The University of Minnesota School of Music's University Opera Theatre (UOT) will present the stage premiere of *Parables*, a new dramatic cantata and American choral work by the Grammy Award-winning team of composer Robert Aldridge and librettist Herschel Garfein. "Parables" will run from Thursday, April 19 through Saturday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 22 at 2 p.m. in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis. "Parables" will be directed by School of Music professor and UOT Director David Walsh and will be conducted by School of Music professor and Director of Choral Activities Kathy Saltzman Romey.

"Parables," a timely artistic response to racial and religious intolerance around the globe, promises to be a powerful experience for audiences. Each of the work's seven sections tells a unique story, or parable, featuring the intertwining of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.

"Parables" had been performed twice previously, on the East Coast, purely as concerts. Unconventional staging and the inclusion of four languages—English, Hebrew, Arabic, and Greek—contribute to the distinctiveness of UOT's production.

Director David Walsh describes "Parables" as UOT's largest undertaking ever, with 200 performers from the University Orchestra, University Singers, and Men's and Women's Choruses. As part of the performance and prior to the 50-minute cantata's debut, several local performance groups will share music and dance representing each featured religion.

"Parables" will be performed by a professional cast, consisting of School of Music faculty members Adriana Zabala (mezzo soprano) and Philip Zawisza (baritone), joined by Monica Yunus (soprano) and Dennis Peterson (tenor) as well as School of Music students Carolyn Cavadini (soprano), Sidney Walker (mezzo soprano), Joseph Okell (tenor) and William Bryan (baritone).

A pre-opera lobby discussion begins 45 minutes before each performance with director David Walsh, composer Robert Aldridge and librettist Herschel Garfein.

Twin Cities Public Television will film "Parables" for future broadcast, and the University of Minnesota Department of Communication Studies will document the engagement portion of the "Parables" Project.

Tickets: \$22 general admission; \$12 for U of M students; group rates available. Two-for-one tickets for University students, faculty, staff, retirees, and alumni. Call 612/624-2345 or visit www.opera.umn.edu.

Parking is available in the 21st Avenue Ramp, one block southwest of the concert hall. Photographs available upon request. Email requests for photographs to marsh396@umn.edu. For more information on UOT, visit opera.umn.edu.

Robert Aldridge and Herschel Garfein Residency

As part of the U of M School of Music's Creative Instructional Residencies Initiative program, composer Robert Aldridge and librettist Herschel Garfein will be in residence at the School of Music April 1 through 14. Their residency will feature a recital of works by Aldridge and Garfein, as well as School of Music composition student Tiffany Skidmore, on Friday, April 13 at 8 p.m. in Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall in Ferguson Hall. The recital is free and open to the public.

Engagement

The "Parables" Project, an engagement program in conjunction with the production, involves David Walsh and School of Music graduate student T.K. Vu visiting Minneapolis and St. Paul high schools to lead religious and cultural dialogues with 120 selected students. After group visits to a basilica, temple, and mosque, the students will be invited to the "Parables" forum "Religion and the American Dream: Religious Diversity in America," an on-campus religious tolerance talk, at 5:35 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, in Room 225 Ferguson Hall. The forum will be moderated by David Walsh, with composer Robert Aldridge and librettist Herschel Garfein in attendance. This forum is free and open to the public.

Support for this production and the "Parables" Project was provided in honor of Professor Jean B. and Julie Reeves.

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 550 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of more than 75 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.

EVENT LISTING INFORMATION

'Parables' forum: 'Religion and the American Dream: Religious Diversity in America'

Wednesday, April 11, 5:35 p.m., Room 225 Ferguson Hall

Part of the "Parables" Project, a religious tolerance forum inspired by Robert Aldridge's "Parables," moderated by University Opera Theatre Director David Walsh, with composer Robert Aldridge and librettist Herschel Garfein in attendance. Discussions will center on the issue of diversity in America in its religious, social and cultural aspects. Free and open to the public.

Recital of Works by Artists in Residence Robert Aldridge and Herschel Garfein

Friday, April 13, 8 p.m., Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall, Ferguson Hall

A recital of works by artists-in-residence composer Robert Aldridge and librettist Herschel Garfein, as well as School of Music composition student Tiffany Skidmore. Free and open to the public.

University Opera Theatre presents Robert Aldridge's 'Parables'

By the Grammy Award-winning team of composer Robert Aldridge and librettist Herschel Garfein Directed by David Walsh, conducted by Kathy Saltzman Romey

Thursday, April 19; Friday, April 20; and Saturday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 22 at 2 p.m. All in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis

The events of 9/11, seared as they are into the collective consciousness of America, have triggered a powerful backlash against non-Christian-based religions and cultures, which comprise a significant portion of the country's social fabric. This dramatic cantata by Robert Aldridge and Herschel Garfein, composer and librettist, respectively, for last season's hugely successful production of "Elmer Gantry," is a timely artistic response to the growing tendencies of racial and religious intolerance emerging across this nation and throughout the world, propelled by inflammatory catchphrases such as "illegal aliens," "the global war on terror," or the "threat of Islamic radicalization."

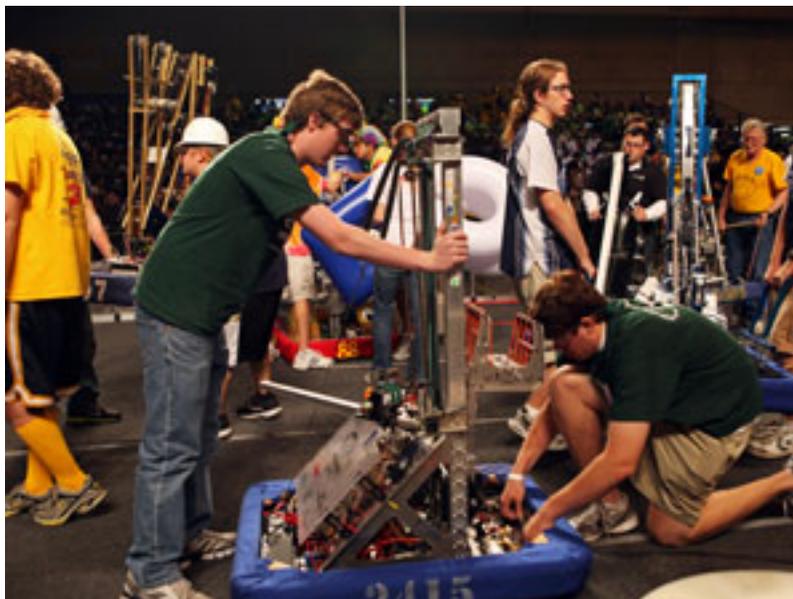
Illuminating their theme by means of the three major "American" religions—Christianity, Judaism, and Islam—the cantata argues the case for finding strength and promise, rather than menace and evil, in the extraordinary diversity of the world's cultures and celebrates this in a gloriously uplifting finale.

Tickets: \$22 general admission; \$12 for U of M students; group rates available. Two-for-one tickets for University students, faculty, staff, retirees, and alumni. Call 612/624-2345 or visit www.opera.umn.edu.

Robots take over U of M sports arenas March 30-31

Media Note:

Practice rounds on Thursday, March 29, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. are open to the media. Media may also interview students and mentors working on their robots in the pit areas. Media should check in at the registration table.



FIRST Robotics teams will compete at Williams and Mariucci arenas March 30-31

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/28/2012) —Two arenas full of screaming fans and more than 120 high school teams from Minnesota and surrounding states are extending the state tournament frenzy another week at the Minnesota Regional FIRST Robotics Competitions, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 30-31, at the University of Minnesota's Williams and Mariucci arenas. The championship matches are 1-4:15 p.m. Saturday, March 31, when there will be nonstop robot action. The event is free and open to the public.

The University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering is one of the sponsors of the event.

Often called the “varsity sport for the mind,” FIRST Robotics combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, limited resources and time limits, teams are challenged to raise funds, design a team brand, improve teamwork skills and build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It's about as close to “real-world engineering” as a student can get. More than 58,000 high school students from around the world are part of FIRST Robotics Competition teams.

This year's game, called “Rebound Rumble,” is played on a 27-by-54-foot field. Two robot alliances, one red and one blue, composed of three teams each, compete in matches of two minutes and 15 seconds. The competing robots are nearly three feet by four feet and stand up to five feet tall.

The object of this year's game is to drop as many basketballs in hoops as possible. Balls dropped in higher hoops score more points. Alliances are awarded bonus points if they are balanced on bridges at the end of the match.

To watch a video simulation of this year's game, visit www.youtube.com/user/FRCTeamsGlobal

University of Minnesota Alumnus

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/28/2012) —Jack Dangermond, founder and president of Esri (Environmental Systems Research Institute), will give a public lecture, “Mapping and Geographic Analysis Supports Collaboration and Decision Making,” at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 10, 2012, in Cowles Auditorium, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, 301 19th Ave. S, on the University of Minnesota’s Minneapolis campus.

In 1968 Dangermond earned a Master of Architecture degree from the university, with a focus on landscape architecture and urban planning. In 2008 he was presented an honorary Doctor of Science degree for his pioneering geographic information system (GIS) research and work.

Dangermond and his wife, Laura, founded Esri 1969 as a small research group in Redlands, Calif., focused on land use planning and decision-making. Today Esri is a software giant, providing research and tools that are instrumental in the diverse work of their over 350,000 clients worldwide. From distribution routes and surveying, to hurricane response management and cancer risk analysis, Esri technology is a staple for public entities and private companies around the globe.

Dangermond is invited to campus as the first Distinguished Visiting Fellow of the Institute on the Environment (IonE). Sponsored jointly by IonE and the College of Design, the lecture is free and open to the public; however, pre-registration is required. To register, or for more information on the event, visit z.umn.edu/dangermond.

More on Jack Dangermond, including a recent New York Times feature, can be found at <http://z.umn.edu/esri>.

U of M President Kaler fights for funding equity in bonding bill

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/28/2012) —The following is a statement by University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler in response to capital bonding bills proposed by the House last week and the Senate this morning.

“I am deeply concerned that the Legislature’s poor funding for the University of Minnesota will have grave impacts on our students and the university’s contributions to the state,” Kaler said. “The House and Senate funding levels are woefully inadequate to meet critical needs. They harm our ability to modernize our aging infrastructure and reduce our cost of operations. They deny our students the tools to help prepare them to succeed in a global marketplace. Ultimately, this pattern of under-investment will cripple the state’s most powerful economic engine while shifting even more of the financing burden to students.”

The university is requesting \$169.5 million in this year’s bonding bill. Of the university’s request, the House and Senate proposals fund \$39.1 million. Earlier this legislative session, Governor Dayton recommended the Legislature fund \$78.1 million of the request. The governor’s recommendation provided for Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR) and funding for the Itasca Biological Station and the Combined Heat and Power Plant.

“Among the university’s three projects not included in the Legislature’s proposal, I am particularly disappointed that the Legislature has not recognized the dire need to build a Combined Heat and Power Plant,” Kaler said. “This new multi-utility plant would serve 163 buildings and protect hundreds of millions of dollars of the state’s most advanced research activities.”

The university manages 28 million square feet of property statewide and more than 70 percent of its facilities are more than 30 years old. The University of Minnesota’s bonding request represents shovel-ready projects that will advance the state’s only public research institution, its students and its economic impact while creating at least 4,000 jobs for Minnesotans. Full funding of the university’s request is critical to its ability to utilize space efficiently and protect Minnesotans’ previous investments.

President Kaler will continue to work with the House, Senate and Governor Dayton to fully fund critical building and infrastructure projects that will create jobs and enhance the educational experience for university students.

More information on the University of Minnesota’s 2012 capital bonding request can be found at: govrelations.umn.edu.

Geek-chic in full force as Bell Museum hosts 'Bell Social', celebrating artist in residence installation, Freeze Frame: Capturing Nature in Winter



The next Bell Social is set for April 13

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 Matt Hodson, University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/29/2012) —The University of Minnesota Bell Museum is opening its doors Friday, April 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. for another installment of the popular “Bell Social” event series. April’s event celebrates the completion of Freeze Frame: Capturing Nature in Winter with an edifying evening of original art, contemporary science and local food, with Minneapolis band Brute Heart performing live in the diorama hall.

Freeze Frame invited the public to submit images from the start of winter, Dec. 22 through winter’s end, March 19, that capture their connection to nature during the winter season. More than 1,010 photos were submitted, giving Bell Museum artist in residence Areca Roe a large pool of images to use as her medium as she created a mixed media installation. The final installation will debut at the Bell Social April 13.

The Bell Social, named “Best Geek-Chic Event” on Minnesota Monthly’s 2011 Best of the Twin Cities list, combines art and science with entertainment. The April 13 event is no exception with live music from Brute Heart, a discussion with Roe, presentation from University of Minnesota, Duluth researcher Ron Moen on camera trapping the Canada lynx and moose and local food and cash bar from Common Roots Café.

Event details

What: Bell Social, Freeze Frame: Capturing Nature in Winter

Celebrate completion of *Freeze Frame: Capturing Nature in Winter*, with:

- live music in the diorama halls by Brute Heart
- camera trapping Canada lynx and moose with UMD researcher Ron Moen
- discussion with artist in residence Areca Roe
- cash bar and hors d’oeuvres from Common Roots Café
- Bell Museum door prizes

When: Friday, April 13, 6-9 p.m.

Where: Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. SE, Minneapolis, MN

Cost: \$10 regular admission, \$8 museum members, U of M students with ID. Tickets can be purchased online or at the door.

The Bell Museum is part of the university’s College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and strives to advance the quest to discover, document and understand life in its many forms and to inspire curiosity, delight and informed stewardship of the natural world. For details, visit bellmuseum.org

Three University of Minnesota students named 2012 Barry M. Goldwater Scholars

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/29/2012) —Three University of Minnesota, Twin Cities undergraduates have been named 2012 Barry M. Goldwater Scholars. The prestigious Goldwater Scholarship is awarded annually to outstanding sophomores and juniors 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.

Each of the three Goldwater Scholars is enrolled in the University Honors Program. The three students are:

Paul David Carlson, a junior majoring in chemical engineering in the College of Science and Engineering, plans to pursue a combined M.D. and Ph.D. in chemical engineering and specialize in cardiovascular tissue engineering. Carlson is a named contributor in a publication from the biomedical engineering laboratory of professor Robert Tranquillo, under whose guidance he has researched the creation of aligned, perfusable microvascular networks within fibrin-based tissue that can be used to repair damage to the human heart from cardiac infarction. Carlson has also given several poster presentations on his work. He spent summer 2011 as a Chemical Engineering Formulation intern at Eastman Kodak Co. in Rochester, New York, working on the reformulation of products in the Thermal Printing Platform. A National Merit Scholar, a Presidential Scholar, a Minnesota Gold Scholar and recipient of the Monroe Professional Engineers Society and SIG Hagen scholarships, Carlson has been recognized by the American Chemical Society and awarded two Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program grants. In his spare time, he tutors chemistry students at the U of M and volunteers at Amplatz Children's Hospital.

Chung-Yun (George) Chao is a junior pursuing a double major in genetics, cell biology and development in the College of Biological Sciences and computer science in the College of Science and Engineering. Following his undergraduate studies, he plans to pursue a doctorate in bioinformatics and possibly an M.D. with a future specialty in internal medicine. Chao aspires to a research career at the intersection of genetics and computer science that will lead to new medical treatments. Working under the guidance of professor Chad Myers, he has researched mapping gene interaction networks in yeast and has extended these studies into an interaction network of human genes to predict possible protein interactions in humans. Chao is also involved in research on protein pathways in *Drosophila* under the direction of professor Thomas Neufeld, and under professor Daniel Keefe, he has explored the creation of a data generation system for analyzing movements of the spine. He has presented his work on several occasions, including a recent TEDxUMN talk, and is involved in leading the U of M's team for the 2012 International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Competition. Chao is a Presidential Scholar, a Monica Tsang and James Weatherbee Merit Scholar in Biology, a Genetics, Cell Biology and Development Scholar and the recipient of an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program grant. A competitive ballroom dancer, Chao has won dozens of awards and mentions in local, regional and national competitions.

Mark Strom, a junior chemistry major in the College of Science and Engineering, plans to pursue a combined M.D. and Ph.D. in cell biology with the purpose of conducting research on stem cells as a faculty member at a medical school. Under the direction of professor Atsushi Asakura, Strom has investigated molecular mechanisms behind muscle stem cell self-renewal with the hope of eventually applying these findings toward treatments for Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Strom spent summer 2011 conducting research at Syracuse University, working in the bioorganic chemistry laboratory of professor Yan-Yeung Luk on the organic synthesis and biological testing of novel bacterial biofilm inhibitors. Strom is a Presidential Scholar, a Minnesota Gold Scholar, a CSE Merit Scholar, a Robert C. Byrd Scholar and a Thomas J. Watson Memorial Scholar, and he has been recognized with the Prentice Hall Organize Chemistry Book Prize, the Merck Index Award, a pair of Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program grants and a National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates grant. A teaching assistant in the University of Minnesota Talented Youth Mathematics Program, Strom is also a longtime Habitat for Humanity volunteer.

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program was established by Congress in 1986 to honor Sen. Barry Goldwater, who served his country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years of service in the U.S. Senate. This year, less than 300 scholars were selected nationwide from a field of more than 1,100 students who were nominated by their colleges and universities. Each institution may nominate up to four students.

A total of 51 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities undergraduates have been Goldwater Scholars since the program's inception in 1986.

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities students who are interested in applying for the scholarship in the future may consult the Office for National and International Scholarships by visiting www.honors.umn.edu/scholarships.

For more information on the Goldwater Scholarship, visit www.act.org/goldwater.

University of Minnesota to host world's largest medical devices conference April 10-12

Media Note: Mechanical engineering professor Art Erdman, medical devices expert and co-chair of the conference, is available for interviews prior to the conference. Media wishing to attend should contact Rhonda Zurn in the College of Science and Engineering at rzurn@umn.edu.

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Rhonda Zurn, College of Science and Engineering, rzurn@umn.edu, (612) 626-7959

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/30/2012) —Medical device leaders from across the country in both industry and academia will converge at the University of Minnesota's 11th annual Design of Medical Devices Conference (DMD) April 10-12 at the University Hotel Minneapolis, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The conference will address emerging trends related to medical device design, policy, engineering, education and commercialization.

More than 1,200 people are expected to attend this year's conference, making it the largest medical devices conference in the world. Additional walk-in registrations are welcome.

"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. "Eleven years ago we had a vision to establish an event where leaders from academia and industry would come together to share the latest issues in medical device design. This vision has become a successful reality and continues to exceed even our own expectations."

The three-day conference offers technical sessions on a wide variety of topics, including live surgery, cardiovascular engineering, neuroengineering, micro and nano devices, medical electronics, surgical robotics, tissue engineering, power for implanted medical devices, global health, virtual prototyping, entrepreneurship, FDA Innovation Initiative and trends in med tech regulation and laser therapies.

The conference also includes an interactive "Hands on Hearts" exhibit of real human hearts; the ExploraDome immersive learning environment, featuring anatomy and medical devices under a 25-foot dome; a live surgery that will be broadcast via videoconference from the University of Minnesota Medical Center Fairview; advanced surgical and medical simulators; a medical devices industry job fair; and scientific poster sessions that will showcase more than 113 emerging topics in biomedical engineering and medical device design.

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar will discuss the importance of the medical device industry in Minnesota during the keynote luncheon April 10, 2012.

Luncheon keynote addresses will be given by:

- Elizabeth Baron, director of the VR Lab, Ford Motor Co.
- Bin He, Distinguished McKnight University Professor and director, Center for Neuroengineering, University of Minnesota
- Norman Dann, adjunct assistant professor, Innovation Fellows Program, Medical Device Center, University of Minnesota; recipient of the 2012 Design of Medical Devices Conference Award
- Matthew Tirrell, Pritzker Director, Institute for Molecular Engineering, University of Chicago

The third day of the conference will include a Symposium on "Virtual Prototyping of Medical Devices." Its keynote presenters will be:

- Richard J. Boyd, chief architect, Lockheed Martin Virtual World Labs
- Brian Fitzgerald, Food & Drug Administration (FDA)
- Birali Runesha, director of research computing, University of Chicago
- Randy Schiestl, vice president of R&D, Boston Scientific Corp.
- Thomas B. Talbot, M.D., USC Institute for Creative Technologies; chief scientist, TATRC Armed Forces Simulation Institute for Medicine

The conference is presented by the University of Minnesota's Medical Devices Center (part of the Institute for Engineering in Medicine), the College of Science and Engineering, and the Academic Health Center. Several corporations are also providing industry sponsorships including 3M, Boston Scientific Corporation, Medtronic Inc., Minnetronix Inc., LifeScience Alley and Saitama Prefecture Japan.

For more information on the Design of Medical Devices Conference or to register, visit www.dmd.umn.edu. Online registration ends April 1, 2012. Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration is recommended.

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Minnesota
researchers
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to create the
most



Many of the core concepts of today's American Community Survey made their first appearance on the 1940 census.

comprehensive database of the 1940 Census

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/02/2012) —A collaboration between the University of Minnesota and Ancestry.com will create the largest database of detailed information about people and their households ever made available for scientific research. The National Archives and Records Administration today released images of the enumeration manuscripts from the 1940 Census of Population. The Minnesota Population Center at the University of Minnesota will leverage a substantial investment by Ancestry.com in digitizing information on the entire population of the United States.

The database will include all of the information collected on the 132 million Americans recorded in the Census of 1940. The project will involve transcription of 7.8 billion keystrokes of data describing the demographic and economic characteristics of all individuals, families, households, and group quarters present in the United States in 1940. This database will be an extraordinary new resource for economists, demographers, geographers, epidemiologists, other social science and health researchers, and the general public.

Ancestry.com has extensive experience in converting historical census records into a searchable format. The company will oversee the keying of the 1940 census records and expects the data indexed will help answer important questions related to population and health.

"This joint project represents the largest single collaboration ever conducted between the genealogy and academic research communities," said Dan Jones, vice president of Global Content for Ancestry.com. "We are proud of our relationship with the University of Minnesota and the many federal agencies who are contributing to this effort. It is a privilege to make what will be the most complete index of the 1940 Census freely available to researchers throughout the country."

The 1940 census was far richer and more detailed than any previous census. Many of the core concepts of today's American Community Survey—such as educational attainment, migrations status, labor force status, wage and salary income, hours worked per week, weeks worked last year, and veteran status—made their first appearance on the 1940 census. The critical timing of the 1940 Census at the end of the depression and beginning of World War II will make this database an important baseline for studies of social and economic change in the twentieth century.

Capturing 100 percent of the U.S. population recorded in the census, the 1940 database will be significantly larger than any other census datasets created for social science and health research. These datasets normally only include a 1-10 percent sample of the population, and many studies are hindered by these small samples. The new database will allow much richer studies of small populations in 1940, such as Dust Bowl migrants to California, Native Americans, and working mothers with young children.

Researchers will also be able to link recent economic and health surveys and mortality records to the 1940 database. These linkages will allow researchers to study the impact of early life conditions—including socioeconomic status, parental education, and family structure—on later health and mortality. In addition to individual and family information, the database will provide contextual information on childhood neighborhood characteristics, labor-market conditions, and environmental conditions.

"Existing research has shown a powerful relationship between family financial well-being in childhood and health in later life," said Steven Ruggles, director of the Minnesota Population Center. "With the 1940 data linked to recent surveys, researchers will be better able to test and understand this relationship."

The data will be intensively used by thousands of scholars, and will form a permanent and substantial element of the nation's statistical infrastructure. The impact of the microdata will be especially profound in the areas of aging, health, and population. According to Ruggles, "The 1940 data have the potential to transform our understanding of the effects of early life conditions on health and well-being, multigenerational mobility, the spatial organization of human activity across multiple scales, and the dramatic shifts in American demographic and economic behavior since the mid-twentieth century."

All numerically-coded fields in the database will be made freely available to the scientific community and the public. Data and documentation will be distributed through the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) data access system (www.ipums.org). The IPUMS data access system pioneered web-based distribution of large-scale datasets and the Minnesota Population Center continues to innovate at the cutting edge of information technology. The system offers capabilities for navigating database documentation, defining datasets, constructing customized variables that capitalize on the individual and household information in the census, and adding neighborhood information.

The project will be supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Aging and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Institute for Child Health and Human Development. The project also benefits from investments and support by the National Archives and Records Administration and the U.S. Census Bureau.

About the Minnesota Population Center

The Minnesota Population Center (MPC) is a University-wide interdisciplinary cooperative for demographic research. The MPC serves more than 80 faculty members and research scientists from eight colleges and institutes at the University of Minnesota. As a leading developer and disseminator of demographic data, MPC also serves a broader audience of some 50,000 demographic researchers worldwide. For more information, visit: www.pop.umn.edu

About Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com Inc. (Nasdaq:ACOM) is the world's largest online family history resource, with more than 1.7 million paying subscribers. More than 8 billion records have been added to the site in the past 15 years. Ancestry users have created more than 33 million family trees containing approximately 4 billion profiles. In addition to its flagship site, Ancestry.com offers several localized websites designed to empower people to discover, preserve and share their family history. For more information, visit: www.ancestry.com

Ancestry.com Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements of Ancestry.com that involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated by these forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include Ancestry.com's ability to acquire, digitize and make desired content conveniently available to its subscribers. Information concerning additional factors that could cause events or results to differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements is contained under the caption "Risk Factors" in Ancestry.com's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, and in discussions in other of Ancestry.com's Securities and Exchange Commission filings. These forward-looking statements should not be relied upon as representing Ancestry.com's views as of any subsequent date and Ancestry.com assumes no obligation to publicly update or revise these forward-looking statements.

Pluto-killing' astronomer to speak at the U of M April 12

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Mike Brown will share how he "killed Pluto" during the April 12 Kaufmanis Lecture

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/03/2012) —The solar system most of us knew growing up included nine planets, with Mercury closest to the sun and Pluto at the outer edge. Then, astronomer Mike Brown made the discovery of a lifetime—a 10th planet, Eris, slightly bigger than Pluto that eventually led to the demotion of Pluto as a real planet.

Brown will share his story about his discovery and how it ignited a firestorm of controversy in “How I Killed Pluto and Why It Had It Coming,” a public lecture at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 12, University of Minnesota Tate Laboratory of Physics, Room 150, 116 Church St. SE, Minneapolis.

In this engaging and entertaining lecture, hosted by the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering’s Institute for Astrophysics, Brown will use humor and drama to give an engaging first-person account of the most tumultuous year in modern astronomy that he inadvertently caused. Brown will talk about how the controversy led to hate mail from schoolchildren and how he was bombarded by TV reporters—all because of the discovery he had spent years searching for and a lifetime dreaming about. Brown will also share important scientific concepts and inspire us to think more deeply about our place in the cosmos.

Brown is a professor of planetary astronomy at the California Institute of Technology and author of the book *How I Killed Pluto and Why It Had It Coming*. Brown has been featured in many publications, including the *New York Times* and *Discover* magazine. In 2006 he was named one of *Time* magazine’s 100 Most Influential People.

This lecture is part of the Kaufmanis Lecture Series presented by the Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics in memory of the late University of Minnesota astronomy professor Karlis Kaufmanis. The Kaufmanis Lecture Series brings distinguished scientists to the campus to provide public lectures on the latest hot topics in research.

The Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics replaces the University of Minnesota’s former Department of Astronomy. The new institute brings together 24 faculty members of the School of Physics and Astronomy conducting research in astronomy, astrophysics, cosmology, planetary science, and space science under a unified association of scientists.

U of M staff member Rosemary White Shield receives national appointment, most recent books released

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/03/2012) —Rosemary White Shield, director of evaluation for the University of Minnesota's Office for Equity and Diversity, has been appointed a national expert in evaluation by the Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (CAPT), a training and technical assistance center funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) of the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, DC. White Shield received one of five CAPT nationwide appointments for the Native American Service to Science Initiative.

Her expertise is in culturally responsive and meaningful research and evaluation, including nonWestern, indigenous paradigms and methodologies. She created and utilized the Medicine Wheel Culturally Intrinsic Research Paradigm Model in previous research studies, and her nonlinear, culturally responsive logic models used in higher education and field studies are recognized by SAMHSA/CAPT as a best practice and have set a precedent for the nation in research and evaluation.

"Rosemary brings a wealth of experience to the University of Minnesota—not only through her previous positions, but as a published author and evaluation expert who has created culturally responsive research paradigms," said Kris Lockhart, associate vice president of the Office for Equity and Diversity. "Those skills, paired with her devotion to community service, make her a tremendous asset to the university and external communities. This CAPT appointment is a testament to her expertise, passion and national standing,"

Concurrently, White Shield's most recent books, "Gifts from the Sacred Circle," an evidence-based Native traditional parenting curriculum for families affected by fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, was field tested in three urban and two reservation pilot sites with highly successful results. They are published by Hazelden and were released for distribution throughout the Western Hemisphere in March. White Shield has also recently published a chapter in the book "Southern Silences: Historical Trauma and Remembrance of American Indian Conquest and Internal Slave Trade in the Southeast" (U. Wiethaus & T. Parent, Eds. Bern, Switzerland: Peter Lang International Publishing House), which will be released for distribution this fall. White Shield's research—the first of its kind on gender-specific slavery and trafficking of Native women and girls from historical and contemporary perspectives—led to the book chapter.

The mission of the U's Office for Equity and Diversity is to leverage the transformative power of equity and diversity to advance excellence in teaching, research and community engagement at the University of Minnesota.

How



World-renowned MIT Professor Mildred Dresselhaus will be speaking at the U of M April 26

nanomaterials can help meet global energy needs is focus of upcoming U of M public lecture

MIT Professor Mildred Dresselhaus is first-ever woman lecturer in the Van Vleck physics lecture series

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/05/2012) —Global energy needs are a major concern for our future. World-renowned MIT Professor Mildred Dresselhaus offers hope for the world energy outlook in her public lecture, “The Promise of Nanomaterials for Thermoelectric Applications,” at 5 p.m. Thursday, April 26, at the University of Minnesota Tate Laboratory of Physics, Room 150, 116 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The lecture is hosted by the School of Physics and Astronomy in the university’s College of Science and Engineering as part of the annual Van Vleck Lecture Series.

The lecture is free and open to the public. The lecture will also be streamed live at <http://z.umn.edu/vanvleck2012>. (Please note that this site will not be active until immediately before the lecture begins.)

Thermoelectricity, in which temperature differences are directly converted to electrical voltage, has played a small role on the energy scene in the past. With the increased conversion efficiencies promised by new materials at the nano scale, however, thermoelectrics are likely to be increasingly important in the future.

Dresselhaus’s lecture will describe broad challenges of materials physics research and the specific promise of the nanomaterials that she studies. She will recount recent research breakthroughs with nanocomposite materials that demonstrate significant enhancement in thermoelectric performance. She will also describe the promise of future progress based on current knowledge and the deeper scientific understanding that will come from continued research.

Nanomaterials, composed of structures with typical sizes measured in billionths of a meter, have exceptional promise. Configured as chains of atoms or very thin sheets, they allow a level of independent control of properties that is not achievable in bulk materials. Such control of thermoelectric properties allows the design of materials optimized for energy production.

About the speaker:

Dresselhaus is an Institute Professor of Electrical Engineering and Physics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is the recipient of the National Medal of Science and 28 honorary degrees from universities around the world. She has served as president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, treasurer of the National Academy of Sciences, president of the American Physical Society and chair of the Governing Board of the American Institute of Physics.

She is also a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the American Philosophical Society, and is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She served as the director of the Office of Science at the U.S. Department of Energy.

Dresselhaus’s research over the years has covered a wide range of topics in condensed matter and materials physics. She is best known for her work on carbon science and carbon nanostructures, as well as nanoscience and nanotechnology more generally. She is also one of the researchers responsible for the resurgence of the thermoelectrics research field through her early work on low-dimensional thermoelectricity.

About the Van Vleck lecture series:

The 36th Annual Van Vleck lecture is hosted by the School of Physics and Astronomy in the College of Science and Engineering in memory of former faculty member and Nobel Laureate John H. Van Vleck. Since 1983, the Van Vleck lecture series has brought distinguished scientists to the university. Dresselhaus is the first-ever woman lecturer for the Van Vleck lecture series. For more information, visit www.physics.umn.edu/events/vanvleck.

New Boyz to headline University of Minnesota Spring Jam concert Events planned for students by students

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/05/2012) —The University of Minnesota's Spring Jam 2012 is set to kick off Thursday, April 19 and will run through Saturday, April 21. The three-day event planned for students by students will feature concerts by pop-country singer Jessie James, Twin Cities rap artist Prof, indie folk-pop band the Head and the Heart, the Cataracs and the New Boyz. Events are open to current University of Minnesota students.

Celebrating the warm weather and the end of the school year, Spring Jam is the largest student-planned, campus-wide event during spring semester at the U of M. Other event highlights this year include food packing; a blood drive; dance, band and bowling competitions; free food; and a Holi celebration. See below for detailed event highlights and visit springjam.umn.edu for a complete event listing.

Event highlights

Thursday, April 19

Blood Drive

11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Walnut Street Southeast, Minneapolis (near McNamara Alumni Center)

Food Packing

11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Field House, 1800 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

Students will help package food for those in need. Sign up [here](#).

The Head and the Heart

12-1 p.m.

Coffman Union, Front Plaza, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

Friday, April 20

Jessie James

Noon-1 p.m., Coffman Union front plaza

Jessie James brings pop and country influences to her music.

Art Project for a Cause

12 to 6 p.m., Coffman front plaza

Students can help create art murals that will be donated to local non-profits including Project Footsteps, Tubman Center, People Serving People, and Gilda's Club. The non-profit's community members will help complete the murals, which will be a constant reminder of hope, inspiration and community connections.

Spring Jam Battle of the Bands

5-7:30 p.m.

Coffman Union, front plaza

One U of M student band from each of the following categories will perform: rock, hip-hop, country/folk, wild card and judge's pick. Students will vote for the Spring Jam headliners opener.

Saturday, April 21

Prof

4:30 p.m.

Coffman Union, Riverbend Plaza, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

Battle of the Bands winner

6 p.m.

Coffman Union, Riverbend Plaza

The Cataracs

7 p.m.

Coffman Union, Riverbend Plaza

An indie-pop group from Berkeley, Calif., The Cataracs rose to fame after a variety of collaborations with the artist Dev and have been featured in the single 'Backseat' from the New Boyz' album Too Cool To Care.

New Boyz

8:30 p.m.

Coffman Union, Riverbend Plaza

As avatars of style, skill and swag, this duo brings a blend of pop and hip-hop to the music scene. New Boyz are consistently focused on switching styles and pushing past genre and aesthetic boundaries.

U of M student named prestigious Udall Scholar

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/05/2012) —Eric Sannerud (Edina, Minn.), a junior at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities has been awarded a 2012 Morris K. and Stuart L. Udall Scholarship in recognition of his commitment to the environment. The 80 students selected as 2012 Udall Scholars receive a scholarship of up to \$5,000 and participate in Udall Foundation activities, including a four-day Scholars Orientation in Tucson in August.

Sannerud is pursuing a bachelor's degree in the Inter-College Program, where he is combining focuses in sustainability and applied business with participation in the Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs program. He plans to pursue a master's in environmental and food systems policy before dedicating his career to policy work and advocacy promoting food system equity.

Sannerud is the former president of the Energy Efficiency Student Alliance (EESA), a group that has created a unique model for improving energy efficiency on campus by changing employee behaviors building by building. He has presented EESA's "Power Police" model at regional and national conferences, and it has been adopted by student organizations at several other institutions. Last fall, he founded U Students Like Good Food, a campus organization dedicated to promoting a healthier and safer food system on campus. A passionate proponent of collaborative efforts, Sannerud has been instrumental in building positive relationships between these organizations and the U's Facilities Management and Dining Services. He is also the co-founder of a community-supported agriculture farm in western Wisconsin.

Sannerud is the third U of M, Twin Cities student to be named an Udall Scholar, following Siri Simons (2012, UHP and CFANS) and Erick Boustead (2008, CSOM). Several U of M, Twin Cities students have been recipients of the Udall Foundation's prestigious Native American Congressional Internships in the past few years.

Naomi Wentz, a student at the University of Minnesota, Morris, was also awarded an Udall Scholarship. Wentz aspires to a career developing partnerships with local food-system leaders, nonprofits and policy makers with the goal of further cultivating a sustainable food system that results in healthier food economies, communities and environments.

Established by Congress in 1992, the Udall Foundation is dedicated to educating a new generation of Americans to preserve and protect their national heritage through scholarship, fellowship and internship programs focused on environmental and Native American issues. The Udall Foundation is also committed to promoting the principles and practices of environmental conflict resolution. It honors brothers Morris K. Udall and Stewart Udall for their lifelong public service. To find out more, visit: www.udall.gov.

President Kaler to join Gov. Dayton and U.S. Sen. Franken in roundtable discussion on college affordability April 9

What: Roundtable discussion on college affordability

Where: University of Minnesota, Science Teaching and Student Services building, Room 123, 222 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis

When: 10-11 a.m. Monday, April 9

Contacts: [Jeff Falk](mailto:jfalk@umn.edu), University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

Katharine Tinucci, Office of Governor Mark Dayton, katharine.tinucci@state.mn.us, (651) 201-3441

April 6, 2012

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will join Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton, U.S. Sen. Al Franken and Minnesota Office of Higher Education Director Larry Pogemiller in a roundtable forum on college affordability with Minnesota higher education students at 10 a.m. Monday, April 9. The roundtable will take place in the Science Teaching and Student Services Building on the University of Minnesota's Minneapolis campus.

The roundtable is a closed event and will be open only to members of the media and event invitation recipients.

Students from the U of M and MNSCU systems, as well as Minnesota's private, technical and community colleges, will have an opportunity to discuss the challenges of paying for college and their concerns about student debt with the roundtable participants.

Since taking office in July 2011, Kaler has continuously voiced his commitment to minimizing increases in tuition and maintaining college affordability in the face of historic cuts to the U's state appropriations. Kaler's fiscal year 2013 budget plans to reduce a projected 5 percent tuition increase to 3.5 percent for undergraduate students in the 2013-14 school year.

Following the roundtable discussion, U of M Vice Provost Bob McMaster and U of M One Stop Student Services Director Julie Selander will lead Franken and Pogemiller on a brief tour of the Science Teaching and Student Services building. The tour will highlight U of M's student financial literacy program, its One Stop student services and its latest interactive classrooms.



Statement from University of Minnesota President Eric W. Kaler on the death of student-athlete Gary Tinsley

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/06/2012) —"It is always difficult to lose a member of the University family. Gary was close to graduating from the University's College of Education and Human Development with a major in business and marketing education.

"In addition, he was an important part of Gopher Athletics who was engaged in public service. Our thoughts are with Gary's family and everyone on campus who knew him."

Poet Heid Erdrich to read new works at University of Minnesota Libraries

Who: Poet Heid E. Erdrich

What: Third Annual Pankake Poetry Reading

Where: Elmer L. Andersen Library

When: Tuesday, April 24, 2012, 4 p.m.

Contacts: Marlo Welshons, University of Minnesota Libraries, welsh066@umn.edu, (612) 625-9148
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/09/2012) —Heid E. Erdrich will read from her latest poetry collection at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24 at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis. A reception will follow the reading, with copies of her works available for sale and signing.

Heid E. Erdrich is the author of four poetry collections, including "National Monuments," which received the 2009 Minnesota Book Award for poetry. Her poem "What Gathers" was a finalist for the 2011 Montreal International Poetry Prize. "Cell Traffic: New and Selected Poems" will be released April 19.

The Pankake Poetry Series was founded in honor of librarian Marcia Pankake, whose love of poetry was demonstrated in the countless readings and poetry events she hosted at the University Libraries until her retirement in 2007.

This event is free and open to the public; reservations are requested by April 17 online at <http://z.umn.edu/pankake>.

Soy foods can help reduce hot flashes, University of Minnesota study finds

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/09/2012) —Menopausal women can find relief from hot flashes by taking soy isoflavone supplements, a new study from the University of Minnesota and other research institutions has found.

Past studies have yielded similar results but individual studies were considered inconclusive. For the new analysis, researchers evaluated 19 past trials from 10 countries to reach broader conclusions. The statistical analysis of the findings involved trials that included 1,196 women for hot flash frequency and 988 women for hot flash severity. The results are published in *Menopause*, the Journal of the North American Menopause Society.

Because of health concerns about traditional hormone therapy treatment for hot flashes, more women are turning to natural products such as soy foods and soy extracts, says Mindy Kurzer, professor in the U of M's department of food science and nutrition and director of the Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute. But past individual studies about the natural treatments' effectiveness suffered from inconsistencies or methodology questions, she said. "This was an effort to bring together all the research and answer the questions as conclusively as possible."

Kurzer and her colleagues say that their work clearly shows that soy extracts are more effective than placebos. Future research will help determine the precise dose of isoflavones that is most effective. The study included scientists from Japan's National Institute of Health and Nutrition; Stanford University; the University of Delaware and Loma Linda University.

Department of Homeland Security and University of Minnesota to Host Cybersecurity Awareness Sessions on April 19

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/09/2012) —The University of Minnesota Technological Leadership Institute (TLI) has joined with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its national cybersecurity awareness campaign, Stop.Think.Connect.™, to host three respective sessions on cyber awareness, cyber careers, and digital critical infrastructure protection Thursday, April 19, 2012.

As a part of the weeklong Stop.Think.Connect. Minnesota Cyber Tour, the DHS/UMN sessions will promote a broader discussion about how individuals and communities can protect against growing cyber threats. Students, faculty, and members of the general public are invited to attend all three sessions, to be held at the TCF Bank Stadium Indoor Club Room, 420 S.E. 23rd Avenue, Minneapolis.

- **General Cyber Awareness Session (3-4:30 p.m. CT):** will discuss relevant issues affecting Americans in cyberspace, including identity theft, phishing, fraud and cyber ethics
- **Cyber Careers Session (4:30-6 p.m.):** will outline types of cybersecurity jobs available in the 21st century workforce and the educational background needed for those careers;
- **Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Roundtable (6-7 p.m.):** will bring together experts from government, academia and the private sector to discuss in-depth topics about protecting the nation's digital posture in a range of sectors.

The DHS Stop.Think.Connect. Campaign is a national public awareness effort encouraging Americans to embrace a higher level of Internet safety and security through education. The Campaign was launched in an effort to empower all citizens to adopt Internet safety and security practices through responsible use of home and work computers, social networks and other elements of the digital world.

As part of the university's College of Science and Engineering, TLI bridges the gap between business and engineering. Drawing senior faculty from across industry, government and academia, TLI also bridges the Carlson School of Management, the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, the School of Public Health, the Law School, the Medical School and the colleges of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; Veterinary Medicine; Pharmacy; and Biological Sciences. Its mission is to develop local and global leaders for technology enterprises.

To learn more about the DHS/UMN Cybersecurity Sessions, please visit www.tli.umn.edu/news_events/comm_events/cyber-security-awareness or telephone (612) 624-5747. To learn more about the Stop.Think.Connect. Campaign, please visit www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect.

Calif. Supreme Court Justice Goodwin Liu to Speak at U of M Law School

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/09/2012) —The Law School's American Constitution Society student chapter and Professor Richard W. Painter are proud to announce a presentation by California Supreme Court Associate Justice Goodwin Liu from 12:15-1:20 p.m., Thursday, April 12, 2012, in Lockhart Hall (Room 25) of Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The talk is entitled "Martin Luther King Jr. and the Good Samaritan" and will include a question-and-answer session.

Justice Liu was appointed by President Barack Obama to the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals but was filibustered during the Senate nomination process in May 2011. Shortly thereafter, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. appointed him to the California Supreme Court. Justice Liu was confirmed unanimously by the California Commission on Judicial Appointments and began his 12-year term on the Supreme Court of California on Sept. 1, 2011. Previously, Justice Liu was a professor at the University of California Berkeley School of Law, where his primary areas of expertise included constitutional law, education law and policy, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

After completing a bachelor's degree in biology at Stanford University, he attended Oxford University on a Rhodes Scholarship and earned a master's degree in philosophy and physiology. He completed his law degree at Yale Law School, then clerked for Judge David Tatel on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Justice Liu's presentation is co-sponsored by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Lawyers Chapter of the American Constitution Society, the Federalist Society, and the Federal Bar Association. The event is open to the public, and all Twin Cities judges and lawyers are encouraged to attend.

U of M students to host Agriculture Awareness Day April 17

Dairy cows, pigs, llamas and sheep to visit heart of Minneapolis campus



Ag Awareness Day is set for April 17 on the U's Minneapolis campus.

What: University of Minnesota students and Minnesota agriculture groups host Agriculture Awareness Day

When: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 17

Where: Church Street, University of Minnesota East Bank campus, Minneapolis

Contacts: [Matt Hodson](mailto:mjhodson@umn.edu), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552
Theresa Twohey, student organizer, twohe009@umn.edu, (507) 951-5929

April 10, 2012

American agriculture continues to provide many of the necessities of everyday life, including food, fiber, clothing and fuel. Agricultural education students at the University of Minnesota will share that message with fellow students, faculty, staff and the general public during the third annual Agriculture Awareness Day, Tuesday, April 17.

The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Church Street, in the heart of the university's East Bank in Minneapolis.

Organized under the leadership of students in the University of Minnesota Agricultural Education Club, the goal of the event is to increase awareness of how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced and showcase the critical role American agriculture plays in maintaining a strong economy, especially as the world population continues to grow. A broad range of Minnesota agricultural producers, associations, corporations and government agencies are joining the students in this effort.

Attendees will have the chance to visit with Agricultural Education Club members and ask questions of industry experts while learning more about various aspects of the agriculture industry.

The event will also feature interactive booths and the chance for people to see dairy cows, beef cattle (both steer and heifer), pigs, llamas, lambs and sheep.

Student organizers invite you to learn more about agriculture by visiting the Agriculture Awareness Day Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/AgAwareness.

The following organizations are scheduled to participate in Agriculture Awareness Day: the U of M College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI); Minnesota Agricultural Water Resource Center (MAWRC); Minnesota Beef Council; Minnesota Buffalo Association; U of M Department of Chicano Studies; Minnesota Corn Growers; Midwest Dairy Association; Minnesota Farm Bureau; Minnesota Farmers Union; Minnesota Pork Board; Minnesota Soybean; U of M Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA); Minnesota Turkey; and the U of M Extension's Minnesota 4-H.

Student organizers also wish to thank major sponsors Coca-Cola and the CHS Foundation for their support.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month events aim to start dialogues on healthy sexuality

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/10/2012) —April marks Sexual Assault Awareness Month and this year, the University of Minnesota's Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education (TAC) aims to start a dialogue about healthy sexuality in its SAAM campaign. The campaign encourages individuals and organizations to join the conversation on how people connect and respect one another in order to prevent sexual violence. TAC, along with other groups, is calling attention to this important dialog through several events.

Monday, April 16

- **Andrea Gibson** -- a nationally known poet, activist and the first winner of the Women's World Poetry Slam, performs at 8:30 p.m. at the Whole Music Club, Coffman Union. Two acts open for Gibson. The University of Minnesota's nationally ranked slam poetry team, USlam, performs at 6:30 p.m. The second opening act, Guante, a hip-hop artist, two-time National Poetry Slam champion, social justice activist and educator, performs at 7:15 p.m. Admission is free. The Women's Center, Women's Student Activist Collective and Aurora Center are sponsoring the event.

Tuesday, April 17

- **Andrea Gibson** leads a social justice and spoken word writing workshop from 12 to 1:30 p.m., room 325, Coffman Union. Participation is free of charge.

Friday, April 20

- **Gender Violence in Communities of Color Panel & Discussion:** A discussion on how teachers, learners, activists and leaders on this campus grapple with and work to change the systems of gender violence in communities of color will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m., room 130, Murphy Hall. Panelists include: Oliver Williams, director, Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community and professor of social work at the U of M; Liliana Espondaburu, Sexual Assault Program Associate, Community University Health Care Center; Mario Villeda Maldonado, health educator, West Side Clinic; and Xay Yang, student employee for GLBTA Programs Office and Transgender Commission member.

Sunday April 22

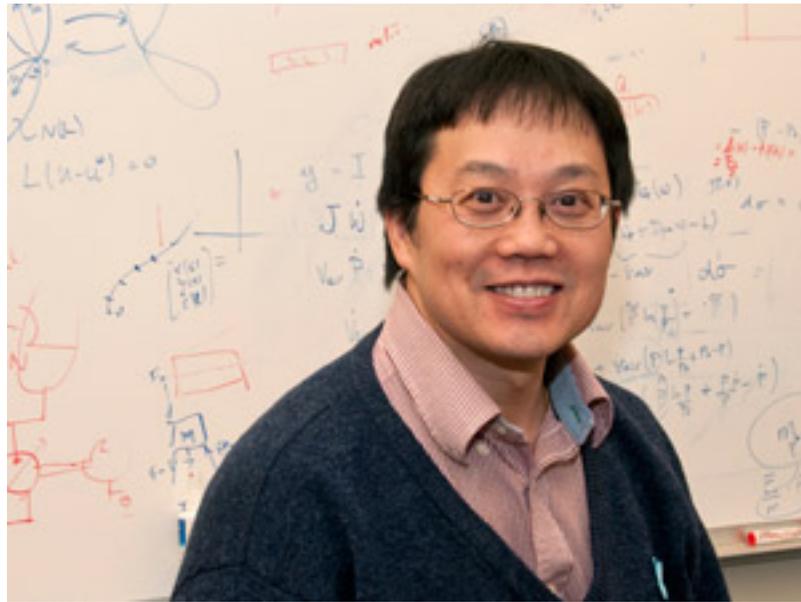
- **The Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler** is performed at 7 p.m., Coffman Union Theater. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$15 for the public. Tickets will be sold at the door and are available online at <http://vdaytwincities2012.eventbrite.com/>

Wednesday, April 25

- **Mental Health Awareness Day:** TAC co-sponsors exhibits on the Northrop Mall.

University of Minnesota invention helps advance reliability of alternative energy

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Prof. Perry Li

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/11/2012) —A University of Minnesota invention could help make storage of solar and wind energy more efficient and economical. The invention was licensed to SustainX, a leading global developer of grid-scale energy storage solutions that use patented isothermal compressed air methods to store large amounts of energy cleanly and economically.

“A lot of renewable energy sources, like wind and solar, are unpredictable. The wind doesn’t always blow, and the sun doesn’t always shine. With economical bulk energy storage, one can really stabilize these energy sources, which makes them more predictable and more reliable,” said Perry Li, inventor and mechanical engineering professor in the College of Science and Engineering.

SustainX is developing isothermal (or near-constant temperature) compressed air energy storage (CAES) systems that provide bulk energy storage capacity while reducing carbon emissions and increasing the reliability of the electric grid. The conventional method of compressed air energy storage depends on the use of underground caverns, which greatly limits their available locations and practical use. The SustainX solution uses pipe-type air storage, which makes it possible to store energy virtually anywhere.

“This licensing agreement with the University of Minnesota expands SustainX’s growing IP portfolio and provides our company with another possible method of implementing our unique isothermal CAES technology,” said Dax Kepshire, SustainX vice president and general manager.

The SustainX energy storage solution could also reduce the need for gas-powered peaker plants that operate during hours of peak energy usage.

The technology was licensed to SustainX by the university’s Office for Technology Commercialization. The research was funded by the National Science Foundation.

About the Office of Technology Commercialization

The mission of the University of Minnesota’s Office for Technology Commercialization is to translate University research into new products and services that provide growth opportunities for its licensees, benefit the public good, improve the quality of life and generate revenue to support the University’s research and education goals.

About SustainX

SustainX’s isothermal compressed air energy storage (ICAESTM) technology is a site-anywhere, zero-emissions solution that enables power- and energy-scalable compressed air storage, without the need for caverns or natural gas combustion. SustainX achieves isothermal cycling by combining patented innovations with a design centered on proven industrial principles and mature core components. The result is long operating life and a disruptively low levelized cost of energy (LCOE) as compared to competing storage technologies. For more information visit www.sustainx.com.

Beautiful U Day to feature ReUse-A-Palooza and building cleanout

More than used bikes for under \$50

What: Beautiful U Day – ReUse-A-Palooza

When: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 17

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

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/11/2012) —University of Minnesota students, faculty and staff will be treated to the inaugural ReUse-A-Palooza during the 15th Annual Beautiful U Day celebration from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, on Northrop Plaza, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. In addition, staff from 65 campus buildings have signed-up to participate in a building cleanout.

More than 100 gently used bikes will be available for sale and the university's ReUse Program Warehouse will showcase the wide variety of quality items that it redistributes to the campus community each year. Used bike retailer Re-Cycle.com will offer free quick checks on bikes purchased at the event.

While this is the ReUse Program's inaugural ReUse-A-Palooza, the program has long been a Twin Cities campus fixture. The ReUse Program collects surplus office furniture, supplies, equipment and parts from throughout the Twin Cities campus and sells them to university departments and eventually to the public. The ReUse program collects and redistributes items valued at more than \$200,000 per year. In fiscal year 2011, the program diverted 229 tons of items that could have ended up in a landfill. In 2012, the program projects that it will increase that number to 381 tons diverted. The U of M ReUse Program saved the university \$208,300 in fiscal year 2011 and in 2012 the program projects that it will save the university \$342,800. Several other campus and local organizations that focus on reusing resources will staff information tables at the event.

University Services Vice President Kathleen O'Brien, who will be participating in her 10th and final Beautiful U Day, will kick-off ReUse-A-Palooza with a speech at 10:30 a.m. She will also present the inaugural Beautiful U Day Medallion Hunt clue that will help one lucky person win a free bike.

O'Brien will announce the launch of the U's newest conservation campaign to win over the campus community with the promise of prizes for those who support the school's "green" party – It All Adds Up. Posters and sidewalk clings mimicking election campaign slogans will adorn campus with messages aimed at changing attitudes towards conserving campus resources. Each poster and cling has a QR code that will link mobile devices to the It All Adds Up Facebook page where people can "Like" the page for a chance to win an iPad. Monthly prize drawings will be held for anyone who "Likes" It All Adds Up – U of M through August, then weekly prizes will be awarded through the end of the 2012 presidential campaign on Nov. 6. The earlier you "Like" It All Adds Up, the more chances you have to win.

Building Cleanout

University departments in 65 campus buildings have registered to fill more than 200 hampers with items that are no longer in use and taking up valuable space during a campus-wide Building Cleanout from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Beautiful U Day. Facilities Management will collect and recycle most of the items.

For more information about Beautiful U Day, go to: <http://www.buday.umn.edu/>

Economics Challenge tests high school students' money savvy

Media Note: To gain access to the Federal Reserve Building, please contact Jane Stockman in advance at 952-846-8146.

What: State championship finals of *Economics Challenge*, a quiz bowl competition for high school students

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, April 12 (final rounds begin at 12:45 p.m.)

Where: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, 90 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

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Claudia Parliament, Minnesota Council on Economic Education, (612) 625-5733

April 11, 2012

Minnesota's most knowledgeable high school economics students will compete at the state finals of *Economics Challenge*, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, April 12 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, 90 Hennepin Ave. *Economics Challenge* is supported in part by the Minnesota Council on Economic Education (MCEE), which is hosted by the University of Minnesota.

Students from 15 high schools across the state will compete in *Economics Challenge*. The highest-scoring teams in the advanced placement (AP) and large school division will advance to semi-nationals, where the six highest scoring teams in each division move on to the national championship in New York City.

Minnesota students and their coaches have reached the national contest in seven of the 10 years of competition, a level of excellence that exceeds the performance of all other states. In 2011, Mounds View placed second in the AP division at the national competition, the only public school that made it to the national championships. A team from Little Falls High School won the 2009 national title in the large school division.

"*Economics Challenge* recognizes and rewards student achievement in economics," said Claudia Parliament, executive director, MCEE. "The students' ability to respond to difficult questions is impressive. Their understanding is a tribute to the high quality of teaching in Minnesota. We have very talented and knowledgeable teachers of economics."

Student teams competing this year in the AP/IB/CIS division represent the following schools: Central High School, St. Paul; Eagan High School; Moorhead Senior High; Mounds View High School; and St. Cloud Tech.

Student teams competing in the large school division represent the following schools: Barnesville High School; Cloquet High School; Jefferson High School, Alexandria; Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial High School; Little Falls Community High School; and Mounds View High School.

Student teams competing in the small school division are: Albany Senior High; Underwood High School; United South Central High School; and Virginia High School.

Economics Challenge was established in 1986 by Professor Curt Anderson, University of Minnesota, Duluth. The competition became a national program in 2001. High school teams compete at six regional state competitions and online to receive an invitation to the state championship. Regional competitions are held at: St. Cloud State University; Minnesota State University, Mankato; Minnesota State University, Moorhead; University of Minnesota, Duluth; and St. Thomas University.

Minnesota's *Economics Challenge* competition is supported by the Mosaic Company. The national *Economics Challenge* is sponsored by the Council for Economic Education.

About the Minnesota Council on Economic Education

The mission of the Minnesota Council on Economic Education (MCEE) is to provide Minnesotans with the economic and personal financial understanding they need to function effectively in a complex, global environment. MCEE is hosted by the department of Applied Economics within the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences at the University of Minnesota. For more information, visit: www.mcee.umn.edu.

U professor emerita Karen Nelson Hoyle to receive 2012 Kerlan Award

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/12/2012) —The University of Minnesota Libraries will present recently retired curator Karen Nelson Hoyle with the 2012 Kerlan Award at Elmer L. Andersen Library on Saturday, May 5.

The award presentation and speech by Hoyle will begin at 1:15 p.m. and are free and open to the public. The ceremony is preceded by a noon luncheon (cost: \$25; \$20 for Kerlan Friends), which requires advance registration by April 23.

Hoyle retired in January 2012 after more than forty years as curator of the University of Minnesota Children's Literature Research Collections, one of which is the Kerlan Collection. The Kerlan Award committee selected Hoyle to recognize her tireless work to build the collections, connect with faculty to incorporate the study of children's literature into the curriculum, and raise awareness of the collections in the larger community. Hoyle's legacy was recognized last year by the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, who bestowed her with the Bridge Award for the inspired ways she has brought the art of the picture book to larger audiences.

A luncheon registration form is available at <http://z.umn.edu/kerlan2012>. For more information, contact the staff of the Children's Literature Research Collections at 612-624-4576 or email clrc@umn.edu.

Best-selling author of 'Struck by Lightning: The Curious World of Probabilities' to speak at the U of M
April 25



Contacts: Amanda Aranowski, Institute for Mathematics and its Applications,

Best-selling author Jeffrey Rosenthal will share his unique perspective on probabilities April 25

amanda@ima.umn.edu, (612) 626-7881

Rhonda Zurn, College of Science and Engineering, rzurn@umn.edu, (612) 626-7959

[Matt Hodson](#), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/12/2012) —Will you ever win the lottery? What are the chances that you would actually get struck by lightning? Is it safe to take that flight across the country? What are the odds that you could win big at the casino?

Find out more about the mathematics of probability at an upcoming lecture entitled “The Curious World of Probabilities” at 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 25, Willey Hall, Room 175, 225 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The lecture is hosted by the University’s Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) within the College of Science and Engineering. The event is free and open to the public.

In this engaging and informative talk, Jeffrey Rosenthal, a professor of statistics at the University of Toronto and author of the best-selling book *Struck by Lightning: The Curious World of Probabilities*, will offer a unique perspective on probabilities as he delves into an entertaining exploration of the nature of coincidence. He will explain how a “Probability Perspective” can shed new light on many familiar situations from lottery jackpots to airplane crashes, casino gambling to homicide rates, medical studies to election polls to surprising coincidences. He will also discuss Monte Carlo computer algorithms, which use randomness to solve problems in many branches of science.

For details about this and other public lectures offered by IMA, visit www.ima.umn.edu/public-lecture.

About the IMA

Founded in 1982, the IMA promotes vigorous collaboration among mathematicians, engineers, biologists, chemists, physicists, and other applied scientists, attracting more than 1,200 visitors per year. Since its establishment, the IMA has grown to become among the most influential math institutes in the world. Its mission is to engage mathematicians and other scientists from around the globe in programs and activities that advance the nation’s science and technology agendas. Find out more at www.ima.umn.edu.

Board of Regents committee begins review of executive compensation and administrative transitional leave policies on April 26

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/12/2012) —A special committee of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents will begin a review of current university policies on executive compensation and administrative transitional leaves and explore potential changes. The committee will conduct its work in public meetings beginning at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 26 in the West Committee Room, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

“Regents understand that while compensation and leaves for our senior administrators must be competitive, they must also be prudent,” said Board of Regents Chair Linda Cohen. “We are undertaking this review as a matter of sound governance because oversight and policy development are among the Board of Regents’ core responsibilities. The Board also seeks to be responsive to policymakers and the public.”

Regent Richard Beeson will chair the committee. Regents John Frobenius and Dean Johnson will also serve on the committee.

The Special Committee on Executive Compensation and Administrative Transitional Leaves is charged with:

- Establishing principles to guide a review of executive compensation and transitional leave policy and asking the administration to present revised policy proposals, consistent with those principles, to the committee for consideration;
- Reviewing current Board and administrative policies related to executive compensation and administrative transitional leaves, as well as practices at comparable institutions;
- Working with the administration to refine proposals and develop recommendations to enhance Board oversight and provide clear guidelines on these issues; and
- Reporting committee recommendations to the full Board of Regents at its June 8, 2012 meeting.

The Board intends to implement any policy revisions by fall.

“As the state’s only land grant, public research university, the University of Minnesota provides tremendous value to the state and residents, and we are confident in President Kaler’s ability to advance the university’s mission at a time of constrained resources,” Chair Cohen said. “Together, we are committed to being careful stewards of these resources and will ensure that our policies and practices reflect a university worthy of strong public investment.”

Scientists complete first-ever emperor penguin count from space

Results provide an important benchmark for monitoring the impact of environmental change



There are twice as many emperor penguins in Antarctica as previously thought, as determined by an international research collaboration that included U of M Polar Geospatial Center scientists.

Media Note:

Stunning broadcast-quality footage and stills of Antarctica, emperor penguin

colonies as well as location maps are available from the BAS ftp site at: <ftp://ftp.nerc-bas.ac.uk/pub/photo/penguins-from-space> or from the University of Minnesota at <http://z.umn.edu/pgcimages412>.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/13/2012) —There are twice as many emperor penguins in Antarctica than was previously thought, according to a new study released today by an international team of researchers using high-resolution satellite mapping technology. This first-ever count of an entire species from space provides an important benchmark for monitoring the impact of environmental change on the population of this iconic bird.

Scientists from the University of Minnesota [Polar Geospatial Center](#) co-authored the research with partners from the British Antarctic Survey. The research is published today in the journal PLoS ONE. In the journal, the scientists describe how they used Very High Resolution (VHR) satellite images to estimate the number of penguins at each colony around the coastline of Antarctica. Using a technique known as pan-sharpening to increase the resolution of the satellite imagery, the science teams were able to differentiate between birds, ice, shadow and penguin poo (guano).

They then used ground counts and aerial photography to calibrate the analysis. These birds breed in areas that are very difficult to study because they are remote and often inaccessible with temperatures as low as -58°F (-50°C).

Lead author and geographer Peter Fretwell at the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), which is funded by the UK's Natural Environment Research Council, said the research findings are groundbreaking.

"We are delighted to be able to locate and identify such a large number of emperor penguins," Fretwell said. "We counted 595,000 birds, which is almost double the previous estimates of 270,000 to 350,000 birds. This is the first comprehensive census of a species taken from space."

On the ice, emperor penguins with their black and white plumage stand out against the snow and colonies are clearly visible on satellite imagery. This allowed the team to analyze 44 emperor penguin colonies around the coast of Antarctica, with seven previously unknown.

"The methods we used are an enormous step forward in Antarctic ecology because we can conduct research safely and efficiently with little environmental impact, and determine estimates of an entire penguin population," said co-author Michelle LaRue from the University of Minnesota Polar Geospatial Center, which is funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation and is part of the university's College of Science and Engineering.

"The implications of this study are far-reaching," LaRue added. "We now have a cost-effective way to apply our methods to other poorly-understood species in the Antarctic, to strengthen on-going field research, and to provide accurate information for international conservation efforts."

BAS biologist Phil Trathan and co-author of the study noted the impact this research could have on the changing environment.

"Current research suggests that emperor penguin colonies will be seriously affected by climate change," Trathan said. "An accurate continent-wide census that can be easily repeated on a regular basis will help us monitor more accurately the impacts of future change on this iconic species."

Scientists are concerned that in some regions of Antarctica, earlier spring warming is leading to loss of sea ice habitat for emperor penguins, making their northerly colonies more vulnerable to further climate change.

"Whilst current research leads us to expect important declines in the number of emperor penguins over the next century, the effects of warming around Antarctica are regional and uneven," Trathan said. "In the future we anticipate that the more southerly colonies should remain, making these important sites for further research and protection."

This research is a collaboration between British Antarctic Survey, University of Minnesota/National Science Foundation, Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Australian Antarctic Division.

To read the entire research paper in the PLoS ONE journal, visit <http://z.umn.edu/penguin12>.

Public Mission, Urban Challenges: The 21st-Century University' topic of U of M land-grant 150 anniversary event

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/16/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric W. Kaler will host Syracuse University Chancellor Nancy Cantor in a discussion of the role of the 21st-century university in meeting urban challenges in a special Great Conversations presidential forum at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 2, in Coffman Union Theater on the university's Twin Cities campus.

“Public Mission, Urban Challenges: The 21st-Century University” is part of UMN Land Grant 150, a yearlong celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1862—legislation that laid the groundwork for the land-grant research university's ongoing mission of learning, discovery and engagement for the common good.

The Great Conversations discussion is one of two public forums Kaler will host on the subject of the university's land grant mission and its obligations and commitment to the people of the state. The university also will sponsor many other events throughout the year to explore its land-grant legacy; examine the impact of the university's campuses, programs, and collaborations across the state and world; and define a land-grant vision for the 21st century.

Under Cantor's leadership, Syracuse University has become a national model for comprehensive university public engagement, with innovative partnerships that are revitalizing the older industrial city of Syracuse while also enriching scholarship and educational programs. Cantor lectures and writes extensively on the role of universities as anchor institutions in their communities, as well as on higher education issues such as sustainability, liberal education and the creative campus, and racial justice and diversity.

The University of Minnesota significantly expanded its own commitment to urban engagement with the 2009 opening of its Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center, a North Minneapolis-based hub for sustained university-community programs and partnerships focused on the achievement gap, health disparities, and community/economic development.

The May 2 event will be moderated by College of Continuing Education Dean Mary L. Nichols, with an introduction by University System Senior Vice President for Academic Administration Robert J. Jones. A public reception will follow.

The event is free and open to the public, although registration is required. The conversation will be streamed live at <http://landgrant150.umn.edu/greatconversations/>. For complete details, visit <http://landgrant150.umn.edu>.

State FFA convention returns to U of M campus April 22-24

Media Note: Reporters are welcome to cover the convention. Interviews with students from your coverage area can be arranged. Media headquarters will be in Room 156A of the Continuing Education Center on the St. Paul campus starting at 8 a.m. Monday, April 23.

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/16/2012) —The 83rd annual Minnesota State FFA Convention will bring more than 3,000 high school students to the University of Minnesota campus from April 22 to 24.

“We Are” 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 university.

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.

National FFA Secretary Jason Troendle of St. Charles, Minn., is among this year’s featured speakers.

FFA is a national youth organization of more than 520,000 student members. In Minnesota, more than 9,200 members participate in 175 chapters throughout the state. The 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's top doctoral students to showcase their work

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/16/2012) —The University of Minnesota Graduate School will hold its fifth annual Doctoral Research Showcase from noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, in the Great Hall at Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave., Minneapolis.

The showcase, open to the public and designed to engage Minnesota's business end entrepreneur community, spans the U's disciplines – from science, medicine and engineering to the social sciences and the humanities. Participants come from a pool of students who have won competitive university fellowships. Exclusively dedicated to doctoral research, this showcase gives a glimpse of the future of many fields and of the world's future faculty and intellectual leaders.

This is the fifth year for the doctoral showcase. The showcase is designed to give recipients of the university's Doctoral Dissertation Fellows (DDFs) and Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellows (IDFs) exposure to a broader audience. DDF recipients are outstanding, final-year candidates nominated for the fellowship by their departments because of their work's quality, importance and, often, urgency. IDF recipients are outstanding Graduate School students whose current or proposed dissertation topic is interdisciplinary.

For more information about the students and their research projects, visit http://www.grad.umn.edu/fellowships/enrolled_students/Doctoral_Research_Showcase_2012.html

More day-tripping, fewer vacation days for families managing four-day school weeks, study says

Contacts: Catherine Dehdashti, U of M Extension, ced@umn.edu, (612) 625-0237

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/16/2012) —As of 2012, 13 Minnesota school districts have implemented a change to a four-day week. More districts are considering the switch. A study funded by the University of Minnesota Tourism Center's Carlson Chair for Travel, Tourism and Hospitality sought to help the tourism industry understand the implications of this change, so that businesses can better adapt.

It's reasonable to expect that the four-day school week is here to stay, at least for some districts. Under the new schedule, students attend school for a few more hours four days each week and get one additional day off. Summer vacation schedules remain the same as those in other districts.

For families, this means more three-day weekends. But what does this mean for Minnesota's fun spots, hotels and the entire tourism industry?

"We wanted to get beyond guess work and assumptions," said Elton Mykerezi of the University of Minnesota's Department of Applied Economics, principal investigator for the study. "We wanted to find out what was really happening with family's travel patterns—how they change when kids' schedules change."

The results are a mixed bag, with both good and bad news for the tourism industry. The good news? The four-day school schedule caused sizable increases in "day trips" —trips that are at least 50 miles away from home but require no overnight stay. The number and nature of weekend trips stayed the same. But parents reported significantly fewer trips of five days or more. In fact, one in three families took one fewer long trip over a two-year period. This resulted in fewer nights spent in hotels, and lower overall expenditures. Among households that traveled at least once, one in five took one fewer trip (a 49-percent change from the sample).

The study surveyed parents from four school districts with four-day schedules and five districts with traditional school weeks. The five-day districts chosen were contemplating four-day schedules. The survey collected information about travel patterns before and after the change, comparing those to the same time period in districts that hadn't changed to a four-day week.

This study did not address other school-year scheduling proposals or practices.

Parents were asked to describe the type of travel, the destination, the frequency of travel, the number of overnight stays, the number of travelers and expenditures during trips. Care was taken to control for other factors, such as household or economic circumstances.

"The tourism industry must constantly adapt to the changing circumstances of travelers," said Ingrid Schneider, Director of the University of Minnesota Tourism Center. "As schools and our Department of Education adapt to new circumstances, there will be ripple effects. We wanted to shed some light on those changes, in order to help the industry plan their marketing, staffing and development."

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.

A scarcity of college men leads women to choose briefcase over baby, study finds

UMN study finds ratio of men to women dramatically alters women's choices about career and family

Contacts: Steve Rudolph, Carlson School of Management, skr@umn.edu, (612) 624-8770

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/16/2012) —American women today are more likely to earn college degrees than men with women receiving 57 percent of all bachelor's and 60 percent of all master's degrees. But are there consequences to having more women than men in college?

Research from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and University of Minnesota has found the ratio of men to women dramatically alters women's choices about career and family. When men are scarce, women delay having children and instead pursue high-paying careers.

"Most women don't realize it, but an important factor in a woman's career choice is how easy or difficult it is to find a husband," said [Kristina Durante](#), assistant professor of marketing at the UTSA College of Business. "When a woman's dating prospects look bleak – as is the case when there are few available men – she is much more likely to delay starting a family and instead seek a career."

In one study, the researchers examined the ratio of single men to single women in each U.S. state and Washington D.C. They found that as bachelors became scarce, the percentage of women in high-paying careers increased, women delayed having children, and had fewer kids when they finally decided to start a family.

In another study on college campuses, the researchers led women to believe that there were either more men or less men on campus by having participants read one of two news article about the student population. When women read that there were fewer men than women on campus, they became more motivated to pursue ambitious careers rather than start a family.

"A scarcity of men leads women to invest in their careers because they realize it will be difficult to settle down and start a family," said study coauthor [Vlad Griskevicius](#), assistant professor of marketing at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management. "In fact, the strongest effects were found for women who are least likely to secure a mate."

"Women who judged themselves to be less desirable to men—those women who are not like Angelina Jolie—were most likely to take the career path when men became scarce," added Durante.

This research highlights a sexual paradox associated with women's economic and educational advancement. "As women pursue more education and more lucrative careers when they can't find a husband, the ironic effect is that it will only get harder to find a husband as women become more educated and earn higher salaries," said Durante. "This is because a woman's mating standards keep increasing as she becomes more educated and wealthy, which further decreases the number of suitable mates. More than ever before, modern women are increasingly forced to make tough choices such as choosing briefcase over baby."

["Sex Ratio and Women's Career Choice: Does a Scarcity of Men Lead Women to Choose Briefcase Over Baby?"](#) was published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. Durante and Griskevicius's coauthors include the University of Minnesota's Jeffrey A. Simpson and Stephanie M. Cantú and Joshua M. Tybur (VU University Amsterdam).

About the Carlson School of Management

Established in 1919 and based in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota is a recognized leader in business education and research. Its focus on experiential learning, international education and maintaining strong ties to the business community exemplify the school's commitment to excellence. More information about the school can be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu.

Live fast, die young

New study shows urban plant communities have traits that make it harder for them to adapt to change than their countryside counterparts.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/17/2012) —Cities harbor more plant species than rural areas. However, plant species of urban areas are more closely related to each other and often share similar functions. As a result, urban ecosystems are likely to be more sensitive to environmental impacts than rural ecosystems, suggests a field study led by Jeannine Cavender-Bares, associate professor in the College of Biological Sciences and resident fellow of the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota, and Sonja Knapp, a postdoctoral fellow from the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Germany. The new study was published March 19 as a preprint in the journal *Ecology* and was highlighted in the latest issue of *Nature*.

Knapp, Cavender-Bares, and colleagues from the University of Minnesota, the Max-Planck Institute for Biogeochemistry in Germany, the University of California and Whittier College in California compared plant diversity in private yards of the Twin Cities metropolitan area with plant diversity at the nearby Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, part of the Long-Term Ecological Research network supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation. Using a newly established global plant trait database (TRY), they found that typical spontaneous backyard plant species are short-lived and fast-growing, produce small seeds, use humans rather than insect pollinators to spread, and are adapted to high temperatures. Many of these species are exotic horticultural species that now spread on their own. Rural plants, on the other hand, include fewer exotics and have a higher diversity of survival strategies.

The scientists expressed concern about invasive species being dispersed beyond yard boundaries and suggested that cultivating more native plant species could have positive effects on the evolutionary diversity and potential of urban vegetation. They also pointed out that the promotion of self-pollinated species by the urban environment might result in cascading effects on pollinators: "If self-pollinating species are supported by urbanization and consequently increase their frequency in the regional species pool, fewer pollinators such as bees or butterflies will be supported," said Sonja Knapp, the first author of the study.

"As cities expand, understanding how urbanization and urban gardening impact biodiversity and ecosystem services becomes increasingly important," said Cavender-Bares. "The loss of diversity in the evolutionary lineages of plants that live in cities might, on the long term, make it more difficult for urban ecosystems to adapt to changes. These results suggest that urbanites should consider gardening and harboring a higher number of native species."

The Minnesota study builds on previous work through the Twin Cities Household Ecosystem Project (TCHEP), showing that household choices are important influences over urban pollution. "This new study demonstrates that household choices about landscaping have major impacts on the diversity of urban ecosystems, as well," said Sarah Hobbie, a collaborator on the biodiversity study and one of the TCHEP project leaders.

The study confirms results obtained by Knapp and colleagues in a 2008 study analyzing 14 million records of plant occurrences in a German database. Those researchers concluded that in the face of changing environmental conditions, conservation should focus not only on the protection of a high number of species, but also on more subtle aspects of diversity, such as how closely or distantly related those species are to one another. As urbanization reshapes our planet, they said, we'll need better conservation strategies for urban biodiversity.

"As cities continue to grow, it becomes increasingly critical that we understand the impacts of backyard management on the overall strength of plant communities," Cavender-Bares said. "Homogenization of urban yards through loss of native species and elimination of whole lineages from the plant 'tree of life' in cities could reduce the resiliency of urban areas to perturbation."

Trayvon Martin & Beyond: A Forum on Race, Media, & Criminal Law

What: Panel discussion on the social and legal issues that influence the Trayvon Martin case

When: 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 18th

Where: Room 25, Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

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[Patty Mattern](mailto:mattern@umn.edu), University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

April 17, 2012

The University of Minnesota Law School and the University of Minnesota Criminal Justice League will present a panel discussion on the social and legal issues that influence the Trayvon Martin case and many others. The forum, Trayvon Martin & Beyond: a Forum on Race, Media, & Criminal Law, will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 18, Rroom 25, Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

This forum will not debate the merits of the Martin case, but it will touch on questions such as: What are the underlying race dynamics that affect criminal law? In what ways does the media present issues of race and law -- appropriately and inappropriately? How can lawyers and courts ensure that their work does not promote racial inequality? How can lawyers work to counter media influences?

Speakers:

Judge Pamela Alexander -- Alexander grew up in South Minneapolis and is an alumna of the U of M Law School. She has served as a criminal defense attorney, a prosecutor and a district court judge and is currently the president of the Council on Crime and Justice. She will speak on race and the criminal justice system and initiatives on eliminating race bias in the criminal justice system in Minneapolis.

U of M professor Michele Goodwin -- Goodwin is the Everett Fraser Professor in Law at U of M. She has written extensively on the cognitive bias surrounding the images of people of color. She will speak on the development of cognitive bias connecting criminality with communities of color, and how its fallout affects youth of color.

U of M professor Perry Moriearty -- Moriearty teaches at the U of M and co-directs the Child Advocacy and Juvenile Justice Clinic at the university. She has written on the interaction of media, bias, color and juvenile justice.

U of M professor Carl Warren -- Warren teaches in the U of M Civil Practice Clinic. He managed the Human Rights Division of the Minnesota Attorney General's Office for two years, and is a Law School graduate. He will speak on the historical foundations of current patterns of race in the criminal justice system and their influence on ongoing civil rights concerns.

Second year U of M law student Shy Cunningham will moderate the panel discussion. She is currently conducting research on the Trayvon Martin case and its broader implications. She is an NAACP LDF Warren Scholar, Fredrikson & Byron Minority Scholar and Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers McGee Scholar.

Find out more about the forum at <http://mnjusticeleague.blogspot.com> and email mnjusticeleague@gmail.com to submit your questions to the panel.

Deaf rapper Signmark to perform at the U May 2-3

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Alicia Cordes, Office for Equity and Diversity, acordes@umn.edu, 612-625-0498

April 19, 2012

The University of Minnesota's Office for Equity and Diversity and Disability Services unit welcome Deaf Finnish rapper Signmark to the University of Minnesota campus for two events on May 2 and 3.

Signmark will first perform a "Silent Shout," similar to a flash mob, on Wednesday, May 2, noon-1 p.m. at the Northrop Mall on the university's East Bank campus. During the "Silent Shout," Signmark gets the crowd signing—with American Sign Language (ASL)—a chorus of his song, "Against the Wall." Signmark's hearing partner, Brandon, raps the lyrics out loud while Signmark is signing. For an example of a "Silent Shout," see z.umn.edu/signmark.

Signmark will also perform a free concert at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 3, at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. Doors open at 6 p.m. for University of Minnesota students and at 6:30 p.m. for the general public.

About Signmark

Signmark (a.k.a. Marko Vuoriheimo) was born deaf into a world where music is for the hearing. He pursued his childhood dream and became the first deaf person in the world to get a record deal at Warner Music. Signmark started spreading his message through sign language over strong beats where hard, low frequencies and bass play a critical part in his performance. These elements help him adapt to the rhythm as he proves that music is more than what you can hear. Signmark's partner, Brandon, who is hearing, raps the lyrics while Signmark signs. Signmark uses his music and positive approach to change attitudes toward people with disabilities. To learn more about Signmark, visit his website at <http://www.signmark.biz/site/en/bio>, and to learn more about the events at the U of M on May 2 and 3, visit the 'Signmark Minneapolis' Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SignmarkMN.

University of Minnesota startup offers game-changing energy solutions that reduce CO₂ emissions

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/19/2012) —The University of Minnesota has launched a startup that will provide renewable energy more economically than existing alternatives while reducing harmful carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion such as from coal-burning power plants. Heat Mining Company LLC will use sequestered carbon dioxide rather than water to extract heat from deep underground and use this thermal energy to generate electricity. The use of carbon dioxide (CO₂), rather than water, allows electricity to be provided from many more sites than would be possible with conventional water-based systems and does it more economically.

“CO₂ Plume Geothermal technology makes production of power using geothermal heat financially feasible, where water isn’t,” says Ken Carpenter, Managing Partner of South Dakota-based Heat Mining Company LLC. “This technology sits at the convergence of two conflicting demands in our society: the need to burn fossil fuels for the foreseeable future and the desire to reduce carbon emissions.”

CO₂ Plume Geothermal™ (CPGTM) technology is an attractive solution for conventional fossil-fueled power plants, as it prevents emitted CO₂, an environmental liability in the atmosphere, from being released to the air and uses it instead as the underground working fluid to extract geothermal heat for additional electricity production and/or district heating. In the process, the CO₂ is permanently stored underground, resulting in a geothermal power plant with not only a neutral, but even a negative carbon footprint. The geothermal power facility can produce baseload power or provide peak-load power and thus also serve as a type of high-efficiency back-up “battery” for only intermittently available wind or solar power.

“This technology has the potential to introduce a new era of electrical power production from renewable wind, solar, and geothermal energy as well as from traditional fossil fuels, while significantly reducing emissions of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere,” says Martin Saar, co-inventor and earth sciences professor in the university’s College of Science and Engineering. The University of Minnesota submitted the technology for patents in March 2009 and licensed it exclusively, worldwide to Heat Mining Company LLC through the Office for Technology Commercialization. The approach was invented by Saar, Postdoctoral Fellow Jimmy Randolph, and Mechanical Engineering Professor Thomas Kuehn.

Carbon capture and geologic CO₂ sequestration is a fairly new solution for preventing CO₂ emissions at fossil-fueled power plants. A typical coal-burning power plant produces between 3.5 and 5 million tons of CO₂ per year, and it’s possible to retrofit existing plants, and design new plants, that capture the CO₂ and sequester it underground. With a CPGTM system tapping into the underground CO₂ and using it as a heat extraction fluid, power produced from earth’s underground heat can be used for CO₂ injection pumps while revenue from additional geothermal electricity sales can offset the very high costs of capturing the CO₂ in the fossil-fueled power plant. Until now, the latter costs have been a significant hurdle, making so-called carbon capture and storage economically non-feasible for energy providers.

“We have enough storage potential in the United States alone to store 100 percent of the carbon dioxide produced by fossil-fueled power plants for about a thousand years,” says Stephen O’Rourke, President of Heat Mining Company

In addition to producing renewable energy and preventing emissions, CPG could someday provide large scale storage of solar and wind energy. The technology could also supply power for enhanced oil recovery projects that produce oil from fields that have nearly reached the end of their productive lives.

The CPG method has been demonstrated in computer simulations and details have been investigated in laboratory experiments. The next step is to build a pilot plant to test it in the field.

Saar’s research leading to the new technology was originally funded by the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE), a signature program of the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment (IonE). The initial research resulted in a major federal grant from the U.S. Department of Energy as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

For more information on CPG technology, visit: www.heatmining-sd.com

The mission of the University of Minnesota’s Office for Technology Commercialization is to translate University research into new products and services that provide growth opportunities for its licensees, benefit the public good, improve the quality of life and generate revenue to support the University’s research and education goals.

Jane Smiley to headline Friends of the U of M Libraries annual dinner

Who: Author Jane Smiley

What: Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries Annual Dinner

Where: McNamara Alumni Center

When: Thursday, May 10, 2012, 5:30 p.m.

Contacts: Marlo Welshons, University of Minnesota Libraries, welsh066@umn.edu, (612) 625-9148
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/19/2012) —Pulitzer-prize winning author and Dickens biographer Jane Smiley will appear at the annual dinner of the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries on Thursday, May 10 at McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis. The evening, billed as a celebration of Charles Dickens' 200th birthday, begins with a 5:30 p.m. reception followed by dinner and a program featuring Smiley. Books will be available for sale and signing courtesy of the University of Minnesota Bookstores.

Tickets, which cost \$46 for members of the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries and \$56 for the general public, should be purchased by May 3 at the Northrop Ticket Office:
<http://z.umn.edu/smiley> or 612-624-2345.

Jane Smiley is the author of numerous novels including "Moo" and "A Thousand Acres," which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1992. Her essays have been published in "Vogue," "The New Yorker," "Harper's," "The New York Times Magazine," "The Nation," and others. She is also the author of the nonfiction books "A Year at the Races," "Thirteen Ways of Looking at the Novel," and a biography of Charles Dickens. In 2001, she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and in 2006 she received the PEN USA Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature.

For more information about the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries, or to join, visit www.lib.umn.edu/friends.

Environmentalist Paul Hawken to keynote University of Minnesota Solutions Summit 2012

Media Note: To schedule an interview with Paul Hawken in advance of the summit or to inquire about media passes to the event, contact Michelle Linhoff, mlinhoff@umn.edu or 612-626-3879.

Who: Environmentalist, entrepreneur and author Paul Hawken

What: Keynote speech at Solutions Summit 2012

Where: McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

When: May 22, 2012, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Hawken will speak at 1 p.m.)

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/19/2012) —Internationally renowned environmentalist and entrepreneur Paul Hawken, author of *Natural Capitalism*, *Blessed Unrest* and five other books, will give the keynote speech at Solutions Summit 2012, a gathering of sustainability practitioners and researchers from around the world convened by the NorthStar Initiative for Sustainable Development. Hawken will share his perspectives on the economic and ecological landscape in which innovation will be fostered in coming years, with focus on climate, minerals and oceans. The one-day conference will also feature sustainability executives and leaders from 3M, the Environmental Defense Fund, Caldrea, The Nature Conservancy, General Mills, eBay, Truth Studio and more.

The NorthStar Initiative is a program of the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota. Learn more at: northstar.environment.umn.edu.



Keith Ellison to speak at University of Minnesota foreign affairs town hall April 30

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April 20, 2012

Congressman Keith Ellison will speak at a University of Minnesota-hosted foreign affairs town hall, “American Foreign Policy with Iran,” at 12:30 p.m. Monday, April 30, in Room 275, Nicholson Hall, 216 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis.

Other event speakers will be Trita Parsi, founder and president of the National Iranian American Council and author of two books, “A Single Roll of the Dice: Obama's Diplomacy with Iran” and “Traacherous Alliance: The Secret Dealings of Israel, Iran, and the United States”; William Beeman, professor of anthropology, University of Minnesota Department of Anthropology; and moderator Eric Schwartz, dean of the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Refreshments will be served at 11:30 and Parsi will also be available for book signings at that time. The event is free and open to the public.

Norwood Teague named finalist for University of Minnesota Director of Athletics

Teague visits Twin Cities campus and meets with President on Monday

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/22/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler has announced Norwood Teague as the finalist for the university's director of athletics position.

Teague is currently the director of athletics for Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and has held that position since July 2006. He has more than 20 years of experience working in intercollegiate athletics throughout the nation. Teague, 46, is a native of Raleigh, N.C. He graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1988 with a degree in political science. In 1992, Teague earned a master's degree in sports administration from Ohio University.

"He rose to the top of the candidate pool not only because of his proven history of success but because he is genuine and authentic. He has a superlative track record of fundraising and attracting and retaining high quality coaches. He's committed to maintaining an academic standard of excellence that is a tradition of Gopher Athletics. And he has the expertise, values and work ethic to ensure that athletics at the U of M will reach an even greater level of success," said Mary Jo Kane, director of the university's Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport and co-chair of the athletics director search.

Teague is visiting campus Monday and will interview with President Kaler and the search advisory committee and will meet with coaches, faculty and senior leaders.

Monday's interviews are the final steps of a two-month national search co-chaired by R. Timothy Mulcahy, vice president for research at the university, and Kane. A search advisory committee and a four-person search committee worked with the leading national executive search firm in collegiate athletics — Parker Executive Search — to engage a variety of stakeholders and diverse viewpoints in the process.

"This intensive search process included four listening sessions, during which we heard from faculty, staff, student athletes, community members and other key stakeholders," Kane said. "They made it clear — and Vice President Mulcahy and I couldn't agree more — that they wanted to see a finalist that embodies integrity, visionary leadership and management experience, good communication, a focus on student-athletes both on and off the court, fundraising acumen and an overall commitment to excellence at the University of Minnesota. We're confident Norwood Teague is that finalist."

Teague was one of about 40 candidates to apply for the position. Candidates included women, people of color and non-traditional candidates.

During his tenure at VCU, Teague has overseen continued success in the classroom and on the playing field, as well as stunning growth in gifts to VCU's annual and capital funds. This past year, the average GPA for all VCU student athletes was 3.0 and last year's Graduation Success Rate was the highest ever attained by VCU athletics.

Since Teague's arrival, the VCU athletic annual fund has increased more than 119 percent, with annual average increases of more than 20 percent. Teague is lauded for his work in advancing construction for athletics including a campaign to build a \$10 million VCU practice facility for men's and women's basketball and other sports.

Teague has also led VCU to all-time high Verizon Wireless Arena attendance records, and season ticket revenue has doubled since his arrival at VCU.

VCU has also achieved heightened athletic success under Teague's guidance. The Rams' men's basketball team reached its first ever Final Four in 2011; women's basketball earned the first NCAA Tournament bid in program history; the baseball, golf and tennis programs all made multiple postseason appearances; and the track program had several student-athletes qualify for NCAA regional appearances.

Teague arrived at VCU after five years as associate athletic director at the University of North Carolina, where he oversaw external operations such as the Tar Heels' multimedia property, marketing and licensing. Prior to that, Teague honed his craft at some of the nation's most prestigious athletic departments. From 1999-2001, he served as general manager of the Sun Devil Sports Network at Arizona State. While in Tempe, he increased sales and negotiated several multi-year television contracts. Teague oversaw radio, television, Internet and signage operations, while operating in one of America's top 20 media markets.

During 1998-99, Teague headed up new programs for Vilcom Sports and The Tar Heel Sports Network at the University of North Carolina.

At the University of Virginia Athletic Department from 1993-98, Teague worked as director of marketing, and then served as the director of operations for the Cavaliers' men's basketball program under Jeff Jones.

Gophers Athletics is nationally lauded for both academic and competitive success. The program has recorded top-15 finishes in Directors' Cup standings two of the last three academic years, and has been in the top 30 for 16 consecutive years. Befitting its stature as one of the nation's premier public research and land grant universities, Minnesota placed 68 student-athletes on the Big Ten Conference Distinguished Scholar Athletes list in 2010-11, matching Michigan State for most honorees by an individual school.

Minnesota's 25-sport program boasts impressive facilities, including TCF Bank Stadium, the conference's first new on-campus stadium in nearly 50 years. With more than 500,000 "U" alumni, the Twin Cities campus draws an average of nearly 1 million fans to Gopher athletic events annually.

U creates Open Academics textbook catalog to reduce student costs

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/23/2012) —In an effort to reduce higher education costs for students, one college at the University of Minnesota announced today that it has created a tool to help faculty find more affordable textbook options. The Open Academics textbook catalog [<http://open.umn.edu>], created in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), is a searchable online catalog of “open textbooks” that will be reviewed by U of M faculty.

Open textbooks are published under a license that enables students to get free or low-cost versions of their textbooks online, electronically, or in print. The Open Academics catalog is the first of its kind hosted at a major research institution. It is available to faculty worldwide.

“The University of Minnesota should be a leader in enabling faculty and students to benefit from open content and electronic textbook options,” said Provost Karen Hanson. “This CEHD initiative is one of a number of our initiatives in e-learning that will help students obtain a high-quality education that is also affordable.”

College students will spend an average of \$1,168 on course materials for 2011-2012. Concerns over textbook costs have fueled a growing movement toward open textbooks and other open educational resources. The Student Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs) found that using open textbooks saves students 80 percent on average over traditional textbooks. The Open Academics textbook catalog empowers faculty to bring those savings to U of M students.

“High textbook costs are one of the many factors that are contributing to the increasing financial burden that students are facing,” said Lizzy Shay, U of M undergraduate student body president. “Affordable open textbooks would go a long way in relieving that burden.”

The catalog currently lists 84 open textbooks that are in use in classrooms across the country. Over the next year, CEHD will work with U of M faculty to review the texts in this collection, making it easier for users to judge textbook quality. CEHD will support faculty who choose to review and adopt open textbooks with \$500-\$1,000 stipends.

“Faculty share student concerns about high textbook costs and are willing to consider high-quality, affordable alternatives like open textbooks,” said CEHD associate professor Irene Duranczyk. “The Open Academics textbook catalog makes it easier by collecting the best peer-reviewed open textbooks in one place.”

Nine CEHD faculty members are already exploring open textbooks through the catalog. Replacing their current course materials with open textbooks will potentially save over \$100,000 in textbook costs next year.

The catalog is the latest of several noteworthy educational technology programs at the University of Minnesota. All incoming freshmen in CEHD receive iPads, which will enable students to use the less expensive and free digital formats of open textbooks. The U of M is also participating in a multi-university e-textbook pilot program, which, in selected courses, offers e-books at a significantly lower cost.

Norwood Teague named next director of athletics at University of Minnesota

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/23/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler has named Norwood Teague as the next director of athletics at the University of Minnesota, pending approval by the university's Board of Regents. Teague joins Gopher Athletics after overseeing an unprecedented run of success during his six years as the director of athletics at Virginia Commonwealth University. He replaces the retiring Joel Maturi, who has held the position for the past 10 years.

"We are thrilled to welcome Norwood to the University of Minnesota and Gopher Athletics," Kaler said. "Norwood is the real deal – a visionary leader who is fully committed to winning, our student athletes and their education; someone who has achieved great athletic success in a challenging environment; a relationship-builder and experienced fundraiser; and a great manager.

"For many Minnesotans and our half million alumni, Gopher Athletics and our facilities serve as a front door to the U," Kaler continued. "Norwood clearly understands that, and is prepared to take Gopher Athletics to greater success."

Kaler welcomed Teague during a press conference at TCF Bank Stadium this afternoon.

"I'm honored to be a Gopher and can't wait to be part of the Big Ten Conference," Teague said. "Joel Maturi and the partnerships he has forged with student athletes, coaches, faculty, staff, donors and the broader community have built a strong Gopher Athletics program. I'm ready to lead the Gophers to the next level and I hope existing and new stakeholders will join me in that endeavor. Together, I know we will accomplish great things."

If approved, Teague will begin work at the university on July 1. He was on campus Monday to interview with President Kaler and the search advisory committee, as well as meet coaches, faculty and other senior university leaders.

Teague, 46, has more than 20 years of experience working in intercollegiate athletics. During his tenure at VCU, he has overseen continued success in the classroom and on the playing field, as well as stunning growth in gifts to VCU's annual and capital funds. VCU has also achieved unprecedented athletic success under Teague's guidance. The Rams' men's basketball team reached its first ever Final Four in 2011; women's basketball earned the first NCAA Tournament bid in program history; the baseball, golf and tennis programs all made multiple postseason appearances; and the track program had several student athletes qualify for NCAA regional appearances. Teague holds a master's degree in sports administration from Ohio University and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of North Carolina.

"Minnesota should celebrate the hire of Teague," said Jim Phillips, athletics director at Northwestern University and a former colleague of Teague's. "He's got exceptional experience in supporting student athletes and managing coaches. All that he's done means he is prepared to win at high levels. He's done so at Arizona State University, North Carolina and VCU."

Phillips, who also earlier in his career hired Gophers Football Coach Jerry Kill, said he expects Teague and Kill to make a great team. "They are cut from the same cloth," Phillips said. "They have similar values and are grounded in the belief of developing young people into leaders through athletics. Teague is a terrific relationship builder with coaches, staff, donors, the NCAA and the community. He's also a visionary who works hard, plans well and will build a strong relationship with Coach Kill and others to reap benefits for the football program."

Kill said he is looking forward to making that happen. "Jim Phillips has assured me about Norwood and that's good enough for me. I look forward to working with him and know it will be a great working relationship," Kill said.

After meeting with Teague and other Gophers coaches Monday morning, Kill said, "I know Norwood gets it. That's the best compliment you can give anyone at this level. He understands college athletics and what it's going to take to be successful."

Shaka Smart, VCU's head men's basketball coach, knows Teague's management style first hand. Smart took the 11th-seeded Rams to the Final Four in 2011 for the first time in school history.

"Norwood Teague had a profound effect on my life and career. He took an interest in me as a young assistant coach, gave me a phenomenal opportunity at VCU and wholeheartedly supported us every step of the way over the past three years," Smart said. "He demonstrated an uncommon loyalty and genuine care for me as a coach and as a person. Norwood is a terrific communicator who has a fantastic way with people. He will find great success at Minnesota."

Teague's visit on the Twin Cities campus on Monday was the final step in a two-month national search co-chaired by R. Timothy Mulcahy, vice president for research at the university, and Mary Jo Kane, director of the university's Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport. A 23-member search advisory committee and a four-person search committee worked with the leading national executive search firm in collegiate athletics – Parker Executive Search – to engage a variety of stakeholders and diverse viewpoints in the process. The process included faculty, staff, student athletes, community members and others whose input was sought at public listening sessions and interviews.

"I want to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who participated in this search, especially the members of our search advisory committee and the four-person search committee, which included search co-chairs Vice President Mulcahy and Professor Kane, alumnus John Lindahl, a close friend of athletics, and Chief of Staff Amy Phenix," Kaler said. "The timeline was aggressive and my charge to find a strong candidate with a host of impeccable attributes was no small task. But everyone rose to the challenge and forwarded a finalist in whom I have great confidence."

For more information about Teague, including video from today's press event, go to www.gophersports.com.

Federal and state officials to celebrate opening of high-tech physics lab in northern Minnesota

Massive laboratory will support 15,000-ton particle detector that will help unlock mysteries of the origin of the universe

Media Note: Click [here](#) to view a gallery of construction photos in Flickr

What: Ribbon-cutting ceremony of the NOvA far detector building. Speakers include:

- Glen Crawford, director, High Energy Research and Technology Division, Office of Science, Department of Energy
- Pier Oddone, director, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
- Eric W. Kaler, president, University of Minnesota
- Marvin Marshak, director, NOvA laboratory, School of Physics and Astronomy professor, College of Science and Engineering, University of Minnesota

When: Friday, April 27, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. followed by guided tours until 2 p.m.

Where: NOvA Ash River Laboratory, 10709 Bright Star Rd., Orr, 55771 (For map and directions, please see <http://z.umn.edu/novaribboncutting>)

Contacts: Rhonda Zurn, College of Science and Engineering, rzurn@umn.edu, (612) 626-7959
 Matt Hodson, University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552
 Kurt Riesselmann, Fermilab Office of Communication, media@fnal.gov, (630) 840-3351

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/23/2012) —Unlocking mysteries of the universe's origin will take a landmark step forward this month with the opening of the NuMI Off-Axis Electron Neutrino Appearance (NOvA) far detector building, a laboratory of the School of Physics and Astronomy in the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities College of Science and Engineering. Officials from the U.S. Department of Energy, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) and the University of Minnesota will gather for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the first-of-its-kind facility Friday, April 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The ceremony will be followed by guided tours until 2 p.m.

Located near the Ash River, about 40 miles southeast of International Falls and 30 miles northeast of Orr, Minn., NOvA represents the world's most advanced neutrino experiment. The unique laboratory was specifically designed to house a 15,000-ton particle detector that will study subatomic particles called neutrinos, fundamental building blocks of matter that can help researchers discover how the universe was formed and how it will develop in the future. The NOvA detector will measure neutrinos produced at Fermilab near Chicago and sent hundreds of miles straight through the earth to the new laboratory.

"As this remarkable NOvA facility opens, we celebrate a huge milestone on the journey to discover how our universe began," said Marvin Marshak, laboratory director and professor in the university's School of Physics and Astronomy. "Together with our Soudan Underground Laboratory, the NOvA building further establishes the University of Minnesota and the state as international leaders in neutrino research."

Construction of the facility, which broke ground in May 2009, was supported under a cooperative agreement for research between the U.S. Department of Energy and the University of Minnesota. The DOE Office of Science provided \$40.1 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for construction, which was managed by Fermilab. Adolfson & Peterson Construction and their subcontractors completed more than 140,000 hours of labor in building the NOvA laboratory, providing a boon to the local economy.

The NOvA laboratory is no ordinary building. It contains a shielded detector hall that is 280 feet long and 67 feet wide with a 70-foot ceiling. To eliminate cosmic-ray radiation, the hall's roof is shielded by four feet of concrete and covered by an additional six inches of barite. Attached to the hall is a 72-foot long assembly area and a 124-foot-long loading dock area with space to house dual overhead cranes. The block pivoter, weighing more than 750,000 pounds, will be used to move the more than 12,000 modules that comprise the neutrino detector into position.

With the laboratory successfully completed, work can now begin on assembly and installation of the neutrino detector. Constructed from individual modules weighing 1,100 pounds, the finished detector will comprise more than 13 million pounds of PVC and rank as the world's largest PVC structure. Each module will be made at the University of Minnesota Module Factory, located in Minneapolis.

An additional \$9.9 million in Recovery Act funding was supplied to Fermilab for purchasing key high-tech components from U.S. companies, enabling those firms to retain and hire workers. Starting in May, Fermilab will upgrade its complex of accelerators to provide the world's most powerful beam of neutrinos to Minnesota.

"Neutrinos could be the key to understanding why matter exists," said Fermilab Director Pier Oddone. "After years of preparation, we're excited to see the NOvA experiment come together, and can't wait until the first neutrinos make their way through this cutting-edge detector."

An international collaboration, the \$283 million NOvA experiment involves nearly 180 scientists and engineers from 28 institutions in seven countries. When the detector in Minnesota is completed, physicists will explore the mysterious behavior of neutrinos by examining pulses of the subatomic particles twice – as they leave Fermilab's Illinois site and as they pass through the NOvA facility. 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 operates the Soudan Underground Laboratory near Tower, Minn., the only laboratory of its kind in the United States.

In addition to Marshak, more than 45 staff and nearly 250 undergraduate students from the University of Minnesota's Crookston, Duluth and Twin Cities campuses are involved in the project. William Miller is the supervisor for the university's laboratory at Ash River.

About the School of Physics and Astronomy

The School of Physics and Astronomy is part of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities College of Science and Engineering, one of the country's top programs in engineering, physical sciences and mathematics.

About Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory

Fermilab is a Department of Energy Office of Science national laboratory operated under contract by the Fermi Research Alliance, LLC.

About the Office of Science

The Department of Energy 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 President Eric Kaler to introduce Norwood Teague as university's next director of athletics at 2:45 p.m. today

Media Note: For electronic media interested in scheduling one-on-one interviews with Norwood Teague following today's news conference, please contact Garry Bowman at (612) 875-0154.

Today's news conference will be streamed live via gophersports.com.

Who: President Eric Kaler and Norwood Teague

What: News Conference

When: 2:45 p.m. Monday, April 23

Where: Murray Warmath Gopher Locker Room, TCF Bank Stadium

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](mailto:tombarge@umn.edu), University News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, (612) 625-8510
Garry Bowman, Athletic Communications, gbowman@umn.edu, (612) 875-0154

April 23, 2012

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will introduce Norwood Teague as the university's next director of athletics during a news conference at 2:45 p.m. today, Monday, April 23 in the Murray Warmath Gopher locker room at TCF Bank Stadium, 2009 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

The locker room will be open for set-up at 1 p.m. Media are asked to enter through the Dodge County entrance on the stadium's south side. Brief remarks will be followed by an opportunity for a Q&A.

Parking is available at the University Avenue Ramp, 1926 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. Media with sports parking permits may park in the sports media parking area at Williams and Mariucci Arenas. Television stations interested in taking the news conference live should park their trucks in the TV RP lot (Transmission Compound), located on the east side of TCF Bank Stadium off of 23rd Ave. S.E.

Teague has been the director of athletics at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) since 2006. During his tenure at VCU, he has overseen continued success in the classroom and on the playing field, as well as stunning growth in gifts to VCU's annual and capital funds. VCU's annual fund has increased more than 119 percent, student-athletes achieved the highest graduation rate in school history and several Rams teams have achieved unprecedented athletic success.

Teague is the successor to Joel Maturi, who will retire June 30th after 10 years as the director of athletics.

U of M President Kaler makes first visit to Minnesota's Iron Range April 26-27

Who: U of M President Eric Kaler, university regents and leading administrators

What: Community visits on the Iron Range, including Eveleth, Grand Rapids, Hibbing, Orr and Virginia

When: Thursday, April 26 and Friday, April 27

Contacts: [Matt Hodson](#), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

April 23, 2012

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will make his first visit to Minnesota's Iron Range region next Thursday and Friday, April 26 and 27, with scheduled stops in Coleraine, Eveleth, Grand Rapids, Hibbing, Orr and Virginia. He will tour several local institutions, celebrate the opening of the university's NOvA laboratory near Orr and visit with local community leaders and alumni.

"Our presence in Duluth and Grand Rapids and our partnership with the region's mining and forest products industries is of critical importance to the university and the economic vitality of northern Minnesota," Kaler said. "I look forward to visiting with our partners and local community leaders, as well as our many alumni living in the area."

Kaler will be joined on the trip by his wife, Karen Kaler, along with university Regent David McMillan, of Duluth, and several university leaders, including University of Minnesota, Duluth (UMD) Chancellor Lendley Black, Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration Robert Jones, Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy, and UMD Executive Vice Chancellor Andrea Schokker.

The university's ties to the Iron Range run deep. Last semester, the U's five statewide campuses enrolled 3,029 students hailing from Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake and St. Louis counties. In addition, more than 19,000 U alumni reside on the Iron Range, and together they hold nearly 25,000 degrees, including advanced degrees in medicine, law, engineering and veterinary medicine.

Finally, the university's campus and various Iron Range affiliations and partnerships account for more than 4,000 jobs, resulting in an influx of \$345 million to the region.

Kaler is scheduled to visit and tour the following organizations:

- Hibbing Community College (HCC) Dental Clinic, a joint venture between the university and HCC;
- Hibbing Taconite Co.;
- the university's Northeast Minnesota Area Health Education Center in Hibbing, North Central Research and Outreach Center in Grand Rapids and Coleraine Minerals Research Laboratory; and
- Mesabi Range Community and Technical College in Virginia.

Kaler will also be on hand for the Friday, April 27 ribbon-cutting ceremony for the NuMI Off-Axis Electron Neutrino Appearance (NOvA) far detector building near Ash River, a laboratory of the School of Physics and Astronomy in the university's College of Science and Engineering. For more information on this event, please see www.umn.edu/news/news-releases/2012/UR_CONTENT_383554.html.

U of M students to raise awareness about mental health issues facing college students

1,100 empty chairs to represent number of college students lost to suicide each year in the nation

What: Don't Sit in Silence: a Mental Health Awareness Day display

When: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a program from 12:15 to 1 p.m., Wednesday, April 25

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

Contacts: Kayla Kelsey, organizer, kelse064@umn.edu, (920) 676-1282

[Patty Mattern](#), University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

April 24, 2012

It will be a sobering sight for those who walk past the University of Minnesota Coffman Union Front Plaza Wednesday, April 25. One thousand, 100 empty chairs will dot Coffman's Front Plaza serving as a stark reminder of how many college students in the United States die from suicide every year.

The "Don't Sit in Silence" display aims to draw attention to mental health issues college students face as part of the university's student-organized Mental Health Awareness Day (MHAD) 2012. Student organizers will have information to share about mental health resources available on campus.

"Don't Sit in Silence" will become an even more powerful display as organizers plan to attach the personal stories about mental health from U of M students and family members. In the stories, students and others talk about their struggles, triumphs and experiences. Organizers have asked U of M students, faculty, staff, and their friends and families to submit stories and those stories will be attached to the chairs.

On the day of the event, passers-by can walk around the chairs and read the stories. For those who did not submit stories in advance, organizers will provide construction paper, markers and other supplies so students and others can write and attach their story to a chair, or decorate a chair in memory of someone affected by mental health issues.

"By sharing true stories from right within our own campus community, it will help people realize the importance of tending not only to their own mental health, but the mental health of friends, fellow students and family members," said Kayla Kelsey, one of the organizers.

In addition to these "chair stories," contributors can share their experience in other ways they feel comfortable through written word, video or poster on the MHAD Facebook page at <http://on.fb.me/MHAD2012>.

Participants will receive free t-shirts that say "I Stand Up For Mental Health Because _____" And, each person can write their reason in the blank. People who submitted a story will get a special color T-shirt. The message on the front of their t-shirts says "I stood up for mental health." The back of the shirt will say "Don't Sit in Silence."

As part of MHAD, there will be program from 12:15 to 1 p.m. at the Don't Sit in Silence display. This will include opening remarks and a respectful moment of silence followed by spoken word artists who will perform illuminating different facets of mental health.

MCEE to host Personal Finance Decathlon State Championship April 26

Little Falls High School on quest for third consecutive national title

Media Note: The Federal Reserve is a secure facility. To attend the event, please contact Jane Stockman at (952) 846-8146.

What: Personal Finance Decathlon State Championship

When: Thursday, April 26. Preliminary rounds from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; finals from 1:45 to 2:15 p.m.

Where: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, 90 Hennepin Ave.

Contacts: Claudia Parliament, Minnesota Council on Economic Education, (612) 986-5678
Jane Stockman, Minnesota Council on Economic Education, (952) 846-8146

April 25, 2012

Six secondary schools from across greater Minnesota will compete at the *Personal Finance Decathlon State Championship* on Thursday, April 26, at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, 90 Hennepin Ave. The competition begins with preliminary rounds from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., followed by the finals from 1:45 to 2:15 p.m.

The competing schools are Cloquet Senior High School, Eden Prairie High School, Little Falls Community Secondary School, Mounds View High School, Robbinsdale Armstrong High School and Edina's Valley View Middle School.

Little Falls Community High School has won consecutive national championships, capturing the title in both 2010 and 2011. Since the national competition began in 2010, Little Falls is the only high school to have held this honor. Tom Stockard is the coach for the Little Falls team.

The *Personal Finance Decathlon* is an opportunity for students to test their knowledge in ten areas of personal finance, including: thinking economically; earning income; paying taxes; budgeting; saving; financial planning; investing; borrowing; banking and financial institutions; and insuring.

The winning school from Thursday's double elimination, quiz-bowl State Championship will travel to St. Louis, Mo. to compete in the national competition. Held May 14, the national championship is sponsored by the Missouri Council on Economic Education with funding from Wells Fargo Advisors.

The Minnesota *Personal Finance Decathlon* is a program of the Minnesota Council on Economic Education and is sponsored by COUNTRY Financial, Sit Investment Associates, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Its purpose is to provide a competitive environment for students to demonstrate their personal finance knowledge and to showcase outstanding high school personal finance courses and teachers.

About the Minnesota Council on Economic Education

The mission of the Minnesota Council on Economic Education (MCEE) is to provide Minnesotans with the economic and personal financial understanding they need to function effectively in a complex, global environment. MCEE is hosted by the department of Applied Economics within the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences at the University of Minnesota. For more information, visit: www.mcee.umn.edu.

New study sheds light on debate over organic vs. conventional agriculture

Researchers at University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment and McGill University call for combining best of both approaches

Contacts: Todd Reubold, U of M Institute on the Environment, reub0002@umn.edu, (612) 624-6140

[Kristin Anderson](mailto:kma@umn.edu), University News Service, kma@umn.edu, (612) 624-1690

Chris Chipello, McGill University, christopher.chipello@mcgill.ca, (514) 398-4201

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/26/2012) —Can organic agriculture feed the world?

Although organic techniques may not be able to do the job alone, they do have an important role to play in feeding a growing global population while minimizing environmental damage, according to researchers at the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment and McGill University.

A new study published in *Nature* concludes that crop yields from organic farming are generally lower than from conventional agriculture. That is particularly true for cereals, which are staples of the human diet – yet the yield gap is much less significant for certain crops, and under certain growing conditions, according to the researchers.

The study, which represents a comprehensive analysis of the current scientific literature on organic-to-conventional yield comparisons, aims to shed light on the often-heated debate over organic versus conventional farming. Some people point to conventional agriculture as a big environmental threat that undercuts biodiversity and water resources, while releasing greenhouse gases. Others argue that large-scale organic farming would take up more land and make food unaffordable for most of the world's poor and hungry.

“To achieve sustainable food security we will likely need many different techniques – including organic, conventional, and possible ‘hybrid’ systems – to produce more food at affordable prices, ensure livelihoods to farmers, and reduce the environmental costs of agriculture,” the researchers conclude.

Overall, organic yields are 25% lower than conventional, the study finds. The difference varies widely across crop types and species, however. Yields of legumes and perennials (such as soybeans and fruits), for example, are much closer to those of conventional crops, according to the study, conducted by doctoral student Verena Seufert and Geography professor Navin Ramankutty of McGill and Prof. Jonathan Foley, director of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment.

What's more, when best management practices are used for organic crops, overall yields are just 13% lower than conventional levels. “These results suggest that today's organic systems may nearly rival conventional yields in some cases – with particular crop types, growing conditions and management practices – but often they do not,” the researchers write. Improvements in organic management techniques, or adoption of organic agriculture under environmental conditions where it performs best, may help close the yield gap, they indicate.

“Our study indicates that organically fertilized systems might require higher nitrogen inputs to achieve high yields as organic nitrogen is less readily available to crops. In some cases, organic farmers may therefore benefit by making limited use of chemical fertilizers instead of relying only on manure to supply nitrogen to their crops,” Seufert says. “At the same time, conventional agriculture can learn from successful organic systems and implement practices that have shown environmental benefits, such as increased crop diversity and use of crop residues.”

Yields are only part of a set of economic, social and environmental factors that should be considered when gauging the benefits of different farming systems, the researchers note. “Maybe people are asking the wrong question,” Prof. Ramankutty says. “Instead of asking if food is organically grown, maybe we should be asking if it's sustainably grown.”

The results point to a need to get beyond the black-and-white, ideological debates that often pit advocates of organic and local foods against proponents of conventional agriculture, Prof. Foley adds. “By combining organic and conventional practices in a way that maximizes food production and social good while minimizing adverse environmental impact, we can create a truly sustainable food system.”

U of M announces candidates to interview for the position of chancellor of the University of Minnesota, Crookston

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](mailto:tombarge@umn.edu), University News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/26/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler and U of M System Senior Vice President for Academic Administration Robert J. Jones have announced candidates and the public interview schedule for the position of chancellor of the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC). Public interviews will begin Tuesday, May 1.

A 13-member search committee held confidential interviews last weekend with a select group of candidates for the UMC chancellor position. Based on the candidate materials and interviews, the search committee recommended candidates to meet with key university stakeholder groups next week.

The following candidates have been invited to the Crookston campus for public interviews (in order of appearance on campus):

STEVEN S. HARDIN

Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs, University of Pittsburgh-Bradford
Public forum: 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, May 1, Bede CDE, U of M, Crookston

KARLA V. HUGHES

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Morehead State University, KY
Public forum: 9-10 a.m. Thursday, May 3, Bede CDE, U of M, Crookston

FRED E. WOOD

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, University of California-Davis
Public forum: 9-10 a.m. Friday, May 4, Bede CDE, U of M, Crookston

During their public interviews, each candidate will deliver a presentation, “Opportunities and Challenges Facing the University of Minnesota, Crookston.” The forums will provide an opportunity for the greater university community to meet and hear from the candidates. They will be recorded and posted on the chancellor search website soon after the presentations are held.

In addition to the public forums, each of the candidates will interview with select university stakeholder groups on the Crookston and Twin Cities campuses.

The candidate vitae, the position profile and evaluation forms are posted on the search website, www.crk.umn.edu/chancellorsearch.

One of five campuses of the University of Minnesota, UMC is a public baccalaureate institution enrolling 1,600 students. Integral to the university's land-grant mission, Crookston connects its teaching, research and outreach to serve Northwestern Minnesota while delivering 26 degree programs, including 10 online degrees, in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

U of M announces candidates to interview for the position of vice president for equity and diversity

Public interviews will begin Thursday, May 3

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](#), University News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/26/2012) —University of Minnesota System Senior Vice President for Academic Administration Robert J. Jones has announced candidates and the public interview schedule for the position of vice president for equity and diversity. The public interviews will begin Thursday, May 3.

The following candidates have been invited to the Twin Cities campus for public interviews (in order of appearance on campus):

LOUIS G. MENDOZA

Associate Vice Provost for Equity and Diversity/Chair of the Department of Chicano Studies,
University of Minnesota
3-4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 3, Mississippi Room, Coffman Union

WANDA S. MITCHELL

Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Inclusive Excellence, University of New Hampshire
3-4:30 p.m. Monday, May 7, Mississippi Room, Coffman Union

ALYSA C. ROLLOCK

Vice President for Ethics and Compliance, Purdue University
3-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 8, Coffman Union Theater

During the public interviews, each candidate will deliver a presentation, “The Role of Equity and Diversity in Achieving Academic Excellence in a Land Grant Public University.” The forums provide an opportunity for the greater university community to meet and hear from the candidates. The public forums will be streamed live at <https://umconnect.umn.edu/vpoed>, with video posted there following each forum.

In addition to the public forums, each candidate will interview with select university stakeholder groups on campus.

The candidate vitae, the position profile and evaluation forms are posted on the search website at: <http://academic.umn.edu/equity/searches/vpoed.html>.

University students host Boy Scout Science and Engineering Merit Badge event Saturday

What: Boy Scout Science and Engineering Merit Badge event

When: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday, April 28, 2012

Where: Smith Hall, University of Minnesota, 207 Pleasant St., S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Rhonda Zurn, College of Science and Engineering, rzurn@umn.edu, (612) 626-7959
[Jeff Falk](mailto:jfalk@umn.edu), University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

April 27, 2012

University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering student groups will help about 150 Boy Scouts earn merit badges in science and engineering at a special day-long event 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28 at the University of Minnesota, Smith Hall, 207 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The Boy Scouts will have opportunities to earn merit badges in chemistry, robotics, energy, and nuclear engineering. The day will include demonstrations as well as hands-on activities with current science and engineering university students. The Boy Scouts will also have an opportunity to meet a professor and ask questions about research and college life.

University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering student groups involved include Alpha Chi Sigma (chemistry co-ed fraternity), Tau Beta Pi (engineering honor society), Theta Tau (engineering co-ed fraternity), Material Advantage (materials science and engineering student group), Active Energy Club (energy conservation student group), Society of Physics Students (physics student group), and the Nikola Tesla Patent Producers (an inventors student group).

Dow to share lab safety expertise with University of Minnesota

Pilot program will leverage key elements of Dow's best-in-class practices to help improve university laboratory safety

Contacts: Rhonda Zurn, College of Science and Engineering, rzurn@umn.edu, (612) 626-7959
[Matt Hodson](mailto:mjhodson@umn.edu), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552
Fernão Silveira, Dow Chemical Company, fsilveira@dow.com, (989) 638-1006

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/30/2012) —The Dow Chemical Company and the University of Minnesota are expanding their strategic partnership by launching a first-ever pilot program to improve safety awareness and practices in the university's chemistry and chemical engineering labs. The pilot program will leverage key elements of Dow's best-in-class practices to help improve university laboratory safety.

This unique safety partnership with the university's Department of Chemistry and Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science in the College of Science and Engineering reinforces Dow's commitment to advancing research and development at leading U.S. universities. In support of the company's goal to support breakthrough technologies and ensure a strong pipeline of scientific talent for the nation's workforce, Dow announced in fall 2011 it would invest \$25 million per year for 10 years among 11 academic institutions, including the University of Minnesota.

"At Dow, we see it as part of our mission to support universities continue the tradition of excellence in chemical engineering, chemistry, and materials science," said Dr. William F. Banholzer, Ph.D., Dow's chief technology officer and executive vice president of ventures, new business development, and licensing. "The safety pilot program expands the partnership with University of Minnesota and leverages our strength in laboratory safety, which is a continuing challenge for universities everywhere. The Dow safety mindset is based on driving behavior toward incident prevention, sustained by renewed employee engagement and the responsibility to provide a safe work environment to our employees."

University laboratory safety has improved steadily over the last two decades, thanks largely to the enactment of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Laboratory Safety Act in 1990. However, university researchers say nurturing and sustaining a safety culture is a challenge with a transient student population and, at times, inadequate infrastructure (especially in pre-1990 facilities).

"This partnership is a tremendous opportunity for us to learn how to improve the safety culture in our two departments, which is always of paramount concern as we perform research at the forefront of chemistry, materials science and engineering," said Department of Chemistry chair William Tolman. "The insights and help we glean by working closely with Dow, an industry leader in safety practices, will be invaluable in promoting safe work in our laboratories."

University administration recognizes the impact of this new partnership to improve safety and the importance of partnering with industry leaders.

"Dow's partnership with the University of Minnesota is a great example of how today's companies can work with universities to accomplish mutual goals while contributing to our society," said Eric W. Kaler, president of the University of Minnesota. "The safety partnership with Dow will help bring a renewed culture of safety awareness to our laboratories that supports our mission of education and driving groundbreaking research."

Successful elements of this safety pilot program could be leveraged to other departments within the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering and potentially to other universities.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Dow Chemical Company in this critically important aspect of research and education," said Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science head Frank Bates. "The consequences of this unique and innovative program will reverberate across Universities around the country."

For more information on Dow's partnerships with U.S. universities, visit www.dow.com/innovation/partnership.

Six community-driven projects get a boost with grants from the University of Minnesota Good Neighbor Fund

Contacts: [Patty Mattern](mailto:mattern@umn.edu), University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/30/2012) —Youth in the West Bank/Cedar Riverside neighborhood will beautify their community through one of six projects sharing \$49,600 in grant funding from the University of Minnesota's Good Neighbor Fund endowment in 2012. The Good Neighbor Fund was created in 2007 with an initial investment of \$1.5 million when the State of Minnesota committed funding to construct TCF Bank Stadium on the university's campus in Minneapolis.

The fund's purpose is to "enhance the beauty, serenity, and security" of the communities adjacent to campus. Grant applications are reviewed and recommended by a five-member citizen committee of the university's Stadium Area Advisory Group. The Stadium Area Advisory Group was first convened in 2004 to invite representatives of adjacent municipalities, neighborhoods and business districts to advise the university on the planning, development and operation of an on-campus Gopher football stadium. In five years of fund operations, 32 community projects have received a total of \$231,167 in grant support.

"It's good to have a resource to continually invest in improving the neighborhoods. These projects are small, but they make a difference," says Joan Menken, resident of the South East Como neighborhood since the 1960s and member of the Stadium Area Advisory Group since it began. "It's a signal to the residents and business owners that the university shares their value of having quality neighborhoods near campus."

"What I like the most is being able to support projects that engage students and get them involved in the life of the community," said Skott Johnson, president of the Dinkytown Business Association and member of the Good Neighbor Fund Management Committee.

The West Bank Community Coalition and Brian Coyle Community Center sponsor the youth Neighborhood Beautification Project. Neighborhood youth will work through the summer to improve community gardens, eradicate graffiti and work with business owners to spruce up and build pride in the Cedar Riverside business district. For more information about the West Bank Community Coalition go to <http://www.westbankcc.org/>

The Good Neighbor Fund will support five additional projects in 2012:

In the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood, the Community Carillon Project will sponsor composition of original music and stage community event performances on the carillon at a neighborhood church. Student composers in the U of M School of Music will work with two professional composers who live in the neighborhood. A second grant will support the development of the Marcy Path to Peace Labyrinth, a permanent exterior landmark in the public park adjacent to Marcy Open School, a public K – 8 school that is an important community asset. For more information about the Marcy-Holmes neighborhood, visit <http://www.marcy-holmes.org/>

In the South East Como neighborhood, a Good Neighbor Fund grant will support initial planning and community outreach for the Como Blueprint Project, which begins the development of a new neighborhood plan -- a collaboration between the South East Como Improvement Association and the City of Minneapolis. The Blueprint committee includes neighborhood residents and U of M students with an interest in community planning. To learn more about the Como Blueprint Project, visit <http://sites.google.com/site/comoblueprint/home>

Two additional grants in the West Bank/Cedar Riverside neighborhood will support a Crime Prevention Internship Program with neighborhood youth during the summer of 2012; and the expansion of the third annual West Bank Music Festival -- an August outdoor event on Cedar Avenue organized by the West Bank Business Association that attracts people from all over the region to the extraordinary music and performance venues in the Cedar Riverside area. To learn more about the music festival, visit <http://www.thewestbank.org/members/MusicFestival>

Good Neighbor Fund grant applications are solicited in January of each year. Eligible applicants are limited to the organizations represented on the Stadium Area Advisory Group. For further information, visit <http://www.community.umn.edu/gnf> or contact Peg Wolff in Community Relations for the Twin Cities campus, at wolff002@umn.edu

Nature Conservancy Leader M. Sanjayan to Speak in Twin Cities May 10

Internationally
renowned
conservation
biologist to headline
second in
Momentum 2012
event series



Nature Conservancy Leader M. Sanjayan

Media Note: For

photographs, contact Todd Reubold, reub0002@umn.edu, (612) 624-6140

For press passes, contact Mary Hoff, maryhoff@umn.edu, 612-626-2670

For permission to reprint [Sanjayan interview](#) on biodiversity, contact Mary Hoff, maryhoff@umn.edu

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/01/2012) —What will it take to create a truly sustainable relationship with our environment? [M. Sanjayan](#), lead conservation biologist for The Nature Conservancy, will share his vision for rebooting the environmental movement Thursday, May 10, 7:30 p.m., at the Ted Mann Concert Hall in Minneapolis.

“Just about everything you know about nature and how to save it may be wrong,” the internationally renowned biodiversity champion told an audience recently. In his Momentum 2012 talk, “Awakening the Environmental Movement,” Sanjayan will explore how engaging three often-ignored constituencies – the business community, the world’s 2 billion poorest people, and today’s youth – may be just what it takes to allow people and nature to thrive together. Along with Sanjayan’s talk, the second of three in the University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment’s popular Momentum event series, the evening will offer a featured performance by Zorongo Flamenco Dance Company. Master of ceremonies will be IonE director Jonathan Foley.

An internationally renowned biodiversity champion, Sanjayan has spoken at widely recognized venues, including the World Forum on Sustainable Development, the International Women’s Forum and TED Global 2010. His work has received extensive print media coverage, from Vanity Fair to National Geographic Adventure, Outside to the New York Times. In 2007 he was featured as one of Men’s Journal’s Heroes of 2007. He is a frequent guest on NBC’s “Today Show” and has appeared on the “Late Show with David Letterman.” Read more about his thoughts on protecting biodiversity [here](#).

The May 10 event, made possible by premier sponsor General Mills, media sponsor Minnesota Public Radio and others, is the second of three environment-themed evenings presented by IonE as part of its Momentum 2012 series. A video recording of the first event, featuring National Geographic photographer Paul Nicklen, will soon be available online at environment.umn.edu/momentum/eventseries. The third event, a talk by British environmental theologian Martin Palmer with a featured performance by In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, will take place May 23. For tickets, contact the Northrop Box Office, 612-624-2345 or environment.umn.edu/momentum/eventseries.

The University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment seeks lasting solutions to Earth’s biggest challenges through research, partnerships and leadership development. For more information, visit environment.umn.edu.

David F. Fisher named executive director of Law School's Corporate Institute

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/01/2012) —David F. Fisher has been appointed Executive Director of the University of Minnesota Law School's recently created Corporate Institute, Law School Dean David Wippman has announced.

Fisher brings a wealth of experience from his roles as a business lawyer, businessman and public servant to the position. Fisher was associate general counsel and general manager for international and Eastern European businesses, with direct profit and loss responsibility, with The Pillsbury Company. He served as chief legal officer for several publicly-traded, multinational corporations and he was commissioner of administration, chief operating officer and chief information officer with the State of Minnesota.

“David Fisher's extensive experience in corporate law, international transactions, government and politics makes him the ideal person for the position,” said Professor John Matheson, director of the Corporate Institute. “Dean Wippman and I are delighted to have someone of David Fisher's stature and experience join us to develop the Corporate Institute's programs, collaborations and influence throughout the corporate community.”

Currently Fisher serves as regional president of the National Association of Corporate Directors, an organization dedicated to helping directors provide efficient, effective corporate oversight. Since 2005 he has been a member, and served terms as council chair and recruitment committee chair, of the Regents Candidate Advisory Council, which is charged with recruiting, screening and recommending to the Minnesota state legislature candidates for election to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

The Corporate Institute was created to expand the Law School's connection with the business community and prepare students to be effective business lawyers and leaders by increasing their understanding and opportunities in the world of business. Leveraging the resources of the corporate community and building on the strengths of the internationally recognized business law faculty, the Corporate Institute combines new programs and current business-oriented activities to establish an area of excellence at the Law School.

Find out more about the Corporate Institute at <http://www.law.umn.edu/corporateinstitute.html>.

Minnesota Museums contribute \$674 million in economic impact, U study finds

May marks Minnesota Museums Month, the country's first monthlong, statewide celebration of museums

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/02/2012) —Museums preserve our heritage, inspire artists, entertain and educate children, conserve the natural world and capture scientific advancements. But what kind of economic value do they bring to Minnesota?

The state's documented 562 museums provided an economic impact of \$674 million in 2011, according to a new study by University of Minnesota Extension community economics researchers. This included \$250 million in wages paid to an estimated 5,300 employees, and \$157 million in capital improvements.

Museum tourists also generated \$53 million in economic activity last year, and direct spending by museums had ripple effects across the state's construction, restaurant, health care and real estate industries.

This economic boon is yet another reason May is heralded as Minnesota Museums Month, the first monthlong, statewide celebration of museums in the nation.

"This study documents not only the economic value of museums in Minnesota, but reinforces the vital role museums play in our civic lives—bringing tourists into our communities and enriching our volunteer opportunities," said Brigid Tuck, Extension community economics educator and a lead researcher on the study.

The study by Extension's economic impact analysis team, conducted in partnership with the Minnesota Association of Museums and University of Minnesota Tourism Center, surveyed Minnesota's museums, collecting information about their operations, expenditures and visitors. The response rate was 43 percent.

Minnesota's tourism industry also benefited from museums, the study found. An estimated 1.7 million people visited museums outside of their home regions in 2011, spending an average of \$24.35 each.

"Museums play an important role in the tourism attraction mix for a community and our state's \$11 billion dollar tourism industry," said Ingrid Schneider, director of the University of Minnesota Tourism Center and professor in the Department of Forest Resources. "This groundbreaking research for Minnesota is the first step to understand the cumulative impact of museums in our lives, economically and beyond."

The economic impact of museums in Minnesota has never been measured before, according to Tuck. Each of the state's 87 counties is home to at least one museum.

For more information on Extension's economic impact analysis program, visit www.extension.umn.edu/economicimpact. To access the study, visit <http://z.umn.edu/7km>.

University of Minnesota Extension is a 100-year-old partnership between the university and federal, state and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public. Through Extension, the University of Minnesota "extends" its resources to address critical public issues in priority areas, including food and agriculture, communities, environment, youth and families. For more information, visit www.extension.umn.edu.

The University of Minnesota Tourism Center is a collaboration of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and University of Minnesota Extension.

University of Minnesota launches startup Early Learning Labs

Company is second internal business unit to be spun out of U

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/02/2012) —The University of Minnesota recently launched startup company Early Learning Labs, which will commercialize a suite of tools for monitoring ongoing growth and development of preschool children. The suite, coined myIGDIs, is a combination of a test kit and assessment system as well as a web-based management and reporting framework designed for schools, teachers, and early childhood specialists.

The myIGDIs assessment measures (Individual Growth and Development Indicators) are based on 15 years of research on the measurement of essential skills in preschool children. The measures provide both periodic “snapshots” and a measure of growth over time in a child’s early literacy development. The assessment tools require little technical knowledge or training to administer, and teachers can track results over time. Researchers hope the assessment will ensure children in need of individual attention in school will get it. Early Learning Labs is the first U of M startup to result from research at the College of Education and Human Development.

“It’s easier to teach children when you have clear and frequent information about whether the interventions you’re providing to them are working or not,” says Scott McConnell, co-inventor, professor of educational psychology and affiliate of the Center for Early Education and Development. “We do lots of different things for young children at home and in preschool programs; it’s good to be able to sort out what’s actually helping kids learn.”

To date, myIGDIs has been used in more than 11,000 school settings and measured 180,000-plus preschool children.

“The University of Minnesota has a long tradition of innovative research in child development. The myIGDIs test measures are a prime example of this; and we’re extremely excited about the potential impact these tools can have on improving early childhood education,” according to Steve Johnson, president of Early Learning Labs.

Early Learning Labs is the second “internal business unit” to be launched by the university; CaSTT (Commerce and Search for Technology Transfer), an e-commerce and marketing framework for technology transfer offices, was launched in 2011. Internal business units (IBUs) are an innovative approach to moving university innovations from the lab to the marketplace. IBUs are relevant for a small number of technologies that are nearly market-ready but need some limited investment and product validation in order to be more attractive as licensable opportunities.

“IBUs are an effective way to incubate certain technologies before putting them in an external business setting,” said Rick Huebsch, associate director of the university’s Office for Technology Commercialization. “They are another tool in our technology transfer toolbox and provide additional opportunities to launch startup companies based on university research.”

Specific criteria must be met in order for a technology to be considered for an internal business unit, including that the technology must be in an advanced stage of product development and only a few months from being ready for initial product sales. IBUs are not a mechanism for bridging a broad “valley of death,” or for incubating inventions that will require a long period of development or significant seed funding. In the case of Early Learning Labs, the University provided some limited investment in the early-stage development before choosing to spin out a company. After the period of University incubation, a group of Minnesota technology investors came forward to fund the company’s launch, and to play an active role in its initial operation and development as a startup company.

The myIGDIs technology was licensed exclusively to Early Learning Labs by the university’s Office for Technology Commercialization. The research behind myIGDIs was funded by the United States Department of Education. The assessment was invented by McConnell, Educational Psychology Professors Mary McEvoy and Michael Rodriguez, and CEED Research Associates Tracy Bradfield and Alisha Wackerle-Hollman.

About the Office of Technology Commercialization

The mission of the University of Minnesota’s Office for Technology Commercialization is to translate University research into new products and services that provide growth opportunities for its licensees, benefit the public good, improve the quality of life and generate revenue to support the University’s research and education goals.

University of Minnesota commencement ceremonies set for May

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May 2, 2012

By the time spring commencement ceremonies end this 2011-2012 academic year, the University of Minnesota expects to have awarded more than 14,000 degrees.

Notable speakers at this year's ceremonies include:

Dessa, also known as Dessa Darling, is a renowned and innovative rapper, musician, writer and speaker. Originally from Minneapolis, Dessa has taken to the national stage, collaborating with the Doomtree collective and releasing three solo albums. She will speak at the College of Liberal Arts' two commencement ceremonies at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, May 13.

Nontombi Naomi Tutu is a woman who faced the challenges of growing up black and female in apartheid South Africa, which is the foundation of Naomi's life as an activist for human rights. She has said that those experiences taught her that our whole human family loses when we accept situations of oppression and that teaching and preaching hate and division injure us all. She will speak at the College of Education and Human Development commencement ceremony at 3 p.m. Thursday, May 10.

The complete commencement schedule, including speakers, for the university's colleges and schools is as follows:

College of Science and Engineering: Maria Klawe, president of Harvey Mudd College and renowned computer scientist, 7 p.m. Friday, May 4, Mariucci Arena

College of Pharmacy: Bruce Thompson, R.Ph., M.S., director of pharmacy at Hennepin County Medical Center, 7 p.m. Friday, May 4, Minneapolis Convention Center

College of Continuing Education: Mark Ritchie, Minnesota secretary of state, 10 a.m. Saturday, May 5, Ted Mann Concert Hall

College of Education and Human Development: Nontombi Naomi Tutu, 3 p.m. Thursday, May 10, Mariucci Arena

College of Education and Human Development (graduate students): Nontombi Naomi Tutu, 7 p.m. Thursday, May 10, Mariucci Arena

School of Nursing: Dr. Carolyn Wilson, president of Amplatz Children's Hospital and the University of Minnesota Medical Center-Fairview, 10 a.m. Friday, May 11, Mariucci Arena

School of Dentistry: Dr. Jeanne Sinkford, the first woman to become dean of a U.S. dental school (Howard University), 3 p.m. Friday, May 11, Mariucci Arena

College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences: University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler, 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 11, Mariucci Arena

Law School, U.S. Senator Al Franken, 10 a.m. Saturday, May 12, Mariucci Arena

College of Veterinary Medicine: Dr. Cathy Woteki, USDA undersecretary for research, education and economics, 2 p.m. Saturday, May 12, Ted Mann Concert Hall

College of Design: John Cary, an advocate, speaker and writer who has pioneered a career at the intersection of design and social change, 3 p.m. Saturday, May 12, Mariucci Arena

College of Biological Sciences (undergraduate): Daphne Preuss, CEO and co-founder of Chromatin Inc., a biotech company that is using its proprietary technology and sorghum seed products to develop feedstocks for renewable energy markets, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 12, Mariucci Arena

College of Liberal Arts: Dessa, CLA alumnus and a renowned and innovative rapper, musician, writer and speaker.

11 a.m. Sunday, May 13, Mariucci Arena

4 p.m. Sunday, May 13, Mariucci Arena

Humphrey School of Public Affairs: Suzanne Nossel, executive director of Amnesty International USA, 4 p.m. Sunday, May 13, Ted Mann Concert Hall

Carlson School of Management: Thia Breen, president, North America, The Estée Lauder Companies

Graduate: 9 a.m. Monday, May 14, Mariucci Arena

Undergraduate: 1 p.m. Monday, May 14, Mariucci Arena

School of Public Health Commencement: Reed V. Tuckson, M.D., FACP, executive vice president and chief of medical affairs for UnitedHealth Group, 5 p.m. Monday, May 14, Mariucci Arena

Plant diversity is key to maintaining productive vegetation, U of M study shows

Unprecedented long-term study conducted over 14-year period at U's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/03/2012) —Vegetation, such as a patch of prairie or a forest stand, is more productive in the long run when more plant species are present, a new University of Minnesota study shows. The unprecedented long-term study of plant biodiversity found that each species plays a role in maintaining a productive ecosystem, especially when a long time horizon is considered. The study found that every additional species in a plot contributed to a gradual increase in both soil fertility and biomass production over a 14-year period.

The research paper, published in the May 4 edition of the journal *Science*, highlights the importance of managing for diversity in prairies, forests and crops, according to Peter Reich, a professor in the university's forest resources department and the study's lead author.

Reich and his colleagues examined how the effect of diversity on productivity of plants changed over the long term in two large field experiments at the University of Minnesota's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve in central Minnesota. These are the longest-running biodiversity experiments in the world, and contain plots with one, four, nine or 16 different species of plants. Reich's research was done using long-lived prairie plants, but serves as a model system for all vegetation, whether prairie, forest or row crop. The study also showed how diversity works by demonstrating that different species have different ways to acquire water, nutrients and carbon and maintain them in the ecosystem.

"Prior shorter-term studies, most about two years long, found that diversity increased productivity, but that having more than six or eight species in a plot gave no additional benefit," Reich said. "But we found that over a 14-year time span, all 16 species in our most diverse plots contributed more and more each year to higher soil fertility and biomass production. The take-home message is that when we reduce diversity in the landscape--think of a cornfield or a pine plantation or a suburban lawn--we are failing to capitalize on the valuable natural services that biodiversity provides."

Collaborators on the project included scientists David Tilman and Sarah Hobbie from the university's department of ecology, evolution and behavior as well as colleagues in the department of forest resources and from two European universities. Reich is also jointly affiliated with the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota and the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment at the University of Western Sydney, in Australia.

Previous studies have examined only shorter-term impacts of biodiversity on productivity. "This study reveals what short-term experiments have missed: the effects of biodiversity loss on ecosystems are more complex, severe and unpredictable than previously thought," says Matt Kane, program director for the National Science Foundation's Long-Term Environmental Research site network, which includes Cedar Creek. "This work shows the importance of doing long-term research, in this case documenting for the first time the critical importance of biodiversity for ecosystem health and sustainability."

U.S. Court of Appeals rules in favor of the University of Minnesota in case involving the Turkish Coalition of America

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/03/2012) —The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit ruled in favor of the university today in a closely watched case involving First Amendment and academic freedom claims. The plaintiff in the case, Turkish Coalition of America, claimed that statements on a university department website that suggested that the Turkish Coalition's information about the Armenian genocide was "unreliable" violated its free speech rights and were defamatory. A university student also allegedly feared he would be subjected to academic reprisals if he used information from the organization's website in his own work.

The federal district court had previously granted the university's motion to dismiss the claims, based principally upon its finding that the university's website contained statements of faculty scholarly opinion and critique that were protected by the doctrine of academic freedom.

The Court of Appeals today affirmed the District Court's dismissal of the plaintiff's claims. It found the Turkish Coalition free speech claim failed because it could not show it had suffered any restrictions on its speech activities. The Court of Appeals also found that the Turkish Coalition's defamation claims failed because the university faculty's statements were either true or were statements of opinion, which cannot support a defamation claim. The Court of Appeals also found the student had no standing to bring any claims because he could not show he suffered any injury.

The case has been watched closely by scholars around the United States and the world because of its implications for principles of academic freedom.

U of M General Counsel Mark Rotenberg stated, "Today's federal court decision confirms the right of universities and their faculty to offer scholarly criticism and critique on websites without fear of legal exposure. This protection is especially important when the scholarly opinions expressed by the faculty are controversial. We are very pleased to have successfully defended this important academic interest."

Scholarship funds improve access to Science Discovery Summer Camps at the Bell Museum

Minneapolis Foundation and Minnesota Office of Higher Education to help students experience science in a university setting

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/04/2012) —More kids than ever have the chance to attend camp at the Bell Museum this year through scholarships with the generous support of the Minneapolis Foundation. Additionally, a partnership with the Minnesota Office of Higher Education's Summer Academic Enrichment Program will offer scholarship stipends to qualifying students in grades 4-6. Applications are now being accepted for both scholarship programs for qualifying campers at www.bellmuseum.org/camps/.

The Bell Museum of Natural History continues its long tradition of Science Discovery Day Camps, offering 18 one-week camps for children in grades Kindergarten through six beginning June 18 and running through August 31. The camps engage children in science through authentic objects and unforgettable learning experiences.

Bell Museum Science Discovery Day Camps are led by the museum education staff and give campers the opportunity to explore the University of Minnesota campus, meet university scientists and take part in recreational activities including swim trips to the University Aquatic Center.

"We are exposing campers to the university setting in a positive, tangible way that links learning and fun to post secondary aspirations," said Shoghig Berberian, associate director of K-12 Education and Family Programs.

2012 marks the return of many popular camps from years past, as well as the debut of a new camp, "Engineering in Nature," offered to campers in grades 4-6. Participants solve engineering problems found in nature and observe how plants and animals respond to these problems. Campers also will discover how we use nature's ingenuity in our designs.

Other camps include "Earth, Cosmos and Beyond," "Rot-O-Rama: a Celebration of Stinky Delights" and "Wild at Home: Nature in the City."

A full list of camps as well as detailed registration information can be found online at: www.bellmuseum.org/camps/.

The Bell Museum is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and strives to advance the quest to discover, document and understand life in its many forms and to inspire curiosity, delight and informed stewardship of the natural world. For details, visit bellmuseum.org.



Senator Al Franken to Speak at Law School Commencement

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/07/2012) —U.S. Sen. Al Franken will be the speaker at the U of M Law School's 124th commencement ceremony, to be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 12, in Mariucci Arena, 1901 S.E. 4th St., Minneapolis.

Franken was elected to the Senate in 2008 and was sworn in in July 2009 following a statewide hand recount. He currently sits on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pension Committee; the Judiciary Committee; the Energy and Natural Resources Committee; and the Committee on Indian Affairs. Before running for the Senate, Franken spent 37 years as a comedy writer, author and radio talk show host. He has taken part in seven USO tours, visiting our troops overseas in Germany, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Uzbekistan, and has also visited Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kuwait four times.

For more details about commencement, visit <http://www.law.umn.edu/current/commencement.html>.

Minneapolis Public Schools superintendent Bernadeia Johnson to kick off 'Honeybees and Humans' with visit to U of M Bee Lab today

U of M teaming with Minneapolis schools to bring kids together through nature and science

What: Superintendent Bernadeia Johnson will tour the University of Minnesota's Bee Lab as a kickoff to a new program for fifth-graders to learn about bees and each other

When: 3 to 4 p.m., **TODAY**, Monday, May 7

Who: Superintendent Johnson and MacArthur Foundation 'Genius Grant' winner Marla Spivak, entomology professor at the U of M

Where: Southwest corner of Cleveland and Larpenteur avenues, on the U of M St. Paul campus

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May 7, 2012

As a kickoff to "Honeybees and Humans," a new educational and social program for Minneapolis fifth-graders, Minneapolis superintendent Bernadeia Johnson will tour the University of Minnesota's beekeeping area this afternoon to learn more about bees and current research.

She'll tour the university's beehives and research lab with entomology professor Marla Spivak, a world-renowned expert on bees and bee health.

Developed by education staff at the university's Bell Museum of Natural History, "Honeybees and Humans" includes about 180 fifth-graders from Burroughs Community and Jefferson Community schools and will take place May 30 and 31 at the museum. During the workshop, students will use the study and exploration of honeybees as a platform for engaging with, and getting to know, their counterparts from schools with different demographics. The program is expected to expand in coming years to include more Minneapolis schools.

"Honeybees and Humans is a fascinating program that takes student learning far beyond the classroom," said Johnson. "We are thankful for such a wonderful partnership that results in much needed hands-on experiences for our students."

"The program was developed to translate cutting-edge university research on honeybees for elementary school students," said Bell Museum Director Susan Weller. "We hope to inspire our next generation to explore STEM careers once they hear Dr. Spivak's personal story about why she's committed to helping bees."

Registration Now Open for May 22 Sustainability Summit

Paul Hawken to keynote NorthStar Initiative's Solutions Summit 2012

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/08/2012) —Environmentalism, entrepreneur and author Paul Hawken will present the keynote speech May 22 for Solutions Summit 2012, a first-ever gathering of corporate, nonprofit, government and academic sustainability leaders at the University of Minnesota to showcase and develop strategies for collaboratively solving key sustainability challenges.

Hawken, author of *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution*, *Blessed Unrest*, and five other books, is founder of the Natural Capital Institute, a California-based research organization. He will talk about how he sees the economic and ecologic landscape in which innovation will be fostered in the coming years, with focus on climate, minerals and oceans. Other featured presenters include sustainability leaders from 3M, Environmental Defense Fund, Caldrea, The Nature Conservancy, General Mills, eBay and Truth Studio, and Nestle Waters North America.

Hosted by the NorthStar Initiative for Sustainable Enterprise (NiSE), the daylong summit will bring sustainability leaders from around the world together to share sustainability success stories, identify the biggest sustainability challenges and home in on best strategies for solving them. In addition to Hawken's address, presentations include panel discussions on sustainability trends related to food, water and energy; sustainable consumption of other goods; and "sustainability beyond sustainability" – strategies businesses, NGOs, academia and government entities can use to collaboratively create solutions to sustainability challenges. The day concludes with a CEO panel discussion featuring Nestle Waters, Caldrea and Tunheim Partners.

"The summit will provide valuable insights into strategic choice, areas of conflict and opportunities for collaboration where whole-system supply chains intersect," said NiSE executive director Michelle Linhoff. "It's structured so each panel's content will flow into the next, and the knowledge shared will be applicable. It also will offer a valuable chance to interact with the expert speakers and attendees."

Solutions Summit 2012 will run from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm at the McNamara Alumni Center at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities, with a reception following from 4:30 to 6:30. For more information or to register, please see z.umn.edu/ss12 or contact nise@umn.edu.

The NiSE is a program of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, which seeks lasting solutions to Earth's biggest challenges through research, partnerships and leadership development. For more information, visit <http://environment.umn.edu>.

University of Minnesota Board of Regents to consider President Kaler's proposed FY13 budget Friday

What: University of Minnesota Board of Regents meeting

When: Thursday, May 10 and Friday, May 11

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

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/08/2012) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will review and take public comment on University President Eric Kaler's FY13 operating budget at 12:30 p.m. Friday, May 11.

President Kaler will present his budget recommendations, which take steps toward achieving the goals he outlined in his [State of the University speech](#) March 1 – to keep the U affordable for students; invest in the U's excellent faculty, research infrastructure, technology, student aid and scholarships; and use state resources responsibly and hold down costs.

Highlights of the proposed FY13 budget include:

- **Holding tuition increases to 3.5 percent for Minnesota undergraduates, which is the lowest tuition increase this century.** Tuition has ranged from a low of 4.5 percent to a high of 16 percent. (A full chart highlighting this is available at the end of the release.)
- **Keeping the University of Minnesota accessible to qualified students, regardless of income.** The modest tuition increase will be offset by an additional \$2.3 million in need-based aid, made available by cost savings from a restructuring of the U's Promise Scholarship program. President Kaler is proposing a 14 percent increase in the Promise Scholarship, which is awarded to students with low family incomes. He is also proposing an additional \$2.8 million in new money for merit-based aid to attract the top students from Minnesota and the region.
- **Investing in the U's faculty and staff to continue to foster excellence in education and research.** This includes \$34 million in new academic program investments and a 2.5 percent compensation pool increase for faculty and staff, following three years of furloughs, wage freezes and increased health care costs.
- **Investments in operational excellence, holding down operations and support costs and redirecting existing funds to ensure the highest use of state resources.** New investment in operations and support costs is being held to about one-half of 1 percent of the annual spending base, while redirected resources and prudent budget management provided about 58 percent of the total budget needs.

The proposed budget positions the U of M to move forward by attracting and retaining top faculty and students; and by cultivating their continued success by investing in innovation, research and educational excellence. It allows for essential growth while recognizing that state budget resources continue to be strained.

The Board of Regents will review the proposal and public comments and will act on the proposal at its June 8 meeting.

The Board of Regents is also scheduled to review and act on two letters of intent between the university, University of Minnesota Physicians and Fairview Health Services. This includes the proposed construction of a new Ambulatory Care Center, which would replace the Phillips-Wangensteen Building and provide much needed expansion for a variety of clinics. The project and the organizations' enhanced collaborative relationship will improve patient care, ensure excellence in medical education and support the university's research mission.

Other Board of Regents agenda items include:

- Oath of Office for the Board of Regents' newest member, Tom Devine, a 1979 graduate of the U. Minnesota Court of Appeals Chief Judge Matthew Johnson will deliver the oath of office at 8 a.m. Thursday in the Boardroom.
- Review of/potential action on schematic plans for Siebert Field ballpark replacement on the Twin Cities campus and the lab/classroom facility at the Itasca Biological Station (pending state bonding approval).
- Review of the 2013 Annual Capital Improvement Budget, which would authorize projects totaling \$513.7 million to begin design or construction during the next fiscal year – about 67 percent of which would be paid for by the U and 33 percent of which would require state supported capital investments.
- Act on the appointment of Norwood Teague as the university's new director of athletics.
- Recognize the service of outgoing student representatives to the Board of Regents.
- Recognize faculty, staff and students who have excelled this academic year, including national scholarship winners and the national champion Women's Hockey team.

Board of Regents committee meetings will begin at 8 a.m. Thursday. The full Board of Regents meeting will begin at 9 a.m. Friday. More information on the Board of Regents meeting, including the time and locations for committee meetings and a full agenda, can be found at www.umn.edu/regents.

Tuition increases at the University of Minnesota this century (undergraduate)

Academic Year	% increase
2001-02	10.25
2002-03	16.0
2003-04	14.7
2004-05	14.0
2005-06	7.5
2006-07	6.5
2007-08	4.5
2008-09	7.25
2009-10	7.5
2010-11	7.5
2011-12	5.0
2012-13 proposed	3.5

University of Minnesota and Minnesota Vikings reach preliminary agreement for Vikings' use of TCF Bank Stadium

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/10/2012) —The University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Vikings have agreed to a Letter of Intent which allows the Vikings' use of TCF Bank Stadium during potential construction at the current Metrodome site of a new stadium for the National Football League franchise. Subject to Board of Regents approval at its meeting tomorrow, university President Eric Kaler may sign the Letter of Intent in the next few days.

The Letter of Intent provides that the Vikings will reimburse the university for all changes they require for TCF Bank Stadium, and all non-game day expenses and game-day operational expenses related to the franchise's use of the facility. In addition, the Vikings will pay rent to the university and share a portion of additional concessions and sponsorship revenues.

"The Minnesota Vikings are an important asset to the state and we were pleased to work with them on reaching a mutually beneficial arrangement to host them on our campus," Kaler said. "The Vikings will remain part of the Twin Cities region during construction of their new stadium, while the proceeds from this arrangement will be invested in our athletic department to enhance Gopher sports."

Hosting Vikings games at TCF Bank Stadium not only will affect the campus, but also will impact surrounding neighborhoods. Throughout talks with the Vikings, university leaders have emphasized addressing concerns of campus neighbors.

"The university is committed to proactively addressing stadium and campus operational issues and to minimizing any potential impact on the university community and our neighbors," Kaler said. "For Vikings games at TCF Bank Stadium, the university will control stadium and campus operations and will exercise the same level of care for traffic and noise management, litter control and public safety as is our standard for Gopher events."

The Vikings also will appoint a representative to serve as the franchise's contact and neighborhood liaison. Additionally, the team will make a contribution to the existing neighborhood mitigation fund.

Under the agreement, the Vikings will pay the university a fixed fee of \$250,000 per game. In addition, concessions, sponsorship and advertising dollars will be divided between the parties under the terms of the Letter of Intent, said university General Counsel Mark Rotenberg. He stated that the additional revenue to the university is expected to be \$50,000 per game, resulting in a combined rent and expected concessions and sponsorship revenue amount of \$300,000 per game, or \$3 million per regular NFL season.

The Letter of Intent provides the following:

TCF Bank Stadium changes

- Installation of specialized heating coils under the playing surface.
- Installation of temporary bleacher-style seats in the western end zone plaza. Any new seating is subject to approval by the university's building code division.

Duration of lease and days of play

- Two scenarios are allowed. The Vikings may lease TCF Bank Stadium for up to four consecutive NFL seasons anticipated to start in 2013; or, they can play at the facility for all or part of one NFL season, anticipated to be the 2015 season. A standard NFL season includes 10 football games (two preseason and eight regular season games), plus any home playoff games.
- TCF Bank Stadium will be available for Sunday games only and one weeknight game per season, on a date that must be approved by the university.
- The Vikings will work with the NFL to minimize scheduling conflicts with the university's intercollegiate athletic activities and other campus events.

Alcohol

- The terms of alcohol sales at TCF Bank Stadium during Vikings games are subject to Board of Regents approval at a later date. Governor Dayton signed legislation April 27, 2012 that returns full authority to the Board of Regents with respect to the sale of alcoholic beverages during intercollegiate athletic events at the Stadium, Williams Arena, and Mariucci Arena, so long as the university provides for the sale of alcohol to the general public at a convenient location in the Stadium at least through half-time during intercollegiate football games. This legislation expires July 1, 2014.

Copies of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents resolution and the Letter of Intent will be available at the Board of Regents meeting tomorrow. The meeting begins at 9 a.m. at 600 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis.

Board of Regents approves agreements that make way for new Ambulatory Care Center, and reviews president's FY13 budget recommendation

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](#), University News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, (612) 625-8510

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/11/2012) —During its meeting today, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents unanimously approved two letters of intent among the university, University of Minnesota Physicians (UMP) and Fairview Health Services, considered President Eric Kaler's budget and passed a resolution related to the Minnesota Vikings' use of TCF Bank Stadium.

The Board votes allow Kaler and his administration to sign the nonbinding letters and finalize negotiations on the Academic Health Center and Vikings issues.

One of the letters of intent related to the Academic Health Center represents an evolution of the partnership started by the university, UMP and Fairview in 1996. The letter will enable the parties to work toward a common goal: operate a world-class academic medical center, with enhanced performance in all clinical, academic and research aspects and to increase investments in the academic mission of the university Medical School.

The second letter of intent will allow negotiation for the construction of a new Ambulatory Care Center on the Minneapolis campus that would provide new space for clinics currently in the outdated Phillips Wangenstein Building and provide much-needed expansion space for a variety of clinics. The \$182.5 million project will be financed by \$132.5 million in special purpose bonds that will be issued by the university and guaranteed by lease agreements with UMP and Fairview. An additional \$10 million will be provided by the Masons and \$40 million for equipment will be provided by Fairview and UMP.

"These are giant steps for our Academic Health Center, our students and thousands of patients we serve, and this project is critical for the financial viability and excellence of the U's medical education," Kaler said. "This has been a long time in the making. We are handling about five times more patient volume. And health care, clinical research, medical education, recruitment and retention, patient expectations and the handling of medical records have changed dramatically."

Design work on the project is expected to begin this fall, with construction beginning in fall 2013. The clinic is scheduled to open no later than early 2016.

FY13 Budget Proposal

President Kaler's proposed FY13 budget outlined today will hold tuition increases to 3.5 percent for Minnesota undergraduates, which is the lowest tuition increase this century. Tuition increases in recent years have ranged from a low of 4.5 percent to a high of 16 percent.

"This budget reflects my priorities and aligns with the initiatives I have outlined previously," Kaler said. "We all know there is no more pressing issue than affordability. We have to tackle student debt and this budget begins to do that. We also need to make the value of a university education strong. We are working hard to minimize tuition increases while also investing in what makes the U a leading research and educational institution."

The Board is expected to act on the proposed budget at its June 8 meeting. Highlights of the budget include:

- **Invest in Access: Keep the U Affordable for Students.** The modest tuition increase will be offset by a 14 percent increase in the Promise Scholarship – the U's need-based program. The increase is made possible by savings secured by restructuring the program. President Kaler is proposing an additional \$2.8 million in new money for merit-based aid to attract the top students from Minnesota and the region. The university provides a total of \$81 million in undergraduate student aid annually.
- **Invest in Excellence: Keep Faculty World Class.** The budget will invest \$4 million in faculty hires from a \$25 million FY12 appropriation, as well as an additional \$7 million in new faculty positions across 11 schools, colleges and campuses. Invest in Research and Technology. The budget creates two new investment pools: a \$3 million research infrastructure fund and a \$1 million instructional technology fund.
- **Invest in Human Capital: Compensation.** After three years of wage freezes, furloughs and temporary adjustments, the budget provides a moderate 2.5 percent compensation pool increase for all employee groups.
- **Invest in operational excellence, hold down operations and support costs and redirect existing funds to ensure the highest use of state resources.** New investment in operations and support costs is being held to about one-half of 1 percent of the annual spending base, while redirected resources and prudent budget management provided about 58 percent of the total budget needs.

Minnesota Vikings

The Regents approved a resolution authorizing the university and the Minnesota Vikings to enter into a letter of intent and other negotiations regarding the Vikings' use of TCF Bank Stadium during construction of a new downtown Minneapolis football stadium. The nonbinding letter of intent provides that the Vikings will reimburse the university for all changes the Vikings require, and all non-game day expenses and game-day operational expenses related to the franchise's use of the facility. In addition, the Vikings will pay rent to the university and share a portion of additional concessions and sponsorship revenues. The letter also emphasizes addressing potential concerns of campus neighbors. Ultimately, a final lease agreement must be approved by the Board of Regents.

Other business included:

- **Regent Tom Devine**, a 1979 U graduate, was sworn in by Minnesota Court of Appeals Chief Judge Matthew Johnson on Thursday.
- **Siebert Field & Itasca:** The Board reviewed and approved schematic plans for the Siebert Field ballpark replacement on the Twin Cities campus, as well as the lab/classroom facility at the Itasca Biological Station.
- **Annual Capital Improvement Budget:** The Board reviewed the budget, which would authorize projects totaling \$375.7 million to begin design or construction during the next fiscal year. The projects will be funded by grants and gifts, university and other funds, as well as university and state bonding. Action on the budget is expected in June.
- **Director of Gopher Athletics:** The Regents approved appointment of Norwood Teague as the new director, who will begin work on June 18.

Students, faculty and staff: Regents recognized the service of outgoing student representatives to the Board. The board also recognized faculty, staff and students who have excelled this academic year, including national scholarship winners and the national champion Women's Hockey team. The next Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for June 8. For more information, go to www.umn.edu/regents.

Tuition increases at the University of Minnesota (undergraduate)

Academic Year	% increase
2001-02	10.25
2002-03	16.0
2003-04	14.7
2004-05	14.0
2005-06	7.5
2006-07	6.5
2007-08	4.5
2008-09	7.25
2009-10	7.5
2010-11	7.5
2011-12	5.0
2012-13	3.5

U of M President Eric Kaler to visit Willmar, mark opening of university's Mid-Center Research and Outreach Center

Who: U of M President Kaler

What: Visit Willmar to meet with regional leaders, highlight U of M partnerships in Mid-Central Minnesota and speak at the opening of the university's Mid-Central Research and Outreach Center

When: Tuesday, May 15, 2 to 4 p.m.

Where: 1802 St. S.E. on MinnWest Technology Campus, Willmar

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May 11, 2012

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will visit Willmar on Tuesday, May 15 to meet with community and business leaders and to mark the official opening of the university's Mid-Central Research and Outreach Center on the MinnWest Technology Campus.

"Willmar is one of Minnesota's most significant regional economic centers, and I'm looking forward to meeting with leaders and partners involved in our growing collaborations in the area, including the new Mid-Central Research and Outreach Center," President Kaler said.

President Kaler will be joined on the trip by his wife, Karen Kaler, along with university Regent Dean Johnson of Willmar and U of M Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration Robert J. Jones, who directly oversees MCROC.

The public is invited to attend an open house celebrating the MCROC opening, from 2 to 4 p.m. at 1802 18th St. S.E. on the MinnWest Technology campus in Willmar. A program beginning at 2:15 p.m. will feature brief remarks by Kaler, Johnson and Jones, along with James Sieben, president of the MinnWest Technology Campus and vice president and general manager of Nova-Tech Engineering.

The MCROC serves as a regional base for university research, education and engagement in collaboration with the MinnWest Technology Campus and City of Willmar. The MCROC mission is to promote innovation, economic growth and workforce development in areas vital to the region's diversified economic base, with an emphasis on bioscience, biotechnology and agribusiness.

The center houses leading-edge avian research laboratories headed by nationally renowned turkey disease expert Carol Cardona, a professor in the university's College of Veterinary Medicine. It is also home to Extension programs addressing community issues related to food and agriculture, environmental issues, families and communities and youth development.

Following the 2:15 program, President Kaler will tour the three-story MCROC facility, with staff and activities showcasing programs based in the building as well as nearby programs such as the university's dentistry clinic at Rice Memorial Hospital, Area Health Education Center and Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory, among others.

The 18,000-square-foot MCROC is one of 30 historically significant buildings on the privately owned MinnWest Technology Campus, a 110-acre collaborative business community on the eastern shore of Willmar Lake. The U of M center features a teaching kitchen and high-tech media center, a university Extension office and a level 2 laboratory and space that will house student internship collaborations likely to involve the university's Morris campus, St. Cloud State University and Ridgewater College.

The facility also includes space for future research collaborations related to renewal energy, as well as for planned continuing education and business training programs serving regional industries as well as community residents and university alumni.

More than 2,085 residents in the greater Willmar area are graduates of the University of Minnesota, including graduates with advanced degrees in medicine, law, engineering and veterinary medicine.

"Those jobs and degrees have saved lives, enhanced salaries, supported purchases in the Willmar business community and increased tax dollars for this state," Kaler said.

The university developed MCROC with support from MinnWest, the City of Willmar and the Kandiyohi County and Willmar Economic Development Corporation. The renovation of the MCROC building was supported in part by a \$1.25 million grant from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development along with a matching contribution by MinnWest.

The MCROC event is open to the public and will feature a reception. The event is free, but registration is requested at www.mcroc.umn.edu

Session successes position University of Minnesota to advance research and education missions while restoring infrastructure

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](#), University News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, (612) 625-8510

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/11/2012) —Minnesota policymakers have approved \$64.1 million in bonding and other support this session that will allow the University of Minnesota to advance its mission while taking the first steps to update critical but aging infrastructure across the U of M system statewide.

“I’d like to thank the policymakers who recognize the importance of the University of Minnesota to the state’s economy and quality of life,” said university President Eric Kaler. “Their investments will allow the U to take significant steps toward further discovery, job creation, educational excellence and smarter use of the operating resources and facilities that are critical to achieving the university’s mission.

“Despite securing these capital investment resources this legislative session, our work is far from done,” Kaler said. “We will continue to be diligent to find and implement opportunities for operational excellence while building the public’s trust. We will continue to reach out to policymakers and other stakeholders to communicate the high value the university delivers to every corner of the state. And we hope faculty, staff, students and friends of the university will do the same. Together, we can address the significant challenges that lie ahead — from our aging infrastructure and need to provide access to Minnesota students to living out our mission as the state’s only research, land grant university.”

Protecting and Investing in Critical Infrastructure

This week, the Legislature passed and today the Governor signed the \$496 million bonding bill, which ultimately increased project funding for the university. The university received an additional \$10 million compared to earlier House and Senate proposals for Higher Education Asset Prevention and Replacement (HEAPR) funding, as well as bonding allocations necessary to proceed with the first phase of the Combined Heat and Power Plant on the university’s Minneapolis campus.

The \$64.1 million in state bonding for the university includes:

- **HEAPR (\$50 million)** — Almost 100 building systems, utility infrastructure, energy efficiency and health, safety and accessibility projects will be addressed across the U’s five campuses. This provides an important start toward protecting more than 28 million square feet of U of M space across the state. About 25 percent of Twin Cities campus buildings alone are more than 70 years old.
- **Itasca Biological Station (\$4.1 million)** — A new 12,000-square-foot, year-round campus center with laboratories, classrooms, offices and an auditorium will be built at this valuable and much-used field station at the headwaters of the Mississippi River. The project will upgrade technology and consolidate functions from three deteriorating World War II-era facilities. The Campus Center will support undergraduate and graduate biology education with experiential learning opportunities. It will also help facilitate research such as evaluating the human impact on the ecosystem of the Mississippi River watershed, and monitoring the effects of climate change on Minnesota ecosystems, plants and animals. Finally, the new facility also will help retain and recruit top researchers, quadruple the number of full-time employees and reduce operations and energy costs.
- **Combined Heat and Power Plant (\$10 million)** — The project replaces World War II coal furnaces with modern day equipment. Initial work will begin soon on planning and engineering necessary to renovate Old Main (built in 1912) into a multi-utility power plant and provide a second source of steam to meet growing utility demands on the Minneapolis campus. It will provide a reliable power source to protect research and other learning, reduce the campus’ carbon footprint by 10 percent and reduce university utility costs. Construction, estimated to cost an additional \$70 million, will be paid for with bonds issued at a later date by the university.

Advancing Research that Benefits Minnesotans

Policymakers also invested in the university’s leading research enterprise in the following ways:

- **Aquatic Invasive Species (\$3.8 million)** — The funding will support the startup of a new aquatic invasive species research center at the university. The center, led by fisheries, wildlife and conservation professor Peter Sorensen, will focus on keeping Asian carp and other invasive species from spreading further, as well as developing new techniques for detecting, slowing and arresting the spread of other invasives including common carp, zebra mussels and Eurasian milfoil. The carp and other non-native, invasive species have posed an increasing threat to the ecological integrity and health of Minnesota’s lakes and rivers.
- **Hormel Institute (\$13.5 million)** — The Hormel Institute, a U of M research facility in Austin, Minn., will utilize bonding allocations awarded through the Austin Port Authority to begin expansion of the world-renowned cancer research center and create approximately 120 high-quality jobs over five years. The Hormel Institute is part of the BioScience Triangle — a partnership among the university, Mayo Clinic-Rochester and The Hormel Institute.

Investing in Athletics and Fans

Governor Dayton recently signed legislation that will allow alcoholic beverages to be sold at TCF Bank Stadium, both in the premium suites as well as in a separate, controlled but convenient area for general ticketholders. The legislation also will allow alcohol sales in the premium seats of Mariucci and Williams arenas. Ultimately, the university’s Board of Regents will determine how the new law will be implemented. The Board is expected to take action at its June meeting. Alcohol sales are estimated to provide an additional \$1.5 - \$2 million per year in revenue to the university.

For more information about the University of Minnesota’s legislative agenda and results, go to www.govrelations.umn.edu.

Environmental Theologian Martin Palmer to Speak in Twin Cities May 23

Secretary General of Alliance of Religions & Conservation will cap Momentum 2012 event series

Media Note: For photographs, contact Todd Reubold, reub0002@umn.edu, (612) 624-6140
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For permission to reprint Martin Palmer interview, contact Mary Hoff, maryhoff@umn.edu

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/14/2012) —What can environmentalism learn from religion about sustainability? U.K.-based environmental theologian Martin Palmer will explore how faith traditions encourage us to be *a part of nature*, not *apart from nature* as the grand finale speaker in the University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment's Momentum 2012 event series Wednesday, May 23, 7:30 p.m., at the Ted Mann Concert Hall in Minneapolis.

Palmer is a theologian, author, broadcaster, environmentalist and lay preacher in the Church of England, and serves as secretary-general of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC), a secular non-governmental organization that helps faith-based and international groups develop environmental and conservation projects. His presentation, "Creation or Ecosystems? Rediscovering Our Place in the Natural World," will challenge the narrow utilitarian view of our planet and explore how we can tap the storytelling skills of the faiths to imagine and create a better future.

Palmer works with major religions worldwide as well as with organizations such as the World Wildlife Fund, the United Nations and the World Bank. He is the author of more than 20 books on religious and environmental topics, and is a renowned translator of ancient Chinese texts. His work on sacred sites worldwide has won multiple awards. Palmer frequently appears on radio and television, and is a regular contributor to the BBC. Read more about his thoughts on conservation and faith [here](#).

Along with Palmer's talk, the evening will feature a performance by In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre. Master of ceremonies will be Karen Hanson, University of Minnesota senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. For tickets, contact the Northrop Box Office, (612) 624-2345 or environment.umn.edu/momentum/eventseries.

The May 23 event, made possible by premier sponsor General Mills, media sponsor Minnesota Public Radio and others, is the final of three environment-themed evenings presented by IonE as part of its Momentum 2012 series. The first two events featured National Geographic photographer Paul Nicklen and Nature Conservancy biologist M. Sanjayan. Professionally produced videos of those talks will be available in June at environment.umn.edu/momentum/eventseries.

The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment seeks lasting solutions to Earth's biggest challenges through research, partnerships and leadership development. For more information, visit environment.umn.edu.

University of Minnesota startup to treat challenging bacterial infection

Current treatments often compound problem, potentially making infection lethal

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/16/2012) —A live biological preparation developed by University of Minnesota researchers could put a stop to an increasingly prevalent, and sometimes deadly, infection caused by the bacterium *Clostridium difficile*. CIPAC Limited, based in Australia with subsidiaries in California, will continue to work with the university to advance the technology to treat patients by using frozen and, eventually, encapsulated preparations.

C. difficile affects several million people and is linked to 14,000 deaths per year in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Symptoms of *C. difficile* infection include fever, nausea, and diarrhea, and most often occur following a prescribed course of antibiotics. The antibiotics kill normal microbes that live in the colon, thereby making the patient more susceptible to infections such as *C. difficile*.

Paradoxically, while the cause of *C. difficile* infection is exposure to antibiotics, the infection itself is also treated using antibiotics, which can make things worse. *C. difficile* infections typically affect older adults in hospitals or in long-term care facilities, but is increasingly spreading into the wider community. In recent years it has become more frequent, more severe and more difficult to treat. Patients suffering from the infection require costly care -- researchers suggest it costs \$2,500-7,000 to treat each patient suffering from *C. difficile*.⁽¹⁾

"*C. difficile* can be suppressed with antibiotics, which have the unfortunate side effect of killing off the normal colon bacteria that offer protection against infection," says Alexander Khoruts, M.D., co-inventor and associate professor of medicine within the university's division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

"Antibiotics don't work very well because they only suppress the *C. difficile*. Once you remove the antibiotic, it produces more of the infection," says Michael Sadowsky, co-inventor and McKnight University professor in the Biotechnology Institute and department of Soil, Water, and Climate.

The invention, a bacterial preparation, can enable restoration of normal bacteria in the colon.

"We are very excited to be working with the University of Minnesota in commercializing a treatment that has approximately 95% efficacy," says Geoff Rosenhain, founder of CIPAC. "Our goal is to bring to market a safe, natural and effective alternative to current treatment options, and to restore the wellbeing of patients suffering from debilitating *C. difficile* infections."

CIPAC is working with the FDA to begin clinical trials for the preparation. The technology was licensed exclusively to CIPAC by the university's Office for Technology Commercialization. The university research was funded by the National Institutes of Health, Minnesota Medical Foundation and Grant-in-Aid of Research Program.

The mission of the University of Minnesota's Office for Technology Commercialization is to translate University research into new products and services that provide growth opportunities for its licensees, benefit the public good, improve the quality of life and generate revenue to support the University's research and education goals.

(1) Dubberke, Erik R.; Reske, Kimberly Ann; Olsen, Margaret A.; McDonald, Clifford; and Fraser, Victoria J., "Short- and long-term attributable costs of *Clostridium difficile*-associated disease in nonsurgical inpatients." *Clinical Infectious Diseases: An Official Publication of the Infectious Diseases Society of America*, 46, 4, 497-504. 2008. Paper 8.

The financial crunch: National experts to discuss risks in financial systems May 17-19

University of Minnesota's Institute for Mathematics and its Applications hosts workshop on timely topic

Media Note: Members of the media interested in interviewing the experts should contact Amanda Aranowski at (612) 626-7881 before coming to campus.

What: Workshop on the risks facing today's financial systems

When: Thursday, May 17 to Saturday, May 19, 2012

Where: University of Minnesota, Keller Hall, Room 3-180, 200 Union Street SE, Minneapolis; workshop also streamed live online at <http://z.umn.edu/financialsystems>

Who: National experts on the mathematics of financial systems

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May 16, 2012

National experts will explore risk emanating from recent trends in the commodity markets, portfolio investment and shocks to the financial system at an upcoming three-day workshop hosted by the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering's Institute for Mathematics and its Applications. "Mathematics of the New Financial Systems" runs from Thursday, May 17 to Saturday, May 19 at the university in Keller Hall, Room 3-180, 200 Union St. SE, Minneapolis.

With the recent billion-dollar loss at JPMorgan Chase—one of the biggest losses in history—speakers will probe timely issues facing financial systems from risk management to investment and portfolio theory.

Presenters include experts from academic institutions including Princeton University; University of California, Santa Barbara; Stanford University; and the University of Oxford. Participants also include representatives from the Federal Reserve Board, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, BNP Paribas, the International Monetary Fund and more.

For details about this upcoming workshop or to watch the workshop live online, visit <http://z.umn.edu/financialsystems>.

Founded in 1982, the IMA promotes vigorous collaboration among mathematicians, engineers, biologists, chemists, physicists, and other applied scientists, attracting more than 1,200 visitors per year. Since its establishment, the IMA has grown to become among the most influential math institutes in the world. Its mission is to engage mathematicians and other scientists from around the globe in programs and activities that advance the nation's science and technology agendas. Find out more at www.ima.umn.edu.

Rural Minnesota lures middle-aged newcomers, U of M study of U.S. Census data shows

Continued research into 'brain gain' shows 30- to 49-year-olds migrating to rural areas

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/16/2012) —Rural Minnesota continued to attract new residents aged 30 to 49 between 2000 and 2010, according to a new study of U.S. Census data from University of Minnesota Extension.

The news that people are moving into rural areas may seem counterintuitive, especially when headlines and book titles proclaim a “brain drain” and the supposed demise of rural America when 18- to 25-year-olds leave. But, according to Ben Winchester, University of Minnesota Extension rural sociologist and author of the study, the rural in-migration of 30- to 49-year-olds who bring with them educational achievements and established earning power creates a “brain gain” for these rural areas. The notion builds on research he first published in 2009, examining 1990 and 2000 Census data.

“It’s the rule that young people move to pursue educational and career goals, not the exception,” said Winchester. “Instead of labeling that loss as ‘doom and gloom’ for rural, I’ve examined the population trends more deeply. Acknowledging the brain gain allows rural places to focus on their strengths and opportunities, which is the work of any community striving for a brighter future.”

In the new report, “Continuing the Trend: The Brain Gain of the Newcomers,” Winchester updates Minnesota’s population shifts as captured by the 2010 Census and provides an examination of the trend at the national level.

One new finding reveals that Greater Minnesota’s micropolitan counties, or those with core urban populations of 10,000 to 49,999, are taking on metropolitan profiles—with middle-aged Minnesotans leaving for less densely-populated areas. The pattern is most prevalent in the southwest part of the state, around cities such as Willmar (Kandiyohi County), Marshall (Lyon County) and Mankato (Blue Earth County), according to Winchester.

The new study also shows that a brain gain has continued in the 30-49 age group across the rural Midwest, but at a slower pace than was found from 1990 to 2000. External forces such as housing debt and the Great Recession slowed overall migration rates, according to Winchester. The Brookings Institution reports that in 2007-2008, the U. S. migration rate was found to be the lowest since World War II.

Recent Extension research on 30- to 49-year-olds shows they are choosing rural areas for a higher quality of life, specifically citing a slower pace, the low cost of housing, and safety and security. A study of 99 newcomer households in west central Minnesota showed that the average newcomer household contributed \$92,000 in economic activity to the region in 2009 and 2010.

“In rural areas, little changes make a big difference,” Winchester said. “And these numbers certainly change the story.”

To access the study (in PDF format), visit www.extension.umn.edu/go/1107. To learn more about the brain gain in rural Minnesota, visit www.extension.umn.edu/community/brain-gain.

University of Minnesota Extension is a 100-year-old partnership between the university and federal, state and county governments to provide scientific knowledge and expertise to the public. Through Extension, the University of Minnesota “extends” its resources to address critical public issues in priority areas, including food and agriculture, communities, environment, youth and families. For more information, visit www.extension.umn.edu.

Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve hosts 24-hour lineup of ecology activities June 8-9

Unique 24-hour event is free to the public, engaging citizen scientists of all ages at world-renowned research site

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/17/2012) —The University of Minnesota invites the public to participate in a nearly nonstop lineup of ecology-themed activities at Cedar Creek Field Day and BioBlitz from 5 p.m. Friday, June 8 through 5 p.m. Saturday, June 9 at the university's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, 2660 Fawn Lake Drive, East Bethel. Part contest, part festival, part educational event and scientific endeavor, the 24-hour event engages citizen scientists in a race against the clock to count the animals and plants within a specific area.

The event is co-hosted by the U of M's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve and Bell Museum of Natural History. All events are free and open to the public.

This year's lineup of ecology-themed events and activities will give the public a unique opportunity to explore the site of one of the longest-running ecology experiments in the world and contribute valuable data about the state of the flora and fauna at the field station. Visitors will learn about the history and research of Cedar Creek and its unique habitats through tours, interpretive walks and discussions with scientists. In addition, BioBlitz activities provide a chance for visitors to explore the plants, fungi, insects and other animals found at Cedar Creek in greater depth.

"Field Day and BioBlitz offer a rare opportunity for people to literally immerse themselves in all aspects of ecology at a world-renowned research site," said Mary Spivey, education coordinator at the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve.

Some of the highlights of Cedar Creek Field Day and BioBlitz:

- Friday night, June 8 (5 to 10 p.m.), the Bell Museum will bring its ExploraDome to Cedar Creek, offering programs on astronomy and more! The dome is a portable, immersive learning environment where participants experience "hands-on, minds-on" learning. Visitors will also have the chance to embark on a nighttime insect collecting adventure.
- Saturday, June 9 (6 a.m. to 4 p.m.), visitors can tour Cedar Creek, hike along Cedar Creek's scenic trails, hear from Cedar Creek researchers as they talk about their areas of expertise and accompany scientists as they survey the area for everything from insects to birds, fish to mammals.
- In addition, members of the Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Project will give a talk on red-headed woodpecker behavior and artist Glenn Terry will discuss his latest painting venture, "100 Images of Cedar Creek."

For directions to Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, please go to www.cedarcreek.umn.edu

Schedule of Events

Friday, June 8 5-10 p.m.	<p>5 p.m.-dusk Beginner BioBlitz trail (ongoing, self-guided)</p> <p>5 p.m.-10 p.m. ExploraDome programs in main building (on-going)</p> <p>7 p.m. Cedar Creek artist-in-residence talk</p> <p>8 p.m. Evening animal survey - bats, frogs</p> <p>9 p.m. -10 p.m. Evening insect collecting</p>
Saturday, June 9 6 a.m.-5 p.m.	<p>6 a.m. Bird Walk</p> <p>8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Beginner BioBlitz trail (ongoing, self-guided)</p> <p>8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Glenn Terry art exhibit</p> <p>8 a.m. Small mammal survey</p> <p>9 a.m.-5 p.m. BioBlitz resource fair</p> <p>9 a.m. Snake walk (limited to 10, sign up day-of)</p> <p>10 a.m. Fish survey</p> <p>11 a.m. Ants</p> <p>Noon Insect sweep netting</p> <p>1 p.m. Geocaching</p> <p>2 p.m. Camera trap retrieval (limited to six, sign up day-of)</p> <p>4-5p.m. Species Identification and number countdown</p>

For more information on Cedar Creek Field Day, please click [here](#).

For more information on BioBlitz, please click [here](#).

Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve is operated by the university's College of Biological Sciences, which provides degree programs and conducts research in all areas of biology, from molecules to ecosystems. David Tilman, Regents Professor of Ecology and one of the top-cited ecologists in the world, is scientific director of Cedar Creek.

The Bell Museum of Natural History is Minnesota's official natural history museum, where more than four million specimens support ongoing research and teaching at the U of M. The museum strives to discover, document and understand nature, and promote informed stewardship of our world. It is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and welcomes nearly 85,000 visitors a year.

University of Minnesota begins search for new vice president for research

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/17/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler has named a search committee to lead a national search for the university's new vice president for research.

Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy will retire in December 2012 following nearly eight years at the post.

President Kaler has appointed Aaron Friedman, vice president for health sciences and dean of the Medical School, and Steve Crouch, dean of the College of Science and Engineering, to co-chair the search committee.

"As the state's only comprehensive, public land grant research university, this position is of vital importance to the University of Minnesota," said Kaler. "Investing in our research enterprise is among my top priorities and is crucial to build upon the successes realized under Tim's guidance. I am confident this search will produce a visionary, strategic and inclusive leader committed to the highest standards of academic and research excellence."

The vice president for research is responsible for providing central leadership to the university's research programs and representing the university's interests in research on its campuses and to external constituencies. As the institution's chief research officer, the vice president oversees all aspects of research at the university's five campuses, providing guidance to individual researchers and managing the system-wide research enterprise.

The search committee is comprised of individuals who ensure broad representation from across the university and externally. Its members are:

- Friedman and Crouch, co-chairs
- Melissa Anderson, professor, Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy and Development, College of Education and Human Development, and member, Senate Research Committee
- David Bernlohr, professor, Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Biophysics, College of Biological Sciences and Medical School
- Jerry Cohen, professor, Department of Horticultural Science, College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences
- Tim Holst, associate vice chancellor, Graduate School, Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Minnesota, Duluth
- Margaret Anderson Kelliher, president and chief executive officer, Minnesota High Tech Association, and former member, Minnesota House of Representatives
- Gail Klatt, associate vice president for internal audit
- Gordon Legge, professor, Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts
- Tim Lodge, professor, Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, College of Science and Engineering
- Abdul Omari, member, Graduate and Professional Student Association, and student representative to the Board of Regents
- Beth Virnig, associate dean for research, School of Public Health
- Dale Wahlstrom, president and chief executive officer, LifeScience Alley & BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota
- Pamela Webb, associate vice president, Sponsored Projects Administration, Office of the Vice President for Research

The search committee aims to develop as rich and diverse candidate pool as possible, and invites both nominations and applications for the position.

The search firm Isaacson, Miller has been selected to assist the committee in sourcing and recruiting diverse and qualified candidates for the position. Founded in 1982, Isaacson, Miller undertakes nationwide searches for a wide variety of organizations, including leading universities, research institutes, academic medical centers, foundations, cultural institutions, economic development organizations, human service agencies and national advocacy groups.

For more information on the search for the University of Minnesota's next vice president for research, visit: <http://www.research.umn.edu/about/vprsearch.html>.

Big Ten Alumni Associations announce new advertising consortium

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/17/2012) —The alumni associations of the Big Ten Conference announce a new advertising consortium named the Big Ten Alumni Alliance. This alliance allows coordinated and single point purchasing for magazine advertising in the conference.

These eleven magazines now serve as one platform of 925,000 plus readers. Delivering significant value, the Big Ten Alumni Alliance offers business and industry a cost effective access to this smart and savvy mainstream audience.

“We know our nearly one million readers will make an attractive audience for many advertisers,” says Phil Esten, president and CEO of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. “Through this partnership with our Big Ten alumni association peers, we are able to make it easy to reach our loyal and engaged audience.”

Big Ten readers are at the height of their careers. They are some of the world’s leading professionals in business, medicine, law, engineering and education. They are avid fans and supporters of their alma maters and have developed lifelong ties.

Their Big Ten magazines deliver the university news and events they seek along with interesting articles that range from the arts to business to world affairs. “In an era when conference athletic sponsorships and television deals are growing, print media can be overlooked, but engagement with alumni magazines is too strong to ignore,” says Susan Tauster, national account manager for the alliance. “Our team is looking forward to sharing the story of these great Universities and their graduates.”

Research for the Big Ten Alumni Alliance is available on MRI and a BPA audit has been applied for. The members of the alliance include: the University of Illinois Alumni Association, the Indiana University Alumni Association, the University of Iowa Alumni Association, the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, Michigan State University Alumni Association, the University of Minnesota Alumni Association, the Nebraska Alumni Association, the Ohio State University Alumni Association, the Penn State Alumni Association, the Purdue Alumni Association and the Wisconsin Alumni Association.

The Big Ten Alumni Alliance is headquartered in West Lafayette, IN. For more information please visit our online media kit available at <http://bigtenalumni.org> or contact Dan Rhodes darhodes@purdue.edu or 765-494-8038 or Susan Tauster, National Account Manager, susant@taustermedia.com or 630.858.1558.

Upcoming transportation conference explores role of transitways in maximizing our region's economic competitiveness

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/17/2012) —By 2030, the Minneapolis–St. Paul region is expected to have a network of 14 transitways. Will these lines spur economic growth, and where? How well will they connect jobs to workers? What impacts will the lines have on neighborhoods and social change?

Minnesota leaders and national experts will discuss how the region can maximize the return on transitway investments in terms of jobs and economic competitiveness during the opening session of the 23rd Annual Transportation Research Conference. Sponsored by the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies, the conference takes place May 23-24 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, 175 West Kellogg Blvd, Saint Paul.

Opening-session speaker Yingling Fan, assistant professor at the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs, will discuss recent research that analyzed the labor supply in relation to "competitive clusters" of industries such as medical manufacturing and publishing. The research team, led by Fan, found that to improve job access by transit, it's more effective to centralize jobs than housing and encourage employers to locate near transit corridors. The study builds on previous work Fan conducted under the Transitway Impacts Research Program.

During the conference luncheon Wednesday, May 23, veteran journalist Earl Swift will share highlights from his book *The Big Roads: The Untold Story of the Engineers, Visionaries, and Trailblazers Who Created the American Superhighways*. The book charts how the creation of the U.S. interstate system transformed America, and it brings to light the visionaries who created these essential highways as well as the critics and citizens who questioned their headlong expansion throughout the country.

The CTS Transportation Research Conference serves as a forum for researchers and practitioners from Minnesota and the Upper Midwest to share their research findings in a variety of transportation-related areas. The conference features leading scholars in the fields of transportation funding, transportation technology and land-use planning, as well as public officials and transportation professionals.

The conference includes discussions on a variety of topics, including:

- What's behind the increase in motorcycle fatalities;
- Paying for roads with tolls and user fees;
- Cheating death: traffic safety strategies and injury prevention;
- Rivers and roads—from flooding to water quality;
- Public participation in transportation projects;
- Economic activity around NiceRide Minnesota bike-share stations.

The conference is sponsored by the U of M Center for Transportation Studies. For a full conference schedule, fees, and registration, see www.cts.umn.edu/events/conference.

Former Acara Students to Launch Social Venture in India

MyRain LLC successfully completes initial round of angel investment

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MyRain LLC, which began as a University of Minnesota student project, is set to launch this summer in India.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/21/2012) —A University of Minnesota student project aimed at boosting local economies in India has acquired funding to launch a for-profit social venture that will offer efficient drip irrigation systems to rural farmers in developing countries.

MyRain LLC began as the brainstorm of a team of participating in the 2010 Acara Challenge, a course and competition sponsored by the University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment that helps budding social entrepreneurs develop plans for businesses that make a positive change in the world. After completing the Acara competition, the project leaders incorporated their business and refined plans to the point where they could solicit funding from investors.

Having successfully completed the first of an anticipated two rounds of soliciting funds from angel investors, MyRain co-founder and CEO Steele Lorenz is heading to India June 1 to launch the program on the ground.

“I am pleased to announce that the capital raised from our initial angel investment round is sufficient to fund MyRain’s first year of operations in the Tamil Nadu region of southern India,” said Lorenz, who gave up a job in Minnesota to pursue the launch. Lorenz graduated in 2010 from the Carlson School of Management after completing a double major in marketing and entrepreneurial management.

“In many parts of rural India, small-plot farmers rely on flood irrigation, an approach that stunts crops and washes away valuable soil nutrients,” said Sri Latha Ganti, co-founder & COO of MyRain and 2011 graduate of the university’s College of Science and Engineering. “By implementing drip irrigation, rural farmers can increase water and fertilizer efficiency by 20 to 50 percent and increase yields by 30 to 100 percent. MyRain also will stimulate local job creation by hiring salespeople from villages and training them to sell, construct and use drip irrigation systems.”

According to Fred Rose, co-director of Acara and a member of MyRain’s advisory board, drip irrigation technology has proliferated to only 5 percent of arable land in India despite its advantages. MyRain seeks to increase that number while creating sustainable economic development in the communities it serves.

MyRain’s strategic partners include [Acara](#) and the [Covenant Centre for Development](#). Learn more at myrainindia.com.

The University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment seeks lasting solutions to Earth’s biggest challenges through research, partnerships and leadership development. For more information, visit environment.umn.edu.

Fred E. Wood named chancellor of University of Minnesota, Crookston

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/21/2012) —Fred E. Wood has been named chancellor of the University of Minnesota's campus in Crookston. He will begin the position July 2, 2012, pending approval by the university's Board of Regents.

Wood comes to the University of Minnesota from the University of California, Davis, where he has been vice chancellor of student affairs and has held other leadership roles for 26 years.

As UMC chancellor, Wood will be the chief academic and executive officer for the Crookston campus, responsible for leveraging its unique strengths in undergraduate education, applied research and public engagement within the broader mission of the University of Minnesota. One of five U of M campuses, UMC is a public baccalaureate institution in Northwestern Minnesota enrolling 1,600 students.

A first-generation college student, Wood earned a B.S. in chemistry in 1980 and a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry in 1984, both from UC Davis, a public land-grant research university within the University of California system. He spent two years as a tenured faculty member at a small community college in northern Idaho before returning to UC Davis in 1986 as vice chair of its chemistry department, responsible for coordinating curricular and co-curricular experiences for undergraduate and graduate students.

From 1991 to 2004 he was associate dean of the UC Davis College of Letters and Science. In 2004, he was named interim vice provost for undergraduate studies, a position he held until becoming vice chancellor of student affairs in 2007.

"The University of Minnesota, Crookston, is an innovative campus with distinctive strengths in student-centered education, technology-rich learning and applied research," said Wood. "I look forward to joining the Crookston community and to continuing to advance the excellence of UMC and the entire University of Minnesota system."

"Fred brings outstanding administrative and academic credentials, a passion for ensuring innovative and supportive educational experiences, and a strong understanding of a multi-campus system with a land-grant mission," said Robert J. Jones, the university system senior vice president for academic administration. "President Kaler and I believe that Fred will be an outstanding addition to the University of Minnesota leadership team and will bring a strong vision that will continue to chart a course for excellence for our Crookston campus."

Integral to the University's land-grant mission, UMC connects its teaching, research and outreach to serve Northwestern Minnesota while delivering 26 degree programs, including 10 online degrees, in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology.

Wood, who was recommended by a systemwide search committee, succeeds Charles H. Casey, who is retiring after seven years as UMC chancellor and 26 years in other top University leadership roles.

Sustainable Rail International, University of Minnesota Announce Coalition to Develop the World's Cleanest Passenger Locomotive

New steam engine has the potential to change both the rail industry and clean energy research



A U of M collaboration aims to create the world's cleanest, most powerful passenger locomotive, proving the viability of solid biofuel and modern steam locomotive technology.

Media Note: Images of the cosmetic work performed on the locomotive and historic images of the engine are available by contacting SRI.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/22/2012) —Plans to create the world's first carbon-neutral higher-speed locomotive were announced today by the Coalition for Sustainable Rail (CSR), a collaboration of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment (IonE) and the nonprofit Sustainable Rail International (SRI). CSR draws on the carbon-neutral solid biofuel research expertise of the University of Minnesota and the modern steam mechanical engineering capabilities of SRI to develop the most powerful carbon-neutral locomotive to date.

CSR Project 130 has a simple goal: create the world's cleanest, most powerful passenger locomotive, proving the viability of solid biofuel and modern steam locomotive technology. The Coalition will put its technology to the test by planning to break the world record for steam locomotive speed, reaching 130 miles per hour and demonstrating the viability of this revolutionary, clean transportation technology.

The locomotive will run on torrefied biomass (biocoal), a biofuel created through an energy-efficient processing of cellulosic biomass. Biocoal exhibits the same energy density and material handling properties as coal, but unlike coal, it is carbon neutral, contains no heavy metals, and produces less ash, smoke and volatile off-gases. Since it exhibits such similar characteristics to coal, biocoal has the potential to revolutionize the way the United States generates clean electricity.

"Participation in the Coalition for Sustainable Rail has enabled our team to pursue one of the more exciting and potentially groundbreaking research projects in the history of IonE," said Rod Larkins, Special Projects Director of IonE's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment. "Once perfected, creating the world's first carbon-neutral locomotive will be just the beginning for this technology which, we hope, will later be used for combined heat and power energy in the developing world as well as reducing the United States' dependence on fossil fuels."

Preliminary research shows that CSR's test locomotive will cost less to maintain and less to fuel, and will exhibit greater train handling performance than any diesel-electric locomotives available today. The modern steam locomotive has relied on technology that has been neglected for decades. This is about to change. With the ability to burn biocoal efficiently and without negative impact on the environment, CSR's modern steam locomotive will also exhibit significantly better horsepower output at higher speeds than the current diesel-electric locomotives that pull the majority of passenger trains in the United States.

"This project presents a novel approach to U.S. locomotive development, looking to technologies of the past to inspire solutions for today's sustainability challenges," said SRI President Davidson Ward, a 2010 graduate of the School of Architecture in the College of Design at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. "I'm confident that the leading energy researchers we're working with at the University of Minnesota, along with our team of engineers, will be able to bring this technology to the forefront of America's energy and transportation conversations."

In November 2011, SRI acquired a large test bed steam locomotive through a transfer of ownership from the Great Overland Station Museum in Topeka, Kan. This locomotive, built in 1937 for the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, will be reconfigured by SRI's locomotive modernization experts, then tested as part of CSR Project 130.

The success of CSR Project 130 has implications that extend beyond the railroad industry, proving the viability of biocoal for use in the developing world. Locomotive engineering on combustion and boiler technologies allows CSR to design power boilers and electric generators on scales from 5 to 5,000 kilowatts. This technology is adaptable for homes in villages of the developing world as well as for use in the U.S. Every dollar spent on engineering support of CSR Project 130 can generate up to three times the benefit in outgrowth technologies to solve energy problems in the United States and around the world.

"When I think of the University of Minnesota's motto, 'Driven to Discover,' it is precisely the kind of research-based innovation present in CSR Project 130 that sets our school apart," said Don Fosnacht, Ph.D., Center Director at the Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota, Duluth. "The idea of integrating cutting-edge materials science and engineering into a technology base that has not been touched since the 1960s is quite unique, and entering into an industry with as much potential for growth as the U.S. railroad market just adds to CSR Project 130's impact."

In May, SRI completed a cosmetic restoration and stabilization of Locomotive 3463 in Topeka. Plans are to move the locomotive to Minneapolis within the next 12 months. Once moved, CSR will complete the detailed engineering needed to modernize and reconfigure the locomotive.

For more information on the Coalition for Sustainable Rail and CSR Project 130 visit www.csrail.org.

About Sustainable Rail International

Sustainable Rail International (SRI), an IRS approved 501(c)(3) and Minnesota nonprofit corporation, is a scientific and educational organization whose mission is to advance biofuel research and production; to research and develop sustainable railroad locomotives; to promulgate associated sustainable technologies; and to support and conduct nonpartisan educational and informational activities to increase awareness of sustainable railroad locomotives. Founded by Rob Mangels, Shaun McMahon, John Rhodes and Davidson Ward, SRI maintains internationally renowned steam locomotive mechanical engineers and U.S. industry professionals among its diverse members.

About Institute on the Environment:

The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment discovers solutions to Earth's most pressing environmental problems by conducting transformative research, developing the next generation of global leaders and building world-changing partnerships. Learn more online at www.environment.umn.edu.

New Scholarship Supports Students Studying Prevention of Domestic Violence At University of Minnesota

Over \$58,000 in Grants from Verizon to Qualified Students Interested in Studies to Help End Domestic Violence

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/25/2012) —Graduate and undergraduate students at the University of Minnesota School of Social Work who demonstrate a commitment to increase their education to serve the community by working to end domestic violence can apply for the Verizon Scholarships for Safe Lives.

In total, \$58,600 will be available in the Verizon scholarship program through grants from the company's philanthropic arm, the Verizon Foundation (\$33,600), and the company's exclusive HopeLine® phone recycling and reuse program (\$25,000). Scholarships will be awarded once yearly in the fall semester, starting in 2012, and recipients will take specific coursework related to domestic violence prevention and intervention and will use the information gained through this coursework in internships.

“Verizon’s support for our next generation of leaders working to end violence in families is critical at a time of increasing costs for students and decreasing public budgets for social services,” said Jeffrey Edleson, professor and research director in the University of Minnesota School of Social Work and a leading researcher on domestic violence. “These scholarships show how public-private partnerships can contribute to the common good.”

Jennifer Witt, who teaches in the Family Violence Prevention undergraduate minor, said, “The scholarships help provide learning opportunities for students and support a more highly trained and knowledgeable community of leaders working to end domestic violence.”

“Verizon is a company focused not only on our business, but also our community,” said Seamus Hyland, president-Great Plains Region, Verizon Wireless. “We are proud to support students who are planning to work on the awareness, prevention and direct services to end domestic violence.”

This coming academic year, \$8,400 will be awarded to two graduate students with scholarships at \$3,000 each and two to Family Violence Prevention minor students with scholarships at \$1,200 each.

Undergraduate scholarship recipients will complete three courses in the minor and will complete 100 hours of service learning in a domestic violence agency. Graduate scholarship recipients will obtain master’s degrees. They will take a minimum of one graduate-level course related to domestic violence and complete one graduate field placement (480 hours) in an agency that focuses on domestic violence intervention or prevention.

For more information about the Verizon Foundation, visit www.verizonfoundation.org.

For more information about HopeLine® from Verizon that turns no-longer-used cell phones into support for domestic violence victims and survivors or to donate no-longer-used devices, visit www.verizonwireless.com/hopeline.

Dr. Leon Assael named dean of University of Minnesota's School of Dentistry

Appointment Subject to Board of Regents Approval

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/29/2012) —Leon A. Assael, D.M.D., C.M.M., has been named dean of the University's School of Dentistry by Provost Karen Hanson. His appointment as the next dean of the School of Dentistry is pending approval by the university's Board of Regents, which is expected to act at its June 8 meeting. Assael succeeds Interim Dean Judith Buchanan, Ph.D., D.M.D., and he is scheduled to start in his new role on Aug. 1.

"Dr. Assael has a wide and deep range of experience, an outstanding reputation, and a compelling vision for the future of dentistry and the U of M School of Dentistry," Hanson said. "Dentistry and the Academic Health Center faculty and staff, as well as the wider professional community, responded enthusiastically to his candidacy because he is someone who combines broad vision with administrative skill, and he has a proven track record of leadership in the field."

The announcement concludes an extensive national search, which yielded four finalists. Assael has an accomplished reputation in research, surgery and teaching, as well as previous experience as a dean. His demonstrated enthusiasm for strengthening partnerships and collaboration within an Academic Health Center, coupled with a strong commitment to diversity, aligns his appointment with university President Eric Kaler's other recent appointments, and with the School of Dentistry's mission.

"Dr. Assael brings senior leadership experience to the School of Dentistry and the university," said Dr. Aaron Friedman, vice president for Health Sciences and dean of the U of M Medical School. "I look forward to working with him and the School of Dentistry in furthering the school's missions. His goals for the school fit well with the overall goals of the Academic Health Center, promoting interprofessional education, collaborative research and excellent patient care."

Assael is a graduate of Columbia University and earned his Doctor of Dental Medicine from Harvard University, School of Dental Medicine, as well as a Certificate in Medical Management from the University of Kentucky, Gatton School of Business. He completed his residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Vanderbilt University. Assael served as dean to the College of Dentistry, University of Kentucky until 2003, when he was appointed professor and chairman of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the School of Dentistry at Oregon Health & Science University.

He is the past editor-in-chief of the Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, the past chairman of the Council on Dental Education and Licensure of the American Dental Association, and a diplomate to the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. In 2001, President George W. Bush awarded Assael the America's Promise Award for advancements in oral health in Appalachia achieved by the University of Kentucky faculty. In 2010, the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons awarded Assael the Board of Trustees special recognition award. Included among the professional societies on which he serves are the American Dental Association and the Hispanic Dental Association. Assael's primary clinical interest is in the area of facial injuries, facial pain and maxillofacial nerve injuries, and he is a nationally known lecturer on a variety of issues.

"The University of Minnesota has one of the highest profile dental programs in the country, attracting the best and brightest students, so I am honored to be appointed to this role," said Assael. "Being a part of a comprehensive Academic Health Center offers a unique opportunity for collaboration with other health disciplines. Plans for the new Ambulatory Care Center will allow for innovation around patient care and interprofessional education. I look forward to working with students, alumni, potential donors, faculty and staff, and to continuing the tradition of excellence established by the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry."

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry is the state's only dental school and the only dental school in the northern tier of states between Wisconsin and the Pacific Northwest. Founded in 1888, the school graduates dentists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, dental specialists and research scientists who improve oral health through scientific advances and by translating knowledge and experience into clinical practice.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's six health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes. Founded in 1851, the university is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy.

Results are in! Top 10 Plants that Changed Minnesota

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/29/2012) —Which plants changed Minnesota and transformed how we live today?

That was the big question behind a public education campaign led by the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. U of M Horticulture professor Mary Meyer spearheaded the initiative, partnering with the Arboretum, the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) and U of M Extension.

After considering more than 100 different plants nominated by the public from early February through April 15, a panel of experts* met to determine the final top ten. Plants were judged by their impact – both positive and negative – in six areas: environmental; economic or industrial; cultural/spiritual; historical; sustenance; and landscape.

Without further ado, the top 10 plants that changed Minnesota are alfalfa, American elm, apple, corn, purple loosestrife, soybeans, turfgrass/lawn, wheat, white pine and wild rice.

The judges and the public were in agreement on seven of the plants: apple, alfalfa, corn, soybeans, wheat, white pine and wild rice. But the committee concluded that American elm, turfgrass, and purple loosestrife also have played a major role in the landscape of the state. Plants that didn't make the list but that received a lot of discussion were buckthorn, Eurasian milfoil, hosta, grapes, potatoes and sugar beets.

The top 10 list kicks off a yearlong educational campaign that will take place throughout the state, including curricular materials in K-12 schools, a freshman seminar at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in conjunction with CFANS, games at the State Fair, and online information for teachers, Extension Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, 4H groups and all Minnesotans.

Here are details on the Top 10 Plants that Changed Minnesota:

Alfalfa: Only with winter-hardy alfalfa could dairies be profitable in Minnesota. Wendelin Grimm, a German immigrant, selected winter survivors from his alfalfa fields and developed Grimm alfalfa in the 1860s. Today, Minnesota ranks sixth in the nation in milk cows, milk production, and total cheese and honey production. Alfalfa is a favorite of honeybees, and like all other legumes, it adds nitrogen to the soil.

American elm: Though ravaged by Dutch elm disease, this beautiful shade tree, native throughout the state, still graces many streets and landscapes today. Tolerant of city conditions and the robust Minnesota climate of hot summers and cold winters, the American elm is a survivor. Genetics and breeding have given new hope for Dutch elm disease-resistant selections for urban and suburban sites. Elms support more than 200 species of butterflies and moths.

Apples: Challenged in 1860 by Horace Greeley's statement that "I would not live in Minnesota because you can't grow apples there!" Peter Gideon introduced the Wealthy apple in 1868. It was followed in 1922 by the Haralson, and subsequently 26 U of M introductions, including the Honeycrisp in 1991, the Zestar!® in 1996, and SweeTango® in 2009. Honeycrisp was recognized as one of the top 25 innovations of the decade in 2005 by TIME magazine. Millions of Honeycrisp trees have been planted worldwide, and in 2006, Honeycrisp became Minnesota's state fruit.

Corn: Valued at \$7 billion annually, corn covers 7.3 million acres in Minnesota, making the state fourth in U.S. production. Yields have changed from 39 bushels/acre in 1959 to 146 bushels/acre in 2007, due to cold-hardy varieties produced especially for Minnesota. U of M introductions account for nearly 200 hybrids. In 1992 TIME magazine designated hybrid seed corn as one of the most significant events that shaped our world during the past 1,000 years. Corn has more than 3,500 uses in commercial and industrial products and manufacturing processes.

Purple loosestrife: Originally planted as an ornamental garden plant, purple loosestrife is the poster child for invasive plants. It has taught us how significantly a plant can transform the valued wetlands and waterways in Minnesota. Careful management with biological and chemical controls, along with education and cooperative measures learned from purple loosestrife, should help us deal with other invasive plants in the future.

Soybeans: Valued at \$3 billion annually, soybeans cover 7.3 million acres in Minnesota. Originally grown as forage, the seed and oil crop was developed by researchers at the U of M. Soybeans are an excellent source of protein: Each seed is 40 percent protein, compared with 25 percent for other legumes, and 12 percent for other cereal grains. Soybeans' uses range from livestock food for poultry and Minnesota's 49 million turkeys, to baby formula, adhesives, oil products and more. Minnesota is third in U.S. soybean production.

Turf and lawn grass: From a sea of prairie grass to a sea of green carpet, turf and lawn grasses – predominately Kentucky bluegrass – have transformed Minnesota's landscape. Valued for recreation, erosion control, and preventing pollutant runoff from entering Minnesota's waterways, grass cools and covers countless acres in Minnesota. Only through best management practices can turf benefits offset the inputs that can harm the environment. Turfgrass contributes \$8 billion to the state's economy in retail and wholesale sales of sod, seed, and related equipment for homeowners, as well as recreational sports uses.

Wheat: Wheat was the first large monocultural grain crop in Minnesota. As early as 1879, 72,000 bushels of Minnesota wheat were exported to Spain. Wheat built Minneapolis, Minnesota's industrial "Mill City," which today does more than \$200 billion of food and agricultural related business annually. Minnesota ranks third in U.S. spring wheat production, and 10th in overall wheat production.

White pine: White pine forests once covered more than 3.5 million acres in Minnesota, but today cover less than 100,000. Prized for its strong, straight trunks, white pine built the cities of the Midwest and provided lumber for the ships of England as early as the 1600s. Today more than one million white pine seedlings are planted annually in Minnesota. On average, more than 30 white pine trees are planted for every tree harvested.

Wild rice: A staple food of the Ojibwe for centuries, the location of wild rice determined early human settlement in Minnesota. Minnesota today produces more than half of the world's hand-harvested wild rice and is second in the nation in the production of cultivated wild rice. Native to lakes and wet areas, wild rice was named Minnesota's state grain in 1977 for its cultural and economic significance.

"We hope to start conversations about plants, and their role in the historic and economic factors that changed the course of our state," said Meyer. Look for "Top 10 Plants" online games, stories, State Fair presence and classroom activities.

* Special thanks to the 10 Plants judging committee, who waded through the nearly 500 entries: Emily Hoover and Gary Gardner of Horticultural Science Dept.; Alan Ek, Forest Resources head Al Withers, director of Minnesota Ag in the Classroom; Bev Durgan, dean of U Extension; Bob Quist, Oliver Kelly Farm Manager/ MN Historical Society; Brian Buhr, Ag Economics; Karen Kaler of the U President's Office; Mary Maguire Lerman, president of Minnesota Horticultural Society; Nancy Jo Ehlike, Agronomy and PI Breeding head; Susan Bachman West of Bachman's Inc.; and Mary Meyer, horticulture professor and Extension horticulturalist.

U of M launches statewide program designed to close achievement gap, prepare students for post-secondary education

President Kaler to recognize participating schools at June 4 event

Media Note: Ramp-Up program director Kent Pekel, program coordinator Jim Beirma and Austin-based Ellis Middle School principal Kathleen Bergland, a Ramp-Up participant, will meet with reporters at 2 p.m. on June 4 at the St. Paul Student Center's Northstar Ballroom. For details, call Nina Shepherd at 612-625-5716.

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[Julie Christensen](mailto:jrchris@umn.edu), University News Service, jrchris@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/30/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will launch an innovative new college readiness program for Minnesota middle and high school students at 2:30 p.m. Monday, June 4 at the St. Paul Student Center's Northstar Ballroom on the university's St. Paul campus.

The statewide program—called Ramp-Up to Readiness™—is one of several new university partnerships aimed at closing the achievement gaps that exist among student groups in Minnesota's elementary and secondary schools and increasing the number of students who graduate from high school with the knowledge, skills and habits for success in higher education.

The event will feature high school principals and guidance counselors representing 36 participating Ramp-Up schools from throughout Minnesota. The schools—district, charter and alternative schools located in rural, urban and suburban areas—represent a cross-section of Minnesota's K-12 schools and are among the first to adopt the program to be implemented this fall.

“Ramp-Up to Readiness is the next step in the University of Minnesota's long-term commitment to help our state's schools close the achievement gap and ensure that all of our children have the educational skills and habits that go hand-in-hand with a higher quality of life,” said Kaler.

“With the Ramp-Up network of schools, we're also bridging the historic gap between the K-12 and higher education systems by bringing university resources to middle school and high school counseling services.”

Developed at the University of Minnesota, the research-based Ramp-Up program features an engaging curriculum, a series of supports for students and a technology platform that personalizes the process of preparing for and gaining admission to a postsecondary institution—whether a four-year college or university, or a technical or community college. The curriculum can be organized to meet the needs of each school's students and reflect the realities of varying schedules and calendars.

According to a growing body of research, by 2018 more than 70 percent of jobs in Minnesota will require some form of education past high school. Currently, only 40 percent of Minnesota adults have a two-year associate's degree or higher.

“We have found that programs like Ramp-Up are often a critical missing piece of many school reform strategies,” said Kent Pekel, director of the university's College Readiness Consortium and developer of the Ramp-Up program. “It's important to raise standards and offer more challenging courses, but we also need to help students develop the motivation and the habits of persistence to take advantage of those increased opportunities.”

For more details about the program, visit www.rampuptoreadiness.org. For more information on the University of Minnesota's College Readiness Consortium, visit www.collegeready.umn.edu.

Winged wonders are the stars of Bell Museum summer exhibit, *Flutter: Butterflies and Moths in Art and Science*



Exhibit Information:

What: *Flutter:*

Butterflies and Moths in Science and Art

When: Opens June 2, 2012

Cost: Free with Bell Museum admission

Flutter opens June 2 at the Bell Museum

Contacts: Andrea Klaassen, Bell Museum, aklaasse@umn.edu, (612) 624-7389
 Matt Hodson, University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/31/2012) —Summer is the season for winged creatures of all kinds, and some of the most mysterious and majestic are the subject of one of the Bell Museum of Natural History's 2012 summer exhibits, *Flutter: Butterflies and Moths in Art and Science*.

Flutter pairs University of Minnesota research on Lepidoptera - butterflies and moths - with works of art, photographs and pop culture items that celebrate the species. With 164 species of Lepidoptera in Minnesota, there is much to celebrate – and learn.

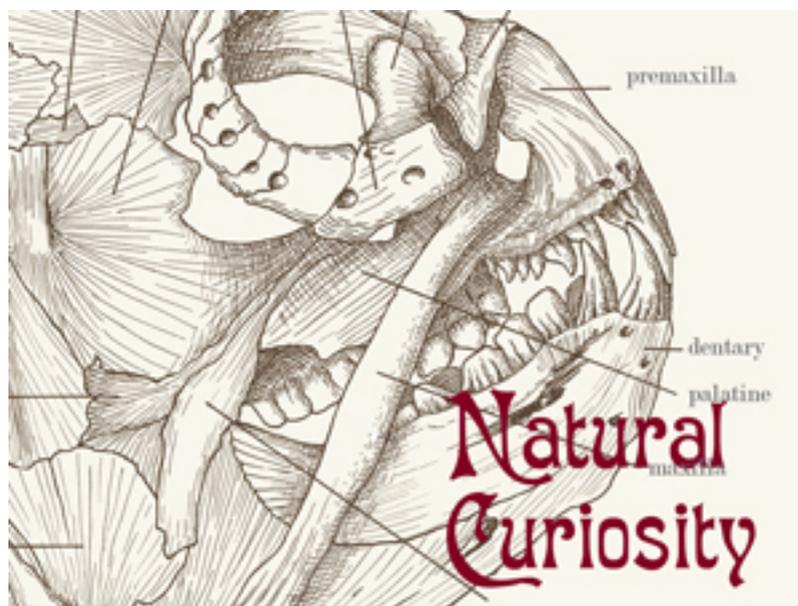
Visitors will be presented general information on the butterfly and moth population both within the state and beyond; through specimen displays and gripping photography, they will discover the mystery of metamorphosis, coloration, social signals and behavior. Outdoor enthusiasts will learn how to create butterfly and moth havens with easy gardening tips and techniques. They can even get up-close inspiration in the Bell Museum's courtyard butterfly garden.

Artists have felt the lure of Lepidoptera for centuries and *Flutter* includes displays that celebrate visionaries including Maria Sibylla Merian, a pioneer in scientific illustration, and Kjell Sandved, famous for his "Butterfly Alphabet." Additional works from artists of varying styles will also be on display.

Much of the research behind *Flutter* comes from the work of the Bell Museum's own director, university professor of entomology Susan Weller. As the Bell's curator of Lepidoptera, Weller's knowledge is a key component of *Flutter* – marrying the aesthetic appeal of butterflies and moths with the equally intriguing science of the species. Weller's work is complemented by fellow researcher Karen Oberhauser, associate professor in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology. Oberhauser's work with monarchs has been used in schools around the state through her program, "Monarchs in the Classroom."

The Bell Museum is part of the University's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and strives to advance the quest to discover, document and understand life in its many forms and to inspire curiosity, delight and informed stewardship of the natural world. For details, visit bellmuseum.org.

New Bell Museum exhibition 'Natural Curiosity' offers glimpse into the obscure and intriguing from its 4 Million+ specimen collection



Natural Curiosity opens June 2 at the Bell Museum

Exhibit Information:

What: Natural Curiosity

When: Open June 2 – September 2, 2012

Cost: Free with Bell Museum admission

Contacts: Andrea Klaassen, Bell Museum, aklaasse@umn.edu, (612) 624-7389

Matt Hodson, University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/31/2012) —In a collection of more than 4 million scientific specimens, teaching tools and artwork that span the globe, odds are good that a few will spark interesting questions and wonderment. That's the goal behind the Bell Museum's latest exhibit, *Natural Curiosity*, opening June 2, 2012. Bell Museum curators have selected from the collection, the strange and the spectacular to share with the public—some for the first time!

"Science can tell us some pretty amazing hidden stories of common creatures and give us answers to the uncommon," says exhibit curator Jennifer Menken. "We want to tell these stories in ways that engage our visitors. The items we feature are quirky – from a giant cow hairball to an endangered mussel – and what's fun is providing the accompanying knowledge."

Natural Curiosity takes visitors through four exhibit areas:

- "A Story to Tell" focuses on the fascinating stories of select specimens, some commonly found in nature.
- "What is it?" challenges visitors to deduce, through the help of clues, what exactly is the uncommon thing they are viewing.
- "The Side Show" highlights the oddities and giants of the natural world. Specimens include a mummified pigeon and a 400-lb clam.
- "Old School" presents an ode to teaching days gone by. Vintage teaching models including dioramas and articulated skeletons show us how science students and researchers of the past learned about our natural world.

In an age of endless information at our fingertips, *Natural Curiosity* trains visitors to use inquiry skill while exploring the exhibit and encourages continued exploration beyond a trip to the Bell.

In addition to *Natural Curiosity*, visitors can explore the Bell Museum's Jaques Gallery exhibit, *Flutter: Butterflies and Moths in Art and Science*, running alongside through summer 2012.

The Bell Museum is part of the University's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and strives to advance the quest to discover, document and understand life in its many forms and to inspire curiosity, delight and informed stewardship of the natural world. For details, visit bellmuseum.org.

Special committee on executive compensation to make recommendations to full Board of Regents

Board to act on President Eric Kaler's proposed FY 13 budget

What: University of Minnesota Board of Regents meeting

When: Thursday, June 7 and Friday, June 8

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

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](#), University News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, (612) 625-8510

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/01/2012) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents Special Committee on Executive Compensation and Administrative Transitional Leaves will report its findings and recommendations to the full Board at its meeting Friday, June 8.

Regent Richard Beeson, committee chair, and committee members Regent John Frobenius and Regent Dean Johnson have met three times since April examining practices and policies related to compensation of senior leaders at the university.

On Friday they are expected to recommend:

- Clarifying and strengthening in Board of Regents policy the Board's role in setting, approving and monitoring senior leader compensation and separations. Addressing for the first time the Board's role in approving the terms of presidential transitions.
- Creating a new administrative policy on senior leader compensation and separation that: increases transparency; establishes a new, standard employment contract for senior leaders, and aligns separation provisions to those provided to regular faculty and staff and eliminates 'administrative transitional leaves.' The proposal is that senior leaders who are tenured faculty members and who return to the faculty after their administrative service may be granted a shorter, six-month sabbatical with pay at the lower faculty rate rather than their administrative salary.
- Charging an existing Board of Regents committee with additional responsibilities related to senior leader compensation philosophy, strategy and oversight.

"With these changes, the public can be confident that this Board has robust oversight of executive compensation and that future separation agreements will be prudent," Beeson said. "These new policies and practices will put the University of Minnesota at the forefront nationally with regard to formal policy and governance oversight of senior leadership compensation."

Also on the Board of Regents docket is a work session in which Vice President of Human Resources Kathy Brown and Lincoln Kallsen, director of financial analysis for the Office of Budget and Finance, will outline analysis being done to better define the university-wide workforce and administrative costs. This session will be held from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. Thursday, June 7.

The goal of the workforce analysis will be to view university workforce changes historically and moving forward through a replicable method of measurement. The objectives for the study are to define the university's workforce in terms of job duties, identify job categories needing further exploration and potential expansion and construct metrics for defining and understanding operational overhead.

Other Board of Regents agenda items include:

- The Board of Regents will act on President Eric Kaler's proposed FY 13 budget which advances the goals he outlined in his [State of the University speech](#) March 1: to keep the U affordable for students; invest in the U's excellent faculty, research infrastructure, technology, student aid and scholarships; use state resources responsibly and hold down costs. For more details on the proposed budget, go to this [press release](#).
- The board will act on the FY13 Annual Capital Improvement Budget, which would authorize projects totaling \$375.7 million to begin design or construction during the next fiscal year.
- Senior Vice President and Provost Karen Hanson will deliver a presentation on E-learning and E-Texts to the Educational Planning & Policy Committee.
- Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Richard Pfitzenreuter will review a long-range financial planning model that utilizes current levels of university revenues and expenditures to model future financial projections. It is an exercise to inform the Board and the public about the financial challenges the university faces while also providing a baseline for future planning. This presentation is before the Finance & Operations Committee.
- Pfitzenreuter will present a mission cost analysis unique to the University of Minnesota. It looks at the cost of instruction, research, public service, auxiliary and student services. This presentation is also before the Finance & Operations Committee.
- Establish meeting dates for 2012-13.

U of M to host public viewings for Transit of Venus

Minnesota Institute of Astrophysics and Bell Museum to welcome public for this last-of-our-lifetime orbital phenomenon

Media Note: For interviews with **Terry Jones, U of M professor of astronomy**, please contact Rhonda Zurn at (612) 626-7959 or rzurn@umn.edu. For interviews with **Sarah Komperud, Bell Museum interim planetarium educator**, at the Eisenhower Observatory contact Martin Moen at (612) 747-0295.

What: Transit of Venus public viewings

When: Tuesday, June 5 (Informational talk from 4-5 p.m. at Tate Laboratory; observation from 5-9 p.m. at Tate Laboratory and 5-10 p.m. at Eisenhower Observatory)

Where: Tate Laboratory of Physics, 116 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis and Eisenhower Observatory, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins

Contacts: [Matt Hodson](mailto:mjhodson@umn.edu), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552
Rhonda Zurn, College of Science and Engineering, rzurn@umn.edu, (612) 626-7959
Martin Moen, Bell Museum, mmoen@umn.edu, (612) 747-0295

June 4, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/04/2012) – When Venus passes exactly between the Earth and sun starting at 5:04 p.m. Tuesday, June 5, it will embark on a transit not to be seen again for 105 years – until December 2117.

The University of Minnesota is marking this rare astronomical event by hosting a pair of public viewings.

The Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics in the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering will welcome guests to the Tate Laboratory of Physics, 116 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. Terry Jones, a professor in the university's School of Physics and Astronomy, will give an informational talk from 4 to 5 p.m. in Room 166. From 5 to 9 p.m., the Institute will offer safe telescope viewing of the sun from the Tate Laboratory rooftop.

For more information on the Tate Laboratory event, visit the [Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics](#).

Those who cannot make it to campus are still in luck, as the Bell Museum of Natural History is teaming with Hopkins Public Schools for an event at the Eisenhower Observatory, located in Room 347 of the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins. From 5 to 10 p.m., visitors will be treated to telescope observing, journeys through the Bell Museum's ExploraDome and other hands-on activities.

For more information on the Eisenhower Observatory viewing, visit the Bell Museum's [calendar of events](#).

In Minnesota, the transit will be visible as a small dot crossing the sun as it is setting. Both events will occur regardless of weather, as the locations will offer a live video stream from Hawaii.

The University of Minnesota would like to issue an important reminder that one should never look at the sun without proper protection.

The Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics replaces the University of Minnesota's former Department of Astronomy and is part of the university's College of Science and Engineering. The new institute brings together 24 faculty members of the School of Physics and Astronomy conducting research in astronomy, astrophysics, cosmology, planetary science, and space science under a unified association of scientists. For details, visit astro.umn.edu.

The Bell Museum is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and strives to discover, document and understand nature and promote informed stewardship of our world. For details, visit bellmuseum.org.

Robina Foundation Supports University of Minnesota Law School Public Interest Scholars Program With \$3.5 Million Gift

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/04/2012) —The University of Minnesota Law School has received a \$3.5 million gift from the Robina Foundation to support a new Public Interest Scholars Program. The program is intended to create a seamless path from admission to full-time employment for students interested in public service careers.

This innovative new program will fund scholarships to attract top students committed to public interest work, summer internships to engage those students in public interest projects during law school, year-long post-graduate fellowships to help them launch their careers, and loan repayment assistance to make those careers affordable. The program builds on the University of Minnesota Law School's long history of public service.

While many law schools offer some of the elements of the new Robina Public Interest Scholars Program, few if any combine them in an integrated program of this kind. In addition to providing transformative opportunities for interested students, the program will help badly stretched legal services providers better serve their clients and communities.

The Robina Foundation's generous gift represents a major contribution to the Law School's GENERATIONS fundraising campaign, and augments prior Robina support for faculty positions and research, student scholarships, and the Law School's Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice.

The Robina Foundation was created by James H. Binger ('41) shortly before his death in 2004 to fund forward-thinking projects, to encourage exploration of new ideas and transformative approaches to critical social issues, at major institutions. The Law School, Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, The Council on Foreign Relations, and Yale University were selected to receive major funding.

Ann Cieslak, University of Minnesota Board of Regents Executive Director, to retire

Served seven Board of Regents chairs, three U of M presidents; staffed two presidential searches

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](mailto:tombarge@umn.edu), University News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, (612) 625-8510

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/05/2012) —University of Minnesota Board of Regents Executive Director and Corporate Secretary Ann Cieslak will retire June 17 due to medical reasons.

“As someone who has served on numerous boards in my lifetime and who has been privileged to be a University of Minnesota Regent for the past five years, I can say with the utmost certainty and sincerity that I have never encountered a more diligent, committed, intelligent and warm staff colleague than Ann Cieslak,” said Board Chair Linda Cohen, who announced Cieslak’s decision today to University leadership. “She will be deeply missed, but I am thankful that she will remain a good friend to me and many other current and former Regents.”

Cieslak held the position for nearly 13 years, serving with seven Board of Regents chairs and three University presidents (Mark Yudof, Robert Bruininks and Eric Kaler). In addition, she oriented new Regents to the University’s governance function and staffed two presidential searches, including the one that resulted in bringing current President Kaler to the University.

“Ann’s wisdom, professionalism, commitment to this University and dedication to the Board was evident at every step of the search process,” said Kaler. “I cannot thank her enough for her counsel, advice and guidance to ensure my transition to president was smooth.”

During her tenure, Cieslak helped the Board and administration navigate immense change at the state’s only public land grant research university. “I have been honored to be a part of strengthening this great university, facilitating governance whether by advancing major capital projects, such as the new stadium or completing Folwell Hall renovations, or strategically managing deep state budget reductions to protect academic quality,” Cieslak said.

Cieslak describes the Board of Regents as the most distinguished public board in the state of Minnesota. “Being a Regent is the ultimate volunteer appointment and the opportunity to serve as Board Secretary is a distinct honor,” she said.

In addition to her leadership role at the University of Minnesota, Cieslak served on the Board Professional Leadership Group (BPLG) of the Association of Governing Boards, a national organization that represents university regents and trustees. She chaired BPLG in 2009-2010. She also frequently presented at the association’s national workshops and co-authored *The Role of the Board Professional*, which has become the standard text and guide for those who work for higher education boards.

Cieslak will be recognized at the September Board of Regents meeting. A Board announcement outlining plans to fill the Executive Director and Corporate Secretary position will be forthcoming.

University of Minnesota Board of Regents, leadership take detailed look at costs and workforce that deliver mission of instruction, research and outreach

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](#), University News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, (612) 625-8510

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/08/2012) —New analyses provide the deepest look to date into the costs and composition of the workforce involved in delivering the university's mission of instruction, research and public service.

Three studies, presented to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents by the Offices of Budget and Finance and Human Resources, give university leaders critical information for making future budget and workforce decisions. They also provide a baseline against which to judge the university's ongoing work to become more efficient and effective with its limited state, tuition and other resources.

"If we don't measure things, we won't know how we can improve them," said U of M President Eric Kaler. "As we continue to focus on operational excellence at the university, these analyses establish a structure for our work. They also provide transparency and accountability about what we do."

In addition, the studies answer long-standing questions from the board and are the first step in Kaler's drive toward operational excellence — a long-term commitment to reduce administrative costs to continue to invest in the core academic mission. Each study is U of M specific — the information cannot be used to compare the university to others across the country, because each institution's methodology is different and few, if any, institutions have done such extensive analysis. The studies reported on the following areas:

The cost of delivering the university's mission

The study quantifies the direct costs (i.e., instruction, research and public outreach/service costs) and indirect or support costs (i.e., student services, academic support, institutional support and facilities) related to educating university students in fiscal year 2010 — the most recent year for which complete information is available. The university's general ledger categories provided the basis for the analysis.

The full cost to educate a full-time undergraduate Twin Cities student in FY 2010 ranged from about \$9,600 per year to just more than \$16,000 per year, according to the analysis. Differences in instructional costs across colleges and campuses occur for multiple reasons, including market-driven faculty salaries, class sizes, varying levels of student services and complexity of classrooms, lab space and equipment/technology.

Other notable findings include:

- \$304.6 million spent on public service; about 66 percent in direct costs such as Extension, grants with a specific public benefit intent, etc.
- About \$1.12 billion spent on instruction for the university's nearly 70,000 students; about 60 percent in direct costs, such as salary and benefits for faculty/teaching assistants, and supplies and materials
- \$870.8 million spent on research; about 67 percent in direct costs
- \$299.1 million spent on student aid
- \$251.8 million spent on auxiliary services (e.g., intercollegiate athletics, book stores, housing, dining services, parking)

Findings also quantify revenues that support the functions. Tuition is used only to support instruction (92 percent) and student aid (8 percent). Other revenues include state appropriations, foundation support, research grants and income from sales, royalties, affiliated hospitals, endowment earnings and auxiliary services.

The people who deliver the university's mission

The Human Resources study categorized the university system's 25,000-plus employees according to what they do, counted the number of people working in various capacities and determined the associated workforce cost.

The university's workforce has been held to a 3 percent growth rate during the past 11 years, the study reported. However, 11.3 percent more students were served per employee in FY 2012 compared with FY 2002. Also, the number of degrees awarded per employee has increased 28.2 percent since 2003 and the amount of sponsored dollars per employee increased 41.6 percent. In addition:

- Two-thirds of the university's total salary and benefits spending supports employees who directly contribute to the U's academic, research and public outreach mission. These functions are unique to higher education and include teaching faculty; fellows, trainees and students in academic jobs; and other mission support such as student services.
- One-third of salary and benefits is spent on employees who provide functions typical of any large organization, including facilities jobs (4 percent), organizational support (24 percent) and leadership (6 percent).

Building a calculator for future financial planning

The university's long-range financial planning model is updated regularly. Using FY 2013 budget and other assumptions, the six-year forecast estimates the U's financial position by 2018 if it were to generally stay on its current course. It shows university leadership the impacts of:

- State disinvestment in higher education
- Limiting tuition rate increases
- Changing demographics and enrollment
- National and international competition for talent
- General cost increase trends

"The long-range financial planning model also sets the table for a full discussion between now and fall, when the university will determine its funding request to the 2013 legislature," said Richard Pfutzenreuter, vice president and chief financial officer.

The university will update the reports periodically to judge its progress and help determine future financial and workforce needs.

Nobel laureate agrees to advise

During his board report, Kaler announced that Dr. Peter Agre of Johns Hopkins University has agreed to serve as a senior adviser to Kaler. In addition to winning the Nobel Prize, Agre is former president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In the uncompensated role, Agre will help identify strengths and weaknesses in the U's biomedical research portfolio and how to strengthen it; provide input into the external review of the Academic Health Center, which will occur in August; and help identify new partnerships between university faculty and nationally and internationally recognized experts at other institutions. The one-year appointment begins July 1 and will be reviewed annually and renewed if Agre and the university agree.

The Board of Regents also:

- Considered the findings of the board's [Special Committee on Executive Compensation and Administrative Transitional Leaves](#), including a recommendation to eliminate administrative transitional leaves. Current policy allows for an average one-year sabbatical at pay up to the administrator's salary rate. Under the proposed change, senior leaders who return to tenured faculty positions would be granted six-month sabbaticals with pay at the returning faculty rate. Action on this item will occur at an upcoming meeting.
- Approved Kaler's [FY 2013 budget](#), which is committed to affordability for students and families (with a 3.5 percent resident undergraduate tuition increase, offset by increases in financial aid); and invests in the U's faculty, research infrastructure, technology and student aid; uses state resources responsibly; and holds down administrative costs. One modification was incorporated into the final approved budget: a reduction to the previously recommended Carlson School of Management tuition increase for entering MBA daytime students from 10.4 percent to 4.8 percent.
- Approved the FY 2013 Annual Capital Improvement Budget totaling \$379.8 million, which includes reconstruction of Siebert Field, home of Gopher baseball. All capital improvement projects are estimated to add 8,000 jobs to the marketplace.
- Heard Kaler's announcement about reinstating 100 percent of the Regents Scholarship for U employees seeking their first college degree, and maintaining 75 percent scholarships for employees seeking secondary or advanced degrees.
- Revised the Student Conduct Code to broaden the definition of learning environment to reflect outside-the-classroom instruction and better define bullying, sexual assault and providing alcohol to minors as disciplinary offenses.

The Board of Regents will meet next on Wednesday, July 11.

University of Minnesota Bike Center Wins Award of Excellence from International Parking Institute

Contacts: Jacqueline Brudlos, University of Minnesota, Parking and Transportation Services, jbrudlos@umn.edu, (612) 624-4161

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/12/2012) —The University of Minnesota was recognized today with an Award of Excellence from the International Parking Institute (IPI). The Award of Excellence is the highest recognition offered in this annual competition with seven categories.

“It’s an honor to be recognized for the innovative and forward-thinking projects born at the U,” remarked Parking and Transportation Services Executive Director Bob Baker. “This global recognition means a great deal to a dedicated group of my staff who strongly believed in the power of alternative transportation and are dedicated to changing commuting patterns in the Twin Cities.”

The University Bike Center is located in a former bus-waiting area of the University’s Oak Street Parking Ramp on the East Bank campus. It gathers in one place those things that make bike commuting practical: professional and do-it-yourself repair stations; retail accessory store; card-accessed 24-hour bike parking; restrooms/showers, clothing lockers; electronic trip-planning kiosk to facilitate transit/cycling connections; gathering space for outreach/classes; and an RFID (radio-frequency identification) commuter validation benefits center.

As a first-in-the-nation program of this magnitude, the university’s RFID program has the opportunity to break new ground in the promotion and encouragement of bicycle commuting. The program consists of small tags affixed to registered users’ bicycles. RFID receivers installed at strategic locations around campus read and wirelessly transmit the tag information to a server accessible to users and the institution. This system solves the longstanding problem of bicycle commute trip validation and enables employers to offer incentives to bicyclists.

One of the major barriers to increased bicycle commuting is the disparity between the world of automobile infrastructure and that of the bicycle. “An unsurprising result is that people don’t see themselves as bicycle commuters, despite the well-understood health and environmental benefits,” explains Baker.

The University of Minnesota—with 51,000 students, 16,000 staff/faculty, and 15,000 daily visitors—has the potential to change this. “This program can serve as a blueprint for campuses around the nation,” said Baker.

The International Parking Institute (IPI) is a trade organization that was founded in 1962 to represent the marketing, economic and political concerns of its members, made up of parking professionals worldwide. IPI provides leadership, information and education to a diverse membership from major municipal authorities, airports, hospitals and universities to industry suppliers and consultants and commercial operators.

To acknowledge the contributions of individuals to the industry, IPI conducts an annual Professional Recognition Program. This year’s Awards of Excellence presentation took place on Monday, June 11, 2012 in the Phoenix Convention Center at the IPI Conference & Expo in Phoenix, Arizona.

The U of M won in Category IV—Innovation in a Parking Operation/Program.

The University of Minnesota-Twin Cities campus is the third largest traffic generator in Minnesota and sees more than 7,000 bicyclists on campus daily. University of Minnesota Parking and Transportation Services is committed to establishing, maintaining and improving a comprehensive transportation system that reduces congestion, eases accessibility and enhances a friendly university community.

Works by urban muralist Jimmy Longoria featured at U of M UROC

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/14/2012) —The vibrant paintings and eye-popping murals of urban artist Jimmy Longoria will be on display through September 15 at the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC), 2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Minneapolis.

A Chicano artist who specializes in murals and large paintings based on layers of vibrant color and bold brushstrokes originally designed to thwart graffiti, Longoria is a 2010 recipient of a Bush Foundation Artist Fellowship. He's also been recognized for his Mentoring Peace Through Art program designed to develop leadership potential of youth through art projects that serve the social needs of diverse communities. In 2008, he received the McKnight Foundation's Virginia McKnight Binger Award in Human Service.

The exhibit will feature works from Longoria's personal collection, as well as works by his students. Longoria will also be participating in family and youth-related programs at UROC throughout the summer.

"Longoria's inspirational art and mentoring work demonstrates how art, education and social justice can come together to help young people find their strengths and develop their skills," says Heidi Barajas, UROC's executive director.

A public reception with Longoria is set for 5 p.m., Thursday, June 14.

UROC is an initiative of the U of M System Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Administration. The center links the university in vital public partnership with urban communities to advance learning, improve quality of life and discover breakthrough solutions to critical urban problems. Visit www.uroc.umn.edu for information.

Cougar population regenerates after 100 years of decline, U of M researcher finds

Media Note:

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There were 178 confirmed cougar locations in midwestern North America from 1990–2008. The green-shaded areas represent the cougar population in western United States and established cougar populations in the Black Hills, South Dakota, the Badlands, North Dakota, and northwestern Nebraska. Credit: University of Minnesota © Wiley-Blackwell

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/14/2012) —American mountain lions, or cougars, are re-emerging in areas of the United States, reversing 100 years of decline, new research by a University of Minnesota scientist shows. The evidence, published today in [The Journal of Wildlife Management](#), raises new conservation questions such as how humans can live alongside the returning predators.

“The cougar population declined dramatically from 1900, due to both hunting, and a lack of prey, leaving the remaining population isolated to the American west,” said Michelle LaRue, a Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota. “Here we present the hard evidence that the western population has spread, with cougar populations re-establishing across the Midwest.”

Three main cougar populations exist in the Midwest, centered around the Black Hills in South Dakota, but cougars are venturing far outside of this range. One male cougar from the Black Hills was found to have traveled 2,900 kilometers through Minnesota, Wisconsin and New York, before ending up in Connecticut.

“While the distance the Connecticut cougar traveled was rare, we found that cougars are roaming long distances and are moving back into portions of their historical range across the Midwest,” LaRue said. “Our study took in over 3.2 million kilometers of territory, confirming the presence of cougars from Texas, Arkansas and Nebraska, to the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Manitoba.”

Working alongside scientists from Southern Illinois University and The Cougar Network, LaRue and Principal Investigator Clay Nielsen analyzed cougar sightings since the 1990s to characterize confirmed sightings over time, assess habitat suitability and confirm where cougar populations are being re-established.

Aside from confirmed sightings, the team’s evidence included carcasses, tracks, photos, video, DNA evidence and cases of attacks on livestock across 14 states and provinces of North America. Only sightings which were verified by wildlife professionals were included, while sightings of animals known to be released from captivity were excluded to ensure only natural repopulation was analyzed.

The results reveal 178 cougar confirmations in the Midwest with the number of confirmations steadily increasing between 1990 and 2008. About 62 percent of confirmed sightings took place within about 10 miles of habitat that would be considered suitable for cougar populations.

When cougar carcasses were recovered, 76 percent were found to be male. As the Connecticut example shows, males are capable of traveling long distances; this finding suggests males are leading a stepping-stone dispersal of the cougar population.

“This evidence helps to confirm that cougars are re-colonizing their historical range and reveals that sightings have increased over the past two decades,” LaRue said. “The question now is how the public will respond after living without large carnivores for a century. We believe public awareness campaigns and conservation strategies are required across these states, such as the mountain lion response plans already in place in Nebraska and Missouri.”

This paper is published in the *The Journal of Wildlife Management*. To request a copy contact Lifesciencenews@wiley.com or +44 (0) 1243 770 375

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About the Authors:

Michelle LaRue is a Research Fellow for the Polar Geospatial Center at the University of Minnesota, and is currently pursuing her PhD in Conservation Biology. Michelle received her B.S. in Ecology from Minnesota State University-Mankato, where she gained research experience on bat ecology, and white-tailed deer populations while an intern with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. At Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Michelle received her M.S. in Wildlife Ecology studying potential cougar habitat and dispersal corridors in the Midwest with Dr. Clay Nielsen. Michelle is interested in habitat selection, large carnivores, and the use of GIS and remote sensing techniques to answer broad spatial and ecological questions.

Clayton K. Nielsen, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Forest Wildlife in the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory, Department of Forestry, and Center for Ecology at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He is a Certified Wildlife Biologist® and Director of Scientific Research for The Cougar Network. In addition to having published >120 scholarly works and having given >300 guest lectures and presentations at professional meetings, his research has been showcased by major media outlets such as TIME, National Geographic, NPR, History Channel, and Discovery Channel. Dr. Nielsen and his graduate students study ecology and management of wildlife species, with a focus on mammals.

Minnesota Health Care Experts to Travel to Germany, Examine Quality and Cost Optimization

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/14/2012) —With health care costs continuing to rise and states pressed for effective solutions, a high-ranking delegation of health care experts from Minnesota and Washington, D.C. will meet in Berlin June 17 - 23 for a seminar on health care policy that compares the United States and German systems. The trip is organized by the University of Minnesota's [Center for German and European Studies](#) in cooperation with Germany's Federal Ministry of Economics and Germany's Federal Ministry of Health.

After implementing the first phase of insurance reform contained in the 2010 Affordable Care Act (ACA), many states, including Minnesota, are moving toward establishing health care insurance exchanges. Minnesota has been a longtime leader in assuring quality, cost-effectiveness, and access to the state's citizens. Minnesota leaders hope to continue that distinction by building an effective insurance exchange.

Germany's nonprofit statutory health insurance system covers 90% of Germany's population. Based on private providers who operate independently within a state-supervised regulatory framework, Germany's system is an insurance exchange writ large. Germany has provided high-quality universal health care for its citizens since 1883, when its conservative chancellor Otto von Bismarck became the unlikeliest person to establish the world's first national health care system.

Why Germany?

For anyone who believes in balancing the role of government and the market, the Germans provide an interesting case study. Recent reforms by the conservative-libertarian government coalition have stressed competition, cost effectiveness, and quality. In Germany, legislation was passed to contain rising costs for employer provided benefits and to reorganize pricing for new drugs. The German AMNOG law dramatically lowers the country's drug expenditures. Fee schedules for physicians in the statutory system are another area of focus. Recent data confirm that Germany's health care reforms are achieving good results: everyone is covered, medical bankruptcies are unheard of, insurers compete successfully in a not-for-profit environment. The nonprofit health insurance industry finished the year with a 20 billion Euro surplus in 2011.

Among the many provisions of Congress' 2010 Affordable Care Act is the creation of state-based health insurance exchanges that by 2014 will integrate over 30 million previously uninsured citizens into the states' healthcare systems. How to structure those new marketplaces, how to shape the health insurance products patients will be offered and how to create tighter connections between quality and cost are central questions. In the United States, drug costs alone amount to 10 percent of total health care expenditures. Germany's health care costs are about half the U.S. per capita figure.

Who is Attending?

The 18-member delegation consists of elected and government officials, academics, providers and consultants who are actively involved in health care reform efforts at the state and federal levels, including:

- Yvonne Pretter Solon, Minn. Lt. Governor
- Lauren Gilchrist, special adviser to Minn. Gov. Dayton on health reform
- Scott Leitz, Minnesota human services assistant commissioner for health care administration
- Tony Lourey, Minnesota state senator
- Joe Atkins and Erin Murphy, Minnesota state representatives
- Julie Brunner, executive director of Minnesota Council of Health Plans
- Frank Cerra, M.D., medical school, University of Minnesota
- Jim Chase, president, Minn. Community Measurement
- Kevin Goodno, Frederikson & Byron government relations chair
- Fred Morrison, law school, University of Minnesota
- Connie Perpich, CGES advisory board and Planned Parenthood-Minn., No. Dak., So. Dak.
- Stephen Schondelmeyer, U of M Prime Institute
- Patricia Simmons, M.D., Mayo Clinic; University of Minnesota Regent
- Brenda Sheingold, school of nursing, George Washington University
- Steven Sheingold, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The seminar is a special project of the University of Minnesota's Center for German and European Studies and a group of international partners including Germany's Federal Ministry of Health, Germany's Federal Ministry of Economics, and the German Academic Exchange Service. Funding is provided through a special German grant that fosters transatlantic exchange and commemorates George Marshall.

The interdisciplinary Center for German and European Studies at the University of Minnesota is one of six centers of excellence created in the United States with German government support. Since 2005, it has hosted the annual "American & German Health Care Forum" to foster health policy exchange on best practices between top-level U.S. and German health care experts. Stakeholders from all areas in the health policy field participate. Germany's Federal Ministry of Health is a founding cooperating partner. It is the only such cooperation in the United States.

U of M
President
Eric Kaler
names
Pamela
Wheelock as
new vice
president for
University
Services



Pam Wheelock

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/14/2012) —University of Minnesota president Eric Kaler today announced that Pamela Wheelock will be the university's new vice president for University Services, subject to approval by the Board of Regents.

Wheelock, who will assume her new role on Aug. 15, brings more than 25 years of leadership experience and accomplishments in the private, public and nonprofit sectors— spanning the city, state and federal levels of government, including economic development, the Governor's cabinet and the state finance commission.

"Pam is a visionary, strategic and inclusive leader who is committed to high standards of excellence, integrity, accountability and stewardship," Kaler said. "Her experience and skills will be invaluable to building effective partnerships with academic leaders to ensure our services and facilities support excellence at Minnesota's only public research university."

The vice president for University Services is the chief operations officer for the university and is a key member of the president's senior leadership team. Current vice president Kathleen O'Brien announced her retirement in February after 10 years at the helm. She will step down on June 30. During the six-week period before Wheelock begins her post, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Richard Pfutzenreuter will serve as the interim vice president for University Services.

As deputy mayor under former St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman from 1994 to 1996, Wheelock led negotiations on the lease that secured the return of NHL hockey to Minnesota and the construction of the Xcel Energy Center. Beginning in 2002, she went on to spend seven years in senior leadership roles for Minnesota Sports and Entertainment, the parent company of the Minnesota Wild which also operates the Xcel Energy Center. While there she held the positions of senior vice president and executive vice president and chief financial officer.

Most recently, Wheelock served as interim president and chief executive officer of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, where she also serves as board chair. From 2009 to 2011, she worked for the Bush Foundation as vice president for leadership and community engagement.

"I'm stepping into a very strong organization, and that's what attracted me to the University of Minnesota," said Wheelock. "I'm excited to be part of President Kaler's commitment to meeting the needs of the academic mission. When facilities are operating more efficiently, when labs and the campus are safe and the streets are shoveled, it enables everyone at the U to focus on research, education and outreach."

In addition to serving as deputy mayor for the City of St. Paul, Wheelock was director of planning and economic development from 1996 to 1999, and budget director from 1992 to 1994. She also spent four years as the state finance commissioner for Governor Jesse Ventura, six years as the state executive budget officer and was a legislative assistant to Congressman Tim Penny when he represented Minnesota's 1st District.

A native of Waseca, Minn., Wheelock received her bachelor of arts degree in history from St. Catherine University, then known as the College of St. Catherine. She went on to earn her master's degree in applied economics from Marquette University.

Former chair of the College of St. Catherine Board of Trustees, Wheelock has also served as chair of the Minnesota Wild Foundation and has been a member of the Dean's Advisory Council for the university's Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs since 2004.

With more than 3,000 employees in six major functions, University Services is critical not only to the day-to-day operation of all University of Minnesota campuses but also to the long-term success of the institution. The six units help ensure the infrastructure and services are in place to support and advance the teaching, research and outreach mission of the university. The units include, but are not limited to, capital planning and project management, facilities management, the Department of Public Safety, university health and safety and auxiliary services, which encompass housing and residential life, parking and transportation, and university dining services, among other areas.

40-year anniversary of Clean Water Act focus of June 25 Moos lecture

Former EPA executive G. Tracy Mehan III to deliver lecture as part of Moos Family Speaker Series on Water Resources

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/20/2012) —Forty years ago this autumn, the U.S. Congress overwhelmingly overrode President Richard Nixon's veto and enacted the Clean Water Act. The landmark legislation helped to dramatically reduce pollution from industry and sewage treatment plants that must obtain federal permits to discharge their wastes.

G. Tracy Mehan III, an environmental consultant who was the top water-quality official in the Environmental Protection Agency from 2001 to 2003, will discuss the Clean Water Act's successes, political obstacles to strengthening the law and other avenues to progress during a free, public lecture beginning 7 p.m., Monday, June 25 at the St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave.

The lecture is sponsored by the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences and the Freshwater Society. It is titled *The Clean Water Act After 40 Years: What Has It Accomplished? How Do We Fulfill Its Promise?*

A panel of three Minnesota experts will join Mehan in taking questions from the audience. They are: Sherry Enzler, a research fellow in the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment; Bradley C. Karkkainen, an environmental law professor in the University of Minnesota Law School; and John Linc Stine, commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Mehan, an attorney, is a principal in the Cadmus Group, an employee-owned environmental consulting firm based in Arlington, Va. He served as the EPA's Assistant Administrator for Water from 2001-03, directing the agency's Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water acts programs including permitting, infrastructure finance, wetlands regulation, standards and watershed management.

Mehan is also an adjunct professor of environmental law at the George Mason University School of Law in Fairfax, Va., and a former member of the National Research Council's Water Science and Technology Board.

The lecture is the eighth in the [Moos Family Speaker Series](#) on Water Resources honoring the late Malcolm Moos, president of the university from 1967 to 1974.

The University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences provides education and conducts research in all areas of biology, from molecules to ecosystems, supporting applications in medicine, renewable energy, ecosystem management, agriculture and biotechnology. For more information about research and degree programs, go to www.cbs.umn.edu.

The Freshwater Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and inspiring people to value, conserve and protect water resources. Located in Excelsior, Minn., it has a long history of association with the University of Minnesota. Learn more at www.freshwater.org.

U of M to host international Monarch Biology and Conservation Meeting

University of Minnesota Monarch Lab will bring together biologists, scientists and conservationists representing five countries for two-and-a-half day symposium



Media Note: For interviews with Karen Oberhauser, director of the U of M Monarch Lab and associate professor in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, please contact Becky Beyers at (612) 626-5754 or bbeyers@umn.edu.

What: 2012 Monarch Biology and Conservation Meeting

When: Thursday, June 21 through Saturday, June 23

Where: Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska

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June 20, 2012

Nearly 200 attendees from the United States, Australia, Canada, Mexico and Spain will take part in the 2012 Monarch Biology and Conservation Meeting, hosted by the University of Minnesota Monarch Lab from Thursday, June 21 through Saturday, June 23. The meeting will be held at the university's Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska.

This international symposium will provide monarch biologists, agency land managers, monarch conservationists, citizen scientists and others interested in monarch biology and conservation the opportunity to share new information on monarch population trends, new findings in monarch biology and successful monarch conservation efforts.

Congresswoman Betty McCollum will deliver the welcoming address prior to the Friday, June 22 session.

Friday evening's keynote address will be given by Lincoln Pierson Brower, Distinguished Service Professor of Zoology, Emeritus at the University of Florida. He is recipient of the Wilbur Cross Medal from Yale University, the Medal for Zoology from the Linnean Society of London, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Animal Behavior Society and the Henry Bates Award for the Biology and Conservation of Tropical Butterflies.

The 2012 Monarch Biology and Conservation Meeting is sponsored by the Monarch Joint Venture (MJV), a partnership of federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations and academic programs working together to support and coordinate efforts to protect monarch breeding and migratory habitat across the lower 48 United States. The MJV is committed to a science-based approach to monarch conservation work.

For more information on the meeting, including a complete agenda, visit www.monarchlab.org/mn2012.

The University of Minnesota Monarch Lab is housed within the [Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology](#) in the university's [College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences](#) (CFANS). It hosts four programs: Monarchs in the Classroom, MonarchLab, Monarch Larva Monitoring Project and Schoolyard Ecology Explorations. For more information, visit www.monarchlab.org.

The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is part of the [Department of Horticultural Science](#) within CFANS. Its mission is to provide a community and national resource for horticultural and environmental information, research and public education; to develop and evaluate plants and horticultural practices for cold climates; and to inspire and delight all visitors with quality plants in well-designed and maintained displays, collections, model landscapes, and conservation areas. For more information, visit: www.arboretum.umn.edu.

Minnesota Supreme Court today rules unanimously in favor of the U of M's ability to discipline student for violating academic rules

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/20/2012) —The Minnesota Supreme Court today ruled unanimously in favor of the University of Minnesota's ability to discipline a student for posting inappropriate comments on Facebook that violated academic rules and professional standards required of students in the university's Mortuary Science Program. The Supreme Court's opinion represents the first published judicial decision in the country concerning a public university's imposition of disciplinary sanctions for a student's Facebook posts that violate academic program rules.

The university had imposed academic sanctions, including an F grade in a course and a directed study in ethics, on a student who posted unprofessional and disrespectful Facebook comments related to a human cadaver to which she had been given access as part of her professional training. University rules require respect for human cadavers that are donated by individuals to further the university's teaching and research in a number of academic healthcare programs.

In its unanimous opinion, the Supreme Court concluded that a student does not have a constitutional right to violate academic rules that are designed by the university to teach and enforce standards of professional conduct.

"This important decision affirms the university's authority to establish and enforce rules that train our students in the professional ethics and norms they will need to follow to be successful in their chosen profession," University General Counsel Mark Rotenberg said. "Our university educates students in a host of professions -- including medicine, law, nursing, law enforcement, social work, teaching, and many others. To be successful our students need to learn and practice a high degree of discretion and sensitivity in speaking about their work. Today's decision reaffirms the university's capability to train these future professionals to serve the people of Minnesota not only with high skill, but also a high sense of professional ethics."

U of M Innovative Engineers student group receives international honor for wind energy work in Nicaragua

CSE group included in Sustainia100, a guide to 100 of the top global solutions in sustainability



Members of Innovative Engineers, a College of Science and Engineering student group, hoist the tower for their 1-kilowatt wind turbine in La Hermita, Nicaragua.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/21/2012) —The University of Minnesota [College of Science and Engineering](#) student organization [Innovative Engineers](#) has received international recognition for their wind energy project in Nicaragua. The group's work is included in [Sustainia100](#), a guide to 100 of the top global solutions in sustainability, unveiled last night at the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Sustainia100 encompasses solutions from 56 countries on six continents.

"We are honored to be a part of this important work," says Paul Imbertson, Innovative Engineers' advisor and a University of Minnesota Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering faculty member. "The worldwide recognition of sustainable solutions brings important awareness to the credo of sustainability—creating development that meets the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs."

For more than three years, Innovative Engineers have been using their technical education to power developing communities with wind energy. The engineering students designed, constructed and installed a wind turbine for the village of La Hermita, a half-hour ride up a dirt road from the city of Jinotega, Nicaragua. The turbine generates one kilowatt of electricity, enough to recharge the batteries used by La Hermita residents to power their lights at night and to operate their radios. Before the power from the turbine, villagers would travel to the nearest town by horseback to recharge batteries.

"They just wanted to be able to turn on a light bulb and listen to the radio so they could get their news and know what's going on in the country," said Scott Morton, former president of Innovative Engineers and 2012 mechanical engineering graduate.

Innovative Engineers continues to teach the villagers about how the turbines work and how to repair them. An important component in the group's construction of the turbine was that the materials used could be easily obtainable in Nicaragua if the turbine needs repairs. Future plans include wind turbines for hydropower, refinement of the turbine blade design, creation of a wind-speed meter and harnessing wave power.

"It may sound cliché, but our group is truly passionate about developing imaginative and creative ways to design and implement renewable energy technologies in the developing world," said David Giacomini, Innovative Engineers president and civil engineering student.

The Sustainia100 selections were based on seven criteria: ready and available, scalable, collaborative, transformative, cost-effective, having environmental impact and increasing the quality of life. In November 2012, one of the Sustainia100 solutions will be honored for its outstanding performance with the Sustainia Award during the Global Sustainability Forum to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Sustainia Award Committee is chaired by Arnold Schwarzenegger (Honorary Chair of the Committee), Connie Hedegaard (European Commissioner for Climate Action), Gro Harlem Brundtland (Former Prime Minister of Norway and Former Director General of WHO) and Dr. Rajendra Pachauri (Chair of the IPCC).

U of M solar car team to unveil new car June 26

New team, new car gear up for race across America in July that ends in St. Paul



What: University of Minnesota solar car unveiling

When: 8-9 a.m.

Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Where: University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus outside the Engineering and Fisheries Laboratory, 1955 Fitch Avenue, St. Paul (if raining or windy, the event will be next door in Ruttan Hall, Room B25, 1994 Buford Avenue, St. Paul); parking available in the Gortner Avenue Ramp, 1395 Gortner Ave., St. Paul

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June 21, 2012

The University of Minnesota Solar Vehicle Project team will unveil its newest solar-powered car at a special event for the media and sponsors at 8 a.m. Tuesday, June 26 at the University's St. Paul Campus outside the Engineering and Fisheries Laboratory, 1955 Fitch Avenue, St. Paul.

Those attending will be among the first to see the new car take a test drive, view the car's inner workings, tour the Solar Vehicle Project team's shop, and hear from members of the team about their upcoming race.

This is the first public viewing of the car in preparation for the 2012 American Solar Challenge, a 1,600-mile race starting in Rochester, N.Y., on Saturday, July 14 and ending in St. Paul, Minn., on Saturday, July 21 at the State Capitol Mall.

The University of Minnesota is among 18 teams from the United States and Canada competing this year in designing, building and driving a car completely powered by the sun. Other teams include MIT, University of Michigan, UC Berkeley and Georgia Tech, to name a few. The University of Minnesota's #35 solar car won first place at the 2011 American Solar Challenge's Formula Sun Grand Prix track race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

The University of Minnesota's new car, named Centaurus III, is a completely new generation design from the university's previous nine solar vehicles. The most noticeable change is the new design that incorporates improved aerodynamics and cutting-edge electrical technology. This year's car also is unique because all of the car's parts have been custom-designed by students. The current car is just over 3 feet tall, about 16 feet long and nearly 6 feet wide. It weighs just under 400 pounds.

More than 40 University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering students are on the team. Team members estimate that they've collectively spent more than 50,000 hours over the last year planning and building the solar car. Materials for the U of M's solar car were funded through cash donations and in-kind donations of parts and materials.

In addition to the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering, major sponsors of the University of Minnesota's solar car include 3M, Altium, Cirrus Aircraft, Delta Airlines, PAR Systems, Caterpillar, Earle M. Jorgensen Company, University of Minnesota Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment, General Plastics, Vicor, Clarizen, Stratasys, and B&K Precision. Several University of Minnesota academic departments in the College of Science and Engineering also contributed including the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, and Department of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics.

For more information on the history of the university's Solar Vehicle Project team and photos of the previous nine cars, visit www.umnsvp.org.

A statement from the University of Minnesota on Duluth's Un-Fair Campaign

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DULUTH, MINN. (06/22/2012) —The City of Duluth is dealing this week with one of the worst natural disasters in the history of our region and state. As are all people in Duluth, we are currently focusing our attention on dealing with this crisis and beginning to repair our community.

Still, we have received calls and emails expressing concern about the University of Minnesota, Duluth's (UMD) participation in the Un-Fair Campaign. We understand that the recent Un-Fair Campaign public service announcement (PSA) is divisive and has alienated some people. That's concerning to us as a public institution whose goal it is to provide a welcoming environment for all people.

While we fully support the foundations and principles of the Un-Fair Campaign, we feel the PSA is divisive and we do not agree with the creative strategy. UMD expressed displeasure to the partnership that the PSAs were aired without a chance for our review. We will continue to discuss our concerns with the partnership and will require review of all future campaign materials and efforts to ensure they foster constructive dialogue and do not alienate people in our community.

Contrary to some media and blog reports that suggest UMD is the sole sponsor of this PSA, the fact is that UMD is one of 18 community partners in the campaign working toward a common mission: "To raise awareness about white privilege in our community, provide resources for understanding and action, and facilitate dialogue and partnership that result in fundamental, systemic change toward racial justice." Other campaign partners include the City of Duluth, St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services, the NAACP, the YWCA and the University of Wisconsin, Superior, as well as others.

As a community, we believe it is critical to have a serious discussion about diversity and racial equity. Duluth has had a difficult and long history of challenges regarding racial equity and justice that we have not entirely overcome. For example, in spring 2010, an African American woman studying in a campus residence hall was the subject of other students' racist comments on social media. Other people of color on campus shared similar concerns and experiences. Such concerns led to an on-campus summit that led to the formulation of our Campus Change process that continues today.

Marking the 40th anniversary of Twin Cities Pride, University of Minnesota reflects on its GLBT history

Media Note: The University of Minnesota Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Ally Programs Office and other U of M offices and organizations will be staffing a booth in the School Zone section of Loring Park during Twin Cities Pride Festival (Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/22/2012) —On the eve of the 40th anniversary celebration of Twin Cities Pride, the University of Minnesota is taking stock of its own history with the GLBT community. And as is often the case with history, the story is mixed. As the university begins preparations for the 20th anniversary of its Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Ally (GLBTA) Programs Office, it recognizes that the path to the creation of the office was not always a source of pride.

The path started with actions taken by a new Minnesotan. Michael McConnell, a prospective employee, in April 1970 was offered the position as head of the cataloging division in the university's St. Paul campus library. The following month, he applied for a license to marry the adult of his choice. Though the license was denied, the story was spread by local and national media, and has been characterized by many as not only the beginning of the struggle for full equality for gays and lesbians in Minnesota but also a demand for inclusion that had national and international impact.

As important and impactful as this action was, it was not without costs, to him and to the university. In the midst of the public conversation about his attempt to marry, the university deemed McConnell's conduct, as represented in the public and university news media, not consistent with the best interests of the university and did not approve his hire as a librarian. The struggle that ensued about the university's right to take such action was long and painful, for everyone.

U of M President Eric Kaler has called McConnell's treatment reprehensible, regrets that it occurred and says the university's actions at that time were not consistent with the practices enforced today at the university. The U of M is dedicated to the fair and ethical treatment of all and its current policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, as well as gender identity and gender expression.

The university's participation in the upcoming 40th anniversary of Twin Cities Pride and its celebration of the 20th anniversary of its GLBTA Programs Office demonstrate not only its commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion, but are also the result of important actions by members of the U community and external stakeholders such as McConnell.

About the GLBTA Programs Office

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Ally (GLBTA) Programs Office at the University of Minnesota is dedicated to improving campus climate for all university faculty, staff, students and visitors by developing and supporting more inclusive understanding of gender and sexuality. The office, founded in 1993, has forged a new era of awareness, education, safety and voice for GLBTA individuals across campus. Selected as the lead story topic for Lavender Magazine's "School's Out" edition, the GLBTA Programs Office is finalizing plans for tabling at this weekend's Twin Cities Pride Festival and is planning for its 20th anniversary celebration, which will detail the histories, struggles and accomplishments of GLBTA members across the University of Minnesota community. For more information about the GLBTA Programs Office, go to <https://diversity.umn.edu/glbta/>.

U of M VP Andrew Furco receives national civic engagement award for contributions to the public good

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/26/2012) —University of Minnesota Associate Vice President for Public Engagement Andrew Furco has received the 2012 Thomas Ehrlich Civic Engagement Faculty Award, one of the highest awards given to faculty for research and teaching focused on serving the public good.

Presented by Campus Compact, a national higher education association dedicated to campus-based civic engagement, the award is given annually to a university or college tenured professor in recognition of leadership in engaged scholarship, contributions to the public good and advancing students' civic and academic learning. The award recognizes Furco's contributions and long-term commitment to advancing the scholarship and practice of service-learning and community engagement in K-12 and higher education.

"Vice President Furco has put into place a bold agenda to integrate the university's community engagement across a broad range of initiatives to create a new engagement culture to benefit students, teachers and aid the health and well-being of communities around the state and beyond," said Robert J. Jones, senior vice president for academic administration, University of Minnesota system. "What makes Andy exceptional is his ability to translate his individual curriculum into a platform for institutional change that I believe will transform universities and colleges across the globe."

Furco, who's also an associate professor of organizational leadership, policy and development in the university's College of Education and Human Development, was chosen for his work in promoting community engagement practices throughout the university, as well as for his national and international work on the subject.

A former K-12 music teacher and school administrator, Furco earned his master's degree in special education from University of California, Los Angeles and his doctorate in educational administration from University of California, Berkeley. At Berkeley, Furco helped establish the country's first university-based research center for the study of service-learning, a center he managed for 14 years. He's credited with developing a number of research instruments including the Service-Learning Institutionalization Rubric, often referred to as the Furco Rubric and launched the first international research conference on service learning.

Furco teaches and publishes on topics that explore the civic purposes of higher education and the role of youth community engagement from on an international level. He has led more than 30 studies on the integration of community-based experiences into academic curricula with publications including "Service-Learning: The Essence of the Pedagogy and Service-Learning Through a Multidisciplinary Lens." Furco also co-chairs the advisory committee of the university's UMN Land Grant 150, a system-wide series of events recognizing the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act, which laid the groundwork for the university's ongoing mission of learning, discovery and public service for the common good.

For more information about the Campus Compact and the award, visit www.compact.org. Read about the university's plan to advance and institutionalize public engagement at www.engagement.umn.edu/10_point_plan. For details on UMN Land Grant 150 visit www.landgrant150.umn.edu/.

New study shows suburban plants play important role in trapping carbon

NASA-funded study is a first step toward quantifying the role of vegetation in extensive developed areas such as suburbs

Media Note: For photos of the researchers and an aerial view of the suburban landscape studied, visit: <http://flic.kr/s/aHsjAfNmZu>

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/27/2012) —Trees and other plants in the wild play an important role in counteracting climate change by trapping carbon dioxide released from burning fossil fuels. New research from the University of Minnesota and UC Santa Barbara shows that suburban vegetation play an important role in net CO₂ exchange – with different plants contributing to reducing CO₂ by different amounts.

Emily Peters, a postdoctoral fellow with the university's Institute on the Environment and Joe McFadden, an associate professor in the Department of Geography at UC Santa Barbara, published their findings in the current issue of the Journal of Geophysical Research – Biogeosciences.

“Our study is the first to clearly show how much vegetation can change the seasonal pattern of suburban CO₂ exchange,” Peters said. “We know cities and suburbs are net emitters of CO₂ due to fossil fuel emissions, and vegetation cannot offset this completely. However, our study shows that vegetation is an important player in suburban CO₂ exchange, and can even cause the suburban landscape to be a CO₂ sink in summer.”

Placing several sensors high above the ground in a St. Paul suburban neighborhood, Peters and McFadden set out to record tiny changes in CO₂, temperature, water vapor and wind. The researchers found that for nine months of the year, the suburban landscape was a net source of CO₂ to the atmosphere. During the summer, however, suburban greenery absorbed enough CO₂ to balance out fossil fuel emissions within the neighborhood. Peak daily uptake was at the low end of that which would be typical of a hardwood forest in the region.

The CO₂-trapping activity of the vegetation differed by type, the study found.

“Lawns’ peak carbon uptake occurred in the spring and fall, because they are made up of cool-season grass species that are stressed by summer heat,” said Peters, “while trees had higher CO₂ uptake throughout the summer.” Evergreen trees maintained their CO₂ uptake longer than deciduous trees did because they keep their leaves year-round.

The study was funded by NASA and is a first step toward quantifying the role of vegetation in extensive developed areas such as suburbs, which are the parts of urban areas that are growing most rapidly in the country. Potential uses for this type of research include urban planning, where land use and vegetation choices are major decisions, and policy decisions based on reducing greenhouse gases.

The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment discovers solutions to Earth's most pressing environmental problems by conducting transformative research, developing the next generation of global leaders and building world-changing partnerships. Learn more online at www.environment.umn.edu.

How sticky toepads evolved in geckos and what that means for adhesive technologies

New study shows that gecko toepads have evolved repeatedly, rather than once or twice as previously thought

Media Note: To access the full article in PLoS ONE, visit:

<http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0039429>.

To access high-res images via Flickr, visit: <http://flic.kr/s/aHsjAeRSNy>. (Credit: Tony Gamble/University of Minnesota)

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/27/2012) —Geckos are known for sticky toes that allow them to climb up walls and even hang upside down on ceilings. A new study shows that geckos have gained and lost these unique adhesive structures multiple times over the course of their long evolutionary history in response to habitat changes.

“Scientists have long thought that adhesive toepads originated just once in geckos, twice at the most,” says University of Minnesota postdoctoral researcher Tony Gamble, a coauthor of the study. “To discover that geckos evolved sticky toepads again and again is amazing.”

The findings are published in the most recent edition of PLoS ONE. Gamble is a researcher in the College of Biological Sciences’ Department of Genetics, Cell Biology and Development. Aaron Bauer, a professor at Villanova University, is the study’s senior author. The research is part of a long-standing collaboration on gecko evolution among biologists at the University of Minnesota, Villanova University and the University of Calgary.

Geckos, a type of lizard, are found in tropical and semitropical regions around the world. About 60 percent of the approximately 1,400 gecko species have adhesive toepads. Remaining species lack the pads and are unable to climb smooth surfaces. Geckos with these toepads are able to exploit vertical habitats on rocks and boulders that many other kinds of lizards can’t easily get to. This advantage gives them access to food in these environments, such as moths and spiders. Climbing also helps geckos avoid predators.

The researchers found that sticky toes evolved independently in about 11 different gecko groups. In addition, they were lost in at least nine different gecko groups. The gain and subsequent loss of adhesive toepads seems associated with habitat changes; e.g., living on boulders and in trees versus living on the ground, often in sand dunes, where the feature could be a hindrance rather than an advantage. “The loss of adhesive pads in dune-dwelling species is an excellent example of natural selection in action,” Bauer says.

Repeated evolution is a key phenomenon in the study of evolutionary biology. A classic example is the independent evolution of wings in birds, bats and pterosaurs. It represents a shared solution that organisms arrived at separately to overcome common problems.

In order to understand how the toepads evolved, the research team produced the most complete gecko family tree ever constructed, including representatives of more than 100 genera (closely related groups of species) from around the world. This family tree can serve as the basis for answering many other questions, such as how and when did live birth, temperature-dependent sex determination, and night color vision evolve in geckos? The family tree will also allow the authors to revise gecko taxonomy to best reflect the group’s evolutionary history.

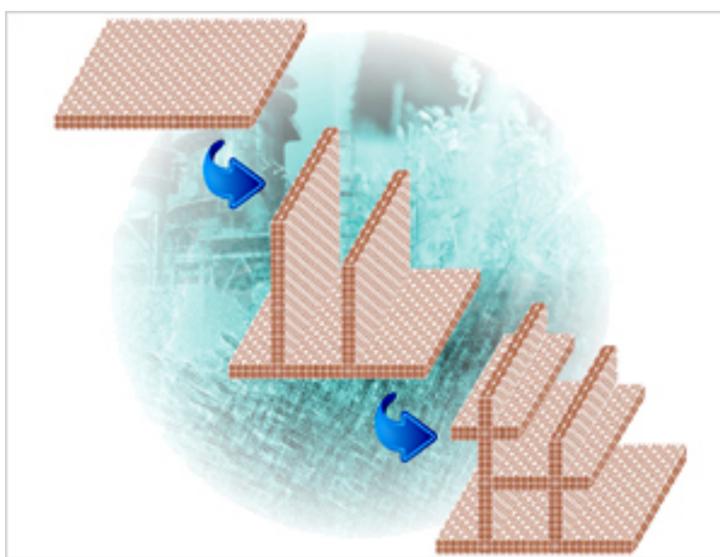
Gecko toepads adhere through a combination of weak intermolecular forces, called van der Waals forces, and frictional adhesion. Hundreds to hundreds of thousands of hair-like bristles, called setae, line the underside of a gecko’s toes. The large surface area created by this multitude of bristles generates enough weak intermolecular forces to support the whole animal.

The amazing clinging ability of Gecko toes has inspired engineers to develop biomimetic technologies ranging from dry adhesive bandages to climbing robots. “Gaining a better understanding of the complex evolutionary history of gecko toepads allows bio-inspired engineers to learn from these natural designs and develop new applications,” says co-author Anthony Russell, of the University of Calgary.

While scientists have a good understanding of how geckos stick at the microscopic level, they are just beginning to understand how geckos use their adhesive toepads to move around complex environments in the wild. Learning how gecko toepads have evolved to move in nature is an important step in developing robotic technologies that can do similar things. “It’s one thing to stick and unstick a piece of ‘gecko tape’ to a smooth surface in a lab, but something else altogether to get a robotic gecko to move across a complicated landscape in the real world and stick to all the different shapes and textures it will encounter,” says Gamble. Examining the repeated evolution of gecko toepads will let scientists find common ways natural selection solved these problems and focus on the characteristics shared across different gecko species.

Authors of the study included scientists from Villanova University, University of Calgary, the University of Texas at El Paso and the University of Minnesota. Funding was provided by the National Science Foundation of the United States and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

University of Minnesota discovery to improve efficiencies in fuel, chemical and pharmaceutical industries



The research team built their prototype of the new catalyst using ultra-thin zeolite nanosheets. They used a unique process to encourage growth of these nanosheets at 90-degree angles, similar to building a house of cards.

pharmaceutical industries

Breakthrough could reduce costs for the consumer

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/28/2012) —University of Minnesota engineering researchers are leading an international team that has made a major breakthrough in developing a catalyst used during chemical reactions in the production of gasoline, plastics, biofuels, pharmaceuticals, and other chemicals. The discovery could lead to major efficiencies and cost-savings in these multibillion-dollar industries.

The research is to be published in the June 29, 2012 issue of the leading scientific journal *Science*.

“The impact of this new discovery is enormous,” said the team’s lead researcher Michael Tsapatsis, a chemical engineering and materials science professor in the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering. “Every drop of gasoline we use needs a catalyst to change the oil molecules into usable gasoline during the refining process.”

This research improves efficiencies by giving molecules fast access to the catalysts where the chemical reactions occur. Tsapatsis compared it to our use of freeways and side streets in our daily lives.

“It’s faster and more efficient to use freeways to get where we want to go and exit to do our business compared to driving the side streets the entire way,” he explained. “The catalysts used today are more like all side streets. Molecules move slowly and get stuck. The efficiencies of these new catalysts could lower the costs of gasoline and other products for all of us.”

The research team built their prototype of the new catalyst using highly optimized ultra-thin zeolite nanosheets. They used a unique process to encourage growth of these nanosheets at 90-degree angles, similar to building a house of cards. The house-of-cards arrangement of the nanosheets makes the catalyst faster, more selective and more stable, but can be made at the same cost (or possibly cheaper) than traditional catalysts.

With faster catalysts available at no extra cost to the producer, production per manufacturing dollar will increase. With a higher output, it is conceivable that consumer costs will drop.

This new discovery builds upon previous discoveries at the University of Minnesota of ultra-thin zeolite nanosheets used as specialized molecular sieves for production of both renewable and fossil-based fuels and chemicals. These discoveries, licensed by the new Minnesota start-up company Argilex Technologies, are key components of the company’s materials-based platform. The development of the new catalyst is complete, and the material is ready for customer testing.

“This breakthrough can have a major impact on both the conversion of natural gas to higher value chemicals and fuels, and on bio- and petroleum refiners,” said Cesar Gonzalez, CEO of Argilex Technologies. “Using catalysts made by this novel approach, refiners will be able to obtain a higher yield of desirable products such as gasoline, diesel, ethylene and propylene. At Argilex, we envision this catalyst technology platform to become a key contributor to efficient use of natural resources and improved economics of the world’s largest industries.”

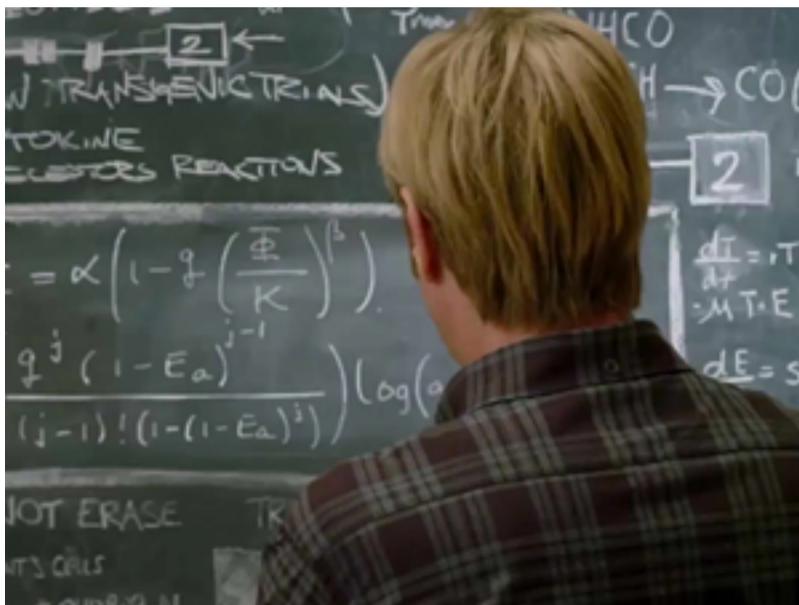
Researchers on the team are from around the globe. In addition to the University of Minnesota, researchers are from institutions in Tokyo, Abu Dhabi, Korea and Sweden.

Primary funding for this research is from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Center for Catalysis and Energy Innovation, an Energy Frontier Research Center. The University of Minnesota is a partner in this multi-institutional research center at the University of Delaware. Other funding for this research is from the National Science Foundation Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation Program, the University of Minnesota’s Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment, and the Abu Dhabi-Minnesota Institute for Research Excellence (ADMIRE) partnership between the University of Minnesota and the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Institute.

Read the full research paper entitled “Synthesis of Self-Pillared Zeolite Nanosheets by Repetitive Branching,” on the *Science* website: <http://z.umn.edu/catalyst>.

U of M professor delivers the science of Spider-Man

Physics professor Jim Kakalios, a science consultant for the new Sony film The Amazing Spider-Man, explains the real science behind the Decay Rate Algorithm



U of M physics professor Jim Kakalios created the "Decay Rate Algorithm" featured in Sony's film *The Amazing Spider-Man*.

Media Note: "Spider-Man and the Decay Rate Algorithm" can be viewed at: <http://z.umn.edu/spiderman>.

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June 28, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/28/2012) – If you find yourself on the edge of your movie theater seat while watching the new Sony film *The Amazing Spider-Man*, chances are you are fully engrossed in the movie's fantastic world – a believable fake reality made possible by the expertise of Jim Kakalios, a physics professor at the University of Minnesota and one of the scientific consultants on the film.

Kakalios discusses the impetus behind the film's hallmark mathematical equation in the new University of Minnesota video "[Spider-Man and the Decay Rate Algorithm](#)."

The Taylor Distinguished Professor in the School of Physics and Astronomy within the university's College of Science and Engineering, Kakalios previously served as a scientific consultant on Warner Brothers' 2009 film *Watchmen*. He is also the author of *The Physics of Superheroes* and *The Amazing Story of Quantum Mechanics*.

Through the National Academy of Science's Science and Entertainment Exchange program, Kakalios consulted with filmmakers for *The Amazing Spider-Man* on the physics behind two of the superhero's most important traits: wall crawling and the tensile strength of spider's webbing.

Kakalios' most important contribution, however, came when film prop master Andy Siegel needed a mathematical expression so distinctive and memorable that the audience would recognize it at various points throughout the movie. The result was the "Decay Rate Algorithm," an equation relating to cell regeneration and human mortality.

Used by both the Peter Parker and Curt Connors characters, the Decay Rate Algorithm is a combination of the real science found in the Gompertz Equation and the Reliability Theory of Aging and Longevity. Based on a "death lottery" which everyone wins, the algorithm provides a mathematical explanation for how single defective cells multiply against the weakened immune system of an aging body and become fatal, a theory proposed by Kakalios' university colleague, Professor Boris Shklovskii.

Behind Spider-Man is Peter Parker, and behind Peter Parker is some real and interesting science in the guise of the Decay Rate Algorithm. While the equation won't turn you into a giant lizard (Spoiler Alert!), Kakalios' equation for the movie has enough scientific foundation to maintain the audience's suspension of disbelief.

Sony's *The Amazing Spider-Man* is set for release July 3.

Statement from the University of Minnesota Duluth on the Un-Fair Campaign

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/03/2012) —The University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) has indefinitely suspended its membership in the Duluth-area Un-Fair Campaign pending a change in the campaign's emphasis and creative approach. The campaign's recent public service announcement (PSA) and its focus on white privilege are divisive and have alienated some UMD alumni, supporters and others in the broader community.

At UMD Chancellor Lendley C. Black's request, the controversial public service announcement was pulled from the campaign's website on June 28 (it had not been aired publicly). Representatives from the 18 partners of the Un-Fair Campaign met on Monday, July 2. While they reaffirmed the group's fundamental goals to promote racial equality and create a constructive dialogue about eliminating racism, they also recognize the messaging and creative emphasis has been divisive. A subcommittee has been formed to reassess the messaging. The partners will reconvene on July 17 to discuss whether to change the creative direction.

UMD continues to advance its strategic goal of creating a positive and inclusive campus climate for all by advancing equity, diversity and social justice (<http://www.d.umn.edu/chancellor/planning/>). UMD also remains committed to collaborating with area educational, civic and social service agency colleagues on productive approaches to these challenging issues.

New University of Minnesota eBook combines technology and crowd-sourcing to share examples of successful classroom technology use across colleges, disciplines and campuses

“Grassroots” authorship effort produces eBook in three short months and engages faculty and students in ongoing discussion

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/09/2012) —Using 3D simulations to design clothing. Creating Web-based computer coaches to teach physics students new problem solving methods. Or deploying mobile technology to help public health professionals respond to disasters. These are three of many success stories from University of Minnesota faculty who are using technology to improve education and access, and provide innovative solutions to problems.

More than 100 faculty and staff and more than 20 graduate and undergraduate students from 51 units across the U of M compiled their tech stories and perspectives into a unique eBook: *Cultivating Change in the Academy: 50+ Stories from the Digital Frontlines at the University of Minnesota in 2012*.

“While online activity is at the core of higher education’s future, institutions have to challenge the assumption that big programs are required to make things happen,” said Ann Hill Duin, co-editor of the eBook and professor of writing studies at the university. “We need greater focus on the digital frontlines where innovative faculty, staff and students are creating new solutions in real time at minimal cost with great impact. This eBook provides that initial focus so other educators can learn from their colleagues’ successes and incorporate technology into their own classrooms.”

U of M faculty used technology and crowd-sourcing to overcome traditional barriers between colleges and disciplines in order to bring new thought to the form of a peer-reviewed online publication. The result was a peer-reviewed and online book published in only three months. It is believed to be the first such eBook of its kind.

“Our world is changing rapidly and technology presents educators with great opportunities. The challenge is acting fast enough and translating that new knowledge before technology becomes outdated,” said Ed Nater, co-editor and professor of soil, water and climate at the U. “An eBook was a fun, fast and effective way to start sharing successes. Educational technology is not about computer labs anymore. It’s about being nimble enough to engage students in learning on their terms.”

For Hill Duin, who also is former U of M associate vice president of the Office of Information Technology, and her co-editors Nater and Farhad Anklesaria, the eBook is merely the first step. Integral to the group’s goal of cultivating change across the U and higher education is dynamic, ongoing reader feedback. Faculty, teachers and learners are invited to share their own experiences at <https://cultivatingchange.wp.d.umn.edu/> or via Twitter using the hashtag #CC50.

eBook chapters were written by a variety of contributors, many of whom were part of the U of M’s Academic Technology Showcase 2012 (<http://www.cehd.umn.edu/Showcase/>). Inspired by a common goal for cultivating change through technology, the editors invited Showcase presenters and others to contribute eBook chapters. Within a month, editors compiled more than 50 submissions, and collaborators then assisted with peer review and design.

The eBook is organized into four sections:

- Changing Pedagogies – Contributors discuss how to move teaching beyond memorization of facts toward interactive coaching and problem solving.
- Creating Solutions – Includes innovative uses of video, podcasts, vodcasts and simulations to engage students. Contributors also showcase use of GoToMeeting, Moodle, Blackbag, iPads, Camtasia Relay, Skype, Ning, Google Apps and others.
- Providing Direction – Challenges the assumption that big, expensive programs are necessary to make things happen. Claudia Neuhauser, vice chancellor at the University of Minnesota, Rochester, illustrates how minimal investments in individualized education can produce significant local results.
- Extending Reach – Showcases expanded student and community engagement through technology.

The free eBook is available at <http://purl.umn.edu/125273> and will be available at iTunes U, Google and Amazon. While designed for an iPad, Kindle, Nook or other tablets, it also may be viewed on a laptop or Web browser.

To provide feedback or new ideas about technology use in education, go to <https://cultivatingchange.wp.d.umn.edu/>

University of Minnesota Board of Regents to review plans for alcohol sales at TCF Bank Stadium and Eastcliff maintenance

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/09/2012) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will consider a resolution and implementation plans to allow beer or beer and wine sales and service at TCF Bank Stadium and in the premium seating areas of Williams and Mariucci arenas during intercollegiate athletic events. The agenda item will occur during the full Board meeting, which begins at 1:15 p.m. on Wednesday, July 11 at 600 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. SE, Minneapolis.

“First and foremost, we are committed to the safety of students and fans and to being good neighbors,” said Amy Phenix, chief of staff to U of M President Eric Kaler. “The proposed implementation plan is a balanced approach offering very limited sales in the general seating area, consistent with requirements of 2012 legislation and our educational mission.”

Key elements of the proposed implementation plan for intercollegiate athletic events include:

- The university will not sell or serve hard liquor. Only beer or beer and wine will be offered at intercollegiate athletic events.
- Alcohol sales in TCF Bank Stadium will start one hour prior to kick-off and end at the conclusion of halftime.
- There will only be one point of sale—on the west end of the general seating area of TCF Bank Stadium. Care will be taken to create a visual and physical barrier between the point of sale and the Veteran’s Memorial and Tribal Nations Plaza outside of the west end gates. No alcohol will be allowed on those spaces.
- Patrons will be limited to two beers per person per transaction. Patrons may return to their seats to consume their beverages.
- All staff servers will be trained to check identification, identify intoxicated patrons and take other precautions to promote responsible and safe consumption.
- Patrons must show a valid ID before each purchase.
- University of Minnesota police and private security will increase their presence in the plaza area to ensure safety, and a designated driver program will be offered.
- The enabling legislation sunsets in two years and the university is considering this implementation a pilot project that will include continual assessment and adjustment as needed to promote safety and responsible consumption.

The plan was developed by a task force including staff from intercollegiate athletics, auxiliary services, contract administration, capital planning and project management, the university’s police department, the University of Minnesota Foundation, the Office of the General Counsel, University Relations, student affairs and the president’s office. As well, university leaders have consulted with students, veterans groups, neighborhood representatives and Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community leadership.

During the 2012 legislative session, legislators and Governor Mark Dayton eliminated conditions on the university’s liquor licenses that led the university’s Board of Regents in 2009 to prohibit alcohol sales at TCF Bank Stadium, Williams Arena and Mariucci Arena during athletic events. Current legislation, which allows the university more easily controlled alcohol sales, requires alcoholic beverages to be convenient to the general seating area.

Pending Board of Regents approval, the university has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) from distributors who can meet university policies, equip facilities and will help ensure safe alcohol sales in time for the 2012 football season. The RFP also indicates that university trademarks, logos or any other official symbols of the university cannot be used to market, distribute or sell alcohol.

“The university will continue to deliver a strong message of responsible alcohol consumption,” Phenix said. “We expect our fans to be responsible role models and we believe this implementation plan supports those goals.”

Eastcliff Roof Replacement

During committee meetings scheduled for the morning of July 11, the Board’s Facilities Committee will review a capital budget amendment proposal for replacing the roof of Eastcliff, home to university presidents and a site for numerous university events.

The project will replace deteriorating cedar shingles on the main house and adjacent carriage house, as well as repair metal flashing, gutters and downspouts. The project will also repair chimney masonry, wood trim and electric heat tape. The Eastcliff Technical Advisory Committee – an independent group of experts responsible for guiding improvement, maintenance, operation and use of Eastcliff – studied roof conditions and found that shingles are badly warped and curling at many locations and that staples used to secure shingles are severely deteriorated. As a result, this historic home’s roof is vulnerable to strong winds and significant water damage.

Planned improvements, which are scheduled to occur later this summer, are in keeping with the university’s capital plan and were included in the 2013 Annual Capital Improvement Budget, approved in June. The project is estimated to cost \$285,763 but final costs will be determined following a competitive bidding process and will be paid out of the university’s central reserve funds. The cost is driven by the large square footage of buildings on the property, as well as the cedar shingles necessary to maintain Eastcliff’s historic nature. As a result, materials costs, as well as labor and design costs, are significantly higher than required by an asphalt shingled roof. While the Board is not required by policy to approve individual projects below a \$500,000 threshold, the project proposal will be reviewed by the Facilities Committee to ensure transparency.

Eastcliff is on the National Register of Historic Places and this project is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties. Each year, Eastcliff hosts approximately 150 events and welcomes 7,500 visitors, including public tours, local and international dignitaries, students, faculty and a community book club. It was built in 1922 and was donated to the university in 1958 by the family of lumber baron Edward Brooks for the purpose of serving as the official residence for the university’s president. President Kaler is the eighth university president to live in the home as a condition of his employment.

Other agenda items include:

- **Itasca Project Higher Education Task Force:** Greg Page, Cargill CEO and chair of the task force, will present findings and a strategic vision for bringing together higher education institutions and Minnesota businesses to drive long-term prosperity for the state. President Kaler serves on the task force.
- **Executive Compensation and Transition Policies:** The Board will take final action on the recommendations submitted in June by a Board subcommittee and university staff.
- **Enterprise Systems Upgrade:** The Facilities and Operations Committee will consider a resolution authorizing the U to move forward with an \$83.5 million multi-year update to student, financial and human resources enterprise systems.

For more information about the Board of Regents and its July agenda, go to www.umn.edu/regents/.

University of Minnesota licenses software to Omicron Health Systems to improve collaboration among healthcare providers and researchers

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/10/2012) —Clinical Decision Support technology developed by University of Minnesota researchers will enable healthcare providers to improve preventative care, communication and coordination among clinicians, researchers, and patients. Minneapolis-based startup Omicron Health Systems, Inc. will incorporate the technology in its Population Health Management offering to research networks and healthcare organizations.

Most patient record management systems available today predate the Internet and can be cumbersome to use. Many of the systems are built to serve administrative functions such as scheduling and billing, and are ill-equipped to support clinical decision-making or the sharing of data required to coordinate patient care.

Omicron Health's innovative solution, which incorporates the University technology, enables care providers and research networks to coordinate care delivery and research activities across clinics. Omicron Health provides a HIPAA-compliant platform that enables the secure transmission of patient health records and other data.

"This solution takes information out of an electronic record and reorganizes it to make it easier for a provider to use," says Kevin Peterson, the software inventor and a U of M professor of family medicine and community health. "It helps providers make better decisions about who needs medical care, and improves the ability of health care providers to identify when an individual is not getting medical care that could be important. The system standardizes information from electronic medical records, making it much easier to work with and to share between providers."

"Patients often see several doctors when they're sick and cross several organizational boundaries," says David DuChene, founder and CEO of Omicron Health. "Existing EHR systems were not designed to share data outside of the organization. With Omicron Health's solution, the patient's various providers are able to create a complete, shared medical record and coordinate their treatment to achieve the best result for the patient."

The University technology also helps ensure patients receive complete treatment. The system analyzes medical records and segments patients into groups according to their medical needs and helps clinicians monitor patient progress. Clinics can then reach out to patients with targeted treatments or preventative care.

Additionally, the technology will improve the process of performing clinical research by providing clinicians with the tools to automate patient identification, analysis, treatment monitoring, and performance reporting. These tools support real-time communication and coordination among distributed networks of researchers and their partner clinicians. This provides researchers with much more rapid and complete feedback from the clinicians administering the treatments and aids in the process of translating research to clinical application.

The University technology is also being implemented at the U of M's Clinical and Translational Science Institute to support research functions.

The research was funded by the NIH National Center for Research Resources and National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. The inventor collaborated with researchers at the University of Birmingham and King's College London to develop the technology, which was licensed to Omicron through the U of M's Office for Technology Commercialization.

The mission of the University of Minnesota's Office for Technology Commercialization is to translate University research into new products and services that provide growth opportunities for its licensees, benefit the public good, improve the quality of life and generate revenue to support the University's research and education goals.

Omicron Health Systems, Inc. is a startup company based in Minneapolis that is focused upon creating innovative, open-source technology solutions that provide the healthcare industry with standards-based solutions that support collaborative research and the coordinated, patient-centered delivery of care.

Lieutenant governors lead U of M-sponsored study tour to Germany on regional economies, renewable energy

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/10/2012) —A high-ranking delegation of experts from Minnesota and Iowa are in Germany this week to study energy and power systems, with a goal of finding solutions that can help meet both states' needs. The delegation will meet with members of Germany's economics and environment ministries.

The trip is organized by the University of Minnesota's [Center for German and European Studies](#) in cooperation with Germany's Federal Ministry of Economics and Germany's Foreign Office.

Delegation members have a full schedule of activities while in Germany, including:

- Comparing German energy and heating systems to those in the U.S.
- Learning how renewable energy fits into Germany's energy mix
- Examining how Germany has tackled retrofitting very old buildings to make them energy-efficient
- Test-driving a hydrogen car produced by Audi and Mercedes Benz, which may have relevance to using renewable energy in U.S. transportation planning
- Visiting a hybrid power plant that makes artificial methane that can be stored in Germany's existing natural gas pipeline system
- Visiting the village of Feldheim, which is attempting to become completely energy self-sufficient without giving up modern conveniences (Feldheim generates all its own energy using solar, wind turbines and biofuels)

Why Germany?

Germany is a world leader in renewable energy adoption. Its landmark renewable energies act of 2000 provided the spark for a tremendous boost of investment, generated new jobs and became a model for many other countries interested in securing reliable energy supplies at an affordable cost.

The state of Brandenburg, located in the eastern part of the country, is the site of the world's first hybrid power plant and is recognized as an innovative leader, especially in renewable energy.

Who is attending?

The 15-member delegation consists of a bipartisan group of elected and government officials, academics and industry representatives from Minnesota and Iowa, including:

- Yvonne Prettner Solon, Minnesota Lieutenant Governor
- Kim Reynolds, Iowa Lieutenant Governor
- Steve Kelley, director, Center for Science, Technology and Public Policy, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota
- Steven Taff, professor of applied economics, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, University of Minnesota
- Lewis Gilbert, associate director, Institute on the Environment, University of Minnesota
- David Boyd, commissioner, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
- Libby Jacobs, commissioner and chair, Iowa Utilities Board
- Phyllis Reha, commissioner and vice-chair, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
- John Marty, Minnesota state senator
- David Tomassoni, Minnesota state senator
- Robert Ambrose, governmental affairs, Great River Energy
- Michael Cashin, environmental policy manager, Allete/Minnesota Power
- Carmen Kristan, economics department, German Embassy at Washington D.C.
- Rolf Nordstrom, executive director, Great Plains Institute
- Ken Smith, president and CEO, District Energy St. Paul, Inc.

The seminar is a special project of the University of Minnesota's [Center for German and European Studies](#) and the Humphrey School's [Center for Science, Technology and Public Policy](#), and a group of international partners including Germany's Federal Ministry of Economics, Germany's Federal Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Economics and European Affairs of the State of Brandenburg and the German Academic Exchange Service. Funding is provided through a special German grant that fosters transatlantic exchange and commemorates George Marshall.

The interdisciplinary Center for German and European Studies at the University of Minnesota is one of six centers of excellence created in the United States with German government support. Since 2011, it hosts the public-private "Regional Economies and Renewable Energy Policy" project, an exchange on best practices and experiences between Germany and states in the Midwest electric power region.

Hormone-mimicking chemicals cause inter-species mating, University of Minnesota researcher finds

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/11/2012) —Hormone-mimicking chemicals released into rivers have been found to affect the mating choices of fish, a new study led by a University of Minnesota scientist has found. The controversial chemical BPA, which emits estrogen-like properties, was found to alter an individual's appearance and behavior, leading to inter-species breeding. The study, published in *Evolutionary Applications*, reveals the threat to biodiversity when the boundaries between species are blurred.

The research, led by Jessica Ward from the University of Minnesota, focused on the impact of Bisphenol A (BPA) on Blacktail Shiner (*Cyprinella venusta*) and Red Shiner (*Cyprinella lutrensis*) fish which are found in rivers across the United States. BPA is an organic compound used in the manufacture of polycarbonate and other plastics. It is currently banned from baby bottles and children's cups in 11 U.S. states.

“Chemicals from household products and pharmaceuticals frequently end up in rivers and BPA is known to be present in aquatic ecosystems across the United States,” said Ward. “Until now studies have primarily focused on the impact to individual fish, but our study demonstrates the impact of BPA on a population level.”

The team collected individuals of both species from two streams in Georgia. The species were kept separated for 14 days in tanks, some of which contained BPA. On the 15th day, behavioral trials were undertaken as individuals from different tanks were introduced to each other.

The scientists monitored any physiological or signaling differences the individuals displayed, such as color, as well as any behavioral differences during courtship, such as mate choice.

BPA disrupts an individual's endocrine system, which controls the release of hormones. This affects behavior and appearance, which in turn can lead an individual to mistake a newly introduced species as a potential mate.

This process poses long-term ecological consequences, especially in areas threatened by the introduction of invasive species. BPA and other hormone-mimicking chemicals can escalate the loss of native biodiversity by breaking down species barriers and promoting the invader.

“Our research shows how the presence of these manmade chemicals leads to a greater likelihood of hybridization between species,” Ward said. “This can have severe ecological and evolutionary consequences, including the potential for the decline of our native species.”

Media note: Upon publication the paper will be available at: <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1111/j.1752-4571.2012.00283.x>

About the Journal:

Evolutionary Applications is a fully peer reviewed open access journal. It publishes papers that utilize concepts from evolutionary biology to address biological questions of health, social and economic relevance. Papers are expected to employ evolutionary concepts or methods to make contributions to areas such as (but not limited to): agriculture, aquaculture, biomedicine, biotechnology, climate change, conservation biology, disease biology, fisheries and wildlife management, forestry, invasion biology and toxicology. Theoretical, empirical, synthesis or perspective papers are welcome.

U of M statement on chemical spill and evacuation of Smith Hall

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/11/2012) —A chemical spill at 2:50 p.m. Wednesday caused the evacuation of Smith Hall, located at 207 Pleasant Street S.E., on the East Bank of the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus. No injuries were reported. The building was evacuated according to university processes and will remain vacant until the area has been cleaned up and secured.

A total of 12 liters of chemicals were spilled: acetone, mineral oil, methanol and carbon disulfide.

A class scheduled to end at 4:30 p.m. was in progress when the spill occurred and it was evacuated. No other classes were scheduled for the remainder of the day.

Smith Hall houses the university's Department of Chemistry, Glass Technology Services and a Printing Services copy center.

University of Minnesota Police and University Environmental Health and Safety responded. The Minneapolis Fire Department assisted.

The building is expected to be opened for normal operations Thursday morning.

University of Minnesota Board of Regents approves changes to executive transition and compensation policies to ensure stronger oversight and transparency

Regents also take action on alcohol at TCF Bank Stadium, Eastcliff, President Kaler compensation

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](#), University News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, (612) 625-8510

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/11/2012) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents today strengthened the university's executive transition and compensation policies, affirming recommendations by a Special Committee on Executive Compensation and Administrative Transitional Leaves.

"These are policy changes that will create greater transparency and accountability," said Board Chair Linda A. Cohen. "They will make our policies clear and will require more Board oversight."

Key components of the policy include:

- Increased Board oversight – All initial appointments of senior leaders shall include the presentation of more robust information about the appointments to the Board for approval. While the new policy allows the president to set compensation, severance (not to exceed six months of salary) or sabbatical leaves for senior leaders, the new policy requires the president to submit to the Board chair and vice chair for approval any significant change from the initial appointment terms or a waiver of university policy.
- Providing greater transparency – The president must now monitor and report annually to the Board on compensation and recognition programs for all employees, including senior leaders.
- Eliminating administrative transitional leaves – Senior leaders who are tenured faculty members and who return to the faculty may now be granted a shorter, six-month sabbatical with pay at the lower faculty rate rather than their administrative salary. This is in keeping with the university sabbatical policy available to all faculty members.

All existing appointments and contracts will be honored by the university.

President Kaler donates raise to student scholarships

During her remarks, Cohen reminded Board members of her June report regarding President Kaler's first-year performance. "He is an outstanding and highly skilled leader who inspires others to strive for excellence," she said.

"The Board has worked hard to balance two competing objectives. We want to be extremely prudent and use restraint with university dollars," she continued. "Given President Kaler's superior performance, we also want to give him a salary increase, which shows the Board's support for his work and the confidence that the Board has in his leadership."

President Kaler thanked the Board for its confidence, but requested his compensation not be changed, but instead that the Chair's recommended 3 percent salary increase be dedicated to undergraduate scholarships. The Board unanimously approved a motion that will dedicate approximately \$18,300 to the university's general scholarship fund.

Board approves alcohol sales at intercollegiate athletic events

The Board also approved a resolution and implementation plan to allow beer or beer and wine sales in the general and premium seating areas of TCF Bank Stadium, and in the premium seating areas of Williams and Mariucci arenas during intercollegiate athletic events. Regent Venora Hung voted against the resolution, based on her belief in the university's autonomy on this issue.

The plan calls for beer or beer and wine only — no hard liquor will be sold. TCF Bank Stadium will have a single point of sale on the west end of the general seating area, in which trained servers will check IDs and limit sales to two beers per patron per transaction. Alcohol also will be available in the premium seats of the stadium and Williams and Mariucci arenas. University of Minnesota police and private security will increase their presence in the plaza area to ensure safety and minimize neighborhood disruptions, and a designated driver program will be offered. For more information, visit the [Board meeting preview](#) from July 9.

The plan was developed by a task force of staff from various university departments and offices. In addition, university leaders have consulted with students, veterans groups, neighborhood representatives and Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community leadership.

"Our original vision for TCF Bank Stadium included sales in the premium seating areas, which is consistent with the expectations of fans and corporate clients who purchase premium-priced suites and seats," said Amy Phenix, chief of staff to President Kaler. "However, legislation required us to also serve in the general seating area. Today's action is a compromise. While not the university's first choice, it does restore sales in the premium areas and, in doing so, will make those areas more competitive and attractive. It's a step closer to our original intention."

The university will collect proposals from distributors who can meet university policies, equip facilities and will help ensure safe alcohol sales in time for the 2012 football season. The RFP indicates that university trademarks, logos or any other official symbols of the university cannot be used to market, distribute or sell alcohol. It also requires vendors to offer at least one Minnesota-made product.

Eastcliff to receive much-needed roof replacement

The Board approved a capital budget amendment for replacing the roof of Eastcliff, home to university presidents and a host site for approximately 150 events and 7,500 visitors a year.

The roof project will replace deteriorating cedar shingles on the main house and adjacent carriage house, as well as repair metal flashing, gutters and downspouts. The project will also address repairs to chimney masonry, wood trim and electric heat tape. The Eastcliff Technical Advisory Committee – an independent group of experts responsible for guiding improvement, maintenance, operation and use of Eastcliff – studied roof conditions and found curling shingles and deteriorated staples before recommending the roof replacement. The estimated \$285,763 cost is driven by the large square footage of buildings on the property, as well as higher labor and design costs associated with the use of cedar shingles, which are required to comply with National Historic Register guidelines.

The meeting also included:

- **Itasca Project Higher Education Task Force:** Greg Page, Cargill CEO and chair of the task force, presented findings and a strategic vision for bringing together higher education institutions and Minnesota businesses to drive long-term prosperity for the state. According to President Kaler, who serves on the task force, "Our identified strategies have a single unifying theme—collaboration. A new wave of collaborations – among educational institutions and between those institutions and business – has the potential to create a fundamentally more powerful engine of learning, innovation and economic growth for the state of Minnesota. Without research and innovation, Minnesota's economy will falter." The task force report can be found at www.TheItascaProject.com.
- **Enterprise Systems Upgrade:** The Finance and Operations Committee recommended the U move forward with an \$83.5 million multi-year update to student, financial and human resources enterprise technology systems. The update is critical to the university's operations; maintaining vendor support and ensuring regulatory compliance; and providing efficiencies and reducing risk. The full Board will review the issue at an upcoming meeting.
- **Executive Director of the Board of Regents:** Brian Steeves was appointed executive director of the Board and corporate secretary of the university. In the position, Steeves will be a key adviser to the Board and senior leaders, coordinate Board planning, oversee policy review, and manage meeting logistics and Board operations. Steeves has served as deputy director for two years, and for the past six months has been acting executive director and corporate secretary. He replaces Ann Cieslak, who retired in June.

For more information about the Board of Regents, go to www.umn.edu/regents/.

Former DOJ Civil Rights Division's chief of Criminal Section joins U of M Law School faculty

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/13/2012) —Mark Kappelhoff, former chief of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), has joined the University of Minnesota Law School as a clinical professor, Dean David Wippman announced today.

Kappelhoff began his career with the Civil Rights Division in 1998 as a trial attorney, later serving as deputy chief and principal deputy chief. He became chief of the Criminal Section in 2006. He was appointed to also serve as acting principal deputy assistant attorney general of the Civil Rights Division in 2009 and as acting chief of the Federal Coordination and Compliance Section in 2010.

Before joining the DOJ, Kappelhoff was legislation counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union, assistant public defender for Maryland's Montgomery County and an associate at Kutak, Rock & Campbell in Washington, D.C.

Under Kappelhoff's leadership, the Criminal Section, which prosecutes cases involving violent interference with liberties and rights defined in the Constitution or federal law, set several records for successfully prosecuting criminal civil rights cases, including hate crimes, human trafficking and law-enforcement misconduct. He personally led an extensive investigation into widespread corruption involving officers in the Rampart Division of the Los Angeles Police Department, and he supervised and assisted in one of the largest human trafficking cases ever prosecuted by the DOJ, *United States v. Kil Soo Lee*.

"For over a decade, Mark has worked tirelessly to enforce our nation's most cherished civil rights laws and to uphold the constitutional rights of all regardless of race, religion or sex orientation," said Thomas E. Perez, assistant attorney general for the Civil Rights Division in a press release announcing Kappelhoff's departure. "He helped bring this nation closer to its promise of equal justice for all. I am proud of all of his contributions to the Civil Rights Division and thank him for his leadership and extraordinary advocacy."

Kappelhoff has received numerous honors and awards for his work, including the Presidential Rank Award in 2011, the highest annual award for federal government career senior executive service professionals, and the Attorney General's John Marshall Award in 2010 for his efforts to secure passage of the landmark Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. He has also received the Director's Award for Superior Performance from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service and the Civil Rights Division's Meritorious Award and Special Achievement Award.

A 1983 graduate of St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., Kappelhoff received his J.D. in 1988 from American University, Washington College of Law, where he was a senior staff member on the Law Review and a legal research and writing instructor. He has been an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland School of Law; Georgetown University Law Center; and American University, Washington College of Law. At American University he was also a visiting assistant professor in the Criminal Justice Clinic.

For more information about the University of Minnesota Law School, visit <http://www.law.umn.edu/>.

Karen Kaler honors U of M Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Day at conference at Arboretum July 19

Governor Dayton issues proclamation honoring U of M program

Media Note: If possible, media should first contact Catherine Dehdashti to RSVP for the event to ensure free admittance. This is an event for Master Gardeners, not the general public, and there is a registration requirement and a fee for attendees.

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July 16, 2012

WHO/WHAT: “Inspiration from the Ground Up” Upper Midwest Regional Master Gardener Conference.

Karen Kaler, wife of University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler, will open the conference and dedicate a tree in honor of the 35th anniversary of the Master Gardener program. Governor Mark Dayton has issued a proclamation declaring July 19, 2012 as University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Day. (To view the proclamation (pdf), visit www.extension.umn.edu/go/1111.)

WHERE: University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska 55318

WHEN: July 19, 2012, 9 a.m. Reporters should arrive by 8:45 to receive a media pass.

Kaler’s opening address will be followed by Extension horticulturist Vince Fritz’s keynote address: “Take Two Brussels Sprouts and Call Me in the Morning” about the health benefits of vegetables that go beyond vitamins and minerals. Fritz’s research shows that some simple decisions gardeners make may bring added health benefits, such as increased cancer prevention, to their families.

Karen Kaler, Master Gardener State Program Director Julie Weisenhorn and volunteer Master Gardeners, will be available for garden-setting photos and interviews immediately after the keynote address.

A session from 10:30 to noon will offer several options, including more vegetable-health information from Fritz, an outdoor class about the University’s apple breeding program, and more. For more information about conference sessions, visit www.extension.umn.edu/go/1109.

ABOUT MASTER GARDENER:

The University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener program is a volunteer program that brings university knowledge and expertise in horticultural science to the public. The program is part of a national system. Educated by university faculty, Master Gardeners teach Minnesotans about consumer horticulture and environmental stewardship. They also assist with research and engage youth through gardening. Master Gardeners are active in all 50 states through the land-grant universities and colleges. For more information, visit www.extension.umn.edu/master-gardener.

U of M marks 150th anniversary of Morrill Act with special 'Land Grant Sesquicentennial Day' program

Media Note: In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act, Governor Mark Dayton has declared July 20 as “University of Minnesota Land Grant Sesquicentennial Day.”

Who: U of M President Eric Kaler, President Abe Lincoln look-alike, Goldy Gopher, U of M Alumni Marching Band (members of the media are encouraged to attend)

What: 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1862

When: Friday, July 20 at 1 p.m.

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

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July 16, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/16/2012) – Faculty, staff, students, neighbors and hundreds of youngsters attending various camps at the U will join University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler and Goldy Gopher—with a special appearance by “President Abe Lincoln”—in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act at 1 p.m. Friday, July 20, on the Northrop Auditorium Plaza on the university’s Twin Cities campus.

A short program beginning at approximately 1:10 p.m. to recognize the U’s land-grant legacy will include music by the U of M Alumni Marching Band and a reading of Governor Mark Dayton’s proclamation of July 20 as “University of Minnesota Land Grant Sesquicentennial Day.” Presidents Kaler and Lincoln, the latter played by university theater student Michael Fell, also will hand out free ice cream sandwiches.

The special commemorative program is part of UMN Land Grant 150, a yearlong celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act of 1862—legislation that laid the groundwork for the land-grant research university’s ongoing mission of learning, discovery and engagement for the common good.

The Morrill Act put into motion ideals and principles that guide the university to this day, as it evolves to meet 21st-century needs. The legislation set the stage for the “democratization” of higher education in America and called for higher education to be an active partner in the development and improvement of agriculture, the mechanical arts—known today as engineering—and the university’s life-saving research enterprise.

The University of Minnesota continues to reinvent itself and adapt its land-grant mission. For example, agriculture in 1862 meant feeding Minnesota, and today it means protecting the world’s food supply from disease and other threats, and keeping our food animals safe. Biochemical engineering, advanced physics and nanotechnology at the U today are producing new products, jumpstarting new companies and creating jobs.

One of very few public research land-grant institutions located in a major urban setting, the U is also committed to partnerships and collaborations that address the many complex challenges facing urban communities.

In addition, the university’s collaboration with the Mayo Clinic has become a globally recognized model of innovation in the biomedical field, as researchers continue to advance discoveries in a variety of disease areas, illnesses and bioscience areas.

The July 20 event is free and is open to university faculty, staff, students, alumni and neighbors. For more information on UMN Land Grant 150, including a short video, visit

<http://landgrant150.umn.edu>.

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler to visit Rochester July 19

Who: U of M President Eric Kaler

What: Visit to The Rotary Club of Rochester and University of Minnesota Rochester

When: Thursday, July 19

Where: University Square, Room 417, 111 South Broadway, Rochester

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July 16, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/16/2012) – University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will visit Rochester on Thursday, July 19 to meet with community and business leaders, alumni and legislators from southern Minnesota.

“Rochester is home to a world-renowned medical center, job-producing industry and a long tradition of high-tech leadership,” Kaler said. “Building upon these strengths through partnerships like the Decade of Discovery effort with Mayo Clinic to conquer diabetes is exactly why the University of Minnesota is a critical investment for our state. I look forward to meeting with legislators and other community leaders about how we can strengthen our partnerships and southern Minnesota.”

Kaler will be joined on the visit by University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR) Chancellor Stephen Lehmkuhle and university Regent Dr. Patricia Simmons of Rochester. He will start the day by leading a delegation of university researchers in a private meeting with legislators. The focus will be the high-impact and innovative research conducted by the U’s Center for Transportation Studies in southeastern Minnesota, along Highway 52 and I-90 across southern Minnesota. Researchers will provide an update on university efforts to make rural roads safer with driver-centered systems.

At noon, Kaler will speak to The Rotary Club of Rochester about the statewide economic value of the U, his commitment to keeping tuition in check and the challenges the university faces amid deep state funding reductions. The event is open to media.

“The University of Minnesota is working hard with various southern Minnesota partners to advance Minnesota’s prosperity, strengthen the economy and solve our state’s most pressing problems,” said Kaler. “Our research and land-grant mission make us a unique engine for producing the high-level workforce and discovery that Minnesota needs to continue its national and international leadership.”

More than 8,000 residents of the counties located along the I-90 corridor are graduates of the University of Minnesota, and together they hold nearly 10,200 degrees, including advanced degrees in medicine, law, engineering and veterinary medicine. Last semester, the U’s five statewide campuses enrolled 2,103 students hailing from Faribault, Freeborn, Jackson, Martin, Mower, Olmsted, Nobles, Rock and Winona counties.

The UMR campus, Rochester and Worthington Regional Extension offices and area county Extension offices account for more than 600 jobs along the I-90 corridor, resulting in an influx of \$38 million to the region.

The University of Minnesota Rochester, part of the University of Minnesota system, is focused on providing high-quality health sciences education. UMR was formally established as a coordinate U of M campus in December 2006 and is located in University Square in the heart of downtown Rochester. For more information, visit <http://www.r.umn.edu/>.

The University of Minnesota’s Center for Transportation Studies solves vexing transportation challenges in innovative ways, convening diverse communities to brainstorm, debate, share, learn and act. CTS partners with local and global transportation professionals, stakeholders, businesses and leaders to move new ideas from research to reality. For more information, see the 2012 highlights video at <http://z.umn.edu/cts2012>.

University of Minnesota teams up with Google to offer new 360-degree images of Antarctica

Images allow you to be a polar explorer from the comfort of your own home



The interior of Shackleton's Hut demonstrates the host of supplies used in early 20th Century Antarctic Expeditions—everything from medicine and food to candles and cargo sleds can be found neatly stored inside. Armchair polar explorers can now view 360-degree imagery of this historical location thanks to Google and the University of Minnesota's Polar Geospatial Center.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/17/2012) —See the inside of early polar explorer Ernest Shackleton's hut, visit a penguin colony and take in the wonders of the Antarctic landscape from the comfort of your own home or office with new images launched online today by Google in cooperation with the University of Minnesota's Polar Geospatial Center.

With images gathered by the Polar Geospatial Center, Google has expanded its 360-degree imagery of Antarctica giving the public an opportunity to view important and historical locations such as the South Pole Telescope, Shackleton's hut, the Cape Royds Adélie Penguin Rookery, explorer Robert Falcon Scott's hut, McMurdo Research Station and many other sites.

"This is the ultimate public outreach," said Paul Morin, director of the National Science Foundation-funded Polar Geospatial Center in the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering. "These are places that nobody can visit without tremendous effort and cost. This puts the glory of Antarctica at people's fingertips around the world so everyone can be an 'armchair' polar explorer."

See examples of the 360-degree imagery including [Shackleton's hut](#), [Scott's hut](#), and [South Pole Telescope](#).

"We're honored to work with the Polar Geospatial Center to expand our imagery of this remote continent," said David Pablo Cohn, Senior Research Scientist at Google. "This collaboration supports our ongoing efforts to map every corner of the world, and we hope people enjoy the breathtaking landscape that Antarctica, and its penguins, have to offer."

The public/private partnership provides new images to give public access to the outside and inside of historical huts that served as bases from which the explorers launched their expeditions a century ago. The huts were built to withstand the drastic weather conditions only for the few short years that the explorers inhabited them, but remarkably, the structures are still intact, along with well-preserved examples of the food, medicine, survival gear and equipment used during the expeditions. Now anyone can explore these huts and get insight into how these men lived for months at a time.

University of Minnesota research fellow Brad Herried took more than a dozen images of the historical huts, research stations and other places during the Antarctic field season between October 2011 and January 2012 that now appear on Google Maps. He used a lightweight tripod camera with a fisheye lens that could withstand the harsh conditions and took the photos manually.

"When I visited the historical huts of the early explorers, it gave me a new appreciation for what they endured to provide generations of scientists with important Antarctic information. I don't know how they did it back then," Herried said. "To just visit a place like that is so interesting. Now I am able to share it with the world. It makes me feel like I am part of their enduring legacy."

Because many of the sites are in very remote locations, Herried said getting to them required some interesting forms of transportation. Some sites were accessible by snowmobile, while others, such as the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station required traveling by U.S. Air Force LC-130 Hercules aircraft.

In addition to the 360-degree images, University of Minnesota researchers produced panoramic imagery of historic Antarctic locations that are now part of Google's special collection on their [World Wonders Project](#) site where visitors can learn more about the history of South Pole exploration.

Researchers also helped Google pinpoint specific points of interest and increase the accuracy of searchable location names in Antarctica on Google Maps. More images will continue to be added in the coming months including many from arctic regions in Greenland, Siberia and Alaska.

Today's announcement of the new imagery was made in conjunction with this week's Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Conference in Portland, OR.

In addition to the National Science Foundation-funded Polar Geospatial Center, other international partners involved in the Google projects include the New Zealand Antarctic Heritage Trust, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the British Antarctic Survey, and the Australian Antarctic Division.

About the University of Minnesota's Polar Geospatial Center

The Polar Geospatial Center (PGC) is based at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus. It is part of the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering. Founded in 2007, the center is funded by the National Science Foundation to support and promote research by providing geospatial information to the Arctic and Antarctic sciences, operations and education communities. The PGC also serves the Arctic and Antarctic as a data resource, map repository, and GIS service provider for researchers. For more information, visit www.pgc.umn.edu.

Cross-country solar car race to end in St. Paul on Saturday, July 21

University of Minnesota team in second place after Day 3 of racing



What: Finish of eight-day, 1,600-mile cross-country solar car race

When: Saturday, July 21 (first cars are expected to arrive about 11:30 a.m.; final cars expected by 3 p.m.)

Where: Minnesota State Capitol Mall, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, St. Paul

The U of M is competing in the American Solar Challenge, a cross-country race ending Saturday, July 21 in St. Paul

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July 17, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/17/2012) — The Minnesota State Capitol Mall will transform into a unique finish line as collegiate solar cars from across the country and Canada complete the American Solar Challenge in St. Paul on Saturday, July 21. The first cars are expected to arrive about 11:30 a.m. with the final cars completing the race by 3 p.m. All cars will be on display after crossing the finish line and visitors can talk with team members.

The eighth and final day of racing will begin Saturday morning in LaCrosse, Wis., with teams traveling the final 155 miles northwest to the finish line.

The University of Minnesota is one of about a dozen university teams from the United States and Canada competing in this year's 1,600-mile cross-country solar car race that began in Rochester, N.Y., on Saturday, July 14. After three days of racing, the University of Minnesota students are currently in second place.

University of Minnesota alumni, students and supporters are invited to gather at the university's College of Science and Engineering tent to cheer on the home team as they cross the finish line. The tent will be located near the finish line on the western side of the lower State Capitol Mall near the intersection of John Ireland Blvd. and Rev. Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd. (just north of parking lots H & I and the Veterans Service building). Wear your maroon and gold! Goldy Gopher will visit the tent between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The University of Minnesota's new car, named Centaurus III, is a completely new generation design from the university's previous nine solar vehicles. The most noticeable change is the new design that incorporates improved aerodynamics and cutting-edge electrical technology. This year's car also is unique because all of the car's parts have been custom-designed by students. More than 40 University of Minnesota science and engineering students are on the team. Team members estimate that they've collectively spent more than 50,000 hours over the last year planning and building the solar car.

U of M President Eric Kaler highlights university's role in strengthening Minnesota economy in visit to Rochester

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Rochester (07/19/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler spoke to The Rotary Club of Rochester today about the statewide economic value of the U, his commitment to keeping tuition in check and the challenges the university faces amid deep state funding reductions.

“The University of Minnesota is working hard with southern Minnesota partners to advance Minnesota’s prosperity and strengthen the economy,” Kaler said. “There is deep value and return on investment in the U. Our research and land grant mission make us a unique engine for producing the high-level workforce and discovery that Minnesota needs to continue its national and international leadership.”

Kaler also met with community and business leaders, alumni and legislators from southern Minnesota on the University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR) campus. He was joined by UMR Chancellor Stephen Lehmkuhle and university Regents Dr. Patricia Simmons of Rochester and Richard Beeson of St. Paul.

Kaler started the day by leading a delegation of university researchers in a private meeting with legislators. They focused on the high-impact and innovative research conducted by the U’s Center for Transportation along Highway 52 and I-90 across southern Minnesota.

“University research is helping ensure road safety and saving lives, particularly in Greater Minnesota,” Kaler said. “This is one example of how we work with communities and other partners to help solve our state’s most pressing problems.”

More than 8,000 residents of the counties located along the I-90 corridor are graduates of the University of Minnesota, and together they hold nearly 10,200 degrees, including advanced degrees in medicine, law, engineering and veterinary medicine. Last semester, the U’s five statewide campuses enrolled 2,103 students hailing from Faribault, Freeborn, Jackson, Martin, Mower, Olmsted, Nobles, Rock and Winona counties.

The UMR campus, Rochester and Worthington Regional Extension offices and area county Extension offices account for more than 600 jobs along the I-90 corridor, resulting in an influx of \$38 million to the region.

“Rochester is home to a world-renowned medical center and is a center for high-tech leadership,” Kaler said. “We value our partnerships with the region and look forward to working on new challenges together.”

UMR, part of the University of Minnesota system, is focused on providing high-quality health sciences education. UMR was formally established as a U of M campus in December 2006 and is located in University Square in the heart of downtown Rochester. For more information, visit <http://www.r.umn.edu/>.

The University of Minnesota’s Center for Transportation Studies solves vexing transportation challenges in innovative ways, convening diverse communities to brainstorm, debate, share, learn and act. CTS partners with local and global transportation professionals, stakeholders, businesses and leaders to move new ideas from research to reality. For more information, see the 2012 highlights video at <http://z.umn.edu/cts2012>.

Study finds racially diverse suburban communities growing faster than white suburbs but resegregation threatens prosperity and stability

Media Note: For Minneapolis metro area maps, go to

<http://www.law.umn.edu/metro/resources/maps-by-city/minneapolis-mn-wi-.html>

For metro profiles, fact sheets and maps, go to

http://www.law.umn.edu/uploads/da/70/da703a0be8718cc076548c86443f7954/Minneapolis_PressMaterials.pdf

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/20/2012) —Racially diverse suburbs are growing faster than white suburbs, but resegregation threatens their prosperity and stability, according to a study entitled, “America’s Racially Diverse Suburbs: Opportunities and Challenges,” released this week by the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity at the University of Minnesota Law School.

Long perceived as predominantly prosperous white enclaves, suburbs are now at the cutting edge of racial, ethnic and political change in America. The study finds the number of racially diverse suburbs, municipalities ranging from 20-60 percent non-white, increased from 1,006 to 1,376 between 2000 and 2010 in the 50 largest U.S. metropolitan areas (a 37 percent increase). Fully 44 percent of suburban residents in these areas now live in racially diverse communities, up from 38 percent in 2000. Moreover, racially diverse suburbs are growing faster than white suburbs, and the number of diverse neighborhoods in suburbs is now more than twice the number found in central cities.

“Diverse suburbs represent some of the nation’s greatest hopes and its gravest challenges,” says study co-author Myron Orfield, director of the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity. “The rapidly growing diversity of suburban communities suggests a degree of declining racial bias and at least the partial success of fair housing laws. But the fragile demographic stability in these newly diverse suburbs presents serious challenges for local, state and federal governments.”

The study finds that racially diverse suburban communities have many attractive features, including relatively strong tax bases, low poverty rates, and strong local economies. They also are more walkable and energy efficient. According to Orfield, these findings are consistent with other research showing that diverse communities have higher graduation rates for minority students, better access to college and middle-income jobs, better race relations, greater civic engagement by all, and enhanced ability to cope with America’s increasingly diverse workplaces.

However, while representing great hope, these diverse suburbs face challenges, the most serious being resegregation. The study finds that many of these communities are in the midst of racial, social and economic transition, abetted by mortgage lending and insurance discrimination, subsidized housing placement, exclusionary zoning, and racial gerrymandering of school attendance boundaries.

The study proposes a number of public policy changes to help to stabilize diverse communities:

- Creation of local stable integration plans with fair housing ordinances, incentives for pro-integrative home loans, cooperative efforts with local school districts, and financial support of pro-integrative community-based organizations.
- Greater enforcement of existing civil rights laws including the Fair Housing Act, especially the sections related to racial steering, mortgage lending discrimination and location of publicly subsidized affordable housing.
- Adoption of regional strategies to limit exclusionary zoning and require affluent suburbs to accommodate their fair share of affordable housing.
- Adoption of metropolitan-scale strategies to promote more diverse schools.

“Resegregation is common but not inevitable,” says Orfield. “Stable integration is possible but it does not happen by accident. It is the product of clear race-conscious strategies, hard work, and political collaboration among local governments. Racially diverse communities represent the best model for the nation’s educational, economic and political success.”

About the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity

The Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity at the University of Minnesota Law School investigates the ways that laws, policies and practices affect development patterns in U.S. metropolitan regions. Through top-level scholarship, mapping, and advocacy, it provides the resources policymakers, planning officials and community organizations need to address reform in taxation, land use, housing, metropolitan governance and education. More information is available at <http://www.law.umn.edu/metro.html>.

Institute on Race and Poverty renamed Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity to reflect expansion of research areas

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/20/2012) —The University of Minnesota Law School's Institute on Race and Poverty, founded in 1993, has been renamed the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity to reflect its broadening research, Professor and Institute Director Myron Orfield has announced.

The institute will continue work on housing and school racial segregation while undertaking new research in metropolitan land use and sustainable development; state and local taxation and public service reform; and regional economic development, transportation and transit planning, and governance. With support from the Ford Foundation, it recently completed a large study on growing racial diversity in suburbs of the 50 largest U.S. metropolitan areas.

Orfield teaches civil rights, state and local government and finance, land use, regional governance, and the legislative process, and has written more than 60 reports and three books on metropolitan issues, most recently *Region: Planning the Future of the Twin Cities* (UMN Press, 2010). A law professor, affiliated professor at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and a nonresident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, he served on President Barack Obama's transition team on urban and regional policy and on the Committee on Equality and Justice by appointment of Minnesota Chief Justice Lorie Gildea. Previously, he headed the demographics and planning firm Ameregis, practiced law in the public and private sectors, and was elected to both the Minnesota House and Senate, where he authored significant legislation on metropolitan area land use, taxation, and government reform.

About the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity

The University of Minnesota Law School's Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity studies how laws, policies, and practices affect development patterns in U.S. metropolitan regions. Through top-level scholarship, mapping, and advocacy, it provides policymakers, planning officials, and community organizations with resources to address taxation, land use, housing, governance, and education reform. To learn more, go to www.law.umn.edu/metro

Three University of Minnesota students chosen as Tillman Military Scholars

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/23/2012) —The University of Minnesota and Pat Tillman Foundation are pleased to announce that three students have been selected as Tillman Military Scholars for the 2012-2013 academic year. They are:

- **Capt. Amber Manke** was among a small group of female officers deployed in Kuwait in support of Operation New Dawn, which she counts among the most rewarding experiences of her military service. She plans to remain in the Guard for the foreseeable future with plans to become a National Guard Training Officer and to eventually pursue a management human resources position with the Guard.
- **Capt. Nicholas Swaggert** graduated from Iowa State University with a B.A. in political science. He joined the Marine Corps in 2005 and was deployed twice as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Now a full-time student at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs, he aspires to one day serve the community as an appointed public official.
- **Army spouse Laura Tillman** earned a B.S. in nursing at the University of Minnesota in 2009 and is currently pursuing an advanced degree to become a pediatric nurse practitioner. She plans to use her nursing background to work on impacting health care legislation in order to ensure access to affordable health care for everyone.

The University of Minnesota is one of 14 campuses serving as a Tillman Military Scholar University Partner for the 2012-2013 academic year. University Partners are selected based on their innovative service member-specific support services and proven culture of community for military families.

As a University Partner, each institution conducts outreach to its veteran, military member and military spouse student population and actively participates in the Tillman Military Scholar selection process. Upon selection of Tillman Military Scholars on campus, each then supports the building of community among these students, strengthening their academic and personal experience.

“With the increasing number of veterans, military members and their families coming to the University of Minnesota as students, we’ve built a strong Veterans Services office that provides assistance student veterans need,” said Carin Anderson, manager of University Veteran Services in Academic Support Resources. “Now, as a Tillman Military Scholar University Partner, we can build on that success. We are proud and honored to have three Tillman Military Scholars among our students this year.”

In 2008, the Pat Tillman Foundation established the Tillman Military Scholars program to support educational opportunities for service members and military families by bridging the financial gaps left by the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. Military families face numerous challenges during the transition from military to civilian life and have unique needs that often prevent successfully completing a degree. As a result, Tillman Military Scholars receive financial support to not only cover traditional study-related expenses such as tuition and books, but also other needs, including but not limited to: housing, transportation and childcare. In providing this support, the Pat Tillman Foundation aims to remove any and all obstacles that would otherwise prohibit academic success.

Over the past four years, the Pat Tillman Foundation has awarded more than \$3.2 million in scholarship funds to 230 Tillman Military Scholars pursuing education at every level from freshmen undergraduates to Ph.D. candidates. Overall, Tillman Military Scholars represent 71 different institutions across 34 states.

“We received 1,280 applicants this year and, with support from our selection committee, narrowed these applicants down to 59 outstanding candidates to join the fourth class of Tillman Military Scholars,” said Hunter I. Riley, director of programs at the Pat Tillman Foundation. “These Scholars represent leadership in the military, classroom and community and we’re proud to invest in their education and support them in making a positive impact into the future.”

About the Pat Tillman Foundation

Family and friends established the Pat Tillman Foundation following Pat's death in 2004 while serving with the 75th Ranger Regiment in Afghanistan. Created to honor Pat's legacy and pay tribute to his commitment to leadership and service, the Pat Tillman Foundation is a national leader in providing educational support and resources to veterans, active service members and their spouses. Inspired by Pat's attributes of leadership, passion for education and spirit of service, the Foundation annually awards educational scholarships through the Tillman Military Scholars program. To date, the Foundation has provided over \$3.2 million in scholarships to 230 active service members, veterans and dependents. For more information, visit: www.pattillmanfoundation.org.

Statement by University of Minnesota President Eric W. Kaler about NCAA sanctions imposed on Penn State

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/23/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric W. Kaler released the following statement today in response to NCAA sanctions against Penn State.

“First and foremost, we express our sincere sorrow for the individuals and their families who have been harmed in unimaginable ways, and our thoughts are with them.

Second, we support the sanctions imposed on Penn State today by the NCAA and the Big Ten Conference Council of Presidents and Chancellors.

Penn State’s situation is a cautionary tale for all of us: the culture of big-time college sports must never supersede a culture of safety, compliance, transparency and accountability on our campuses.

At the University of Minnesota, we are committed to a culture of compliance in our athletics department, and we will continue to monitor and improve our processes.

I remind the University of Minnesota community that any university employee who witnesses a sexual assault on campus, or a sexual assault involving employees on or off campus, is expected to immediately report the assault to law enforcement.

No university program or official is more important than the safety of individuals on our campuses, especially children. The U will support any employee who reports a suspected crime in good faith.”

Background

During the past decade, the University of Minnesota has implemented the following structure to ensure compliance and direct lines of independent oversight for Gopher Athletics: Athletics academic advisers report to the Provost’s Office – the U’s chief academic office. The athletics compliance officer reports to the Office of the General Counsel. And the athletics director reports directly to President Kaler.

Also, the university has an associate vice president for internal audit, who reports to the Board of Regents and president, and is the watchdog on all university matters. In addition, the university has two faculty oversight boards monitoring academic and athletics compliance.

U of M recognizes 2012 Farm Families of the Year

Media Note: Photographs of families who attend the Aug. 9 recognition ceremony will be posted to <http://mnfarmfamilies.cfans.umn.edu> after Aug. 15.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/24/2012) —Seventy-six families from around the state, one from each participating county, have been named a “2012 Farm Family of the Year” by the University of Minnesota.

The families will be officially recognized in a ceremony Thursday, Aug. 9 at the annual Farmfest near Redwood Falls, Minn. Profiles of the 2012 honorees and information on the recognition event can be found on the University’s farm family website at <http://mnfarmfamilies.cfans.umn.edu>.

“Farm families and agriculture are a major driver of Minnesota’s economy and the vitality of Minnesota’s rural communities,” said Bev Durgan, dean of University of Minnesota Extension. “The University of Minnesota is proud to recognize these outstanding families for their contributions to agriculture and their communities.”

Families were selected by their local county Extension committees for having demonstrated a commitment to enhancing and supporting agriculture.

Farmfest runs Aug. 7-9 at the Gilfillan Estate, near Redwood Falls, Minn. Event hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 7 and 8, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 9. Admission is \$10 per person, and those 18 and under are admitted free. More information on Farmfest is available at www.ideagroup.com/farmfest.

The diversity of Minnesota family farms can be seen by looking at a sample of the 2012 honorees:

Greg Booth and Vickie Kettlewell of Cass County

Sunup Ranch began near Osseo, Minn. in 1950. In 1993, Greg and Vickie Booth began managing the ranch. Today, they have beef cattle, a mare herd, and sell registered Quarter Horses. The family takes the horses to homes all over the world, from the U.S. to Canada to Mexico to Germany to Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Great Britain and Panama.

Oberton Honey Farm of Morrison County

Oberton Honey Farm operates 2,500 colonies of honeybees, producing honey and beeswax in central Minnesota. The bees are placed at 85 locations in Morrison, Todd, Stearns and Cass counties. During the winter months, the bees are used to pollinate almond trees in California.

Dave and D.J. Roeser of Ramsey County

Garden Fresh Farms of Maplewood has proven that urban agriculture is sustainable in a warehouse environment. Dave and D.J. Roeser focus on family urban farm growing and selling produce to the community, and manufacturing agriculture equipment for growing produce in warehouses. They also contribute fresh produce to the local food shelf weekly.

Joe and Pat DeGroot Bros. of Rice County

The DeGroot Bros. third-generation farm was established in 1931. Today the DeGroot brothers raise dairy replacement heifers and finish out approximately 2,400 hogs a year. They also manage 1,500 acres growing corn, soybeans, small grains, and alfalfa.

Lunemann Family’s Twin Eagle Dairy of Todd County

In 1983, Patrick and Jody Lunemann took over the farm started by Patrick’s grandparents. Called Twin Eagle Dairy, the operation now consists of 635 dairy cows and 750 young stock. The cows are milked in a 24 stall parallel parlor and baby calves are raised in a new computerized feeder facility.

Gary and Lori Swanson Family of Washington County

The Swanson family farm in Afton, Minn. has been in operation at the present location since 1942. The farm was originally a dairy, but was converted to a feeder cattle and hog operation when Gary took over in 1976. Today Gary is operating a corn and soybean farm along with feeder cattle. The Swansons use GPS yield monitoring and mapping, grid soil sampling for fertilizing, and lime applications.

Here is a complete listing of the 2012 University of Minnesota Farm Family of the Year honorees, by county:

County: Family/Farm

1. Aitkin: 4R Charolais and Angus Ranch
2. Anoka: Daniel Johnson, Curtis Johnson, Dave Johnson, Drew Johnson, Aaron Johnson, Lee Johnson
3. Becker: Jay & Anna Brown Family
4. Benton: Jeremy & Barb Larson Family
5. Big Stone: Gerald & Peggy Heck Family
6. Blue Earth: Bradley & Linda Leiding
7. Brown: Greg & Kari Scholtz Family
8. Carlton: Newman Dairy
9. Carver: Heuer Dairy Inc.
10. Cass: Greg Booth & Vickie Kettlewell
11. Chippewa: Tony & Stacie Schuler Family
12. Chisago: Roger & Linda Blazek
13. Clay: Donald Schenck
14. Clearwater: Dale & Lois Miller
15. Cottonwood: Tom & Marilyn Fast Family
16. Dakota: Bremer Farms: Roy & Karen Bremer and John & Janet Bremer
17. Dodge: The Alberts Family
18. Douglas: Max & Lyla Radil
19. Faribault: Mark & Sharon Obermeyer Family
20. Fillmore: LeRoy & Darleen Johnson’s Rolling Acres
21. Freeborn: Andrew & Jody Bakken
22. Goodhue: Rostad Farms
23. Grant: Reuss Grain Farms: Randy & Connie Reuss
24. Hennepin: Marvin D. Johnson
25. Houston: Viking Valley Farm: Gerald, Duron & Darin Bratland
26. Isanti: David & Donna Whitney – Dew Fresh Produce and Jacob Whitney – Jake’s Apple Shack
27. Jackson: Christopher Family
28. Kanabec: Anderson Standing Rock Ranch
29. Kandiyohi: Carlson Dairy, LLP
30. Kittson: Justin & Donna Dagen
31. Lac qui Parle: Duane & Suzi Haugen
32. Lake of the Woods: Lyle & Millie Wiskow
33. Le Sueur: Curt & Joyce Bohlen Family
34. Lincoln: Dwight & Peggy Buller Family
35. Lyon: Bruce & Juanita Bot Family
36. Mahnomen: The Geray Farm
37. Martin: Gary & Dorothy Janssen and Family
38. McLeod: Duane & Mary Nelson
39. Meeker: Dave & Katie Hendrickson Family
40. Mille Lacs: Eller Family Farm
41. Morrison: Oberton Honey Farm
42. Mower: Gene Anderson Dairy Farm
43. Murray: Bill & Merri Post Family and Ben & Connie Post Family
44. Nicollet: Jeff & Natalie Leonard and Doug & Nancy Wenner
45. Nobles: Perkins
46. Norman: Bryan & Theresa Hest Family
47. Olmsted: Kroening Farms
48. Pine: Martin’s Greenhouses
49. Pipestone: Marlin & Donna Berg and Philip & Laurel Berg & Family
50. Polk: Chuck & Barbara Schulstad
51. Pope: Arne E. Stoen Family
52. Ramsey: Dave and D.J. Roeser
53. Red Lake: Roger & Janel Walter Family
54. Redwood: Breikreutz Family Farm
55. Renville: Agre Farms
56. Rice: Joe & Pat DeGroot Bros.
57. Rock: The Christians Family Farm
58. Roseau: Eugene & Eunice Millner
59. St. Louis: Byrnes Erickson Families
60. Scott: Casey Acres, Inc.
61. Sherburne: Edling Farms Inc.
62. Sibley: Neyers
63. Stearns: Dan & Jolene Schlangen
64. Steele: Rodney & Michelle Krell Family
65. Stevens: Lampert Farms
66. Swift: Kevin Voorhees Family
67. Todd: Lunemann Family’s Twin Eagle Dairy
68. Traverse: Bruce & Joann Conroy Family
69. Wabasha: Hyde Park Holsteins: Kevin & Kay Siewert Family and Kerwin & Sandy Siewert
70. Wadena: Mertens Family Dairy Farm
71. Waseca: Paul & Marijo Beckstrand
72. Washington: Gary & Lori Swanson Family
73. Watonwan: Anderson Farm
74. Winona: David & Kristi Tveten Family
75. Wright : Valley View Dairy: Dan & Erica Elsenpeter and Luke & Elizabeth Elsenpeter
76. Yellow Medicine: Paul & Jamie Kvistad Family

University of Minnesota offers expertise, honors farmers at Farmfest

What: University of Minnesota at Farmfest

When: Tuesday-Thursday, Aug. 7-9

Where: Farmfest near Redwood Falls

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July 24, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/24/2012) - Visitors to the 30th annual Farmfest next month will have a number of opportunities to celebrate farmers and agriculture as well as learn from University of Minnesota experts about solutions to specific agricultural challenges such as this summer's drought.

The U of M tent will have educational displays and experts available for all three days to provide solutions to three issues —managing herbicide resistant weeds; controlling invasive species including soybean aphid, brown marmorated stick bug and emerald ash borer; and reducing damage from Goss's wilt in corn and soybean cyst nematode in soybeans. The U of M tent also will include opportunities for youth to share what they love about Minnesota agriculture; their answers will be displayed in the tent and via social media. Noted climatologist Mark Seeley also will be on hand on Wednesday, Aug. 8.

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will lead a panel of experts discussing agricultural innovation at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, August 9 in the Forum tent. The panel will include university experts in economics, plant and animal sciences and public health.

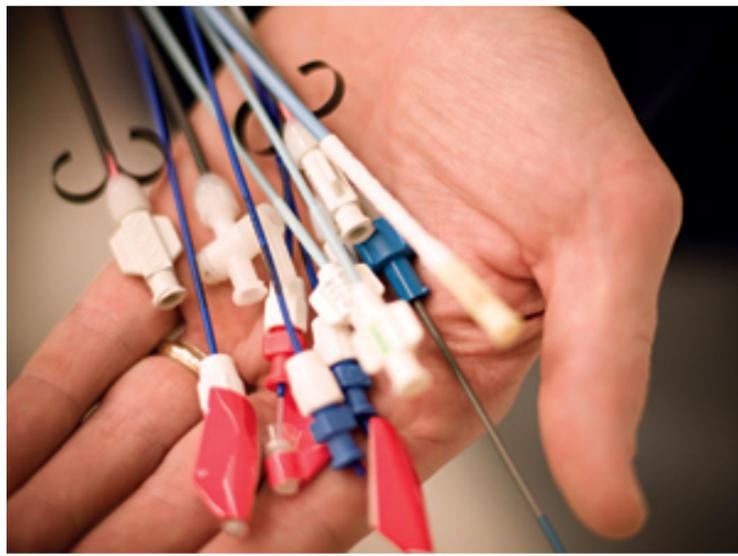
In addition, 76 [Farm Families of the Year](#) will be honored Thursday for their contributions to agriculture and their local communities.

Farmfest, the state's largest farm-related gathering, takes place from August 7-9 at the Gilfillan Estate in Redwood County.

For more information about Farmfest, visit the event [website](#).

University of Minnesota receives grant from DEED for expansion of Medical Devices Center

Construction expected to begin this fall on Minneapolis Campus



The Medical Devices Center is a world-renowned model for turning research and development ideas into marketable products.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/25/2012) —The University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering announced today that it has been awarded \$1.08 million from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to convert 8,000 square feet of unfinished space into an expanded facility for the Medical Devices Center on the Minneapolis campus. Construction on the new Medical Devices Center is expected to begin this fall.

The funding, awarded under the agency's Innovative Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program, will be used to convert part of the Mayo Parking Garage into a new, larger facility for the Medical Devices Center, which has outgrown its current 5,000-square-foot space in the Shepherd Labs building on the University's East Bank. The new facility will be conveniently located in the heart of the University's medical facilities while remaining close to the University's engineering buildings.

The University's College of Science and Engineering will contribute the remaining funds for the \$2.2 million project using money from facilities and administrative charges on external research grants. In-kind donations from medical devices companies are expected to fund needed equipment. To date, the Medical Devices Center has received more than \$1 million in equipment donations for its current facilities.

"The medical devices sector is a vital industry in Minnesota, employing more than 29,000 people, the highest number per capita in the U.S.," said DEED Commissioner Mark Phillips. "The Medical Devices Center is critical to the state's infrastructure, serving as an integral partner to industry and an incubator for innovative new devices."

Established in 2008, the Medical Devices Center includes laboratories, equipment, support facilities, training programs and expert personnel. The center is a world-renowned model for turning research and development ideas into marketable products. Over the last four years, the center's research fellows have filed 109 invention disclosures to the University of Minnesota Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC), of which 52 were filed just this year. Based on these invention disclosures, the University has filed 37 patent applications and four additional applications are currently under preparation.

"The Medical Devices Center is a great example of how a partnership among the University of Minnesota, State of Minnesota and industry can strengthen the state's economy," said Steven L. Crouch, dean of the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering. "With more than 100 invention disclosures in just the last four years, our Medical Devices Center has a proven track record of success that we hope to expand even further with additional space."

University administrators estimate that a new, larger Medical Devices Center could contribute to the creation of anywhere from 80 to several hundred jobs in Minnesota annually from new start-up companies and new devices that create jobs at existing medical device companies.

In addition to driving medical device innovation, the Medical Devices Center trains the next generation workforce often cited as the key to maintaining Minnesota's competitive edge in the medical device industry. The center's Innovation Fellows program draws talent from around the world to train future innovation leaders in Minnesota. The Medical Devices Center also provides leading-edge training of more than 100 undergraduate and graduate students per year to meet the need for engineers within the state's critical medtech sector. The center also hosts the annual Design of Medical Devices Conference, the world's largest medical devices conference bringing together leaders in academia, industry and government to share perspectives and innovation in medical device design.

The Innovative Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program provides funding for up to 50 percent of the cost of public projects that create or retain jobs through the growth of innovative businesses and organizations. Projects that target manufacturing, technology, warehousing and distribution, research and development, business incubation, agricultural processing, or industrial, office or research park development are eligible for funding under the program.

The University of Minnesota Medical Devices Center is part of the Institute for Engineering in Medicine, an interdisciplinary research organization strengthening efforts between the disciplines of engineering and medicine that seeks to provide solutions and collaborative opportunities to the regional medical device industry.

U of M researcher explores how nature and science can be applied to modern agriculture in 'Darwinian Agriculture'

New book by R. Ford Denison presents unique approach to efficient and sustainable agriculture

Contacts: [Matt Hodson](#), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/25/2012) —The largest drought in 50 years has severely damaged much of the nation's "corn belt" and is threatening the viability of Minnesota's 2012 corn crop. While an extreme, this summer's condition is a reminder of a larger challenge facing agriculture – to use limited resources like water in an effective and sustainable manner.

R. Ford Denison, an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota, seeks to address these challenges through the dual prism of science and nature in his new book, *Darwinian Agriculture: How Understanding Evolution Can Improve Agriculture*.

"The need to produce a higher yield is continually growing, yet natural resources are becoming increasingly scarce," says Denison. "Improving crop genetics – and avoiding costly dead ends in the process – is paramount to the long term sustainability of agriculture. This requires a comprehensive approach, one that incorporates the lessons of nature when applying modern science."

Linking evolution to agriculture was natural for Denison, who researches evolutionary biology in the university's College of Biological Sciences and helps to plan long-term field research for the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. He discusses how both biotechnology and traditional plant breeding can – and should – benefit from considering past evolutionary improvements in traits like drought tolerance when identifying promising routes for further genetic improvement.

Analyzing the implications of evolutionary tradeoffs, Denison argues in *Darwinian Agriculture* that biotechnology and breeding efforts should sometimes reverse the results of past evolution that are inconsistent with present goals. For example, the ratio of photosynthesis to water use is greater for a plant in the morning when humidity is higher; it would therefore sometimes be better for crop yield if plants simply shut down in the afternoon. Why then, Denison asks, have plants not naturally evolved to do so? The answer, he states, is competition among plants: if one plant sacrifices its water intake for an afternoon, a neighboring plant will use water saved by the former. As a result, past natural selection favored individual growth at the expense of the plant community.

"Drought resistance is great when needing to get through a week without rain," Denison says. "In agriculture, however, simply surviving is not enough – a crop actually needs to produce a grain or fruit. What we need is a plant able to produce more with a given amount of water. This is much more difficult, but that also means there may be more opportunity for us to improve on what evolved naturally."

The first of Denison's three proposed principles of Darwinian Agriculture: "Prolonged natural selection rarely misses simple, tradeoff-free improvements," predicts that simply increasing drought resistance may have negative tradeoffs. His second principle indicates that, "Competitive testing is more rigorous than testing merely by persistence." So "nature's wisdom" may be found more in individual trees (whose ancestors competed) than in even ancient forests. The final principle is a call to action: "We should hedge our bets with a greater variety of crops – and ideas!"

In a review, Kenneth G. Cassman, professor of agronomy at the University of Nebraska, states: "*Darwinian Agriculture* is a very important contribution to our understanding of the links between nature and agriculture, and to the future of our human race. Denison underpins his arguments with an incredible wealth of insight and knowledge about plants, animals, physics, chemistry, biology and ecology."

Darwinian Agriculture is published by Princeton University Press and is available now.

As the state's only public research university, the University of Minnesota is guided by its ongoing land-grant mission of learning, discovery and engagement for the common good. Denison's work is just one example of how U of M researchers are driven to discover solutions to real and significant challenges facing Minnesota, the nation and the world. For more information, visit www.umn.edu.

Provost Karen Hanson names Christine Tschida the new director of Northrop at the University of Minnesota

Contacts: [Patty Mattern](mailto:mattern@umn.edu), University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/30/2012) —Christine Tschida has been named director of Northrop at the University of Minnesota by Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Karen Hanson. Tschida will begin her new job Aug. 15.

“Christine will provide energetic, experienced, and visionary leadership for the academic and cultural program that will define the new Northrop, and she will be an excellent collaborator with the campus and community,” Hanson said.

Northrop is in the midst of a major revitalization project. The new position of director of Northrop was created to address the desire to expand programming in Northrop, better connect Northrop to the full range of the intellectual life of the University, and better engage students.

“Northrop has always been a place of honor and distinction at the University of Minnesota, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to help shape its future,” Tschida said. “As the renovated, state of the art facility takes shape, I look forward to being a part of a vibrant and bustling new cultural center that will enrich and enliven the University community and the State of Minnesota.”

For the past 10 years, Tschida has been director of Theatre Projects for Rena Shagan Associates, New York, N.Y., serving as an artist representative for distinguished dance and theater companies and working with more than 600 presenting organizations in the Upper Midwest and Western regions.

Before that, she spent 12 years as producer of “A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor” for Minnesota Public Radio, managing a creative team responsible for weekly broadcasts of public radio’s most successful variety show. During this time, she also served as executive director of the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul. She has also worked in various performing arts management roles for the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Pace University in New York and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Early in her career, she spent six years as outreach program director for the Guthrie Theater, responsible for touring programs, educational activities, and special events. She earned her B.A. degree in Theater and Humanities from Macalester College and has taken business coursework at the University of St. Thomas.

Tschida was selected from a field of four finalists identified by a search committee led by co-chairs Kathy O’Brien, the former vice president for University Services, and Robert McMaster, vice provost and dean of Undergraduate Education. Tschida will report to the provost, in consultation with the vice provost for undergraduate education.

Tenants are scheduled to move into the “new” Northrop in fall 2013, and a grand opening is anticipated the following spring once the performance hall is completed. The building will be home to the department of Concerts and Lectures, which will fill a completely new and up-to-date 2,800-seat hall with an innovative performing arts program. The renovated Northrop also will house important academic programs, including the University Honors Program and the Institute for Advanced Study, as well as public study and meeting spaces to promote collaborative activities.

“We want the new Northrop to be the centerpiece of the university’s cultural life, as well as a new home for academic programs and a dynamic gathering place for the campus community,” Hanson said. “I know Christine shares our excitement about Northrop’s immense potential and will help us achieve our goals for creating new programs and traditions that will bring this campus landmark into the 21st century.”

While Northrop is under construction, its performing arts program has continued in other locations, with 2012-13 dance events scheduled at the Orpheum Theater, the O’Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University, the State Theatre, and Ted Mann Concert Hall, and the Accordo chamber music series at Christ Church Lutheran.

School start dates before Labor Day affect family travel, U of M study says

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/31/2012) —A recent study conducted by the University of Minnesota Tourism Center examined how travel patterns among households with school-aged children change when school starts before Labor Day. The results provide missing data for policy makers as they consider ending the mandate that school districts start after Labor Day in Minnesota.

The study finds that:

- Family trips of two or more nights away from home decreased by 50 percent in August or September when school starts were moved to before Labor Day.
- Family overnight travel throughout the season—from May through September—decreased by 30 percent when school starts were moved to before Labor Day.

This suggests that when school starts before Labor Day, some families forgo summer trips, whereas others simply travel earlier in the season.

Data for the study was drawn from the American Time Use Survey (ATUS), a national study sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The survey is designed to describe how Americans use time on a daily basis. While past studies have asked hypothetical questions about travel, the Tourism Center study examined actual travel behavior of families in five states.

This study compared ATUS data about travel in Minnesota, Virginia, Michigan, Iowa, and Wisconsin as they transitioned in and out of school calendar or policy changes. Steps were taken to assure that the behavior change was attributed to school start times, rather than other conditions. For example, the study found that families without children who were from similar demographic and economic groups showed no difference in travel when school starts date changed.

The report, authored by Elton Mykerezi of the U of M Department of Applied Economics and Genti Kostandini of the University of Georgia, notes that school districts want flexibility in start dates due to a variety of concerns, such as the need for time to prepare students for testing. Mykerezi says arguments against earlier start dates come from those concerned about the value of family leisure time, as well from members of the tourism and hospitality industry concerned that a pre-Labor Day start will hurt tourism by reducing family travel.

“Policy makers considering school start dates are weighing important matters for the public good,” says Ingrid Schneider, Director of the University of Minnesota Tourism Center. “Everyone wants strong educational outcomes, and the tourism industry wants to remain a successful economic force. We wanted to bring objective and comparative data to this issue.”

The Carlson Chair for Travel, Tourism & Hospitality was the study’s fiscal sponsor. To view the report, visit www.extension.umn.edu/go/1117.

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.

Central Minnesotans to unveil their first community driven, 25-year plan for economic, environmental sustainability at Aug. 14 event

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/02/2012) —Central Minnesota's first community driven, University of Minnesota-assisted master plan for economic and environmental sustainability will be unveiled at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14 at the Arrowwood Lodge at Brainerd Lakes in Baxter, Minn.

On hand will be U.S. Sen. Al Franken, University of Minnesota Extension Dean Bev Durgan and more than 200 residents from Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties who directly contributed to the plan's development. The celebration will also include the announcement of "regional champions"—residents nominated by their peers to play a key role in the plan's implementation.

Spearheaded by Extension's Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships program (RSDP) and the Region Five Development Commission, the Central Minnesota Sustainable Development Plan (CMSDP)—locally referred to as the 'Resilient Region Project'—drew heavily on the expertise of university faculty, staff and students. The plan's recommendations target affordable housing, broadband access, demographic shifts, economic development, education and workforce improvement, energy and transportation options, health care access and natural resource management.

Event participants will include Commissioner of Minnesota Housing Mary Tingerthal; Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture David Frederickson; Minnesota Commissioner of Employment and Economic Development Mark Phillips; U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development State Director Colleen Landkamer; and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office for Sustainable Housing and Communities Director Shelly R. Poticha. A reception with entertainment provided by The Theater of Public Policy will follow.

"Community driven, university-assisted is a theme throughout Extension's work and the driving force behind the university's partnership with the Central Minnesota community on this landmark initiative," says Kathryn Draeger, RSDP statewide director who oversaw the plan's development.

"The Central Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership office will continue to provide resources, assistance and expertise to the implementation of the plan, but it will be the communities—in this case, the project's "Regional Champions"—that will drive the project forward."

The event and reception is free and open to the public. Reservations are encouraged, but not required. Contact Ann Hanson, Region Five Development Commission, at (218) 894-3233 for details.

The CMSDP was made possible by an \$825,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). RSDP is a unit of Extension that works to vitalize greater Minnesota by addressing community-identified issues. For more information, visit www.rsdp.umn.edu.

Central Minnesotans to unveil their first community driven, 25-year plan for economic, environmental sustainability at Aug. 14 event

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President Eric Kaler receives update on vital Lake Superior research

Duluth visit also includes legislators, business leaders, UMD chancellor and Regent McMillan

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Cheryl Reitan, U of M Duluth, creitan@d.umn.edu, (218) 726-8996

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/06/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler visited the University of Minnesota, Duluth (UMD) campus today to receive an update on Lake Superior-based fresh water research -- a vital step toward protecting one of the most important sources of fresh water and shipping access.

“The University of Minnesota is working with our northeastern Minnesota partners to grow the area economy and build the state’s prosperity in a responsible way,” Kaler said. “Our research, land and sea grant missions, as well as our history of innovation on the Iron Range, Lake Superior and across the region, allow us to help meet the state’s most pressing challenges.”

Kaler led a group of university scholars and legislators in a research demonstration aboard the Blue Heron, the research vessel of UMD’s Large Lakes Observatory (LLO). While on board, Kaler and legislators heard from a U physicist, chemist and three geologists who are researching ways to protect Minnesota’s water resources, the planet’s fresh water supply and aquatic life. The group is also studying Lake Superior’s response to the June 20 flooding, allowing scientists to better predict and protect residents and infrastructure from large rainstorm events.

In addition, Kaler received a briefing about two new autonomous profiling moorings (i.e., mechanisms that are attached to anchors and collect underwater data) that are scheduled to be launched and installed on the floor of Lake Superior this week. The moorings, made possible by a National Science Foundation grant, will allow for a permanent presence in the lake to collect data. Lead researchers said the moorings will allow them to collect the first continuous data during the winter months.

“For nearly a century, university research has helped us better understand lake ecosystems and the impacts that threaten fresh water in the 21st century,” Kaler said. “UMD is a leader in fresh water research and in preparing tomorrow’s scientists to address threats to this valuable natural resource. Together with our legislative, community and business partners, the university will continue to focus on protecting Minnesota’s greatest lake for the good of the state, its economy and our natural environment.”

Kaler also met with business leaders and UMD alumni while in Duluth. He was joined on the trip by his wife, Karen Kaler, UMD Chancellor Lendley Black and university Regent David McMillan of Duluth.

Close to 16,000 residents from northeastern Minnesota are graduates of the University of Minnesota, and together they hold more than 20,000 degrees, including advanced degrees in medicine, law, engineering and veterinary medicine. Last semester, the U’s five statewide campuses enrolled 2,286 students hailing from northeastern Minnesota.

UMD, Cloquet Forestry Center, Grand Rapids Regional Extension Office and area county Extension offices account for more than 1,800 jobs in the region, resulting in a \$374 million economic impact.

For more information on UMD, visit www.d.umn.edu.

Located on the UMD campus, the Large Lakes Observatory (LLO) is the only institute in the country dedicated to the study of large lakes throughout the world. The LLO focuses on the global implications of research investigations in the areas of aquatic chemistry, circulation dynamics, geochemistry, acoustic remote sensing, plankton dynamics, sedimentology and paleoclimatology. For more information, visit www.d.umn.edu/llo.

Statement by University of Minnesota General Counsel about Supreme Court decision on Williams v. Smith and U of M

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/08/2012) —The Minnesota Supreme Court today ruled in favor of Coach Tubby Smith and the University of Minnesota in the case brought against them by James R. Williams. The ruling finally concludes the long-running legal dispute, and means the university will owe nothing to Williams.

The Court's decision holds that Williams' "mistaken assumption" that Coach Smith had final authority to hire Williams cannot support a legal claim against Smith or the university. The Court declared that Smith could not have misled Williams about his hiring authority because Smith told Williams that Athletics Director Joel Maturi had final authority over the hiring decision before Williams resigned his position at Oklahoma State. The Court went on to declare that Williams' sole claim against Smith and the university – negligent misrepresentation – simply is not a valid legal basis to sue Smith or the university in this context.

University of Minnesota General Counsel Mark Rotenberg issued the following statement in response to the opinion: "The university is pleased with today's decision, which finally puts an end to this case and vindicates our longstanding position that Williams' claims against Coach Smith and the university had no legal merit. We are particularly gratified by the Court's clear recognition that Smith did not mislead Williams into quitting his job at OSU. Williams' mistaken assumption was unfortunate, but that did not justify five years of litigation against the university."

Background

This case originated in 2007 when Williams brought an action against the university and Maturi, alleging that the university's men's basketball coach, Smith, offered him an assistant coaching position. Williams said he accepted the offer, resigned his position as assistant coach at Oklahoma State and placed his house on the market.

The U of M agreed that Smith had interviewed Williams, but pointed out that an employment agreement was never reached between Williams and the university. Nor did the university encourage Williams to leave OSU and move to Minnesota. The reason the university never gave Williams an employment contract was Williams' record of significant NCAA recruiting violations when he was an assistant basketball coach at the U of M from 1971-1986. Maturi and Smith could not overlook Williams' significant prior record of infractions on the U's campus.

While the Hennepin County District Court dismissed most of Williams' claims, a jury returned a verdict in favor of Williams on a claim of negligent misrepresentation and he was awarded more than \$1 million. The Court of Appeals affirmed the District Court ruling in October 2011. A month later, the university appealed the case to the Minnesota Supreme Court, and oral arguments were held May 3, 2012.

U of M to host 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, contact Becky Beyers, Gordon Rouse or Gary Gardner. A list of winning entries will be available Thursday evening.

What: The International Cold Climate Wine Competition

When: 11:30 a.m. to noon, Thursday, Aug. 16

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, bbeyers@umn.edu, (612) 626-5754

Gordon Rouse, gfrouse@icccwc.org, (651) 636-3039

Gary Gardner, ggardner@umn.edu, (612) 600-4855

August 14, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/14/2012) — A panel of experts will taste and judge more than 325 wines from commercial wineries in 12 states and Canada on Thursday, Aug. 16, 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 fourth annual competition is a partnership between the Minnesota Grape Growers Association and the University of Minnesota, which developed several of the cold-hardy grapes used to make the wines in the competition. The awards will be based on blind tastings by 21 expert judges. Judges include prominent wine writers, restaurateurs, retailers and wine educators. Seven three-judge panels will determine the initial awards, with top-scoring wines evaluated by all 21 judges for "best of" categories and the Governor's Cup award.

The "Minnesota Governor's Cup" award will go to the Minnesota grape wine placing highest in the competition. Only professional wineries are eligible to compete. The Minnesota State Fair's annual winemaking competition, with categories for amateur winemakers, will continue as a separate entity.

For further details on the event, see www.mngrapegrowers.com/competition.

U of M to showcase research, education and outreach at the 'Great Minnesota Get Together'

Maroon and Gold Day is Sunday, Aug. 26; President Eric Kaler set to visit Sunday, Sept. 2

Contacts: [Julie Christensen](mailto:jrchris@umn.edu), University News Service, jrchris@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/16/2012) —Like the rest of the state, University of Minnesota researchers, scholars and advocates are gearing up for the 2012 Minnesota State Fair, promising to be among the largest attractions at this year's "Great Minnesota Get Together."

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. 23 through Monday, Sept. 3. In addition, university research, education and outreach will be showcased in seven other locations throughout the fairgrounds.

During the 12 days, more than 100 university experts and scholars will be on hand at the U building to share their insight on student opportunities, research innovations and life-changing discoveries that have impacted Minnesota and the world. Visitors can learn more about the U's impact in their community, pick up a free voter education guide and pledge their support for the university at the "Support the U" booth.

U building visitors can also watch dynamic stage programs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., meet Gopher student-athletes, play an interactive, online game designed to help teens understand the importance of concentration when driving, and watch robots climb stairs, tumble and fly.

In addition to the many experts and attractions at the U building, fairgoers can experience the university's statewide reach by visiting the 4-H building. A University of Minnesota Extension youth development program, 4-H engages K-12 participants from all 87 counties. The 4-H building, located at the intersection of Cosgrove Street and Wright Avenue, houses more than 6,000 exhibits and hands-on demonstrations showcasing the knowledge and skills acquired by youth throughout the year.

U of M Extension Master Gardener volunteers will be on hand to answer questions—from lawn care to container gardening and pest management—from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily at the Agriculture Horticulture Building, located at the corner of Judson Avenue and Underwood Street. Fairgoers who stop by the Miracle of Birth Center can meet U veterinary students and faculty who assist with some 200 births, including calves, lambs and piglets, during the Fair's 12-day run.

For a complete schedule and map of university events, visit the U of M's State Fair web page, www.statefair.umn.edu.

Maroon and Gold Day is Aug. 26

Maroon and Gold Day is Sunday, Aug. 26. Visitors are encouraged to proudly wear their maroon and gold attire, stop by the U's building for Goldy Gopher appearances and to meet new Athletics Director Norwood Teague, and watch the U of M Marching Band in the State Fair parade.

President and Mrs. Kaler scheduled to visit Sept. 2

University President Eric Kaler and his wife, Karen, will visit the Fair Sunday, Sept. 2. President Kaler will tour the U building, get an up-close-and-personal view of the university's solar car, take part in a science experiment with 4-H and other youth and talk with state lawmakers at the Legislative Building.

Transportation

For transportation to the fair, a free shuttle runs daily from free parking locations on the U's Minneapolis campus. The public is invited to park and ride from these locations. For detailed parking and shuttle information, visit the State Fair website, www.mnstatefair.org.

University News Service will issue news releases featuring upcoming U fair events on Aug. 22, 23, 27, 29 and 31. The U of M building is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

For more information, call the News Service at 612-624-5551.

University of Minnesota Morris recognized by U.S. Department of Energy for its clean energy investments

Campus efforts featured in second of DOE's "Clean Energy in Our Community" video series

Contacts: Melissa Weber, University of Minnesota Morris, weberm@morris.umn.edu, (320) 589-6414

[Matt Hodson](mailto:mjhodson@umn.edu), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/16/2012) —Clean energy investments by the University of Minnesota Morris are featured in the [second video of the "Clean Energy in Our Community"](#) series, released today by the U.S. Department of Energy. The series aims to connect and feature small communities nationwide that are investing in clean energy and playing a role in making sure the United States leads the world in the global race for the green jobs of the future.

Nationally recognized for its sustainability efforts, UMN-Morris is working to reduce its energy waste and deploy clean, renewable energy projects throughout the campus and community. The UMN-Morris Office of Sustainability helps the university prioritize projects to meet its goals.

"Being first has not always been easy; but taking risks, discovering new knowledge – that's part of the mission of higher education," said UMN-Morris Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson. "Morris's commitment to sustainability is a product of our culture and values. It is rooted in the campus's history and its relationship to the land. Morris students – and alumni, too – care about ideas and knowledge, but that's not enough for them. They want to take their ideas and ideals and make something happen."

UMN-Morris is committed to using renewable energy technologies to power its institution, highlighted by a pair of 1.65 megawatt wind turbines. These turbines – one operated by the university's West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC) and one operated by UMN-Morris – produce enough power annually to provide about 60 percent of the campus's electrical needs. The campus's Welcome Center, certified LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) gold, is the first building in Minnesota and the first building listed on the National Register of Historic Places to use energy efficient chilled beam technology.

"The University of Minnesota Morris is a perfect example of how local institutions and communities can help lead the way in making sure that America wins the global clean energy race, while creating good local jobs and protecting the environment," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu.

For more examples of UMN-Morris's clean energy investments, please read the official [U.S. Department of Energy press release](#).

As the state's only public research university, the University of Minnesota is guided by its ongoing land-grant mission of learning, discovery and engagement for the common good. By seeking to better its campus and community through renewable energy technologies, UMN-Morris demonstrates how the University of Minnesota system is driven to discover solutions to real and significant challenges facing Minnesota, the nation and the world.

The WCROC is one of nine Research and Outreach Centers strategically located throughout Minnesota. Supported by the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS), and firmly rooted in their communities, the Research and Outreach Centers are well equipped to deliver the unbiased research and education initiatives to meet the complex issues facing the state and surrounding communities.

Land conflict biggest threat to peace as Uganda rebuilds

Research presented at American Sociological Society Annual Meeting

Contacts: [Steven Henneberry](#), University News Service, henneberry@umn.edu, 612-624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/20/2012) —As more than 1.8 million Ugandans return to their villages after being displaced due to civil war, conflict over land is the biggest threat to sustaining peace, according to a University of Minnesota researcher.

Shannon Golden, who is pursuing a doctorate in sociology at the U of M, Twin Cities, conducted 90 in-depth interviews with people from different communities while spending one year living in Uganda, in a region where 94 percent of the population was displaced due to civil war. She spoke to residents as they returned to begin rebuilding their villages and as non-governmental organizations moved in to help.

Her findings, presented during the American Sociological Association's annual meeting Aug. 17-20 in Denver, concluded that in order for aid programs to succeed, day-to-day interaction by aid workers on the ground with those who are returning home after being displaced is paramount.

"Many residents say they can't trust their neighbors, or the government, and that lack of trust often leads to violence and a disruption of peace," said Golden. "The major takeaway is that policy makers, researchers and practitioners must understand that conflict over land has the potential to disrupt peace."

Uganda was a major focus of worldwide media attention earlier this year after U.S. charity Invisible Children released a video to raise awareness of crimes allegedly committed by former Ugandan leader Joseph Kony. The video instantly went viral and ignited a firestorm of support on social media, however, Kony still has not been caught.

Golden is available for interviews beginning Tuesday, Aug 21.

To schedule, please call Steve Henneberry, University News Service, 612-524-1690 or email henneberry@umn.edu

More than 80 faculty members, PhD candidates and teaching assistants from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Duluth and Rochester campuses attended the 107th annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA).

The four-day convention, which attracted more than 5,000 sociologists from around the world and had nearly 600 workshops, courses and presentations, concluded Monday in Denver. This year's theme was "Real Utopia's: Emancipatory Projects, Institutional Designs, Possible Futures."

U of M researchers had various roles throughout the meeting including: presenting research, organizing seminars, presiding over seminars and leading and participating in panel discussions.

For more information on the ASA Annual Meeting, visit their event page, <http://www.asanet.org/AM2012/index.cfm>

'Friend' a Package, Save the Planet?

Researchers at the University of Minnesota and Seoul National University shed light on efficiencies of socially networked local delivery

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/21/2012) —What if your cell phone and social network could help deliver packages for you?

This may be more likely, easier and more beneficial to the environment than you might think, researchers at the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment and Seoul National University report in the current issue of *Environmental Science & Technology*.

Online shopping may be economical and convenient from the shopper's standpoint, but it can also carry a hefty environmental price. Particularly, the "last mile" of local delivery is the retail system's largest contributor to fossil fuel consumption, CO₂ and local air emissions. Replacing traditional home truck delivery with pickup locations can help in some instances. But in the suburbs, such systems can actually increase overall travel distances and emissions as personal vehicles detour from their normal daily activity to make the pickup.

That is, according to the *ES&T* article, unless you can find a few good friends to help.

The study used spatial and agent-based models to investigate the potential environmental benefits of enlisting social networks to help deliver packages. While sensitive to how often trusted and willing friends can be found in close proximity to both the package and the recipient within a day, results indicate that very small degrees of network engagement can lead to very large efficiency gains.

Compared to a typical home delivery route, greenhouse gas emissions reductions from a socially networked pickup system were projected to range from 45 percent to 98 percent, depending on the social connectedness of the recipients and the willingness of individuals in their social networks to participate. Systemwide benefits could be significantly lower under assumptions of less than 100% market adoption, however. In fact, the study points out that many of the gains might be nullified in the short term as fewer home truck deliveries make existing delivery systems less efficient. But, "with only 1-2% of the network leveraged for delivery, average delivery distances are improved over conventional delivery alone – even under conditions of very small market penetration," the study concluded.

"What is important is that sharing be allowed in the system, not how many ultimately chose to share time or resources," says study co-author Timothy Smith, director of IonE's NorthStar Initiative for Sustainable Enterprise. "We find that providing the relatively few really inefficient actors in the network the opportunity to seek the help of many better positioned actors can radically improve performance." This is particularly relevant today, Smith says, as online retailers such as Amazon begin introducing delivery pickup lockers in grocery, convenience and drug stores.

Beyond package delivery, the research draws attention to the potential of mobile social networks to benefit the environment in far-reaching ways. "The sharing economy requires much deeper understanding," says study co-author Kyo Suh. "We hope this work stimulates additional study of the potential environmental, economic and social benefits of network resources."

"Our results suggest the need to look beyond specialization as a means to greater efficiency," Smith adds. "The ability of information technologies to find and put to work disparate and once unconnected resources holds huge promise for the next generation of productivity improvement."

To obtain a copy of the *ES&T* article, contact Smith at timsmith@umn.edu.

About the Institute on the Environment:

The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment discovers solutions to Earth's most pressing environmental problems by conducting transformative research, developing the next generation of global leaders and building world-changing partnerships. Learn more online at www.environment.umn.edu.

University of Minnesota receives \$13.1 million in Department of Energy funding for two new nationwide centers

Centers will include research on CO2 capture and solar energy conversion

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/22/2012) —The University of Minnesota has been awarded two grants from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) totaling \$13.1 million over the next five years to fund two nationwide centers headquartered in the Department of Chemistry in the University's College of Science and Engineering.

Research within the two centers will include developing new materials related to capturing greenhouse gases and improving chemical processes as well as developing methods and software tools for increasing the efficiency of solar energy conversion. Both centers will begin research activities Sept. 1, 2012.

Both of these grants were very competitive with many other institutions submitting proposals and only a handful chosen for each, said University of Minnesota chemistry professors Laura Gagliardi and Christopher J. Cramer, who will lead the University's two new centers. "It's very rare to have two major DOE initiatives at the same institution, but the proposal reviews indicate that we were chosen because of our excellent researchers and the University's Minnesota Supercomputing Institute, which provides state-of-the-art computing facilities," Gagliardi said.

The **Nanoporous Materials Genome Center** will be funded with \$8.1 million over five years as a DOE Center for Materials or Chemical Science Software Innovation. The center will develop and use high-end computational tools to characterize and predict the performance of millions of advanced materials at the nano scale. These new materials have many potential applications related to energy, including the capture of greenhouse gases, such as CO₂, and the storage of hydrogen. In addition, the group aims to improve catalysis and advanced chemical separations used in environmental research, as well those used in petroleum and biofuels processes to make them more efficient and environment-friendly.

The Nanoporous Materials Genome Center will be based at the University of Minnesota and include researchers from six other institutions including the University of California, Berkeley; Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; Washington State University; Rice University; Georgia Tech; and Northwestern University. University of Minnesota chemistry professor Laura Gagliardi will serve as the center's director.

"It's wonderful opportunity for us to collaborate with our colleagues nationwide to make significant contributions in important areas of environmental research," Gagliardi said.

The **Center for the Study of Charge Transfer and Charge Transport in Photoactivated Systems** is funded by a \$5 million grant over five years through the DOE Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing (SciDAC) initiative. Researchers will develop methods, algorithms, and improve software tools needed for the reliable modeling of charge transfer and charge transport in photoactivated systems. Such processes are fundamental for solar energy capture, solar energy conversion, and photoactivated catalysis, both industrial and biological. University of Minnesota chemistry professor Christopher J. Cramer will serve as center director.

Research partners include: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

"The computational chemistry group here at the University of Minnesota is world-class, with an outstanding record of accomplishments," said William B. Tolman, chair of the University of Minnesota Department of Chemistry. "Their expertise in theory development and applications is second to none, putting them in a great position to make significant research progress on the critical problems targeted by the DOE center grant proposals."

In addition to Gagliardi and Cramer, other participating University of Minnesota faculty involved in the centers include chemistry professors Donald G. Truhlar and J. Ilja Siepmann and chemical engineering and materials science professor Michael Tsapatsis.

Better Monitoring of Food Quantity Makes Self-Control Easier

UMN study shows eating less is about reduced desire as well as willpower



Joseph Redden

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/22/2012) —New research from the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management suggests learning how to stop enjoying unhealthy food sooner may play a pivotal role in combating America’s obesity problem. The research, published in the *Journal of Consumer Research*, explores how satiation, defined as the drop in liking during repeated consumption, can be a positive mechanism when it lowers the desire for unhealthy foods.

“When people talk about self-control, they really imply that self-control is willpower and that some people have it and others don’t when facing a tempting treat,” says [Joseph Redden, an assistant professor of marketing at the Carlson School](#) and lead author of the ‘[Healthy Satiation: The Role of Decreasing Desire in Effective Self-Control](#).’ “In reality, nearly everyone likes these treats. Some people just stop enjoying them faster and for them it’s easier to say no.”

Through a series of experiments, Redden and Texas A&M University assistant professor of marketing Kelly Haws discovered that when people with high self-control eat unhealthy foods they become satisfied with the experience faster than when they are eating healthy foods and thus eat less. In one study, the researchers asked participants to monitor themselves as they ate by counting how many times they swallowed. With this subtle clue to the amount eaten, those with low self-control became satisfied at a faster rate. Redden said they were surprised at how easy it was to recreate self-control – just using a baseball pitch counter made low self-control people act like they had high self-control.

“People can essentially use attention for how much they are consuming instead of relying on self-control,” Redden says. “Really paying a lot more attention to the quantity will lead people to feel satiated faster and eat less.”

About the Carlson School of Management

Established in 1919 and based in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota is a recognized leader in business education and research. Its focus on experiential learning, international education and maintaining strong ties to the business community exemplify the school’s commitment to excellence. More information about the school can be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu.

U of M State Fair schedule for Thursday, Aug. 23

STEM Day kicks off the 'Great Minnesota Get Together'

Contacts: [Matt Hodson](#), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

August 22, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/22/2012) – The University of Minnesota has a busy schedule planned for the opening day of the Minnesota State Fair, also designated as the annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Day by fair organizers.

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 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday.

STEM-related university research, education and outreach is also showcased in other locations throughout the fairgrounds, including the Eco Experience Building, located at Randall Avenue and Cosgrove Street, and Carousel Park in front of the grandstand.

Thursday's stage and booth highlights include:

On the U of M stage

9:45 a.m. U of M Alumni Band
10 a.m. Physics Force
11 a.m. Physics Force
12 p.m. U of M Raptor Center
1 p.m. U of M Extension 4-H
3 p.m. U of M Extension 4-H
4 p.m. U of M Alumni Band

Inside the U of M building

College of Science and Engineering GO FIRST Robotics Team

Have you ever seen a flying robot? The University of Minnesota student group GO FIRST provides students with the opportunity to design and build robots for a collegiate robotics competition. They also volunteer in the community by mentoring high school robotics teams. Come see a flying robot and play with a variety of other robots.

BioTechnology Institute's International Genetically Engineered Machines (iGEM) Team

iGEM brings together teams of undergraduate students who rise to the challenge of designing, building and testing a biological system that could operate within a cell. For example, in the past, students have synthesized a small compartment inside bacteria, called a bacterial microcompartment, that can be used to produce new chemical reactions. Stop by the iGEM booth for fun, hands-on activities for all ages and to visit with university students.

Inside the Eco Experience building

Bell Museum of Natural History, "Sustainable Shelters: Dwelling within the Forces of Nature"

What can we learn from nature to make our dwellings more sustainable parts of the Earth's natural systems? Observe and explore two full-sized house sections from the popular 2010-11 Bell Museum original exhibit, Sustainable Shelters, which investigates the ways that human dwellings extract, use and discard energy, water and other precious natural resources. The two sections compare conventional construction to high-performance construction featuring innovative new building technologies and strategies that can help restore the health and viability of natural cycles.

Center for Sustainable Polymers

We see the ads for plastics made from plants, but did you know that the University of Minnesota is leading the way in sustainable plastic research? These plastics are part of a transition society is experiencing as we move from petroleum-based plastics toward more sustainable plastics. Visit this booth to learn how plants are an important new resource for plastics, packaging and products we use every day—and meet faculty, students and staff with the U's Center for Sustainable Polymers.

In Carousel Park

Bell Museum of Natural History's ExploraDome

From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., embark on a one-of-a-kind journey through space in the Bell Museum's ExploraDome! The traveling planetarium takes visitors to the farthest reaches of the Universe from the comfort of their seats, peeking at planets, soaring through stars and exploring Earth's surroundings in an immersive environment. The ExploraDome travels the state year-round visiting schools and community events with shows for all ages. Note: in the event of rain, the ExploraDome will not be operating.

Bell Museum of Natural History: Power of Pollination!

Discover the power of pollination with educators from the Bell Museum. Build and take home your very own Orchard Mason Bee house, and see why becoming a beekeeper means playing a critical role in life cycles of flowers, insects and – eventually – in the production of the food we consume for survival.

College of Science and Engineering Physics Force and Alpha Chi Sigma Chemistry Fraternity

Experience STEM in a fun and interactive environment. Visitors can engage in hands-on activities and interactive demonstrations and watch main stage events that include the U of M Physics Force show (9 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.) and demonstrations by the U's Alpha Chi Sigma Chemistry Fraternity (11 a.m. and 4 p.m.). Physics Force is comprised of U professors and Minnesota high school teachers who blend slapstick, prop comedy and science to educate and entertain K-12 students.

For a complete schedule of Thursday's stage and booth programs and more information on the U's state fair presence and activities, visit www.statefair.umn.edu.

University of Minnesota-led experiment to fly on NASA mission to Earth's radiation belts

Two-year RSBP mission set for launch Friday, Aug. 24

Media Note: Update (August 25) - The planned launch of NASA's Radiation Belt Storm Probes

(RSBP) has been delayed until no earlier than 4:05 a.m. EDT Thursday, August 30. For further updates, check http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/rbsp/main/index.html.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/23/2012) —A University of Minnesota-led experiment is set for launch Friday, Aug. 24 aboard NASA's Radiation Belt Storm Probes (RBSBP) mission, a probe of the forces that govern radiation in the Van Allen Radiation Belts. These two concentric, doughnut-shaped regions of space girdle the Earth and pose radiation danger to astronauts and spacecraft.

Data from RBSBP will deepen scientists' understanding of how radiation belt particles become energized and aid the design of spacecraft to withstand the strongest radiation.

"We really are trying to understand these systems, because if we can't understand them, we can't send [astronauts] out there," said Mona Kessel, NASA RBSBP program scientist.

The two-year mission will send twin spacecraft into orbit through both Van Allen Belts, areas of strong radiation from protons, electrons and other subatomic particles trapped in Earth's magnetic field. Forces originating with solar activity can intensify radiation in the belts; this mission marks the first time two spacecraft have explored the region of space where these acceleration processes occur.

The University of Minnesota-led experiment, the Electric Field and Waves Suite (EFW), will study the sizes, intensities and durations of electric fields that accelerate particles in the belts and how solar activity influences them. Such activity includes the solar wind, a stream of charged particles, or plasma, emanating from the sun at up to 2,000 kilometers per second (or more than 4 million miles per hour); and coronal mass ejections (CMEs), multibillion-ton bubbles of plasma hurled out from the sun's corona.

John Wygant, physics professor in the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering and the principal investigator for EFW, also worked on the original Geospace Mission Design Team that conceived of RBSBP. He described how particles from the sun can intensify radiation in the Van Allen Belts:

"CMEs that go faster than the solar wind—typically 1,000–2,000 kilometers per second—can produce interplanetary shock waves that deliver sharp impulses to the Van Allen Belts," Wygant said. "They can energize particles to relativistic speeds in 10 to 60 seconds. And if the solar wind is variable, it can jostle Earth's magnetic field, create variation in electric fields associated with it, and accelerate particles on magnetic field lines."

"On this mission, we're especially interested in periods when these acceleration processes are most powerful and the intensity of radiation increases by factors of 100 to 100,000," Wygant added.

The inner Van Allen Belt lies between about 100 and 10,000 kilometers altitude, the outer between about 13,000 and 60,000 kilometers. These fluid areas can change size and shape, meld into each other and even disappear temporarily. But the International Space Station and other satellites regularly pass through part of the inner belt and so require extra shielding.

The RBSBP spacecraft will follow nine-hour orbits through both belts, venturing out as far as 39,000 kilometers and swooping as close as 580 kilometers to Earth. The EFW experiment will measure electric fields in 3-D by means of three pairs of probes, two on cables spanning 100 meters—longer than a football field.

Wygant and his University of Minnesota colleagues, including Professor Cynthia Cattell, three graduate students, several postdoctoral fellows and project manager Keith Goetz, will compare data from the two RBSBP spacecraft and from other spacecraft, such as ones that detect interplanetary shock waves.

"We can tell when a shock wave goes by and correlate [our electric field measurements] with it and with changes in magnetic fields," Wygant said. "We can pick up the geometry of shock waves and electric fields."

By correlating data on electric fields and radiation intensities (measured by other RBSBP experiments), Wygant and his colleagues will get a handle on what kinds of electric fields help energize the particles in the belts. With two spacecraft, EFW can measure the sizes of electric field structures, even those thousands of kilometers wide.

RBSBP will also investigate the forces that eject particles from the belts. Some are lost in Earth's upper atmosphere, where they cause auroras; others escape to the far reaches of Earth's magnetic field.

Many of the acceleration processes that occur in the inner regions of Earth's magnetic field are also believed to occur at other planets, at sudden releases of magnetic energy from the sun's surface (solar flares); and at more remote objects like ordinary stars; collapsed, rapidly spinning stars called pulsars; and black holes.

"Understanding the similarities and differences between how particles are accelerated at these different places is an ongoing effort for a wide range of scientists," Wygant said.

James Van Allen, a University of Iowa physicist, first discovered the inner belt in 1958 with a cosmic ray detector on the Explorer 1 spacecraft—NASA's first mission. The second was found a few months later, using data from Explorer 4 and Pioneer 3.

Working with the University of Minnesota on EFW are scientists from the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Colorado. The twin spacecraft were built at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.

According to NASA, RBSBP is scheduled to launch no earlier than 4:07 a.m. EDT Friday, Aug. 24 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. The twin probes will lift off on a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket.

For more information on the RSBP mission, visit www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/rbsp/main/index.html.



U of M physicist John Wygant studies how forces operating in Earth's Van Allen Belts intensify radiation in those regions. He is the principal investigator for NASA's Radiation Belt Storm Probes mission. Photo: Patrick O'Leary

Minnesota Alumni CEO Phil Esten accepts new role at Cal-Berkeley

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/23/2012) —University of Minnesota Alumni Association President and CEO Phil Esten will leave his position in early October to become Executive Associate Athletic Director for Advancement at the University of California, Berkeley.

“This is simply a phenomenal opportunity for me to combine two of my passions – collegiate athletics and alumni and constituent relations,” Esten said. “The University of Minnesota is a special place with wonderfully passionate alumni and it has been a privilege to serve as President and CEO of the UMAA.”

“We’re very sorry to see Phil leave, but we are grateful for his leadership during the last two-and-a-half years and for the progress and momentum he has helped build during his tenure as President and CEO,” said UMAA Board Chair Kent Horsager.

Esten joined the UMAA in 2010 as only the seventh CEO of the 108-year-old association. During his tenure, Esten led the association through a comprehensive strategic planning process that resulted in a new mission and vision, five core values and seven strategic objectives that include three key ‘pillars’—engage, partner and advocate.

At Berkeley, Esten will oversee all athletics fundraising efforts and become part of Athletic Director Sandy Barbour’s senior leadership team. He will be charged with creating and implementing a multiyear strategic plan to increase support for Cal Athletics’ 29-sport program. The move is also a return to his roots in athletics. Before becoming alumni CEO he was the University of Minnesota’s associate athletics director, managing the department’s overall strategic plan and serving as the point person in the development of TCF Bank Stadium, among other duties.

Horsager announced that a transition team will be appointed to see the organization through the search for a new CEO. “Throughout Phil’s time at the UMAA, his primary objectives have been to engage all alumni and to foster relationships across campus,” Horsager added. “We will maintain that focus during the transition.”

A native of La Crosse, Wisc., Esten has lived in the Twin Cities for most of the last 20 years. He and his wife, Dani, have three children. “The Twin Cities and U of M community have meant so much my family and me,” Esten said. “Being CEO of the UMAA has been a cherished chapter in my decade-long history with the University of Minnesota, and has shown me how alumni can make a difference in the life of an organization.”

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a 60,000-member organization that fosters a lifelong spirit of belonging and pride by connecting alumni, students, and friends to the University of Minnesota and each other. The Alumni Association advocates for the University and its alumni with a credible, independent, and collaborative voice. For more information, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org or call (612) 624-2323.

In the footsteps of Little Crow: a conversation with Curt Brown, Kate Parry and Iyekiyaapiwin Darlene St. Clair

Event held Aug. 30 at the U of M's Nolte Center

Contacts: [Steve Henneberry](mailto:henneberry@umn.edu), University News Service, henneberry@umn.edu, (612) 624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/23/2012) —A recent six-part series on the 150th anniversary of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 that appeared in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* is the subject of a conversation, hosted by the University of Minnesota, on Thursday, August 30.

The event, which is free and open to the public, begins at 7 p.m. in room 125 of the Nolte Center for Continuing Education, located at 315 Pillsbury Drive SE on the East Bank of the U of M Twin Cities campus.

Iyekiyaapiwin Darlene St. Clair, a visiting associate professor with the U of M's Department of American Indian Studies, will join the author of the series, Curt Brown and *Star Tribune* assistant managing editor Kate Parry for this educational discussion.

The U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 and the 150 years since have left a lasting impact on the state of Minnesota, its non-Native citizens and the Dakota people.

For St. Clair, this series allows Minnesotans an opportunity to consider the war through Brown's study of Taoyateduta—Little Crow.

"A fuller understanding of this war is important because it served as a catalyst for the creation of the state we live in today, a homeland from which so many Dakota were forcibly exiled," St. Clair said. "Some obsess over the horrific events that occurred during six weeks in 1862, but there's little effort put into understanding the context for the war, prior to 1862, and the impact the war had from 1863 through 2012."

This conversation is also a chance to find out how Brown's year-long study for this series has shaped his thoughts on the war and its impacts, said St. Clair, who is a member of the Lower Sioux Indian Community and teaches a class on Dakota culture and history.

For interviews with St. Clair, please contact Steve Henneberry, University News Service, henneberry@umn.edu or 612-624-1690.

This event is sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Institute for Advanced Study and School of Journalism and Mass Communication, along with the Minnesota Journalism Center.

Parking is available at the Fourth Street ramp and in the Church Street garage.

[You can read the *Star Tribune* series here.](#)

Raptors, history and health care featured on the State Fair U of M stage today

Weekend includes Maroon and Gold Day on Sunday, Aug. 26

Contacts: [Matt Hodson](#), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/24/2012) —The University of Minnesota has a busy schedule planned at the State Fair today, Friday, Aug. 24. 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 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

In addition, university research, education and outreach will be showcased in seven other locations throughout the fairgrounds, such as the 4-H Building, Miracle of Birth Center and Agriculture Horticulture Building.

Today's stage and booth highlights include:

On the U of M stage Aug. 24

10 a.m. The Great Plains Telehealth Resource and Assistance Center
 10:30 a.m. U of M Raptor Center
 11 a.m. The Great Plains Telehealth Resource and Assistance Center
 11:30 a.m. Wangenstein Historical Library
 12 p.m. U of M Raptor Center
 12:30 p.m. Wangenstein Historical Library
 1 p.m. Wangenstein Historical Library
 1:30 p.m. College of Pharmacy and PharmD students
 2 p.m. College of Pharmacy and PharmD students
 2:30 p.m. College of Pharmacy and PharmD students
 3 p.m. College of Pharmacy and PharmD students

Inside the U of M Building Aug. 24

Academic Health Center

Masonic Cancer Center (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

Stop by to see a human tissue display showing how cancer affects the human body. Pick up cancer information booklets, take a cancer quiz and learn about the Program in Health Disparities Research.

Human and Animal Health (3 to 9 p.m.)

Learn about U service, research, education and innovations in human and animal health. Ask current students about preparing for a veterinary career or talk with veterinary professionals about maintaining a happy and healthy lifestyle for your pet.

Bell Museum of Natural History (3 to 9 p.m.)

Did you know there are more living creatures in a shovelful of soil than there are human beings on the planet? Learn all about soil, one of the planet's most important yet often-ignored components, at "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil," the new exhibit coming to the U's Bell Museum in November. Dig It! tells the story of the world beneath our feet through interactive displays, video models, photography and special events.

Center for Distributed Robotics (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

This entertaining and interactive exhibit features a variety of robots developed at the University of Minnesota's Center for Distributed Robotics, including an underwater robot that is currently being used in the Gulf of Mexico to monitor the water quality after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This robot takes samples of water at different depths and carries them back to complete its mission. Also see other robots that can climb stairs, tumble and fly!

Immigration History Research Center and Institute for Global Studies (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

When was the last time you had an immigrant visit you at home or school? The U's Immigration History Research Center enables you to go online to read letters, view photos and hear the stories of immigrants in Minnesota. K-12 educators and students are especially encouraged to stop and learn more about the center's resources.

Saturday's stage and booth highlights include:

On the U of M stage Aug. 25

10 a.m. Marshmallow Tower Contest
 11 a.m. UMD Marching Band
 12 noon Kids on Campus
 1:00 p.m. UMD – Fun with Sustainability
 2:00 p.m. Marshmallow Tower Contest
 3:00 p.m. Selections from "Bye Bye Birdie"

Inside the U of M Building Aug. 25

University of Minnesota Physicians Heart at Fairview (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

Interested in learning more about heart health? Stop by to learn about the latest treatment options available, explore what an unhealthy heart looks like compared to a healthy heart, talk with patients and hear from medical staff about heart health.

Department of Family Medicine and Community Health (3 to 9 p.m.)

From 3 – 5 p.m., learn what to eat, drink and do after school, with a registered dietician and National Institutes of Health-funded researcher. From 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., ask family physicians about health guidelines, medical innovations, medications, prevention and risk factors.

Polar Geospatial Center (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

Penguins, polar regions and pictures! You'll get this and much more when visiting the PGC exhibit. Marvel at maps, collages and videos of research in Antarctica, the coldest, highest and driest place on Earth.

College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

CFANS is a college devoted to solution-driven science; using critical and innovative thinking plus all the tools of the arts and sciences to make our planet a productive, friendly, and sustainable environment—to solve everyday problems. Learn how CFANS studies the health of the land and the health of the living.

University of Minnesota Duluth (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.)

Spin the wheel to learn amazing facts about UMD and sustainability. Meet UMD Chancellor Lendley (Lynn) Black, get your photo taken with Champ, and learn more about this vibrant campus and exciting programs.

Maroon and Gold Day is Aug. 26

Maroon and Gold Day is Sunday, Aug. 26. Visitors are encouraged to proudly wear maroon and gold attire, stop by the U's building for Goldy Gopher appearances and to meet new Athletics Director Norwood Teague, and watch the U of M Marching Band in the State Fair parade.

On the U of M stage Aug. 26

9:45 a.m. Alumni Band
 10 a.m. MinnesoTap
 11 a.m. Homecoming
 1 p.m. Homecoming
 2 p.m. MinnesoTap
 3:45 p.m. Alumni Band

Inside the U of M Building Aug. 26

Academic Health Center

Clinical Neuroscience Center

The U's Clinical Neuroscience Center will have an interactive table with real human brains and a spinal cord. Additional exhibits will focus on stroke prevention and helping a friend with mental illness.

Innovative Engineers

See how Innovative Engineers is extending the reach of renewable energy to the developing world. The exhibit includes an interactive display inviting visitors to spin a 1kW wind turbine and generate electricity.

Goldy's Kids Club

Learn about the Goldy's Kids Club – join in the coloring contest, sign up for the Kids Club and participate in fun activities throughout the day.

For a complete schedule of the weekend's stage and booth programs and more information on the U's state fair presence and activities, visit www.statefair.umn.edu.

University of Minnesota engineering researchers discover new non-invasive method for diagnosing epilepsy

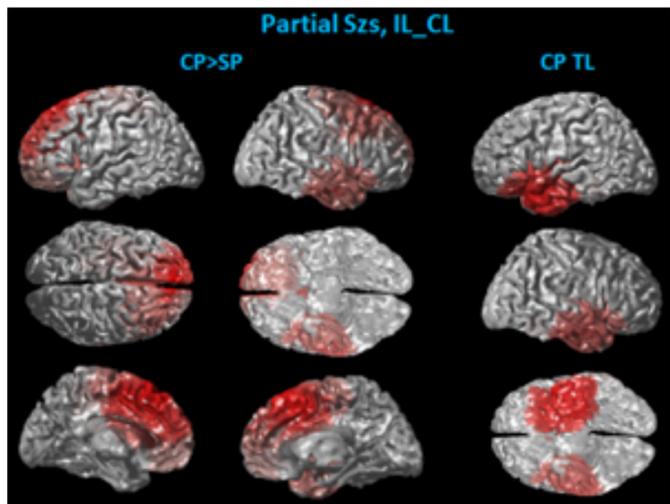
Findings could help millions of people who are unable to control seizures

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL

(08/24/2012) —A team of University of Minnesota biomedical engineers and researchers from Mayo Clinic published a groundbreaking study today that outlines how a new type of non-invasive brain scan taken immediately after a seizure gives additional insight into possible causes and treatments for epilepsy patients. The new findings could specifically benefit millions of people who are unable to control their epilepsy with medication.

The research was published online today in *Brain*, a leading international journal of neurology.



Brain scans of test patients using new technology and methods show that the frontal lobe of the brain is most involved in severe seizures.

The study's findings include:

- Important data about brain function can be gathered through non-invasive methods, not only during a seizure, but immediately after a seizure.
- The frontal lobe of the brain is most involved in severe seizures.
- Seizures in the temporal lobe are most common among adults. The new technique used in the study will help determine the side of the brain where the seizures originate.

"This is the first-ever study where new non-invasive methods were used to study patients after a seizure instead of during a seizure," said Bin He, a biomedical engineering professor in the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering and senior author of the study. "It's really a paradigm shift for research in epilepsy."

Epilepsy affects nearly 3 million Americans and 50 million people worldwide. While medications and other treatments help many people of all ages who live with epilepsy, about 1 million people in the U.S. and 17 million people worldwide continue to have seizures that can severely limit their lives.

The biggest challenge for medical researchers is to locate the part of the brain responsible for the seizures to determine possible treatments. In the past, most research has focused on studying patients while they were having a seizure, or what is technically known as the "ictal" phase of a seizure. Some of these studies involved invasive methods such as surgery to collect data.

In the new study, researchers from the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic used a novel approach by studying the brains of 28 patients immediately after seizures, or what is technically known as the "postictal" phase of a seizure. They used a specialized type of non-invasive EEG with 76 electrodes attached to the scalp for gathering data in contrast to most previous research that used 32 electrodes. The researchers used specialized imaging technology to gather data about the patient. The findings may lead to innovative means of locating the brain regions responsible for seizures in individual patients using non-invasive strategies.

"The imaging technology that we developed here at the University of Minnesota allowed us to tackle this research and gather several thousand data points that helped us determine our findings," He said. "The technical innovation was a big part of what helped us make this discovery."

He, who was recently appointed the director of the University of Minnesota's Institute for Engineering in Medicine, said this study was also a good example of a true partnership between engineering and medicine to further medical research.

"The innovations in engineering combined with collaborations with clinicians at Mayo Clinic made this research a reality," He said.

In addition to He, members of the research team included University of Minnesota biomedical engineering Ph.D. student Lin Yang; Gregory A. Worrell, Mayo Clinic, Neurology and Division of Epilepsy; Cindy Nelson, Mayo Clinic, Neurology; and Benjamin Brinkmann, Mayo Clinic, Neurology. The research was funded by the National Institutes of Health.

To read the full research paper in *Brain*, visit <http://z.umn.edu/brain>.

U of M President Eric Kaler and wife, Karen Kaler, to greet first-year students as they move-in this evening

Media Note: Media wanting to do interviews or shoot video or photos inside the residence halls must ask for a student escort and must remain with the student escort while in the residence hall.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/27/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler and his wife, Karen Kaler, will be greeting first-year students who are moving into the U of M SuperBlock residence halls from 6 to 8 p.m. today, Monday Aug. 27. The SuperBlock includes Centennial Hall, Frontier Hall, Pioneer Hall and Territorial Hall, and is located at 701 Fulton St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Thousands of first-year students and their parents will be moving their belongings into university residence halls and apartments between Aug. 27 and Aug. 29. A record number of University of Minnesota freshmen will live on campus this year. Of the estimated 5,500 new freshmen, about 4,783, or about 87 percent of first-year students, have chosen to live on campus.

"We're very excited that more and more first-year students are choosing to live on campus," said Laurie McLaughlin, director of Housing and Residential Life. "Our residential environments provide students with many unique opportunities to integrate their classroom and out-of-classroom experiences in a supportive living-learning community."

Students can benefit from educational, cultural, recreational and social programs in residential communities, she said.

In the last decade, the number of first-year students choosing on-campus housing has increased by nine percent. McLaughlin attributes the trend to the wealth of opportunities offered to students who live in university housing.

"On-campus residence halls today are more than just a place to eat and sleep," McLaughlin said. "Living on campus gives students opportunities to meet people, become involved in campus life and experience a sense of community on campus. Students who live in university housing feel a strong connection to the broader university community."

On-campus living also has academic benefits. Research shows that living in university housing can positively influence student retention, graduation rates, academic performance and level of involvement in campus activities, McLaughlin said.

Gopher Athletics featured on U of M's State Fair stage Tuesday, Aug. 28

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/27/2012) —The University of Minnesota has a busy schedule planned at the State Fair for Tuesday, Aug. 28, including eight different Gopher Athletics teams appearing on the university's stage.

Fairgoers are invited to visit the U's main building and stage, located at the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street, Minnesota State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

In addition, university research, education and outreach will be showcased in seven other locations throughout the fairgrounds, such as the 4-H Building, Miracle of Birth Center and Agriculture Horticulture Building.

Tuesday's stage and booth highlights include:

On the U of M stage

10 a.m. U of M Alumni Band
10:30 a.m. Women's Golf
11 a.m. Volleyball
11:30 a.m. Women's Basketball
12 p.m. Softball
12:30 p.m. Baseball
1 p.m. Gopher Athletics
2 p.m. Men's Hockey
2:45 p.m. Women's Swimming and Diving
3:15 p.m. Men's Swimming and Diving
3:45 p.m. U of M Alumni Band

Inside the U of M Building

Center for Transportation Studies

The U's Center for Transportation Studies solves vexing transportation challenges in innovative ways, convening diverse communities to brainstorm, debate, share, learn and act. Stop by to take part in Gridlock Buster, an interactive traffic-control game, and Distraction Dodger, an online game designed to help teens and young adults understand the importance of concentration when driving.

Gopher Athletics

Visit Gopher Athletics daily to see displays of the U's Scholar Athletes, Big Ten Champions, All-Americans and Championship trophies. Watch the 2011-12 Gopher Highlight Video to relive your favorite moments!

Academic Health Center

Pediatric Endocrinology (3 to 9 p.m.)

Learn about type 1 diabetes, usually diagnosed in children and young adults, and related research studies going on at the U through the Department of Pediatrics. Play a Diabetes Jeopardy game to help increase awareness and knowledge about type 1 diabetes.

For a complete schedule of stage and booth programs and more information on the U's state fair presence and activities, visit www.statefair.umn.edu.

Statement by U of M President Eric W. Kaler about the passing of Stanley Crooks, chairman of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/28/2012) —It was with deep sadness that the University of Minnesota community learned of the passing of Chairman Stanley Crooks on Saturday. Chairman Crooks was a great leader and a special friend of the university. Our partnership with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, which my predecessor President Robert Bruininks established and I am committed to maintaining, is one enduring example of Chairman Crooks' enormous statewide and national legacy.

I had the great honor and pleasure of meeting with Chairman Crooks last June. It was a warm and productive meeting. He was a gracious host. It is a meeting I will always cherish.

In my first year as President, I have witnessed the impact the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community has had on our Twin Cities campus, from scholarships to the Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza at TCF Bank Stadium. The SMSC Scholars on all of our campuses represent our future and embody the value and significance of our partnership. The Plaza is a special space for reflection and for learning about an important part of our state's culture and history.

We will always be grateful for Chairman Crooks' vision, wisdom, leadership and guidance. He will be sorely missed.

On behalf of the entire University of Minnesota community, I extend our deepest condolences to Chairman Crooks' family and to the entire Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

U of M
School of
Music to
confer
honorary
degree on
GRAMMY-
winning
composer
Maria
Schneider



Ceremony to be held
Sept. 24 at Fall
Convocation

Maria Schneider will be awarded honorary degree from
U of M School of Music. Photo courtesy:
MariaSchneider.com

Media Note:

Photographs

available upon request. Email requests for photographs to marsh396@umn.edu.

Contacts: Lisa Marshall, School of Music, marsh396@umn.edu, 612-626-1094
[Steve Henneberry](mailto:henneberry@umn.edu), University News Service, henneberry@umn.edu, 612-624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/28/2012) —The University of Minnesota School of Music will confer an honorary degree on GRAMMY-winning composer, arranger and big band leader Maria Schneider on Monday, Sept. 24 at 10 a.m. at the School of Music's Fall Convocation at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth Street South, Minneapolis, on the U of M's West Bank.

The Doctor of Humane Letters is the highest award conferred by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, recognizing individuals who have achieved acknowledged eminence in their field.

The Convocation program will also feature a conversation on "Creativity for Music Careers: Leveraging Talent, Technic, and Tenacity" with internationally renowned soprano Dawn Upshaw, producer David Frost and engineer Tim Martyn. The conversation will be moderated by School of Music director David Myers. The University of Minnesota Jazz Ensemble I, under the director of jazz professor Dean Sorenson, will perform works by Schneider.

The School of Music Fall Convocation is free and open to the public. Admission is on a first-come, first-seated basis. Parking is available in the 21st Avenue ramp, one block southwest of the concert hall.

On Schneider's honorary degree, School of Music director David Myers said, "For years, Maria Schneider has been a musical proponent and mentor to faculty and students alike at the University of Minnesota. Ms. Schneider's work in the arts exemplifies the School of Music's important initiatives in preparing career-aspiring musicians to traverse new musical landscape to be engaged leaders and entrepreneurs in society and their communities. It's time for her alma mater, the flagship institution of the state from which she hails, to bestow its highest honorary accolade on this superbly talented, successful and deeply dedicated individual."

For more information on Schneider, who will be in residence at the School of Music during September and record a new album in the concert hall, [visit her website](#).

Complete biographies are also available for: [Dawn Upshaw](#), [David Frost](#) and [Tim Martyn](#).

School of Music

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 550 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.

U of M's Welcome Week helps lay the foundation for first-year students' academic and personal success

Colleges and universities throughout the nation emulate U's Welcome Week program, now in its fifth year

Media Note: Media interested in covering Welcome Week activities must contact University News Service in advance at (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/29/2012) —Some people might think that the first day of school is the most important day for first-year college students, but here at the University of Minnesota, the next six days of Welcome Week are the ones that help lay the foundation for the students' academic and personal success.

Now in its fifth year, Welcome Week aims to improve student engagement, first year retention and ultimately graduation rates by equipping students with the knowledge and resources to make a successful transition from high school to collegiate life.

"Students who participate in Welcome Week are more likely to feel a 'sense of connection' on campus and establish meaningful relationships with upper class students, advisers, support staff and faculty after going through the New Student Orientation & Welcome Week programs," says Beth Lingren Clark, director of the U of M's Orientation & First-Year Programs.

Welcome Week consists of six days of activities and programming designed to give the estimated 5,500 members of the U of M's Class of 2016 a positive start to their college careers. It has proven to be a very successful program with students and parents, and serves as a model that is increasingly being emulated by colleges and universities around the country, Lingren Clark says.

"We work hard to be intentional with Welcome Week programming, making it fun and interesting. Students who participate are more confident before classes begin, make more meaningful connections on campus, have increased school pride and are more likely to stay in school and graduate," Lingren Clark says.

Students navigate Welcome Week in small groups led by upper-class Welcome Week leader volunteers. There are more than 417 leader volunteers.

Each of Welcome Week's six days from Wednesday, Aug. 29 to Monday, Sept. 3, features a different theme. More information and a complete schedule of Welcome Week activities can be found at welcomeweek.umn.edu. Here are a few highlights from Welcome Week.

Kick-Off Day! Wednesday, Aug. 29

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.: Students will check in, receive their group assignments and a detailed schedule of the week. Students have dinner together and attend kick-off meetings with their group leaders.

10 p.m. Target Run: Nearly everyone forgets something for their room or needs snacks to share with their new friends, so students can take dedicated buses for the popular late night shopping trip to Target.

College Day! Thursday, Aug. 30

11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Students participate in creative activities specific to the U of M college to which they're enrolled.

9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., Mariucci Arena: New Student Convocation -- University of Minnesota of President Eric Kaler officially welcomes new students to the university.

11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., various locations: Students can meet faculty and learn about resources and opportunities available from their chosen college.

8:30 to 9:30 p.m., Mariucci: Keynote motivational speaker Jermaine Davis talks with students about how to create an intentional first year of college and how to make the experience their own.

U of M Day! Friday, Aug. 31

8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at various locations: Students will attend a wide variety of workshops including:

- Live Like a Student: Learn how to live within your budget, how to stay out of debt, where to find cheap discounts on campus and other tips for financial success during their college career.
- You at the U and What that Has to Do With Woo: This session will give students more insight into results of their StrengthFinder instrument taken earlier in the summer. This interactive session gives students a chance to learn more about the Strengths approach and how making them S.T.I.C.K. (through Skills, Time, Intention, Community and Knowledge) can help students create a meaningful and successful "U" experience. This session will help students learn how knowing their strengths will make them successful at the U.
- Respect U: Learn what it takes to Respect U and your University! This event will expose students to critical issues that are important to the student community.

8:30 to 9:45 p.m., TCF Bank Stadium (rain location is Mariucci):

Pride & Spirit

- Students learn all the cheers, chants, and songs that make the U of M unique on game days.
- The Class of 2016 forms gigantic M on the football field for their class photo.
- Football Coach Jerry Kill, the Spirit Squad, the U of M Marching Band and Goldy Gopher will all be there to help students celebrate their first week as Golden Gophers.

Community Engagement Day! Saturday, Sept. 1

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Students will attend interest sessions to explore opportunities for them to get engaged with the community through volunteer work and internships. Possibilities include everything from being an English as a Second Language Class Assistant to being a volunteer at the Hennepin County Medical Center.

9 a.m.: 5K Walk for Water starting at Coffman Student Union's Great Hall & Theater
H2O for Life is a non-profit organization that raises money to help developing countries gain access to clean water. In many developing countries people have to walk more than three miles to collect water for their families to use -- walking a 5K (just over a three-mile distance) raises awareness for this issue.

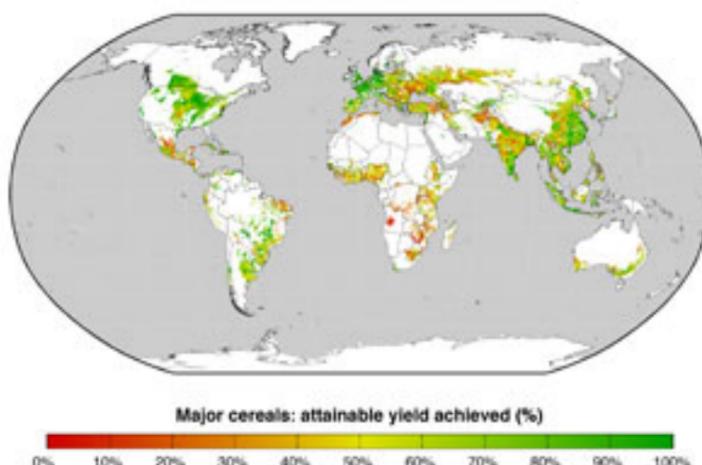
Community Exploration Day! Sunday, Sept. 2

Noon to 4 p.m., students will explore the Twin Cities through small group excursions to noteworthy locations throughout Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Prepare for Classes Day! Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3

This day is reserved to allow students to relax, attend sessions missed during the week, and prepare for the first day of classes on Tuesday, Sept. 4.

Study offers new hope for increasing global food production, reducing



In many parts of the world, particularly Eastern Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia, and South Asia, agricultural lands produce far less food than they could with good nutrient and water management.

environmental impact of agriculture

Just-released Nature paper shows more strategic use of nutrients and water on a global scale could boost production 45 to 70 percent for most crops

Media Note: This paper is available via Advance Online Publication (AOP) at www.nature.com/nature. Journalists should seek to credit *Nature* as the source of stories covered. Additional maps and graphics available upon request.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/29/2012) —Can we have enough to eat and a healthy environment, too? Yes—if we’re smart about it, suggests a study published in *Nature* this week by a team of researchers from the University of Minnesota and McGill University in Montreal.

Global demand for food is expected to double by 2050 due to population growth and increased standards of living. To meet this demand, it is often assumed we will need to expand the environmental burden of agriculture. The paper, based on analysis of agricultural data gathered from around the world, offers hope that with more strategic use of fertilizer and water, we could not only dramatically boost global crop yield, but also reduce the adverse environmental impact of agriculture.

“We have often seen these two goals as a trade-off: We could either have more food, or a cleaner environment, not both,” says lead author Nathaniel Mueller, a researcher with the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment and a doctoral student in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. “This study shows that doesn’t have to be the case.”

Mueller and colleagues used management and yield data for 17 major crops to take a big-picture look at how much water and nutrients it would take to bring underperforming farmlands to meet their food production potential. They also looked for places where fertilizer use could be cut down without substantially reducing crop yield. They found:

- We could boost production 45 to 70 percent for most crops. The greatest opportunities for yield improvement are found in Eastern Europe, sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia, and South Asia.
- Different inputs serve as limiting factors depending on the region and crop. Nutrients, for example, appear to be limiting corn production in Eastern Europe and West Africa and wheat production in Eastern Europe, while nutrients and water appear to limit rice production in Southeast Asia.
- Worldwide, we could decrease nitrogen use 28 percent and phosphorus use 38 percent without adversely affecting yields for corn, wheat and rice. China stands out as a hot spot of nutrient overuse, but other areas, like the United States, Western Europe, and India, also have room to improve.
- With strategic redistribution of nutrient inputs, we could bring underperforming lands worldwide to 75 percent of their production potential while only increasing global nitrogen use 9 percent and potassium use 34 percent—and reducing phosphorus use 2 percent.

The researchers caution that their analysis is at a coarse scale and that many other factors, including land characteristics, use of organic fertilizers, economics, geopolitics, water availability and climate change will influence actual gains in crop production and reductions in adverse environmental impacts. Nevertheless, they are encouraged by the strong indication that closing the “yield gap” on underperforming lands—previously identified as one of five promising points for meeting future food needs, along with halting farmland expansion in the tropics, using agricultural inputs more strategically, shifting diets and reducing food waste—holds great promise for sustainably boosting food security.

“These results show that substantial gains are indeed possible from closing the yield gap—and combining these efforts with improved management of existing lands can potentially reduce agriculture’s environmental impact,” Mueller says. “They also offer concrete suggestions as to where and how we can focus future efforts. This work should serve as a source of great encouragement and motivation for those working to feed the 9-billion-plus people anticipated to live on this planet in 2050 while protecting Earth’s indispensable life support systems.”

U of M to showcase medical device research, health sciences at State Fair Thursday, Aug. 30

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/29/2012) —The University of Minnesota has a busy schedule planned at the State Fair for Thursday, Aug. 30, highlighting the future of medical device research and more from the health sciences inside the U's main building.

Fairgoers are invited to visit the U's main building and stage, located at the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street, Minnesota State Fairgrounds, St. Paul, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. In addition, university research, education and outreach will be showcased in seven other locations throughout the fairgrounds, such as the 4-H Building, Miracle of Birth Center and Agriculture Horticulture Building.

Thursday's stage and booth highlights include:

On the U of M stage

10 a.m. U of M Alumni Band
10:30 a.m. Women's Hockey
11 a.m. Women's Gymnastics
11:30 a.m. Men's Gymnastics
12 p.m. Track & Field
12:30 p.m. Men's Basketball
1:15 p.m. Rowing
1:45 p.m. Women's Tennis
2:15 p.m. Wrestling
2:45 p.m. Men's Tennis
3:15 p.m. Men's Golf
3:45 p.m. U of M Alumni Band
5 p.m. Medical Devices

Inside the U of M Building

College of Science & Engineering and the Academic Health Center

Medical Devices Center

Come see the future of medical device research at the U, talk with experts and find out more about the designing, prototyping and testing of new medical devices. This display will include body part models, prototyped parts and devices, a visible heart demonstration and interaction with 3D anatomical models. The Medical Devices Center, the Visible Heart Lab and Minnesota Supercomputing Institute will be on-site throughout the day.

Academic Health Center

College of Pharmacy (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

Ever wonder what kinds of questions you should be asking your pharmacist? Take part in a Medication Therapy Quiz to determine your pharmacy literacy. Stop by to learn more about one of the country's top pharmacy schools, with campuses in Duluth and the Twin Cities.

Medical School's Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology (3 to 9 p.m.)

Visit this interactive exhibit to have an electrocardiogram (EKG) taken, measuring the electrical activity that is generated by the heart. Meet with U faculty to learn more about the anatomy of the heart. The department's research centers on integrative systems biology of the heart and vasculature, including the close linkages among cardiovascular diseases and obesity, diabetes and metabolism at the whole animal level.

For a complete schedule of stage and booth programs and more information on the U's state fair presence and activities, visit www.statefair.umn.edu.

Just who was U of M President Eric Kaler's roommate when he was a graduate student?

University of Minnesota to welcome new students during action-packed convocation ceremony
Thursday

Media Note: Media should meet at 9:15 a.m. in Mariucci Arena's Sundet Lobby (Fourth St. S.E. entrance) for access to convocation.

What: U of M Convocation ceremony

When: 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 30

Where: Mariucci Arena, 1901 Fourth St. S.E., Minneapolis

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/29/2012) —Just who was University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler's roommate when he was a graduate student here at the university?

The U of M's Class of 2016 will be the first to learn this bit of trivia when the president and the university community officially welcome them to the U of M during an action-packed convocation ceremony from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 30 in Mariucci Arena, 1901 Fourth Street S.E., Minneapolis.

The president will also share sage advice with the estimated 5,500 first-year students on how to make the most of their four years here at the U of M. He even has a surprise for them.

This isn't your parents' convocation. Kaler's humorous and direct style, combined with the Office of Undergraduate Education and Office of First-Year Programs' ability to engage students creates a high-energy event.

U of M Convocation still retains rich traditions. The ceremony will open with the academic procession of university faculty and regents dressed in their regalia, a 2012 graduate will offer students advice, faculty will speak to them and the U of M Marching Band will lead everyone in the university's hymn "Hail Minnesota!"

Convocation is part of the university's Welcome Week. Welcome Week consists of six days of activities and programming designed to give first-year students a positive start to their college careers. More information and a complete schedule of Welcome Week activities can be found at welcomeweek.umn.edu

University of Minnesota to hire 16 new faculty to form collaborative clusters that will address global health and environmental challenges

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/30/2012) —As the global population moves toward 9 billion, the need to find sustainable ways to support the human race grows more urgent. To stimulate innovation and meet these challenges, the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences is launching a new initiative to develop team approaches to research in key areas of biology that draw on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) disciplines.

The college will hire 16 new faculty to form six collaborative research clusters spanning themes across the biological sciences. Cluster themes include cellular biophysics, functional proteomics, fungal evolution, genome variation, microbial systems and synthetic biology, and theoretical biology.

Funding for six of the new faculty positions comes from funds provided by U of M President Eric Kaler's 2012-13 university budget, which invested in excellence by putting forward \$7 million for new faculty positions across 11 schools, colleges and campuses. Funding for the other 10 will come from faculty retirements. CBS is creating contiguous research labs in existing buildings for each cluster to promote collaboration.

"The convergence of the sciences, mathematics and engineering, and development of interdisciplinary team approaches are key to addressing complex problems in the world including global health, food safety, energy, and clean water and air," said Robert Elde, dean of the College of Biological Sciences. "This is particularly true for using computation and mathematics to analyze the huge amount of data produced by genomics – the study of an organism's complete genetic instructions."

"World-class research institutions, like the University of Minnesota, are in a unique position to tackle complex global issues, and the STEM fields play an integral and comprehensive role in these efforts," said Kaler. "I applaud the College of Biological Sciences for this imaginative approach to learning and engagement. These research clusters will better position our university to discover solutions to the significant challenges facing the state, the nation and the world."

According to a 2011 report from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the best way to address population and related challenges is through innovation stimulated by the convergence of biology with mathematics, the physical sciences and engineering.

Called the "Third Revolution," this convergence follows from the 1960s molecular biology revolution (ushered in by Crick's and Watson's discovery of DNA's structure), and the turn-of-the-century genomics revolution, which was driven by sequencing technology and computer analysis.

According to MIT Professor and Nobel Laureate Phillip Sharp, "Convergence is a broad rethinking of how all scientific research can be conducted, so that we capitalize on a range of knowledge bases, from microbiology to computer science to engineering design."

Added Elde, "The outcome will have far-reaching and positive consequences for biological sciences at the University of Minnesota and in the state. It will position the college to compete successfully for funding. It will help us train the next generation of scientists. And it will help support biotechnology industry in Minnesota."

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler stars in silent film to introduce himself to the Class of 2016 during convocation

He's a chemical engineer, but this president can act too

Contacts: [Patty Mattern](#), University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/30/2012) —University of Minnesota first-year students were introduced to President Eric Kaler through the silent film [The First Year, "a romance of discovery."](#) The film premiered during convocation this morning.

The film stars President Kaler; his graduate school roommate Goldy Gopher; his wife, Karen; the golden retriever Jovie (the pet of two U of M students); professor Kevin Dorfman; and U of M students. The musical score is by graduate student Tiffany Skidmore who assembled a team of musicians, many of them U of M students. Those students recorded music to the picture using a dada-style -- they even named their group the 'Insane Gopher Dada Orchestra.'

The comedy short (153 seconds) welcomes the estimated 5,500 students who make up the U of M Class of 2016, but everyone will enjoy viewing it.

Solar car, science experiment highlight U of M President Eric Kaler's Sept. 2 State Fair visit

Who: U of M President Eric Kaler

What: Visit to the Minnesota State Fair

When: Sunday, Sept. 2

Where: Minnesota State Fairgrounds, St. Paul

Contacts: [Julie Christensen](mailto:jrchris@umn.edu), University News Service, [jrchr@umn.edu](mailto:jrchris@umn.edu), (612) 626-1720

August 30, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/30/2012) – University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler will visit the Minnesota State Fair on Sunday, Sept. 2 to get a closer look at university research, education and outreach in action at this year's "Great Minnesota Get Together."

Kaler will be joined on the visit by a group of University of Minnesota and local K-12 students, as well as his wife, Karen Kaler, and the U's mascot, Goldy Gopher.

President Kaler will start the day by touring the university's main building, located at the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street. He will check out the latest solar car built by College of Science and Engineering students, visit the Gopher Athletics and Academic Health Center booths and showcase his support for the university—just like 2,000 Minnesotans before him at this year's Fair—at the Support the U booth.

Shortly after 11 a.m., the Kalers will join an age-old tradition for many fairgoers when they take a trip down the Giant Slide, along with Goldy Gopher and the students.

At 11:30 a.m., Kaler will visit the University of Minnesota Extension 4-H Building and lend a helping hand to K-12 students taking part in a science experiment. Students will attempt to "walk on water" (a pool of cornstarch and water) as they learn how the mixture acts like a liquid when being poured, but like a solid when force is applied. Along with 4-H STEM volunteers, Kaler, who received his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the U, will help explain the experiment to students.

Before departing the fairgrounds, Kaler also plans to visit with fairgoers and state lawmakers at the Legislative Building.

His schedule includes:

- 9:25 a.m. Visit the main U of M building and stage, located at the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street
- 10:30 a.m. Guest on WCCO-AM's "Sports Huddle with Sid and Dave" show
- 11:10 a.m. Ride down the Giant Slide with Goldy Gopher and students
- 11:30 a.m. Visit the 4-H Building for science experiment and quiz bowl
- 1 p.m. Visit the Legislative Building

For a complete schedule and map of university events, visit the U of M's State Fair web page, www.statefair.umn.edu.

U of M freshmen celebrate 'Pride & Spirit' night

Media Note: Media should enter TCF Bank Stadium through the Benton County gate. The normal media entrance, Dodge County, will not be open.

What: Pride & Spirit Night

When: Friday, Aug. 31

8:30 to 9:45 p.m.

Where: TCF Bank Stadium

2009 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: [Steve Henneberry](#), University News Service, henneberry@umn.edu, 773-343-2055

August 31, 2012

The first home football game is still a week away but TCF Bank Stadium will host a large crowd from 8:30 to 9:45 p.m. tonight.

More than 5,500 incoming freshmen will gather for 'Pride & Spirit' night, where they will celebrate all things maroon and gold while building pride in the U and a sense of community. The night is part of Welcome Week, which aims to improve student engagement, first year retention and ultimately graduation rates by equipping students with the knowledge and resources to make a successful transition from high school to collegiate life.

The event begins at 8:30 p.m. and the 'M' photo will be taken at 9:45 p.m.

Some of the media-friendly activities include:

- The forming of human-made 'M' on the field for the Class of 2016 photo – to be taken at 9:45 p.m.
- Students learning all the cheers, chants and songs that make the U of M unique on game days
- Head Football Coach Jerry Kill, the Spirit Squad, the U of M Marching Band, and Goldy Gopher will all be there to help celebrate

'Pride & Spirit' night is sponsored by Intercollegiate Athletics and is part of the Welcome Week activities put on by the Office of Undergraduate Education's Orientation and First-Year Programs.

U of M offers real-time tracking for campus buses to the public

Contacts: Jacqueline Brudlos, Parking and Transportation Services, jbrudlos@umn.edu, 612-624-4161

[Steven Henneberry](#), University News Service, henneberry@umn.edu, 612-624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/03/2012) —Thanks to new route-predicting technology, the more than 3.7 million riders per year of The University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus bus system will be able to learn when their bus will arrive.

The U's Parking and Transportation Services' had the hardware installed on the 24-vehicle fleet in the spring and conducted testing throughout the summer months.

Starting this fall, students, staff, faculty and visitors can find out where the campus buses are on their computers and mobile devices. A few campus bus stops will also have electronic signage to inform riders about the predicted time of arrival for the next three buses coming to that stop.

Riders have three options to find their bus:

- Dial 763-567-2453 and enter the two-digit bus stop number to hear the next three predicted arrival times.
- Text 41411 with 'umnbus' and the stop number to receive the next three predicted arrival times.
- Go to www.umn.edu/pts, click the link to a real-time tracking map showing the entire campus and location of the campus buses. Clicking on a particular stop will show the predicted times for the next two buses.

Signage at each bus stop will include the unique stop number, the phone number to call, texting information and a QR code that allows people to use their smartphones with free QR mobile scanning apps.

Riders can also set up personalized alerts for one-time use or regular intervals.

Parking and Transportation Services collaborated with the Minnesota Student Association to bring this new technology to campus. With the start of fall semester, the system will begin to see heavy usage as 50,000 students return to campus.

Parking and Transportation Services encourages feedback of this new feature. All comments or concerns should be emailed to parking@umn.edu.

The mission of Parking and Transportation Services' is to facilitate safe and convenient access to the university and around campus while encouraging alternative modes of transportation.

For more information on parking at the University, visit the Parking and Transportation Services Web site at www.umn.edu/pts, e-mail parking@umn.edu, or call 612-626-7275.

U of M President Eric Kaler and Provost Karen Hanson to greet students on first day of school Tuesday, Sept. 4

What: President Kaler and Provost Hanson greet students on first day of school

When: 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 4

Where: Northrop Mall and at Pleasant Street S.E. and Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis.

Contacts: [Patty Mattern](mailto:mattern@umn.edu), University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

September 3, 2012

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler and Provost Karen Hanson will be meeting and greeting students from 9 to 10 a.m. on the first day of school (Tuesday, Sept. 4) on the Northrop Mall and at Pleasant Street S.E. and Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis.

U of M Humphrey School fall events series features top issues of 2012 election season

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[Julie Lund](mailto:julie@umn.edu), Humphrey School of Public Affairs, (612) 624-1190

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/04/2012) —The Center for the Study of Politics and Governance at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs kicks off its fall events series Wednesday, Sept. 5, just as the 2012 election season heats up.

The series will convene lively dialogues across the top political and policy issues of the day, from health and medical care to immigration. Keynote speakers include policymakers, D.C. insiders and nationally prominent professors.

The events are free and open to the public, but online registration is preferred. The Sept. 5, 11, 20 and 28 events will take place in Cowles Auditorium, located at 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, on the U of M's West Bank campus. The Sept. 21 event will take place in the 3M Auditorium at the U's Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, also on the West Bank campus. Parking for a fee may be available at the university's 19th Avenue and 21st Avenue parking ramps.

Event highlights are as follows:

“Putting Health First: A New Approach” – Wednesday, Sept. 5 from 12 to 1:30 p.m., with Minnesota Department of Human Services Commissioner Lucinda Jesson, Rep. Jim Abeler and Dr. Penny Wheeler

Improving health and medical care along with moderating cost has been a commitment of Minnesota businesses, medical providers and a bipartisan group of lawmakers. This effort has contributed to Minnesota's extraordinary national record for innovation. Minnesota DHS Commissioner Lucinda Jesson proposes to build on the state's strong track record by taking new steps to improve health and to continue health reform while also encouraging payment reform.

“American Elections: Is 2012 the Year of the Woman?” – Tuesday, Sept. 11 from 12 to 1:15 p.m., with Jennifer Lawless of American University

A nationally recognized expert on women's involvement in politics, Jennifer Lawless is an associate professor at American University in Washington, D.C. Women voters may be the swing vote that decides congressional and presidential elections in 2012, but the number of women in elected office and running for office is likely to remain small and out of whack with the proportion of men. Why is this, and does it matter?

“Making Sense of Immigration” – Thursday, Sept. 20 from 12 to 1:15 p.m., with Doug Massey of Princeton University

The issue of immigration has spawned strong emotions and political posturing that often obscures the real issues. A leading expert on immigration, Doug Massey, professor of sociology and public affairs at Princeton University, will spell out the reality of immigration and shed light on what works and what doesn't.

“Update from Washington, D.C.” – Friday, Sept. 21 from 12 to 1:15 p.m., with former congressman Vin Weber, now with Mercury/Clark & Weinstock

Vin Weber is managing partner of government relations firm Mercury/Clark & Weinstock in Washington, D.C., where he provides strategic advice to institutions with matters before the legislative and executive branches of the Federal government. Weber will offer his insights and viewpoints of the upcoming fall 2012 election and the current political climate in Washington.

“Deception and Distraction in the 2012 Presidential Campaign” – Friday, Sept. 28 from 12 to 1:15 p.m., with Kathleen Hall Jamieson of the University of Pennsylvania

How much of what you hear on the campaign trail should you trust? Not much, according to a leading campaign analyst, Kathleen Hall Jamieson. Professor of communication and director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, Jamieson will dissect patterns of deception in the Romney and Obama campaigns. She also will propose steps to minimize the impact of misleading claims on voters.

To register for events and learn more, visit www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/cspg/events.

The Center for the Study of Politics and Governance (CSPG) at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs develops practical, independent and non-partisan solutions to pressing political and policy challenges. Founded in 2005, CSPG fosters effective and efficient governance, increases the transparency of government processes and rebuilds the public trust in order to counteract negative influences that threaten our democracy. For more information, visit www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/cspg.

U of M 'Meet and Greet' event welcomes new campus-area neighborhood residents

University administrators and students, Neighborhood Liaisons, elected officials and neighborhood leaders will take part in community-building event

Media Note: *To schedule an interview with a Neighborhood Liaison from the university's Office of Student and Community Relations, contact Matt Hodson at (612) 625-0552 or mjhodson@umn.edu.*

Who: Select University of Minnesota administrators, university students, Neighborhood Liaisons, elected City of Minneapolis officials and neighborhood residents

What: "Meet and Greet" for neighborhood residents near the U of M East Bank campus

When: 10:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., Thursday, September 6

Where: Teams of greeters will meet throughout the day at the Purple Onion, 1301 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis; the Overflow Espresso Café, 2929 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis; and Joe's Market & Deli, 1828 Como Ave. SE, Minneapolis

Contacts: [Matt Hodson](mailto:Matt.Hodson@umn.edu), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/05/2012) —The spirit of Welcome Week will spill beyond campus Thursday, Sept. 6 when teams of University of Minnesota administrators and students, local residents and representatives from the City of Minneapolis fan out across university-area neighborhoods to knock on doors and greet new tenants. Greeters will include Minneapolis Council Members Cam Gordon (Ward 2) and Diane Hofstede (Ward 3), along with representatives from neighborhood associations.

Organized by the U of M Office of Student and Community Relations, this annual "Meet and Greet" provides a university connection for those students living off campus and builds community with non-student residents in the Marcy-Holmes, Prospect Park and Southeast Como neighborhoods of Minneapolis. Meeting locations for greeting teams will be the Purple Onion, 1301 University Ave. SE; the Overflow Espresso Café, 2929 University Ave. SE; and Joe's Market & Deli, 1828 Como Ave. SE.

"The University of Minnesota is proud to be part of the greater Twin Cities community," said Jerry Rinehart, university Vice Provost for Student Affairs. "The university family extends beyond campus boundaries and includes the neighborhoods in which our students live, learn, work and play everyday. It is important to introduce students living off-campus to both their roles as members of our neighborhoods and the resources available to assist them. The 'Meet and Greet' offers a great way to get these important messages to students and help get everyone's new school year off to a good start."

Newcomers to the area will be given a packet of information about living in the community, including city and neighborhood resources, ways to meet neighbors and get engaged in the community, voting information, and coupons and other goodies provided by local businesses. City regulatory services staff will also be on hand to provide advice to students if they have questions about the condition of the homes or apartments into which they are moving.

About the Office of Student and Community Relations

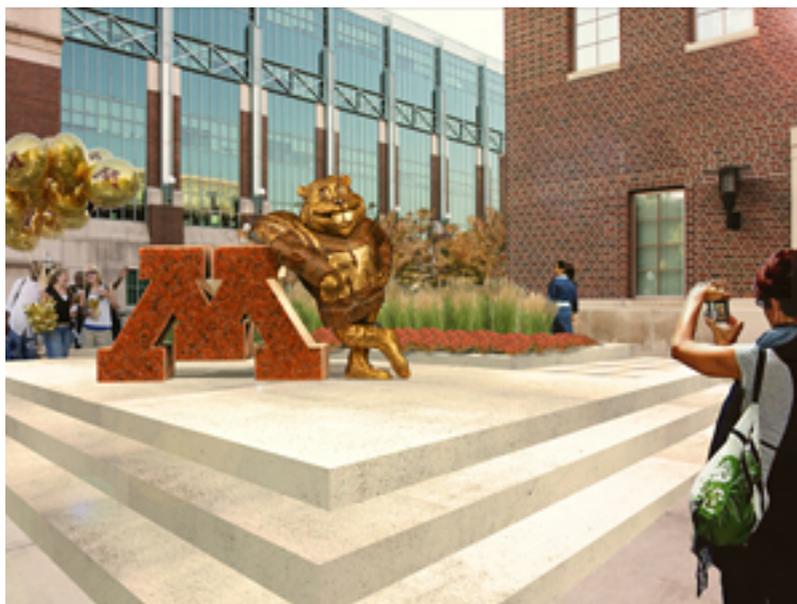
The Office of Student and Community Relations offers information about living in local neighborhoods, landlord/tenant issues, zoning, city ordinances, community involvement, and responsible party hosting. Funded by the Office for Student Affairs, the unit coordinates the Student Neighborhood Liaison program which consists of student leaders hired to work with their peers to enhance neighborhood livability. The Office partners with neighborhood organizations and residents to bridge the gap between students and their neighbors and create opportunities for all to be engaged in the neighborhood.

Party on the Plaza & Goldy Gopher Statue Unveiling Event

What: Party on the Plaza & Goldy Gopher Statue Unveiling Event

When: Friday, Sept. 7, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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



Artist drawing of Goldy Gopher statue on front plaza of Coffman Memorial Union. Courtesy: Student Unions & Activities

Contacts: Ashley Kaser, Student Unions & Activities, kaser007@umn.edu, 612-625-7772

September 5, 2012

Party on the Plaza, hosted at Coffman Memorial Union's Front Plaza, 300 Washington Ave. S.E. Minneapolis, on Friday, Sept. 7 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., will be the first pep rally for the university community during the first week of fall semester.

President Eric Kaler, head football coach Jerry Kill and athletics director Norwood Teague will deliver remarks to ignite excitement for the upcoming academic year and Golden Gopher athletics.

The event also boasts the unveiling of the bronze Goldy Gopher prototype statue which officially kicks off the "Give a Coin, Give a Dollar, Leave a Legacy" campaign. This campaign aims to give the Goldy Gopher statue a permanent home in front of Coffman Memorial Union to leave a legacy for future generations. No student services fees, taxpayer dollars or university funds will be used for the Goldy statue. Contributions are voluntary and can be made in three ways:

- Wear a "Leave a Legacy" bracelet which are being sold for \$2 at Student Unions & Activities' events and retail locations (Gopher Express, Gopher Spot, Goldy's Gameroom, Info Desk, Coffman Theater Concessions, Coffman Union Post Office), University Bookstore and the U Card office
- Drop coins and cash into the donation box located on the first floor of Coffman Memorial Union near the bronze prototype display or Student Unions & Activities' retail locations (Gopher Express, Gopher Spot, Goldy's Gameroom, Info Desk, Coffman Theater Concessions, Coffman Union Post Office)
- [Give to the University Foundation for tax deductible donations](#)

The Goldy Gopher mascot serves as an image to which everyone in the University community feels connected. The statue will serve as an icon for the university community as a common area to gather and a collective image for promoting school spirit.

University alumnus, Nicholas Legeros, will be sculpting the statue. Legeros is an active artist in the Minneapolis area and creates sculptures for a variety of clientele.

For more information please visit our website: sua.umn.edu/goldystatue or follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/umnSUA) or Twitter (@umnSUA).

University of Minnesota to preview alcohol sales at TCF Bank Stadium

University officials to outline policies, procedures and safety measures

Media Note: Outlets interested in covering the media briefing may park in the sports media parking stalls at Mariucci Arena across Oak Street from TCF Bank Stadium. Meet at the west plaza gates beneath the main scoreboard.

Who: Pamela Wheelock, VP of University Services; Scott Ellison, Associate Athletics Director
What: Media briefing to explain policies and procedures for alcohol sales at TCF Bank Stadium
When: 1 to 1:45 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 6
Where: West plaza, TCF Bank Stadium, 2009 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](mailto:tombarge@umn.edu), University News Service, 612-624-5551
Garry Bowman, Athletic Communications, gbowman@umn.edu, 612-624-7345

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/05/2012) —University of Minnesota officials will hold a media briefing Thursday, Sept. 6 to discuss policies, procedures and safety measures related to alcohol sales at TCF Bank Stadium during intercollegiate football games. The university will also announce that J.J. Taylor Distributing has been selected as the beer vendor for TCF Bank Stadium.

Vice President of University Services Pamela Wheelock and Associate Athletics Director Scott Ellison will meet with media from 1 to 1:45 p.m. at the west plaza of TCF Bank Stadium, 2009 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Wheelock and Ellison will preview the points of sale locations and discuss the implementation plan for beer and wine sales, approved by the university's Board of Regents on July 11. Legislation was passed during the 2012 session allowing for the sale of alcohol at a location in the stadium that is convenient to the general public.

"Policies and procedures governing alcohol sales at TCF Bank Stadium aim to balance the desires of Gopher fans, while also promoting responsible alcohol consumption, ensuring the safety of students and fans and respecting our university neighbors," Wheelock said. "We are confident these steps will allow for controlled sales of beer and wine to the general seating area, which satisfy the requirements of 2012 legislation without sacrificing the integrity of our educational mission."

Beer and wine will be sold only on the west plaza and in an overflow, cordoned off area outside of Gate A that is only accessible to fans attending the game. Care will be taken to create a visual and physical barrier between the points of sale and the Tribal Nations Plaza outside of Gate A. No alcohol will be allowed in that area. Non-alcoholic beverages will also be available for purchase where alcohol is sold.

Per university regulations:

- Alcohol sales in TCF Bank Stadium will start one hour prior to kickoff and end at the conclusion of halftime.
- Patrons will be limited to two alcoholic beverages per person per transaction. Patrons may return to their seats to consume their beverages.
- Any customer who appears to be 30 years old or younger must show valid photographic identification before each purchase.
- No hard liquor will be sold or served at TCF Bank Stadium for intercollegiate athletic events.

All servers staffing the individual points of sale were hired and trained, and will be supervised by ARAMARK, the university's official food and beverage service vendor.

ARAMARK Servers are:

- TIPS (Training for Intervention Procedures) certified. TIPS is a skills-based responsible alcohol training and certification program that is designed to prevent intoxication, underage drinking and drunken driving.
- Instructed to properly read and interpret the form of proof of age most commonly used in Minnesota and adjoining states, as well as the identification from the state of the visiting team.
- Subject to discipline, up to and including termination and personal liability, for failing to adhere to TIPS and university guidelines.
- Trained by ARAMARK managers who have passed the required tests to become TIPS Training certified.

To raise awareness of risks associated with drinking and driving, and to encourage responsible consumption of alcohol by customers, the university has teamed with ARAMARK to implement a Designated Driver program. Designated Driver booths will be located at Gate C on the concourse and in the DQ Club Room. Booths will be staffed in partnership with ARAMARK Higher Education, the university's Office of Student Affairs and representatives from the beer distributor.

University of Minnesota police will increase its game day presence, with 12 additional uniformed officers and additional contracted security personnel assigned to the west plaza and outside of Gate A. Approximately 110 law enforcement personnel staff each home Gopher football game.

This implementation plan was developed by a task force of staff from across the university, including Intercollegiate Athletics, Auxiliary Services, Contract Administration, Capital Planning & Project Management, University Police, University of Minnesota Foundation, Office of the General Council, University Relations, the President's Office and Student Affairs.

J.J. Taylor Distributing was selected as the beer vendor for TCF Bank Stadium after responding to a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) collaboratively developed by many departmental representatives and issued by Purchasing Services. J.J. Taylor received the highest evaluation score of all respondents, as judged by an evaluation committee consisting of representatives from Purchasing Services, Office of the General Council, Intercollegiate Athletics, the President's Office and Contract Administration.

Locally based in northeast Minneapolis, J.J. Taylor will serve Minnesota-brewed Grain Belt and Summit Pale Ale beers, along with Miller Lite. Red and white wine, purchased through St. Paul based Johnson Brothers, will also be available.

U of M Humphrey School to host 'Civil Conversations Project' with Public Radio's Krista Tippett

Public discussions at the U to focus on marriage, abortion and Christian voices

Contacts: Brian Moriarty/Izzy Forman, DKC Public Relations, (212) 685-4300
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/05/2012) —The Civil Conversations Project (CCP), created by American Public Media's "On Being" radio program, announced today a series of public discussions that will bring together leaders who represent opposing views on the most contentious issues in American civic discourse, but who have managed to find common ground.

Three of the four discussions will be hosted by the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs, including the Sept. 12 kickoff. "On Being" host Krista Tippett will moderate all four discussions: "The Next Christians," "Pro Life, Pro Choice, Pro Dialogue," "Political Bridge People" and "The Future of Marriage."

"Our disagreements are suffocating our potential as a country and state," said Larry Jacobs, U of M professor and director of the Humphrey School's Center for the Study of Politics and Governance. "The collaboration with Krista Tippett seeks to honor and learn from bridge builders—the creative and courageous who accept differences and still press on to find common ground."

The panels will feature participants that CCP has identified as "bridge people"—leaders of various issues who have found ways to transcend the bitter divide that frequently makes productive debate on these topics seem impossible. The discussions are free and open to the public and will later be broadcast in a special series of "On Being" shows.

"Regardless of where we fall on the political spectrum, there is a great longing to have conversations about these topics in a substantive way that is missing in all the partisan bickering," said Tippett. "Avoiding these subjects doesn't make them go away, and painting the opposition as too far removed from one's own position to warrant any thought or consideration doesn't engender progress."

The Sept. 12 and 26 and Oct. 10 events will take place on the U of M's West Bank campus in Cowles Auditorium, located at 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Parking for a fee may be available at the university's 19th Avenue and 21st Avenue parking ramps. The Oct. 9 event will be held at The Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.

Pre-registration is recommended. To register and obtain free tickets, visit the Civil Conversations Project website, <http://onbeing.org/ccp>.

Event highlights are as follows:

"The Next Christians" – Wednesday, Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. CT, with Gabe Lyons, founder of "Q" and author of "The Next Christians," and Jim Daly, president, Focus on the Family

"Pro Life, Pro Choice, Pro Dialogue" – Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 3 p.m. CT, with Frances Kissling, activist and former president, Catholics for Choice, and David Gushee, professor of Christian Ethics, Mercer University

"Political Bridge People" – Tuesday, Oct. 9 at 10 a.m. ET, with Alice Rivlin, The Brookings Institution, and Senator Pete Domenici, Bipartisan Policy Center (held at The Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.)

"The Future of Marriage" – Wednesday, Oct. 10 at noon CT, with Jonathan Rauch, Independent Gay Forum, and David Blankenhorn, Institute for American Values

For more details on the public discussions, visit www.hhh.umn.edu or <http://onbeing.org/ccp>. Video of the discussions will be streamed live online and made available for later viewing at <http://onbeing.org/ccp>.

The Humphrey School's Center for the Study of Politics and Governance

The Center for the Study of Politics and Governance (CSPG) at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs develops practical, independent and nonpartisan solutions to pressing political and policy challenges. Founded in 2005, CSPG fosters effective and efficient governance, increases the transparency of government processes and rebuilds the public trust in order to counteract negative influences that threaten our democracy. For more information, visit www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/cspg.

The Civil Conversations Project

Launched in January 2011, CCP is a series of live discussions, radio shows and online resources for beginning new conversations in families and communities about pressing issues that are often distorted when they become hot-button issues. At the heart of the project are vital questions about how we communicate in our civic spaces: How do we speak the questions we don't know how to ask each other? Can we find ways to bridge gulfs between us about politics, morality and life itself? Can we do that even while we continue to disagree, passionately? How is technology playing into all this, and how can we shape it?

On Being

Hosted by Krista Tippett, "On Being" is a weekly radio program about the big questions at the center of human life, from the boldest new science of the human brain to the most ancient traditions of the human spirit. It is heard on 250 public radio stations across the United States and globally via Internet and podcast. The program has won the highest honors in both broadcasting and electronic media - a Peabody and two Webby awards. On Being is the only public radio program in the United States to achieve this distinction.

Crews complete first block of North America's most advanced neutrino experiment

University of Minnesota students built the detector modules



Technicians add modules to the first block of the NOvA detector. Photo by Ron Williams, NOvA lead foreman.

Media Note: Images are available at <http://z.umn.edu/novaimages>

Contacts: Andre Salles, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, media@fnal.gov, (630) 840-6733
Rhonda Zurn, University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering, rzurn@umn.edu, (612) 626-7959
Jared Sagoff, Argonne National Laboratory, media@anl.gov, (630) 252-5549

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/06/2012) —Today, technicians in Minnesota will begin to position the massive first block of a detector that will be part of the largest, most advanced neutrino experiment in North America.

The NuMI Off-Axis Neutrino Appearance experiment—NOvA for short—is a laboratory of the School of Physics and Astronomy in the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities College of Science and Engineering. NOvA will study the properties of neutrinos, such as their masses, and investigate whether they helped give matter an edge over antimatter after both were created in equal amounts in the big bang. The experiment is on track to begin taking data in 2013.

Today, crews will use a 750,000-pound pivoter machine to lift the first 417,000-pound block—one of 28 that will make up the detector—and put it in place at the end of the 300-foot-long detector hall. The delicate process may take multiple days.

Each block of the detector measures 51 x 51 x 7 feet and is made up of 384 plastic PVC modules. About 170 students from the University of Minnesota built the modules, stringing them with optical fibers and attaching their endcaps.

To see a live webcast of the installation, visit <http://z.umn.edu/novawebcam>

“This is a significant step toward a greater understanding of neutrinos,” said physics professor Marvin Marshak, NOvA laboratory director and director of undergraduate research at the University of Minnesota. “It represents many months of hard work on the part of the whole NOvA collaboration.”

Neutrinos are elementary particles, basic building blocks of matter in the Standard Model of particle physics. They are almost massless, and they interact so rarely with other matter that they can move straight through hundreds of miles of solid rock.

The NOvA experiment will study a beam of neutrinos streaming about 500 miles through the Earth from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory near Chicago to a large detector in Ash River, Minnesota. The particles, generated in what will be the most powerful neutrino beam in the world, will make the trip in less than three milliseconds.

Scientists and engineers at the Department of Energy’s Argonne National Laboratory developed the machine that glues modules into blocks. Scientists and engineers at Fermilab developed the pivoter machine and assembly table.

“About a dozen scientists, engineers and technicians from Fermilab and Argonne have been up to Ash River multiple times in the past year to make this thing happen,” said Rick Tesarek, Fermilab physicist and NOvA deputy project leader. “They’re part of a team of over a hundred collaborators who have been actively working on the experiment.”

Once the block is installed, crews will fill it with liquid scintillator. When neutrinos interact with the liquid, they will produce charged particles that will release light, which the optical fiber will detect. The fiber will carry the signal to electronics, which will record the neutrino event.

Neutrinos come in three “flavors,” each associated with a different elementary particle: electron, muon and tau. Three different types of neutrinos oscillate between these “flavors,” spending a different fraction of their lives as each one.

“Everyone’s been watching to see which experiment will make the next big step in uncovering the properties of neutrinos,” said Mark Messier, Indiana University physicist and co-spokesperson of the NOvA experiment. “The NOvA experiment should be it. It is uniquely positioned to be the first experiment to determine the ordering of the masses of the three neutrinos.”

Officials first broke ground on the NOvA detector facility, a laboratory of the University of Minnesota’s School of Physics and Astronomy, in May 2009. Crews completed the building this spring.

The experiment will use two detectors, a 330-metric-ton near detector at Fermilab and the 14-kiloton far detector at the detector facility close to the U.S.-Canadian border, to look for changes in the neutrino beam as it travels. The far detector is scheduled to begin taking data in 2013 and to be completed in early 2014.

An upgrade of the Fermilab neutrino beam, now in progress during a yearlong accelerator shutdown, will be crucial to the experiment. Fermilab will increase the power of the beam by a factor of two from 320 kilowatts to 700 kilowatts. NOvA experimenters expect eventually to study a sample of about 100 neutrino events collected during six years of operation.

The NOvA experiment is a collaboration of 169 scientists from 19 universities and laboratories in the U.S and another 15 institutions around the world.

Fermilab is America’s premier national laboratory for particle physics research. A U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science laboratory, Fermilab is located near Chicago, Illinois, and operated under contract by the Fermi Research Alliance, LLC. Visit Fermilab’s website at <http://www.fnal.gov> and follow us on Twitter at @FermilabToday.

The DOE Office of Science is the single largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences in the United States, and is working to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time. For more information, please visit <http://science.energy.gov>.

Science Contacts:

- Marvin Marshak, NOvA Laboratory Director, University of Minnesota, 612-624-1312, marshak@umn.edu
- Mark Messier, NOvA Co-spokesperson, Indiana University, 812-855-0236, messier@indiana.edu
- Pat Lukens, NOvA Assembly and Installation Manager, Fermilab, 218-374-2400 x2001, ptl@fnal.gov

Additional Information:

- NOvA website: <http://www-nova.fnal.gov/>

University of Minnesota Board of Regents to review proposed biennial budget request to state Legislature and U's annual accountability report

What: University of Minnesota Board of Regents meetings

When: Thursday, Sept. 13 and Friday, Sept. 14

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

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](#), University News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

September 7, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/07/2012) — The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will receive its first introduction on Sept. 14 to President Eric Kaler's proposed biennial budget request for fiscal year 2014-2015.

Pending board approval in October, the university will pursue its official request to the state during the 2013 legislative session, which begins in January.

Details of the proposal, which will be explained during the full board meeting on Friday, will outline a new partnership with policymakers to invest in Minnesota's young people, who will transform the state's economy. The proposal also will seek to:

- Change the budget conversation and present a multiyear framework
- Reform the way students and families pay for higher education
- Build on the university's strengths to propel Minnesota forward

The university's fiscal year 2012-2013 general fund state appropriation, approved by the Minnesota Legislature in 2011, is \$545.3 million — the lowest level of state funding for the university in 15 years.

Outlining progress on the university's mission and goals

Minnesotans love the University of Minnesota, but often have misperceptions about its graduation rates, how it compares to other institutions, class sizes, affordability, diversity and the guidance U of M students receive to help them succeed. University Provost Karen Hanson and Robert Jones, senior vice president for academic administration, University of Minnesota system, will be joined by other university leaders during Board of Regents' committee and full board meetings. They will share information about the university's progress in these and other areas and provide a detailed picture of how the university is serving students and the state.

They will present the "2012 University Plan, Performance and Accountability Report," comprising 150 pages of facts, figures and updates about the five-campus University of Minnesota system and its students, faculty and staff. The report, now in its 11th year, provides the board with important information to inform governance decisions and fulfills a provision in the university's 1851 charter that requires the regents to report annually to the Legislature about the university's progress. The 2012 report outlines how the U is working to fulfill its teaching, research and public engagement missions, as well as its continued progress toward becoming one of the premier research universities in the world.

Other agenda items include:

- **Community University Health Care Clinic:** The board's Facilities Committee will review a proposal for renovating the Community University Health Care Clinic, located at 2001 Bloomington Ave. S., Minneapolis. The clinic opened its doors in 1966 and has become a comprehensive primary care center providing medical, mental health and dental services. Planned renovations, including ADA and heating/cooling system upgrades, parking lot paving and entrance improvements, will allow the clinic to reach an additional 1,250 patients by 2013. A \$2.237 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will cover most of the \$2.657 million project cost. The remaining cost will be covered by the university's Academic Health Center and university facilities funds.
- **Welcome to Pamela Wheelock:** President Kaler will introduce Pam Wheelock, who began work August 15 as the university's vice president for university services.

For more information about the Board of Regents and its September agenda, go to www.umn.edu/regents/.

Gov. Dayton to address U of M Humphrey School policy fellows and alumni Sept. 12

Who: Gov. Mark Dayton

What: Conversation with U of M Humphrey School Policy Fellows

When: Wednesday, Sept. 12, noon to 1:15 p.m.

Where: Cowles Auditorium, U of M West Bank campus, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: [Julie Christensen](mailto:jrchris@umn.edu), University News Service, jrchris@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720
Julie Lund, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, julie@umn.edu, (612) 624-1190

September 10, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/10/2012) – The Center for the Study of Politics and Governance (CSPG) at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs will host an invite-only conversation with Gov. Mark Dayton Wednesday, Sept. 12 from noon to 1:15 p.m.

Dayton, who will be welcomed to the U's campus by President Eric Kaler, will speak to the topic of "Minnesota's Future: Challenges and Opportunities." His keynote will be followed by a sit-down interview with Lawrence Jacobs, U of M professor and CSPG director. Dayton will then field questions from the audience, moderated by Jacobs.

The event is open to the media, and media will be able to ask questions during the Q-and-A session. The audience will be comprised of members of the CSPG Policy Fellows program, including 2012-13 fellows and alumni.

Parking for members of the media (for a fee) may be available at the university's 19th Avenue and 21st Avenue parking ramps.

An approximate schedule is as follows:

Noon – Welcome by U of M President Eric Kaler

12:05 p.m. – Gov. Dayton keynote

12:20 p.m. – Professor Lawrence Jacobs interviews Gov. Dayton

12:50 p.m. – Gov. Dayton fields audience questions, including questions from the media

About the Humphrey School Policy Fellows program

Since its inception in 1990, the Policy Fellows program has trained more than 650 Minnesotans, many of whom are now influential figures in their communities and around the world. Begun by Vice President Walter Mondale and Ambassador Geri Joseph, the program was directed for a dozen years by former congressmen Tim Penny and Vin Weber. Today, nationally prominent political science professor Lawrence Jacobs directs the program, continuing the tradition of convening the best and brightest emerging leaders from the business, government and nonprofit sectors across Minnesota. For more information, visit www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/cspg/initiatives/policy_fellows.

University of Minnesota chemist named one of Popular Science's 'Brilliant 10'

Christy Haynes is helping to reveal the secrets of the body's blood-clotting system



University of Minnesota chemistry associate professor Christy Haynes has been named to Popular Science's "Brilliant 10" list. (Photo: Steve Niedorf)

Media Note: To view *Popular Science* magazine's "Brilliant 10" profile of Christy Haynes, please visit z.umn.edu/brilliant10

Contacts: [Matt Hodson](mailto:mjhodson@umn.edu), University News Service, (612) 625-0552
Rhonda Zurn, College of Science and Engineering, rzurn@umn.edu, (612) 626-7959

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/11/2012) —University of Minnesota chemist Christy Haynes has been named one of *Popular Science* magazine's "Brilliant 10," an honor that recognizes an elite group of young scientists whose research is expected to dramatically impact their fields. Haynes' profile was published today on the PopSci website and is featured in the *Popular Science* magazine now on newsstands.

Haynes, an associate professor of chemistry in the University's College of Science and Engineering, has been working with her research group to study blood platelets. Platelets are small, irregularly shaped cell fragments that circulate in the blood and are an essential component of blood clotting. Platelets are about one-tenth the size of average cells in mammals and have proven difficult to study due their small size and their biological function to react immediately when in a foreign environment.

"Platelets are really 'sticky' types of cells because they are used in clotting so it makes them difficult to study," Haynes said.

Haynes and her team are the only researchers in the world who have been able to measure chemicals being released by individual platelets in real time. They were the first to successfully isolate an individual platelet under a microscope, place a minuscule electrode onto it, and measure the messenger molecules released.

Understanding how platelets communicate with each other gives researchers fundamental knowledge they never had before. This could lead to new treatments for patients who have difficulty with blood clotting or developing medications to help patients avoid dangerous blood clots.

Haynes is already collaborating with renowned platelet specialists nationwide to look at platelet samples and conduct initial lab testing for possible anti-clotting medicines.

"Being chosen as one of *Popular Science*'s Brilliant 10 brings new recognition to the graduate students on my research team and my fellow researchers to show that there is big science and big thinking going on here at the University of Minnesota," Haynes said.

Haynes and her colleagues recently formed the Center for Analysis of Biomolecular Signalling within the University of Minnesota Department of Chemistry. The research will be focused on learning more about how cells in the body send chemical signals to each other during immune response, blood clotting, muscle firing and more.

In addition to studying platelets, Haynes has been building "an immune system on a chip," where she is isolating and studying the various way cells communicate and respond to each other. With more information about how immune cells interact, she helps to open new avenues for treating allergic reactions and asthma.

"This recognition of Christy's groundbreaking work is certainly well-deserved," said University of Minnesota Department of Chemistry Chair William Tolman. "Her creativity, attention to detail, and outstanding communication and leadership skills underlie her success as a faculty member and scientist."

University of Minnesota Senior Vice President Robert J. Jones named president of the University at Albany, a campus of the State University of New York system

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Kate Tyler, Academic Administration, University of Minnesota System, ktyler@umn.edu, (612) 626-8535

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/12/2012) —The University of Minnesota announced today that Robert J. Jones, senior vice president for academic administration, will assume the presidency of the University at Albany beginning Jan. 2, 2013. Jones has served in key administrative leadership roles at the U of M for more than 15 years, and before that was a professor of agronomy and plant genetics.

Jones' broad scope of responsibility at the U of M encompasses, among other areas, central academic administration, statewide and systemwide academic programs and resources, and university-wide public engagement and outreach programs, including Extension. His portfolio includes the U of M's four Greater Minnesota campuses (Crookston, Duluth, Morris and Rochester), international programs, diversity and multicultural affairs, PreK-12 and other youth and family programs, urban initiatives, planning and institutional research, information technology, human resources, institutional strategic leadership and other university statewide initiatives.

Jones will become the 19th president of the University at Albany, a public research institution, part of the State University of New York, located in the state capital. Founded in 1844 and designated a university in 1962, UAlbany has more than 17,000 students.

"Robert has been an invaluable member of my senior leadership team and has assisted immensely with my own transition," said University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler. "His contributions to the University of Minnesota during the past three decades have had a major impact on higher education across the state. He has strengthened engagement between the university and communities across Minnesota, from Extension to urban initiatives. In the area of global partnerships and education, his influence has been felt around the world."

"I am excited about this new opportunity to lead and to have an impact as a university president, but after 34 years, it was an extraordinarily tough decision to leave the University of Minnesota," said Jones. "I started my career here as an assistant professor in 1978, and have had the privilege of serving this institution and the state in a wide variety of roles. I look forward to continuing the many relationships I have forged inside the university and in communities across Minnesota."

U of M Center for Transportation Studies teams up with State Farm to improve teen driving

Distraction Dodger game to be featured Sept. 15 at local Celebrate My Drive event

What: Distraction Dodger online video game for teens and young adults

When: Saturday, Sept. 15, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Where: Ridgedale Center, 12401 Wayzata Boulevard, Minnetonka

Contacts: Shawn Haag, Center for Transportation Studies, haag0025@umn.edu, (612) 423-4502
Ann Avery, State Farm, ann.avery.maby@statefarm.com, (402) 613-3881

September 13, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS/ ST. PAUL (09/13/12) – The Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) at the University of Minnesota is partnering with State Farm to help teens and young adults understand the importance of distraction-free driving Saturday, Sept. 15 at Ridgedale Center in Minnetonka.

CTS will use its popular online game Distraction Dodger to help carry the message promoting safe driving. The game will be featured at Celebrate My Drive, State Farm's new approach toward teen driving, which launches Sept. 15 with the Ridgedale Center event and others nationwide. CTS is one of several community partners in the Twin Cities area participating.

Distraction Dodger is an Internet-based video game for young people and newly licensed drivers developed by the Intelligent Transportation System Institute, part of CTS. In the video game, players drive a virtual pizza delivery vehicle while avoiding obstacles, traffic tickets, damage to the vehicle and personal danger.

At the event, held inside and outside at Ridgedale Center, teens and their families can try a go-kart that simulates the difficulty of distracted driving, see a rollover crash simulator, and test their skills against Distraction Dodger. Several participating metro area high schools will stage performances throughout the day. In addition, teens will have the chance to win prizes—one will win a new car—and one local high school will receive a \$100,000 grant in connection with this special day.

According to the National Safety Council, distractions are the leading cause of motor vehicle crashes. The use of a cell phone for texting or calling is a particularly well-documented danger, significantly slowing a driver's reaction time and increasing the likelihood of a crash. Other demonstrably dangerous driving distractions include visiting with passengers, eating and drinking, using a navigation system, applying make-up, shaving and adjusting audio systems.

State Farm awarded CTS a \$25,000 grant to promote safe driving among youth and student organizations as well as driver education programs over the coming year.

For more information on Distraction Dodger, visit www.its.umn.edu/DistractionDodger/. For more information on State Farm's Celebrate My Drive, visit www.celebratemydrive.com.

About the Center for Transportation Studies

The University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies solves vexing transportation challenges in innovative ways, convening diverse communities to brainstorm, debate, share, learn and act. CTS partners with local and global transportation professionals, stakeholders, businesses and leaders to move new ideas from research to reality. For more information, visit

www.cts.umn.edu.

University of Minnesota Resilient Communities Project- Minnetonka kicks off Friday, Sept. 14

Minnetonka elected officials, city staff and residents to join U of M faculty in launching year-long partnership aimed at educating students and boosting community resilience

Who: Minnetonka elected officials, city staff and residents, along with University of Minnesota faculty

What: Kickoff event for the Resilient Communities Project-Minnetonka

When: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Friday, Sept. 14

Where: Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd., Minnetonka

Contacts: Mike Greco, Resilient Communities Project, mgreco@umn.edu, (612) 625-7501

Jacque Larson, City of Minnetonka, jl Larson@eminnetonka.com, (952) 939-8207

Matt Hodson, University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

September 13, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/13/12) – Minnetonka elected officials, city staff and residents will join University of Minnesota academic leaders in a kickoff celebration event for the Resilient Communities Project, an initiative that will bring the expertise of hundreds of graduate students and the university to sustainability-related projects identified by Minnetonka officials.

The event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 14 in the Minnetonka Community Room at the Minnetonka Community Center, 14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

The Resilient Communities Project (RCP) is an innovative and interdisciplinary new program at the University of Minnesota. A unique community-university partnership, RCP will help communities address challenges and make progress on key issues such as identity and communications, water, energy and urban planning. RCP will utilize the broad capacity of faculty and students from across seven university colleges and 11 courses to contribute to sustainable solutions.

Minnetonka is the first city to partner with the U of M on the Resilient Communities Project. At the conclusion of the partnership, RCP will help the city create a strategy to evaluate and monitor ongoing sustainability efforts.

RCP is an initiative of the [Sustainability Faculty Network](#) at the University of Minnesota, with funding and administrative support provided by the [Center for Urban and Regional Affairs \(CURA\)](#) and the [Institute on the Environment \(IonE\)](#). For more information, please visit www.rcp.umn.edu.

U of M convenes national discussion on theater archives

Media Note: Media will be allowed to photograph items in the Givens Collection at this event

What: The Play Within a Play: Saving the Story of Your Theater's Productions

When: Thursday-Friday, September 20-21, 2012

Where: Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota

Contacts: Cecily Marcus, Libraries, marc0082@umn.edu, 612-624-8812

Chris Widdess, Penumbra Theatre, chris.widdess@penumbratheatre.org, 651-288-6780

September 13, 2012

Representatives from 34 local and national theater companies will convene at the University of Minnesota Sept. 20-21 to explore the value, impact and practice of artistic preservation. This is the second such forum that looks at enhancing current archival practices in theaters, with a special focus on theaters of color.

The forum is especially timely and relevant, given last week's announcement that the Penumbra Theatre will suspend programming due to budget issues.

The first day focuses on increasing awareness for what an archive is and how it can benefit theaters' work, while the second day focuses on why historical and cultural context is of particular importance to theaters of color, and how archives are a tool not only to document history, but to create it. Keynote speakers will be Neal Cuthbert, McKnight Foundation Vice President of Program, speaking on Thursday, Sept. 20; and Lou Bellamy, Penumbra Founder and Artistic Director, who will speak on Friday, Sept. 21.

"We are excited by the strong response to these discussions," said Cecily Marcus, curator of the University of Minnesota Libraries' Performing Arts Archives and Givens Collection. "It is clear that theaters recognize the value and impact of an archive. Through these forums, we hope to better understand what obstacles theaters face when trying to create and maintain an archive for current and future use."

The forum is part of a larger University of Minnesota Libraries project, Preserving the Ephemeral: An Archival Program for Theater and the Performing Arts, funded by a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and is a partnership with Penumbra Theatre Company, Apollo Theatre, The American Theatre Project, and the Theatre Library Association. The goal of the project is to develop a sustainable records management program specific to the needs of theaters and performing arts organizations of color.

More information about the "Preserving the Ephemeral: An Archival Program for Theater and the Performing Arts" can be found at <https://www.lib.umn.edu/about/ephemeral>.

U of M conference to engage community in issues of black environmental justice, agriculture

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/13/2012) —The shortage of African Americans pursuing agriculture and outdoor interests and issues of environmental justice in areas with heavy black populations will be the focus of the three-day, national Black Environmental Thought II conference, held Sept. 21-23 at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus.

The Department of African American & African Studies at the U of M, along with community partner AfroEco, will host the conference to address environmental justice and agricultural practice of communities throughout the world that are descended from the historic movement of peoples from Africa, often referred to as the African diaspora. The conference will gather academics, farmers, activists, artists, community gardeners, environmentalists and outdoor enthusiasts.

A major long-term goal of this conference is to establish the foundation of knowledge around agricultural and environmental practice of the African diaspora, on which to build future academic research and community practice.

"Not only do we want to create a record of academic knowledge on these topics, we want to work toward the elimination of injustices that have led to, for example, the location of landfills near communities of color, or increasing opportunities for young people to experience the outdoors," says U of M professor Rose Brewer, a conference organizer.

Some presenters will also talk about the reclamation by African Americans of urban agriculture and the rise of the ecojustice movement.

In addition to a variety of academic discussions, conference participants will have multiple opportunities to engage with the Twin Cities community via bike, bus and walking tours, art exhibits, community service, and many other activities.

Many public events are free to the general public, however, pre-registration for the conference is required. Community members qualify for a reduced fee of \$50. Online registration is open at <http://z.umn.edu/bet2registration>.

A complete schedule can be found at <http://blackenvironthought.wix.com/bet2>

University of Minnesota professors are available to talk about the conference and the issues it will raise:

Rose Brewer can talk about the goals of the conference and the purpose of creating a new knowledge base about the environment and the African diaspora.

David Pellow is an expert on environmental justice and race. He is the author of "Garbage Wars," which shows that landfills and waste facilities are disproportionately located near communities of color.

Zenzele Isoke is an expert on African American politics and urban studies, and can speak about the relationship between art and community building.

Public Event Highlights

Friday, September 21, 10:00 a.m.

Bernice Reagon

Black Environmental Thinking... "Intentional 'Living and Dying' Today to Create Tomorrow"

Cowles Auditorium, Humphrey School of Public Affairs

301 19th Ave. S., University of Minnesota west bank

Free

Friday, September 21, 5:00 p.m.

Bernice Reagon

Public conversation

Camphor United Methodist Church

585 Fuller Avenue, St. Paul

Free

Saturday, September 22, 2:30 p.m.

Environmental History of North Minneapolis

This bicycle tour through the watershed of Bassett Creek will highlight the role that water has played in the development of North Minneapolis in particular and the African American community in general. The ride is 12 miles and 3 hours long, and will be led by artist and environmental activist Seitu Jones. Bikes provided by Nice Ride Minnesota.

Meet at University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach Center

2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Minneapolis

\$10/person

Urban Environmental Appreciation and Identification Hike

Participants will identify 50 summer and autumn plants for healing and for food from the Dakota tradition. Hike through an urban wilderness as we explore Glenwood Lake and Eloise Butler Nature Sanctuary with an African American artist and naturalist. Participants will learn how to make a portable herbarium. Hike will be 3 miles long. Led by Kush Bey, first Black artist/naturalist for Hennepin County Parks.

Meet at University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach Center

2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Minneapolis

Limited to 10 participants. \$10/person

Sunday, September 23, 9:30 a.m.

Louis Alemayehu and Ancestor Energy

Environmental justice activist and poet performs with poetry/jazz ensemble in a celebration of John Coltrane's birthday.

Cowles Auditorium, Humphrey School of Public Affairs

301 19th Ave. S., University of Minnesota West Bank

Free

University of
Minnesota
sponsors
Cyber
Security
Summit Oct.
9-10

*Summit will address
one of the nation's
most pressing
security threats*



Who: National cyber security experts and technology business leaders

What: Second Annual Cyber Security Summit

When: Tuesday, Oct. 9 and Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012

Where: Minneapolis Convention Center, 1301 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis

Sponsored by the University of Minnesota Technological Leadership Institute, the second annual Cyber Security Summit is set for Oct. 9 and 10 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Contacts: [Matt Hodson](mailto:mjhodson@umn.edu), University News Service, (612) 625-0552
[Rhonda Zurn](mailto:rzurn@umn.edu), College of Science and Engineering, (612) 626-7959

September 13, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/13/2012) — National cyber security experts and technology business leaders will gather Oct. 9 and 10 at the Minneapolis Convention Center for the second annual Cyber Security Summit. The University of Minnesota Technological Leadership Institute is one of the summit's presenting sponsors.

The U.S. relies on a vast array of information networks that allow people to communicate and travel, power homes, run the economy, and provide government services. Yet cyber intrusions and attacks have increased dramatically over the last decade, exposing sensitive personal and business information, disrupting critical operations, and imposing high costs on the economy.

This Cyber Security Summit will bring together the technology business community with government policy makers and leaders in academia to discuss cyber threats. The summit will focus on two themes—cyber threat identification as well as information sharing and privacy.

The event, which has grown from a half-day summit last year to a two-day summit this year, will feature a nationally recognized lineup of speakers including:

- Mark Weatherford, Deputy Under Secretary for Cybersecurity for the National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD), U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Patrick Reidy, Chief Information Security Officer, Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Howard A. Schmidt, Former Special Assistant to the President and Cyber Security Coordinator
- Christopher Buse, Chief Information Security Officer, State of Minnesota
- William Pelgrin, President and CEO, Center for Internet Security
- Bill Aerts, Director of Information Risk Management, Medtronic
- Wade Baker, Director of Risk Intelligence, Verizon
- Renee Lopez-Pineda, Information Security General Manager, Delta Air Lines
- Eric Kaler, President, University of Minnesota
- Massoud Amin, Director of the Technology Leadership Institute, University of Minnesota
- Gopal Khanna, Senior Fellow, Technological Leadership Institute, University of Minnesota; and Chair, Cyber Security Summit

In addition, panel discussions and networking breaks will allow for those attending the summit to interact and join the discussion on cyber security.

“The digital age we live in has totally shattered that paradigm of how we can defend our assets at home and interests abroad,” said Gopal Khanna, Cyber Security Summit Co-Chair and Senior Fellow at the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering’s Technological Leadership Institute. “There is a compelling and urgent need to establish a ‘multi-stakeholder consortium’ for cyber security to ensure a rapid risk assessment, response, and recovery strategy similar to the way we deal with natural disasters.”

The 2012 Cyber Security Summit is open to representatives of both private and public organizations. Great savings are available for students, faculty, and staff from any college or university who register before Friday, Sept. 21.

To register and for more information, visit cybersecuritysummit.org.

Rapper/songwriter B.o.B to headline University of Minnesota homecoming concert

What: Homecoming 2012 Concert Featuring B.o.B with Timeflies

When: Friday, Oct. 12, 8:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Where: TCF Bank Stadium, University of Minnesota, 2009 University Ave., S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Karly Wallack, Student Unions & Activities, walla363@umn.edu, 612-626-6775
[Patty Mattern](mailto:mattern@umn.edu), University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, 612-624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/13/2012) —Six-time Grammy nominated rapper/songwriter B.o.B will headline the homecoming concert at the University of Minnesota, Friday, Oct. 12 at TCF Bank Stadium. Homecoming 2012 and Student Unions & Activities present the concert.

B.o.B., who became known for his 2006 mixtape *Cloud 9* and recently released his album *Strange Clouds*, is scheduled to take the stage at 9:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12. Mash-up kings Timeflies will kick off the night at 8:30 p.m. with their expressive "electro hip pop dub-something" music. The group released their latest mixtape *Under the Influence*, in July 2012 and is currently working on their second all original album that will be released in the fall.

The concert follows the U of M's Homecoming Parade, which begins at 7 p.m.

Tickets are on sale at MyGopherSports.com. The concert is open to all ages and is general admission. Ticket prices for University of Minnesota, Twin Cities' students are \$15 (including service fees) and \$35 (including service fees) for general public. All University of Minnesota, Twin Cities' student ticket purchasers must present a valid U Card upon entry or they will be required to pay for a general public ticket.

Since 1914, the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, has celebrated Homecoming, a week dedicated to honoring the spirit of the maroon and gold. This celebration brings the campus community together with events such as the cheer and lip sync competitions, sports competitions, community service events, and of course the Homecoming parade and football game.

For more information and a full events listing, please visit homecoming.umn.edu.

President Kaler proposes freezing undergraduate tuition through renewed partnership with the state

Legislative proposal also includes initiatives to reduce student debt and fuel the state economy

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](#), University News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, (612) 625-8510

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/14/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler proposed his first biennial budget request, for fiscal years 2014-2015, during the Board of Regents meeting this morning.

The request to the state Legislature — accompanied by policy options for state legislators to consider — represents a new partnership with the State of Minnesota to hold the line on tuition for Minnesota undergraduate students, reduce student debt, and spark innovation and discovery to solve Minnesota's toughest problems and advance the economy.

"We need to invest in talented Minnesota students and leverage the university's research expertise to strengthen Minnesota's economy," Kaler said. "This bold request achieves those goals and builds the foundation for a prosperous future."

Kaler's proposal invests in students to transform the state's economy by:

1. Reforming how we fund higher education — Renewing the historic partnership between the state and university to freeze undergraduate tuition for the biennium. Specifically, if the state commits \$14.2 million in each year of the biennium, the U will hold resident base undergraduate tuition at current levels for all campuses during those years. Over four years, this tuition freeze will save an undergraduate student on the Twin Cities campus \$2,565. The university will do its part by reallocating 5 percent of its annual state appropriation (\$28.5 million) as part of its commitment to achieving greater operational excellence. Finally, Kaler is committing to performance and accountability measures, which, if achieved, would earn an additional \$11.5 million from the state. The measures include increasing financial aid and the number of degrees awarded, improving graduation rates and increasing research and technology commercialization activity.

2. Reforming how we invest in research and innovation — Establishing MnDRIVE (Minnesota Discovery, Research and Innovation Economy) funding program. This ongoing state-university partnership would invest in research that advances Minnesota's economy, leverages opportunities, improves the health and well-being of Minnesotans and advances existing and emerging industries. In 2014-15, the program would provide \$18 million for research in four areas:

- Supporting robotics, sensors and advanced manufacturing
- Securing the global food supply
- Advancing industry and conserving our environment
- Advancing discoveries and treatments for brain conditions

3. Reforming how Minnesota students and families pay for higher education — Creating a loan forgiveness program, which would provide \$1.5 million in 2015 to partially forgive student loans if students become health care professionals in underserved Minnesota communities. In addition to the biennial budget request, Kaler proposes tax options that would help students and families pay for education at any non-profit public or private four-year institution. The options include:

- Tax reforms, such as tax credits that essentially discount undergraduate tuition, offset student loans if graduates live or work in Minnesota and eliminate taxes on undergraduate student scholarships that exceed tuition and fee costs.
- New or enhanced tax credits to encourage more private philanthropy to support student scholarships at Minnesota non-profit colleges and universities.

University of Minnesota state appropriations dropped by an average of 35 percent between 2000 and 2010 compared to 20 percent on average nationally. If fully funded, this legislative package would bring the university's state appropriation to levels last seen in 2001, without accounting for inflation.

Pending board action in October, the university's request to the state Legislature will be pursued during the 2013 legislative session, which begins in January.

Delivering on the U's mission of education, research and public engagement

Provost Karen Hanson and Robert Jones, senior vice president for Academic Administration, University of Minnesota System, presented the "2012 University Plan, Performance and Accountability Report." It was first published in 2001.

"The annual accountability report confirms the compact between the university and the citizens of Minnesota," Hanson said. "It gives the Board of Regents important data to help inform governance decisions, and it conveys to the broader public a wealth of information about our activities, accomplishments and goals."

According to the report:

- The university's graduation rate continues to improve. Twin Cities' four-year graduation rate for the most recent class will be above 57 percent compared to just less than 29 percent in 1998. On every U of M campus, more than 50 percent of students graduate in five years.
- Students have access to small classes. Thirty-eight percent of undergraduate classes on the Twin Cities campus have fewer than 20 students, 19 percent have more than 50 students and fewer than 13 percent have more than 100 students.
- Students are guaranteed access to the classes they need to graduate in four years — or the U will pay tuition for courses students cannot get into. However, that payment has never been necessary. Academic advisors work closely with students to plan their schedules, and their feedback helps shape departmental course offerings and schedules.
- The U of M is diverse. Across all campuses, enrollment is 15 percent students of color and another 9 percent are international students. The Duluth and Morris campuses have particularly strong traditions of serving Native American students.
- The U is becoming increasingly efficient through the Operational Excellence initiative. For example, the Twin Cities campus has saved more than \$4.6 million in annual energy costs and reduced its carbon footprint by more than 50,000 tons through energy conservation. Meanwhile, decommissioning buildings that were underutilized has reduced annual operating costs by more than \$1.3 million and avoided more than \$48 million in building repairs.

The final version of the report, which will be published following board action in October, provides information about all five university campuses in the areas of extraordinary education, research, outreach and service, faculty and staff, and organization.

The Thursday and Friday board meetings also included:

- **Community University Health Care Clinic:** The Facilities Committee reviewed a nearly \$2.7 million [proposal](#) to renovate the 1960s-era clinic in South Minneapolis. The board is expected to take action in October on the proposal. Most of the improvement costs will be paid for by a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant.
- **Kaler formally introduced Pamela Wheelock.** Wheelock began work as the university's vice president for university services on Aug. 15.
- **Hanson formally introduced Dr. Leon Assael, dean of the School of Dentistry.** He was appointed in May.

The next Board of Regents meetings will occur Oct. 11-12, 2012. For more information, go to www.umn.edu/regents/.

Minnetonka, University of Minnesota partner to educate students and boost community resilience

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/14/2012) —Minnetonka elected officials, city staff and residents joined University of Minnesota academic leaders today to launch the Resilient Communities Project, an initiative that will bring the expertise of hundreds of graduate students and the University to sustainability-related projects identified by Minnetonka.

“The Resilient Communities Project is an excellent opportunity to partner with the University of Minnesota in completing some of the many projects that city council and staff have identified as important to maintaining Minnetonka’s quality of life now and into the future,” said Geralyn Barone, Minnetonka city manager. “We look forward to seeing the results of the project, and hope it will provide students with a valuable learning experience.”

RCP faculty director and Humphrey School of Public Affairs associate professor Carissa Schively Slotterback noted, “We are excited to advance an innovative and collaborative model of sustainability education that can build long-term capacity in the partner community, create new opportunities for engaged teaching for faculty, and train the next generation of students to address the challenges of building sustainable and resilient communities.”

This fall, students and faculty from 11 University courses, including architecture, law, urban planning, public policy, natural resources science and management, and bioproducts and biosystems engineering, will work in Minnetonka. Affiliated faculty come from seven colleges across the University. Projects will include stormwater management and illicit discharge regulation and training, a study of density and housing options, water and energy conservation, surface water projection, an evaluation of post-development project impacts, a prioritization plan for water resources, an evaluation of conservation development standards, life cycle analysis of street designs, and a study of approaches to enhancing neighborhood identities.

The partnership is the first of many anticipated in the years to come. Each academic year, RCP will choose a city partner through a competitive request-for-proposal process, help identify potential projects based on community-identified sustainability issues and needs, and match the city’s project needs with University courses. At the conclusion of the partnership, RCP will help the city create a strategy to evaluate and monitor ongoing sustainability efforts.

RCP provides communities with access to hundreds of students and faculty across a range of academic disciplines—from architecture, planning and engineering to business, environmental sciences and the humanities. Expertise is available in all aspects of sustainability, including analysis, planning, design, implementation and evaluation. At the same time, the program offers students real-world opportunities to apply their knowledge and training, as well as to engage with students in other programs and fields of study.

RCP is an initiative of the [Sustainability Faculty Network](#) at the University of Minnesota, with funding and administrative support provided by the [Center for Urban and Regional Affairs \(CURA\)](#) and the [Institute on the Environment \(IonE\)](#). The program is modeled on the [Sustainable Cities Year Program](#) at the University of Oregon, a highly successful cross-disciplinary program that supports one-year partnerships between a selected city and the university. To learn more, visit rcp.umn.edu.

About the Institute on the Environment: The University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment discovers solutions to Earth’s most pressing environmental problems by conducting transformative research, developing the next generation of global leaders and building world-changing partnerships. Learn more online at www.environment.umn.edu.

About the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs: The University of Minnesota’s Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) connects the resources of the University of Minnesota with the interests and needs of urban communities and the region. CURA pursues its urban and regional mission by facilitating and supporting connections between state and local governments, neighborhoods, and nonprofit organizations, and relevant resources at the University, including faculty and students from appropriate campuses, colleges, centers or departments. Learn more online at www.cura.umn.edu.

About the city of Minnetonka: Located in Hennepin County just eight miles west of Minneapolis, Minnetonka is a fully developed suburban community of 49,374 residents (2010 Census), making it the 17th largest city in Minnesota. Minnetonka is proud of its reputation as a city that preserves its natural resources and is also a thriving center of commerce, with the headquarters of several international companies located within Minnetonka. Visit www.eminnetonka.com for more information.

U of M engineering students to launch baseball into stratosphere from Target Field at Sept. 16 Twins game

Media Note: James Flaten, associate director of the Minnesota Space Grant Consortium and University of Minnesota assistant professor, will be available for in-person interviews about the balloon launch on Sunday morning before 9 a.m. and in the afternoon after the launch at Target Field. He can be reached on his cell phone at 651-399-2423.

Who: University of Minnesota aerospace engineering students

What: Baseball launch into the stratosphere to celebrate Aerospace and Aviation Week

When: Sunday, Sept. 16, between 12:30-1 p.m. (before start of Minnesota Twins game)

Where: Target Field, 1 Twins Way, Minneapolis

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September 14, 2012

At the Minnesota Twins game on Sunday, Sept. 16, an official baseball will do more than clear the fence at Target Field. It will be launched 80,000 feet into the stratosphere!

To celebrate Aerospace and Aviation Week, the Minnesota Twins organization is enlisting the help of NASA's Minnesota Space Grant Consortium and University of Minnesota aerospace engineering students to launch a weather balloon into near space before the game.

The balloon will carry an official game ball signed by Twins sluggers Josh Willingham and Justin Morneau. The balloon will also carry a camera to record its journey and a GPS tracking system so students can find the balloon when it comes down later in the day, which is expected to be near New Richmond, Wisc.

Former astronaut and Minnesota native Bob Cabana, who currently serves director of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center, will be on hand for the launch.

The University of Minnesota has a long history of balloon launches from sports stadiums. World-renowned balloonists and former U of M faculty Jean and Jeanette Piccard launched manned and unmanned balloons into the stratosphere from Memorial Stadium in the 1930s. Their work help lay the groundwork for manned space flights decades later.

University of Minnesota to observe Constitution Day Monday with special programs

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/14/2012) —The University of Minnesota will be observing Constitution Day on Monday, Sept. 17 with two programs.

On behalf of the University of Minnesota system, the Law School will present its annual We the People Constitution Day program from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. on Monday in the Law School's Lockhart Hall (Room 25).

This year's program, "The U.S. Supreme Court Decision on the Affordable Health Care Act (ACA): Explanations and Consequences," will feature panel discussions on implications of the ACA for the legal profession. The event has been approved for one CLE credit.

Speakers and panel participants:

- Professor Stephen F. Befort, Associate Dean for Research & Planning, will introduce the speakers and moderate the panel discussion
- Professor Fred L. Morrison will review the U.S. Supreme Court decision and its constitutional consequences
- Professor Ralph F. Hall will discuss the political landscape, the nature and extent of possible legislative and regulatory changes depending on who wins the upcoming presidential election, and the potential impact on access to devices, drugs, and other medical technologies
- Professor Mitchell E. Zamoff, former Chief Legal Officer, UnitedHealthcare and General Counsel, UnitedHealth Group, and Vanessa Laird, Executive Leadership Fellow, Center for Integrative Leadership, University of Minnesota and former General Counsel, Optum, will respectively, summarize key ACA provisions affecting how healthcare is provided and paid for, focusing on parts that may be subject to dispute and litigation as full implementation proceeds, and discuss the shifting roles of lawyers in health care work that may result from the Act and other developments

The program will be broadcast live. For details, go to <http://www.law.umn.edu/news/law-school-hosts-sept-17-constitution-day-program-8-27-2012.html>.

The Minnesota Student Association, Phi Beta Sigma and the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is holding an event to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and reflect on its effect in students' lives and on campus during special programming with the National Endowment for the Humanities on Constitution Day, Monday, Sept. 17.

The National Endowment for the Humanities programming will focus on the relationship between emancipation and the Constitution in anticipation of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Students are invited to watch a live stream program, learn about student groups that are helping to drive civic engagement and participate in a fruitful discussion with your peers.

Agenda:

12 to 12:30 p.m. – Enjoy refreshments and snacks while learning about participating students groups (including MPIRG and the Black Student Union)

12:30 to 1:30 p.m. – Watch the live stream from the National Endowment for the Humanities

1:30 to 2 p.m. – Participate in a discussion facilitated by University faculty and students

This free event will be held in the President's Room on Coffman Memorial Union's 3rd Floor.

University of Minnesota Police to mingle with students during "Coffee and Doughnuts with the Cops" events

Media Note: Media interested in covering this story should arrive early as the doughnuts go fast

What: University of Minnesota Police to hand out doughnuts, coffee and safety information

When: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Where: Wednesday, Sept. 19: U of M East Bank, Pleasant Street Southeast and Pillsbury Drive, Minneapolis

Thursday, Sept. 20: U of M St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/17/2012) —University of Minnesota Police officers bearing doughnuts and personal safety messages will greet students from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 19, at the intersection of Pleasant Street Southeast and Pillsbury Drive, Minneapolis.

"Coffee and Doughnuts with the Cops" is an event where students and police can get to know each other and discuss how they can be partners in keeping the campus safe. The event will also be held Thursday, Sept. 20 at the U of M St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

This fall the University of Minnesota Police Department (UMPD) will be focusing on the "Safety is Easy. The Pavement is Hard" campaign and in addition to doughnuts and coffee, they will be handing out customized reflector buttons for students to use when walking or biking at night. Safety while bicycling and walking has become increasingly important on campus; especially with the increased construction and congestion on campus.

For more information about university initiatives to promote a safe environment, visit:

www.umn.edu/prepared.

University of Minnesota scientists get federal go ahead for biotechnology development to clean up hydraulic fracturing (fracking) water

Effort earns grant from the National Science Foundation's Partnerships for Innovation Program

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/17/2012) —Fracking, the use of hydraulic pressure to release natural gas and oil from shale, has the potential to meet energy demands with U.S. resources and stimulate the economy. However, the practice also carries possible environmental and public health risks, most notably water contamination.

A University of Minnesota research team is addressing this challenge by developing innovative biotechnology to purify fracking wastewater. Headed by Larry Wackett, a professor in the College of Biological Sciences, the team includes Alptekin Aksan, professor in the College of Science and Engineering, and Michael Sadowsky, professor in the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences.

The effort has earned a new \$600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's Partnerships for Innovation (NSF-PFI) program, which pairs academic researchers with companies to transfer academic knowledge to the private sector and produce innovative technologies that benefit the public. Wackett, Aksan and Sadowksy, as well as CBS Dean Robert Elde, are co-investigators. Elde's role is to lead interaction between the researchers and the companies. If the project is successful, the team will be eligible for additional NSF funding.

The three scientists, all members of the university's BioTechnology Institute, are using naturally-occurring bacteria embedded in porous silica materials to biodegrade contaminants in fracking wastewater, a technology they originally developed to remove agricultural pesticides from soil and water. They now have the ability to customize the technology to degrade chemicals in water used for fracking. Their goal is to make the water suitable for re-use in fracking of other wells and significantly reduce the amount of water used by industry.

The team will work with Tundra Companies of White Bear Lake, Minn. on silica encapsulation technologies, and Luca Technologies of Boulder, Colo. on a related effort -- using encapsulated microbes to recover natural gas from depleted coal beds. Neither company is involved in fracking. However, they see a business opportunity in helping the U.S. meet its energy needs domestically in an environmentally responsible fashion. The university's role is to further develop a platform technology that could be used by these and other companies.

Fracking relies on forcing millions of gallons of water, sand and chemicals deep into the earth, creating fissures that allow natural gas or oil to escape and be recovered. Wastewater returns to the surface where it is treated and released into surface water, injected back into the earth, or recycled for use for fracking of other wells. Chemicals present deep below the Earth's surface, as well as chemicals used in fracking may contaminate water.

Evaporation and filtration, the current treatment methods, are expensive. Moreover, they don't eliminate chemicals, they simply reduce them to a concentrated form. Industrial scale evaporation and filtration are energy intensive, and both methods leave behind a chemical residue that presents a disposal challenge.

The research team understands public concerns about the environmental impact of fracking, as well as industry concerns about misinformation related to risks, Elde says. A leading research institution, the University of Minnesota has reached out to the business community, via its large alumni network, to work together on these issues.

"The University of Minnesota is not taking sides in the fracking debate, but as a land-grant research institution, it is uniquely positioned to carry out necessary and beneficial research," Wackett says. "There are many efforts ongoing to improve the treatment of water used in fracking and we feel that biotechnology can play a significant role in the overall effort."

Earlier this year, Wackett and his team also won a University of Minnesota Futures Grant to more broadly explore methods for mitigating the environmental impacts of fracking. For this project, they are working with a larger interdisciplinary group of co-investigators including faculty in the Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs and the School of Public Health as well as the intercollegiate BioTechnology Institute. Given to only one or two faculty teams annually, Futures Grants encourage extraordinary collaborative research deemed likely to attract substantial external funding.

'Confounding problem' of excess nitrogen subject of Oct. 4 Moos lecture

Agricultural economist and former EPA committee chair Otto Doering to deliver lecture as part of Moos Family Speaker Series on Water Resources

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/18/2012) —Nitrogen is a crucial part of all living things, but the millions of tons of nitrogen manufactured by humans every year are a two-edged sword: artificial nitrogen, applied as fertilizer, has greatly increased food supplies; but, the escape of nitrogen into the environment causes serious air and water pollution, as well as human health problems. The National Academy of Engineering called the proliferation of chemically reactive nitrogen one of the “grand challenges” facing scientists and policy-makers in the 21st Century.

Otto Doering is a Purdue University agricultural economist who chaired a 2011 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency committee on nitrogen. Doering will discuss the difficult choices facing scientists and policy-makers as they seek to maintain the benefits that human-created nitrogen provides while limiting its environmental damage during a free, public lecture beginning at 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 4, at the St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave.

The lecture is sponsored by the Freshwater Society and the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences. It is titled Excess Nitrogen: A Confounding Problem for Energy Use, Food Production, the Water We Drink and the Air We Breathe.

Doering's nitrogen committee concluded that, as a first step, policy-makers should pursue agricultural and industrial efficiency measures that the committee said would allow crop production to increase while reducing the escape of excess nitrogen into the environment by 25 percent.

The lecture is the ninth in the Moos Family Speaker Series on Water Resources honoring the late Malcolm Moos, president of the university from 1967 to 1974.

About the Freshwater Society

The Freshwater Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and inspiring people to value, conserve and protect water resources. Located in Excelsior, Minn., it has a long history of association with the University of Minnesota. Learn more at www.freshwater.org.

About the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences

The College of Biological Sciences provides education and conducts research in all areas of biology, from molecules to ecosystems, supporting applications in medicine, renewable energy, ecosystem management, agriculture and biotechnology. Learn more at www.cbs.umn.edu.

U of M hosts world conference to examine solutions to racial and ethnic economic inequality

NAACP president scheduled to provide keynote at Oct. 12 conference dinner

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/18/2012) —Leaders of communities of color, researchers, nonprofit leaders and policymakers from across the globe will work in collaboration Oct. 11-13 at the University of Minnesota to examine solutions to racial and ethnic economic inequality.

The U's Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice will host the three-day international gathering, the fourth "World Conference on Remedies to Racial and Ethnic Economic Inequality." Held in Minneapolis in 1996, Australia in 1998 and South Africa in 2001, the event convenes the world's top thinkers on economic inequality, aiming to produce practical results that can be applied at the local level.

The conference's return to Minneapolis coincides with the 20th anniversary of the Wilkins Center, part of the university's Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Benjamin Jealous, president and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is scheduled to keynote the Oct. 12 conference dinner, which will commemorate the center's anniversary. Larry L. Palmer, U.S. Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, is also scheduled to speak.

"Efforts to combat racial and ethnic economic inequality must be grounded on a solid understanding of the underlying causes of the differences," said Dr. Samuel L. Myers, Jr., director of the Wilkins Center and a national authority on the methodology of conducting disparity studies. "Too little attention has been paid to the fact that traditional solutions to problems of inequality are based on flawed assumptions about the deficient behaviors within communities of color and ignore historical and structural determinants of inter-group inequality."

Scholars from Brazil, Bulgaria, China, India, Kenya, Korea, New Zealand and Norway will engage community activists from across the United States to explore successful local initiatives. The interaction among community leaders, researchers and policymakers will add a practical dimension, says Myers, a pioneer in the use of applied econometric techniques to examine racial disparities.

The three-day conference is free and open to the public, but online registration is required at www.roywilkins.umn.edu. Visit the site for the schedule and a list of presenters and panelists.

Cost for the Oct. 12 anniversary dinner is \$125 per person, with separate registration required online at <http://z.umn.edu/worldconferencedinner>.

About the Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice

Founded in 1992, the Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice builds on the legacy of Roy Wilkins, a 1923 graduate of the University of Minnesota and former chief executive of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. It is the first endowed chair established in a major public policy school named after an African American. Located at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, the mission of the Roy Wilkins Center is to study and formulate solutions to problems of racial and ethnic inequality. Dr. Samuel L. Myers, Jr., an economist, is chair holder and director of the center.

About the Humphrey School of Public Affairs

The University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs ranks among the top professional schools of public affairs at public universities in the country. The school is widely recognized for its role in examining public issues and shaping policy and planning at the local, state, national and international levels, as well as for providing leadership and management expertise to public and nonprofit organizations. The school offers five graduate degrees, including a master of development practice degree in international development that welcomed its first cohort in August 2010. For more information, visit www.hhh.umn.edu.

U of M launches record number of startup companies in fiscal 2012

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/19/2012) —From promoting better driving skills to treating deadly brain tumors, discoveries by University of Minnesota researchers were used to launch a record 12 startup companies in fiscal 2012. This tops the previous record set last fiscal year, when nine startup companies were launched.

“This record number of startups shows that the overhaul of our technology commercialization function that was initiated five years ago is clearly paying off,” said president Eric Kaler. “The diverse range of disciplines represented in these 12 startup companies demonstrates what a valuable resource the University of Minnesota is to businesses in this state, and beyond.”

Since 2006, a total of 38 startup companies have been launched by the university. Of those, 30 are still active — a strong track record that validates the rigorous stage-gate process used by the Office for Technology Commercialization to determine which technologies have the potential to generate viable companies.

“This is extraordinarily good news that further illustrates the momentum we’ve established in our tech transfer operations,” said Tim Mulcahy, vice president for research. “Jay Schrankler and his team did an exceptional job in an economy where launching new companies was challenging, to say the least.”

Below are the names of the companies launched in fiscal 2012, a description of the technology each is commercializing, and the inventor’s name and college:

- **Argilex Technologies:** Membrane technology for separation processes such as those in the petroleum refining, chemicals and biofuels industries (Michael Tsapatsis/[College of Science and Engineering](#))
- **Ariel Pharmaceuticals:** Treatment for prevention of death due to blood loss from trauma (Matthew Andrews/Biology, [UMN-Duluth](#); Lester Drewes and Gregory Beilman/[Medical School](#))
- **CIPAC:** Treatment using live bacterial preparation that could stop infection caused by the bacterium *Clostridium difficile* (Michael Sadowsky/[College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences](#) and Alexander Khoruts/[Medical School](#))
- **cycleWood Solutions:** Low-cost biodegradable and compostable bags (Simo Sarkanen/ CSE)
- **Drive Power:** Web- and smartphone-based products that leverage emerging measurement technologies and predictive analytics to enable people to make more informed driving decisions (Max Donath, Craig Shankwitz and Alec Gorjestani/CSE)
- **Early Learning Labs:** Assessments and services to help parents and early child-care providers develop “kindergarten-ready” children (Scott McConnell/[College of Education and Human Development](#))
- **Epitopoietic Research Corporation:** Vaccine that engages the immune system to treat brain tumors (John Ohlfest and Walter Low/[Medical School](#))
- **Heat Mining Company:** Process uses sequestered carbon dioxide to extract geothermal energy from the earth in order to generate electricity (Martin Saar/CSE)
- **Omicron Health Systems:** Technology that helps clinicians monitor patient progress and improve the process of performing clinical research (Kevin Peterson/[Medical School](#))
- **SMART Signal Technologies:** Hardware and software solution that can be used to reduce traffic congestion on major signalized arterial highways (Henry Liu/CSE)
- **VitalSims:** Simulated practice setting that enables the observation, analysis, and improvement of physician decision-making (Paul Johnson/[Carlson School](#) and George Biltz/[CEHD](#))
- **Vytacera Pharma:** Antidote for the prevention and treatment of cyanide poisoning (Bob Vince, Steve Patterson and Herb Nagasawa/[Center for Drug Design](#))

About the Office for Technology Commercialization

The mission of the OTC is to facilitate the transfer of University of Minnesota research to licensees for the development of new products and services that benefit the public good, foster economic growth and generate revenue to support the University’s research and education mission.

University-led consortium doubles number of underrepresented minority STEM graduates

North Star STEM Alliance to receive an additional five-year, \$2.5 million award from National Science Foundation

Media Note: Sr. VP Jones, Sr. Assoc. Dean Ponce de León, Assoc. Dean Strykowski, Assoc. Dean Wright and select students and alumni of the North Star STEM Alliance will be available for interviews from 5 to 6 p.m. in the M Club Room at TCF Bank Stadium. The formal kick-off event is in the DQ Club Room from 6 to 9 p.m.

Who: Robert J. Jones, North Star STEM Alliance principal investigator and U of M system senior vice president for academic administration; Alliance co-principal investigators F. Abel Ponce de León (senior associate dean, U of M College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences), Paul Strykowski (associate dean, U of M College of Science and Engineering) and Robin Wright (associate dean, U of M College of Biological Sciences); students, alumni and faculty from the U of M and other participating institutions.

What: North Star STEM Alliance 2012 kickoff event

When: Tuesday, Sept. 25. (**Press preview:** 5 to 6 p.m. **Kick-off event:** 6 to 9 p.m.)

Where: **Press preview:** M Club Room at TCF Bank Stadium. **Kick-off event:** DQ Room at TCF Bank Stadium, 2009 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/20/2012) —The University of Minnesota Twin Cities, 13 collaborating higher education institutions and three community partners of the North Star STEM Alliance have been awarded an additional five years of funding totaling \$2.5 million from the National Science Foundation (NSF) through the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program. Additional funding was awarded as the Alliance approaches its initial five-year goal of doubling the number of underrepresented minority students receiving bachelor's degrees in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields from 2007-12.

The grant renewal will be celebrated during the annual North Star STEM Alliance Kick-Off, to be held the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 25 in the DQ Room at TCF Bank Stadium, 2009 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis.

The University of Minnesota Twin Cities has also been named one of four national recipients of a two-year Minority Male STEM Initiative (MMSI) grant from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). Funded by a major grant from The Kresge Foundation, the MMSI grant supports a partnership between the U of M and Minneapolis Technical and Community College (MCTC) to increase recruitment, retention and success of minority males in STEM majors.

"We're very excited to be able to continue to build on the success of our innovative LSAMP and MMSI partnerships," said Robert J. Jones, senior vice president for academic administration for the University of Minnesota system and principal investigator for the North Star STEM Alliance. "By increasing access to STEM fields among underrepresented groups and fostering an environment for continued success, the Alliance has been transformational for students, the University and other partner institutions, and STEM-focused industries throughout Minnesota and beyond."

The North Star STEM Alliance began June 1, 2007, as a partnership among Minnesota colleges and universities and two community organizations. The University of Minnesota Twin Cities is the lead institution, with the collaborative effort involving faculty and staff from the College of Biological Sciences, the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, the College of Science and Engineering, and the Office for Equity and Diversity. The university's Duluth and Morris campuses are also members.

The Alliance's goal was to increase from 136 (the number of underrepresented students graduating from these institutions in 2004-05) to 272 the number of African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Alaska Native and Pacific Islander students who graduate with STEM degrees in 2012. As the Alliance meets this goal, NSF challenges institutions to double the number of graduates again by 2017.

"Minnesota has one of the nation's largest educational achievement gaps. The state's universities and colleges must be proactive to address this problem and help close that gap," said University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler. "As more and more jobs are created in STEM-related industries, it is imperative to provide a top-notch education in these fields that is accessible to all students from all backgrounds. The successful statewide partnerships forged by the North Star STEM Alliance and the Minority Male STEM initiative are addressing these challenges head-on."

Best practices employed by the North Star STEM Alliance to retain underrepresented minority students in STEM include:

- Seminars preparing students and supporting them in undergraduate research.
- Community building through cohorts and student organizations.
- Group study and supplemental instruction.
- Faculty and peer mentoring.
- Professional development through industry exposure and national STEM conferences.
- Summer bridge programs that give students an advance opportunity to acclimate to academics and campus life.

"The Alliance supports students with guidance, community and professional development throughout their years on our campuses," said Anne Hornickel, North Star STEM Alliance program director with the University of Minnesota's Office for Equity and Diversity. "It is important, however, that underrepresented minority students interested in STEM fields receive this type of support throughout their education. Our best practices, while tailored to the collegiate environment, may be applied to K-12 schools as well. Doing so would attract more underrepresented minority students in STEM into post-secondary education, while also contributing to closing the achievement gap."

The following institutions have partnered with the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities, Duluth and Morris campuses to form the North Star STEM Alliance: Bemidji State, Metropolitan State, Minnesota State, Mankato and St. Cloud State universities; Augsburg, Carleton and St. Olaf colleges; Century, Leech Lake Tribal, Minneapolis Community and Technical, and White Earth Tribal and Community colleges. The Science Museum of Minnesota, the Minnesota High Tech Association and the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership are the Alliance's three community partners.

More information on the North Star STEM Alliance can be found at www.northstarstem.org.

'Black, Brown and Green': Dudley Edmondson's portraits of African Americans in natural places featured in U of M UROC gallery

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/20/2012) —African American cowboys, rock climbers and mountaineers are among the people celebrated in “Black, Brown and Green: Abstracts and Environmental Portraits by Photography Dudley Edmondson” opening Thursday, Sept. 20 at the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center, 2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Minneapolis.

The 24-work exhibit features portraits from Edmondson’s 2009 book, “Black and Brown Faces in America’s Wild Places: African Americans Making Nature and the Environment a Part of Their Everyday Lives,” as well as additional photographic abstracts and landscapes.

A Duluth-based author, filmmaker and educator, Edmondson is a passionate advocate for connecting youth and people of color to the natural world. His photographic work has appeared in national and international field guides and nature magazines and has been shown by the Conservation Fund, Sierra Club and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He is a 2010 recipient of the Wilderness Society’s National Faces of Conservation Award and was the inspiration for the University of Washington’s Dudley Edmondson Fellowship in Youth Development and Education.

“Dudley Edmondson is not only an accomplished artist, he’s a committed environmentalist who believes that a connection with nature is vital to the health of the individual and the community,” says Heidi Barajas, UROC executive director. “We are delighted to be able to showcase Dudley’s beautiful work and his empowering perspective.”

A public reception with Edmondson is set for 5 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 20.

UROC is an initiative of the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Administration, University of Minnesota System. The center links the university in vital public partnership with urban communities to advance learning, improve quality of life and discover breakthrough solutions to critical urban challenges. More information is available at www.uroc.umn.edu.

U of M School of Music celebrates legendary Minnesota composer Dominick Argento with 12th Collage Concert

Performance on Oct. 20 at Ted Mann Concert Hall

Media Note: Photographs of Dominick Argento available upon request. Email requests to marsh396@umn.edu

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/20/2012) —The University of Minnesota School of Music presents its 12th Collage Concert, an annual ensemble concert with more than 300 students and faculty performing on Saturday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m. at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

This year's School of Music Collage Concert will honor Dominick Argento, America's pre-eminent composer of lyric opera and U of M Regents professor emeritus. Argento taught at the U's School of Music for nearly 40 years.

The Collage Concert will feature a selection of Argento's music from throughout his distinguished career, including selections from his vast song repertoire, several early chamber works and the popular Valentino Dances in a rarely-performed version for orchestra and chorus.

Collage Concert Co-Artistic Director and School of Music director of choral activities Kathy Saltzman Romey said, "We are tremendously excited to showcase the life and work of Dominick Argento in celebration of his 85th birthday. His significant contributions, especially in regards to vocal repertoire, have impacted generations of performers, composers and educators who have been inspired by the power and drama of his music."

Luminaries from the Twin Cities music community, including former School of Music director Vern Sutton, School of Music alumni and composers Libby Larsen and Stephen Paulus, and Dale Warland will pay tribute to the Pulitzer Prize-winning Argento throughout the evening.

This event is free and open to the public. Tickets and reservations are not required. Seats are available on a first-come, first-seated basis.

For more information Argento, [please see his biography](#).

The School of Music presents more than 400 free concerts and recitals per year. For a complete schedule of events, visit music.umn.edu or call the School of Music events hotline at 612-626-8742.

About the U of M School of Music

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 550 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of more than 50 artists, scholars and teachers.

U of M ROTC to honor POW/MIA with ceremony and silent vigil

Former POW scheduled to speak

Media Note: Event will take place in front of the Veteran's Tribute Wall on the southwest corner of TCF Bank Stadium. Please park in the TVRP lot, on the South side of the Fay Thompson Center, 501 23rd Ave SE, Minneapolis.

Event: U of M ROTC POW/MIA ceremony and vigil

Time: 3:50-10 p.m.

Date: Sunday, Sept. 23

Place: Veteran's Tribute Wall, southwest corner of TCF Bank Stadium, 2009 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

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September 21, 2012

In honor of National POW/MIA Recognition Day, The University of Minnesota ROTC program will host a special ceremony at TCF Bank Stadium's Veterans Tribute Wall, Sunday, Sept. 23 beginning at 3:50 p.m.

The Veteran's Tribute Wall is located on the southwest corner of TCF Bank Stadium, 2009 University Ave S.E. Minneapolis, between the main scoreboard and gate E, on the U of M's East Bank.

The U of M ceremony will include a missing man formation flyover by World War II aircraft at 4 p.m., wreath laying, POW/MIA table presentations, and a keynote address by retired Navy Lt. Cmdr. William L. Connell, a former POW.

Following the ceremony, from 5-10 p.m., cadets from the Air Force ROTC program will hold a silent vigil at the same location. The cadets will guard a table with replica M1 rifles.

On the third Friday in September each year the nation remembers U.S. service members who have been, or still are, missing in action (MIA) or prisoners of war (POW).

For interviews, please contact Jerry Kiser.

President Obama to appoint U of M engineering professor to Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board



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Efi Foufoula-Georgiou has been appointed to the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/24/2012) —The White House announced that President Barack Obama will appoint [Efi Foufoula-Georgiou](#), a civil engineering professor in the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering, as a new member of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board. Foufoula-Georgiou is one of only eight individuals nationwide who will be appointed to the board.

The Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board is an independent agency of the U.S. Federal Government. Its sole purpose is to provide independent scientific and technical oversight of the Department of Energy's program for managing and disposing high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel.

Foufoula-Georgiou came to the University of Minnesota in 1989. She has served as the director of the National Center for Earth-Surface Dynamics at the University of Minnesota since 2008. She has also served on the National Center for Atmospheric Research's Science Advisory Board since 2005 and is a member of the American Geophysical Union, American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Society of Women Engineers.

Prior to her faculty appointment at the University of Minnesota, Foufoula-Georgiou was an assistant professor at Iowa State University from 1986 to 1989 and a research associate at University of Minnesota's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory from 1985 to 1986. She received a degree in civil engineering from the National Technical University in Athens, Greece, as well as an M.S. and a Ph.D. in environmental engineering from the University of Florida.

New 'Driven to Discover' campaign focuses on value of and investment in U of M

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/24/2012) —The University of Minnesota is taking a unique approach to higher education marketing when it launches its new “Driven to Discover” campaign today.

For the first time, the university’s branding and marketing will directly tie the value the university provides to the state with the importance of public and private investment in higher education.

This year’s ads focus on the university’s mission of teaching, research and discovery and public outreach and engagement, and illustrate how that mission prepares future generations and illuminates the state and world. They are an evolution of previous years’ Driven to Discover campaigns and were created around the theme of “Illumination.” This year’s iteration of the campaign, “Keeping our lights on illuminates everyone,” emphasizes how the impact of the University of Minnesota benefits everyone.

“As Minnesota’s only comprehensive research and land-grant university, the University of Minnesota works to solve the toughest challenges across the state and world,” said President Eric Kaler. “But we can’t continue to tackle those critical problems without continued investment in our young people and the U. The new campaign truly illustrates how our mission comes to life in Minnesota and how continued investment in the University of Minnesota will fuel the economy and keep our state shining bright.”

The first television spots begin airing Sept. 24 and continue for two months. They will reach most of the state, focused on news and prime-time programming in the Minneapolis-St. Paul and Rochester television markets. The campaign’s second flight will air from mid-January to mid-March.

“This is unlike anything most people have seen from higher education,” said Ann Aronson, the university’s assistant vice president for marketing. “It has a dramatic look and feel, but we’re interested in much more than grabbing attention. We want to change the conversation about higher education in Minnesota and inspire people. This is about communicating the U’s value to the state and how investments in the university benefit everyone.”

The university’s homepage, www.umn.edu, will provide multiple ways for others to “Be a light” and get involved with the campaign. Visitors can learn about university discoveries, advocate for the U and support students through scholarships. They will find an interactive illumination map that highlights discoveries and contributions made by U of M faculty, students and alumni by geographical area. Those inspired to tell their own stories about how the University of Minnesota has affected their lives, their families or their communities can submit them at www.umn.edu. Submitted stories may also be added to the interactive map.

A social media component encourages others to join the conversation about how discovery has illuminated them by using the hashtag #LightUMN in platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, Instagram and Google+. For example, a competition on the photo-sharing social network Instagram will invite users to depict how the University of Minnesota illuminates their lives.

The TV ads feature the song, “There’s So Much Energy in Us,” by the critically acclaimed Minneapolis-based indie-rock band Cloud Cult. Lead singer Craig Minowa is a U alumnus. Many other university students and alumni star in the ads:

- Lucia Randle, a student in the College of Education and Human Development.
- Danielle Berg, a PhD candidate in astrophysics with the College of Science and Engineering.
- Larea Carter, an alumna of the College of Liberal Arts.
- Danice Cabanela, an actress and student in the College of Liberal Arts.
- Branden Hickey, a student in the College of Biological Sciences.
- Eamonn McLain, an alumnus of the College of Liberal Arts and Guthrie Bachelor of Fine Arts Program and cellist for the local band Lucy Michelle and the Velvet Lapels.

The campaign also will feature digital outdoor billboards along major commuter routes in the Twin Cities and downtown Minneapolis, and bus shelters wrapped with messaging in key locations throughout Minneapolis and St. Paul. Other tactics include online ads in key markets across Minnesota and scoreboard displays at the university’s TCF Bank Stadium and Williams and Mariucci arenas.

Minneapolis-based OLSON, an independent agency, created the campaign for the U. OLSON has been the university’s agency partner since the campaign was first launched in 2006. The two-year campaign will cost \$2.5 million, with a majority of the funding from the University of Minnesota Foundation.

For more information about the Driven to Discover campaign, visit <http://discover.umn.edu>.

U of M STEM Education Center receives \$8 million grant from National Science Foundation

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/25/2012) —The University of Minnesota's STEM Education Center has received an \$8 million, five-year grant from the National Science Foundation, to partner with 200 Twin Cities metro area teachers to increase science and math learning through engineering for 15,000 students in fourth through eighth grades.

The center, with the largest grant it has ever received, will lead an engineering, design-based approach to teacher professional development that will help teachers design curricular units for science topic areas within the Minnesota State Academic Science Standards.

The project will include summer professional development and curriculum writing workshops, paired with a cognitive and content coaching model, to allow teachers to design curricular units focused on science concepts, meaningful data analysis and measurement. Each unit will go through an extensive design research cycle to ensure its quality and then will be submitted to TeachEngineering.org, an online peer-reviewed digital library, for use across the United States and beyond.

"The project has the potential to change the way partner schools implement STEM education, as well as be a model for other schools globally," says Tamara Moore, project principal investigator and co-director of the STEM Education Center.

"The work of the project is critical to the work of the STEM Education Center," says Moore. "The ideas that have come together for this project represent a holistic view of the best work that we as a team have done so far. Our past research on STEM integration curricular and teacher development is the heart of this project."

The project name is EngrTEAMS: Engineering to Transform the Education of Analysis, Measurement, and Science.

Project partners include the university's Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power and Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement, the St. Paul Public Schools, the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District, the South Washington County Schools, the Metropolitan Cooperative Service Unit, and the Grants and Research Office of Intermediate Districts 287 and 916.

The school districts involved cover a diverse student population. In St. Paul, for example, many students come from immigrant or refugee families and 45 percent live in homes where English is not the first language. Teachers in the project who work with high-need students will not only be implementing the curriculum modules, but also documenting the learning outcomes of underrepresented populations. The project research findings are aimed to help practitioners, administrators and policymakers discover the best ways to improve student achievement and develop student interest in STEM careers.

The grant is among the largest awarded through the Mathematics and Science Partnership program by the Division of Undergraduate Education of the National Science Foundation, which is an independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense..." With an annual budget of about \$6.9 billion, it is the funding source for about 20 percent of all federally supported basic research conducted by America's colleges and universities.

Part of the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), the STEM Education Center includes researchers from five U of M colleges, with core faculty from CEHD's Department of Curriculum and Instruction. The Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power is part of the College of Science and Engineering at the university. The Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement is part of CEHD.

U of M receives \$4.3 million NSF grant to study interactions between water and land-use systems

Minnesota River Basin will serve as the test bed for research

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Tall bluffs along tributaries of the Minnesota River are stark reminders of this landscape's active erosional history over the past 13,000 years. Today, accelerated bluff erosion may be one mechanism by which human-induced changes in flows are impacting water quality. Photo credit: Patrick Belmont

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/26/2012) —The University of Minnesota announced today that it has received a \$4.3 million Water Sustainability and Climate grant over five years from the National Science Foundation to lead a study on the interactions between climate, water and land-use systems. The grant will specifically examine impacts of land use and climate change on water quality and ecosystem health using the Minnesota River Basin as a prototype.

The University of Minnesota-Twin Cities is the lead institution for this grant that involves researchers from institutions across the country such as the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Johns Hopkins University, Utah State University, University of Washington, Iowa State University, and the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

The researchers will develop a framework for identifying and predicting processes, locations and times that are most susceptible to accelerated change. This framework is envisioned to guide decision and policy making toward a healthy and resilient environment. The research team has chosen the Minnesota River Basin as a location for their research because it encompasses an extremely broad spectrum of natural and human-induced rates of change and sensitivity to land-use practices. Of particular interest is the interaction between land use and river network processes. Many of the state's waterways already exceed recommended amounts of sediment and nutrients.

"This grant brings together some of the top scientists and engineers from across the country to study one of the most important issues of our time—water sustainability under climate and human stressors," said Efi Foufoula-Georgiou, a civil engineering professor in the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering and lead researcher on the grant. "Change is often inevitable, but if we can use the best of science to understand the 'workings of a system,' its complexities, feedbacks, and vulnerabilities to change, we are half-way toward sustainability. The other half is working with decision and policy makers, to implement science-based solutions."

Based on a unique hypothesis called human-amplified natural change (HANC), this research will explore the concept that areas most vulnerable to human, climatic and other external changes are those experiencing the highest natural rates of change. The ability to more easily identify these so-called "hot spots" of sensitivity to change could enhance targeted response, including remediation and management, for potential issues of water scarcity and quality.

To better understand which land and water management efforts are most effective to produce sustainable and resilient environmental systems, the research will explore in-depth the following issues:

- Sediment production rates throughout the Minnesota River Basin and their sensitivity to natural versus external changes;
- Features in the landscape and water system that accelerate change and how these features can be factored into the assessment framework;
- The relationship between human-amplified natural changes in the geomorphic system and ecological changes in the Minnesota River; and
- Methods and means to include the assessment in decision-making processes so that sensitive regions can be identified and targeted for monitoring and management activities.

In addition, an educational component of the grant will help develop hands-on experience for teachers and curricular materials on environmental literacy for classroom. The educational component will also involve working collaboratively with the Science Museum of Minnesota to share what is learned with the entire community.

Led by Foufoula-Georgiou, the project involves several other researchers including Gary Parker and Praveen Kumar, professors of civil and environmental engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Peter Wilcock, professor and associate chair of geography and environmental engineering, Johns Hopkins University; Jacques Finlay, associate professor of ecology, evolution and behavior, University of Minnesota; Karen Gran, assistant professor of geological sciences, University of Minnesota-Duluth; Patrick Belmont, assistant professor of watershed sciences, Utah State University; Catherine Kling, professor of economics, Iowa State University; Sergey Rabotyagov, assistant professor of environmental economics, University of Washington; and Gillian Roehrig, associate professor of science education and director of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Center, University of Minnesota.

President Kaler to discuss tech transfer innovations in Washington, D.C.

University of Minnesota president one of select few invited to participate in U.S. Department of Commerce panel

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/27/2012) —In recognition of the University of Minnesota's leadership in the field, President Eric Kaler will speak to a gathering of university presidents Monday, Oct. 1, at the U.S. Department of Commerce on the topic of "University Technology Transfer and Industry Collaboration."

Kaler will be part of a larger showcase forum, "The Innovative and Entrepreneurial University: Higher Education, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Focus." The two-part forum is divided into a morning session at the U.S. Department of Commerce and an afternoon session at the White House.

"The University of Minnesota is an important driving force in advancing the state's science, technology and innovation agenda and in fueling Minnesota's economy," said Kaler. "The transformation of our Office for Technology Commercialization has fostered research opportunities and industry collaboration that fulfill our 21st century land-grant mission."

Kaler added: "We are proud that our faculty inventions and discoveries have advanced to the marketplace and for the public good. We are honored that our tech transfer operation is being recognized as a national leader."

Joining Kaler on the panel will be the presidents of Clemson and Northeastern universities and Indian River (Fla.) Community College, along with moderator Dr. Patrick Gallagher, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Under the leadership of Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy, the university embarked on a transformation of its tech transfer function in 2006. The Offices of Business Relations and Technology Commercialization were created and innovative approaches adopted, including:

- Internal Business Units, an incubation model that serves as a precursor to startup companies;
- Innovation Investments, funds provided to U researchers to help bridge the gap between sponsored research funding and the point where a technology can be commercialized;
- Minnesota Innovation Partnerships (MN-IP), which eliminates the need for protracted negotiations over rights to intellectual property that may result from industry-funded research and fosters stronger relationships with business partners;
- And startup workshops, to provide answers to key questions about the creation of new companies and help promote innovation and entrepreneurship among faculty, postdocs and graduate students.

Discoveries by U of M researchers were used to launch a record 12 startup companies in fiscal 2012, up from the previous record of nine in fiscal 2011. Illustrating the depth of university research, startups were formed based on discoveries at seven different colleges or centers.

University of Minnesota Homecoming 2012 service opportunities open to everyone

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/27/2012) —Student Unions & Activities and Homecoming 2012 welcome members of the University of Minnesota campus community and members of the public Twin Cities area to get involved in community service opportunities as part of Homecoming 2012 from Saturday, Oct. 6 to Sunday, Oct. 14. All community service events are open to the general public and include a 5K run, Food Drive, Blood Drive and Thank U event.

Community Service Events

- Norman Borlaug Food and Hunger 5K -- Run begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 6 Registration is now open for the race that honors Norman Borlaug, U of M alumni and supports Hunger Relief in the Twin Cities. Nonperishable food items will be collected at the 5K, as well as at the Information Desks in Coffman Union and the St. Paul Student Center throughout Homecoming week. Food donations will be given to Second Harvest Heartland, the Upper Midwest's largest hunger relief organization. Registration is open [online](#) until Oct. 3 and participants can also register on the day of the race.
- Blood Drive -- in partnership with the American Red Cross, the nation's largest supplier of blood and blood products, Homecoming 2012 will be hosting a Blood Drive beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 10 in Coffman Union. Registration is open [online](#) and walk-ins are also accepted.
- Thank U – Thank U is an event happening on Sunday, Oct. 14 that encourages participants to give back to the greater university community by completing service projects in the surrounding neighborhoods. Service projects range from assisting with an edible community garden to supporting artists. Food and entertainment, including a performance by Rogue Valley will also be provided to volunteers. Groups or individuals may register [online](#) until Oct. 10.

Since 1914, the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, has celebrated Homecoming, a week dedicated to honoring the spirit of the maroon and gold. This celebration brings the campus community together with events such as a campus-wide scavenger hunt, cheer and lip sync competitions, sports competitions, community service events, pep rallies, and of course the Homecoming parade and football game.

For more information and to register for events, please visit our website at homecoming.umn.edu.

U of M Alumni Association honors top volunteers, groups and programs

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/27/2012) —The University of Minnesota Alumni Association will honor its outstanding alumni volunteers, groups and programs Thursday, Oct. 11 at the 2012 Alumni Awards Celebration in the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. The event begins with a 5:30 p.m. reception, followed by a 6 p.m. dinner and program

“The entire University of Minnesota community benefits in many ways from the valuable contributions of our dedicated alumni,” said Phil Esten, president and chief executive officer of the Alumni Association. “We are honored to recognize a new group of passionate individuals each year who devote their time and talent to promote the university.”

Five individuals and seven groups will receive Alumni Association awards in recognition of contributing to the mission of the association by connecting alumni, students and friends in support of the University during the past year. The awards celebration is held as part of the Homecoming 2012 festivities.

The Alumni Association’s awards are as follows:

The Faculty/Staff Volunteer of the Year

Louis Quast, College of Education and Human Development

Student Volunteer of the Year

Prescott Morrill, College of Design

Luke Nichols, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

Advocate of the Year

Chris Tastad, College of Biological Sciences

Outstanding Alumni Society

College of Design Alumni Society

Outstanding Alumni Chapter

Washington, D.C. Chapter

Program Extraordinaire awards for creative, innovative and engaging activities go to: the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences Alumni Society; the School of Nursing Alumni Society; the College of Pharmacy Alumni Society; the College of Science and Engineering Alumni Society and the Arizona West Valley Chapter.

In addition, 15 individuals will receive the University of Minnesota Alumni Service Award, recognizing alumni volunteers who have had a significant impact on the university; its schools, colleges, departments, or faculty; or to the University of Minnesota Alumni Association or any of its constituent groups.

The Alumni Service Award winners include:

Roberta J. Anderson, School of Dentistry

Ann Carlson Birt, College of Design

Robert A. Bjork, Carlson School of Management

James L. Chosy, Law School

June LaValleur, Medical School

Marie Manthey, School of Nursing

Padraic S. McGuire, College of Science and Engineering

John Mendesh, College of Science and Engineering

Jan Anderson Meyer, College of Liberal Arts

Carol Mulligan, College of Education and Human Development

Rusty Nelson, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences

Robert K. Schultz, College of Pharmacy

Katherine Siggerud, Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Ertugrul Tuzcu, University of Minnesota Alumni Association

David E. Walstad, Carlson School of Management

To read more about each of the winners, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/2012ASA.

About the University of Minnesota Alumni Association

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a nearly 60,000-member organization that fosters a lifelong spirit of belonging and pride by connecting alumni, students and friends to the University of Minnesota and each other. The Alumni Association advocates for the university and its alumni with a credible, independent and collaborative voice. For more information, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org or call (612) 624-2323.

Law School's Journal of Law & Inequality to hold symposium "Children are Different": Culpability and the Mandatory Sentencing of Juveniles after Miller v. Alabama & Jackson v. Hobbs

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/28/2012) —The University of Minnesota Law School's Journal of Law & Inequality invites you to attend its 2012 symposium, "Children are Different: Culpability and the Mandatory Sentencing of Juveniles after Miller v. Alabama & Jackson v. Hobbs." The symposium will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4, in Room 25 of Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

In Miller v. Alabama and Jackson v. Hobbs, the United States Supreme Court held that sentencing juveniles convicted of murder to life without parole violated the Eighth Amendment as being cruel and unusual punishment. At this symposium, participants will uncover the reasoning and practical implications of this contentious 5-4 decision. Keynote speaker, Elizabeth Scott, Harold R. Medina Professor of Law, Columbia Law School, will speak on "Miller v. Alabama and the (Past and) Future of Juvenile Crime Regulation."

Four general CLE credits and one elimination of bias credit have been approved for this event.

The cost is \$25.00 for attorneys (and all others outside the University of Minnesota) and free and no registration required for students, faculty, and staff.

For more information and to register, go to
<http://www.law.umn.edu/lawineq/symposiummain/october-2012.html>.

New technologies advance livestock genomics for agricultural and biomedical uses

Media Note: The full paper is available online at <http://www.pnas.org/>.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/01/2012) —New genome editing technologies developed at the University of Minnesota for use on livestock will allow scientists to learn more about human diseases.

The genomic technique, known as TALENS, is described in a report published today in the scientific journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*. The technique is cheaper and faster than previous technologies that allow scientists to genetically modify livestock animals; the animals are used to learn more about human diseases, which in turn can help researchers develop cures. U of M scientists and their collaborators used the technique to develop a swine model of cardiovascular disease in the diabetes-prone Ossabaw miniature pig.

The TALENS technique also can be used in agriculture, the paper notes, allowing livestock breeders to encourage or discourage a particular trait.

“Our efforts continue a long tradition of responsible animal breeding and research for the betterment of mankind,” said Scott Fahrenkrug, an associate professor of animal science at the university and lead author of the PNAS paper.

Collaborators on the paper are from Texas A&M, the Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh and Recombinetics, a Twin Cities-based company created in 2009 to commercialize the techniques created at the University of Minnesota. The group’s work and the TALENS technique also recently were highlighted in the journal *Nature*.

“This work embodies the effective translation of university research into meaningful applications that support Minnesota business,” Fahrenkrug said. “We are proud to produce positive social and economic outcomes.”

U of M Alumni Association conducts first-ever state legislative candidate survey to help inform voters

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/01/2012) —The University of Minnesota Alumni Association (UMAA) today announced the results of its first-ever state legislative survey asking candidates about their positions on investing in higher education. Topics covered were state support of the U of M, research restrictions, funding of medical education and state funding levels for asset preservation.

The UMAA is not endorsing candidates, but conducted the survey to help alumni and friends of the university make informed decisions when they vote. The four-question survey was sent via e-mail from UMAA National Board Chair Kent Horsager to 396 legislative candidates. UMAA received 104 responses, a return rate of more than 26 percent.

Of the 104 responses received, 87 were submitted by DFL candidates, 12 by GOP candidates, 3 by Independence Party candidates and 2 by members of other parties. Twenty-eight incumbent legislators responded, 4 GOP and 24 DFL. Seven districts had responses from both major party candidates - Senate districts 21, 25 and 64 and House districts 25B, 50A, 56B and 60A. Responses received were overwhelmingly positive in their support for the University of Minnesota:

- 94 percent favor increased state financial support for higher education;
- 88 percent oppose additional research restrictions;
- 93 percent support funding for the clinical training of health professionals;
- 91 percent support capital investment in the university.

Candidates provided additional comments that may also be helpful to voters. Many provided caveats about the state budget projections for the upcoming session, emphasizing that any additional funds for the U of M have to be considered in the context of the entire state budget. Other comments ranged from the need to train more health care providers for rural Minnesota to comments about the importance of the U to the economic health of our state.

Full legislative survey results can be found at www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/2012CandidateSurvey.

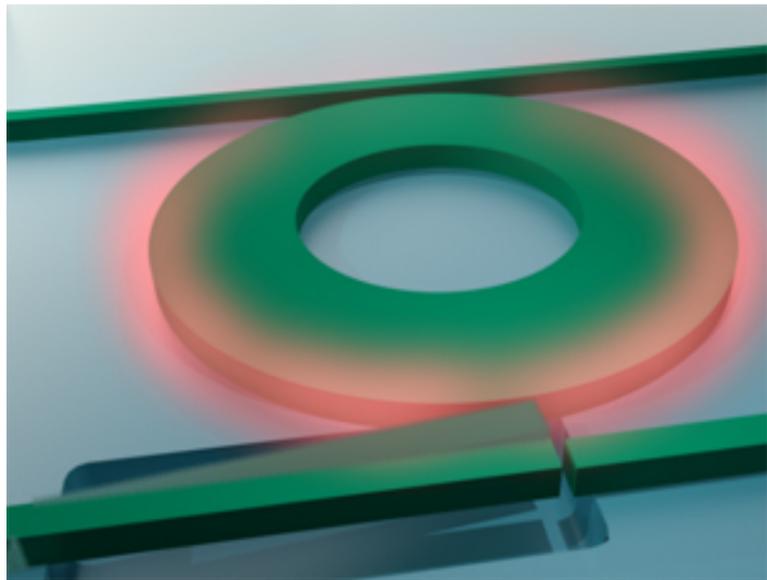
The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a nearly 60,000-member organization that fosters a lifelong spirit of belonging and pride by connecting alumni, students and friends to the University of Minnesota and each other. The Alumni Association advocates for the university and its alumni with a credible, independent and collaborative voice. For more information, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org.

University of Minnesota engineers invent new device that could increase Internet download speeds

Unique device uses light to control light

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University of Minnesota researchers have invented a novel microscale mechanical switch of light on a silicon chip.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/02/2012) —A team of scientists and engineers at the University of Minnesota has invented a unique microscale optical device that could greatly increase the speed of downloading information online and reduce the cost of Internet transmission.

The device uses the force generated by light to flop a mechanical switch of light on and off at a very high speed. This development could lead to advances in computation and signal processing using light instead of electrical current with higher performance and lower power consumption.

The research results were published today in the online journal Nature Communications.

“This device is similar to electromechanical relays but operates completely with light,” said Mo Li, an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering in the University of Minnesota’s College of Science and Engineering.

The new study is based on a previous discovery by Li and collaborators in 2008 where they found that nanoscale light conduits can be used to generate a strong enough optical force with light to mechanically move the optical waveguide (channel of information that carries light). In the new device, the researchers found that this force of light is so strong that the mechanical property of the device can be dominated completely by the optical effect rather than its own mechanical structure. The effect is amplified to control additional colored light signals at a much higher power level.

“This is the first time that this novel optomechanical effect is used to amplify optical signals without converting them into electrical ones,” Li said.

Glass optical fibers carry many communication channels using different colors of light assigned to different channels. In optical cables, these different-colored light channels do not interfere with each other. This non-interference characteristic ensures the efficiency of a single optical fiber to transmit more information over very long distances. But this advantage also harbors a disadvantage. When considering computation and signal processing, optical devices could not allow the various channels of information to control each other easily...until now.

The researchers’ new device has two optical waveguides, each carrying an optical signal. Placed between the waveguides is an optical resonator in the shape of a microscale donut (like a mini-Hadron collider.) In the optical resonator, light can circulate hundreds of times gaining intensity.

Using this resonance effect, the optical signal in the first waveguide is significantly enhanced in the resonator and generates a very strong optical force on the second waveguide. The second waveguide is released from the supporting material so that it moves in oscillation, like a tuning fork, when the force is applied on it. This mechanical motion of the waveguide alters the transmission of the optical signal. Because the power of the second optical signal can be many times higher than the control signal, the device functions like a mechanical relay to amplify the input signal.

Currently, the new optical relay device operates one million times per second. Researchers expect to improve it to several billion times per second. The mechanical motion of the current device is sufficiently fast to connect radio-frequency devices directly with fiber optics for broadband communication.

Li’s team at University of Minnesota includes graduate students Huan Li, Yu Chen and Semere Tadesse and former postdoctoral fellow Jong Noh. Funding support of the project came from the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

To read the full research paper, visit the Nature Communications website at <http://z.umn.edu/optical>.

Too little nitrogen may restrain plants' carbon storage capability, U of M paper shows

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/02/2012) —Plants' ability to absorb increased levels of carbon dioxide in the air may have been overestimated, a new University of Minnesota study shows.

The study, published this week in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, shows that even though plants absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide and actually can benefit from higher levels of it, they may not get enough of the nutrients they need from typical soils to absorb as much CO₂ as scientists had previously estimated. Carbon dioxide absorption is an important factor in mitigating fossil-fuel emissions.

The study, one of only three such long-term experiments in the world, is based on 13 years of research at the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve north of the Twin Cities. U of M scientists Peter Reich and Sarah Hobbie monitored nearly 300 open-air plots planted with perennial grasses with varying levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide and soil nitrogen.

“Rather than building a time machine and comparing how ecosystems behave in 2070 – which is hard to do – we basically create the atmosphere of 2070 above our plots,” Reich says.

The results suggest that limited levels of fertility typical in most soils likely eliminate a large fraction of the capacity of plants to scrub CO₂ out of the atmosphere, Reich says. “It would be better if there were experiments like ours in tropical rain forest, temperate forest, and tundra, to see how well responses there match with what we have found. But as such experiments do not exist, our results play an important role in addressing this issue for ecosystems everywhere.”

Reich is a Regents professor in the forest resources department of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and Hobbie is a professor in the ecology, evolution and behavior department in the College of Biological Sciences. Both are fellows of the university's Institute on the Environment.

Apply fall lawn fertilizer by mid-October, U of M Extension says

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/03/2012) —University of Minnesota Extension has adjusted long-standing recommendations on fall nitrogen fertility to turfgrass and now advocates for applications to be made no later than mid-October. This recommendation aims to reduce the negative environmental impacts of nitrogen applications in the late fall, while maximizing the turfgrass growth benefits for the cost-conscious consumer or turfgrass manager.

The previous recommendation on late fall-applied nitrogen was one pound of quick-release nitrogen per 1000 square feet after the last mowing of the season.

“That meant late October or early November,” said Extension turfgrass educator Sam Bauer, whose research helped lead to the new recommendation. “The idea was that the nitrogen is absorbed by the roots, promoting plant growth the following spring.” However, Bauer’s research showed that the uptake capacity for turf during cold temperatures is typically very low, meaning that much of the nitrogen in fertilizer would be lost to the environment.

When nitrogen (particularly nitrate) leaches into the ground water, it can affect the safety of drinking water supplies. While properly maintained landscapes have been proven to be very receptive of nitrogen applications, late fall is considered a susceptible time of year for nitrate leaching to occur.

Collaboration between the University of Minnesota and University of Wisconsin-Madison was important in determining the effects of nitrogen applications throughout the region. Controlled-environment research at Madison demonstrated that only 11 percent of the fertilizer nitrogen was taken up by the turf under a mid-November temperature regime. Mid-September applications resulted in greater than 75 percent nitrogen absorbed and utilized for growth.

During Bauer’s putting green research in the fall of 2009, temperature played more of a role than the specific date of application. “We had several cases in which upper soil temperatures dropped to nearly 40 degrees in October,” said Bauer. “When it rained following a nitrogen application, significantly less nitrogen was recovered in the plant under these low temperatures.” Generally, the remaining nitrogen would be lost to the environment.

While the recommendation is now to complete any fertilizer applications by mid-October, it’s also important to reduce fertilizer rates during the month or to use a fertilizer that contains at least half of its nitrogen in slow-release form.

“Considering that fertilizer prices have tripled in the last decade, applications extending into November also meant a loss to the pocketbook,” said Bauer. “Unfortunately, there’s little evidence to show these added costs guarantee a lush, green lawn the following spring.”

The new Extension recommendations are not meant to downplay the importance of adequate nitrogen for winter survival of turf, but rather to shed light on the fact that homeowners and turfgrass managers should not consciously apply fertilizer in environments conducive to nutrient loss, such as the late fall when growth potential is low.

In order to maximize nitrogen absorption, Extension recommends that homeowners or turfgrass managers:

- Make all fertilizer applications before mid-October.
- Combine quick-release and slow-release nitrogen sources when applying rates above 0.5 lb. nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.
- Be aware of temperature and precipitation impacts on your fertilizer applications.

Visit www.extension.umn.edu/garden/turfgrass for more turfgrass information.

U of M study finds link between body sway and nausea

Research published in PLOS ONE

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/04/2012) —Pre-bout standing body sway in boxers predicts the feeling of sickness or nausea after the bout, University of Minnesota researchers found in a study published Wednesday in PLOS ONE.

Thomas Stoffregen, professor in U of M's School of Kinesiology, and his team measured body sway - defined as the slight postural movements made by an individual to maintain a balanced position - of 15 adult boxers before warming-up for a bout and after the warm-up session, immediately before they entered the ring.

After the bout, each boxer was asked whether or not they felt sick.

The study found that those with more body sway before the bout reported feeling sick after the bout, win or lose.

“We naturally think that everyone is the ‘same’ before competition and that it is how hard you’re hit during the bout that determines how ‘sick’ a boxer feels afterwards,” said Stoffregen. “However, in this case, we found that movement before the bout is actually what predicts a feeling of sickness afterward.”

A physician, looking for symptoms of a concussion, studied each of the 15 boxers afterwards and found none suffered a concussion.

Concussions are often associated with nausea and boxing is typically linked to concussions and nausea.

“But we found that while a blow to the head was enough to make you sick, it wasn’t enough to give you a concussion,” said Stoffregen. “This study raises the possibility that we can actually predict who is more susceptible to concussions simply by measuring body sway.”

To conduct this comprehensive study, Stoffregen measured body sway by having boxers look at a blank piece of paper followed by a piece of paper with text on it. These measurements were taken with subjects feet in three different positions.

After the bout, each boxer was asked whether or not they felt sick. Of those who said yes, all had more body sway before the bout than the others.

Winning or losing the bout didn’t factor into the feeling of sickness or nausea.

For more than 15 years, Stoffregen has studied relations between body sway and feelings of sickness. Previous studies have tested the effect with motion sickness and seasickness.

PLOS ONE is the flagship journal of the Public Library of Science.

The full article is available at: <http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0046136>

For interviews with Stoffregen, please contact Steve Baker or Steve Henneberry.

U of M-led project could mean improved grass options for homeowners, public spaces

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Matt Hodson, University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/04/2012) —A new research project led by University of Minnesota scientists could lead to sustainable, drought- and wear-resistant turf grasses that could be used in both home lawns and public green spaces.

The 5-year project is funded by a \$2.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is part of a national research effort to improve specialty crops. Researchers hope to develop new grass cultivars that would require less water, fertilizer, pesticide and mowing and to explore ways to share the ecological and economic benefits of the new grasses with homeowners, landscapers and public land managers.

“The fine fescues provide many characteristics that most people would want in a lawn grass—they don’t need to be mowed very often, they don’t use a lot of water, and they are very tolerant of shade,” says Eric Watkins, an associate professor of horticultural science at the university and the project’s lead investigator. “Unfortunately, it can be difficult to find these grasses at local retailers. This project will lead to the development of new varieties of these grasses that are well-adapted to adverse conditions and more available to consumers.”

The project includes four objectives:

- Exploring barriers to use of low-input grasses in public spaces and whether policy makers could play a role in persuading consumers to use different grasses on their lawns;
- Evaluating homeowners’ grass seed buying patterns and preferences;
- Breeding new varieties of fine fescue that withstand wear, heat and disease; and
- Educating the public about the benefits of the new grasses.

Along with Watkins’ team at the University of Minnesota, scientists from Rutgers University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison also are involved in the project.

University's Board of Regents to act Oct. 12 on biennial proposal that freezes undergraduate tuition, reduces student debt and fuels the state economy

What: University of Minnesota Board of Regents meetings

When: Thursday, Oct. 11 and Friday, Oct. 12

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

Contacts: [Chuck Tombarge](#), University News Service, tombarge@umn.edu, 612-625-8510

October 5, 2012

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will meet Friday, Oct. 12 to act on President Eric Kaler's proposed biennial budget request and legislative proposal for fiscal years 2014-2015. Action will occur during the full board meeting, which begins at 9 a.m.

The state legislative request represents a new partnership with the State of Minnesota that freezes tuition for Minnesota undergraduate students, establishes a goal for increased university efficiency (through President Kaler's Operational Excellence initiatives), reduces student debt and sparks innovation and discovery to solve Minnesota's toughest problems and fuel the economy. The request is accompanied by tax policy options for policymakers to consider that would reduce the cost of higher education for all Minnesota students and families and encourage philanthropy.

As part of the proposed FY14-15 budget, the board will hear more about the research that would be funded through the MnDRIVE (Minnesota Discovery, Research and Innovation Economy) funding program, a state-university partnership. The university is proposing \$18 million each year of the biennium to advance critical research in four areas: supporting robotics, sensors and advanced manufacturing; securing the global food supply; advancing industry and conserving the environment; and advancing discoveries and treatments for brain conditions. Leading university faculty researchers in each of these areas will discuss the science and opportunity for their work to fuel Minnesota business and industry.

Pending board approval, the university will submit its request to the state by Oct. 15 and pursue the proposal during the 2013 legislative session, which begins in January. The university's FY12-13 general fund state appropriation is \$545.3 million — the lowest level of state funding for the university in 15 years. If President Kaler's budget proposal is enacted, it will bring the U's appropriation up to the level received in 2001, without adjusting for inflation.

Other agenda items include:

- A continued discussion of university spending with a particular focus on spending for mission support and administrative leadership relative to total university expenditures. The discussion will include personnel and non-personnel expenditures. **MEDIA NOTE: Presenters of this agenda item will be available for a media briefing at noon Thursday at the board offices.**
- Review of a new entrepreneurial leave policy to support faculty in commercializing intellectual property or pursuing other private sector development opportunities. Under the policy, faculty would be able to take a leave of up to one year at no salary to work in the private sector. The new business-friendly leave option would become part of MN-IP (Minnesota Innovation Partnerships), the U's effort to streamline the sale of intellectual property rights from academic discoveries.
- The university's Annual Report on Private Giving
- A work session led by President Kaler to discuss lessons from the independent investigation by former FBI Director Louis Freeh about the actions of Pennsylvania State University related to child sexual abuse. The president will discuss how the university's culture, policies and organizational structures compare to the 'best practice' recommendations in the report.
- Capital budget amendment and plans for renovating the Community University Health Care Center
- Final approval of the 2012 University Plan, Performance and Accountability Report

Board of Regents committee meetings will begin at 8:30 a.m. Thursday. The full board meeting will begin at 9 a.m. Friday. More information, including docket materials, can be found at www.umn.edu/regents.

Student Parent Visibility Day set for Oct. 9

What: U of M Student Parent HELP Center's annual Visibility Day

When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 9

Where: Northrop Plaza, 84 Church St. SE, Minneapolis

Contacts: [Steve Henneberry](mailto:henneberry@umn.edu), University News Service, henneberry@umn.edu, (612) 624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/08/2012) —MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/08/2012) —Raising awareness of the more than 1,000 University of Minnesota undergraduate students who are parenting children is the goal of the Student Parent HELP Center's (SPHC) annual Visibility Day, which takes place Tuesday, Oct. 9 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Northrop Plaza on the university's East Bank campus.

Student parents at the U of M are part of a group that makes up 24% of the national undergraduate student population. This group of students faces the unique situation of attempting to balance parenting while earning a degree.

Guest speakers, including Gopher football quarterback and father of 11-month-old twin boys MarQueis Gray, will discuss their experiences as student parents.

As in years past the event will feature a college access component for teen mothers from several Teen Parent Programs in the Twin Cities metro area.

A Family Friendly Campus Resource Fair will also be held in conjunction with Visibility Day in acknowledgement of all the students, staff and faculty who face the many challenges inherent in maintaining a healthy work/school/family balance.

All campus and community members are welcome to join us for this event. Free pizza will be served on the Plaza from Noon to 1 p.m.

For interviews about the work of the HELP Center or this event, please contact Steve Henneberry with the University News Service at henneberry@umn.edu or (612) 624-1690.

About the Student-Parent HELP Center

As one of the oldest and largest student-parent programs in the nation, the U's SPHC is currently in its 45th year serving under-represented, low-income students. The HELP Center continues to work to eliminate the challenges student parents face while completing their first BA degrees. To achieve this end, the SPHC has developed a unique, "one-stop shopping" model to deliver a broad range of services to undergraduate, University of Minnesota students with children. For more information visit www.sphc.umn.edu.

Food Day at the U of M will promote healthy, sustainable food for all

Students from different backgrounds come together to rally around one cause: Food

What: Food Day at the University of Minnesota

When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 23 and 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 24.

Where: Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave SE, Minneapolis

Contacts: Eric Sannerud, HFHL Food Day Coordinator, ericsannerud@gmail.com, (952) 201-4227
Kristine Igo, Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute, kigo@umn.edu, (612) 625-8693
[Matt Hodson](mailto:mjhodson@umn.edu), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/09/2012) —Food Day 2012 at the University of Minnesota will actually be two days of promoting healthy, sustainable food for all, thanks to last year's successful event. Events both days will be held at Coffman Memorial Union, located at 300 Washington Ave SE on the East Bank of the university's Minneapolis campus.

The first day, Tuesday, Oct. 23, consists of a “Food Good for Eating” expo in Coffman's Great Hall. The day will feature lunch, cooking demonstrations, interactive games and more than 30 food-related organizations displaying their work.

A research symposium titled “Food Good for Thinking” will highlight the second day, Wednesday, Oct. 24. The day is organized into two-hour time blocks led by students and U of M faculty from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., followed by a community partners-focused dialogue on the future of food in Minnesota from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Food Day 2012 is a student-organized event with support from the Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute, part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. More information is available at www.hfhl.umn.edu or “[Food Day – U of MN](#)” on Facebook.

U of M University Opera Theatre announces its 2012/2013 season

Features Verdi's "Falstaff" and Britten's "A Midsummer Nights Dream"

Media Note: Photographs available upon request. Email requests for photographs to marsh396@umn.edu

Contacts: Lisa Marshall, School of Music, marsh396@umn.edu, 612-626-1094
[Steve Henneberry](mailto:henneberry@umn.edu), University News Service, henneberry@umn.edu, 612-624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/10/2012) —The University of Minnesota School of Music's University Opera Theatre's 2012/2013 season will feature Giuseppe Verdi's "Falstaff" (November 15-18, 2012) and Benjamin Britten's "A Midsummer Nights Dream" (April 18-21, 2013) at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

Tickets: \$20 adults; \$5 U of M students & children; group rates available. Two-for-one tickets available for University of Minnesota faculty, staff, retirees, and alumni. Seating is general admission. Call 612/624-2345 or visit www.opera.umn.edu for tickets.

University Opera Theatre presents Giuseppe Verdi's "Falstaff"

Libretto by Arrigo Boito | David Walsh, director | Mark Russell Smith, conductor
Thursday, November 15-Saturday, November 17, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 18, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.

After a lifetime of success as Italy's undisputed King of Opera, Verdi could have been forgiven for wishing "Otello" to be his final word on the subject. He was enjoying a pleasant retirement and, initially, resisted attempts by fellow composer and his sometime librettist, Arrigo Boito, to lure him back into the operatic arena. One previous attempt at comic opera, early in his career, had failed disastrously, so Verdi was highly skeptical that, at the age of 78, he could suddenly master the genre. Fortunately, Boito successfully persuaded Verdi to undertake the project and provided him with a brilliant text, distilling Shakespeare's three "Falstaff" plays into a vibrant, rollicking tale that inspired Verdi to create the greatest operatic comedy since Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro". Very rarely performed, "Falstaff" is a jewel and not to be missed! More at opera.umn.edu.

Pre-opera lobby discussions begin 45 minutes before each performance.
Running time: 2 hours and 45 minutes (2 intermissions)

University Opera Theatre presents Benjamin Britten's "A Midsummer Nights Dream"

Libretto by Peter Pears and Benjamin Britten
David Walsh, director | Sergey Bogza, Ben Klemme and Erik Rohde, conductors
Thursday, April 18-Saturday, April 20, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 21, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.

Shakespeare's play "A Midsummer Nights Dream" is arguably one of his most popular, but also one of his most psychologically complex and open to a broad range of interpretation. The play seems to be about the triumph of youth over age, of the senses over reason and the world of dreams and love over the everyday life of the city. Benjamin Britten has perfectly captured the striking polarities and ambivalences inherent in Shakespeare's original play in music of breathtaking beauty and poignancy.

"A Midsummer Nights Dream" is not one of Britten's most frequently performed operas, although perhaps his most beautiful score. Join our quartet of young lovers, Bottom and his amateur acting troop and the fairy world of Oberon and Tytania for adventure in the Forest of Athens! More at opera.umn.edu.

Pre-opera lobby discussions begin 45 minutes before each performance.
Running time: 2 hours and 45 minutes (2 intermissions)

Parking is available in the 21st Ave. ramp, one block southwest of the concert hall. For more information on University Opera Theatre, visit opera.umn.edu.

About the School of Music

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 550 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.

Homecoming weekend events make campus busy place

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/10/2012) —Visitors to the University of Minnesota campus should plan extra time for travel and parking this weekend as the university is going to be a busy place with activities taking place in conjunction with Homecoming.

Friday evening events include Men's Hockey vs Michigan State at Mariucci Arena at 6 p.m., Men's and Women's basketball kicking off their seasons with the Gopher All-Star Friday Night at Williams Arena at 7 p.m., and the Homecoming concert featuring B.o.B. at TCF Bank Stadium at 8:30 p.m.

In the midst of all of the events will be the Homecoming Parade on University Avenue. University Avenue will close between Tenth Avenue and Oak Street for the Parade at 6:15 p.m. The Parade is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. University Avenue is expected to reopen at approximately 9 p.m.

On Saturday, activities continue with Homecoming festivities at McNamara Alumni Center at 8 a.m., the Homecoming Football game vs Northwestern at TCF Bank Stadium at 11 a.m., and Men's Hockey vs Michigan State at Mariucci Arena at 8 p.m.

For a complete schedule and details on all Homecoming events, visit homecoming.umn.edu.

Renowned U of M carp biologist Peter Sorensen to preview new Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center this Thursday in Ottertail

State-funded center to focus on providing new science-based solutions to Minnesota's AIS problems

What: Preview of newly forming Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center by U of M biologist Peter Sorensen

When: 2 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012

Where: Ottertail Operations Center, 469 W. Main St., Ottertail, Minn.

Contacts: [Matt Hodson](mailto:mjhodson@umn.edu), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552
Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, bbeyers@umn.edu, (612) 626-5754

October 10, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/10/2012) - Residents, elected officials and other civic leaders of Otter Tail County will receive an overview of the newly forming Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MN AIS) by its scientific director, University of Minnesota professor Peter Sorensen, during a public presentation at 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11 at the Ottertail Operations Center, 469 W. Main St., Ottertail, Minn.

Following his remarks, Sorensen will be available to answer questions and further discuss MN AIS.

Funded by the state Legislature during the 2012 session, the MN AIS center will conduct research on the biology and ecology of the invasive species that threaten Minnesota's aquatic ecosystems to identify key weaknesses in their life histories that can then be applied to their control. This information will be both collected and shared with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as well as government and citizen groups that will function as collaborators.

Sorensen is a specialist in carp biology and control, and a professor in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology within the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. To complement Sorensen's carp specialization, MN AIS will be hiring a researcher to focus on zebra mussels.

Prostitution and sex trafficking in Minnesota's urban communities topic of UROC Critical Conversations Oct. 18

Media Note: Members of the media who want to interview UROC director of research Lauren Martin in advance of the Oct. 18 public discussion should contact Nina Shepherd or Julie Christensen.

What: Public discussion on sex trafficking's impact in urban communities and how to end the practice in Minnesota

When: Thursday, Oct. 18 at 6 p.m.

Where: University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC), 2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Minneapolis

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Academic Administration, University of Minnesota System, sheph001@umn.edu, (612) 625-5716

[Julie Christensen](mailto:jrchrisc@umn.edu), University News Service, jrchrisc@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

October 11, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/11/2012)—Prostitution and sex trafficking's impact on urban communities and how to end the practice in Minnesota is the topic of a public discussion at 6 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 18, the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) in Minneapolis.

The second in UROC's Critical Conversations public discussion series, *The Impact of Sex Trafficking and Prostitution on Community Health: Reducing Harm, Promoting Healing*, will focus on how North Minneapolis and other urban communities can take action steps to end sex trafficking in Minnesota.

Sex trafficking and the prostitution of women and children is a growing concern in the Twin Cities, with Minneapolis named by the FBI as one of the top U.S. cities for trafficking of juveniles.

While Minnesota's 2011 "safe harbor" legislation is groundbreaking, UROC's director of research Lauren Martin believes we have far to go. "As a metro area, the Twin Cities is doing a lot of things right," Martin said. "But I also think the broader community thinks we're better off than we actually are."

Martin, who will co-convene the discussion, recently authored a cost-benefit analysis of government-funded intervention in the prevention of early adolescent sex trafficking commissioned by the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center.

"Lauren Martin's research shows that prostitution and sex trafficking is tied to poverty, exploitation and lack of choice," said UROC executive director Heidi Barajas. "This Critical Conversations throws a spotlight on issues surrounding sex trafficking—only by illuminating the issues can communities begin to address the problems."

The event is produced in partnership with Kwanzaa Community Church's Northside Women's Space and the University of Minnesota Center for Integrative Leadership, as part of its yearlong series of events on the local and global impact of human trafficking.

"Kwanzaa's Northside Women's Space is co-hosting this Critical Conversation because we see the impact of sex trafficking on our community and seek to foster a broader community dialogue on the issue," said Pastor Alika Galloway.

The event will feature an overview at 6 p.m., and small and large group discussions from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The event is free and open to the public (including media); however, online registrations at z.umn.edu/oct18criticalconvo have already reached capacity.

UROC's mission is to link the university in public partnership with urban communities to advance learning, improve quality of life and discover solutions to complex urban challenges. For more information, visit uroc.umn.edu.

NAACP President to visit U of M Oct. 12 for international conference on economic inequality

Who: Benjamin Jealous, president and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

What: Media availability during the World Conference on Remedies to Racial and Ethnic Economic Inequality

When: Friday, Oct. 12, 4 to 4:30 p.m.

Where: 205 Humphrey School, U of M West Bank campus, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Contacts: Julie Lund, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, julie@umn.edu, (612) 624-1190
[Julie Christensen](mailto:jrchris@umn.edu), University News Service, jrchris@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

October 11, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/11/12) – Benjamin Jealous, president and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and University of Minnesota economics professor Samuel L. Myers, Jr., will join leaders of communities of color, other researchers, nonprofit leaders and policymakers from across the globe at the World Conference on Remedies to Racial and Ethnic Economic Inequality, Friday, Oct. 12 at the U's Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

The international gathering, last held in South Africa in 2001, convenes the world's top thinkers on economic inequality, aiming to produce practical results that can be applied at the local level. The conference's return to Minneapolis, where it was first held in 1996, coincides with the 20th anniversary of the Humphrey School's Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice.

Jealous will keynote the Friday night conference dinner, which will commemorate the Roy Wilkins Center's 20th anniversary. Myers, who directs the center, is a national authority on the methodology of conducting disparity studies. Both will be available for media interviews Friday from 4 to 4:30 p.m.

Appointed as head of the NAACP at age 35 in 2008, Jealous is the youngest person to lead the century-old organization. A Rhodes Scholar, he is a graduate of Columbia and Oxford University and served as the founding director of Amnesty International's U.S. Human Rights Program.

Cost for the Oct. 12 anniversary dinner is \$125 per person, which includes a \$75 contribution to the university's Roy Wilkins Center. Online registration is required at <http://z.umn.edu/worldconferencedinner>.

The conference is free and open to the public, but separate registration is required at www.roywilkins.umn.edu.

Founded in 1992, the Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice builds on the legacy of Roy Wilkins, a 1923 graduate of the University of Minnesota and former chief executive of the NAACP. It is the first endowed chair established in a major public policy school named after an African American. Located at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, the mission of the Roy Wilkins Center is to study and formulate solutions to problems of racial and ethnic inequality.

U of M Homecoming Concert sold out

Concert features B.o.B and Timeflies

Contacts: Karly Wallack, Student Unions and Activities, walla363@umn.edu

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/11/2012) —Tickets to the Homecoming 2012 concert featuring B.o.B with Timeflies are sold out. The concert is at the TCF Bank Stadium and doors open at 7:30 p.m. with Timeflies going on stage at 8:30 p.m. followed by B.o.B at 9:30 p.m.

Tickets will not be available for sale the night of the concert. All University of Minnesota – Twin Cities student ticket purchasers must present a valid U Card upon entry or they will be required to pay for a general public ticket. The show will be held rain or shine.

Following the annual Homecoming Parade, mash-up kings Timeflies will kick off the night with their expressive “electro hip pop dub-something” music. Headliner and six-time Grammy nominated rapper/songwriter B.o.B will take the stage at 9:30 p.m.

Since 1914, the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, has celebrated Homecoming, a week dedicated to honoring the spirit of the maroon and gold. This celebration brings the campus community together with events such as the cheer and lip sync competitions, sports competitions, community service events, and of course the Homecoming parade and football game.

For more information and a full events listing, please visit homecoming.umn.edu.

Nationally known playwright Lee Blessing works with U of M students

New play, “Courting Harry” to be read on Oct. 13

What: First reading of “Courting Harry”

When: Saturday, Oct. 13, 2 p.m.

Where: Rarig Center's Kilburn Arena Theatre, 330 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis, (West Bank)

Who: Lee Blessing and U of M Theatre Arts students

Contacts: Dennis Behl, Theatre, Arts and Dance Department, dlbehl@umn.edu, 612-625-5380
[Steve Henneberry](mailto:henneberry@umn.edu), University News Service, henneberry@umn.edu, 612-624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/11/2012) —Nationally known playwright Lee Blessing’s new play “Courting Harry” will be given a first public reading on Saturday, Oct. 13 at 2 p.m. at the Rarig Center’s Kilburn Arena Theatre, 330 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis, on the U of M’s West Bank.

Blessing, a Minneapolis native, has been on campus since Wednesday, Oct. 10 working with playwriting students and rehearsing with student performers in the U of M’s Theatre, Arts and Dance Department.

“We are thrilled to have a playwright of Lee Blessing’s stature interacting and challenging our students,” said Carl Flink, chair of the Theatre Arts and Dance Department. “We are so excited to join in this Reimagining Community Partnership with alumnus Ron Peluso of St. Paul’s History Theatre, who will direct and produce “Courting Harry” in the spring as part of their season.”

Blessing’s residency will culminate with the workshop reading of “Courting Harry” which explores the lifelong friendship Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger and Justice Harry Blackmun, both natives of St. Paul. The friendship was put to the test in one of the most contentious cases of all time: Roe v Wade.

The reading is free and open to the public, however, seating is limited and reservations are required. Please email Jenna Frankenfield at frank585@umn.edu.

“Courting Harry” will be produced this spring by St. Paul’s History Theatre.

This invited reading is performed by theatre students under the guidance of Dominic Taylor, U of M Professor of Playwriting and the direction of History Theater Artistic Director Ron Peluso.

Tax Reform discussion takes place at U of M on Oct. 15

What: Tax Reform: Lessons from Economic Theory and Prospects for the Future

When: Monday, Oct. 15, 5:30 p.m.

Where: University Hall, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street SE, Minneapolis

Who: Joel Slemrod, Professor, Ross School of Business, University of Michigan; V.V. Chari, Director, Heller-Hurwicz Economics Institute, University of Minnesota; Moderated by Laura Kalambokidis, Professor, Applied Economics, University of Minnesota

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

[Steve Henneberry](mailto:henneberry@umn.edu), University News Service, henneberry@umn.edu, 612-624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/11/2012) —Tax reform is the topic of the next roundtable discussion which takes place Monday, Oct. 15 at 5:30 p.m. at University Hall, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street SE, Minneapolis.

The event, titled Tax Reform: Lessons from Economic Theory and Prospects for the Future, will feature Joel Slemrod, Professor, Ross School of Business, University of Michigan; V.V. Chari, Director, Heller-Hurwicz Economics Institute, University of Minnesota; Moderated by Laura Kalambokidis, Professor, Applied Economics, University of Minnesota.

“This event will highlight the great extent to which economists agree on desirable changes in the tax system in the long run,” said Chari. “We will also examine why it is so difficult to convince the public and policy makers about the feasibility and the desirability of these changes.”

This event is free and open to public but does require a reservation, which can be made at <http://hhei.umn.edu/taxreformregister.html>

U of M Political Scientists examine 2012 Presidential Election

What: Views from the U: The Political Science of Election 2012

When: Tuesday, Oct. 16, 5:30 p.m.

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

Who: U of M political scientists John Sullivan, Howard Lavine, Kathryn Pearson, Timothy Johnson and Ben Ansell

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

[Steve Henneberry](mailto:henneberry@umn.edu), University News Service, henneberry@umn.edu, 612-624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/11/2012) —Join five University of Minnesota political scientists for a panel discussion about myriad issues in the 2012 election.

- See how voters' brains respond to campaign messages—literally—with John Sullivan who uses MRIs to study political psychology.
- Do “ambivalent partisans”—voters conflicted between their partisan identity and evaluations of their party's performance—promote democracy? Yes, says Howard Lavine's research, and he'll explain how.
- Our nation's basic institutional framework plays an important role in the election process. Kathryn Pearson will discuss the Electoral College and congressional elections.
- Supreme Court expert Timothy Johnson examines how judicial decisions like the Affordable Care Act impact voter behavior.
- How does the world economy influence US elections -- and vice versa? Ben Ansell will explain the global proportions of election 2012.

This event is free and open to the public, however a reservation is required. Please RSVP at <https://events.umn.edu/022292>

Bring your own questions—the last hour of the program is open for audience Q&A.

Donors increase commitments to the U for third consecutive year

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[Julie Christensen](#), University News Service, jrchris@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/12/2012) —University of Minnesota alumni and friends gave \$244 million in gifts and commitments to the university in fiscal year (FY) 2012, an increase of 10 percent compared with FY11 and a 31 percent increase over FY10. Gifts and commitments this year were made by 78,262 donors, of whom 59 percent were alumni, 36 percent were individuals and 5 percent were organizations.

These figures were part of the combined report on giving presented to the university's Board of Regents today by Steve Goldstein, president and CEO of the University of Minnesota Foundation, and Becky Malkerson, president and CEO of the Minnesota Medical Foundation.

"Visionary benefactors made 2012 a truly tremendous year for philanthropy at the University of Minnesota," said Goldstein. "Donors set new milestones in giving, despite a challenging economy. These generous individuals, businesses and foundations are vital catalysts in advancing the critical work of the university."

One of the highest priorities for university fundraising in recent years has been to increase financial support for students in the form of scholarships and fellowships. In FY12, donors committed \$60 million in gifts for student support, up from \$52 million in the previous year.

University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler has said that keeping the university affordable and accessible to qualified students of all economic backgrounds is one of his highest priorities. "Investing in scholarships gives students the opportunity to build a better future for themselves and Minnesota, which should never be limited by their ability to pay," said Kaler. "It is also an investment in our future. Bright, well-educated students will transform our economy and are essential to our quality of life. Our donors recognize that excellence and opportunity go hand-in-hand at the University of Minnesota."

Donors committed gifts for other important initiatives, as well. More than \$15 million was raised for an addition to Amundson Hall, home of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, to accommodate more students and faculty and expand research capacity. In the area of medicine and human health, gifts were made to create an endowed chair in pediatric cancer research, expand neuroscience research, and develop new therapeutic drugs. Two teaching facilities in the health sciences, the Pediatric Dental Clinic adjacent to the Amplatz Children's hospital, and a new high-tech nursing teaching facility, broke ground thanks to new gifts.

"Our donors know that by partnering with the university, they have the rare opportunity to potentially improve the lives of millions of other people," said Malkerson. "They also realize we must make significant investments in leading-edge research and high-caliber faculty, as these are essential elements behind our international standing as a center for discovery."

The University of Minnesota Foundation and the Minnesota Medical Foundation coordinate fundraising on behalf of all campuses and units at the University of Minnesota, and manage distributions to the university to ensure that gifts are used as donors intend. In FY12, \$169 million was distributed to the university to fulfill needs and create opportunities across all five campuses.

The \$244 million total includes outright gifts, pledges and future gifts.

2012 Minnesota Justice Forum to examine collateral consequences of criminal records

Contacts: David Hanbury, Robina Institute for Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at the U of M, dhanbury@umn.edu, 612-625-8093
Emily Baxter, Council on Crime and Justice, baxtere@crimeandjustice.org, 612-353-3001

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/12/2012) —For the nearly one in three American adults with criminal records, the consequences of crime include not only punishment but also collateral sanctions on employment, housing, welfare and other important goods, restrictions that often remain in effect well after individuals have completed their sentences.

The Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice at the University of Minnesota has partnered with the Council on Crime and Justice to explore the issue of collateral sanctions at the 2012 Minnesota Justice Forum, “The Collateral Consequences of Criminal Records,” from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Oct. 19 in Lockhart Hall at the University of Minnesota Law School, 229 19th Ave South, Minneapolis.

Legal practitioners, policy-makers, scholars, and members of the community will discuss the effects of collateral sanctions, their rationales and options for reform. Participants will focus on Minnesota’s laws and practices, especially those affecting employment opportunities.

“How much is enough?” asks Michael Smith, executive director of the Robina Institute. “Our appetite for punishment has led us to impose burdens and restrictions, often permanently and very widely, without a lot of thought. When is it fair? When does doing so undermine our real interests and compromise public safety? It is time to think all this through.”

Participants include U of M sociology professors Chris Uggen and Josh Page; Dan Cain, president of RS Eden in Minneapolis, an organization that helps people with criminal records rebuild their lives; Julie Melander Holmes, senior human resources and employment law consultant at Trusight, an employers’ association that helps businesses find workable solutions for both complex and routine matters involving law, policy, and the bottom line; and Mary Johnson, a Minneapolis woman who reconciled with the man who, as a teenager in 1993, murdered her son. She has since founded the organization From Death to Life.

“We strongly believe at the Council that persons with criminal records should not be perpetually punished long after their sentences have been served,” says Judge Pamela Alexander (’77), president of the Council on Crime and Justice. “A former offender should be able to re-enter society with an eye toward becoming a contributing member of society with the ability to get a job, support their families, get an education and make a positive impact on the communities in which they live. This conference will bring to light the challenges faced by persons with criminal records so that we can discuss effective solutions.”

This event is free and open to the public. Registration for attorneys requesting CLE credits is \$99.

The law firm Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi is also a sponsor of the event.

About the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice

The Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, supported by a major long-term grant from the Minneapolis-based Robina Foundation, works with policy-makers, practitioners and a wide range of leading scholars to improve criminal justice systems that are widely recognized to be ineffective, overly costly, overly severe, and insufficiently attentive to the needs and interests of victims. The Institute engages in interdisciplinary, policy-oriented study of the criminal justice system. For more information about the Robina Institute for Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, please contact David Hanbury, Robina Institute administrator, at 612-625-8093 or dhanbury@umn.edu

About the Council on Crime and Justice

The Council on Crime and Justice is a private, nonprofit agency that has been a leader in the field of criminal and social justice for more than 55 years. The Council provides an independent voice for a balanced approach to criminal justice and has been at the forefront of innovative research, policy and programs in Minnesota relating to offender services, victims’ rights, restorative justice, legislative reform, and the reduction of racial disparities in the criminal justice system. For more information about the Council on Crime and Justice, please contact Emily Baxter, director of public policy and advocacy at 612-353-3001 or baxtere@crimeandjustice.org.

University of Minnesota Board of Regents approves biennial budget request and legislative proposal

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/12/2012) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents today approved President Eric Kaler's biennial budget request and legislative proposal for fiscal years 2014-2015.

The request represents a new partnership with the state of Minnesota that freezes tuition for Minnesota undergraduate students; commits the university to \$28 million in cost savings; reduces student debt; and launches four targeted research initiatives that address some of Minnesota's toughest problems and advance the state's economy. The university will officially submit its request to the state by Oct. 15 and will advocate for it during the upcoming 2013 legislative session.

"President Kaler has developed a strong proposal that focuses on our land grant mission of ensuring access to Minnesota students and solving our state's most pressing challenges through research and outreach," said Board Chair Linda Cohen. "We hope state policymakers will join us in this bold new partnership which helps students, families and Minnesota's home-grown industries."

A key component of the budget request is the creation of the MnDRIVE (Minnesota Discovery, Research and Innovation Economy) funding program. The university will seek \$18 million beginning in 2014 to focus research on four areas that are critical to grow Minnesota industry and business. U of M researchers explained to the board today that the university is well positioned to lead this research, based on work already underway in the MnDRIVE focus areas:

- **Securing the global food supply**

Francisco Diez-Gonzalez, Professor, Food Safety Microbiology, Department of Food Science and Nutrition, discussed the development of integrated approaches to ensuring a sustainable, safe and resilient food system — from farm to fork.

"Food is the primary engine of Minnesota's economy and the U of M fuels that engine," Diez-Gonzalez said. "We envision that this initiative will support enhancements to the supply chain that will increase Minnesota's food industry competitiveness and protect public health."

- **Advancing discoveries and treatments for brain conditions**

Timothy Ebner, Professor and Head of the Department of Neuroscience, Max E. and Mary LaDue Pickworth Endowed Chair in Neuroscience, talked about how critical U of M research is to the state and to Minnesota's medical device industry. Ebner explained how neuromodulation (a treatment that changes the activity of brain circuits) offers the potential to improve stroke recovery and address complex and debilitating disorders such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and schizophrenia.

A growing list of neurological/psychiatric diseases are already being treated with neuromodulation, including depression, obsessive compulsive disorder and chronic pain, Ebner said.

"Depression and obsessive compulsive disorder are incredibly hard to treat and they are now turning to neuromodulation," Ebner said. "If we could intervene in these diseases, we could make a major impact."

This initiative could make Minnesota the world leader in neuromodulation, he said.

"We will improve health and reduce suffering for Minnesotans and strengthen the state's medical device industry," Ebner said.

- **Supporting robotics, sensors and advanced manufacturing**

Maria Gini, College of Science and Engineering Distinguished Professor and Associate Head of Computer Science and Engineering talked about how the university and state will emerge as a robotics leader in the nation, benefitting citizens in everything from personal lifestyle to advanced manufacturing.

It is a growing industry with increasing demand, Gini said. Worldwide industrial robot sales went up by 38 percent from 2010 to 2011.

The university is a world leader in miniature robots for reconnaissance and surveillance. That technology came out of the U's Center for Distributed Robotics. In addition to spurring Minnesota job development and economic growth, Gini highlighted the successful use of university-developed Scout robots in military applications and civil rescues.

- **Advancing industry and conserving the environment**

Michael Sadowsky, Distinguished McKnight Professor and Director of the BioTechnology Institute, discussed how to enhance opportunities for Minnesota's energy, agriculture and mining industries by solving environmental challenges and more efficiently using current and future energy sources.

The university conducts much research in bioremediation -- the use of microorganisms to render hazardous wastes non-hazardous or less hazardous.

"We could apply these technologies throughout the state on currently stalled industrial and agricultural processes," Sadowsky said.

For example, many have wanted to reuse mine pits for aquaculture, he said.

"This has been tried in Minnesota but failed due to problems with nitrate contamination," Sadowsky said. "Microbial bioremediation of that nitrate contamination would allow the aquaculture industry to prosper," he said.

Cost definition and benchmarking

Kaler has said that to achieve Operational Excellence — identifying savings that can be better used to benefit students and the U's mission — the U must determine how it is doing currently. Building on workforce and mission cost analyses presented to the board in June, CFO Richard Pfitzenreuter outlined how the university will define personnel and non-personnel costs related to mission and administrative oversight.

According to the analysis, mission-related personnel and non-personnel expenses in fiscal year 2012 totaled about \$1.5 billion or 50 percent of the university's expenses; student aid represented nearly \$283 million or 9 percent; mission support and facilities personnel and non-personnel cost nearly \$989 million or 32 percent; and administrative oversight totaled nearly \$265 million or 9 percent.

The analysis cannot be used to compare the university's spending in these areas to other institutions across the country because there is no common methodology used to measure these expenses. However, the analysis does provide an important benchmark for the university's purposes because it will help the university make the best decisions on spending and where to find efficiencies over time.

Assessing the U's structure in light of the Freeh report

In a special work session on Thursday, Kaler and the full board discussed lessons from former FBI Director Louis Freeh's report about the actions of Pennsylvania State University related to child sexual abuse. According to Kaler, the University of Minnesota already follows many of the best practices cited in the Freeh report.

"However, the Penn State situation provides an opportunity for self-examination as a university to determine what additional actions are needed to protect children," Kaler said. To that end, Kaler will convene an ad hoc committee to review and recommend systemwide policy on the safety and protection of children on U campuses. The committee will determine whether additional operational changes are needed and will present recommendations by the end of this academic year.

The board also:

- Learned about Kaler's plans to launch a new president's Emerging Scholars Program in fall 2014. Full details will be reviewed at the board's December meeting. The program will be designed to assist incoming students who face challenges that may have affected their high school ranks and test scores, but whose personal experiences and high school records indicate strong potential for success at the U.
- Reviewed a proposed entrepreneurial leave policy that supports faculty in commercializing intellectual property or pursuing other private sector development opportunities. Under the policy, faculty could take a leave of up to one year at no salary to work in the private sector. The new business-friendly option would become part of MN-IP (Minnesota Innovation Partnerships), the U's effort to streamline the sale of intellectual property rights from academic discoveries.
- Reviewed the university's Annual Report on Private Giving.
- Approved a capital improvement budget amendment of \$2.657 million to fund the design and construction of the Community University Health Care Center in South Minneapolis.
- Approved the 2012 University Plan, Performance and Accountability Report.

The next Board of Regents meetings will occur Dec. 13-14. For more information, go to www.umn.edu/regents.

Earthducation Expedition 4: South America begins Oct. 20

Two U of M faculty members explore intersection of education and sustainability

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/15/2012) —Earthducation Expedition 4, the fourth in a series of seven-continent explorations investigating the intersection between education and sustainability, begins Oct. 20 in South America.

Led by curriculum and instruction professors Aaron Doering and Charles Miller, the team will travel to some of the most extreme environments on the globe. In their two-week journey, they will travel from the Amazon Rainforest to the Atacama Desert to the mountains of Patagonia, studying the educational and environmental challenges in these regions while attempting to find local answers to one fundamental question: "How can education advance sustainability?"

South America is home to the world's highest waterfall, driest desert, largest rainforest, and longest mountain range. It also is facing significant environmental and educational challenges such as deforestation, educational inequalities between rural and urban communities, and natural resource exploitation and depletion. During Expedition 4, the team will travel from Peru to Chile to Brazil, exploring diverse ecosystems as they collaborate with a broad array of individuals and communities.

"Many communities in South America are actively working to preserve both their local natural environment as well as the cultures and languages of a great spectrum of indigenous groups," said Doering. "This includes the largest number of uncontacted tribes anywhere in the world, who live secluded within the dense jungles of the Amazon."

Among other adventures, the team will investigate fog harvesting and traditional cultures; test their mettle in the world's driest desert and learn about how life is sustained there; travel by motorized canoe down the Amazon to visit an indigenous rainforest community; and visit with the gauchos who raise sheep in the plains of Patagonia. They'll also spend time at schools discussing the unique educational challenges that face the many remote and isolated communities on the continent.

During the trip, the team will post their findings online, where teachers, students, and others around the world can view and discuss them. Online visitors can also view videos, photos, and field reports from the previous three Earthducation expeditions to Burkina Faso, Africa; Arctic Norway; and Australia.

"By gathering stories about education and the environment from around the world, we hope to create a foundation for embedding sustainability in learning at all levels and in all cultures," Miller says. "Ultimately, we anticipate that Earthducation will be the world's leading online community focused exclusively on the increasingly vital fusion of education and sustainability."

For more information on Earthducation, to follow Expedition 4, and to add your voice to the global narrative, visit <http://www.earthducation.com>. The team will return on Nov. 6.

NY Times tech columnist to discuss the future of technology with U of M students prior to 'sold-out' lecture

Who: David Pogue, *New York Times* tech columnist and “NOVA ScienceNow” host

What: Pogue to discuss future of technology with University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering students; will answer questions from media after class

When: Wednesday, Oct. 17, Class: 1:25-2:15 p.m.; Media interviews: 2:15-3 p.m.

Where: Amundson Hall, Room 240, 421 Washington Ave. SE, Minneapolis

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Rhonda Zurn, College of Science and Engineering, rzurn@umn.edu, 612-626-7959

October 15, 2012

New York Times tech columnist, best-selling author and host of PBS’s “NOVA ScienceNow” will discuss the future of technology with a small class of about 20 first-year University of Minnesota science and engineering students from 1:25 to 2:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 17 in the university’s Amundson Hall, Room 240, 421 Washington Ave. SE, Minneapolis. A media availability by Pogue will follow from 2:15-3 p.m.

The class discussion precedes Pogue’s evening lecture to a packed house of more than 1,000 people. The evening lecture is sponsored by the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries and the College of Science and Engineering.

The students are part of CSE 1001, a required one-credit class for first-year University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering students to help them learn about scientific inquiry and creation of new knowledge. This specific class is an honors version of CSE 1001 for students who are part of the University Honors Program. Pogue will lead an informal discussion with the students.

Pogue’s evening lecture entitled “Disruptive Tech: What’s New, What’s Coming, and How It Will Change Everything” is currently at capacity and no further registrations are being accepted. A live webcast of Pogue’s lecture can be viewed at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 17 by visiting cse.umn.edu/publiclecture. A recording of the lecture will also be available a few days after the lecture at the same website.

About David Pogue:

Pogue writes the tech column for *The New York Times* every week, and in *Scientific American* every month. He's the host of "NOVA ScienceNow" and other science shows on PBS, and he's been a correspondent for "CBS Sunday Morning" since 2002.

With more than 3 million books in print, Pogue is one of the world's bestselling how-to authors. He has written or co-written seven books in the "for Dummies" series (including Macs, Magic, Opera, and Classical Music). In 1999, he launched his own series of complete, funny computer books called the "Missing Manual" series, which now includes 120 titles.

After graduating summa cum laude from Yale University in 1985 with distinction in music, Pogue spent 10 years conducting and arranging Broadway musicals in New York City. He has won an Emmy, a Loeb award for journalism, an honorary doctorate in music, and has been profiled on "48 Hours" and "60 Minutes."

Forum looks at landscapes through a diverse lens

What: "Landscape Health: Diverse Knowledge"

When: 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012

Where: St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul

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

[Matt Hodson](#), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

October 15, 2012

A symposium this Thursday at the University of Minnesota will explore landscape health and healthy relationships to land, as seen from the knowledge frameworks of older, traditional cultures in Minnesota.

The symposium, "[Landscape Health: Diverse Knowledge Traditions](#)," will include a keynote presentation by Dudley Edmondson, facilitated panel conversations and small group discussions on the topics of indigenous environmental knowledge and community-based African knowledge systems. The event is part of the college's and university's celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act that created land-grant universities in the United States.

"Landscape Health: Diverse Knowledge Traditions" will be from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18 at the St. Paul Student Center. The symposium is free and open to anyone, but participants are asked to [register](#). The Solution-Driven Science symposia are sponsored by the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

Siehl Prize for Excellence in Agriculture seeks nominations

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[Matt Hodson](mailto:mjhodson@umn.edu), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/16/2012) —Nominations are open for the Siehl Prize for Excellence in Agriculture 2013 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 former Minnesota agriculture commissioner Gene Hugoson and Don Helgeson, Gold'n Plump chairman.

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. Nominations submitted the previous year must be updated and resubmitted annually.

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 on National Ag Day, March 19, 2013.

U of M scientist contributes to mapping of barley genome

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/17/2012) —An international team of researchers, including a University of Minnesota scientist, has developed an integrated physical, genetic and functional sequence assembly of the barley genome, one of the world's most important and genetically complex cereal crops. Results are published in today's issue of *Nature*.

The advance will give researchers the tools to produce higher yields, improve pest and disease resistance, and enhance the nutritional value of barley.

Importantly, it also will “accelerate breeding improvements to help barley adapt to climate change,” says Gary Muehlbauer, head of the Department of Plant Biology, a joint department of the university's College of Biological Sciences and the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. “That means making barley more resistant to drought and able to use water and nitrogen more efficiently.”

Muehlbauer is vice chair of the International Barley Sequencing Consortium (IBSC), which carried out the sequencing. The IBSC (www.barleygenome.org) was founded in 2006 and includes scientists from Germany, Japan, Finland, Australia, the United Kingdom, the United States and China. The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the National Science Foundation provided funding for the US part of the effort.

The *Nature* publication provides a detailed overview of the functional portions of the barley genome, the order and structure of most of its 32,000 genes, and a detailed analysis of where and when genes are switched on in different tissues and at different stages of development. It also describes the location of dynamic regions of the genome that carry genes conferring resistance to devastating diseases. This will greatly improve the understanding of the crop's immune system.

In the 1990s, Minnesota had a million acres of barley, but that has dwindled to about 120,000 because an epidemic of Fusarium head blight, which has decimated the crop in this state. Most barley is now grown in North Dakota, Montana and Idaho.

“This resource will help make it possible to breed barley that is resistant to various pathogens, that exhibits improved grain quality, and increased drought tolerance and nitrogen use efficiency,” says Muehlbauer, who holds an endowed chair in molecular genetics applied to crop improvement in the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics.

Sequencing of the genome will accelerate research in barley and its close relative wheat. It will also allow breeders and scientists to effectively address the challenge of feeding the world's growing population as climate change increasingly challenges growers with extreme weather events, according to the USDA.

The *Nature* paper can be found at z.umn.edu/barley. For more information on the IBSC, please visit: www.barleygenome.org.

Explore the Secret World of Soil in Dig It!: Exhibit Opens Nov. 10 at the Bell Museum of Natural History

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Dig It! Opens Nov. 10 at the Bell Museum

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/18/2012) —Within one gram of soil are close to one billion living bacteria, a fact made all the more astounding considering most people know relatively little about soil...but not for long! *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil*, an exhibit opening Nov. 10 at the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History, reveals the complex world of soil and how this hidden ecosystem supports nearly every form of life on Earth, especially humans.

The popular exhibit gives an up close look into the fascinating world of soil science through hands-on models, interactive displays, soil samples, videos and activities. Perhaps its most ambitious element is a collection of 54 soil monoliths representing every U.S. state and territory and the District of Columbia.

"The monoliths are really a star of the exhibit, showing an amazing variety of colors and textures," shared Bell Museum curator Jennifer Menken.

Though centered on soil science curriculum, the exhibit covers a diverse array of subjects like nutrition, global food production, chemistry, biology, botany, physics, geology, climate, history and art. Menken has plans for diving deeper into many of these subjects through exhibit-related programming. "We're going to have a lot of programming with *Dig It!* There are so many enthusiastic people and resources to enhance the exhibit experience throughout its run into summer 2013."

For members of the U of M's Department of Soil, Water and Climate, the timing couldn't be better, as 2013 will mark the department's 100th anniversary. Many of the department's soil scientists, like Carl Rosen, see an opportunity to spread an important message.

"Soil is a precious natural resource," shared Rosen. "When we raise awareness of soil, we raise the quality of life for all."

The show includes elements from an exhibition organized by the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. Now owned and toured by the Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), it has ties close to the University of Minnesota. Jay Bell, associate dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and a soil scientist himself, was part of the original team advocating for the exhibit's creation and guiding its content.

"The exhibit started as a conversation between the Smithsonian and the SSSA that soil was something important to highlight and fund," recalls Bell. "It's wonderful to see this exhibit here in Minnesota – as well as traveling all over – and inspiring visitors to see the beauty and importance of soil."

The Bell Museum is part of the University's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and strives to advance the quest to discover, document and understand life in its many forms and to inspire curiosity, delight and informed stewardship of the natural world. For details, visit bellmuseum.org.

Minnesota Law Review Symposium to Focus on Direct Democracy

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/18/2012) —The University of Minnesota Law School's *Minnesota Law Review* will host its annual symposium, entitled *A More Perfect Union? Democracy in the Age of Ballot Initiatives*, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 26, in Room 25 of Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The symposium will be followed by a reception in Auerbach Commons.

This November, Minnesotans will have a chance to vote on two ballot measures that would amend the state constitution. This symposium will address the role that ballot initiatives play in a modern democracy, but not the policy merits of either amendment. Panelists with diverse backgrounds, expertise and points of view will come from across the nation to address the complex legal, political and practical issues associated with legislating through the ballot.

The first panel will feature legal scholars Ethan Leib and Michael Gilbert, plus noted political scientist Mathew McCubbins. They will discuss the obligations of citizens voting on ballot measures, whether voters are capable of fulfilling those obligations and how judges should interpret the product of citizens voting regarding ballot measures.

The second panel will explore the distinctions between ballot campaigns and candidate campaigns. University of California Provost Elizabeth Garrett and Emory Law Professor Michael Kang will analyze the unique challenge that direct democracy campaigns pose to campaign finance laws, and Professor Todd Donovan will discuss empirical findings on the impacts that ballot initiative campaigns have on minority groups.

In the final panel, Professor Shaun Bowler, University of California, Riverside, will join federal judges Timothy Tymkovich of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the Ninth Circuit. They will draw larger conclusions about direct democracy and whether, as a legal and practical matter, it is consistent with the limitations and purposes of our constitutional system of government.

This event is free and has been approved for 5.5 CLE credits. A recording of the event will be made available on the Minnesota Law Review's website, and scholarly articles authored by the panelists will be published in Vol. 97, Issue 5, of the *Minnesota Law Review*.

Members of the press are welcome to attend this event. Questions about media logistics and other general inquires can be sent to MNLawRev@umn.edu. Further details are also available at <http://www.minnesotalawreview.org>.

U of M Regents visit Duluth area to highlight importance of renewed public investment

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/19/2012) —Three members of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents travel to Cloquet and Duluth today to meet with campus leaders and alumni, tour facilities and highlight the importance of renewed public investment in the university.

The Board recently approved the university's biennial budget request and legislative proposal to the State of Minnesota for fiscal years 2014-15.

Regents Laura Brod of New Prague, Thomas Devine of Chanhassen and Venora Hung of Golden Valley will be joined on their visit to the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) campus by UMD Chancellor Lendley Black and his leadership team.

"The Board of Regents understands that one of the university's greatest strengths is its statewide presence and impact," said Linda Cohen, Board of Regents chair. "We're interested in partnering with policymakers in northeastern Minnesota and across the state to hold down tuition and deliver solutions to some of the state's most complicated challenges."

The 12-member governing board of the University of Minnesota is elected by the state legislature. One Regent is elected from each of Minnesota's eight congressional districts and four are elected at large. Regents serve without pay for six-year terms.

The university's biennial budget request focuses on freezing tuition for Minnesota undergraduate students, commits the U to \$28 million in cost savings and launches four targeted research initiatives, the Minnesota Discovery, Research and InnoVation Economy (MnDRIVE) program. MnDRIVE will focus on four areas over the biennium—environment, robotics, global food supply and brain conditions—to improve economic vitality, health and quality of life for Minnesotans.

The Regents will also tour the Cloquet Forestry Center and UMD's Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI), which was established by the Legislature in the 1980s to improve the state's economy by helping natural resource-based industries compete in a global marketplace. Since it was founded, NRRI has helped numerous companies start up or expand, such as Apprise Technologies, Ikonics, Van Technologies, Loll Designs and Epicurean Cutting Surfaces.

The Regents will also meet with the UMD Council of Deans and will attend UMD's Homecoming football game against Bemidji State, which kicks off Saturday at 1 p.m.

The university's impact in Duluth and surrounding communities is immense. Nearly 16,000 residents from northeastern Minnesota are graduates of the U of M, and together they hold more than 20,000 degrees, including advanced degrees in medicine, law, engineering and veterinary medicine. Last semester, the U's five statewide campuses enrolled 2,286 students hailing from northeastern Minnesota.

Together with UMD, the Cloquet Forestry Center, Grand Rapids Regional Extension Office and area county Extension offices account for more than 1,800 jobs in the region, resulting in a \$374 million economic impact.

For more information, visit umn.edu or www.d.umn.edu. For more information on building support for the university's budget request and legislative proposal, visit www.supporttheu.umn.edu.

U of M's Center for Design in Health shares multimillion-dollar grant to reduce ICU complications and costs

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/22/2012) —The University of Minnesota's Center for Design in Health, Mayo Clinic, Phillips Research North America and the United States Critical Illness and Injury Trials Group have been awarded more than \$16 million from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to improve critical care for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries in intensive care units (ICU). Data show that 27 percent of such Medicare beneficiaries face preventable treatment errors due to information overload among ICU providers.

The organizations will use cloud-based technology to help prevent medical errors by improving and standardizing clinical decision making, enhancing patient monitoring and better implementing quality metrics.

"The Center for Design in Health at the University of Minnesota looks forward to collaborating on the important problem of designing and implementing more effective electronic patient information and clinical decision support to improve the delivery of critical care medicine," said center director Kathleen A. Harder, Ph.D.

Medical errors can cause devastating and measurable harm in acute care settings, adding significantly to health care system costs. To comprehensively address this issue and transform the deluge of patient data into actionable insights, the collaborators are creating a cloud-based clinical decision support system built on Mayo Clinic's Ambient Warning and Response Evaluation application. The project includes a secure, bi-directional communication connection to the cloud where the data is analyzed, interpreted and sent back to the facilities' care teams to be displayed and mobilized for patient alerts.

"We're grateful that CMMI has recognized the commitment of our physicians, scientists and collaborators to drive patient-centered, high-value care," says John Noseworthy, M.D., president and CEO of Mayo Clinic. "We remain constant in our unflinching focus on meeting the needs of patients."

Over a three-year period, the collaborators will train 1,440 existing ICU caregivers in four diverse hospital systems to effectively use new health information technologies to manage ICU patient care. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation estimates that this project will save more than \$80 million while creating new health care jobs.

Other participating centers include Duke University, Tufts Medical Center, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Albert Einstein Medical School, Montefiore Medical Center and Lawrence General Hospital along with hospitals in Minnesota, Massachusetts, New York and Oklahoma.

The Health Care Innovation Awards fund up to \$1 billion in grants to applicants who will implement compelling new ideas to deliver better health, improved care and lower costs to people enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program, particularly those with the highest health care needs.

The project described is supported by Funding Opportunity Number CMS-ICI-12-0001 from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS or any of its agencies.

U of M Extension and ECHO partner on November multilingual nutrition TV program

"Active Living and Healthy Eating on a Budget," airing on tpt in November in four languages, works to help Minnesotans lead healthier lives.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/22/2012) —According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, one in 10 Minnesotans struggle to get enough food. With limited time and money, being physically active and choosing healthy food to eat can be difficult.

The Healthy People 2010 study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed that new immigrants, especially those of African or Mexican descent, are at a higher risk of having diabetes. Regular exercise and eating nutritious foods decrease the risk for diabetes, obesity, and other diseases. Fortunately, there are resources and services available to help overcome time and financial limitations, leading to lifestyle changes everyone can make to improve their health.

To help the community learn more about eating healthy and becoming more active on a budget, ECHO has collaborated with University of Minnesota Extension's "Simply Good Eating" program to produce a 30-minute television program in four languages (Spanish, Hmong, Somali, and basic English).

"The Simply Good Eating program provides up-to-date health and nutrition information and fun, hands-on activities to help people with limited incomes choose healthy foods and active lifestyles," said Ryan Johnson, Extension Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) Liaison.

"Active Living and Healthy Eating on a Budget" will air on tpt's Minnesota Channel (Comcast Channel 202 or 243 depending on location) and local access stations across Minnesota (check local listings), as well as online at echominnesota.org in November. ECHO will also be distributing free DVDs of this program to the community. Request a DVD by emailing olson@echominnesota.org.

The tptMN broadcast schedule is as follows:

- November 4 at 7 p.m. in English: Guests – Angie Thornhill, Extension Community Nutrition Educator and Roxanne Robinson, Cass Lake Diabetes Education Program
- November 4 at 7:30 p.m. in Spanish: Guests – Sophia London, HCMC Community Health Worker and Roman Gonzalez, HCMC Community Health Worker
- November 11 at 7 p.m. in Hmong: Guests – Extension Community Nutrition Educators Patsy Lee and Chee Xiong Yang
- November 11 at 7:30 p.m. in Somali: Guests – Extension Community Nutrition Educators Abdihamid Geyre and Nawal Hirsi

This material is funded in part by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP provides nutrition assistance to people with low income.

More about "Simply Good Eating"

The University of Minnesota Extension's "Simply Good Eating" program uses evidence-based strategies and best practices to promote healthy lifestyles for people with limited incomes. Participants learn ideas for fresh, flavorful, low-cost meals along with ways to put more activity into their life. Community nutrition educators work with participants to build a simple, healthful plan that fits with their lifestyle and budget. The "Simply Good Eating" program worked with 70,000 participants statewide in 2011. Visit www.extension.umn.edu/Nutrition for more information.

About ECHO

ECHO's mission is to collaborate with diverse communities to deliver programs and services that help people be healthy, contribute, and succeed. Visit echominnesota.org for more information.

Dr. Brian Herman named new vice president for research at the University of Minnesota

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/25/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler has announced that Dr. Brian Herman will be the university's new vice president for research, effective January 1, 2013, pending approval by the Board of Regents.

"I am delighted that Brian has accepted my invitation to lead the university's research enterprise, and look forward to working with him in the years ahead to further advance the excellence of the University of Minnesota," said U of M president Eric Kaler. "Dr. Herman will play a critical role in leading our effort, as Minnesota's only research and land grant university, to solve our most significant challenges and advance our state's economy."

Herman comes from the University of Texas (UT) where he has served for the past two years as the Chancellor's Health Fellow in Collaboration for the UT System and Special Assistant to the President for the UT Health Science Center. He is a full professor of cellular and structural biology, receiving his doctorate from the University of Connecticut Health Science Center and postgraduate training from Harvard Medical School.

A central figure in the university's senior leadership, Herman will oversee all aspects of research at the University of Minnesota's five campuses, providing guidance and support to individual researchers, managing the university's research enterprise, identifying future directions and research facility and infrastructure needs. According to the most recent survey conducted by the National Science Foundation, the University of Minnesota had \$786 million in research and development expenditures (a 6 percent increase over the previous year) and retained its eighth-place ranking among public research universities. The university's research expenditures have grown 49.4% since 2004, the fifth-largest growth rate among public universities and seventh-largest overall.

"The University of Minnesota is well positioned to lead the nation in the use of entrepreneurial approaches to solve some of society's most challenging issues," said Herman. "I am very excited about joining a prestigious, successful institution and facilitating in any way I can the success of the students, faculty and staff in their research endeavors."

An accomplished scientist, researcher, and academic administrator, Herman has both system and campus administrative leadership experience, broad and deep knowledge of the health sciences, and experience successfully working with the private and public sectors, including with the Legislature and other elected officials.

Following his postgraduate training, Herman joined the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He later became professor and chair of the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology for the UT Health Science Center from 1998 to 2004, and Vice President for Research at the UT Health Science Center from 2004 to 2011. He is an internationally renowned researcher in the field of cell death and the applications of optical imaging technologies to the study of cellular, tissue, and organismal physiology and pathophysiology. He has received two NIH merit awards and served on multiple NIH and NSF study sections including a four-year term on the NIH Cell, Development and Function-2 study section, on two of which he served as chair. Herman has published more 450 papers, book chapters and abstracts, edited four books and trained 26 students and 27 postdoctoral fellows during his scientific career.

Outgoing Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy will retire in December 2012 after seven years at the post.

Vice President and Medical School Dean Aaron Friedman and College of Science and Engineering Dean Steve Crouch co-chaired the search committee for this position.

U of M study will help organic dairy farms become more profitable

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/25/2012) —Organic dairy farmers and University of Minnesota experts will collaborate on a new study aimed at improving dairies' profitability through improved pasture production, best management practices for animal comfort and more milk production.

The project, headquartered at the university's West Central Research and Outreach Center at Morris, brings farmers together with experts in animal science, entomology, agronomy and economics. A \$1.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture is helping fund the four-year project.

The West Central Research and Outreach center has its own certified organic dairy, one of only two at land-grant research universities in the United States that have made the transition from traditional to organic dairy production. Farmers from across Minnesota were involved in designing the project and will be involved in on-farm research and demonstrations.

"Over the next four years, we'll be looking at best management practices for not only improving milk quality and quantity, but also in improving cow health and in making organic pasture land more productive," said Brad Heins, an assistant professor of animal science and the project's lead investigator. The results of the research will be shared nationwide through webinars, conferences and field days.

The research grant is part of the USDA's Organic Research and Extension Initiative, a program aimed at helping organic producers and processors grow and market high quality organic agricultural products.

U of M's University Opera Theatre's production of *Parables* to air on *tpt*

Shows scheduled for Oct. 28 and Nov. 4

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/26/2012) —The University of Minnesota's University Opera Theatre's (UOT) production of *Parables* will broadcast on Twin Cities Public Television (**tpt**) on Sunday, October 28 at 8 p.m. It will also air Sunday, November 4 at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. on **tpt** MN and at 12 p.m. on **tpt** LIFE.

UOT presented the stage premiere of *Parables*, a new dramatic cantata and American choral work by the Grammy Award winning team of composer Robert Aldridge and librettist Herschel Garfein in April 2012 at Ted Mann Concert Hall. *Parables* was directed by School of Music professor and UOT director David Walsh and conducted by School of Music professor and director of choral activities Kathy Saltzman Romey.

Parables is a powerful artistic response to racial and religious intolerance around the globe. Each of the work's seven sections tells a unique story, or parable, featuring the intertwining of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. It had been performed twice previously, on the East Coast, purely as concerts. Unconventional staging and the inclusion of four languages – English, Hebrew, Arabic, and Greek – contribute to the distinctiveness of UOT's production.

Director David Walsh describes *Parables* as UOT's largest undertaking ever, with 200 performers on stage featuring the University Orchestra, University Singers and Men's and Women's Choruses. *Parables* is performed by a professional cast, consisting of School of Music faculty members Adriana Zabala (mezzo soprano) and Philip Zawisza (baritone) joined by Monica Yunus (soprano) and Dennis Peterson (tenor).

Parables on **tpt** is a Minnesota partnership production and is a co-production of the University of Minnesota School of Music and **tpt** with additional funding from Douglas and Andrew Reeves in honor of their parents, J.B. and Julie Reeves.

About the University of Minnesota School of Music

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 550 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of more than 75 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.

About **tpt**

The mission of **tpt** is to “enrich lives and strengthen our community through the power of media.”

As one of the nation's leading public media organizations, **tpt** uses television, interactive media, and community engagement to advance education, culture and citizenship. Over its 50+ year history, **tpt** has been recognized for its innovation and creativity with numerous awards, including Peabody awards and national and regional Emmys.

Based in St. Paul, MN, **tpt** is one of the highest rated PBS affiliates in the nation, reaching over 1.3 million people each month through multiple broadcast and online channels. The organization's particular areas of focus include: the educational readiness of children; serving the needs and unleashing the potential of America's aging population; engaging a new generation in the power of public media; and being the preferred media partner for organizations that align with our mission to enrich lives and strengthen community.

First of its kind study finds homelessness and high mobility affects academic achievement; yet, students show signs of resilience

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/29/2012) —Students who experienced homelessness or high mobility had chronically low levels of reading and math achievement compared to their peers - gaps that either stayed the same or worsened as students approached high school, according to a longitudinal study conducted through a partnership of the University of Minnesota and Minneapolis Public Schools.

The study, published Oct. 30 in the journal “Child Development,” found that homeless and highly mobile (HHM) students did not catch up to their peers during a six-year period.

Furthermore, HHM students showed lower levels of achievement, and slower growth in math achievement, during years in which they experienced homelessness and high mobility compared to their own achievement and growth during years in which they did not experience homelessness or high mobility.

“This is the first study that looked at academic achievement data for HHM students during a long period of time,” said lead researcher J.J. Cutuli, a former U of M doctoral student who is currently a research director at the University of Pennsylvania. “Past studies on this topic have been able to produce snapshots in time, but now we’re able to see that gains in math achievement among HHM students slow down during periods of homelessness or high mobility.”

Despite the risks, the study found that 45 percent of HHM students were able to meet the expectations of academic success during third through eighth grades.

“That is a striking variability,” said Ann Masten, a leading expert on this topic, co-author of the study and U of M professor. “Discovering why some children are more resilient than others is key to helping all children.”

“Understanding their successes may offer clues for strategies to address achievement problems in their peers,” added Cutuli. “Solving short-term risks tied to homelessness or moving frequently, as well as long-term risks associated with chronic poverty and disadvantage will help lead to solutions for these youth.”

The study included data from 26,474 Minneapolis third through eighth graders from 2005-2011, nearly 14 percent of whom identified as homeless or highly mobile at various points during that time. “The results are disheartening, but confirm what we previously suspected,” said Elizabeth Hinz, co-author from Minneapolis Public Schools.

MPS provides system-wide training for all staff responsible for the well being of HHM students and the results of this study have led to even more focus on creating informed understanding of the educational needs of these students.

“In order to support HHM students in the best way possible, we are implementing an integrated student information system for teachers that provides immediate access to academic information that supports student achievement,” said Hinz. “Teachers are better able to keep the students’ situations in the forefront and easily access strategies to meet the needs of each student.”

More than one million American school children experience homelessness or high mobility each year, according to The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY).

“We are not going to be able to tackle the issues of the achievement gap without addressing the issue of mobility in our student populations,” said Masten. “This is not a small problem when you have such significant percentages of children who are homeless or highly mobile.”

The data used in this study are routinely collected as part of day-to-day district operations (attendance, child demographics, eligibility for special services, yearly academic achievement, etc) and include whether students qualify for HHM services.

The study was supported in part by the Center for Neurobehavioral Development at the University of Minnesota, the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Science Foundation, the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the University of Minnesota, and the Institute of Education Sciences.

Failed Evidence: Does Law Enforcement Resist Science?

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/30/2012) —The University of Minnesota Law School will welcome nationally recognized criminal justice scholar David Harris, a professor in the University of Pittsburgh Law School, on Thursday, Nov. 8, for the panel discussion “Failed Evidence: Does Law Enforcement Resist Science?” The event will be held from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in Room 25 of Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. A reception will follow.

The panel will focus on Harris’ book *Failed Evidence: Why Law Enforcement Resists Science*, in which he argues that law enforcement officials have failed to embrace the science that casts doubt on traditional police work, such as eyewitness identification, suspect interrogation and forensics. He documents how law enforcement’s use of discredited forensic techniques and questionable investigative methods has contributed to miscarriages of justice, including wrongful convictions. Harris offers a number of recommendations for encouraging law enforcement to use sound scientific practices in traditional police work.

The discussion will begin with a brief summary of the findings in *Failed Evidence* by Harris, followed by commentary and critique from a panel of criminal justice experts. The panelists are:

- **John J. Choi**, Ramsey County Attorney
- **Chief John Harrington**, Metro Transit Police Department; former Chief of the St. Paul Police Department; former Minnesota State Senator
- **Jon Hopeman**, partner of Felhaber, Larson, Fenlon & Vogt; adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota Law School; Innocence Project of Minnesota Board Chair; former Assistant U.S. Attorney
- **Moderator:** Mark Kappelhoff, professor of Clinical Law at the University of Minnesota Law School; former federal prosecutor at the U.S. Department of Justice

The event is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Law School, the Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice, the Council on Crime and Justice, the Innocence Project of Minnesota and the Criminal Justice League. 1.5 CLE credits have been requested. The event is free and open to the public. For more information and to RSVP, go to <http://tinyurl.com/failed-evidence>

U alumnus and inventor of GORE-TEX® gives \$10 million for expansion of Amundson Hall

Ceremonial groundbreaking ceremony is Friday, Nov. 2



Architectural drawing of Amundson Hall expansion.

Media Note: Robert Gore and

Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science head Frank Bates will be available from 1:45-2:15 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 2 for short, individual media interviews in Amundson Hall, Room 156. To schedule an interview, contact Matt Hodson at mjhodson@umn.edu or Rhonda Zurn at rzurn@umn.edu.

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[Rhonda Zurn](mailto:rzurn@umn.edu), College of Science and Engineering, (612) 626-7959

October 31, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/31/12) – The University of Minnesota officially announced today that Robert and Jane Gore have donated \$10 million for the expansion of Amundson Hall, the home of the University's highly ranked Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science in the College of Science and Engineering. This donation builds upon a previous gift of \$5 million received last December from Dow Chemical Company for the project.

Robert Gore received his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1963. He is the inventor of the revolutionary fabric, called GORE-TEX®. He is the former president and CEO of W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc., a company started by his father.

Gore and Dow Chemical Company's Executive Vice President and Chief Technology Officer William Banholzer will attend an invitation-only ceremonial groundbreaking 2-4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 2, on the northeast side of Amundson Hall, 421 Washington Avenue SE, Minneapolis. The event program begins at 2:30 p.m.

About 100 people, including business partners, University leaders, alumni, faculty, staff and students, are scheduled to attend the event. Those attending will see drawings of the building addition, hear about the impact of the expansion on research and student access, and witness the ceremonial groundbreaking.

Speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony include: University President Eric Kaler, University College of Science and Engineering Dean Steven Crouch, William Banholzer, Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science head Frank Bates, and University Regent Patricia Simmons.

About the Amundson Hall expansion:

Construction will begin in early 2013 on a 40,000-square-foot expansion of Amundson Hall. The addition, named the Gore Annex, will accommodate expansion of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science in response to increasing demand from highly qualified students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

The Gore Annex will include two floors below ground and four floors above ground. It has been carefully designed as a separate building with connections to the existing building on each floor to maximize space dedicated to research laboratories. The space includes 60 new hoods and offices for faculty, post-doctoral fellows and graduate students.

Gore Annex will also serve the growing undergraduate class, specifically with a new 3,000-square-foot materials lab outfitted with state-of-the-art materials testing equipment and new offices dedicated to accommodating meetings between small groups of students and teaching assistants.

The total cost of the project is \$27.6 million, which includes the building expansion and upgrades to the current building. The project is funded by \$15 million in donations, \$5.6 million from the College of Science and Engineering for building projects, and \$7 million in University Higher Education Asset Preservation and Restoration (HEAPR) funds from the state for upgrades to the current Amundson Hall building, including new windows overlooking the new light-rail station and other infrastructure improvements.

The University of Minnesota has been working with its architectural partners, Perkins+Will, and has selected Kraus-Anderson Construction Company as the general contractor for the future Gore Annex. The building, which features a striking extension cantilevered out over the mall facing the light rail line, is expected to be completed in mid-2014.

Community Day to celebrate partnerships, urban research initiatives at U of M's UROC Nov. 9

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[Julie Christensen](mailto:jrchris@umn.edu), University News Service, [jrchriss@umn.edu](mailto:jrchris@umn.edu), (612) 626-1720

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/31/2012) —"Sharing the Journey," the theme for Community Day 2012, will celebrate community partnerships and urban research initiatives from 3 to 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9 at the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC), 2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Minneapolis.

Community Day offers the public a chance to tour UROC's 22,000-square-foot facility and review university-community collaborations aimed at strengthening health, education and economic development in North Minneapolis and other urban communities. Activities will include free computer classes and health screenings, healthy cooking demonstrations, live music, and a public reception.

"Since its doors opened in 2010, UROC has continued to expand and deepen its work as a hub for urban-focused collaborations that build on the strengths of the university and many community partners," said UROC Executive Director Heidi Barajas. "Community Day is a way for us to celebrate those partnerships, the journey that has brought us here and our ongoing work together."

This year's event will include a tribute to University Senior Vice President Robert Jones during a program scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. Jones, whose leadership was a guiding force behind the creation of UROC, has accepted the position of president of the University of Albany, part of the State University of New York, effective January 2, 2013.

The event is free and open to the public.

UROC links the University of Minnesota in vital public partnership with urban communities to advance learning, improve quality of life and discover breakthrough solutions to critical urban challenges. Visit www.uroc.umn.edu for more information.

U of M Regents visit Morris area to highlight importance of renewed public investment

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/01/2012) —Four members of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents travel to Morris today to meet with campus leaders, students and alumni, tour research facilities and highlight the importance of renewed public investment in the university.

Last month the Board approved the university's biennial budget request and legislative proposal to the State of Minnesota for fiscal years 2014-15.

Regents Richard Beeson of St. Paul, Thomas Devine of Chanhassen, John Frobenius of St. Cloud and David McMillan of Duluth will be joined on their visit to the University of Minnesota Morris (UMM) campus by UMM Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson and her leadership team.

"The Board of Regents sees the university's statewide presence and impact as two of its greatest strengths," said Linda Cohen, Board of Regents chair. "In partnership with policymakers in west central Minnesota and across the state, we're interested in holding down tuition and delivering solutions to some of the state's most complicated challenges."

The 12-member governing board of the University of Minnesota is elected by the state legislature. One Regent is elected from each of Minnesota's eight congressional districts and four are elected at large. Regents serve without pay for six-year terms.

The university's biennial budget request focuses on freezing tuition for Minnesota undergraduate students, commits the U to \$28 million in cost savings and launches four targeted research initiatives, the Minnesota Discovery, Research and Innovation Economy (MnDRIVE) program. MnDRIVE will focus on four areas over the biennium—environment, robotics, global food supply and brain conditions—to improve economic vitality, health and quality of life for Minnesotans.

A national leader in green initiatives, UMM is one of the first public colleges to generate on-site renewable power from local resources, such as corn stover. At the south edge of campus, a biomass gasification plant—fueled by crop residues from nearby farms—generates steam.

The Regents will tour the biomass gasifier, part of an integrated system for heating and cooling campus buildings, as well as the nearby West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC). Home to the first large-scale wind research turbine at a U.S. public university, WCROC provides a platform for wind energy research while generating additional energy sources.

The Regents will also meet with student leaders and members of the broader campus community before departing Morris on Friday.

The university's impact in Morris extends beyond the UMM campus. More than 1,500 Morris area residents are graduates of the U of M, and together they hold 1,941 degrees, including advanced degrees in medicine, law, engineering and veterinary medicine. Last semester, the U's five statewide campuses enrolled 312 students hailing from the Morris area.

Together with the UMM campus, the WCROC, Regional Extension Office, Stevens County Extension Office and nursing and medical school affiliations account for 371 jobs in the Morris area, resulting in \$16,457,884 in economic impact.

The University of Minnesota Morris, one of the university's five campuses, was named one of the top 10 public liberal arts colleges in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. Declared a model liberal arts college by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools in its recent re-accreditation report, Morris' mission as an affordable, undergraduate college complements its small, residential atmosphere.

For more information, visit umn.edu or www.morris.umn.edu. For more information on building support for the university's budget request and legislative proposal, visit www.supporttheu.umn.edu.

One of world's leading authorities on psychological development to talk on adolescent brain development and the law

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/02/2012) —Laurence Steinberg, one of the world's leading authorities on psychological development during adolescence and best-selling author, comes to the University of Minnesota on Nov. 15. Steinberg is a Distinguished University Professor and the Laura H. Carnell Professor of Psychology at Temple University. He will give his lecture, "Should the Science of Adolescent Brain Development Inform Legal Policy?" from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the theater in Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public.

Studies of adolescent brain development have influenced debates on issues such as the constitutionality of the juvenile death penalty and whether minors should be able to obtain an abortion without parental consent. In his lecture, Dr. Steinberg will offer an overview of the major changes in brain structure and function that take place during adolescence, and will discuss what neuroscience advances can tell us, if anything, about adolescent brain development beyond what we already know from behavioral science.

Steinberg was the lead scientist on the amicus curiae brief filed by the American Psychological Association in *Roper v. Simmons*, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that abolished the juvenile death penalty. He is the author of more than 300 articles and essays on growth and development during the teenage years, and the author or editor of 13 books, including *Adolescence* (McGraw-Hill), the leading college textbook on adolescent development.

Steinberg is a guest of the University's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences. He will be featured on MPR's *The Daily Current*, 9 to 10 a.m., Nov. 15.

Dante Cicchetti wins prestigious award from Jacobs Foundation for child development research

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Dante Cicchetti

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/02/2012) —Dante Cicchetti, professor in the [Institute of Child Development](#), was awarded the Klaus J. Jacobs Research Prize and over \$1 million by the [Jacobs Foundation](#) in Zurich, Switzerland, for more than 30 years of work in child development.

One of the world's leading researchers in developmental and clinical psychology, Cicchetti studies the consequences of child maltreatment and neglect and the conditions that lead to resilience -- the psychological capacity to withstand difficult life conditions.

Cicchetti combines theory and research in psychosocial behaviors, neurobiology and genetics to inform interventions that dispel the notion that poverty and child maltreatment are directly linked and that they both have the same impact on development. He has also demonstrated that violence and abuse affect the body and mind differently throughout a child's life.

"To see the positive and not just the problems -- this is crucial when studying the development and resilience of maltreated children," said Cicchetti, who intends to use the cash prize to expand his interdisciplinary research. "It's a dynamic process. There are things that can be done to promote resilience -- even when children have had terrible experiences at a very early age."

Cicchetti received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1977, taught at Harvard University and the University of Rochester in New York, before returning to the University of Minnesota as the McKnight Presidential Chair and William Harris Professor of Child Development and Psychiatry. He has won numerous national and international awards and has published over 450 articles, books, and other works that have had far-reaching impact on developmental theory, policy and practice related to child maltreatment, depression, mental retardation, and other fields of study.

The top-ranked Institute of Child Development is part of the University's College of Education and Human Development, whose mission includes improving the lives of children, families, and communities locally and around the world.

The Jacobs Foundation, founded in 1989 by Klaus Jacobs, promotes child and youth development worldwide by funding research and intervention programs.

Adam Marcus named among Top 30 design educators in U.S.

U of M Architecture
and Interior Design
programs honored in
latest issue of
DesignIntelligence



Adam Marcus.

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Steve Henneberry, University News Service, henneberry@umn.edu, 612-624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/05/2012) —Cass Gilbert Design Fellow and architecture assistant professor Adam Marcus has been named one of the top 30 most admired design educators for 2013 by *DesignIntelligence* (DI) magazine. DI selects educators from the disciplines of architecture, interior design, industrial design, and landscape architecture who exemplify excellence in design education leadership.

The University of Minnesota's graduate programs for architecture and interior design were also recognized in this year's rankings.

Regarding Marcus, DI notes: "Marcus provides his own brand of excellence that challenges students while trusting and respecting the unique differences they bring to the future of the profession."

"I'm honored to be included in a group of such fine educators," said Marcus. "As the Cass Gilbert Fellow, I've had the great opportunity to pursue my own research interests through teaching a number of design studios at both undergraduate and graduate levels. I share this recognition by *DesignIntelligence* with both the dedicated students and terrific faculty with whom I have collaborated. The School of Architecture's innovative curriculum and strong leadership fosters a truly productive academic environment, and it's been very rewarding to contribute to this dynamic mix."

College of Design faculty regularly appear in the DI rankings: architecture professor and College of Design dean Thomas Fisher (2008-2010, 2012); architecture professor and head Renee Cheng (2011, 2012); and interior design professor Denise Guerin (2009, 2011).

The 2013 DI rankings put the architecture graduate program among the top ten in the Midwest.

The School of Architecture was also recognized for being a "strong integrator of design disciplines," and having the "strongest community relationships" and "best buildings and facilities" in comparison to all other architecture programs in the country.

The Interior Design graduate program ranked among the most admired in the 2013 DI survey "for its strong research and faculty." Earlier this year the Accreditation Commission of the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA) renewed the Interior Design program's accreditation for the next six years - making the Interior Design Bachelor of Science degree continuously accredited since the inception of CIDA (formerly FIDER) over 40 years ago. In their analysis, the CIDA commission reported that during their on-site review of the program, the visiting team did not identify any weaknesses.

Multiple University alumni also made the DI 2013 Leadership Index. Those award-winning graduates include: Dan Avchen, HGA, B.Arch '72; Bill Chilton, Pickard Chilton, M.Arch '80; and Ed Kodet, Kodet Architectural Group, M.Arch '69.

U of M Center for German & European Studies to present 8th major healthcare forum

Experts from Germany and U.S. will discuss/compare management of health care reform

What: Managing Innovation and Reform in Healthcare—Access, Quality, Cost—8th Annual American & German trans-Atlantic experts forum

When: November 12 – 13, 2012

Who: Members of Germany's health ministry and experts from the U of M, state of Minnesota and healthcare industry

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

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/08/2012) —The Center for German and European Studies (CGES) at the University of Minnesota will present its annual forum on healthcare reform and innovation on November 12 and 13. This year's forum will focus on health care quality and cost, competition and access.

With the re-election of President Obama on Tuesday, healthcare reform in the United States will accelerate and all states will establish health insurance exchanges. Germany already has a similar system in place, and in recent years health care policymakers and practitioners from Minnesota and Germany have been meeting twice yearly to discuss best practices.

In cooperation with Germany's Federal Ministries of Health and Economics, CGES organizes this special exchange among German and U.S. health policy experts. This past summer, a delegation of Minnesota health policy leaders traveled to Germany for a seminar on health policy. Now the leadership of Germany's Federal Ministry of Health and other health policy decision makers are coming to Minnesota to share experiences and best practices with a broader group of Minnesotans.

Conference attendees will hear from an impressive group of experts, including Germany's Deputy Federal Secretary of Health, Minnesota Commissioner of Human Services Lucinda Jesson, Commissioner of Management and Budget Jim Schowalter, state senators David Hann (R) and Tony Lourey (DFL), state representatives Steve Gottwalt (R) and Tom Huntley (DFL), the German government's point person for long-term care, the head of Germany's association of non-profit insurance companies, and Germany's point person for risk adjustment.

About The Center for German & European Studies

The Center for German & European Studies at the University of Minnesota promotes trans-Atlantic dialogue on public issues of major common concern and is considered one of the nation's top centers for innovative interdisciplinary teaching and research on Germany and Europe. For more information on CGES, please visit cges.umn.edu.

Upcoming U of M events range from honoring student veterans to opera

Student Veterans Appreciation Day, a four-day run of Falstaff, a math and science fun fair, a symposium on design and guest lecturers highlight the next two weeks

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/08/2012) —Please find below a list of select University of Minnesota-related events for Nov. 8-20, 2012. For the full U of M events calendar, visit www.events.umn.edu.

Thursday, Nov. 8 – EconFest honors excellence in personal finance education

EconFest 2012, a celebration of economic and personal finance education, will take place Nov. 8 at the 3M Innovation Center, 2350 Minnehaha Ave E., Maplewood. The annual Minnesota Council on Economic Education (MCEE) event recognizes eight award recipients from across Minnesota and Wisconsin for teaching excellence and innovation.

First-place teachers will present their award-winning lessons at 4:45 p.m., followed by a reception at 5:30 p.m. and awards ceremony beginning at 6:45 p.m.

MCEE's programs are delivered through a network of university-affiliated Centers for Economic Education located at the University of Minnesota, University of Minnesota Duluth, Minnesota State University-Mankato, Minnesota State University-Moorhead, St. Cloud State University and the University of St. Thomas.

MCEE provides Minnesota citizens with the economic and financial understanding they need to function effectively in a complex global environment.

For more information, visit www.mcee.umn.edu or contact Sharon Bresson at (612) 625-1946.

Friday, Nov. 9 – Change the World by Design: 5 Ways to Create Social Impact

Join leading advocates of design thinking for a look at current trends in public interest design, solutions to difficult social problems, changing systems, and turning your passion for social change into a core component of your practice.

The university's College of Design is a co-sponsor for *Change the World by Design: 5 Ways to Create Social Impact* from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9 in room 100 of Rapson Hall, 89 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. Admission is \$10 for AIGA members and \$20 for the general public.

Speakers and presenters include: Tom Fisher, dean, College of Design, University of Minnesota; Steve Kelly, Humphrey Senior Fellow and director, Center for Science, Technology and Public Policy, University of Minnesota; Molly McMahon and Gerry Greaney, designers/researchers, Mayo Clinic Center for Innovation; Doug Powell, national president, AIGA and co-founder, Schwartz-Powell; Tara Pham, founder, BrainDrain; and Jay Coogan, president, Minneapolis College of Art and Design.

For more information, visit www.aigaminnesota.org/events/change-the-world-by-design/ or contact Sandy Wolfe Wood at designforgood@aigaminnesota.org.

Sunday, Nov. 11 – Jay Walljasper: This Place is Your Place, This Place is My Place

Jay Walljasper, a popular writer, editor and speaker, chronicles stories from around the world that point us toward a greener, more equitable and more enjoyable future. He will give his lecture "This Place is Your Place, This Place is My Place" at 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 11 in room 100 of Rapson Hall, 89 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. Sponsored by the university's College of Design, the event is free and open to the public.

The recent rise of interest in public space is part a growing movement that recognizes the importance of the commons—valuable assets that belong to all of us like streets and parks, water and biodiversity, the Internet and human culture. Walljasper will discuss how ideas about the commons will have profound influence on how we view and practice design throughout the 21st Century.

Walljasper is author of *The Great Neighborhood Book* (2007) and *All That We Share: A Field Guide to the Commons* (2010).

Book sales and signing will follow the lecture. *All That We Share: A Field Guide to the Commons* will be available for purchase at 10% off the cover price during this event (\$18.40, including tax), courtesy of the U of M Bookstores.

For more information, visit events.umn.edu/021729 or contact Amanda Underwood at aunderwo@umn.edu or (612) 626-6385.

Thursday, Nov. 15 – U of M observes Student Veterans Appreciation Day

University of Minnesota students, staff and faculty will celebrate the sixth annual Student Veterans Appreciation Day from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15, in honor of student veterans' service to our country. Held at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis, the event is free and open to the public.

University Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education Robert McMaster will speak during a brief program recognizing the contributions of university student veterans, military members and their families. McMaster will also introduce the university's three [Tillman Military Scholars](#) for the 2012-13 academic year. A free lunch will follow at noon.

A part of One Stop Student Services, University Veterans services helps student veterans and their families discover educational as well as non-educational benefits including housing, medical, employment, family and transitional issues assistance.

For more information, visit onestop.umn.edu/veterans/news_and_events/svad_archive/index.html or contact Julie Selander at (612) 625-6579.

Thursday, Nov. 15 – International expert discusses adolescent brain development and the law

Laurence Steinberg, one of the world's leading authorities on psychological development during adolescence and best-selling author, will give his lecture, "Should the Science of Adolescent Brain Development Inform Legal Policy?" from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15 in the theater in Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. Sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences, the event is free and open to the public.

In his lecture, Steinberg will offer an overview of the major changes in brain structure and function that take place during adolescence, and will discuss what neuroscience advances can tell us, if anything, about adolescent brain development beyond what we already know from behavioral science.

Steinberg was the lead scientist on the amicus curiae brief filed by the American Psychological Association in *Roper v. Simmons*, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that abolished the juvenile death penalty. He is the author of more than 300 articles and essays on growth and development during the teenage years, and the author or editor of 13 books, including *Adolescence* (McGraw-Hill), the leading college textbook on adolescent development. Steinberg is a Distinguished University Professor and the Laura H. Carnell Professor of Psychology at Temple University.

For more information, contact Martha Coventry at coven002@umn.edu or (612) 625-2948.

Thursday, Nov. 15 through Sunday, Nov. 18 – University Opera Theatre presents Giuseppe Verdi's Falstaff

The University of Minnesota Opera Theatre presents a four-day run of Giuseppe Verdi's *Falstaff*. Evening performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. from Thursday, Nov. 15 through Saturday, Nov. 17, with a 1:30 p.m. matinee Sunday, Nov. 18. All performances are at the Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$5 for U of M students and children. Two-for-one tickets are available for U of M faculty, alumni, staff and retirees. Pre-opera lobby discussions begin 45 minutes before each performance. Running time is 2 hours and 45 minutes, with two intermissions.

Inspired by Arrigo Boito's brilliant text, which distilled Shakespeare's three "Falstaff" plays into a vibrant, rollicking tale, Verdi create the greatest operatic comedy since Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Very rarely performed, *Falstaff* stands as a jewel not to be missed.

For more information, visit music.umn.edu/ensembles/opera.

Friday, Nov. 16 – CEHD Reads presents author Wes Moore

The university's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) will host the "CEHD Reads" public lecture and discussion with bestselling author Wes Moore at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16 at The Commons Hotel in Stadium Village, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

The Other Wes Moore was published in 2010 and is a New York Times bestseller. The combined autobiography and biography is an alternating narrative that tells the story of two boys—both named Wes Moore—growing up in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and the very different paths their lives take.

A book signing will take place after the event.

For more information, visit www.cehd.umn.edu/reads/default.html or contact Serena Wright at wright103@umn.edu.

Saturday, Nov. 17 – Math and Science Family Fun Fair

Math plus science equals a day of fun and learning at the University of Minnesota's annual Math and Science Family Fun Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, at the university's Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public. Free U of M backpack giveaways at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Event parking is \$6.

Hosted by the university's College of Science and Engineering, the Family Fun Fair features more than 30 entertaining, hands-on math and science experiences for kids of all ages. Attendees can hold a meteorite, make their own earthquakes, control robots, see brains of various animals, explore the night sky in the ExploraDome, and discover hidden microworlds.

Performances by the Physics Force and the Energy and U group highlight experiments where air pressure crushes a 55-gallon steel drum, ping pong balls can pierce through cans and energy is explained through screaming gummy bears, explosions and flames. A Mystery Science Lab explores the oddities of science with eggs that neither float nor sink, a levitating globe and water flowing with no source.

For more information, including directions, parking and a schedule of shows and exhibits, visit www.cse.umn.edu/funfair.

Tuesday, Nov. 20 – Wind Ensemble: Blockbuster Evening with Frank Ticheli

Guest composer Frank Ticheli joins the University of Minnesota Wind Ensemble as guest composer for regional premieres of two new works, Concerto for Clarinet featuring Alexander Fiterstein, clarinet, and Songs of Love and Life, featuring D.M.A. voice student Jennifer Olson. Also receiving its regional premiere will be Rio's Convergence by Justin Freer.

The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 20 at the Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis. There will be an open pre-concert talk beginning at 7 p.m. Sponsored by the university's School of Music, the event is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit events.umn.edu/021787 or contact Lisa Marshall at mus-ppr@umn.edu or (612) 626-1094.

University of Minnesota among nation's top producers of 2012-13 Fulbright Students

U of M ranks third among land-grant universities and 12th in the U.S. among research institutions with nineteen awards

Contacts: [Matt Hodson](#), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/12/2012) —The University of Minnesota ranks third among all land-grant colleges and universities, third in the Big Ten and 12th among all U.S. research institutions with 19 Fulbright Students for the 2012-13 academic year, according to a list compiled by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

"The selection of 19 Fulbright Students reflects the quality of world leaders being educated at the University of Minnesota," said university Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Karen Hanson. "That the university ranks among national leaders is a testament to the strength of the University Honors Program, the Global Programs and Strategy Alliance, and our Schools and Colleges. We are proud of these students, who will be outstanding contributors to their host countries, and excellent ambassadors for the University of Minnesota and the United States."

A record 12 U of M Twin Cities alumni were awarded 2012-13 bachelor-level Fulbright Scholarships and will participate in the country's largest exchange program. Additionally, one alumna received a Fulbright-affiliated teaching assistantship and six current U of M graduate students – including two university alumni – accepted graduate-level Fulbright Scholarships.

The University of California at Berkeley is first among land-grant institutions with 23 award recipients, while Rutgers University has 21. The University of Michigan led the nation with 40 students honored, while Northwestern University is second in the Big Ten with 22.

The full top-40 list of research institutions is available [here](#).

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the [Fulbright Program](#) is the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program. Almost 1,700 American students, artists and young professionals in more than 100 different fields of study have been offered Fulbright Program grants to study, teach English, and conduct research in over 140 countries throughout the world beginning this fall.

More information on the 19 University of Minnesota students awarded 2012-13 Fulbright Scholarships is available [here](#).

Study offers new tool for incorporating water impacts into policy decisions

Just-released paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences offers policy makers innovative framework for linking human well-being and water quality

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[Matt Hodson](mailto:mjhodson@umn.edu), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/12/2012) —If you've eaten fish, gone for a boat ride or even taken a drink from the tap, you know clean water is a valuable commodity. But just how valuable? That's always been a tough question for policy makers to answer as they weigh the worth of clean water against societal needs that compromise it, such as the need to grow food or produce fossil fuels. Now, however, their ability to do so has been greatly enhanced by a new policy-making framework developed by a team of scientists led by Bonnie Keeler, research associate at the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment.

The framework, published in the Nov. 6 issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, provides a tool for assessing and valuing the many services clean water provides – from recreation and beauty to navigation and hydropower – and incorporating them into policy decisions.

“After repeated requests for information on the value of water quality, we realized that there was a huge gap between the demand for economic values of water quality and our ability to provide tools to estimate those values. This gap limits our ability to make informed decisions,” Keeler said. “We provide a framework that describes the numerous pathways in which changes in water quality affect our health, recreation and livelihoods and the economic value of those changes. This yields a far more accurate picture of the costs and benefits of decisions.”

Using funding from an IonE mini grant, Keeler and colleagues from the University of Minnesota, The Nature Conservancy and the University of Arkansas began by developing a decision-making template that links actions, changes in water quality, changes in a spectrum of ecosystem goods and services, and changes in the economic value that accrues from the changes in ecosystem goods and services. They then outlined a five-step plan policy makers can use to apply the template to on-the-ground decisions around water issues.

“There will never be a single number that describes the value of clean water in all places and contexts,” Keeler said. “What our paper proposes is a way for users to link tools from ecology and economics to get value estimates that are specific to their location and sets of alternative actions. Ideally these values can then factor into incentive programs, cost-benefit studies and payment programs for ecosystem services.”

The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment seeks lasting solutions to Earth's biggest challenges through research, partnerships and leadership development. For more information, visit environment.umn.edu. To read the PNAS paper, visit z.umn.edu/framework.

Keeler is a Ph.D. candidate with the Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering, a joint department of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and the College of Science and Engineering.

'Open Doors' report shows U of M near top in study abroad participation, international student enrollment

Twin Cities campus ranks third in study abroad nationwide among doctorate-granting institutions, matching highest ranking ever for U

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/12/2012) —The annual “Open Doors” report on international students and 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 doctorate-granting institutions in the number of students who participated in an education experience abroad in 2010-11, with 2,562 students.

The No. 3-ranking ties the university’s highest on this list, up from ninth place and 2,181 students in last year’s report (which included statistics from the 2009-10 school year). The university also reached third place in the 2008 report, with 2,521 students (which included statistics from 2007-08).

“The university’s high ranking in the Open Doors report, in both study abroad and international student enrollment, reflects our commitment to educating global leaders,” said Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean of international programs. “We offer students educational opportunities abroad at a range of destinations, durations, price points and experiences, which has allowed us to increase our participation levels while other schools in the state have seen declines.”

In addition, the university ranked 14th among doctorate-granting institutions with 5,661 international students in 2011-12, up from 18th place with 5,124 students in last year’s report. (Study abroad statistics are reported one year behind international student statistics.)

“The increase in international student enrollment is a sign of the status and reputation of the University of Minnesota around the world,” said McQuaid. “As a global landgrant institution, we believe that incorporating international students into our classrooms and campus life leads to a better outcome for all.”

University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) also ranked high among master’s colleges and universities in study abroad. UMD ranked 38th with 403 students in 2010-11, up from 39th last year, with 386 students.

The report’s release coincides with International Education Week, a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide.

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. 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. More details on the Open Doors 2012 surveys and their findings can be accessed at www.iie.org/opendoors.

The Global Programs and Strategy Alliance (GPS Alliance) is the central international office for the University of Minnesota system. The GPS Alliance is the driving force for the University of Minnesota in globalizing teaching, learning, research and engagement. The GPS Alliance supports the university’s mission by working closely with campuses, colleges, units, faculty and staff, students, and the community to comprehensively internationalize the University of Minnesota. For more information, visit www.global.umn.edu.

U of M study first to report percentage of students repeating grades by state

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/14/2012) —Between three and four percent of public school first grade students were held back after the 2008-2009 academic year - an average of about one per classroom across the U. S. - according to a first-of-its-kind University of Minnesota study recently published in *Educational Researcher*.

Altogether, about 447,000 public school students in grades 1 through 8 were made to repeat their grade after that academic year.

The study, the first to use the U.S. Department of Education's Common Core of Data (CCD) for this purpose, reports grade retention (or non-promotion) rates for each state and for the entire country from 2002-2003 through 2008-2009.

"We have not previously had a reliable and valid way to know how often children are repeating grades in each state or nationally," said John Robert Warren, co-author of the study and U of M sociology professor. "The fact that so many students are retained - at some expense to their school districts and to the students themselves - should motivate additional research on this topic."

Although retention rates are typically highest in first grade, this is not the case in each state. One important finding of the study is that patterns of grade retention rates differ significantly from state to state and over time.

Minnesota's first grade retention rate is less than one percent, falling on the lower end of the spectrum.

Previous estimates have relied on data from single cohorts of students, which do not allow for comparisons over time; from smaller national samples, which do not allow for comparisons across states; or from state administrative data, which also do not allow for valid comparisons across states.

"This is a first step toward understanding trends in retention rates over time and toward making valid comparisons across states," said U of M sociology graduate student Jim Saliba, a co-author on the study.

The full study, published in the *Educational Researcher*, is available at:
<http://edr.sagepub.com/content/41/8/320.full>

For interviews with Professor Warren, please contact **Steve Henneberry, University News Service, henneberry@umn.edu, 612-624-1690.**

U of M Human Rights Program receives \$1.25 million USAID grant

Liberal Arts and Law School will support teaching human rights law in Colombia

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/19/2012) —The University of Minnesota has received a \$1.25 million grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through Higher Education for Development (HED), to create a human rights law school partnership between the university and four law schools in Medellín, Colombia, to strengthen the capacities of the Medellín schools to teach, research and provide clinical legal representation toward the promotion of international human rights and the rule of law.

The grant covers three years of partnership, which will be carried out by the university's Human Rights Program in the College of Liberal Arts and the Human Rights Center in the Law School. Faculty in both colleges will conduct workshops and teach courses in Medellín, and Colombian law students and faculty will travel to the university to learn about human rights law and practice and to cultivate mentor relationships with faculty and human rights professionals.

"We are eager to partner with law students and faculty from Medellín," says Barbara Frey, director of the U's Human Rights Program. "We know it will be an exciting and rewarding experience working with faculty and students who are committed to the rule of law as an alternative to violence in Colombia. We will certainly learn as much as we will teach."

Colombia is one of the oldest democracies in Latin America, but has seen intense armed conflicts over the past 50 years involving insurgents and paramilitary groups, along with criminal and narcotics trafficking organizations. With the implementation of a free-trade agreement between the U.S. and Colombia in May, and the start of peace talks between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the Colombian government last month, the U.S. State Department and USAID are supporting Colombia's efforts to strengthen its democratic institutions, promote respect for human rights and the rule of law, foster socio-economic development, address immediate humanitarian needs, and end the threats to democracy posed by narcotics trafficking and terrorism.

The four law school partners in Medellín are: Universidad de Medellín, Universidad de Antioquia, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana and Universidad Católica de Oriente.

Human rights education is embedded in numerous units at the University of Minnesota. The Human Rights Program in the College of Liberal Arts and the Human Rights Center at the Law School form the intellectual core of human rights education at the university. Faculty members in the College of Liberal Arts are internationally known for their expertise on the intersections of human rights with judicial trials, small arms, genocides and atrocities, and cultural histories. Students at the undergraduate and graduate levels combine classroom work with activism, regularly taking on issues as diverse as meatpackers' working conditions, sex trafficking and prolonged solitary confinement.

The Law School houses the Human Rights Center, which assists human rights advocates, monitors, students, educators, and volunteers in accessing effective tools, practices, and networks to promote a culture of human rights and responsibilities in our local, national, and international communities. Their faculty and students routinely partner with the United Nations on human rights monitoring and education. One of its most far-reaching projects is its online Human Rights Library, which houses critical legal resources in Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Spanish, and other languages.

To build upon their mutual interest and expertise in human rights more than 50 faculty members spanning at least six colleges – including education, law, liberal arts, medicine, public affairs and public health – have come together through a voluntary collaboration known as "The Human Rights University." The collaboration seeks to mobilize knowledge to advance human rights.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) administers the U.S. foreign assistance program providing economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries worldwide. For more information, visit www.usaid.gov.

Higher Education for Development (HED) mobilizes the expertise and resources of the higher education community to address global development challenges. Higher Education for Development (HED) works closely with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and is founded by the nation's six presidential higher education associations to support the involvement of higher education in development issues worldwide.

U of M chosen for national digital library project

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/26/2012) —The Minnesota Digital Library, a state-wide collaboration consisting of the University of Minnesota, Minitex, the Minnesota Historical Society, and other key institutions, was chosen to be a key early contributor to the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). The groundbreaking project aims to make our nation's collections of significance to the study of American life digital, searchable and accessible to the public.

With \$2.8 million in funding, the DPLA will launch pilot projects in several states. Minnesota and state libraries and regional digital library collaboratives in Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Oregon, South Carolina, and Utah will participate as "service" hubs in the pilot effort.

Ultimately, users of the DPLA will be able to search across a network of local collections, finding information on a topic — like the Civil War or the Great Depression — via database entries from throughout the country. Organizers will also test ways to engage communities in contributing content to the archives, whether through adding context and tags to digital records, or sharing photos or recordings to digitize and make accessible.

The Minnesota Digital Library will receive about \$350,000 in funding — \$250,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and \$100,000 from the Knight Foundation. The Minnesota Digital Library (MDL) is a service of Minitex, which is a joint program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota.

Funding will be used for:

- Digitizing existing special collections held by libraries, museums and historical societies and organizations across Minnesota, making them searchable and accessible through the DPLA.
- Providing outreach and education to communities about the DPLA, including how to access its resources.
- Supporting the development of new, "born digital" content, such as oral histories from first-generation immigrants.

"We are very excited about this project," said John Butler, associate university librarian at the U of M Libraries. "Not only will we be able to digitize existing local content and make it accessible across the country, but the grant will help empower communities to share their rich histories in new ways."

Through a project called Minnesota Reflections, the Minnesota Digital Library began digitizing content in 2004. Today, it contains over 120,000 images, maps, and documents from nearly 150 of the state's libraries and cultural heritage organizations.

"Libraries and archives contain vast repositories of their community's everyday history, a rich past with local and national resonance. Digitizing, categorizing and sharing these cultural assets electronically helps libraries in their evolution from information storehouses into dynamic hubs using history to create content and engage the community," said George Martinez, director of information technology at Knight Foundation.

"The Digital Public Library of America is an ambitious effort to create a national digital library system that will make the cultural heritage of the United States available to anyone with access to the Internet," said NEH Chairman Jim Leach.

The seven pilot sites will provide direct services at the regional and local level, digitizing thousands of items at each hub location, sending trainers to teach staff how to categorize the digitized materials, and providing virtual storage space.

The Digital Public Library of America is scheduled to launch a prototype in April 2013 that will make millions of digital items freely available to the public.

About the Minnesota Digital Library

The Minnesota Digital Library is a service of Minitex in cooperation with the Minnesota Historical Society and is funded by the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the Minnesota state constitution. Minitex is a joint program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota. For more, visit mndigital.org.

About the Digital Public Library of America

The Digital Public Library of America planning initiative is taking the first concrete steps toward the realization of a large-scale digital public library that will make the cultural and scientific record available to all. This impact-oriented research effort unites leaders from all types of libraries, museums, and archives with educators, industry, and government to define the vision for a digital library in service of the American public. The DPLA Secretariat is located at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University. For more, visit <http://dp.la/>.

About the National Endowment for the Humanities

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. For more, visit www.neh.gov.

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

The Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities, and foster the arts. For more, visit www.knightfoundation.org.

Support

The Digital Public Library of America Digital Hubs Pilot is supported by the Open Knowledge Commons with funding provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities and by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Call for artists! Bell Museum accepting Resident Artist Research Project applications through December 21, 2012

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/26/2012) —The Bell Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota is launching a Resident Artist Research Project (RARP). The Museum is seeking to fill two artist residencies. RARP will offer both artists the unique opportunity to engage with university researchers and scientific collections while exploring the application of art as a medium for interpreting science in the public realm.

“The Bell Museum has a rich history of exploring the intersections between art, nature and science along with a wealth of scientific resources, says Leah Peterson, adult programs coordinator. “We see the Resident Artist Research Project as a way to connect the public with those resources by inviting the artist to be a leader in this process.”

Residencies are open to dynamic candidates of any artistic discipline including writers, poets, storytellers, dancers, designers, map-makers, musicians, painters, sketchers, video and film artists, as well as artist collectives. Artists will work collaboratively with the Bell Museum public programming team, as well as the museum's curatorial, academic and research staff—and possibly each other.

Applications for the two residencies will be accepted through December 21. Selected artists will begin their work at the start of the year, with a culmination of efforts slated for April 2013.

Interested applicants can get detailed information about the program and application process online at: <http://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/ForAdults/ResidentArtistResearchProject/>.

The Resident Artist Research Project at the Bell Museum of Natural History is made possible by the generous support of The McKnight Foundation.

The Bell Museum is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and strives to advance the quest to discover, document and understand life in its many forms and to inspire curiosity, delight and informed stewardship of the natural world. For details, visit bellmuseum.org.

Futurist offers transportation industry predictions at U of M event

Who: Frank A. Stasiowski, design and construction futurist, licensed architect and president and founder of PSMJ Resources, Inc.

What: "Impact 2020: Predictions for the Transportation Industry"

Where: A.I. Johnson Great Room, University of Minnesota McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis

When: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 28

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November 27, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/27/2012) – Economic, political, social and technological trends are changing the world—and the transportation industry—at an ever-quickening pace. Just think of some of the staples of daily life, such as smartphones and Facebook, that didn't even exist 10 years ago, let alone in 1987 when the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Services (CTS) was founded. What's next?

Design and construction futurist Frank A. Stasiowski will describe economic, political, social and technological trends that could define the next decade in terms of transportation at the university's CTS fall luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 28, in the A.I. Johnson Great Room, university's McNamara Alumni Center.

The event culminates the CTS 25th anniversary celebration by looking at past innovations and anticipating the road ahead.

In his presentation "Impact 2020: Predictions for the Transportation Industry," which is open to members of the media, Stasiowski will describe trends in the next 10 years that could have a direct impact on transportation. One such trend—the retirement of the baby boomers—will have ramifications for the workforce and workplace conditions as well as for transportation and housing patterns. He will also address what research and actions are needed now to prepare for this future—such as embracing new technological ideas, sharing intellectual capital and building a knowledge network.

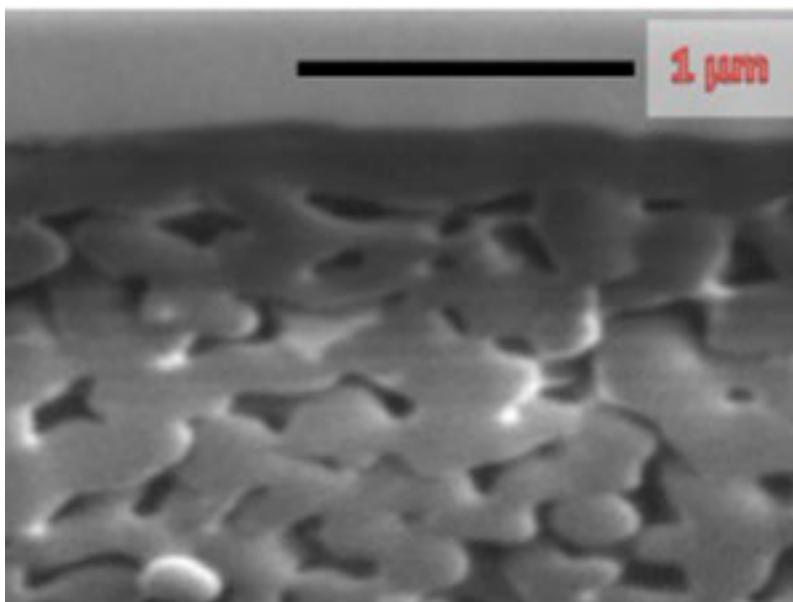
Stasiowski is president and founder of PSMJ Resources, Inc., and an advisor to the CEOs of many top design and construction firms in the United States and around the world. He is best known as a futurist, predicting the direction of design and construction worldwide. Stasiowski is a licensed architect with degrees from Rhode Island School of Design and Bryant University and has more than 30 years of experience in the industry.

Media parking is available for a fee at the Washington Avenue Ramp, the University Avenue Ramp or the Oak Street Ramp. For transit information, please visit the [Metro Transit website](#) or call 612-373-3333.

For more information about the event, visit the [CTS fall luncheon website](#).

U receives \$1.8 million grant for research that could improve efficiencies in fuel and plastics production

Revolutionary membrane technology could reduce U.S. energy consumption by as much as 3 percent



A high-powered microscope shows a thin zeolite membrane (dense top layer) made by depositing nanosheets on a porous support. (Credit: University of Minnesota)

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/28/2012) —The University of Minnesota has been awarded a \$1.8 million grant over three years from the Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy (ARPA-E) to develop revolutionary membrane technology that will enable energy-efficient separations in the chemical, petrochemical, water, fossil fuel, and renewable energy industries. When fully implemented, the technology could reduce U.S. energy consumption by as much as 3 percent.

U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu and ARPA-E Deputy Directors Eric Toone and Cheryl Martin publicly announced the ARPA-E awards today. The University of Minnesota's award is specifically aimed at improving efficiencies of industrial processes. The grant money is intended to bridge the gap between academic research and commercial application.

"We have the science, but this grant will allow us to scale up the research and move it closer to market," said lead researcher Michael Tsapatsis, a professor of chemical engineering and materials science in the University's College of Science and Engineering. The other members of the research team are chemical engineering and materials science professors Chris Macosko and Prodromos Daoutidis.

A significant fraction of total energy consumption (approximately 30 percent for the U.S.) is attributed to manufacturing and a major component of this amount is due to energy used in separation and purification processes—as high as 6 percent of the total U.S. energy consumption.

Tsapatsis and his team published research last year about their discovery of a means for developing free-standing, ultra-thin zeolite nanosheets that as thin films can speed up the filtration process and require less energy. *Science* magazine named the research as one of the biggest breakthroughs of 2011.

While researchers can envision numerous applications, they will focus on separations encountered in biofuel and plastics production. For both applications there is a large existing market, the requirements of which cannot be met by available membrane technologies.

Researchers estimate that for biofuels alone, annual membrane sales of \$500 million per year can be anticipated if the technology is fully implemented. Similar levels of sales are expected for the plastics industry bringing total sales to \$1 billion per year. If these early applications get commercial traction, other opportunities for the use of nanosheet membranes will emerge as well.

"Our next step is to bring these revolutionary membrane materials to commercial reality by developing a low-cost manufacturing approach that can be scaled-up efficiently," Tsapatsis said.

Upcoming U of M events range from chorus performances to student-designed winter light show

Percussion and dance concerts, the launch of Minnesota Funk exhibition and a 5K run highlight the next two weeks

Contacts: University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/28/2012) —Please find below a list of select University of Minnesota-related events for Nov. 28 through Dec. 9, 2012. For a full listing of events, visit the [U of M events calendar](#).

Wednesday, Nov. 28 – Weisman Art Museum: Panelists ask whether memory is true

As part of the WAM (Weisman Art Museum) Chatter series, assistant professor of psychology Wilma Koutstaal, professor of landscape architecture Rebecca Krinke and artist/educator Mona Smith will discuss how memory endures and whether it can be held accountable.

Panelists will present in pecha kucha style format and respond to the question "Is memory true?" in 20 slides shown for exactly 20 seconds each. The event will take place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 28 at the university's Weisman Art Museum, 333 E. River Road, Minneapolis. Admission is free.

Saturday, Dec. 1 – Campus Singers perform 'Sounds of the Season'

The university Campus Singers (men's and women's choruses) will perform seasonal music from different periods and faith traditions at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1 at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2121 4th St. S., Minneapolis. Admission is free.

Matthew Mehaffey and Kathy Saltzman Romey, members of the U of M graduate conducting class, will conduct the choruses.

Saturday, Dec. 1 – U of M School of Music and MacPhail Center kick off four-concert series

The University of Minnesota School of Music and MacPhail Center for Music will present the first of four concerts in a new chamber series with "An Evening of Collaborative Percussion" 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1 at MacPhail's Antonello Hall, 501 S. 2nd St., Minneapolis.

The evening will feature U of M music professor Fernando Meza, MacPhail President, COO and teaching artist Paul Babcock, the U of M Percussion Ensemble and the MacPhail Rimshots! Percussion Ensemble. Events in this series are free and open to the public. Future events are scheduled for Feb. 14, Mar. 8 and April 3, 2013.

Tuesday, Dec. 4 through Saturday, Jan. 12 – Minnesota Funk explores diverse, groovy side of Minnesota culture

The university's Regis Center for Art celebrates its 10th anniversary with a year of exhibitions and public programs Tuesday, Dec. 4 through Saturday, Jan. 12 at the Katherine E. Nash Gallery Regis Center for Art East, 405 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis. Admission is free and the gallery is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.

"Minnesota Funk" is a group exhibition that playfully explores the diverse, groovy, funky side of Minnesota culture. The exhibition includes an installation of video and sculptures by assistant art professor Chris Larson, a new faculty member.

Thursday, Dec. 6 through Sunday, Dec. 9 – Students perform Dance Revolutions concerts

An evening-length dance concert, "Dance Revolutions" will be performed by students Dec. 6-9 at the Whiting Proscenium Theatre in the university's Rarig Center, 330 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis. Nightly performances begin at 7:30, and admission is \$10 per person or \$5 for students.

Each concert features four works: "D-Man In The Waters (Part 1)" by Bill T. Jones, "The Gift/No God Logic" by Arnie Zane, "JAZZ 1" by Donald Byrd and "Family" by Shapiro & Smith. Students will perform under the guidance of director Toni Pierce-Sands and Cowles Visiting Artists Rosalynde LeBlanc Loo, Germaul Barnes and Brian Harlan Brooks. The Dec. 6 opening night performance includes a post-show Q-and-A with choreographer Byrd.

Friday, Dec. 7 – Freezin' for a Reason! 5K run

Hosted by the College of Science and Engineering Student Board, in conjunction with that evening's premiere of "Illumination," this 5k winds through the university's East Bank campus and will be lead by the U of M Formula SAE Racing Team. The event is open to everyone, with a registration fee of \$10 that includes a long-sleeved T-shirt. Proceeds and donations will go to the Amplatz Children's Hospital.

Registration is available online at z.umn.edu/cse5k or on-site beginning at 3:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 7 at Lind Hall, 207 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. The race will begin at 4:30 p.m. from Lind Hall and end at Rapson Hall, 89 Church St. S.E.

Friday, Dec. 7 – Premiere of the CSE Winter Light Show, 'Illumination'

Join the university's College of Science and Engineering (CSE) for a dazzling light show designed by students. Featuring more than 100,000 LED lights set to music composed and performed by University of Minnesota students, "Illumination" is an immersive 3D outdoor experience. Presented by the Tesla Works student group with help from Radio K and sponsored by CenterPoint Energy and CSE, the show is free and open to the public.

Friday, Dec. 7 is premiere night, with three 20-minute light shows scheduled for 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the outdoor plaza of the Civil Engineering Building, 500 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis. That night's Premiere Party, hosted by university student group MinnesoTap from 5 to 8 p.m., will include dance, demonstration and interactive exhibits in the indoor courtyard of Rapson Hall, 89 Church St. S.E.

For more information, including a schedule for future shows on Dec. 8, 13, 14, 15, 20 and 21, visit <https://events.umn.edu/CSE-Winter-Light-Show-Illumination-Premiere-02437...>

University of Minnesota honored with seven 2012 AAAS Fellows

Peer-bestowed honor recognizes distinguished effort to advance science or its applications

Contacts: [Matt Hodson](#), University News Service, mjhodson@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/29/2012) —Seven faculty at the University of Minnesota have been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Election as an AAAS Fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers, and recognizes scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications.

The newly elected AAAS Fellows from the University of Minnesota represent three university colleges and were chosen in four AAAS sections:

R. Lawrence Edwards, professor, Department of Earth Sciences, College of Science and Engineering

Elected in the Section on Geology and Geography for landmark contributions to the field of quaternary geochronology and paleoclimatology, particularly for developing high-precision ²³⁰Th dating and calibration of the radiocarbon chronology.

Kenneth Heller, professor, School of Physics and Astronomy, College of Science and Engineering

Elected in the Section on Physics for distinguished contributions to the field of experimental high energy physics for investigations of spin dependent strong interactions and neutrinos, and to physics education research in the field of teaching problem-solving in college level introductory physics.

James Kakalios, professor, School of Physics and Astronomy, College of Science and Engineering

Elected in the Section on Physics for distinguished contributions to the field of condensed matter and materials physics, particularly for experimental studies of amorphous semiconductors, and for innovative efforts in science communication.

David Kohlstedt, professor, Department of Earth Sciences, College of Science and Engineering

Elected in the Section on Geology and Geography for distinguished contributions to the fields of experimental high-temperature rock mechanics and the physical chemistry of Earth materials.

Carston Wagner, Endowed Chair in Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy; director, Chemical Biology Initiative

Elected in the Section on Pharmaceutical Sciences for distinguished contributions to the field of drug design and delivery, particularly for the design and development of nucleotide prodrugs and chemically assembled protein nanostructures.

Renata Wentzcovitch, professor, Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, College of Science and Engineering

Elected as in the Section on Physics for pioneering contributions to theory and simulations of materials at high pressures and temperatures and applications of interdisciplinary impacts in geophysics.

Robin Wright, associate dean, College of Biological Sciences; and professor, Department of Genetics, Cell Biology and Development

Elected in the Section on Biological Sciences for significant contributions in the area of academic administration and education, specifically for contributing to national education discussions, and for research in yeast molecular biology.

The 702 members elected as AAAS Fellows this year will be formally announced in the AAAS News & Notes section of the journal *Science* on November 30. New Fellows will be presented with an official certificate and a gold and blue (representing science and engineering, respectively) rosette pin on Saturday, February 16 during the 2013 AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston, Mass.

The tradition of AAAS Fellows began in 1874.

About AAAS

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world's largest general scientific society, and publisher of the journal, *Science* (www.sciencemag.org) as well as *Science Translational Medicine* (www.sciencetranslationalmedicine.org) and *Science Signaling* (www.sciencesignaling.org). AAAS was founded in 1848, and includes 261 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals. The non-profit AAAS (www.aaas.org) is open to all and fulfills its mission to "advance science and serve society" through initiatives in science policy, international programs, science education, and more.

Student-designed winter light shows begin Dec. 7 at the University of Minnesota

Show is bigger and better than last year

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December 3, 2012

Join the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering over the next few weekends in December for a dazzling light show designed by students. The high-tech light show, titled "Illumination," is bigger and better this year featuring more than 100,000 LED lights, 400 individual controllable lights and 450 microcontrollers. The show is set to music composed and performed by University of Minnesota students for a 3D outdoor experience.

The CSE Winter Light Show Premiere event is Friday, Dec. 7, with shows at 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Civil Engineering Building Plaza, 500 Pillsbury Dr. S.E., Minneapolis. Each show will last about 15 minutes.

The light show is presented by the Tesla Works student group with support from Radio K. The show is sponsored by CenterPoint Energy and the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering.

A Premiere Party, hosted by the student group MinnesoTap, begins at 5 p.m. and will include dance, demonstrations, and interactive exhibits by various student groups in Rapson Hall, 89 Church St. SE, Minneapolis.

All events are free and open to the public. Stop by the event before the Gopher women's basketball game or wrestling match.

The light show features the technical and creative skills of University of Minnesota science and engineering students and their ability to have fun on campus—even in the winter.

The music for this year's light show was composed and performed by students from across campus. Student composers include:

- Electronic Piece: Written by Chris Roebber (Carlson School of Management)
- Electronic Piece #2: Written by Devin Vollmer (College of Science and Engineering)
- Jazz Piece: Written by Riley Helgeson (College of Liberal Arts)
- Piano Piece: Written by Kellen Parkinson (College of Liberal Arts)

Preceding the CSE Winter Light Show Premiere event, the Science and Engineering Student Board (SESB) is hosting a "Freezin' for a Reason" 5K Run.

Proceeds from the 5K and sales of food and glow sticks at the light show will be donated to University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital.

After the kick-off event on Friday, Dec. 7, the show will run at 5:30, 6, 6:30, 7 and 7:30 p.m. as follows (depending on weather and attendance):

- Saturday, Dec. 8
- Thursday, Dec. 13
- Friday, Dec. 14
- Saturday, Dec. 15
- Thursday, Dec. 20
- Friday, Dec. 21

For parking options and other details, visit z.umn.edu/illumination2012.

U of M student project to create a cooking fuel from a destructive aquatic plant in Africa wins \$10K prize in Dow SISCA Challenge

Runners-up receive \$2,500 to study the destruction of antibiotic resistance genes in residual municipal wastewater

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/03/2012) —A student proposal to help West African people turn *Typha australis*, a destructive aquatic plant, into cooking and heating fuel captured the \$10,000 top prize in a Dow Sustainability Innovation Student Challenge Award (SISCA) competition held Nov. 29 at the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment.

The collaborative project, presented by student Matthew Aro, a Ph.D. candidate in Natural Resources Science and Management and a scientist at the Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota, Duluth, was one of six submitted to the Dow SISCA challenge at the University of Minnesota, which is one of 17 universities around the world participating in the program. SISCA recognizes and rewards students and universities for innovation and research that encourages and promotes sustainable solutions to the world's most pressing social, economic and environmental problems. The competition was open to full-time graduate and professional students enrolled at all campuses of the University of Minnesota.

Runner-up recipient Tucker Burch, a Ph.D. candidate in the University of Minnesota Twin Cities' College of Science and Engineering, received \$2,500 to pursue the application of thermophilic anaerobic digestion for the destruction of antibiotic resistance genes in residual municipal wastewater solids.

Judges were from Dow Chemical and the University of Minnesota. The awards are financial scholarships to the students to allow them to further develop their ideas.

"We're extremely proud of these winners and of all of the students who participated in our inaugural Dow SISCA competition," said Fred Rose, who organized the University of Minnesota competition and who directs Acara, a program for emerging social entrepreneurs that is jointly supported by IonE and the University's College of Science and Engineering. "Their vision and the work they put into identifying pressing sustainability challenges and innovative approaches to solving them are exemplary. We look forward to seeing where their dreams and initiative take them next."

Other finalists were:

Kevin Lang and Jonathan Clayton (College of Veterinary Medicine) – Understanding Ecological Impacts of Dioxin Contamination Using Endangered Primates as Sentinel Species

Brian Krohn (College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences) – Brighter Market

Anna Harmon (College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences) – Hygrothermal Performance of Basement Walls in Cold-Weather Climates

Baris Mutlu (College of Science and Engineering) and Sujin Yeom (Medical School) – Development of a Silica Gel Encapsulated Cell Bioremediation System for Wastewater Treatment

The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment seeks lasting solutions to Earth's biggest challenges through research, partnerships and leadership development. For more information on IonE and the Acara Program, visit environment.umn.edu. For more information on the Dow SISCA program, see dow.com/sustainability/studentchallenge.

U of M wins \$4.5 million NSF grant to study low-carbon, sustainable cities

Humphrey School Professor to lead national research effort

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/03/2012) —The University of Minnesota announced today that it has received a four-year, \$4.5 million Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to design, compare and contrast the development of sustainable and healthy cities in the U.S. and Asia. The grant will explore the specific transformations needed to achieve low-carbon, resource-efficient and healthy city goals in the United States, China and India.

The University of Minnesota is the lead institution for the grant, which includes researchers from Yale University, Georgia Institute of Technology, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the University of Colorado–Denver and the National Academy of Engineering. Professor Anu Ramaswami, the Charles M. Denny, Jr., Chair for Science, Technology and Public Policy at the University's Humphrey School of Public Affairs, will serve as lead researcher on the project.

The research team will draw on expertise in engineering, environmental sciences, social sciences and public health to provide a road map for sustainable development for different types of cities worldwide. In addition to examining how best to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, researches will address economic development, water scarcity, environmental pollution, climate change and public health issues.

Commenting on the project, Dr. Ramaswami said, "Fossil fuel use by China, India and the United States is about half of the entire world's energy use each year. We have to start there if we are to make meaningful change in reducing carbon emissions and improving health and sustainability."

The international research will focus on Asian cities in transition—rapidly industrializing cities with populations of less than one million that are expected to dominate future urbanization—and compare their development to that of megacities (populations of more than 10 million) and smaller service economy cities in the United States.

Eric Schwartz, Dean of the Humphrey School, also emphasized the importance of the project: "In light of the worldwide phenomena of rapid urbanization, the model that Anu and her colleagues are developing has the power to change the environmental future of the world."

In seeking to determine the changes needed to realize low-carbon, resource-efficient healthy cities in the United States, China and India, the U of M team will use tools and techniques from a broad array of disciplines:

- Ramaswami and her students will study the flow of water, energy and materials in cities, connecting resource use with economic development, health and social well-being. She will also continue her research on developing sustainable electric power systems under extreme water-scarcity conditions, as found in many Asian cities.
- Humphrey School associate professor Elizabeth Wilson will examine the policy and politics of the rapidly growing Chinese electric power system.
- Humphrey School assistant professor Jason Cao will focus on the design of bus rapid transit in highly populated and congested Asian cities.
- Humphrey School professors Larry Jacobs and Joe Soss provide insights on the politics of poverty, urban infrastructure change and governance to better understand the socio-political factors that can enable or obstruct systemic changes in cities.
- College of Science and Engineering assistant professor Julian Marshall will examine the relationship between air pollution and health, and identify pathways to seed social and environmental entrepreneurship in India.
- Marshall and Ramaswami will undertake a community health study in India to identify the extent to which residents in urban slums are exposed to risk factors - air and water pollution, and climate extremes such as extreme heat, storms and urban flooding - and the infrastructure interventions that can mitigate these risks.

The grant will also support the research of about 12 master's and PhD students at U of M. In addition, the University will offer an international summer school on "Sustainable Infrastructures, Sustainable Cities" for students from partner universities in the United States, China and India in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Global research partners on the grant include Tongji University, Tsinghua University, the Chinese Academy of Sciences–Institute for the Urban Environment (CAS-IUE), the Indian Institute of Technology and TERI University, as well as several nongovernmental organizations–ICLEI-South Asia, the Urban Health Research Center and the Resource Optimization Initiative–India.

The collaborators in India were just awarded \$340,000 to support field work and capacity building activities in India to be undertaken jointly with the U.S. team through a new Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) competitive grants program launched by the USAID with the US NSF and the National Academy of Sciences.

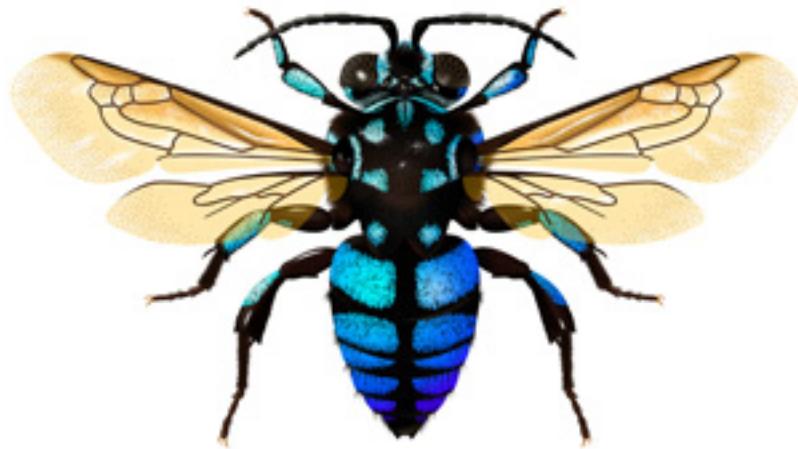
By winning the NSF PIRE award and its accompanying USAID PEER supplement, the University of Minnesota is poised to become a leader in implementing innovative multi-country, multi-institution, inter-disciplinary research and education partnerships that will benefit cities, communities and the environment, worldwide.

Humphrey School of Public Affairs

The Humphrey School ranks among the top professional schools of public affairs at public universities in the country. The School is widely recognized for its role in examining public issues and shaping policy and planning at the local, state, national, and international levels, as well as for providing leadership and management expertise to public and nonprofit organizations. The School offers five graduate degrees, including a Master of Development Practice degree in international development that welcomed its first cohort in August 2010.

New Bell Museum exhibit celebrates artistry of insect illustrations by U of M faculty and students

'Insect Illustration' will be on display through Feb. 24, 2013



Thyreus nitidulus (Credit: Joel Gardner)

Media Note: Several images are available to help illustrate this story. Contact Andrea Klaassen for assistance.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/04/2012) —Insects are invading the Bell Museum—but at least these don't move fast! In fact, they won't be moving at all, as they're the featured subjects of the Bell's newest artistic exhibit, *Insect Illustration*.

For entomologists, accurate illustrations of insects have long been a critical resource for proper identification and study, especially with thousands of new species being discovered in addition to the almost one million already described species. They come in a mind-boggling array of sizes, colors, shapes and textures. Examining the complexity of insect morphology also is an important way for taxonomists to infer evolutionary relationships. Aside from these integral roles in science, insect illustrations boast another invaluable feature—their aesthetic beauty.

The exhibit showcases numerous illustrations, with the highlight being a collection of pieces by Ralph Holzenthal, professor of Entomology and director of the University of Minnesota Insect Museum, and many of his students throughout the years.

Holzenthal, an accomplished insect illustrator, started his research career at a time when illustrations were done with pencil, pen and ink, and watercolor. Today, he's converted to digital media and teaches courses in the art of insect illustration for other scientists, students and artists. Evidence of the shift in mediums can be seen among the works on display.

The collection will be on display in the Bell Museum's Jaques Gallery through February 24, 2013. Generous support for *Insect Illustration* has been provided by the University of Minnesota's Department of Entomology.

The Bell Museum is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and strives to advance the quest to discover, document and understand life in its many forms and to inspire curiosity, delight and informed stewardship of the natural world. For details, visit bellmuseum.org.

Goldstein Museum of Design announces new award for emerging designers

Nominations being sought through Dec. 30, 2012

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/05/2012) —The Goldstein Museum of Design is pleased to announce a new award for emerging designers - the Margot Siegel Design Award.

This award will be presented annually to a designer who represents innovation in his/her field and has yet to receive major recognition. The Siegel Design Award has been developed to propel new design through recognition of outstanding ideas, public service and collaborative thinking.

The winner of the Siegel Design Award will receive an all-expense paid trip to the Twin Cities to speak at the College of Design and be presented with a check for \$2,000. Margot Siegel, a long time supporter of the Goldstein Museum of Design, established this fund to recognize the importance of design in enhancing the quality of life.

Please consider [nominating a designer](#) for this award and forwarding this call to anyone who may be interested.

The Selection Committee that will review all nominations and select the winner will be composed of three volunteers from the GMD Advisory Board. **Deadline for submissions is December 30, 2012.** Nominations will be received in the GMD office and organized for the Selection Committee's review.

Astronomers ask public to find star clusters in Hubble images

University of Minnesota researchers are part of international project



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The newly launched Andromeda Project is asking for help from the general public to examine thousands of Hubble Space Telescope images of the galaxy 2.4 million light-years away from Earth.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/05/2012) —You could advance science simply by looking at beautiful pictures from space. An international team of astronomers is seeking volunteers to explore Andromeda, the galaxy next door.

The newly launched Andromeda Project will use people power to examine thousands of Hubble Space Telescope images of the galaxy to identify star clusters that hold clues to the evolution of galaxies. University of Minnesota researchers are part of the project.

Anyone can take part by going to www.andromedaproject.org. No special skills are needed, and volunteers can be classifying clusters and helping the scientists within minutes of going to the website.

"We want to get people excited about participating. We're hoping for thousands of volunteers," says Anil Seth, an organizer of the Andromeda Project and an assistant professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Utah. "I love looking through these amazing Hubble Space Telescope images of Andromeda, the closest big spiral galaxy to our Milky Way galaxy. The Andromeda Project will give lots of people the opportunity to share in that amazement."

Star clusters are groups of hundreds to millions of stars that formed from gas at the same time, so all the stars have the same age. A goal of the Andromeda Project is to study the history of the galaxy, and these clusters play an important role, the researchers said.

Star clusters are hard to find using computers because the number and color of stars in a cluster varies, and the clusters appear against very different backgrounds, from the busy center of the galaxy to its tenuous outskirts. Eight scientists spent more than a month each searching through 20 percent of the available Hubble images just to find 600 star clusters. This is less than a quarter of the 2,500 star clusters they believe exist in the full set of Hubble images of Andromeda, also known as galaxy M31.

To obtain faster results, the scientists want to "crowdsource" the problem and enlist volunteers from all walks of life to identify the star clusters in more than 10,000 images.

Registration isn't required, and a simple online tutorial helps volunteers quickly learn how to recognize and mark star clusters. The volunteers might even discover new information.

"There is the likely possibility that this project will discover something unique in Andromeda. It has happened before in citizen science projects," said Evan Skillman, a professor of physics and astronomy in the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering and co-author of the successful Hubble Space Telescope proposal.

The Andromeda Project joins several research projects on the Zooniverse portal, which was co-founded by Lucy Fortson, professor of physics and astronomy in the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering. Other projects range across fields as diverse as climate change, archaeology, marine biology and cancer research.

"The Andromeda Project is another example of projects involving University of Minnesota researchers using the cutting-edge technique of crowdsourcing to overcome major research challenges," Fortson said.

The Andromeda Project is a collaboration that includes scientists and website developers at the University of Utah, University of Washington, Adler Planetarium in Chicago, Oxford University, University of Minnesota, University of Alabama and the European Space Agency.

About 400 volunteers participated in a recent test of the new website.

About Andromeda

Pioneer astronomer Edwin Hubble observed Andromeda in the 1920s, confirming galaxies exist beyond the Milky Way and contain billions of stars.

Andromeda is about 2.4 million light-years away from Earth, or 14 billion billion miles (billion billion twice is correct). There are other, closer galaxies, but Andromeda is the closest big spiral galaxy like our own Milky Way.

Andromeda contains hundreds of billions of stars, and has a diameter of about 160,000 light-years, or about 940 million billion miles. The star clusters in Andromeda are typically about 20 light-years across, which equals 118 trillion miles—tiny compared to the diameter of the galaxy.

The Hubble images used in the Andromeda Project are part of a larger effort involving about 20 institutions and known as the Panchromatic Hubble Andromeda Treasury (PHAT) survey.

The Hubble Space Telescope began collecting the PHAT images in 2010. Since then it has spent nearly two months making hundreds of orbits of Earth while taking pictures of the least dusty third of Andromeda. If all goes well, the Hubble will send the last batch of images back to Earth next summer.

Travel packages announced for Meineke Car Care Bowl of Texas

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[Julie Christensen](#), University News Service, jrchris@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/05/2012) —The official University of Minnesota fan tour package is now on sale to travel to Houston and cheer on the Gophers at the Meineke Car Care Bowl of Texas on Friday, Dec. 28. The official fan tour, operated by Creative Charters, is sponsored by the U of M Alumni Association and Intercollegiate Athletics.

The three-night package, which departs Minneapolis on Dec. 26 and returns on Dec. 29, includes non-stop roundtrip air, accommodations at the team hotel, all ground transportations and more. Package price per person is \$1,150 based on double occupancy, \$1,100 based on triple occupancy and \$1,050 based on quadruple occupancy.

Game tickets in the Gopher fan section can be purchased with the tour package for an additional \$75, or by visiting [Gopher Football Bowl Central](#).

For more details, visit creativecharter.com. To make reservations, call (651) 748-0080 or (888) 612-0323 or email sales@creativecharter.com.

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a nearly 60,000-member organization that fosters a lifelong spirit of belonging and pride by connecting alumni, students and friends to the University of Minnesota and each other. The Alumni Association advocates for the University and its alumni with a credible, independent and collaborative voice. For more information, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org or call (612) 624-2323.

Ground, air travel packages announced for Meineke Car Care Bowl of Texas

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/06/2012) —The official University of Minnesota fan tour package is now on sale to travel to Houston and cheer on the Gophers at the Meineke Car Care Bowl of Texas on Friday, Dec. 28. The official fan tour, operated by Creative Charters, is sponsored by the U of M Alumni Association and Intercollegiate Athletics.

The three-night package, which departs Minneapolis on Dec. 26 and returns on Dec. 29, includes non-stop roundtrip air, accommodations at the team hotel, all ground transportations and more. Package price per person is \$1,125 based on double occupancy, \$1,075 based on triple occupancy and \$1,025 based on quadruple occupancy.

Game tickets in the Gopher fan section can be purchased with the tour package for an additional \$65, or by visiting [Gopher Football Bowl Central](#).

The ground travel package includes accommodations at the team hotel, ground transportation on game day, entrance to the exclusive tailgate party and a game ticket in the Gopher fan section. Package price per person (based on double occupancy) is \$390 for a three-night stay in the hotel, \$310 for a two-night stay and \$240 for a one-night stay.

For more details, visit creativecharter.com. To make reservations, call (651) 748-0080 or (888) 612-0323 or email sales@creativecharter.com.

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a nearly 60,000-member organization that fosters a lifelong spirit of belonging and pride by connecting alumni, students and friends to the University of Minnesota and each other. The Alumni Association advocates for the University and its alumni with a credible, independent and collaborative voice. For more information, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org or call (612) 624-2323.

U of M students present largest robot show in Twin Cities

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/06/2012) —A robotic chicken sandwich maker, a combination lock opener and a walking insect will be among more than 200 machines on display at the University of Minnesota Robot Show 2:40-4:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, in the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The walk-through show is the largest collection of robots assembled in one place in the Twin Cities. The event is free and open to the public and is suitable for all ages.

The show is the culmination of six weeks of work for University of Minnesota College of Science and 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 \$40 worth of their own materials.

"That means the students had to be creative, prowling the back aisles of Target or looking in dumpsters," said William Durfee, University of Minnesota mechanical engineering professor and director of engineering 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 sorting silverware or automatically erasing a whiteboard) or exist solely to amuse and delight (like the Rubik's cube solver or the Dominos placer).

For more information on this event and photos from previous years, visit www.me.umn.edu/robotshow.

U of M School of Music alumnus Ryan Truesdell earns three GRAMMY® nominations

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/06/2012) —University of Minnesota School of Music alumnus, composer, conductor, producer, and copyist Ryan Truesdell has received three nominations in the 55th Annual GRAMMY Awards® for his record "CENTENNIAL: Newly Discovered Works of Gil Evans," including Best Large Jazz Ensemble for the album as a whole, Best Instrumental Arrangement for "How About You," and Best Arrangement Featuring a Vocalist for "Look to the Rainbow" featuring Luciana Souza.

Truesdell, a 2002 U of M graduate with a Bachelors of Music Education, recently conducted a concert with University Jazz Ensembles, directed by professor Dean Sorenson, on Monday, December 3, 2012 featuring works from the "CENTENNIAL" album at Ted Mann Concert Hall. Truesdell is a former member of the University Jazz Ensembles and took arranging lessons with professor Sorenson.

To listen to Truesdell's record or for more information visit: <http://www.ryantruesdell.com/>

University of Minnesota School of Music

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 550 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.

Dr. Katrice
Albert named
new vice
president for
Equity and
Diversity at
the
University of
Minnesota



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Dr. Katrice Albert was named vice president for Equity and Diversity on Dec. 7, 2012.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/07/2012) —University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler has announced that Dr. Katrice Albert will be the university's new vice president for Equity and Diversity, effective June 28, 2013, pending approval by the Board of Regents.

"I am delighted to welcome Dr. Albert to the U," said Kaler. "She is a visionary leader who brings a wealth of experience working with underserved and diverse communities, a deep understanding of the land-grant mission and a strong focus on assessment and accountability. She also has a strong commitment to the role of K-12 outreach in supporting access to the University of Minnesota system."

Albert comes from Louisiana State University (LSU), where she has served since 2005 as the institution's chief diversity officer. In that role, she developed and implemented strategic initiatives and policies aimed at cultivating a campus environment that embraces individual difference, sustains inclusion and enhances institutional access and equity.

As a member of the senior leadership group, Albert will lead the university's access, equity and diverse multicultural resources and programs, and play an important role in advancing excellence at the University of Minnesota. She will also work collaboratively with diverse Minnesota communities and uphold educational and employment equity as core values of the university.

"It is a great honor to join the University of Minnesota system," said Albert. "The U of M has ambitious diversity goals and, moving forward, I am thrilled to provide leadership to its ongoing work. I look forward to working collaboratively with the Board of Regents and the strong leadership teams on all five campuses to continue building upon a solid commitment to excellence through inclusiveness."

Previously, Albert served in leadership positions in the Office of Multicultural Affairs at LSU from 2001-2004, as a pre-doctoral intern/fellow in the Center for Multicultural Training in Psychology at the Boston University School of Medicine from 2000-2001, and as program coordinator for the Office of Multicultural Affairs at Auburn University from 1999-2000.

Albert holds a Ph.D. in counseling psychology. Her teaching experience includes serving as an adjunct professor in LSU's College of Education, where she taught a graduate course on multicultural counseling. She also wrote, presented and consulted on issues of cultural competence, corporate social responsibility, educational and workforce diversity, gender and dynamics of power, the complexities of diverse populations, educational access, community university partnerships, and the application of psychological knowledge to ethnic minorities and other underserved populations.

Albert has also demonstrated a strong commitment to and engagement in her local community, and has been the recipient of several women's leadership awards, including being recognized by the National Diversity Council as one of Louisiana's Most Powerful and Influential Women in 2010.

Associate Vice President for Equity and Diversity Kris Lockhart provided interim leadership during the search process and will serve in that role until Albert's appointment commences in June.

University of Minnesota Duluth Chancellor Lynn Black and College of Education and Human Development Dean Jean Quam co-chaired the search committee for this position.

Business partnerships, student grad rates and Amundson Hall/Gore Annex addition among items slated for board discussion

University of Minnesota Board of Regents to hold final 2012 meetings Dec. 13-14

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/07/2012) —At its final regular meetings of 2012, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents will discuss a proposal to create venture capital funds to jump start university and other business ventures. Regents will also review revisions to faculty leave policies in order to encourage faculty to participate in entrepreneurial start-up companies, or otherwise engage with for or non-profit organizations.

The topics will be among a variety of agenda items about the university's ongoing work to strengthen business partnerships and encourage technology and research commercialization.

University President Eric Kaler discussed the venture capital plan with healthcare entrepreneurs and investors this week at the Mid America Healthcare Venture Forum in Minneapolis. Under the plan, modeled after the University of Illinois' venture capital fund, the university's Office for Technology Commercialization (OTC) will seek \$2 million annually in seed money for early-stage university start-ups to undertake proof of concept development. OTC will also work to develop a venture capital fund of \$50 million for supporting start-ups that "graduate" from the seed fund and require further investment.

In addition to discussing the new venture capital proposals, Tim Mulcahy, the vice president for research who will retire Dec. 31, will provide a report on the accomplishments and challenges of the university's research enterprise during the last fiscal year, and since his arrival in 2005.

The board will take action on the appointment of Mulcahy's successor, Dr. Brian Herman, during Friday's full board meeting. Herman, coming from the University of Texas at San Antonio, will begin work Jan. 2 and will be formally introduced to the board at its February meeting.

Finally, regents are expected to act on the proposed entrepreneurial leave policy to support faculty in commercializing intellectual property or pursuing other private sector development opportunities.

Other items on the board's agenda include:

- **Student graduation rate successes** – Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education Robert McMaster will present the annual undergraduate education update, which is expected to include positive developments in the university's retention and graduation rates. McMaster also will discuss the fall 2012 freshman class metrics and highlight various undergraduate initiatives, including the plan to expand the President's Emerging Scholars program from three to all seven freshman-admitting colleges on the Twin Cities campus.
- **Schematic plans for the Amundson Hall, Gore Annex addition** – Named for Robert Gore, a 1963 University of Minnesota alum and inventor of GORE-TEX®, the Gore Annex will add 40,000 square feet to Amundson Hall on the Twin Cities campus. The addition will expand the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science to handle increasing demand from highly qualified students at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Included will be a 3,000 square foot materials lab with state-of-the-art testing equipment and new offices to better accommodate undergraduate students and teaching assistants.
- **State capital budget request** – Shortly following the 2012 General Election, Gov. Mark Dayton asked all government agencies (plus the university) for capital funding plans in preparation for the 2013 legislative session. University Chief Financial Officer Richard Pfutzenreuter and Pam Wheelock, vice president for University Services, will present the university's proposed response to the Governor's capital plan request. The request will be forwarded to the Governor later this month, pending board approval.
- **Senior leader and employee compensation** – On June 8, the board discussed senior leader compensation-related topics during the Report of the Special Committee on Executive Compensation & Administrative Transitional Leaves. Discussions will continue next week when Vice President for Human Resources Kathryn Brown will present two related topics: current compensation philosophy outlined in the board's Employee Compensation and Recognition policy, and current steps underway to build a comprehensive compensation strategy for the U that includes all employees and is supported by data and metrics; and a report on faculty and staff compensation that will include trends and analyses of university compensation. The latter discussion will set the course for future reports and information on compensation across all employee groups.

For the agenda and related docket materials, go to www.umn.edu/regents and click on Board Meetings.

Human Rights Center announces new member network for educators

Membership opens today on International Human Rights Day

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/10/2012) —Human Rights Educators USA (HRE USA), a newly established network that joins the global movement to build a culture of respect for human rights through education and research, officially opens for membership today on International Human Rights Day.

The University of Minnesota Human Rights Center is one of the founding organizations of HRE USA, which was inspired by the 2011 U.N. Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training and its emphasis on the importance of human rights to every child's education. The network was created to promote human dignity, justice and peace and provide members a base of support and collaboration.

HRE USA provides a wealth of research, curriculum resources and other information and offers members opportunities to engage with working groups on various topics, such as policy and advocacy, higher education, community-based programs and early childhood education. Among its goals are to help members:

- Integrate human rights education into formal and non-formal educational settings
- Foster education that promotes respect for every child's dignity, provides opportunities for meaningful participation and upholds freedom from discrimination and violence
- Advocate for human rights education in national and state education policies, standards and curricula
- Contribute to global human rights education research and scholarship

The Human Rights Center works locally, nationally and internationally to provide training, educational materials, and assistance to professionals, students and volunteers working to promote and protect human rights. Founded on the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Dec. 10, 1988, the Human Rights Center links human rights scholarship and practice, helping advocates maximize their education, experience and effectiveness in human rights causes around the world.

University of Minnesota researchers launch online citizen science project to study Serengeti animals

'Snapshot Serengeti' brings Tanzanian field research home via 225 heat-and-motion-activated cameras

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/11/2012) —Imagine participating in field research in the Serengeti, observing how animals such as lions, leopards, cheetahs, zebras, wildebeests and hyenas behave when they don't know anyone is watching. Well now you can, from the comfort of your own home.

"Snapshot Serengeti" (www.snapshotserengeti.org), an online citizen science project created by researchers in the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences, makes it possible.

Graduate students Ali Swanson and Margaret Kosmala along with renowned lion researcher Craig Packer, professor of ecology, evolution and behavior, developed the site to enlist volunteers to identify millions of "camera trap" photos taken to study animal behavior in the Serengeti. The site launches on Zooniverse, the world's largest and most successful citizen science portal, on December 11.

Swanson has strategically placed 225 heat-and-motion-activated cameras over a 1,000-square-mile grid of the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania, to capture close-up, candid shots of animals. The three ecologists are seeking to learn how large mammals co-exist in their habitat and how predators and herbivores interact across a large area.

"This is the most exciting and engaging field research we have ever done," says Packer, who has conducted field research in the Serengeti for 34 years.

The camera trap survey began as fieldwork for Swanson's Ph.D. research on carnivore coexistence. "Understanding how these species coexist has broad implications for conservation, especially for large carnivores," she says. Because computer technology is not yet sophisticated enough to reliably identify animals in photographs, each image has to be analyzed by human eyes. With millions of images taken already and the cameras still rolling, Snapshot Serengeti invites the public to help review and catalog them all.

"We're asking people to identify the animal species caught on camera, as well as their behavior, group size and the presence of young." Swanson explains. "This will allow us to analyze species distributions, ranging patterns and population dynamics." A brief, simple tutorial on the site prepares volunteers to begin.

Snapshot Serengeti joins several research projects on the Zooniverse portal, which was co-founded by Lucy Fortson, professor of physics and astronomy in the College of Science and Engineering. Other projects range across fields as diverse as space exploration, climate change, archaeology, marine biology and cancer research. Ancient Lives, another Zooniverse project from the University of Minnesota, uses volunteers to classify ancient Greek texts and documents.

"Snapshot Serengeti is another example of projects involving University of Minnesota researchers using the cutting-edge technique of crowdsourcing to overcome major research challenges," Fortson says.

In return for their help with the research, citizen scientists have the unique opportunity to view Serengeti animals behaving naturally in the wild. In addition to the emblematic wildebeests, zebra, giraffes, and lions, rare and nocturnal animals make regular appearances in the images.

"What I love about these cameras is that they capture things that are incredibly rare to see in person – like a lioness taking down a zebra or porcupines mating," says Swanson.

"Snapshot Serengeti" is operated by the long-term Serengeti Lion Project, which is primarily supported via funding from the National Science Foundation.

A snapshot of "Snapshot":

[Lion and cub](#)

[Nocturnal buffalo fight](#)

[Gazelles](#)

[Cheetah with cubs](#)

[Dik-dik](#)

[Hartebeest and calf at night](#)

[Warthog and Oxpeckers](#)

[Zebra sunset](#)

U of M researchers find early reading, executive function skills key for homeless/highly mobile children to succeed

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/11/2012) —Researchers at the University of Minnesota found that early reading and executive function skills are key indicators of academic success for homeless and highly mobile (HHM) children. Both studies were published today in the journal *Educational Researcher*, as part of a special section that underscores the scope and significance of achievement problems related to residential and school instability, while also looking at factors of resilience among HHM children.

Addressing the needs of homeless children is a growing imperative for school districts across the country. Over one million students were identified as homeless in the most recent data reported by the National Center for Homeless Education at the Department of Education.

Findings from a longitudinal study led by the U of M's Janette Herbers used administrative data from 18,000 students in Minneapolis Public Schools to indicate that achievement gaps are present in first grade reading scores, with HHM students at even higher risk than children who qualify for free lunch based on low-income status but have never been identified as homeless or highly mobile. Reading scores in first grade predicted later achievement in grades 3 to 8 on standardized tests of reading and math, both for level of achievement and learning rate over time.

Reading well in first grade is particularly beneficial for high-risk children, showing a protective effect on later learning.

"While early reading skills are clearly important for the later achievement of all students," Herbers said, "they are even more important for the success of students whose future achievement is threatened by homelessness and extreme poverty."

Executive function skills were studied as a potential resilience factor for homeless children in a study led by Ann Masten and colleagues from the U of M. These neurocognitive skills, which include voluntary control of attention, flexible thinking, memory, and self-control, are important for learning and getting along with peers and teachers at school.

The study tested 138 five and six-year-old children on site in three emergency shelters for families during the summers of 2008 and 2009. Scores from a battery of these tasks proved to be broadly predictive of later academic achievement and school adjustment reported by kindergarten and first grade teachers of the children, with unique and distinctive effects compared to traditional IQ measures.

"These findings together with other recent research on executive function skills are exciting," said Masten, a U of M professor and expert on resilience, has studied homeless families since 1989. "There is growing evidence that these skills can be improved through targeted practice and early education."

Masten is now working closely with a team of faculty and preschool teachers from the university, community educators, and shelter providers to develop preschool interventions to boost executive function skills as a strategy for promoting school success.

"This shared research helps us to better understand and respond to the strengths, challenges and special needs of our preschool learners who are homeless," said Elizabeth Hinz of Minneapolis Public Schools. "We can differentiate educational and social supports to develop new services that will support children's healthy development to ensure they are ready to be successful in school."

"If we are serious about breaking the cycle of poverty for homeless and highly mobile children, we must focus on their executive functioning skills and emotional resiliency," Daniel Gumnit, CEO and Executive Director of People Serving People, which partners with the U of M team and Minneapolis Public Schools on this effort. "This collaborative work helps us prepare the homeless preschoolers in our shelter for kindergarten and sets them up for a greater chance of success in the long run."

The special section in *Educational Researcher* includes both U of M studies along with research from Vanderbilt University and the University of Pennsylvania, plus commentary on the topic from John Buckner, a leading scholar in this area on the faculty at Harvard University. [You can read the special section here.](#)

In October, U of M researchers, including Masten, had a first-of-its-kind study published in *Child Development* that found persistent achievement gaps for reading and math related to homelessness and high mobility.

Therapy dogs to help ease student stress today

Who: University Counseling and Consulting Services and Paws for Learning

What: Pet therapy to reduce stress

When: noon to 3 p.m. today, Dec. 12

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

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December 12, 2012

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL --- University of Minnesota students can come and pet their stress away from noon to 3 p.m. today in Room 303, Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Today is the last day of instruction for the fall semester and final tests begin Friday and continue through Thursday, Dec. 20.

University Counseling and Consulting Services and Paws for Learning are sponsoring this stress-busting event featuring three therapy dogs.

University of Minnesota to lead international virtual institute for study of climatic and human effects on Earth



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Post-doctoral researcher Arvind Singh demonstrates how precipitation produces channels and networks in the landscape using the one-of-a-kind Experimental Landscape Modeling facility at St. Anthony Falls Laboratory. (Credit: Patrick O'Leary / University of Minnesota)

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/12/2012) —The National Science Foundation (NSF) announced that it will award an \$720,000 grant to the University of Minnesota to lead an international, multi-university virtual institute for the study of Earth-surface systems, with a special emphasis on watersheds and deltas.

Linked Institutions for Future Earth (LIFE) is a new collaborative network of leading international research institutions, facilities and field sites working together on research related to predicting and understanding the impacts of climatic and human stresses on the landscape. LIFE seeks to produce research that informs policymakers and practitioners, while cultivating effective researcher exchange and mentoring, and generating innovative international public engagement toward landscape sustainability.

The project is funded through NSF's Science Across Virtual Institutes (SAVI), a mechanism to advance scientific understanding and excellence through the collaboration of scientists, engineers and educators across continents, cultures and disciplines.

Faculty members from the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) in the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering, including Efi Foufoula-Georgiou (civil engineering), Chris Paola (earth sciences) and Vaughan Voller (civil engineering), will serve as the lead researchers of the project. Foufoula-Georgiou is also a resident fellow of the university's Institute on the Environment.

"Building upon the 10-year success of the NSF-funded National Center for Earth-surface Dynamics (NCED), this new virtual institute represents a significant step toward a broader understanding of the natural and human-induced changes that impact watersheds and deltas around the world," said LIFE lead researcher Efi Foufoula-Georgiou. "LIFE seeks to empower the next generation of Earth-system scientists, engineers and educators with depth, breadth and a global perspective on environmental sustainability."

Led by the University of Minnesota, the LIFE virtual institute will extend the collaborative research and training expertise of NCED, while utilizing the unique experimental facilities at the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory. In addition, the pilot implementation of LIFE includes the following participating institutions from across the globe:

- University of California, Berkeley
- University of Texas, Austin
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- Science Museum of Minnesota
- University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom
- University of Exeter, United Kingdom
- Institute de Physique du Globe de Paris, France
- CIMA Research Foundation, Italy
- Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay
- Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile

The LIFE network leverages funding and resources totaling more than \$30 million, through existing grants and investments in the participating institutions.

LIFE will concentrate its efforts on two critical regions in the Earth-surface environment—watersheds and deltas. Utilizing the network's shared experimental facilities, broad strengths in theoretical, experimental and field analysis, and extensive data sets, collaborative programs through LIFE will contribute toward a broader understanding of the vulnerability of watersheds and deltas to natural and human-induced changes including hazards.

LIFE's seven major programs are:

1. researcher exchange;
2. shared and co-mentored post-doctoral researchers;
3. international shared graduate degree programs;
4. theme-based focused research (experimental and theoretical) campaigns;
5. international summer institutes for graduate students and young researchers;
6. data/model sharing for actionable research, and
7. science to public international exchange.

"The unique elements of the LIFE education programs provide the opportunity for emerging researchers to develop a global perspective on challenges and solutions to key environmental concerns," said LIFE education coordinator Vaughan Voller.

For additional information, visit the LIFE website at www.life.umn.edu or visit the NSF SAVI website at http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/savi/.

U of M national survey finds lack of mental health screenings for refugees

50% of states do not conduct any screening

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/13/2012) —The first national survey of refugee mental health screening practices found that while refugee trauma survivors are at increased risk of developing post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and major depression, most states do not provide mental health screenings.

The survey, conducted by researchers at the University of Minnesota in collaboration with the State Refugee Health Coordinator and the Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), a St. Paul-based torture survivor rehabilitation center, was recently published in the *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies*.

"Refugee health coordinators at the state level are in need of short, culturally appropriate mental health screening tools to identify refugees who need assessment and treatment services," said Patricia Shannon, one of the co-authors of the study and an assistant professor in the U of M's School of Social Work.

Of the 25 states that provide a mental health screening, 17 (70.8%) utilize informal conversation rather than standardized measures.

Further, despite the fact that many refugees are fleeing war torn areas, less than half of the states report directly asking refugees about their exposure to war trauma or torture.

The survey also found that states that have a program that advocates, educates and provides treatment services for survivors of torture are more likely to be aware of and to screen for the devastating effects of war trauma and torture.

"This is a critical finding," said Shannon. "Providing training to refugee health programs is essential to increasing the mental health screening of refugees. Here in MN, CVT and U of MN researchers are working with the MN Department of Health to develop mental health screening tools and to address how to implement mental health screening as part of the initial refugee health screening exam. I know from my past experience working as a psychologist at CVT that identifying refugees who need mental health care and then connecting them with the services they need is essential to helping them adjust to life in a new community."

States reported that several barriers are in place to prevent mental health screenings, including lack of culturally sensitive instruments and lack of time and resources.

Health screenings that take place at both private and local public health clinics are typically completed during the course of one to three visits and physicians may have very little time to establish the rapport that is necessary to discuss traumatic experiences or to educate refugee patients about normal reactions to trauma. However, deferring a mental health screening until refugees have established primary care may not be appropriate either as some refugees may not do so until long after they have resettled.

The fact that most refugees have medical coverage through refugee medical assistance or state Medicaid in their first eight months makes it even more imperative that screening and referral for assessment and treatment takes place early in the resettlement process.

"Since recent longitudinal research on the mental health of refugees indicates that the symptoms of trauma can be enduring and debilitating, refugee survivors who go undetected and untreated may end up costing society more through long-term dependence on social security disability income," said Shannon. "Conversely, mental health screening and referral early in the resettlement process may be essential to supporting healthy adjustment and preventing long-term dependence of refugee trauma survivors."

In 2010, the United States resettled more than 73,000 refugees from 20 countries. The federal Refugee Act of 1980 entitles newly arrived refugees to a comprehensive health assessment and referral to health services.

Upcoming U of M events range from filibusters to Mars landings

Tell My Sons book reception, a discussion with Vice President Mondale and Bell Museum gatherings highlight the end of 2012 and beginning of 2013

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/13/2012) —Please find below a list of select University of Minnesota-related events for Dec. 13, 2012, through Jan. 3, 2013. For the full U of M events calendar, visit www.events.umn.edu.

Thursday, Dec. 13 – Tell My Sons book reception

Join the Center for the Study of Politics and Governance (CSPG) for a book reception to celebrate the release of *Tell My Sons*, written by Humphrey School Policy Fellow alumnus Lieutenant Colonel Mark Weber. The reception is Thursday, Dec. 13 from 5 – 7 p.m. at the Humphrey Forum, 309 19 Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The reception is free, but an RSVP is required at <http://markweberbookreception.eventbrite.com>. Copies of *Tell My Sons* will be available for purchase. For more information, call (612) 625-5340.

Lt. Col. Weber served a total of 23 years in the U.S. Army. While preparing for a 2010 deployment to Afghanistan to serve in a high profile job within the Afghan Parliament as a military advisor, Weber was diagnosed with Stage IV gastrointestinal cancer. In response he began to write a letter to his boys. *Tell My Sons* is that letter. Mark's letter and his stories, captured in the book, illustrate that the greatest value of a life is to spend it for something that lives after it. Through his example, he teaches how to live an ordinary life in an extraordinary way. For more, visit www.tellmysons.com.

Thursday, Dec. 18 – Restoring Congress: Time to fix the filibuster

America faces enormous challenges, from budget deficits to national security. But it is crippled by extraordinary paralysis in Congress, including the unprecedented use of the filibuster.

Join Vice President Walter F. Mondale for a discussion on the need to fix Congress and reform the filibuster. Professor Larry Jacobs will moderate the event, set for Tuesday, Dec. 18 from noon – 1:15 p.m. in the Cowles Auditorium of the Humphrey School for Public Affairs, 19 Ave. S., Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public, but the courtesy of an RSVP is requested at <http://restoringcongress.eventbrite.com/#/>. For further information, call (612) 625-5340.

Mondale, who served as a U.S. senator for 12 years and as vice president from 1977-81, led the last major reform of the filibuster.

Thursday, January 3 – Dig It! The Secrets of Soil gallery conversation with Caryl Radatz

Dig even deeper into the fascinating world of what lies below with a soil expert! Caryl Radatz, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, is the state soil scientist for Minnesota as well as the Soil Survey Regional Director for Major Land Resource Area Region 10.

Radatz' gallery conversation begins at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, January 3 at the U's Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. The conversation is free with museum admission, which is \$6 for adults, \$4 for youths aged 3-17, non-U of M students and seniors. Admission is free for museum members; U of M students, faculty and staff; and children under 3 years old.

Radatz will discuss the history of the National Cooperative Soil Survey program founded in 1899, and may even include a primer on soil taxonomy. She will be joined by some of her "dirt dawber" colleagues.

The gallery conversation is part of the ongoing *Dig It! The Secrets of Soil* exhibit running at the Bell Museum through July 28, 2013. For more information, visit www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/ForAdults/Exhibits/DigIt/index.htm.

Thursday, Jan. 3 – ExploraDome Theater Show: Mars Update

Get the latest on what scientists are seeing and discovering on Mars through data sent by the Curiosity rover! ExploraDome theater shows are held at 6:30, 7:15 and 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3 at the U's Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Admission is \$5 for adults and seniors; \$3 for museum members, U of M students, faculty and staff, students with college ID, and children aged 3-18; and free for children under 3 years old. Purchase tickets [online](#).

The ExploraDome uses Uniview, a 3D atlas of the universe that is completely interactive and lets the presenter - and the audience - determine where to go and what to see. All shows are 45 minutes.

For more information, please call (612) 624-9050 or visit www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/ForGroups/ExploraDome/index.htm.

University of Minnesota Board of Regents considers measures to advance research enterprise, and hears report highlighting best graduation rates in U's history

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/14/2012) —Following a six-year portfolio growth rate that was 14 percent better than the national average, the University of Minnesota ranked eighth among all public research institutions by topping \$847 million in research and development expenditures for FY11. U of M faculty competed successfully for grants worth \$749.1 million in FY12.

The U of M's Board of Regents today reviewed these results, which highlight sustained success of the university's research enterprise and nationally lauded tech transfer operation, before advancing policies aimed at fostering continued growth. Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy, who will retire Dec. 31, reported on the successful evolution of the university's research enterprise since FY05. Among other highlights were:

- **The U's R&D is highest ever and a national leader:** FY11 research expenditures of \$847 million were up 8 percent from the previous high-water mark of \$786 million in FY10. (R&D expenditure data and rankings are compiled by the National Science Foundation and released with a year's delay.)
- **R&D surge ahead of national growth:** University research expenditures increased 59 percent from FY05 to FY11, the fourth-best among public research universities and sixth overall. The national average of portfolio growth among top 20 universities during this time was 45 percent.
- **Have research, will reward:** University faculty and staff competed successfully for \$749.1 million in FY12 sponsored research awards. This is despite the as-expected drop in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. If ARRA funds are excluded from the totals, university research awards rose by 7.4% from FY11 to FY12.
- **OTC continues robust production:** The Office for Technology Commercialization continued to move university research into the marketplace by [launching a record 12 startup companies](#) in FY12. The university has launched 38 startups since 2006 and has become a [nationally recognized](#) leader in tech transfer innovations.

"The continued success of our research enterprise positions the University of Minnesota as one of the state's most important economic and intellectual engines," said U of M President Eric Kaler. "Our MnDRIVE proposal to the 2013 legislature commits resources to enhance existing research in areas where the university is poised to become a global leader. We are focused on expanding partnerships where the university's strengths and Minnesota industry opportunities come together."

MnDRIVE aims to increase research to secure the global food supply, advance discoveries and treatments for brain conditions, develop robotics, sensors and advanced manufacturing and solve environmental challenges.

To further business relationships and tech commercialization, regents approved a revised faculty entrepreneurial leave policy. Under the new guidelines, which were approved recently by the university's Faculty Senate, faculty may temporarily leave their university position to participate in startup companies, or otherwise engage with for or non-profit organizations. The leave can last up to one year without salary, but with a taxable lump sum used to help offset benefit costs.

Regents also addressed the following research-related items:

- Considered plans for "Minnesota Ventures," a [university affiliated venture capital fund](#) based on best practices. The board is expected to act in February.
- Confirmed the appointment of [Dr. Brian Herman](#) as the university's next vice president for research, starting Jan. 2.

Graduation and retention rates reach all-time high

U students at the Twin Cities campus are graduating at rates higher than ever before, according to Robert McMaster, vice provost and dean of undergraduate education. Only 15.2 percent of students who entered the Twin Cities campus as freshmen in 1992 graduated within four years compared to 58.1 percent of students who entered in 2008. The rate at which the U retained first-year students into a second year on campus — one indicator of the likelihood that students will persist and succeed at graduating from the U — also reached an all-time high of 91 percent in 2011, compared to 78.6 percent in 1992.

"We are pleased to see four-year graduation and first-year retention rates reach all-time highs because it shows that our commitment to access, and our efforts to improve the student experience are working," McMaster said. "Investments in programs such as the Center for Academic Planning and Exploration and the President's Emerging Scholars program give our students tools to succeed in earning their degrees in a timely manner, and to move on to make a difference to their community and state sooner than they might have otherwise. The university has also significantly enhanced its Office for First-Year Programs in recent years."

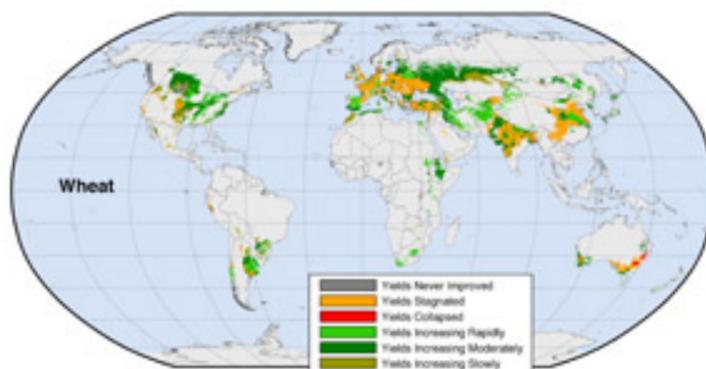
McMaster outlined the plan to expand the President's Emerging Scholars program, a four-year program that provides undergraduate students professional advising, peer mentoring and engagement opportunities. The program will be expanded from three to all seven freshman-admitting colleges on the Twin Cities campus during the next two years.

Other board news included:

- **Recognitions of leaders** — The board thanked Senior Vice President for Academic Administration, University of Minnesota System, Robert Jones, who will assume the presidency of the University at Albany on Jan. 2. The board also thanked Mulcahy, who will retire Dec. 31, and University of Minnesota Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer L. Steven Goldstein, who will retire at the end of January.
- **Equity and Diversity** — The board confirmed the appointment of [Dr. Katrice Albert](#) as the university's next vice president of equity and diversity beginning June 28.
- **Capital budget request** — The board approved the capital budget request for the 2013 legislative session, which is built around the U's previously expressed priorities and will be submitted in response to a request from Gov. Mark Dayton. The \$196.5 million request (\$172.7 million from the state and \$23.8 million from the U) includes \$125 million in Higher Education Asset Prevention & Replacement (HEAPR) funds, as well as renovation of Eddy Hall in Minneapolis and other projects to benefit the Twin Cities and Crookston campuses and the overall university system.
- **Amundson Hall, Gore Annex addition** — The Facilities Committee and full board approved schematic plans for the 40,000 square foot expansion on the Twin Cities campus, which is expected to begin construction in early 2013.
- **Faculty and staff compensation** — The Faculty, Staff & Student Affairs Committee reviewed the compensation philosophy outlined in the board's Employee Compensation and Recognition policy, current steps underway to achieve the objectives set forth in this policy for all university employees and trends related to faculty and staff compensation.

The Green Revolution is wilting

New Nature Communications paper shows yields have plateaued or dropped in many places for world's most important crops



Media Note: Full *Nature Communications* paper available at

Detailed analyses of wheat yields around the world show a disconcerting stagnation or collapse in many locations since the heyday of the Green Revolution. (Courtesy: Deepak Ray, Institute on the Environment)

<http://z.umn.edu/cropyield>.

High-res images offering detailed analyses of maize (corn), wheat, rice and soybean yields around the world are available by contacting Mary Hoff or Matt Hodson.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/18/2012) —The Green Revolution has stagnated for key food crops in many regions of the world, according to a study published in the Dec. 18 issue of *Nature Communications* by scientists with the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment and McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

Led by IonE research fellow Deepak Ray, the study team developed geographically detailed maps of annual crop harvested areas and yields of maize (corn), rice, wheat and soybeans from 1961 to 2008. It found that although virtually all regions showed a yield increase sometime during that period, in 24 to 39 percent of the harvested areas (depending on the crop) yield plateaued or outright declined in recent years. Among the top crop-producing nations, vast areas of two of the most populous – China and India – are witnessing especially concerning stagnation or decline in yield.

"This study clearly delineates areas where yields for important food crops are stagnating, declining, or never improved, as well areas where yields are still rapidly improving," Ray says. "As a result, it both sounds the alert for where we must shift our course if we are to feed a growing population in the decades to come, and points to positive examples to emulate."

Interestingly, the researchers found that yields of wheat and rice – two crops that are largely used as food crops, and which supply roughly half of the world's dietary calories – are declining across a higher percentage of cropland than those of corn and soybean, which are used largely to produce meat or biofuels.

"This finding is particularly troubling because it suggests that we have preferentially focused our crop improvement efforts on feeding animals and cars, as we have largely ignored investments in wheat and rice, crops that feed people and are the basis of food security in much of the world," said study co-author and IonE director Jonathan Foley, professor and McKnight Presidential Chair in the College of Biological Sciences. "How can we meet the growing needs of feeding people in the future if one-third of our cropland areas, in our most important crops, are not improving in yield any more?"

The paper suggests two actions based on its findings. First, it recommends working to maintain the positive trajectory for the 61 to 76 percent of croplands where yield is still climbing. Second, it encourages crop-producing regions around the world to look at their yield trends and those of others to identify what's working and what might be improved.

"Previous research suggests that many factors work together to limit yield growth, from cultivation practices to pests to a need for improved seeds," Ray said. "What this paper does is provide concrete, detailed information policy makers can use to identify regions where yield growth has stagnated or reversed, figure out what limiting factors are at play, then work to turn that trend around."

The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment seeks lasting solutions to Earth's biggest challenges through research, partnerships and leadership development. For more information, visit environment.umn.edu.

At the University of Minnesota, researchers are working to secure our global food supply. These game-changing efforts are the impetus behind MnDRIVE, the university's proposal for a new, ongoing partnership with the state to enhance Discovery, Research, Innovation and Economic development. For more information, visit www.govrelations.umn.edu/biennial-budget.html.