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Past Issues

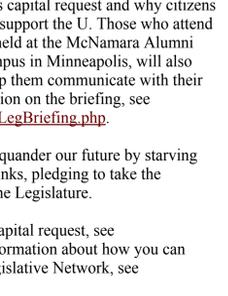
- Jan. 8, 2004
Dec. 18, 2003
Dec. 4, 2003
Oct. 13, 2003
Oct. 30, 2003
Oct. 16, 2003
Oct. 2, 2003
Sept. 18, 2003
Sept. 4, 2003
Aug. 24, 2003
Aug. 7, 2003
July 24, 2003
July 10, 2003
June 26, 2003
June 12, 2003
May 29, 2003
May 15, 2003
May 1, 2003
April 17, 2003
April 3, 2003
March 20, 2003
March 6, 2003
Feb. 20, 2003
Feb. 6, 2003
Jan. 23, 2003
Jan. 9, 2003
Dec. 19, 2002
Dec. 5, 2002
Nov. 14, 2002
Oct. 31, 2002
Oct. 17, 2002
Oct. 3, 2002
Sept. 19, 2002
Sept. 5, 2002
August 22, 2002
August 8, 2002
July 25, 2002
July 11, 2002
June 27, 2002
June 13, 2002
May 30, 2002
May 16, 2002
May 3, 2002
April 18, 2002
April 4, 2002
March 21, 2002
March 7, 2002
Feb. 21, 2002
Feb. 7, 2002
Jan. 24, 2002
Jan. 11, 2002
Dec. 13, 2001
Nov. 29, 2001
Nov. 8, 2001
Oct. 26, 2001
Oct. 11, 2001
Sept. 27, 2001

- 1. U reacts to governor's capital budget proposal
2. Getting mental health research into the field sooner
3. Remembering a leader
4. Inhaling tobacco smoke in public places
5. Writing a winner
6. Assisted living, the virtual way
7. You can't be too careful...
8. Training new judges
9. Black voice on campus
10. U of M Happenings
11. Links

UNEWS

U reacts to governor's capital budget proposal
University of Minnesota officials are disappointed with Governor Tim Pawlenty's \$76.6 million capital budget proposal, released last week, which funds less than half of the \$155.5 million in state bonding the University needs.

"After the devastating budget reductions the University experienced last year, I am deeply disappointed in this recommendation," says University president Bob Bruininks. "We put forth a reasonable, modest plan to address long-term infrastructure needs and take care of our classrooms, laboratories, and other educational and research facilities. We cannot provide a 21st century education in 20th century facilities."



The governor recommends that the University receive \$38 million of the \$90 million it needs for health, safety, and maintenance improvements. As well, the governor recommends funding for only three of the six major building restoration projects the University requested. The University has more than 800 buildings--65 percent of them are more than 30 years old and 25 percent are more than 70 years old.

At the Legislative Network briefing today (Thursday, January 22, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.), Bruininks will explain the importance of the University's capital request and why citizens should ask their legislators to support the U. Those who attend the free event, which will be held at the McNamara Alumni Center on the Twin Cities campus in Minneapolis, will also receive an advocacy kit to help them communicate with their legislators. For more information on the briefing, see http://www1.umn.edu/groots/LegBriefing.php.

"Minnesota cannot afford to squander our future by starving higher education," said Bruininks, pledging to take the University's case directly to the Legislature.

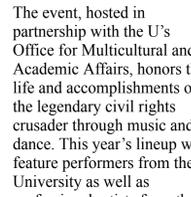
To learn more about the U's capital request, see www.umn.edu/govrel. For information about how you can support the U through the Legislative Network, see www.supporttheu.umn.edu.

--University of Minnesota News Service

Return to top

Getting mental health research into the field sooner

On average, it takes 15 years to get the latest mental health research from the laboratory and into the hands of professionals working in local communities. But, thanks to the U's new Center of Excellence in Children's Mental Health that will launch next week, that should soon change.



The center is a virtual entity made up of researchers, mental health professionals, and community members who are focused on the emotional health and well-being of Minnesota children. "One of the center's main objectives is to promote the kind of dialogue that gets research into the field," says Yvonne Godber, educational psychology instructor and center coordinator.

The center will sponsor regular discussions and events and serve as a resource, pulling together research from around the nation related to youth mental health. Currently, research at academic institutions takes a long time to reach health care providers and the public because it is so widespread, says Godber. Through the center, the U hopes to connect researchers with their peers who are conducting related studies and with people working directly in the mental health profession. The latter group can give the researchers a better sense of mental health services that work, she adds.

Susan Hagstrum, who served in leadership positions in K-12 education for 27 years and provides leadership consulting to nonprofit organizations, will chair the center's steering committee. Hagstrum is also Bruininks's wife. The center is an important action step in the President's Initiative on Children, Youth, and Families, which aims to focus University resources, including its faculty expertise and research, on issues facing children, youth, and families. The U's Children, Youth, and Family Consortium will oversee the center.

The January 30 event to launch the center is free and open to the public, but it's geared toward researchers, policy makers, and professionals working on issues related to youth mental health. The event will be held at 1 p.m. in Black Bear Crossings on the Lake Pavillion Place Meeting Center in St. Paul. To reserve a place, e-mail cmh@umn.edu or call 612-625-9070.

To learn more about the Center of Excellence in Children's Mental Health, see http://www.cyfc.umn.edu/features/kickoff.pdf. For information about the President's Initiative on Children, Youth, and Families, http://www.umn.edu/pres/cyf.html.

--University of Minnesota News Service

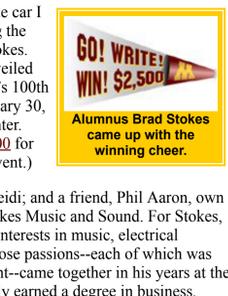
Return to top

Remembering a leader

The University of Minnesota School of Music is celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy with its annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Concert on Sunday, February 1, at 4 p.m. in the Ted Mann Concert Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

When the U's Martin Luther King, Jr. concert began in 1980, it was the only tribute of its kind in Minnesota. The University now schedules the concert two weeks following the national King holiday to avoid competing with other local events honoring Dr. King.

The event, hosted in partnership with the U's Office for Multicultural and Academic Affairs, honors the life and accomplishments of the legendary civil rights crusader through music and dance. This year's lineup will feature performers from the University as well as professional artists from the Twin Cities community, including a capella hip-hop group 7 Days, youth choir CitySongs, and the Reginald Buckner Jazz Ensemble--named for the late University professor who founded the annual MLK event. The concert, which will be approximately 90 minutes with an intermission, will culminate in a performance by critically acclaimed singer Robert Robinson and the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir.



The U of M School of Music presents its annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Concert on Sunday, Feb. 1.

"This annual concert has always been a highlight among the many tributes to Dr. King," says School of Music interim director Barbara Reid. "It's a wonderful way for the University and the community, performers and the public, to come together in his memory."

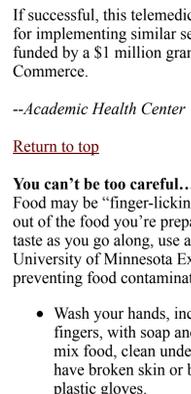
For directions to the Ted Mann Concert Hall on the Twin Cities campus in Minneapolis, see www.music.umn.edu.

--Christopher James, School of Music

Return to top

Inhaling tobacco smoke in public places

University of Minnesota researchers found increased levels of a tobacco-specific lung carcinogen, NNK, in nonsmokers after they spent time in a public setting where smoking is allowed.



A new study by University researchers is the first to measure tobacco-specific carcinogens in nonsmokers exposed to environmental tobacco smoke in a public setting.

Researchers at the U's Cancer Center tested the urine of 18 nonsmokers before and after a four-hour visit to a casino where they spent nearly all their time in the designated smoking area. The research showed that levels of NNK in the participants increased 112 percent. Previous animal studies have shown that NNK is a major pulmonary carcinogen in rodents and a probable human carcinogen.

"Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) in restaurants, bars, and casinos presents a potential health hazard to employees and nonsmoking patrons," says lead author Kristin Anderson, associate professor in the School of Public Health. "However, further studies are needed to examine the long-term health effects on employees and patrons of transient exposure to ETS."

This study by University researchers is the first to measure tobacco-specific carcinogens in nonsmokers exposed to ETS in a public setting. In a previous study, U researchers examined tobacco carcinogens in nonsmoking women who were exposed to secondhand smoke at home. According to findings from that study, women living with smoking partners had five to six times higher mean levels of tobacco-specific compounds than women with nonsmoking partners.

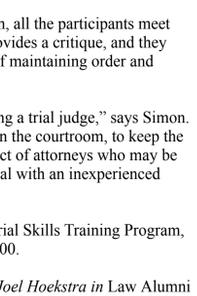
The current study is published in the December 22 Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers and Prevention.

--Academic Health Center

Return to top

Writing a winner

Alumnus Brad Stokes was so busy with work last fall that he didn't think he had time to enter the University of Minnesota Alumni Association's musical cheer contest. But Stokes, who writes short musical pieces for corporations and major sports teams, came up with the winning cheer at his son's football practice.



Alumnus Brad Stokes came up with the winning cheer.

"Before my son even got in the car I had called [my wife] and sung the first six measures," recalls Stokes. His winning cheer will be unveiled during the alumni association's 100th birthday party on Friday, January 30, at the McNamara Alumni Center. (See www.alumni.umn.edu/100 for more information about the event.)

Stokes (B.S. '84); his wife, Heidi; and a friend, Paul Aaron, own Minneapolis-based Aaron/Stokes Music and Sound. For Stokes, his work is a synthesis of his interests in music, electrical engineering, and business. Those passions--each of which was his college major at some point--came together in his years at the University. While he ultimately earned a degree in business, Stokes continued to take courses in acoustics and other technical aspects of music. "I am one person who uses his college education every day," he says. "I'm very proud of my degree and of my alma mater."

The contest judges chose Stokes's cheer over dozens of entries because they thought it would work best with a band and an arena full of fans. Stokes says the proof that he wrote a "winning" cheer won't come until he hears it live at a sporting event. "I'm never really finished with a project until I see how the audience responds."

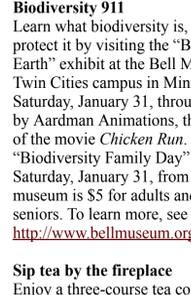
--University of Minnesota Alumni Association

Return to top

Assisted living, the virtual way

Elderly people will have better access to health care services if a new University of Minnesota program, now being studied, works. Virtual Assisted Living Umbrella for the Elderly (VALUE) combines videoconferencing and Internet technology with home monitoring devices to connect elders living at home with health care providers.

Although telemedicine--linking patients with doctors by video and telephone--has been around for a while, the concept is relatively new to the world of assisted living.



Stuart Speedie, U of M laboratory medicine and pathology professor and co-principal investigator for the study.

Stuart Speedie, laboratory medicine and pathology professor and co-principal investigator for the study, says the U's VALUE program is a way to frail and elderly individuals to retain their independence and avoid a nursing home. They could continue to live in their homes and enjoy familiar surroundings with just a telephone, computer, and Internet access, he says.

The U's Medical School is working with Volunteers of America of Minnesota and TriCounty Hospital in Wadena on this project. Both organizations serve areas with an increasing elderly population and limited affordable assisted-living facilities. University researchers will direct the study and, through a randomized trial, evaluate the impact of VALUE in supporting a participant's ability to remain in an independent living situation.

If successful, this telemedicine program would serve as a model for implementing similar services nationwide. The study is funded by a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

--Academic Health Center

Return to top

You can't be too careful...

Food may be "finger-lickin'" good, but keep those licked fingers out of the food you're preparing. And, if like all good cooks, you taste as you go along, use a clean spoon every time. The University of Minnesota Extension Service offers these tips on preventing food contamination while you cook.

- Wash your hands, including the areas between your fingers, with soap and hot water. If you use your hands to mix food, clean under your fingernails with a brush. If you have broken skin or burns on your hands, wear disposable plastic gloves.



- Take off rings or other jewelry when you prepare food. Uncooked particles can stick in the crevices of the jewelry and contaminate the food that's being served.

- Keep clean hands away from your mouth, nose, and hair. Stifle sneezes and coughs with a tissue and wash your hands again. If you have a cold or flu, try to stay out of the kitchen or use utensils instead of your hands to touch food.

- Wash your hands thoroughly before touching vegetables or fruit if you've worked with raw meat.

- Always wash your hands after going to the bathroom or touching garbage, poisons, cleaning supplies, or anything that soils your hands. This rule also applies to any contact you have with your pet and its dishes or bedding.

For more tips on safe food handling, see http://www.extension.umn.edu/info-u/nutrition/BJ775.html or call Info-U, the University of Minnesota's prerecorded household-tip service, at 612-624-2200 or 1-800-525-8636.

Return to top

Training new judges

Through the Judicial Trial Skills Training Program at the U's Law School, law professor Stephen Simon has equipped more than 300 newly appointed judges with an arsenal of tools necessary to conduct a fair and efficient trial.



The Honorable Leland Bush ('76) and attorneys Albert Goins ('80) and Tammi Fredrickson participating in the Judicial Trial Skills Training Program at the U's Law School on June 28, 2002.

The program, which began in 1982 as one of the first of its kind in the country, was established at the request of the Minnesota Supreme Court Office of Continuing Education. At the core of the program is a simulated trial in which new judges are videotaped while handling a variety of challenging situations. Actors and actual lawyers, assuming the various roles of prosecutor, defense attorney, witnesses, and jury members, stage a scripted scene that includes foul language and a fake gun.

"Participants come with great trepidation," says Simon, who founded and directs the program. "They think that we'll be raising more issues than they can deal with."

Following the hour-long simulation, all the participants meet with an experienced judge who provides a critique, and they assess each individual's methods of maintaining order and civility in the courtroom.

"That's the challenging part of being a trial judge," says Simon. "The ability to maintain decorum in the courtroom, to keep the trial focused, to regulate the conduct of attorneys who may be very involved in their case or to deal with an inexperienced lawyer."

To learn more about the Judicial Trial Skills Training Program, call the Law School at 612-625-1000.

--edited from an original story by Joel Hoekstra in Law Alumni News, fall/winter 2003.

Return to top

Black voice on campus

University of Minnesota senior Gladys Mambo wanted black students to have more of a voice on the Twin Cities campus. So last fall, she started The Griot, a newsletter devoted to black culture and campus news.

With help from other black students, Mambo produced a 12-page newsletter with pages dedicated to politics, health issues, personal relationships, reviews of music and movies, poetry, and events on and off campus. About 300 copies of that inaugural issue were distributed. Mambo, president of the U's African Student Association, says that after two issues response continues to be positive. The Griot is named after the West African word for storyteller.



U of M senior Gladys Mambo is also president of the U's African Student Association.

"The newsletter is very much in its embryonic stages, but we are hoping that [future issues] will be even bigger and better," says Mambo, who is majoring in political science and English. "It's a lot of work [putting an issue together], but I feel that black students in general need space to express themselves creatively."

Mambo came to Minnesota from Cameroon four years ago. She is also vice president of the Black Student Union and a forum chair for the Minnesota Programs and Activities Council, a University student organization that brings noted speakers to campus.

To learn more about The Griot, e-mail Mambo at mamb0003@umn.edu.

--University of Minnesota News Service

Return to top

HAPPENINGS

Greenery on air

Upcoming episodes of the "Prairie Yard & Garden" show will feature homegrown vegetables and unwanted bugs. Tonight (January 22) at 7:30 p.m., host Sue Gooch will speak with Larry and Mary Larson from Willmar, Minn, about growing vegetables for the local farmer's market. On Thursday, January 29, U entomologist Jeff Hahn will take viewers on a garden tour and discuss insect-control methods. "Prairie Yard and Garden" is produced by University of Minnesota, Morris's Media Services Department and airs on Pioneer Public Television, channel 10 (KWCM) or 20 (KSMN). For this season's full schedule, http://www.mrs.umn.edu/pyg.

Michelangelo at work

Bestselling author Ross King will discuss his book, Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling, on Monday, January 26, at 7 p.m. in the U.Bookstore at Coffman Memorial Union on the Twin Cities campus in Minneapolis. The book chronicles the four years Michelangelo worked on the Sistine Chapel in Rome, including his personal struggles with health, finances, and his lack of fresco following. King will sign copies of his book and answer questions following his discussion and slide presentation. The event is free and open to the public. For more information or to order an autographed copy of King's book, see http://www.bookstore.umn.edu/genref/authors.html.

Creating an encyclopedia

Over a period of many years, artist Sue Johnson has developed "The Alternate Encyclopedia," a collection of objects and her prints, drawings, and paintings. The installation will be on display Tuesday, January 27, through Sunday, March 28, at the Tweed Museum on the Duluth campus. "The idea to create a fully fictitious encyclopedia came to me when I realized that I could entertain my desire for the fantastic while maintaining my interest in the pursuit of objective truths," says Johnson. For more information, call the museum at 218-726-8222 or see http://www.d.umn.edu/tma.

Biodiversity 911

Learn what biodiversity is, why it's declining, and how you can protect it by visiting the "Biodiversity 911: Saving Life on Earth" exhibit at the Bell Museum of Natural History on the Twin Cities campus in Minneapolis. The exhibit, which runs Saturday, January 31, through Sunday, May 2, will feature a film by Aardman Animations, the Academy Award-winning creator of the movie Chicken Run. The museum will also host a "Biodiversity Family Day" with special demonstrations on Saturday, January 31, from 1 to 5 p.m. Admissions to the museum is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 16 and seniors. To learn more, see http://www.bellmuseum.org/temp\_exhibits.html.

Sip tea by the fireplace

Enjoy a three-course tea complete with sweets and savories such as homemade scones topped with lemon curd and Devonshire cream on Wednesdays through March 31 in the Cozy Fireplace Room at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska. The cost is \$20 and reservations are required. Call 952-443-1411. For general information, see http://www.arboretum.umn.edu.

Return to top

LINKS

Hey, Sports Fans! Check out sports news and schedules of the U's teams:

- Gophers
Duluth Bulldogs
Morris Cougars
Crookston Golden Eagles

Give to the U: Make an online gift to the college or program of your choice.

University of Minnesota Alumni Association: Your membership makes a difference.

U of M Legislative Network: Read about the University's legislative request and how you can help.

University of Minnesota Systemwide Home Page

U of M eNews is a biweekly e-mail newsletter for alumni and friends of the University of Minnesota. The newsletter, a free information source prepared by University Relations, is designed to help alumni and friends stay connected to the University of Minnesota campuses in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Crookston, Morris and Duluth.

PRIVACY POLICY

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Past Issues

- Jan. 22, 2004
Jan. 8, 2004
Dec. 18, 2003
Dec. 4, 2003
Nov. 13, 2003
Oct. 30, 2003
Oct. 16, 2003
Oct. 2, 2003
Sept. 18, 2003
Sept. 4, 2003
Aug. 24, 2003
Aug. 7, 2003
July 24, 2003
July 10, 2003
June 26, 2003
June 12, 2003
May 29, 2003
May 15, 2003
May 1, 2003
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Jan. 23, 2003
Jan. 9, 2003
Dec. 19, 2002
Dec. 5, 2002
Nov. 14, 2002
Oct. 31, 2002
Oct. 17, 2002
Oct. 3, 2002
Sept. 19, 2002
Sept. 5, 2002
August 22, 2002
August 8, 2002
July 25, 2002
July 11, 2002
June 27, 2002
June 13, 2002
May 30, 2002
May 16, 2002
May 3, 2002
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Feb. 7, 2002
Jan. 24, 2002
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Dec. 13, 2001
Nov. 29, 2001
Nov. 8, 2001
Oct. 26, 2001
Oct. 11, 2001
Sept. 27, 2001

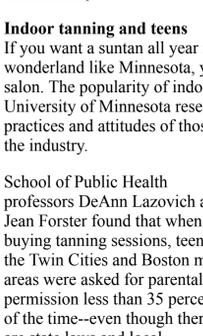
February 5, 2004

- 1. Legislators and supporters learning of U's request
2. Indoor tanning and teens
3. Gene(sis) weaves art and science
4. Guide to 2004 elections
5. Job-hunt at the Minnesota Employment Expo
6. 3M employees help U students
7. Facets of agriculture
8. You don't have to be "Minnesota nice"
9. U of M Happenings
10. Links

UNNEWS

Legislators and supporters learning of U's request

On Tuesday (February 3), University of Minnesota President Bob Bruininks made the case for full funding of the University's capital budget request to the House Higher Education Finance Committee. The hearing, which was held at Coffman Memorial Union on the Twin Cities campus, was followed by a tour of some of the facilities in the request.



"This hearing was an important opportunity to explain our needs to legislators," says Bruininks. "Maintaining our infrastructure, modernizing classrooms, and taking care of this great public university is a wise and prudent investment for the state."

The U is seeking \$155 million in bonding for classroom and other facility renovations and upgrades, including health and safety improvements. Governor Tim Pawlenty recommended that the University receive \$76.6 million or less than half of what it needs.

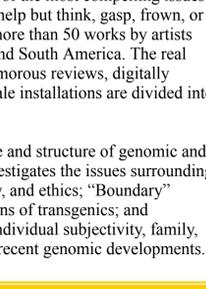
To support the University's legislative efforts, more than 300 students, alumni, faculty staff, and friends braved the cold to attend the U's annual Legislative Briefing on January 22. The event provided an opportunity for U supporters to learn how to effectively communicate with state policy makers. To learn more about how you can be an advocate for the University, see www.supporttheU.umn.edu. To read more about the U's capital request, see http://www.umn.edu/govrel.

Return to top

Indoor tanning and teens

If you want a suntan all year round but live in a winter wonderland like Minnesota, you're likely to visit a tanning salon. The popularity of indoor tanning among teens spurred two University of Minnesota researchers to take a closer look at the practices and attitudes of those who run and those who patronize the industry.

School of Public Health professors DeAnn Lazovich and Jean Forster found that when buying tanning sessions, teens in the Twin Cities and Boston metro areas were asked for parental permission less than 35 percent of the time—even though there are state laws and local ordinances requiring teens to have a parent's permission for indoor tanning. More than 80 percent of those businesses sold sessions to teens who posed as customers.



Teens and their parents who tanned were less knowledgeable about the risks of skin cancer than their peers who chose not to visit a tanning salon.

The researchers, who interviewed adolescents, parents, environmental health specialists, and tanning-business owners during the three-year study, also found that children whose parents had used an indoor tanning booth in the past year were much more likely to have tried indoor tanning themselves. And teens and their parents who tanned were less knowledgeable about the risks of skin cancer than their peers who chose not to visit a tanning salon.

"These results suggest that an effective indoor-tanning intervention should try to change the tanning practices and beliefs of not just teens but also their parents," says Lazovich.

Lazovich, Forster, and their research partners at the Harvard University School of Public Health developed Equipping Leaders of Indoor Tanning Establishments (ELITE), a program to teach tanning businesses how they can comply with health laws. Lazovich says further research is necessary to establish the link between indoor tanning and skin cancer.

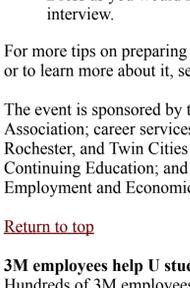
"Most studies in this area pre-date contemporary indoor tanning equipment," she says. "We need to investigate the industry in its current state to accurately understand the health risks associated with it."

Edited from an original story by Kris Stouffer in SPH Advances, 2002-03 Annual Report.

Return to top

Gene(sis) weaves art and science

Who is the leopard king? He is half man, half leopard, and his picture hangs in the Weisman Art Museum's new exhibit—along with paper coffee cups demanding "Who owns your DNA?" and a frog in red shorts in a jar. "Gene(sis): Contemporary Art Explores Human Genomics" runs through May 2, 2004.



Gene(sis) is an art exhibit that raises questions and provides commentary about the ethical and social implications of genomics, one of the most compelling issues of modern times. Visitors cannot help but think, gasp, frown, or smile when confronted with the more than 50 works by artists from the United States, Europe, and South America. The real and pseudo laboratory results, humorous reviews, digitally altered photographs, and large-scale installations are divided into four sections.

"Sequence" explores the language and structure of genomic and genetic research; "Specimen" investigates the issues surrounding DNA ownership, personal privacy, and ethics; "Boundary" showcases the artists' investigations of transgenics; and "Subject" focuses on notions of individual subjectivity, family, and human nature in the wake of recent genomic developments.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the museum—located on the Twin Cities campus in Minneapolis—is hosting a series of free discussions and films about art and science related to the Human Genome Project. For a complete list of events, see

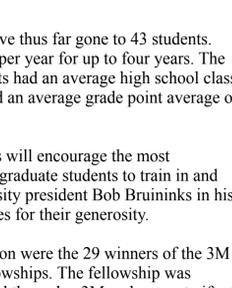


Photo courtesy of Creative Time, NY

http://www.weisman.umn.edu/genesis/program.htm.

Gene(sis) took Robin Held, curator of the Henry Art Gallery in Seattle, Wash., more than three and a half years to develop. During that time, Held met with numerous artists, educators, historians, museum professionals, and scientists, including those working on the Human Genome Project.

The Weisman Art Museum's hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and weekends, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays. Admission to the museum is free.

Return to top

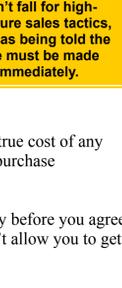
Guide to 2004 elections

If you're looking for timely but nonpartisan commentary and analysis on this year's elections, then visit the University of Minnesota's new Center for the Study of Politics. Once there, or even if you check out its Web site, you'll find information about polls, third parties, campaign fundraising, and regional voter trends.

The center, housed in the University's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs on the Twin Cities campus in Minneapolis, was launched in January to raise public understanding of politics, serve as a resource to citizens and the media on important policy issues, and show students that politics can be a noble calling. In addition to a Web site (http://www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/csp/elections), the center will bring in political leaders—such as former U.S. senators—for extended periods to provide a political context for current issues and engage students in discussions and problem solving.

The first big undertaking of the center is its 2004 Elections Project, which will provide coverage of the politics in the Upper Midwest from state and local elections to the national presidential race.

"This is an oft-overlooked region when it comes to political analysis and commentary, even though presidential races can be won or lost in the swing states of the Midwest," says Larry Jacobs, political science professor and project director. Jacobs will be conducting a poll this spring that will, for the first time, identify key voting groups in the Upper Midwest, look at the attitudes and concerns of suburban voters, and see what's driving their votes.



Larry Jacobs

Editor's note: You can read more about the U's Center for the Study of Politics in your next issue of M, which will arrive in your mailboxes early March. If you do not currently receive M, the quarterly magazine for alumni and friends of the U, and would like to, e-mail Martha Coventry at covent002@umn.edu.

Return to top

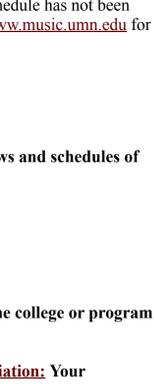
Job-hunt at the Minnesota Employment Expo

Local and national employers will recruit University of Minnesota alumni and students at the Minnesota Employment Expo on Thursday, March 4, from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel Metrodome in Minneapolis. The job fair is free and open to the public.

Employers ranging from Fortune 500 companies to nonprofit organizations like the Peace Corps will be looking for full-time employees and internship candidates from all fields of study. In addition to exhibits, the expo will feature informational sessions on effective job search strategies.

If you plan on visiting the expo, make the most of your time there.

- Research three to five organizations represented at the fair that interest you.
• Prepare a short script to introduce yourself and explain why you are interested in the company and what type of work you are seeking.
• Dress as you would for a formal interview.



For more tips on preparing for the Minnesota Employment Expo or to learn more about it, see www.alumni.umn.edu/expo.

The event is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Alumni Association; career services at the Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, and Twin Cities campuses; the U's College of Continuing Education; and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Return to top

3M employees help U students

Hundreds of 3M employees who gave to a specially created 3-to-1 University of Minnesota scholarship matching fund had a chance to meet the students they've helped at a reception on 3M's Maplewood campus on January 29.



Laura Bursch, U graduate student and 3M fellowship recipient, with 3M Post-It Note inventor Art Fry.

3M established the 3M/Alumni Undergraduate Merit Scholarships in 2001 to mark its 100th anniversary and help the U to attract top undergraduate students majoring in business, engineering, and science-related disciplines. The fund attracted 362 employees, including 300 University alumni, who gave a total of

\$365,296. 3M added another \$1,008,973. The 3M contribution was part of its \$15 million gift to Campaign Minnesota, the U's historic seven-year campaign that concluded last summer after raising \$1.66 billion.

The 3M merit scholarships have thus far gone to 43 students. Each student receives \$3,000 per year for up to four years. The fall 2003 scholarship recipients had an average high school class rank in the 98th percentile and an average grade point average of 4.01.

"Scholarships and fellowships will encourage the most promising undergraduate and graduate students to train in and stay in the state," said University president Bob Bruininks in his speech thanking 3M employees for their generosity.

Also recognized at the reception were the 29 winners of the 3M Science and Technology Fellowships. The fellowship was established in 2001 and funded through a 3M endowment gift of \$6.2 million that will support the fellowship in perpetuity. That gift was matched by the University's 21st Century Graduate Fellowship Endowment.

To learn more about giving to student scholarship or fellowship funds at the University of Minnesota, see www.giving.umn.edu.

—University of Minnesota Foundation

Return to top

Facets of agriculture

Several brightly colored images of cows, horses, grain silos, and humans tending to the land were recently installed in the University Teaching and Outreach Center on the Crookston campus. These images—drawings on ceramic tiles of various sizes—are part of a new public artwork that pays tribute to Minnesota's agricultural industry.

The artwork, which frames the doorway into the indoor riding arena, was unveiled on January 31 during University of Minnesota, Crookston's (UMC) annual Ag-Arama Day. Nearly 300 faculty, staff, students, and members of the Crookston community were on hand to view the 3-D creation for the first time and laud the artist, Susan Warner, a Minneapolis mosaic and terra cotta tile artist, took two years to complete the project, which is made up of more than 210 individual tiles.



"[My goal was] to depict the land, the people, and the way of life that defines the area as well as the unique educational aspects of a polytechnic university in this area," says Warner. She added that the project was challenging because of the research into the history of this region, "but satisfying because I've met extraordinary educators who informed and inspired my work."



Warner was commissioned by a UMC campus public art committee for the project, which was funded by money set aside from the building's construction budget. The University Teaching and Outreach Center serves as the center for animal and equine science on campus and as home to more than 40 horses. The building also houses offices and classrooms, a riding arena, stables, and a tack room.

"This art serves as a symbol of the foundation of agriculture, which is a defining industry for Crookston and the entire Red River Valley," says Andrew Svec, UMC's director of communications. "Since this building is tied in purpose to agriculture, the art committee wanted to reflect that in the artwork."

This new addition to UMC joins several other public art pieces already on campus. In 1988, the University of Minnesota established the Public Art on Campus Program to oversee its sizeable collection of permanent public artworks on all its campuses, which are commissioned and purchased to enhance the physical and aesthetic environments at the University.

For information about other public art at the University, read "Art Goes Public at the U," published in the fall 2001 issue M, at http://www.umn.edu/urelate/m/fall12001/artgoespublic.html. To learn more about the University Teaching and Outreach Center, see www.erk.umn.edu/campusinfo/tour/UTOC.

Return to top

You don't have to be "Minnesota nice"

Most salespeople are not trying to rip you off; they just want you to buy something or support some cause. But to avoid falling for a scam, the University of Minnesota Extension Service has some tips in telling the bad apples from the good.

- Don't fall for high-pressure sales tactics, such as being told the sale must be made immediately. Legitimate sellers will give you time to make a decision, and those who perform a service should be able to provide references if you ask.
• Don't be afraid to say "no" if a salesperson is trying to sell you something in your home. Minnesota law requires salespeople to leave when you ask them to. And forget "Minnesota nice" if a telemarketer makes you feel uncomfortable—interrupt and hang up. You also have three days to cancel purchases of \$25 or more that were made in your home or over the telephone.
• Don't make impulse decisions. Ask yourself if you needed the product or service before you were contacted.



Don't fall for high-pressure sales tactics, such as being told the sale must be made immediately.

- Do compare alternatives. Calculate the true cost of any offer, and find out if you can make the purchase somewhere else for less.
• Know the company's cancellation policy before you agree to buy. Be leery of a company that won't allow you to get a refund if you're not satisfied.
• Know what you're signing, and keep all paperwork and receipts.

To learn more about your rights as a consumer, call the Attorney General's Consumer Assistance Line at 651-296-3353. For information about a specific business, call the Better Business Bureau of Minnesota at 800-955-5100.

Return to top

HAPPENINGS

Ring, ring...

Today (February 5) is the U's "Call Your Legislator" day. The Legislative Network is urging all U supporters to call their legislators and ask that they support full funding for the University's capital request. For talking points and for phone numbers of your elected officials, see http://www.supporttheU.umn.edu. To learn more about the U's capital request, see http://www.umn.edu/govrel.



Kinetic energy

The 45-member Dance Theatre of Harlem returns to Northrop Memorial Auditorium on the Twin Cities campus after a 10-year hiatus for two performances in honor of Black History Month. The programs on Tuesday, February 10, and Wednesday, February 11, at 7:30 p.m. will feature choreography by founder Arthur Mitchell and music by Stravinsky, Prokofiev, and the Soweto String Quartet. Tickets are \$27-\$46. For tickets or more information, call 612-624-2345 or see www.northrop.umn.edu.

Food expo at Morris

The University of Minnesota, Morris, will host its fifth Annual Pride of the Prairie Community Food Expo on Tuesday, February 17, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the student center. Representatives from more than 20 west central Minnesota farm and local organizations, such as The Land Stewardship Project, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, and Pomme de Terre Foods, will present information and answer questions about agricultural, environmental, and food issues. This year's expo will also feature a Farmers Market with grains, root vegetables, meat, honey, yarn, and wool for sale.

Highway safety dissected

Last year, nearly 2 million people were injured and more than 38,000 killed in motor vehicle crashes in the U.S. How do these statistics compare to those of other countries? You can find out from Allan Williams, chief scientist at the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, at the U's Center for Transportation Studies winter luncheon on Wednesday, February 18, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Radisson Metrodome Hotel in Minneapolis. For more information about the event, "A National Perspective on Current Highway Safety Issues," see http://www.cts.umn.edu/events/luncheon/winter/index.html.

Spark 2004

Spark, an annual festival of electronic music and art on the Twin Cities campus in Minneapolis, will run Thursday, February 19, to Sunday, February 22, at the West Bank Arts Quarter. The event will feature a mix of the latest in electronic and electroacoustic music, video, installation art, theater, and dance by artists and musicians from across the country. All events are free and open to the public. The event schedule has not been confirmed, but you can keep checking www.music.umn.edu for updated information.

Return to top

LINKS

Hey, Sports Fans! Check out sports news and schedules of the U's teams:

- Duluth Bulldogs
Morris Cougars
Crookston Golden Eagles

Give to the U: Make an online gift to the college or program of your choice.

University of Minnesota Alumni Association: Your membership makes a difference.

U of M Legislative Network: Read about the University's legislative request and how you can help.

University of Minnesota Systemwide Home Page

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## Past Issues

[Feb. 5, 2004](#)  
[Jan. 22, 2004](#)  
[Dec. 18, 2003](#)  
[Dec. 4, 2003](#)  
[Nov. 13, 2003](#)  
[Oct. 30, 2003](#)  
[Oct. 16, 2003](#)  
[Oct. 2, 2003](#)  
[Sept. 18, 2003](#)  
[Sept. 4, 2003](#)  
[Aug. 24, 2003](#)  
[Aug. 7, 2003](#)  
[July 24, 2003](#)  
[July 10, 2003](#)  
[June 26, 2003](#)  
[June 12, 2003](#)  
[May 29, 2003](#)  
[May 15, 2003](#)  
[May 1, 2003](#)  
[April 17, 2003](#)  
[April 3, 2003](#)  
[March 20, 2003](#)  
[March 6, 2003](#)  
[Feb. 20, 2003](#)  
[Feb. 6, 2003](#)  
[Jan. 23, 2003](#)  
[Jan. 9, 2003](#)  
[Dec. 19, 2002](#)  
[Dec. 5, 2002](#)  
[Nov. 14, 2002](#)  
[Oct. 31, 2002](#)  
[Oct. 17, 2002](#)  
[Oct. 3, 2002](#)  
[Sept. 19, 2002](#)  
[Sept. 5, 2002](#)  
[August 22, 2002](#)  
[August 8, 2002](#)  
[July 25, 2002](#)  
[July 11, 2002](#)  
[June 27, 2002](#)  
[June 13, 2002](#)  
[May 30, 2002](#)  
[May 16, 2002](#)  
[May 3, 2002](#)  
[April 18, 2002](#)  
[April 4, 2002](#)  
[March 21, 2002](#)  
[March 7, 2002](#)  
[Feb. 21, 2002](#)  
[Feb. 7, 2002](#)  
[Jan. 24, 2002](#)  
[Jan. 11, 2002](#)  
[Dec. 13, 2001](#)  
[Nov. 29, 2001](#)  
[Nov. 8, 2001](#)  
[Oct. 26, 2001](#)  
[Oct. 11, 2001](#)  
[Sept. 27, 2001](#)

February 19, 2004

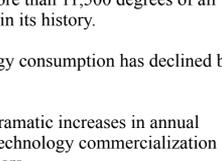
1. [U remains accountable](#)
2. [Stem cell research Q & A](#)
3. [A reading list from the U](#)
4. [Hydrogen from renewable sources within reach](#)
5. [Learning from the Irish](#)
6. [Homeschooling without neglecting yourself](#)
7. [U of M Happenings](#)
8. [Links](#)

## UNNEWS

**U remains accountable**

The University of Minnesota “compares favorably” with its peers on seven key measures, according to a new self-assessment released February 13 as part of *Accountable to U*, the University’s 2004 Plan, Performance, and Accountability Report.

The annual report, mandated by the state, offers a comprehensive look at the University’s accomplishments, challenges, and strategies for improvement. But for the first time, the report includes a scorecard assessing the University’s academic quality, student quality and experience, public engagement, human resources, campus facilities and environment, efficiency and effectiveness, and finances against other public research institutions.



Some key findings from the report:

- The University awarded more than 11,500 degrees of all types in 2002-03, the most in its history.
- The University’s total energy consumption has declined by 15 percent since 1991.
- The University has made dramatic increases in annual licensing income from its technology commercialization efforts over the past five years.
- Annual giving to the University surpassed the averages of the top 10 public and private research universities and of Big 10 public universities.

“As a public university, it is imperative that we are accountable to the people of Minnesota,” says President Bob Bruininks. “This report clearly demonstrates that the University is fulfilling the mission and high expectations our citizens—and our students—have for us.”

To read *Accountable to U: 2003-04 University Plan, Performance, and Accountability Report*, see <http://www.umn.edu/urelate/govrel/reports.html>.

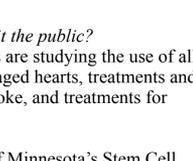
[Return to top](#)

**Stem cell research Q & A**

The University of Minnesota’s recent decision to pursue investigation of embryonic stem cells has received considerable attention over the past couple of weeks. Stems cells—parent cells for all the body’s tissues—offer great potential and promise for important medical treatments and cures. But embryonic stem cell use is controversial and federal funding is prohibited for research on newly donated embryos. Following is a brief Q & A on some of the main issues surrounding stem cell research at the University.

**Q. Do University scientists currently study embryonic stem cells?**

**A.** Yes. Scientists at the University of Minnesota Stem Cell Institute study stem cells derived from adult bone marrow as well as embryo stem cells approved for federal research funding by President Bush in 2001.



**Q. If University scientists already have embryonic stem cells to study, why do they want to expand the effort?**

**A.** Scientists find the few federally approved stem cell lines lacking for a few reasons. First, of the nearly 70 lines thought to be available for research, the National Institutes of Health has approved fewer than a dozen for research. Second, the human embryo stem cells approved for federal research funding by President Bush in 2001 have been contaminated by mouse cells and are not likely to be useful in any clinical way. Third, and perhaps most importantly, these approved lines represent only a tiny fraction of the human gene pool, and do not well-represent the diversity of the human population or the diversity of human illness. The existing cells may not be usable for someone with a certain disease or the studies’ results may only be applicable in a very limited case.

**Q. Where will these new embryo stem cells come from?**

**A.** The University will not create embryos but use those donated for research. These embryos come from fertility clinics where parents have chosen to donate their unused, frozen five- or six-day blastocysts (the embryonic stage that implants) rather than discard them.

**Q. Is it legal for the University to do research with embryo stem cells that are not from federally approved embryo stem cell lines?**

**A.** Yes. But it would be illegal to pay for it with federal funds. That’s why the University is seeking private funding for the research effort.

**Q. How can stem cell research benefit the public?**

**A.** Here at the University, researchers are studying the use of all types of stem cells for repairing damaged hearts, treatments and cures for Parkinson’s Disease and stroke, and treatments for inherited genetic diseases.

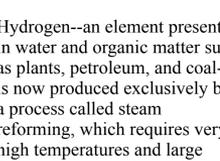
To learn more about the University of Minnesota’s Stem Cell Institute, see <http://www.umn.edu/stemcell/sci/sup8-6/pg/patch2gar2v2.shtml>.

--Academic Health Center

[Return to top](#)

**A reading list from the U**

When University notables were asked, “What book had the greatest impact on the way you think?” one person said *The Wump World*, a children’s book with aliens called Pollutians, and another replied, *It Can’t Happen Here*, a cautionary tale about the rise of fascism in the United States.



A medical doctor, a wine researcher, a basketball coach, a provost, a speechwriter, three professors, a graduate student, and a poet suggested the 10 books that make up U Reads 2004. For surgeon John Najarian, *The Lives of a Cell: Notes of a Biology Watcher* by Lewis Thomas, makes the cut because it gives unique insight into human behavior and diseases. For art history and American studies professor Karal Ann Marling, biographies that “scare me silly” are her favorites; she chose *Dino: Living High in the Dirty Business of Dreams* by Nick Tosces, a tale about Dean Martin’s rise to stardom and shadowy connections to the mob.

U Reads, sponsored by the College of Continuing Education, grew out of the college’s desire to offer more learning resources for readers and writers, explains coordinator Liz Turchin. “We knew Minnesotans had a healthy appetite for stories,” she says. “The response [to U Reads] has been exciting.”

For the complete U Reads 2004 list and more comments about each selection, see <http://www.cce.umn.edu/ureads>.

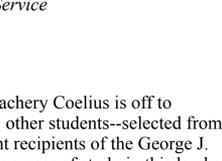
[Return to top](#)

**Hydrogen from renewable sources within reach**

University of Minnesota engineers have invented the first reactor capable of producing hydrogen from a renewable fuel source—ethanol—efficiently enough to hold economic potential. The technology is poised to remove the major stumbling block to the hydrogen economy: no free hydrogen exists except that which is made at high cost from fossil fuels.

When coupled with a hydrogen fuel cell, the new device—small enough to hold in your hand—could generate one kilowatt of power, almost enough to supply an average home, the researchers say. They see an early use for their invention in remote areas, where it is not feasible to install new power lines. People could buy ethanol and use it to power small hydrogen fuel cells in their basements.

Hydrogen—an element present in water and organic matter such as plants, petroleum, and coal—is now produced exclusively by a process called steam reforming, which requires very high temperatures and large furnaces. It’s unsuitable for any application except large-scale refineries, says chemical engineering professor Lanny Schmidt, who led the research effort.



**U of M Regents Professor Lanny Schmidt led the research effort.**

“The hydrogen economy means cars and electricity powered by hydrogen,” explains Schmidt. “But hydrogen is hard to come by [and] you can’t pipe it long distances. There are a few hydrogen-fueling stations, but they strip hydrogen from methane—natural gas. [This process is] expensive, and because it uses fossil fuels, it increases carbon dioxide emissions [and] is only a short-term solution until renewable hydrogen is available.”

Ethanol, on the other hand, is easy to transport and relatively nontoxic. It is already being produced from corn and used in car engines. But if it were used instead to produce hydrogen for a fuel cell, the process would be nearly three times as efficient. That is, a bushel of corn would yield three times as much power if its energy were channelled into hydrogen fuel cells rather than burned alongside gasoline.

The work, which was featured in the February 13 issue of *Science*, was supported by the University of Minnesota’s Initiative on Renewable Energy and the Environment, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

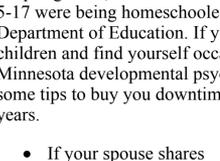
To learn more about the University’s renewable energy initiative, see <http://www.umn.edu/irec>.

--University of Minnesota News Service

[Return to top](#)

**Learning from the Irish**

University of Minnesota senior Zachery Coelius is off to Limerick, Ireland. Coelius and 11 other students—selected from a pool of 245 nationwide—are recent recipients of the George J. Mitchell Scholarship that supports a year of study in this land of *Ulysses* author James Joyce and U2’s Bono.



**Coelius, who aspires to be a political science professor, is copresident of the University’s Parliamentary Debate club and founder of Votes for Students (VFS).**

The scholarship, launched in 1998, honors alumni students who exhibit high standards of academic excellence, leadership, and community service. It’s administered by the U.S.-Ireland Alliance, a nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C., and named after the former U.S. senator who played a pivotal role in the Northern Ireland peace process. Coelius, a College of Liberal Arts honors student majoring in political science and history, will pursue a master’s degree in international studies at the University of Limerick in the southern region of Ireland.

“It is going to be an amazing opportunity to look at the world from a perspective that is very different than what I have spent the last four years doing,” says Coelius. “Hopefully, by seeing how another people deal with the questions of citizenship, democracy, and collective action, I will be able to do better work.”

Coelius, who aspires to be a political science professor, is copresident of the University’s Parliamentary Debate club and founder of Votes for Students (VFS). The latter nonpartisan group uses e-mail and the Internet to encourage voting and civic participation among college students. In fall 2002, Coelius and his VFS colleagues e-mailed more than 500,000 students in 10 states, and subsequently won a \$100,000 grant from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement in Maryland to use the VFS data to study why young people don’t vote.

Also this year, Coelius was selected by *USA Today* for its All-USA College Academic Team.

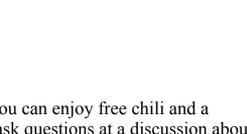
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[Return to top](#)

**Homeschooling without neglecting yourself**

In spring 1999, an estimated 850,000 students nationwide ages 5-17 were being homeschooled, according to the U.S. Department of Education. If you’re a parent of one of these children and find yourself occasionally exhausted, University of Minnesota developmental psychologist Martha Erickson has some tips to buy you downtime during those homeschooling years.

- If your spouse shares your commitment to homeschooling, arrange for him or her to teach a couple of lessons each week in the evening or on weekends while you take some time for yourself. You could also arrange for your spouse to take on more household tasks, or, if financially feasible, hire someone to clean for a few hours each week.



**If you know other homeschool families, work out a weekly exchange with them.**

- If you have family members or close friends who are invested in your child’s education, ask them if they could regularly take your child on a special outing or introduce him or her to a new skill or hobby. In return, you and your child could make them a casserole or dessert during homeschool time. (Cooking provides great opportunities to practice reading, measuring, fractions, temperature, and time concepts.)
- If you know other homeschool families, work out a weekly exchange with them. Or maybe there’s an interesting after-school program in sports or the arts that could complement your child’s homeschooling. Even hiring a neighborhood teenager to come to the house once or twice a week for educational games or storytime could give you that much-needed break.

- If you can’t find the support and respite you need to sustain you in your effort, it may be time to consider or reconsider enrolling your child in school. You can still be an active partner in your child’s education by volunteering in the classroom and supporting the teachers’ efforts.

**Editor’s note:** *The University Counseling and Consulting Services of the Twin Cities campus offers educational assessment tools, scoring and reporting services, and training services for homeschooling through its outreach arm, the Minnesota Statewide Testing Program. To learn more about the program and its resources, call 612-626-1803 or see <http://www.uccs.umn.edu/mstp>.*

[Return to top](#)

**HAPPENINGS****Celebrating 153 years**

During Founders Day 2004, you can enjoy free chili and a symphony orchestra concert, ask questions at a discussion about September 11, see Australia through the eyes of a biologist, and watch the concepts of existentialism unfold in a one-act play. The bill officially creating the University of Minnesota was signed into law on February 25, 1851. Although this date marks the University’s birthday, the celebration on the Twin Cities campus will begin on Saturday, February 21. To learn more about Founders Day 2004 events, see <http://www.umn.edu/twincities/founders>.

**Horses in action**

Who has the best-dressed horse? A horse costume contest is set to tickle the audience at the Fourth Annual Equine Extravaganza on Saturday, February 28, at 6 p.m. and Sunday, February 29, at 2 p.m. in the University Teaching and Outreach Center Arena on the Crookston campus. The public event, sponsored by the UMC Rodeo Association and students in equine industries management, will also feature horse-handling activities and a medieval jousting demonstration. Advanced tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and under. To reserve tickets, e-mail Anna Thelemann at [the0060@umn.edu](mailto:the0060@umn.edu) or call 218-281-1444. Only a limited number of tickets (\$6 adults and \$4 children) will be available at the door.

**Night with the Timberwolves**

Wear maroon and gold to the Minnesota Timberwolves game against the Houston Rockets on Friday, March 5, at the Target Center and the team will reward you with a free gift and a pregame Q & A at 5 p.m. with University alumnus and former NBA player Kevin McHale. University-discount tickets (\$10 off the regularly priced \$37 and \$22 game tickets) are available. To buy tickets or for more event information, see [Timberwolves tickets](#) or call Aaron Steele at 612-673-1685. You can pick up your free gift on game night at the information booths behind sections 140 and 240.

**Photographs from Iran**

The University’s Katherine E. Nash Gallery will host the work of nearly 20 Iranian artists in a new photography exhibition, “Persian Silver: Contemporary Photography from Iran,” runs Tuesday, February 24, through Thursday, April 8. This is the first exhibit of contemporary Iranian photography in the United States since the 1979 revolution, says University art professor Gary Hallman. “These are images that go beyond mere representation and address complex cultural issues shaped by recent Iranian history and a rich Islamic heritage,” he says. There will be a public reception on Friday, March 5, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and a panel discussion on Tuesday, March 9, at 7 p.m. The gallery is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday (hours vary), and admission is free. For general information, see [http://artdept.umn.edu/art\\_dept/nash](http://artdept.umn.edu/art_dept/nash).

**Festival of jazz music**

Jazz saxophonist and composer Pete Whitman will perform with the University’s Jazz Ensemble 1 at the 2004 Jazz Festival on Saturday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Ted Mann Concert Hall on the Twin Cities campus in Minneapolis. This year’s festival also features clinics and other performances by acclaimed local and national jazz artists, including members of the University’s music faculty. Admission is free. For more information, call the School of Music at 612-624-5056.

[Return to top](#)

**LINKS**

**Hey, Sports Fans! Check out sports news and schedules of the U’s teams:**

- [Gophers](#)
- [Duluth Bulldogs](#)
- [Morris Cougars](#)
- [Crookston Golden Eagles](#)

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**Past Issues**

- [Feb. 19, 2004](#)
- [Feb. 5, 2004](#)
- [Jan. 22, 2004](#)
- [Jan. 8, 2004](#)
- [Dec. 18, 2003](#)
- [Dec. 4, 2003](#)
- [Nov. 13, 2003](#)
- [Oct. 30, 2003](#)
- [Oct. 16, 2003](#)
- [Oct. 2, 2003](#)
- [Sept. 18, 2003](#)
- [Sept. 4, 2003](#)
- [Aug. 24, 2003](#)
- [Aug. 7, 2003](#)
- [July 24, 2003](#)
- [July 10, 2003](#)
- [June 26, 2003](#)
- [June 13, 2003](#)
- [May 29, 2003](#)
- [May 15, 2003](#)
- [May 1, 2003](#)
- [April 17, 2003](#)
- [April 3, 2003](#)
- [March 20, 2003](#)
- [March 6, 2003](#)
- [Feb. 20, 2003](#)
- [Feb. 6, 2003](#)
- [Jan. 23, 2003](#)
- [Jan. 9, 2003](#)
- [Dec. 19, 2002](#)
- [Dec. 5, 2002](#)
- [Nov. 14, 2002](#)
- [Oct. 31, 2002](#)
- [Oct. 17, 2002](#)
- [Oct. 3, 2002](#)
- [Sept. 19, 2002](#)
- [Sept. 5, 2002](#)
- [August 22, 2002](#)
- [August 8, 2002](#)
- [July 25, 2002](#)
- [July 11, 2002](#)
- [June 27, 2002](#)
- [June 13, 2002](#)
- [May 30, 2002](#)
- [May 16, 2002](#)
- [May 3, 2002](#)
- [April 18, 2002](#)
- [April 4, 2002](#)
- [March 21, 2002](#)
- [March 7, 2002](#)
- [Feb. 21, 2002](#)
- [Feb. 7, 2002](#)
- [Jan. 24, 2002](#)
- [Jan. 11, 2002](#)
- [Dec. 13, 2001](#)
- [Nov. 29, 2001](#)
- [Nov. 8, 2001](#)
- [Oct. 26, 2001](#)
- [Oct. 11, 2001](#)
- [Sept. 27, 2001](#)

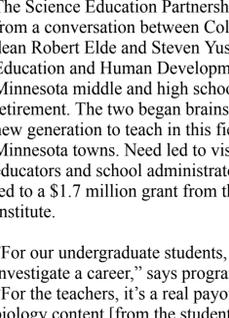
**March 4, 2004**

- [1. Training the next generation of biology teachers](#)
- [2. No quizzes in this class](#)
- [3. Prostate cancer and eating less](#)
- [4. Clothing design senior wins trip to Paris](#)
- [5. Holding on to a past: UMM plans for the future](#)
- [6. Spring M on the way](#)
- [7. "Mommy, that man's going to have a baby!"](#)
- [8. Happenings](#)
- [9. Links](#)

**UNEWS**

**Training the next generation of biology teachers**

Holly Koslowski loves biology and wants to be a teacher. Last fall, the University of Minnesota senior got a taste of teaching high school biology through a new mentorship program that pairs University students with science teachers in northwestern Minnesota.



**CBS student Holly Koslowski (right) at Itasca this summer with her mentor Candida Braun, a biology teacher at Grand Rapids High School.**

"If you are interested in being a teacher, I cannot think of a better opportunity for you to get an idea of what it would be like," says Koslowski, who was paired with a teacher in Grand Rapids High School. In addition to learning about classroom management and preparing lessons, she learned "many little secrets to make my life as a teacher easier, such as manipulating the computerized grade book."

The Science Education Partnership for Greater Minnesota stems from a conversation between College of Biological Sciences dean Robert Elde and Steven Yussen, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, about the large number of Minnesota middle and high school science teachers approaching retirement. The two began brainstorming ways to encourage a new generation to teach in this field, especially in smaller Minnesota towns. School led to vision, vision--to a plan, and the plan led to a \$1.7 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

"For our undergraduate students, there's an opportunity to investigate a career," says program coordinator Ken Jeddlel. "For the teachers, it's a real payoff to learn about cutting-edge biology content [from the students and the workshops we offer]. And for the school district, there's the chance to entice a student to be a teacher in their district."

Last year, the program enrolled six students and an equal number of science teachers as their mentors. Next year, program developers hope to have twice as many pairs on board. To learn more about the Science Education Partnership for Greater Minnesota, see <http://www.cbs.umn.edu/sepgm/RTAP.html>.

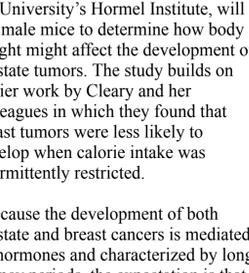
*Edited from an original story by Mary Hoff in BIO, fall 2003.*

[Return to top](#)

**No quizzes in this class**

In 1914, Sir Ernest Shackleton set off on a voyage to the Antarctic. Disaster struck, and the shipwrecked crew spent five months on the ice before being rescued. At "Classes Without Quizzes" on Saturday, April 3, University plant pathologist Bob Blanchette will talk about the wood found in their makeshift huts that continues to intrigue modern-day researchers.

Classes Without Quizzes is a half-day series of seminars for the public to learn about the latest research in agriculture, food, and the environment at the University. Blanchette is one of eight experts from the College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences (COAFES) tapped for the event. His session on "Plant Pathogens Around the World," which mentions Shackleton, follows horticulturist Mary Meyer's presentation on "Low Maintenance and Alternative Lawns;" economist Jean Kinsey's talk about "Food Safety, Obesity, and Health Care Costs;" and education specialist Sue Anderson's discussion on "Classroom Agriculture." This year's event will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Borlaug Hall on the Twin Cities campus in St. Paul.



**Bill Manwarren, past COAFES Alumni Society president, addressing participants at last year's Classes Without Quizzes.**

C. Ford Runge, coauthor of Ending Hunger in Our Lifetime, is keynote speaker for the event. He will share what is already known about fighting hunger and explain important new research findings that show how change can be made through sustainable environmental practices, scientific innovation, renewed institutions, and global investment.

"Healthy foods, sustainable agriculture, and environmental preservation are all high priorities among researchers here at the University," says Robert Freemore, COAFES Alumni Society president. "This half-day seminar is a great opportunity to share the work and progress we're making in these areas."

The cost, which includes lunch, is \$20 (\$10 for students and \$15 for University of Minnesota Alumni Association members). To register or see the complete list of sessions, go to <http://alumni.coafes.umn.edu/cwq> or call 612-625-4772.

[Return to top](#)

**Prostate cancer and eating less**

Can a man reduce his chances of getting prostate cancer if he cuts calories? A University of Minnesota researcher has undertaken a three-year study that may help answer that question. According to the National Cancer Institute, more than one-fourth of all men diagnosed with cancer each year have prostate cancer.



**Margot Cleary, an associate professor at the University's Hormel Institute, will study how body weight might affect the development of prostate tumors.**

Margot Cleary, an associate professor at the University's Hormel Institute, will use male mice to determine how body weight might affect the development of prostate tumors. The study builds on earlier work by Cleary and her colleagues in which they found that breast tumors were less likely to develop when calorie intake was intermittently restricted.

"Because the development of both prostate and breast cancers is mediated by hormones and characterized by long latency periods, the expectation is that this intervention will have similar preventive effects," says Cleary.

Other researchers have shown that caloric restriction over a long period of time can slow aging and reduce the incidence of several types of malignancies, but their studies involved severe caloric restriction regimens, says Cleary. In contrast, her method of intermittent caloric restriction--which calls for a moderate reduction in calorie intake at select times--could have a stronger effect on tumor development.

The U.S. Department of Defense's Prostate Cancer Research Program gave Cleary a \$375,000 grant to conduct the new study. "The results should assist in identifying prevention and treatment strategies related to lifestyle factors," she says.

To learn more about the University's research, see [http://www.hi.umn.edu/mpc\\_lab.html](http://www.hi.umn.edu/mpc_lab.html). For information about the Hormel Institute and other anti-cancer research conducted there, see <http://www.hi.umn.edu>.

*By University News Service*

[Return to top](#)

**Clothing design senior wins trip to Paris**

University clothing design senior Rachel Carlson learned to sew in 4-H when she was seven. At 13, she stopped using patterns and started designing the clothes she wore. Recently, one of Carlson's creations won her a month in Paris.

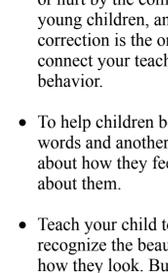
"Fashion design is the way I express myself artistically," says Carlson, whose Barbies were some of the best-dressed dolls in Waseca, Minnesota.



**Clothing design senior Rachel Carlson and the garment that won her a study trip to Paris.**

Last fall, Carlson submitted several pieces to the International Textile and Apparel Association juried exhibition in Savannah, Georgia. The judges accepted three of her designs for the exhibit and awarded her Best Wearable Art and Best In Show/Excellence for her creation, "Sculptural Feathers: Tailored Suit"--a black velvet pantsuit complete with a headgear of colorful feathers.

"It's out there," she says of her winning design. "If you wore it into a room, everyone's eyes would be on you."



**A model showing one of Carlson's creations at the University's student fashion show in February.**

Carlson, who competed against more than 270 clothing design students from around the world for the top prize, will spend July studying at the Paris American Academy in France. Her goal is to earn a master's degree in fashion design from Central Saint Martin's School of Art and Design in London, and eventually own a design company.

"Rachel has the perfect combination of skills and knowledge to succeed as a designer--technical know-how and a keen eye for developing the visual package," says Karen LaBatt, associate professor of clothing design in the University's College of Human Ecology.

To learn more about the University's clothing design program, see [http://www.che.umn.edu/ss/majors/clothing\\_design\\_major.htm](http://www.che.umn.edu/ss/majors/clothing_design_major.htm).

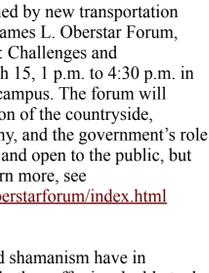
*By Patty Mattern, University News Service*

[Return to top](#)

**Holding on to a past: UMM plans for the future**

Since September 2003, Jason Phelps has collected information on about 675 trees on the University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM), campus, and the UMM senior estimates that he has another 600 trees to go. Phelps is part of a team of planners and architects that is working on a plan to preserve UMM's historic landscape.

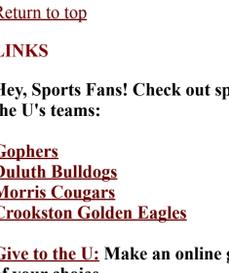
"I have learned so much [by volunteering for this project] and will never be able to look at a tree again without trying to identify it," says Phelps, who is majoring in management and social science. "Just this morning on the way to class I walked by a tree and automatically mumbled its common name."



**Trees on the UMM campus.**

UMM received \$180,000 from the Getty Grant Program last year to create a preservation plan for its West Central School of Agriculture and Experiment Station Historic District. The 42-acre district, located in the heart of campus, is named on the National Register of Historic Places as one of the most intact examples of a residential agriculture high school still standing in the U.S.

Phelps is gathering information such as tree type, height, canopy size (width from one side of the tree branches to the other), condition, and location, and storing it all into a mapping software that can track tree growth and tree condition over time. He says his findings will make it easier and more cost-effective to monitor and maintain the trees in the historic district--some, as old as the buildings around them.



**A photo taken circa 1925 of the Girls' Dormitory, now UMM's Camden Hall. The dormitory was built in 1912 to house students of the newly opened West Central School of Agriculture.**

UMM administrators will use the preservation plan--a set of written guidelines complete with the history and design intent of each landscape feature--to guide day-to-day and long-term planning associated with the district. The plan is expected to be ready in March 2005.

To learn more about the UMM preservation plan project, read [here](http://www.umn.edu/umms). For more information, see the [West Central School of Agriculture and Experiment Station Historic District](http://www.umn.edu/umms) and how it earned its [national historic designation](http://www.umn.edu/umms).

*By Matt Gilmore, UMM News Service intern*

**Editor's note:**

*The project coordinators are looking for historic photos and personal stories to add to the plan. If you have memories to share from the years when UMM was the West Central School of Agriculture, e-mail Nancy Pederson at [con0027@mrs.umn.edu](mailto:con0027@mrs.umn.edu) or call 320-589-6465.*

**Spring M on the way**

Watch your mailboxes in the coming week for the spring issue of *M*, the University's only publication for all alumni. Read about the reasons for the high cost of prescription drugs in the U.S., the University's midwifery program, the new wood-fired kiln on the Morris campus, and a century of advocacy at the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. If you currently do not receive *M* but would like to, e-mail the *M* editor at [coven002@umn.edu](mailto:coven002@umn.edu).



[Return to top](#)

**"Mommy, that man's going to have a baby!"**

There probably isn't a parent alive who hasn't been embarrassed by something his or her young child blurted out. Without the internal censor that develops as we mature, children will say whatever pops into their heads. The following are tips from University developmental psychologist Martha Erickson on handling your child's inappropriate comments.

- Gently and clearly correct your child when he or she says something that is likely to hurt or embarrass. Take your child aside right way and explain that the other person might feel sad or hurt by the comment. With young children, an immediate correction is the only way to connect your teaching to their behavior.



- To help children better understand the link between their words and another person's feelings, ask them to think about how they feel when someone says something bad about them.

- Teach your child to appreciate individual differences and recognize the beauty and worth of all people, no matter how they look. Buy them books and videos that recognize diversity and avoid stereotypes based on physical appearance.

- Be conscious of the messages you and other family members convey through your own words and actions. Your child will observe how you value people, and eventually, learn to do the same.

[Return to top](#)

**HAPPENINGS**

**Celebrating women**

International Women's Day, an official United Nations holiday, will be marked by a free public event on Saturday, March 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Mondale Hall on the Twin Cities campus in Minneapolis. Bonnie Campbell, former Iowa attorney general and director of the U.S. Justice Department's Violence Against Women office, will give the keynote address, "Women's Voices: The Struggle for Human Rights Around the World." More than 50 local organizations will be represented and offer items for sale. For more information, including a performance schedule, read more [here](http://www.umn.edu/women).

**Sweet!**

At the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Sugar Snow Days, you'll learn how to tap a maple tree, make a spout out of elderberry branches, and collect sap before you savor a bowl of crushed ice drizzled with maple syrup. Sugar Snow Days--a 200-year-old tradition started by the first American settlers--will fall on Saturdays, March 6, 13, and 20, from noon to 3 p.m. The activity is free with the \$7 gate admission. If you'd rather have maple syrup with pancakes, then don't miss the arboretum's all-you-can-eat Sugarbush Pancake Brunch on Saturday, March 27, and Sunday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tickets, which include gate admission, are \$6 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 4 to 10. For more information, see <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu> or call 952-443-1400.

**Transportation in rural America**

Has rural America been transformed by new transportation policies? You can find out at the James L. Oberstar Forum, "Transportation in Rural America: Challenges and Opportunities," on Monday, March 15, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Weber Music Hall on the Duluth campus. The forum will examine such topics as urbanization of the countryside, diversification of the rural economy, and the government's role in public policy. The event is free and open to the public, but space is limited. To register or learn more, see <http://www.cts.umn.edu/events/oberstarforum/index.html>

**Healing spaces**

What do feng shui, geomancy, and shamanism have in common? According to Alex Stark, they offer invaluable tools for evaluating and designing healing environments such as hospitals, clinics, and gardens. Stark, a renowned consultant and teacher on healing and creativity issues, will talk about "Designing Healing Spaces" on Thursday, March 25, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Cancer Research Center on the Twin Cities campus in Minneapolis. He will also present two daylong seminars, "Feng Shui for the Health Care Provider" on Friday, March 26, and "The Role of Feng Shui in Healing and Recuperation" on Saturday, March 27. The cost is \$125 for each seminar or \$200 for both. Space is limited. To register or learn more, call the University's Center for Spirituality and Healing at 612-624-9459.

**Best business-plan challenge**

More than \$40,000 is up for grabs in the University of Minnesota New Venture Challenge, a business-plan writing competition sponsored by the Carlson School of Management. Judges are looking for the best business plan using University-related technology, the best startup plan with positive social impact, the best growth plan from an existing company, the best startup needing more than \$1 million, and the best startup needing less than \$1 million. The competition is free and open to the public, but each team must include a University alum or student. Submissions are due Monday, March 22. To learn more, see <http://www.newventurechallenge.com>.

[Return to top](#)

**LINKS**

**Hey, Sports Fans! Check out sports news and schedules of the U's teams:**

- [Gophers](#)
- [Duluth Bulldogs](#)
- [Morris Cougars](#)
- [Crookston Golden Eagles](#)

**Give to the U: Make an online gift to the college or program of your choice.**

**University of Minnesota Alumni Association: Your membership makes a difference.**

**U of M Legislative Network: Read about the University's legislative request and how you can help.**

**University of Minnesota Systemwide Home Page**

U of M eNews is a biweekly e-mail newsletter for alumni and friends of the University of Minnesota. The newsletter, a free information source prepared by University Relations, is designed to help alumni and friends stay connected to the University of Minnesota campuses in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Crookston, Morris and Duluth.

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