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



University of Minnesota physics professor Dan Dahlberg demonstrates an experiment at "Physics Circus."

Media Note: Members of the media may attend any of the school group shows to get photos and video on Jan. 6 and Jan. 7 (10:30 a.m.), Jan. 8, Jan. 11 (10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.), Jan. 12 (10:15 a.m.) in Northrop Auditorium.

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, mathre@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552
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January 4, 2010

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

The Physics Force will present its largest show of the year, called the "Physics Circus," at the University of Minnesota at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10, in Northrop Auditorium, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. The show is unique mix of physics demonstrations and slap-stick humor suitable for adults and children of all ages. The show is free, but there is a fee for on-campus parking.

The Physics Force is a successful and entertaining outreach program of the Institute of Technology, 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 six teachers -- Hank Ryan, Jack Netland, Fred Orsted, Aaron Pinski and Jay Dornfield -- along with University of Minnesota physics professor Dan Dahlberg. 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.

Demonstrations include dropping Ryan 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 water to show the force of air pressure, and Dahlberg propelling himself across the stage on a cart by emptying a fire extinguisher to demonstrate how forces come in pairs (for every force, there's an equal and opposite force).

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

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U of M researchers discover a molecular security system that protects human cells from potentially harmful foreign DNA



A new molecular "security system" could open the door to major improvements in genetic engineering and gene therapy technologies.

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Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/11/2010) —Researchers at the University of Minnesota have discovered a molecular security system in human cells that deactivates and degrades foreign DNA. This discovery could open the door to major improvements in genetic engineering and gene therapy technologies.

Led by Reuben Harris, associate professor of biochemistry, molecular biology and biophysics in the College of Biological Sciences, the report's findings will be published online by Nature Structural and Molecular Biology on Jan. 10.

In the study, Harris and colleagues show how APOBEC3A, an enzyme found in human immune cells, disables double-stranded foreign DNA by changing cytosines (one of the four main bases in DNA) to uracils (an atypical DNA base). Persisting DNA uracils result in mutations that disable the DNA. In addition, the authors show that other enzymes step in to degrade the uracil-containing foreign DNA and sweep its remains out of the cell.

"Scientists have known for a long time that some human cells take up DNA better than others, but we haven't had good molecular explanations," Harris says. "This is definitely one of the reasons. Foreign DNA restriction is a fundamental process that could have broad implications for a variety of genetic diseases."

By understanding how the mechanism works, scientists can develop ways to manipulate it to enable more effective methods to swap bad genes for good ones. Harris is also intrigued to learn why the mechanism doesn't affect a cell's own DNA.

The discovery of an analogous foreign DNA restriction mechanism in bacteria launched the field of genetic engineering during the 1970s. Once bacterial DNA restriction enzymes were understood, their power was harnessed to cut and paste segments of DNA for a wide variety of therapeutic and industrial purposes.

College of Biological Sciences (CBS) faculty conduct research in all areas of biology, from molecules to ecosystems, which supports applications in medicine, renewable energy, agriculture and biotechnology. The college offers degree programs in biochemistry, molecular biology and biophysics; genetics, cell biology and development; ecology, evolution and (animal) behavior; plant biology; microbiology and neurosciences. Admission to undergraduate and graduate programs is highly competitive.

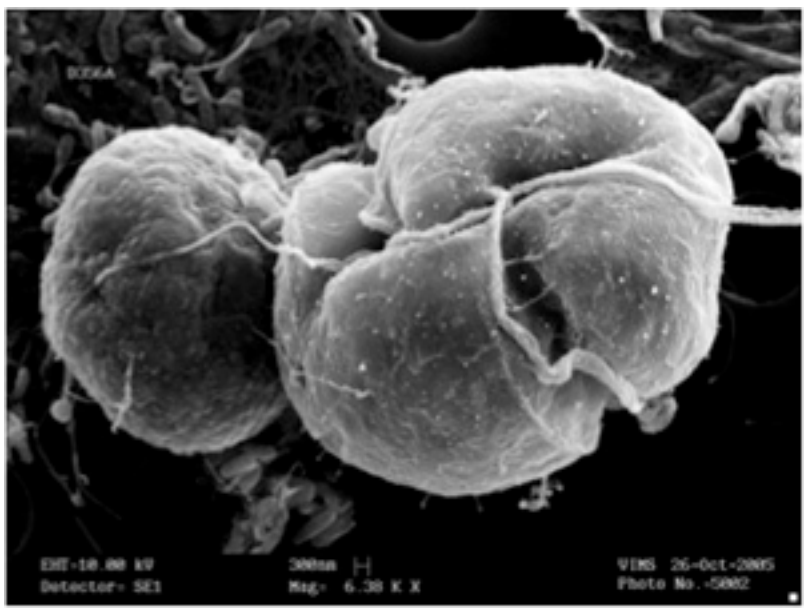
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Destructive alga uses toxins to become a vicious predator rather than helpless prey, university researchers say



This enhanced 3D image depicts *K. veneficum* capturing another type of algae (cryptophytes).

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/11/2010) —A team of researchers, including University of Minnesota aerospace engineering and mechanics faculty member Jian Sheng, have uncovered new information about a toxic alga that shows it to be a vicious, venom-producing predator rather than merely a helpless sun-loving microbe. The alga has been blamed for harmful algal blooms known as “mahogany tides” that have resulted in massive fish kills in Chesapeake Bay and other waterways worldwide.

The researchers studied K. veneficum, a toxic algal cell, known as a dinoflagellate, found in estuaries worldwide. Each year millions of dollars are spent on measures to control dinoflagellates around the globe. This species is known to release a substance called karlotoxin, which is extremely damaging to the gills of fish.

An ecological role for producing karlotoxin was previously understood to be a form of self-defense against natural predators to relieve grazing pressure. However, in a series of experiments using 3-D digital holographic microscopy initially developed at The Johns Hopkins University, Sheng and his colleagues have found that the release of these toxins also serve to stun prey before ingestion. This shifts the role from one of protection to one of aggression.

The research paper entitled “A dinoflagellate exploits toxins to immobilize prey prior to ingestion” was published today in the current issue of the prestigious scientific journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). Researchers in addition to Sheng who are part of the team include Joseph Katz, a professor of mechanical engineering in the Whiting School of Engineering at The Johns Hopkins University; Edwin Malkiel, an adjunct associate research scientist in Johns Hopkins’ Department of Mechanical Engineering; Jason E. Adolf, an assistant professor in the University of Hawaii’s Department of Marine Science; and Allen R. Place, a professor in the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute’s Center of Marine Biotechnology in whose laboratory karlotoxin was discovered and characterized.

“In the paper, we have answered why these complicated molecules are made in nature in the first place and identify a possible alternative mechanism causing massive bloom,” said Sheng, a University of Minnesota fluid mechanics expert who began this collaboration with the Place laboratory while earning his doctorate in Katz's lab at Johns Hopkins. “We further suggest a new venue of predicting and eventually mediating the bloom events.”

Using 3-D high-speed holographic microscopy, the researchers studied the relationship between K. veneficum and its prey, a common, single-celled algal cell called a cryptophyte. They found that K. veneficum releases toxins (karlotoxins) to slow down prey prior to ingestion assumedly so as to increase predation success rate and promote its own growth. This significantly shifts the understanding about what permits blooms to initiate and form. Instead of mortality prevention, the organism’s actions relate more closely to growth promotion through ingestion of a pre-package food source, the cryptophyte cell.

The University of Minnesota Department of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics is one of 12 academic departments and 18 research centers that make up the Institute of Technology, the university's college of science and engineering.

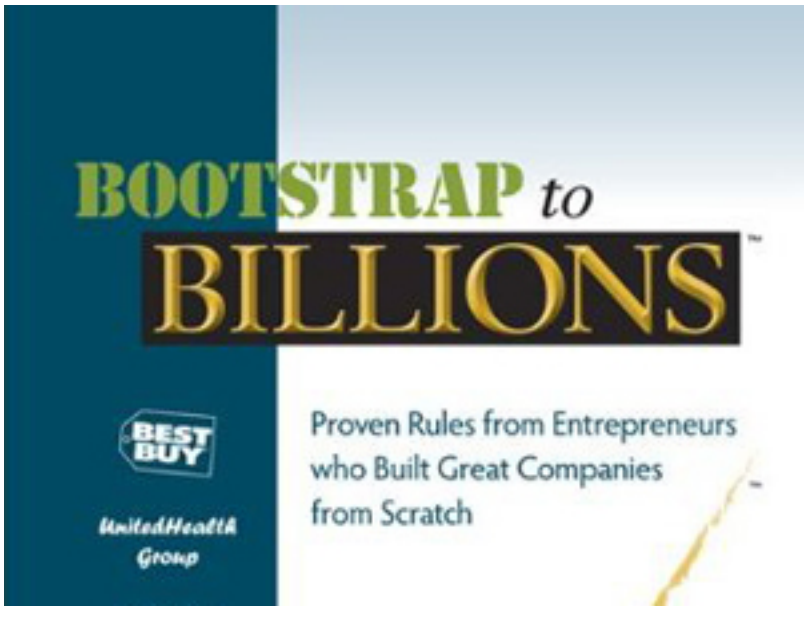
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U of M event will celebrate some of state's greatest entrepreneurs



Carlson School adjunct professor and author Dileep Rao will discuss his new book, "Bootstrap to Billions: Proven Rules from Entrepreneurs who Built Great Companies from Scratch" Wednesday, Jan. 20.

Panel will share their business advice and discuss role entrepreneurship will play in Minnesota's future.

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January 15, 2010

The Gary S. Holmes Center for Entrepreneurship at the Carlson School of Management will host a panel event entitled, “Celebrating Minnesota’s Greatest Entrepreneurs and Discussing Implications for the Future” from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, at the Carlson School's 3M Auditorium, 321 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Dileep Rao, adjunct professor at the Carlson School and forbes.com columnist, will be joined live on stage by legendary Minnesota entrepreneurs Tom Auth, Bonnie Baskin, Tim Doherty, Ed Flaherty, Gary Holmes, Mark Knudson, Joel Ronning, Brett Shockley and Craig Swanson. These nine entrepreneurs are among 28 Minnesota entrepreneurs featured in Rao's newly released book, "Bootstrap to Billions: Proven Rules from Entrepreneurs who Built Great Companies from Scratch." They will share their business advice and comment on the role of entrepreneurship to our state's future success.

Event is open to the public; please RSVP to hce@umn.edu. Media planning to attend the event should contact Erin Rath at erath@umn.edu or (612) 624-8770 for further details.

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International climate change expert to speak at University of Minnesota

What: Making Sense of Copenhagen: Toward a More Effective Policy on Global Warming
Who: David G. Victor, professor, School of International Relations and Pacific Studies; director, International Law and Regulation Laboratory, University of California-San Diego
When: 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21
Where: Cargill Building for Microbial & Plant Genomics, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul

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Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

January 19, 2010

One of the world's most renowned experts on climate negotiations will speak at the University of Minnesota next week.

David Victor, a professor at the University of California-San Diego, will be the keynote speaker at the Willard W. Cochrane Lecture in Public Policy. Victor is a former director of the Program on Energy and Sustainable Development at Stanford University and previous director of the science and technology program at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in New York. In that role, he oversaw the council's task force on energy and was senior adviser to the task force on climate change.

His research examines ways to improve management of the nation's $50 billion strategic oil reserve, strategies for managing investment in "geoengineering" and a wide array of other topics related to technological innovation. He has also studied global forest policy, global warming and genetic engineering of food crops. His talk is free and open to the public, but preregistration is requested online at http://www.apec.umn.edu/CochraneLecture2010.html

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Mosaic CEO to speak on food security challenges at U

What: Carlson School of Management's 1st Tuesday Speaker Series
When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2010
Where: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis
Registration contact: (612) 626-9334, firsttuesday@umn.edu

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

January 20, 2010

James Prokopanko, president and chief executive officer of The Mosaic Company, will speak at the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management's "1st Tuesday Speaker Series" at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at the U's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. In his 1st Tuesday remarks, Prokopanko will discuss "Our Food Security Challenge - Meeting a Growing World Appetite."

As president and chief executive officer of The Mosaic Company, Prokopanko oversees one of the world's leading producers and marketers of concentrated phosphate and potash crop nutrients. He also serves on the board of directors for Mosaic, Canpotex, Limited, the Carlson School, The Fertilizer Institute and the International Plant Nutrition Institute. He is currently a member of the statewide Florida Council of 100.

Prokopanko joined Mosaic in July 2006 as executive vice president and chief operating officer. His responsibilities included oversight for the production and commercial teams for Mosaic.

Before joining Mosaic, Prokopanko was corporate vice president of Cargill, Incorporated and a platform leader of the Cargill Ag Producer Services Platform, responsible for the business units of U.S. AgHorizons, Canada AgHorizons, Cargill Animal Nutrition, Cargill Salt, and Frontier Agriculture Ltd. He also held executive responsibility for Cargill's corporate procurement organization.

The Mosaic Company is the world's leading producer and marketer of concentrated phosphate and potash, two of the primary crop nutrients required to grow the food the world needs. For the global agriculture industry, Mosaic is a single source of phosphates and potash fertilizers and feed ingredients. Mosaic operates mines and concentrate plants in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, and China and distributes its products to wholesalers, retail dealers and individual growers in approximately 60 countries.

The advance registration deadline for the 1st Tuesday Speaker Series is Thursday, Jan. 28. A fee of $28 includes lunch and parking in the Washington Avenue Ramp. The fee for walk-ins is $35, but space is limited. Refund cancellations are required by Thursday, Jan. 28. To register, call 612-626-9634, visit http://www.csom.umn.edu/events, or e-mail firsttuesday@umn.edu.

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Noted scholar Dorothy Roberts to speak at U of M on the problems with race-based medicine

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

January 22, 2010

Renowned legal scholar and professor Dorothy Roberts, is presenting the 2009-10 Deinard Memorial Lecture on Law & Medicine at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 3 at the University of Minnesota's Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. This lecture is free and open to the public. Roberts' lecture, "What's wrong with race-based medicine?" is sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences and the Center for Bioethics, with major support from the law firm of Leonard Street and Deinard and the Deinard family.

Roberts' lecture will discuss how the FDA's approval of the first race-specific drug has generated a heated debate about the scientific and political efficacy of race-based medicine. She will place this debate in the context of health disparities and genetic concepts of race and explain why, in her view, marketing pharmaceuticals on the basis of race may worsen racial inequities instead of cure them. Recognizing that race-based medicine raises both medical and political questions, Roberts rejects the dichotomy often claimed by its promoters that we must put aside social justice concerns in order to improve minority health.

A professor of African-American Studies and Sociology, Roberts is also the Kirkland & Ellis Professor and a Faculty Fellow in the Institute for Policy Research at Northwestern University Law School. She has written and lectured extensively on the interplay of gender, race, and class in legal issues concerning reproduction, bioethics, and child welfare. Roberts is the author of "Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty" (Pantheon, 1997), which received a 1998 Myers Center Award for the Study of Human Rights in North America, and "Shattered Bonds: The Color of Child Welfare" (Basic Books, 2002), which received research awards from the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community and the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children.

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Mushrooms, mold and modern dance celebrated at Bell Museum's Family Fungi Fest

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum,



The Bell Museum's new Family Fungi Fest pays homage to the Pilobolus Dance Theater troupe (pictured above), which is currently playing at Northrop Auditorium.

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January 25, 2010

The Bell Museum of Natural History will kick off a day celebrating the world of fungi at Family Fungi Fest, a drop-in, family-friendly event from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13 at the Bell, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The event pays homage to the Pilobolus Dance Theater, a dance troupe that takes its name from a type of fungi known for its otherworldly shapes. The troupe is performing an all-ages show sponsored by Northrop Dance immediately following the museum's event.

The museum's Family Fungi Fest will feature exotic fungi from the museum's scientific collections, a chance to experiment with live organisms and demonstrations by members of the Minnesota Mycological Society, a group devoted to mushroom and fungi hunting, collecting, cooking and crafting. Bell tour guides will lead kids on a mushroom hunt in the museum's diorama halls and Touch and See Room and everyone will be able to take home a mushroom "cap" of their own creation.

Afterward, families can choose to go next door to Northrop Auditorium for Pilobolus's 2 p.m. performance, followed by a free, fun-filled family dance party beginning at 3:30 p.m. with members of the Pilobolus troupe and University of Minnesota dance students. Visit http://northrop.umn.edu/event/pilobolus for performance ticket information.

The museum event is free with regular museum admission. The museum offers a variety of family-friendly activities including Nature Tots every third Thursday of the month. For details, visit www.bellmuseum.org. The museum is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences.

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U of M Alumni Association to host retirement celebrations for Margaret Carlson

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



Margaret Carlson has been CEO of the U of M Alumni Association for 25 years.

January 26, 2010

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association (UMAA) will host retirement celebrations in honor of CEO Margaret Carlson on Tuesday, Jan. 26 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. and on Thursday, Jan. 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Carlson has served as chief executive officer of the Alumni Association for the past 25 years. She is currently the longest-serving alumni director in the Big Ten and the sixth CEO in the history of the association.

Under Carlson's leadership the Alumni Association membership has more than doubled in size, from fewer than 30,000 to more than 60,000. Carlson helped change the face of the U by coordinating strong alumni support for some $60 million in projects, including the McNamara Alumni Center and Gateway Plaza, the Alumni Wall of Honor, Scholars Walk and the Wall of Discovery. In addition, Carlson implemented a legislative network, launched a popular statewide speakers' tour and built links from alumni to students through a comprehensive mentor program.

A Kansas native, Carlson has been a staff member, volunteer or graduate student at the University of Minnesota for the past 43 years. She joined the U of M Extension Service staff in 1966 and earned her doctorate in education administration and public policy in 1983.

"I've been so fortunate to serve my alma mater for a quarter of a century. This has been a dream job," said Carlson. "It's given me the chance to work with outstanding volunteer leadership and to help spread the word about the University of Minnesota around the state, the nation and the world."

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University of Minnesota police ask for the public's help in finding and apprehending shooting suspects

Contacts: Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

January 26, 2010

The University of Minnesota Police Department is asking for the public's help in finding and apprehending the suspects who shot a 19-year-old University of Minnesota student and the suspects who robbed two university students Monday. Anyone with information regarding these crimes is asked to call the UMPD at (612) 624-COPS (2677).

On Monday, Jan. 25 shortly after 11:00 p.m. two female University of Minnesota students were walking on a sidewalk outside of Moos Tower located at 515 Delaware St. S.E., Minneapolis on the East Bank of the University of Minnesota campus when two males approached them. One male grabbed one victim's coat to stop her and both suspects demanded the victims give them their backpack/book bags and later their cell phones. The victims believe both suspects were armed with handguns. After the robbery the suspects fled the scene, apparently towards Centennial Hall.

Shortly thereafter, a 19-year-old male University of Minnesota student was walking on the sidewalk in front of the Centennial Hall residence hall, which is within a block of Moos Tower, when he heard someone behind him make an utterance or comment of some sort that is not believed to be associated with a robbery attempt. The victim turned towards what turned out to be two male suspects and he was suddenly shot once in the chest without provocation by one of the suspects. No valuables were demanded or obtained by the suspects. The two suspects fled the scene on foot while the victim entered the lobby of Centennial Hall and obtained assistance from staff and responding emergency personnel. He was transported to HCMC where he underwent surgery for the gunshot wound and is expected to survive.

The descriptions of the suspects in the two incidents are very similar and are as follows:

The first suspect was described as a light-skinned black male, between 18 and 20 years of age, approximately 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 7 inches tall with a light build and acne scars on his face. The suspect was wearing a black puffy winter jacket, black pants and a stocking cap. The suspect was armed with a handgun.

The second suspect was described as a light-skinned black male, between 18-20 years of age, approximately 5 feet 7 inches to 5 feet 8 inches tall with a light build. The suspect was wearing a black jacket. The suspect may have been armed with a handgun.

The University of Minnesota Police Department (UMPD) is investigating these crimes, along with the assistance of the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Crime Lab Unit. Anyone with information about the incidents is asked to contact the UMPD at 612-624-COPS (2677) or 612-626-TIPS (8477).

In addition to the two incidents above, the Minneapolis Police Department is investigating the off-campus robbery of a female University of Minnesota student that occurred approximately 15 minutes before the first incident listed above in the 500 block of Huron Boulevard S.E., which is just a few blocks from where the on-campus incidents occurred. The victim was also robbed by two males who have a similar description of the suspects in the incidents above and at least one of them was armed with a handgun. The UMPD will be working with Minneapolis Police investigators to compare the incidents and investigate them appropriately if they are in fact related.

The University of Minnesota Police Department asks that you remember the following:

• When threatened with a weapon, it's best not to resist. Your personal safety is more important than a lost wallet or cell phone.
• Always be aware of your surroundings.
• Walk in well lit areas and don't walk alone. If you can't find someone to walk with, call the Campus Escort service at 612-624-WALK for a free security escort.
• Carry minimal amounts of valuables.
• Keep written records of valuables, including model and serial numbers, in a safe place.
• Call 911 immediately if you are the victim or witness to a crime.
• Document information about the suspect for police (i.e. clothing descriptions, facial features, piercings or tattoos, speech, etc.).

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42nd annual University of Minnesota senior fashion show "(in)sight" to be held Feb. 6

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



Examples from the U of M senior fashion show, which will take place Saturday, Feb. 6.

Contacts: Ryan Maus, University News Service, maus@umn.edu, (612) 624-1690
Susan Marie Dordal, Senior Fashion Show, dorda005@umn.edu, (763) 772-7900

January 28, 2010

“(in)sight,” the 42nd annual University of Minnesota senior student fashion show will take place with shows at 5:30 and 8 p.m., Sat. Feb. 6 in the courtyard of Ralph Rapson Hall, 89 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis. This highly anticipated event showcases the talent of 14 senior designers from the U of M’s College of Design, each with their own personal style and eye for cutting-edge fashion.

To see a behind-the-scenes preview video of preparations for this year’s show, visit: http://z.umn.edu/fashionshow.

The senior apparel design class will present original collections that include spotlight office wear, avant-garde designs, sustainable clothing and theater costumes. Senior designer Judy Bender finds inspiration from around the globe, Amanda Brossard finds her passion in woven arts and Carmen Tsang creates classic designs that are inspired by traditional art.

The University of Minnesota Senior Fashion Show has a long-standing tradition of showcasing fine fashion and illustrating the skills developed through the apparel design program. After three years of hard work and dedication, the designers are ready to show the world what makes their designs unique. The show will also feature a standing exhibition of work by the sophomore class and a pre-runway show from the junior class.

Each year the show attracts a sell-out crowd of over 1,000 people at both shows, including local designers, retailers, students, faculty and industry professionals. Tickets are $15 in advance ($40 VIP), $20 (non-VIP) at the door, $8 balcony standing room. Tickets sell quickly, but may be purchased online at http://fashionshow.design.umn.edu.

To learn more about the show on the Web, visit http://fashionshow.design.umn.edu, http://www.twitter.com/SrFashionShow or http://www.facebook.com/seniorfashionshow.

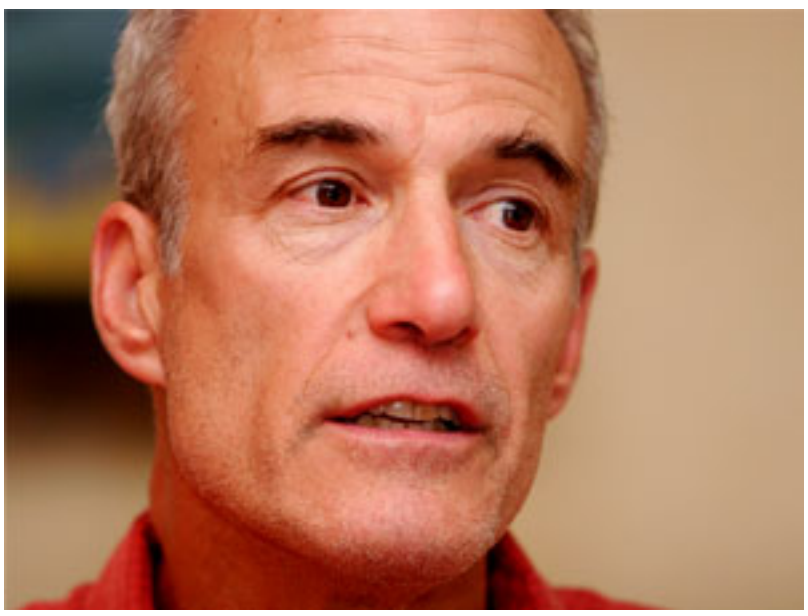
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University of Minnesota professor wins international award in ecology and conservation biology



Peter Reich

Contacts: Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, bbeyers@umn.edu, (612) 626-5754
Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 625-8201

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/28/2010) —University of Minnesota professor Peter Reich has been named this year's winner of the prestigious BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge award in ecology and conservation biology.

Reich was honored for his work in global metabolic plant ecology, most notably his discovery of universal rules of leaf design and related scaling of plant physiology from seedling to tree, from cell to ecosystem, and from the stand to the globe.

"This contribution radically improves our understanding of and ability to predict terrestrial ecosystem responses to global environmental change," his nomination says. "This includes responses of forests and grasslands to biodiversity loss, CO2, and climate change."

Reich's nomination also cites his work as leader of a unique long-term field experiment that examines interactions of three well-documented global changes: plant species diversity, elevated atmospheric CO2 and nitrogen pollution.

"To receive this award is an enormous honor," Reich said. "This award would not have been possible without the contributions of the many students, postdoctoral researchers and colleagues with whom I have collaborated over time. BBVA is impressively forward-thinking in recognizing and publicizing the importance of ecological science and conservation to the future health of our planet."

Reich is a Regents professor in the university's forest resources department and participates in many interdisciplinary research and teaching efforts. Along with a cash prize, the award includes a diploma and a commemorative artwork. All of this year's awards will be formally presented at a ceremony in Madrid next summer.

The awards honor world-class research and artistic creation in eight categories closely aligned with 21st-century scientific, technical, economic and social challenges. The categories include basic sciences (physics, chemistry, mathematics); biomedicine; ecology and conservation biology; information and communication technologies; economics, finance and management; contemporary music; climate change; and development cooperation.

The BBVA Foundation is the philanthropic arm of BBVA Group, a large Spanish banking and finance company.

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University of Minnesota study: Planting trees, restoring prairies help reduce Co2 -- but not enough to make a difference

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/29/2010) —Promoting activities such as planting new forests and restoring prairies will have little effect on offsetting carbon dioxide emissions, because there simply isn't enough idle land available to add up to significant carbon sequestration, a new study from the University of Minnesota shows.

The study is currently available online in the journal Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment.

Plants take up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to build leaf, stem and root biomass, some of which is then transferred to soil, where it can reside for decades before eventually being broken down by soil organisms and returned to the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. Some scientists and policymakers have viewed carbon sequestration by plants and soil as a possible way to offset, in part, increasing carbon dioxide emissions that cause global warming.

Such enhanced carbon sequestration would require long-lived plants like trees or perennial grasses to be grown in areas now used for growing annual crops. But it has been unclear how much carbon sequestration reasonably could be achieved by changing management practices to promote carbon storage.

The study was led by Cinzia Fissore, a research associate in the Department of Soil, Water and Climate, with contributions from Javier Espeleta, a former University of Minnesota research associate; Ed Nater, professor in the Soil, Water and Climate department; Sarah Hobbie, professor in the department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior and Peter Reich, professor in the department of Forest Resources. The team estimated how much carbon different plant types and management practices can remove from the atmosphere and store in biomass and soil upon conversion from cropland. Among the possibilities they considered, planting forests and perennial grasslands such as prairies led to the greatest carbon storage for a given area.

However, the potential to offset substantial emissions is constrained by the lack of large areas of idle land available for conversion to forests or grasslands. Achieving substantial offsets would require taking large areas of land out of agricultural production. For example, converting even 10 percent of current cropland in an 11-state Upper Midwestern region into a combination of new forests and grasslands, along with planting more trees in existing forests, would offset less than 5 percent of total carbon dioxide emissions for the region.

Although changes in vegetation cover could provide other environmental benefits such as improved water quality and wildlife habitat, achieving appreciable carbon sequestration would require taking significant land out of agricultural production, which may be impractical given increasing demand for food and biomass for energy.

Although this study shows that shifting land use practices to store meaningful amounts of additional "new" carbon is likely impractical, losses of massive amounts of stored "old" carbon could be lost from peatlands and wetlands if they are drained. Thus, making sure that land use practices are chosen that maintain our historical carbon stores is likely a much higher order goal, and more feasible, than trying to store additional carbon in carbon-depleted lands.

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University of Minnesota Facilities Management department awarded $200,000 to combat Emerald Ash Borer

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (01/29/2010) —The University of Minnesota Facilities Management department's Landcare group was recently awarded a $200,000 Forest Protection Reserve Grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). Grant funds will be used to address Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) that has been found on the St. Paul campus.

"This grant will help us advance our EAB strategy and slow the spread of this unwanted pest," said Landcare Director Les Potts.

Landcare's action plan includes completion of a tree survey to identify all ash trees on campus, the results of which will be added to a "tree" layer on the campus GIS system. Next, they will select trees for EAB treatment. Due to the treatment's expense this will be a highly selective process.

Preventative removal of ash trees will begin this winter while the insects are dormant. In the spring replacement species will be planted, adding more diversity to the U's urban forest. The same cycle will be followed in 2011. MDA funds will speed the overall reforestation.

Landcare will be sharing data and treatment progress with MDA in order to keep the state and neighboring communities informed of the infestation's spread. Potts said there is no known cure for EAB and that the U's efforts will help slow its spread.

EAB is an invasive beetle that attacks and kills ash trees. Its larvae kill ash trees by tunneling into the wood and feeding on the tree's nutrients. The beetle was first detected in Minnesota in May 2009 in a St. Paul neighborhood. Since its accidental introduction into North America, EAB has killed millions of ash trees in eastern states.

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University of Minnesota to host Martin Luther King and Black History Month celebration



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January 29, 2010

Sunday afternoon, Feb. 21 from 4 to 5:30 p.m., the University of Minnesota will host its annual Martin Luther King and Black History Month Celebration in the university's Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis. The event will feature a program of music, song, readings and spoken word poetry, highlighted by solos from jazz vocalist, Charmin Michelle and speech excerpts/readings by actor, vocalist and educator T. Mychael Rambo.

When the University of Minnesota's Martin Luther King Concert began nearly 30 years ago, it was the only tribute of its kind in Minnesota. The late Reginald Buckner, a U of M School of Music professor and accomplished performer and composer, founded the concert and began the tradition of celebrating the life and accomplishments of Dr. King through the performing arts. Buckner died in 1989, but the university honors his memory and artistic genius by carrying on the inspiring legacy of this annual program. The Martin Luther King Celebration is now a joint program of the University of Minnesota's Office for Equity and Diversity and the School of Music.

This year's program also features music by the Minneapolis South High School Jazz Ensemble, directed by Scott Carter and violin selections by LaTannia Ellerbe, doctoral student in violin performance in the School of Music. Ellerbe will be accompanied on piano by Billy Steele, performer, writer, producer and the youngest sibling of the musically famous Steele family. The energy of spoken word poetry will fill the concert hall when poets, Lenora Magee, SirMark Gentry and Kaylord Hill, members of Voices Merging, a University of Minnesota spoken word collective, take the stage.

The concert is free of charge and open to the public; no advance tickets or reservation is required. For more information about the program, or for disability accommodations, contact the Office for Equity and Diversity at oed@umn.edu or (612) 624-0594. Visit www.academic.umn.edu/equity/MLK2010.html for more information.

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Vice President Walter Mondale, Larry Jacobs to discuss national security policy at University of Minnesota open forum Feb. 4

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February 1, 2010

Former Vice President Walter Mondale and U of M Humphrey Institute faculty member Larry Jacobs will take to the stage Thursday, Feb. 4 for an open discussion about all aspects of national security policy as part of the U of M College of Continuing Education's "Headliners" series. The subject is particularly timely following the attempted bombing of Northwest Flight 253 this past Christmas, and the ongoing efforts of the United States in the Middle East. Mondale and Jacobs are set to discuss a number of security policy issues including:

• Who are the decision makers in security policy?
• How to balance the often competing priorities of national security and constitutional rights.
• How security policy is enacted.

The pair will also be co-instructing a course along the same theme during the spring semester at the Humphrey Institute. To see a video of Jacobs and Mondale describing the class, visit http://www1.umn.edu/urelate/newsservice/Multimedia_Videos/mondale_class.htm.

The general public is welcome to audit the class free of charge. For additional information about the course ("Great Debates of Our Time: U.S. Policy and Politics") or for information about auditing the course, call (612) 625-2530 or e-mail chit0018@umn.edu.

Mondale was Vice President of the United States, U.S. senator from Minnesota, Democratic nominee for president in 1984, and U.S. ambassador to Japan from 1993-96. In addition to shaping domestic policy on a number of fronts, Mondale devoted much of his public service to U.S. foreign policy and to balancing national security with the country's constitution. He led an historic investigation of the intelligence services as part of the Church Committee and shaped the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act that established a process for the government to obtain warrants to conduct domestic surveillance of potential terrorists. He is the author of "The Accountability of Power: Toward a Responsible Presidency" as well as numerous articles on domestic and international issues.

Mondale received a bachelor's degree in political science and a law degree from the University of Minnesota and served as a Distinguished University Fellow in Law and Public Affairs at the Humphrey Institute.

Jacobs holds the Walter and Joan Mondale Chair for Political Studies and is director of the Center of the Study of Politics and Governance at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. An expert in American politics history and policy, he is the author of 10 books including the award-winning "Politicians Don't Pander: Political Manipulations and the Loss of Democratic Responsiveness. Jacobs received a doctorate in political science from Columbia University and joined the U of M faculty in 1988.

Tickets for the forum, which also includes an audience question and answer session, are $10 and can be purchased by calling (612) 624-4000 or online at cce.umn.edu/headliners. Tickets may be available for purchase at the door, however advanced registration for the event is encouraged as seating is limited.

Headliners is a program provided by the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education. Through the CCE, motivated adults enrich their personal and professional lives through learning opportunities ranging from courses, workshops and retreats, to credit certificates and bachelor's and master's degrees. For more information about the college, call (612) 624-4000 or visit www.cce.umn.edu.

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U libraries to digitize Norman Borlaug papers

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Norman Borlaug

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/02/2010) —The University of Minnesota Libraries have been awarded funds to digitize the papers of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug and related historical materials from the University Archives. "The Borlaug Papers are among our most heavily used materials," said Elisabeth Kaplan, head of University Archives and project director. "They are especially popular with local high school students who use them in History Day projects. Digitizing these materials will make them accessible to an international community of scholars and researchers of all ages."

Borlaug -- who received his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees at the University of Minnesota -- was a world-renowned plant pathologist and humanitarian who won the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his development of the high-yield, disease resistant wheat that is credited with saving billions of people from starvation. Borlaug is known as the father of the "Green Revolution," a term coined in the 1960s to describe the transformation of agriculture that began in the 1940s with rapid advances in food crop production developed to keep pace with worldwide population growth. Borlaug passed away in 2009.

Fifty-eight boxes of archival material will be digitized, including five decades of field notebooks, the pocket-sized books in which Borlaug documented his travel and work in the field in Mexico, South America, Africa, the Middle East, South and South East Asia and Eastern Europe. Other items include Borlaug's correspondence with colleagues mentors and world leaders; talks and writings; multiple drafts of his Nobel acceptance speech; and over 7500 photographs from the late 1940s through 2000.

Papers from some of Borlaug's contemporaries will also be included in the digital collection, including correspondence and photographs from E. C. Stakman, Borlaug’s mentor and longtime head of the U plant pathology department; the papers of Helen Hart, U of M alumna and faculty member, and expert of cereal rust disease; and portions of the John Gibler Papers, U alumnus and colleague of Borlaug’s at the Rockefeller Foundation.

The project, which will be completed by May 2011, is being supported by a $27,667 Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grant, a program supported by the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment. Approved by Minnesota voters in November 2008, the state constitutional amendment provides for an increase in Minnesota state sales tax to support outdoor heritage, clean water, parks and trails, as well as arts, history and cultural heritage.

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U of M faculty and staff receive award for global engagement

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/02/2010) —Four University of Minnesota faculty and staff members have been named recipients of the 2009 Award for Global Engagement, a university-wide award given to active or retired faculty and staff members in recognition of outstanding contributions to global education and international programs in their field, discipline or to the university.

Recipients for 2009 include:

David Chapman, Wallace Professor of Teaching and Learning, College of Education and Human Development, is an internationally known scholar and practitioner in the field of international development. His work is related to real-world policy issues in countries across the world and is significant in its impact on improving the education condition for children and adults worldwide.

Gerald Fry, professor, College of Education and Human Development, is an accomplished researcher, mentor, teacher and global citizen. From his early years in the Peace Corps, to his latest role as professor and researcher, he has dedicated his career of more than 40 years to the field of international education.

Joseph Schwartzberg, professor Emeritus, College of Liberal Arts, is a scholar, writer, speaker, peace and justice activist and committed world citizen, combining his academic career with engagement causes. He is the principle author of the "Historical Atlas of South Asia," which has been called the “definitive historical chronology” of South Asia.

Kathleen Sellew, former associate director, Office of International Programs, has demonstrated exceptional leadership in international education throughout her career, including 17 years at the university. She was a key figure in establishing the foundation, justification and programs to advance the institution’s internationalization agenda.

“Our faculty and staff are doing important international work here and around the world,” said Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean for international programs. “The goal of this award is both to recognize these individuals and also to inspire other faculty and staff to follow their example.”

The award, created in 2005, is sponsored by the Office of the Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration and administered by the Office of International Programs. Recipients receive an award sculpture and the title of Distinguished International (Emeritus) Professor (for faculty) or Distinguished Award for Global Engagement Recipient (for staff). Robert Jones, senior vice president for system academic administration, will present the awards at a ceremony on March 24.

A selection committee of university faculty reviewed the nominations and chose the recipients.

The deadline for the next round of nominations will be in June 2010. More information, including nomination materials and longer biographies of the recipients, are available online at http://www.international.umn.edu/awards/global.

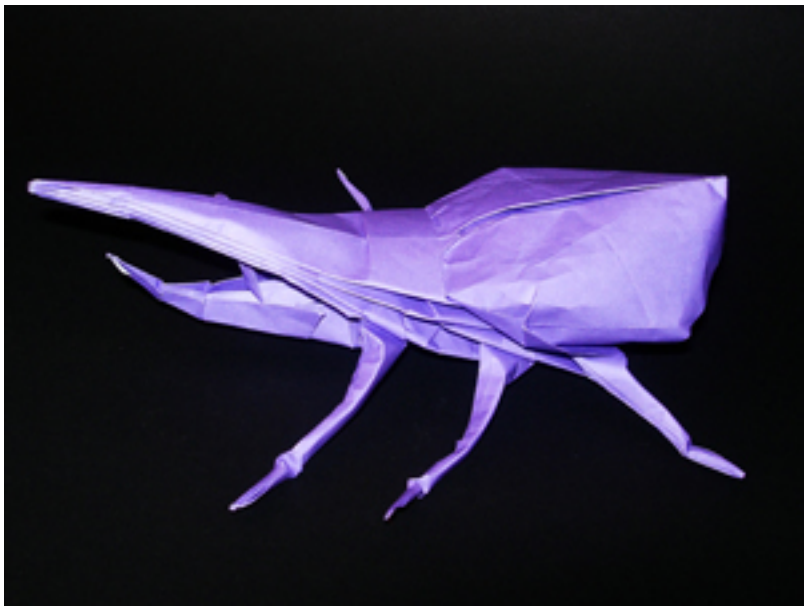
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World-renowned origami artist to speak Feb. 9 at University of Minnesota



An example of Robert Lang's work.

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February 2, 2010

The principles of origami, the centuries-old Japanese art of paper-folding, can be used to solve a wide range of folding problems, from how to compress an airbag into a steering wheel to how to design complex folding telescopes. These math-based origami concepts are used in product development, architecture and designs seen all around us.

Robert J. Lang, considered one of the world's foremost origami artists, will speak at the University of Minnesota at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9 in Willey Hall, Room 175, 225 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. His lecture, entitled “From Flapping birds to space telescopes: The math of origami” is the third lecture in this year's four-speaker lecture series sponsored by the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA).

Lang is an artist and consultant who applies origami principles to engineering problems. He is considered one of the world's leading masters of the art, with more than 500 designs, including some of the most complex origami designs ever created. With a doctorate. in applied physics from Caltech, Lang has authored or co-authored more than 80 papers and 45 patents in lasers and opto electronics, as well as nine books and a CD-ROM on origami. He also works as the editor-in-chief of the IEEE Journal of Quantum Electronics.

Stunning photos of Lang’s work are on his Web site at www.langorigami.com

For details about this and other IMA public lectures, visit www.ima.umn.edu/public-lecture

The IMA is a center within the University’s Institute of Technology (College of Science and Engineering) that brings together the best minds in math and the sciences to solve pressing problems facing our society, our industries, and our planet. It receives major funding from the National Science Foundation and the University of Minnesota.

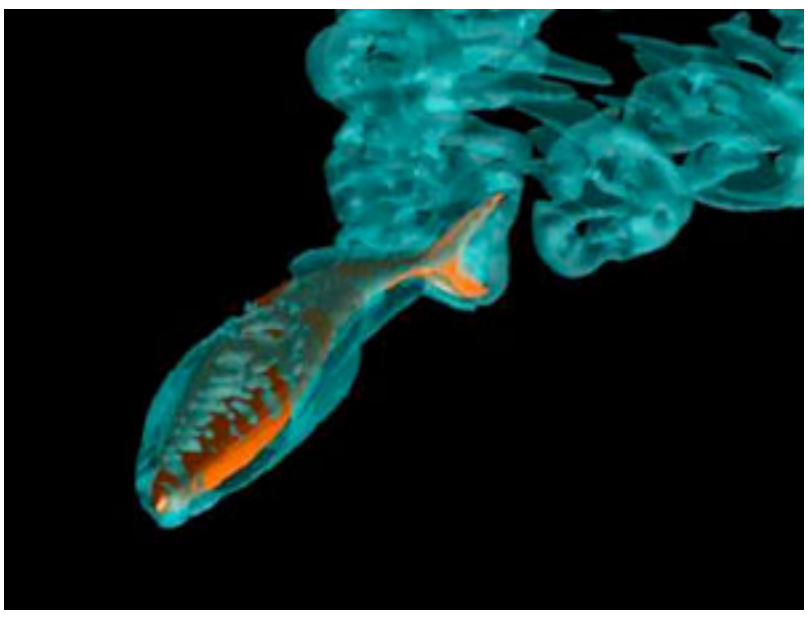
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U of M research finds water movements can shape fish evolution



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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/04/2010) —Researchers from the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology have found that the hydrodynamic environment of fish can shape their physical form and swimming style. The research, available on the Journal of Experimental Biology Web site, was sponsored by the National Science Foundation's National Center for Earth-surface Dynamics.

Catch a glimpse of a fish's body shape, and you can often guess how speedy it is. Tuna and mackerel look as if they should outpace frilly reef fish and eels. But how have all of these diverse body shapes evolved? Have fish bodies been shaped by the hydrodynamics of their environment or did they evolve for other reasons?

Turning to computational fish for answers, professor of Civil Engineering Fotis Sotiropoulos, along with postdoctoral researcher Iman Borazjani, from the university's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory decided to race hybrid and realistic fish in a massive parallel computer cluster to find out what influence the aquatic environment has had on fish shapes and swimming techniques.

But building the computational fish was far from straightforward. "We started this work over five years ago," says Sotiropoulos. "It was a challenge because we had never simulated anything living before."

Borazjani explains that the hydrodynamic forces exerted on swimmers vary enormously depending on their size and speed. Knowing that mackerel and eels swimming in water generate and thus experience different hydrodynamic environments, the duo simulated these different environments by varying tail beat frequencies and fluid viscosity (syrupiness).

Building two computational mackerels (one that beat its tail like a mackerel and a second that wriggled like an eel) and two eels (one that wriggled and another that beat its tail like a mackerel), the engineers set the fish racing from standing starts and noted how they performed.

The results showed clearly that all fish swam more efficiently if they had the body form or swimming style appropriate to the speeds at which they swam. For example, a lamprey that needed to swim faster could gain efficiency—which for a real fish would mean tiring less quickly—if it changed its shape or swimming style to mimic a mackerel. And a mackerel that had to move slowly would be more efficient if it could change shape or swimming style to mimic a lamprey. This is evidence that a fish's optimal range of swimming speeds generates hydrodynamic forces that influence the shape and swimming style it will evolve.

"From these experiments, we can deduce that real mackerel and eel's swimming styles are perfectly adapted to the hydrodynamic environments that they inhabit," says Sotiropoulos. The method could be adapted to study how a fluid environment molds the evolution of other organisms and to design robots that would swim at different speeds or in water of different viscosities, the researchers say.

The full article can be found on the Journal of Experimental Biology Web site: http://jeb.biologists.org/cgi/content/full/213/1/89

More information about professor Sotiropoulos' research at the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory can be found at www.safl.umn.edu.

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Three new research projects funded by University of Minnesota will address key policy questions about obesity and healthy eating

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/04/2010) —Three new research projects funded by the University of Minnesota will address key policy questions about obesity and healthy eating. The projects are funded by grants from the university's Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute. Each research project will receive about $100,000 and will take place over the next two years.

The projects include:

- A look at how mothers perceive their babies' hunger and satiety and how that might influence child growth and weight status, especially in early childhood. Because the largest increases in obesity over the last 30 years have occurred in children, the research team aims to understand how parents' attributes and attitudes are passed on. The team includes researchers from the U of M's Institute of Child Development, School of Public Health and Center for Neurobehavioral Development.

- Testing of a novel worksite obesity prevention program that includes nutrition labels, pedometers, persuasive messaging and tracking how influential colleagues affect others' behavior. Researchers hope to show how a workplace prevention program can make a difference in obesity prevention through existing networks and resources. The project involves researchers from four departments at the University of Minnesota-Duluth in partnership with St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth.

- Development of state-level food system indicators and data collection for all 50 states, in an effort to more accurately show how each state's food system meets the standard of "healthy, fair, green and affordable." The standard is used nationally, but no data exists on a state level. U of M researchers on the project are from the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and the School of Public Health.

"These are very different projects, but they all demonstrate excellent ways in which the university can provide important research about how what we eat affects our health," said Mindy Kurzer, director of the Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute.

The institute fosters interdisciplinary research and outreach from areas as wide-ranging as medicine, agriculture and exercise, through a collaboration of five colleges within the university.

The projects and their principal investigators include:

Mother-Infant Feeding Interactions and Infant Physical and Cognitive Development: A Transdisciplinary Research Collaboration

- Co-PI: Stephanie M. Carlson, PhD, associate professor, Institute of Child Development
- Co-PI: Ellen W. Demerath, PhD, associate professor, School of Public Health
- Co-PI: Dr. Michael K. Georgieff, MD, professor, Pediatrics and Child Development; director, Center for Neurobehavioral Development
- Co-I: Danielle M. Beck, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Psychology, Simpson University

Preventing Obesity in the Worksite: A Multi-Message, Multi-Step Approach

- Co-PI: Jennifer Feenstra Schultz, PhD, associate professor, Department of Economics- UMD
- Co-PI: Lara LaCaille, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Psychology- UMD
- Co-I: Rick LaCaille, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Psychology, UMD
- Co-I: Ryan Goei, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Communication, UMD
- Co-I: Rebecca de Souza, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Communication, UMD
- Co-I: Amy Versnik Nowak, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

State Level Food System Indicators

- PI: Robert P. King, professor, Department of Applied Economics
- Co-PI: Molly D. Anderson, Food Systems Integrity, Arlington, MA
- Co-PI: David Mulla, professor, Department of Soil, Water and Climate
- Co-PI: Mary Story, professor, Epidemiology and Community Health, School of Public Health

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Noted author Robert Glennon to speak on critical water issues

Glennon leads off lecture series sponsored by Freshwater Society and University of Minnesota

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Patrick Sweeney, Freshwater Society, psweeney@freshwater.org, (763) 219-1261

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/05/2010) —Robert Glennon, the author of two recent books arguing that Americans overuse and abuse water resources, will talk about the "urgent water crisis" in our country in a public lecture from 7 to 9 p.m., Monday, Feb. 22, at the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Student Center Theater, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

The free lecture kicks off the Moos Family Speaker Series, which is co-sponsored by the Freshwater Society and the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences using funds from an endowment established by physician Dan Moos and his wife Catherine Moos in honor of Malcolm Moos, president of the University of Minnesota from 1967 to 1974.

Glennon, a University of Arizona professor of law and public policy, writes with authority, passion and humor about the way Americans use their water. His latest book, "Unquenchable: America's Water Crisis and What to Do About It," was published in March 2009 by Island Press. It is a sequel to Water Follies: Groundwater Pumping and the Fate of America's Fresh Waters," published in 2002.

Glennon calls for a market approach to allocating water among competing interests and suggests we may need a national tax on water. He also argues that Americans will need to find ways to reuse the vast quantities of water we now use to dispose of human waste.

A panel of Minnesota water experts will respond to Glennon's comments. Robert Elde, dean of the College of Biological Sciences, and Gene Merriam, president of the Freshwater Society, will moderate.

The Moos Family Speaker Series celebrates 2010 -- "The Year of Water," a yearlong series of activities organized by the Freshwater Society to increase public awareness about water issues. Future lectures will cover pharmaceuticals and endocrine-disrupting compounds in water, the impact of climate change on water resources, and the pollution of lakes and rivers from multiple, diffuse sources.

The series will provide a forum for sharing knowledge about water issues and addressing them through public policy and community engagement.

The St. Paul Student Center Theater is located at 2017 Buford St. near Cleveland Avenue on the University of Minnesota -- St. Paul Campus. Glennon's talk is free and open to the public, but seating is limited and registration is required. To register, go to www.freshwater.org.

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U of M Board of Regents to meet Feb. 11-12

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February 5, 2010

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold its February meeting on Feb. 11-12, 2010. Highlights of the meeting include:

Thursday, Feb. 11

8:30 – 9:30 a.m., Audit Committee, East Committee Room. In addition to routine audit business, the committee will receive an update on the Enterprise Financial System (EFS).

9:45-11:45 a.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will review and/or act on a number of capital budget amendments, schematic plans and real estate transactions. Projects included are renovations to Akerman Hall, the Mechanical Engineering Building, Griggs Hall on the Duluth campus, Folwell Hall, the Physics and Nanotechnology building, an addition to the University Recreation Center on the Twin Cities campus and others impacting the Rochester campus. The committee will also hear the annual report on utilities and energy management and review the policy on monumental works of art.

9:45 – 11:45 a.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will take action on the openness in research policy and review policies regarding academic misconduct, student financial aid and college constitutions. Provost Tom Sullivan and Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Arlene Carney will also present on faculty teaching.

1:30 – 3:30 p.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will review an act on a collective bargaining agreement with Law Enforcement Labor Services (Police Officers Unit 1). It will also hear presentations on best practices in performance management and how the university prepares graduates for the world of work.

1:30 – 3:30 p.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will take action on the targeted business and small business programs policy and will receive an update from CFO Richard Pfutzenreuter on the 2010 operating budget.

Friday, Feb. 12

9 – 11:30 a.m., Board of Regents meeting, boardroom. The new dean of the College of Education and Human Development and vice provost and dean of graduate education will be introduced to the board. General Counsel Mark Rotenberg and Vice President Kathryn Brown will review a new individual business of financial conflict of interest policy. Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy will also present a report on the commercialization of technology.

More information on the Board of Regents meeting can be found at www.umn.edu/regents. The meeting will be webcast on that site.

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U of M research says early abuse tied to more depression in children

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Dante Cicchetti is a professor of child development and psychiatry at the University of Minnesota.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/08/2010) —Although children can be depressed for many reasons, new evidence suggests that there are physiological differences among depressed children based on their experiences of abuse before age five. Early abuse may be especially damaging due to the very young age at which it occurs.

Those are the findings of a new study of low-income children that was conducted by researchers at the University of Minnesota and the University of Rochester, Mt. Hope Family Center. The study appears in the January/February 2010 issue of the journal Child Development.

Children who experience maltreatment, including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse or neglect, grow up with a lot of stress. Cortisol, termed the “stress hormone,” helps the body regulate stress. But when stress is chronic and overloads the system, cortisol can soar to very high levels or plummet to lows, which in turn can harm development and health.

The researchers studied more than 500 low-income children ages 7 to 13, about half of whom had been abused and/or neglected, to find out whether abuse early in life and feelings of depression affected their levels of cortisol. High levels of depression were more frequent among children who were abused in the first five years of their lives than among maltreated children who weren’t abused early in life or children who weren’t maltreated at all.

More importantly, only children who were abused before age five and depressed had an atypical flattening of cortisol production during the day, whereas other children, whether they were depressed or not, showed an expected daily decline in cortisol from morning to afternoon.

This finding means that the body’s primary system for adapting to stress had become compromised among children who were depressed and abused early in life. The results suggest that there are different subtypes of depression, with atypical cortisol regulation occurring among children who were abused before age five.

The authors suggest that early abuse may be more damaging to developing emotion and stress systems because it happens as the brain is rapidly developing and when children are more dependent on caregivers’ protection. Moreover, because it’s harder for very young children to discern the clues predicting an abusive attack, they may be chronically stressed and overly vigilant, even when they’re not being abused.

“In the United States, more than 1.5 million children are abused and neglected every year, though it’s estimated that the actual rates are substantially greater,” according to Dante Cicchetti, McKnight Presidential Chair and professor of child development and psychiatry at the University of Minnesota, who led the study. “The results of this study have significant implications for children in the child welfare population and underscore the importance of providing early preventive interventions to children who have been abused.”

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U event will examine human factors and the design of safer roads

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February 8, 2010

The Center for Transportation Studies will host their annual winter luncheon 11:30 a.m.-1.30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9, at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St S.E., Minneapolis. This year's event will focus on human factors and the design of safer roads.

Human factors expert Alison Smiley will explore the connection between human factors and road safety using examples of human limitations, how these contribute to crashes, and how they can be considered explicitly in road design policy and countermeasures, such as protected left turns.

Smiley, an adjunct engineering professor at the University of Toronto and at Ryerson University, has more than 30 years of experience in human factors research and application and has conducted numerous field experiments to look at the effects of shiftwork, medical conditions, experience, fatigue, lighting, alcohol, and drugs on performance. She has conducted large-scale experimental studies involving assessment of legibility, comprehension, and information load of highway signs.

For more information, go to http://www.cts.umn.edu/Events/Luncheon/2010/Winter/.

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University of Minnesota Alumni Association names Phil Esten new CEO

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



Phil Esten was named the seventh CEO of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association Monday.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/08/2010) —The University of Minnesota Alumni Association announced today that Phil Esten, Ph.D., has been named chief executive officer. Esten, who is an associate athletics director at the university, succeeds Margaret Sughrue Carlson, who announced plans to retire from the Alumni Association last May after 25 years of service.

Esten, who has a doctoral degree in kinesiology from the University and has taught graduate level courses as an adjunct professor of the university's kinesiology department, was chosen through a national search process that began last August. "Margaret Carlson set a high bar for Big Ten alumni association leadership, and Phil is uniquely qualified to carry that leadership forward," said Bruce Mooty, immediate past president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and co-chair of the search committee with former Board of Regents Chair Maureen Reed. "Our 60,000 members will benefit from Phil's extensive knowledge of the university, his proven ability to turn alumni into ambassadors for important university causes and his passion for the role that school spirit plays in connecting today's and tomorrow's graduates to their alma mater."

As an associate athletics director, Esten manages the overall strategic plan for intercollegiate athletics, which includes 25 sports and 225 employees. He was the department's point person for the university's new on-campus football stadium, TCF Bank Stadium, serving as the intercollegiate athletics liaison for all design, construction, operations and management of the $288.5 million project. Esten also was instrumental in stadium fundraising, an effort that included more than $45 million in funds for academic programming for the University.

"Now more than ever, major universities around the country are realizing the immense importance of building strong relationships with their alumni," said Bob Bruininks, University of Minnesota president. "Phil is a proven leader who brings out the best in people in pursuit of a common goal. I'm looking forward to working with him in support of this great institution."

Esten will be the seventh CEO in the Alumni Association's 106-year history. His first official day with the organization is March 15. Retiring CEO Margaret Sughrue Carlson expressed her enthusiastic support of Esten's appointment. "I'm delighted to pass the maroon and gold baton to Phil, who has been a superb ally of the Alumni Association for years. I'll be cheering for him, as will 400,000 alumni around the country who cheered me along for the past 25 years." Carlson will be embarking on a part-time consulting career, providing guidance to higher-education institutions and non-profit organizations throughout the country.

About the University of Minnesota Alumni Association

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a 60,000-member organization whose members are ambassadors for the outstanding teaching and discovery that happens at the University every day. For more information, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org.

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U's TORT production takes on Shakespeare

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John Kvinge (''11) and cast singing "TORT Theme"

February 8, 2010

The University of Minnesota Law School's Theatre of the Relatively Talentless (TORT) will present its eighth annual musical, "A Midsemester Night's Dream," on March 5-6 at the Pantages Theatre in downtown 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. Among those scheduled to elevate the atmosphere for the 2010 production are former Vice President Walter F. Mondale ('56), U.S. District Court Judge John R. Tunheim ('80) and Dean David Wippman.

"A Midsemester Night's Dream" follows three intersecting groups of law students through a wild night in the Law Library. When four overworked 1Ls become involved in a love tangle, some 3Ls with competing legal viewpoints decide to help. Meanwhile, the TORT cast is working to find a leading man and produce a show that will save the Law School from a fate worse than William Mitchell. Can law students achieve love, bipartisanship and great cameo appearances?

Tickets will be available in the subplaza, 12:00-1:15 p.m., on Feb. 8-11 at a special rate ($10) for University of Minnesota students with school ID; and on Feb. 22-25 and March 1-4 at the regular price (general public, $17; students, $12). For on-campus ticketing procedures, visit www.lawschoolmusical.com. Advance purchase of tickets is recommended.

Tickets will go on sale to the general public Feb. 15 through Ticketmaster or at the State Box Office. For information on group ticket rates (10 or more) or special accommodations, call 612-990-2963 or email tort@umn.edu.

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

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Former U.S. Under Secretary for Science Raymond Orbach to speak about energy security at the U of M on Feb. 24



Former U.S. Department of Energy Under Secretary for Science Raymond Orbach will speak at the U of M Wednesday, Feb. 24.

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February 9, 2010

“Energy Security: From Deal Killers to Game Changers” is the title of an upcoming talk by former U.S. Department of Energy Under Secretary for Science Raymond Orbach at 3:35 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, at the University of Minnesota’s Tate Laboratory of Physics, Room 131, 116 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The talk, sponsored by the University’s School of Physics and Astronomy, will address five energy security “deal killers.” Orbach will discuss the way in which basic research can transform these “deal killers” into “game changers” to provide possible solutions for our country’s future energy security.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Public parking is available in the Church Street Garage, 80 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis, which is near the Tate Laboratory of Physics.

Orbach is currently Director of the Energy Institute at the University of Texas at Austin. He formerly was the nation’s first Under Secretary for Science, a high-ranking position within the U.S. Department of Energy. In that role, he served as an advisor to the Department of Energy Secretary on science policy as well as all scientific aspects of the department, including basic and applied research ranging from nuclear energy to environmental clean-up of Cold War legacy sites to defense programs.

For more details about the upcoming talk or Orbach’s background, visit http://z.umn.edu/orbach.

The School of Physics and Astronomy is a unit of the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology, the University’s college of science and engineering.

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University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development, Teach for America, Bush Foundation and state leaders discuss teacher quality

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/09/2010) —On Feb. 5, more than 200 of Minnesota's top education leaders and policymakers met at the University of Minnesota to discuss how to develop, measure and support teacher effectiveness and quality. The question is a timely one. Federal and state policy measures—Race to the Top and Q Comp, for example—tie education funding to teacher quality. Additionally, teacher effectiveness has been found to be the most important school-based variable affecting student achievement.

Hosted by the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development and moderated by Karen Seashore, the Robert H. Beck Professor of Ideas in Education, a panel of state and national experts shared perspectives from across the spectrum of the education industry. Panel members included Misty Sato, who holds the new Carmen Starkson Campbell Endowed Chair in Education; Bush Foundation President Peter Hutchinson; St. Paul Public Schools Superintendent Valeria Silva, Teach for America President Matthew Kramer; and Garnet Franklin, education issues specialist for Education Minnesota.

Sato laid out the research on teacher quality and charged the audience to think of investing in teacher quality as an investment in children. She focused on the teaching profession as a cycle, from recruitment and preparation, early career support and ongoing professional development. The ultimate goal, she said, is for the most effective, experienced teachers to become master teachers who can help those who are new to the profession.

She highlighted a number of teacher effectiveness initiatives nationwide, including two at the university's College of Education and Human Development. The Teacher Support Partnership—a collaboration between the college, the Minnesota Department of Education, Education Minnesota, and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities—has developed guidelines for supporting early career teachers. The college's Teacher Education Redesign Initiative (TERI) is building partnerships with the schools where graduates of the teacher preparation program will teach.

"TERI is as much about developing schools into places of professional support and learning as it is about redesigning teacher preparation at the U," Sato said.

As part of TERI, the college is also the lead institution among state teacher preparation programs working with the Minnesota Department of Education on a national pilot assessment for pre-service teachers.

The panel members followed with their perspectives on teacher quality, based in their individual positions and experiences in the education field. Hutchinson reiterated the call for ongoing partnerships between pre-K-12 schools and districts and colleges of education. The foundation has funded TERI with a $4.5 million grant—part of a $40 million investment in seven regional higher education partners over the next 10 years. The overall Bush initiative promotes ongoing collaboration between preparation programs, which track and guarantee their graduates' effectiveness, and school districts.

"This relationship in which the two sides are really working on one problem is absolutely essential," Hutchinson said, "and in many ways this is the most profound policy change we need to see. We need to actually integrate the work of the higher education system with the work of the K-12 system in order for this to work successfully."

Hutchinson and the other panel members also sounded the need for preparing teachers for the reality of the classrooms they face today, where students may face high poverty or speak a language other than English at home. Silva, Franklin and others also highlighted the need for an ongoing system-wide commitment to teacher professional development.

The panel then addressed a number of issues posed by Seashore related to attracting and retaining high quality teachers and specific policy recommendations to meet those challenges. Though some disagreed on controversial topics such as tenure and alternative teacher preparation, they all expressed their commitment and urgency towards solving the complex challenges of an educational system that does not work for all students. They also repeated the vitality of cooperation across higher education, pre-K-12 and state systems.

Sato warned against playing the blame game. "We have to bring together expertise in higher education, in districts, at the state level and work on different parts of the system simultaneously with some leadership and coordination," she said. Sato called for policymakers to provide a way to coordinate pockets of quality work already underway in colleges and classrooms.

For information on the CEHD Policy Breakfast Series, see http://www.cehd.umn.edu/policy.

Founded in 1905, the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development comprises eight departments and 184 tenured and tenure-track faculty. U.S. News & World Report ranked the college No. 21 among all professional schools of education and No. 12 among all public professional schools. Each year the college educates more than 5,300 full-year equivalent students; about 375 students complete teacher preparation annually.

The Teacher Education Redesign Initiative (TERI) will better prepare teachers for the challenges they face in a 21st century classroom. Funded by a $4.5M grant from the Bush Foundation, the initiative focuses on student learning, adaptive teaching, diversifying the work force, enhanced clinical experiences for future teachers, strengthening the curriculum, improving teacher support, and measuring teacher effectiveness. More information can be found at http://www.cehd.umn.edu/teri.

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U of M Police announce arrest of suspects in connection with robberies and shooting

Media Note: University Police Chief Greg Hestness will hold a media briefing at 12:30 in Room 12 Morrill Hall, 100 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Contacts: , University News Service, 612-624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/11/2010) —University of Minnesota Police Chief Greg Hestness announced today that two suspects are now in custody in connection with the Jan. 25 robberies and shooting of a student on the University of Minnesota campus.

The first suspect, a 21-year-old male from Minneapolis, was arrested on Tuesday and booked into Hennepin County jail on probable cause of aggravated robbery. The second suspect is a juvenile and was booked on a warrant of two counts of aggravated robbery.

Despite the arrests, the investigation continues as police seek information to strengthen the case against the two suspects. The investigation has been a joint effort and the University of Minnesota Police Department has received outstanding support on this case from the Minneapolis Police Department, the Hennepin County Sheriff's office and the Hennepin County Attorney's office.

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LGBTQ mental health conference to he held at the University of Minnesota

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February 12, 2010

On Friday, March 26 the Minnesota LGBT Therapists Network, in partnership with the Queer Student Cultural Center and the GLBTA Programs Office at the University of Minnesota, will host Beyond the Boxes: Emerging Trends in LGBTQ Mental Health, a regional conference on mental health topics as they relate to LGBTQ communities.

The conference will be held at the U's Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave S.E., Minneapolis.

This comprehensive, culturally diverse, and practical one-day conference will explore mental health issues as they relate to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities. Over 50 workshops will explore changing paradigms in research, clinical practice, and our understandings of diverse sexual and gender identities.

The conference is open to all interested people, including those who are allies to LGBTQ communities. It will be of particular interest to mental health practitioners, health care professionals, researchers in health-related fields, professional educators, and undergraduate & graduate students.

The keynote speaker is Katherine “Kit” Rachlin, Ph.D., a licensed psychologist and certified sex therapist from New York City who has extensive experience supporting transgender people and their families and partners.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available through several licensure boards, including the Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy (LADC, LP, LPCC), the Board of Social Work, and the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy. Certificates of completion will be distributed at the conference closing.

An Opening Reception, sponsored by the LGBT Therapists Network, will be held Thursday evening in the Mississippi Room, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Beth Zemsky, founding member of the Network, and Loretta Worthington, Executive Director of the Rainbow Health Initiative, will speak. Entertainment will be provided by comic Donna DiMenna and musician Chastity Brown.

For more information, go to http://www.glbta.umn.edu/beyondtheboxes/

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Globally recognized bioethicist Alexander Capron to speak at U of M on issues in the structure and governance of biobanks

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February 12, 2010

Eminent bioethicist and professor Alexander Capron will speak on “Cutting-Edge Issues in the Structure & Governance of U.S. and International Biobanks” at 11:30 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 18 at Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E. Minneapolis.

Capron’s lecture is the third and final lecture in the 2009-10 Lecture Series on Law, Health & the Life Sciences on “How the Internet and Computers Are Changing Biomedical Practices and Policy” and is sponsored by the University of Minnesota’s Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences.

Capron’s lecture will focus on how biobanks — repositories of human biological samples and associated information about the lives and health of the samples' sources — have been established to assist in studies of particular diseases and, more broadly, of the effects of genes and the environment on human health and disease.

A globally-recognized expert in health policy and medical ethics, Alexander Capron is the Scott H. Bice Chair in Healthcare Law, Policy and Ethics, and Professor of Law and Medicine at the University of Southern California, Gould School of Law. For more information on Capron, visit http://lawold.usc.edu/contact/contactInfo.cfm?detailID=205

The lecture is free and open to the public. It is co-sponsored by the University’s Consortium on Law, Health & the Life Sciences and Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences. The Consortium and Joint Degree program are celebrating 10 years of groundbreaking research, leadership, programming, and training in law and the life sciences. For more information, visit www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu.

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University of Minnesota-Twin Cities receives record number of freshman applications for seventh straight year

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, wolter@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/12/2010) —Freshman applications to the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota for fall semester 2010 have increased nine percent (more than 3,000 applications) over fall 2009. To date, the university has received more than 35,000 applications for a freshman class of approximately 5,300 students. Over the last five years, freshman applications have increased 83 percent (15,300 applications).

According to Wayne Sigler, director of admissions, a number of factors have contributed to the continued growing interest in the university, including the quality of the educational experience, its great value and the opportunities that its location in a major metropolitan area provides students.

The very strong interest in the university is making an already competitive admissions process even more competitive. “We are extremely grateful for the strong interest in the university and we do not take applicants’ interest for granted,” said Sigler.

“We are especially grateful that so many Minnesota residents are applying to the state’s flagship university. Minnesota students make up approximately two-thirds of the freshman class each year, and the university is committed to making certain that the enrollment of Minnesota students remains strong. As long as Minnesota has been a state, the university has been committed to providing educational opportunities to its sons and daughters, and that has not changed," said Sigler.

"Admission decisions are based on a holistic assessment of each application. The University of Minnesota does not use automatic criteria or minimum scores to make decisions. Each application is important to us and we take great care in individually reviewing each application to ensure that all students receive a thorough, fair, and consistent review,” said Sigler.

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3M gives U of M Law School royalty-bearing patents

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/16/2010) —The University of Minnesota Law School and the Office for Technology Commercialization (OTC) have received a significant gift of royalty-bearing patents from 3M.

The patents, with an estimated value of $760,500, are expected to generate revenue approaching $2 million over the next five years, which will be divided between the Law School and the OTC.

At the law school, the newly established 3M Fund for Law, Science and Technology will support various programs and initiatives in teaching and research.

"The Law School is deeply grateful to 3M for its gift in support of one of our most important strategic initiatives," says Law School Dean David Wippman. "The 3M Fund for Law, Science and Technology will support cutting-edge research and education in line with the company's own emphasis on innovation for a changing world."

Alumni Raymond Eby (’98), a manager in 3M’s Corporate Development Group, and Mike Geise (’05), Office of Intellectual Property counsel, were instrumental in securing this gift for the Law School.

“3M is very pleased to be able to make this gift, particularly to support the Law School’s important and innovative work on complex and fast-changing issues,” said Eby. “We believe that great legal scholarship and high-quality legal education are critical to sound policy and best practices for the future. Investing in legal excellence and technology is vital to ensure Minnesota’s role as a national leader in the years to come.”

The OTC, a unit of the university’s Office of the Vice President for Research, protects and licenses university-developed technologies and nurtures university technologies with start-up potential.

3M is a research, technology and innovative products company based in St. Paul, Minn. It has operations in 29 U.S. states and more than 60 countries. The company has been awarded more than 560 patents.

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University of Minnesota finalizes license agreement to form start-up company based on Doris Taylor research

Taylor's research garnered worldwide attention in 2008 when her team announced that it had created a beating animal heart in her laboratory



Doris Taylor's ground-breaking research holds the promise of one day enabling the replacement of human organs with non-transplantable ones harvested from either animals or donors.

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Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801
Robert Cohen, President and CEO Miromatrix Medical, (612) 202-7026

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/16/2010) —A major step in commercializing the groundbreaking research of Dr. Doris Taylor was achieved recently when the University of Minnesota signed an exclusive, global license agreement with Miromatrix Medical Inc. Dr. Taylor's research garnered worldwide attention in 2008 when her team announced that it had created a beating animal heart in her laboratory.

The technology licensed to Miromatrix holds the promise of one day enabling the replacement of entire human organs with non-transplantable organs, harvested from either animals or donors, which are stripped of their cells and recellularized with cells from the recipient or compatible donor cells.

"This is a major step forward for our technology commercialization efforts," said Tim Mulcahy, the University's vice president for research. "We took a methodical approach to this start-up and licensing agreement due to the tremendous potential of Dr. Taylor's research which, we believe, holds the potential to launch an entirely new industry on the scale of the medical device industry."

The agreement, negotiated by the university's Office for Technology Commercialization, includes equity for the university as well as future royalty and sublicensing fees.

"Miromatrix intends to commercialize a series of products based upon Dr. Taylor's platform as efficiently as possible, utilizing our own internal development as well as external collaborations," said CEO Robert Cohen. "Dr. Taylor's close involvement with the company will be tremendously beneficial as we ramp up this development effort."

Cohen joined Miromatrix as CEO in mid-November 2009. He was vice president of business and technology development at St. Jude Medical, and a former CEO of Travanti Pharma Inc. and Advanced Circulatory Systems, Inc., after holding top positions with the Pfizer Hospital Products Group and Sulzer Medica. Once Cohen joined the company, he and the university worked quickly to iron out the business and legal terms in the license agreement.

According to Cohen, Miromatrix expects to complete its initial round of financing in the next few months.

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Travelers' executive to speak on community leadership at U of M

Who: Marlene Ibsen, chief executive officer and president, Travelers Foundation
What: Carlson School of Management's First Tuesday Speaker Series
When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 2
Where: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis
Registration contact: (612) 626-9334, firsttuesday@umn.edu

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

February 16, 2010

Marlene Ibsen, chief executive officer and president, Travelers Foundation, will speak at the Carlson School of Management's "First Tuesday Speaker Series" at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 2, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

In her First Tuesday remarks, Ibsen will discuss "Community Leadership in Changing, Challenging Times."

Ibsen manages Travelers' community relations program, overseeing the distribution of more than $18 million in charitable and civic support each year. Ibsen took on her current responsibilities in November 2007, and since then has worked to better focus the company's charitable giving and community relationships. In 2008, Travelers announced that it would be making a growing commitment to education funding and involvement, particularly in its key cities of Hartford, Conn., and Saint Paul, Minn., concentrating on improving academic and career success for underserved students from middle school through college.

Prior to her role in Community Relations, Ibsen worked as a vice president in Corporate Communications, supervising the communications staff responsible for media relations, corporate issues, and business unit support. She also served as a spokesperson for the company. In her 14 years at Travelers, she has worked in a variety of communications management roles, including supervising internal communications and design, and production of print, audio, video, and multi-media communications. Previously, Ibsen worked as a television writer/producer and public relations consultant. In addition, she has experience working in communications and fundraising for nonprofit organizations.

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Paraplegic yoga instructor to speak on "A Mind-Body Approach To Healing and Recovery" at U of M

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



Despite being paralyzed since age 13, author Matthew Sanford still teaches yoga and promotes and integrated mind-body approach to healing and well-being.

February 16, 2010

Matthew Sanford, a nationally recognized author, yoga teacher, and expert on integrative medicine will give a presentation on “A Mind-Body Approach To Healing and Recovery” on Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 5:30 p.m. in the University of Minnesota's Coffman Union Theater, 300 Washington Avenue S.E., Minneapolis. Sanford has been a paraplegic since age 13, and his book "Waking: A Memoir of Trauma and Transcendence" is an emotional account about his recovery.

Using his heart-wrenching, real-life story as a template, Sanford explores the nature of trauma, loss and disability. He imagines a more integrated mind-body approach to healing and recovery that includes both patients and caregivers alike, one that improves long term outcomes for everyone involved. The presentation will also introduce some basic postural and breathing techniques.

Sanford will sign copies of his book following the discussion.

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

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University of Minnesota scientist finds that big plant seeds don't always beat out small seeds

Media Note: For a copy of the research paper, contact Patty Mattern at mattern@umn.edu



Helene Muller-Landau

Contacts: Peggy Rinard, College of Biological Sciences, rinar001@umn.edu, (612) 624-0774
Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/17/2010) —College of Biological Sciences researcher Helene Muller-Landau has developed a new theory explaining why some plant species produce a small number of large seeds while others produce a large number of small seeds.

Using mathematical modeling, Muller-Landau demonstrated that plants having different size seeds can coexist when regeneration sites vary in stressfulness. Species that produce large seeds (e.g., coconuts) have the advantage under stressful conditions -- such as drought or shade -- while plants that produce large numbers of small seeds (e.g., fig species) have the advantage in areas with adequate water and light.

The research was published in the Early Online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences during this week of Feb. 15. Visit http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2010/02/11/0911637107.full.pdf+html

"The standard explanation has been that big seeds beat out small seeds under all conditions, but that's not necessarily true," Muller-Landau says. "Big seeds have the advantage in stressful conditions and small seeds have the advantage when sun and water are abundant. It's a trade-off between tolerance and fecundity."

Muller-Landau's "tolerance-fecundity model" explains why different plant species have different size seeds and may also provide insight into the variation of the number and size of offspring among animal species, she says. It also helps to explain why there's so much diversity among species, a key finding that advances understanding of evolutionary biology.

As a staff scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and head of an international effort to quantify carbon in forests worldwide, Muller-Landau has visited forests in China, Malaysia, Ecuador and Panama, among other exotic destinations. Her experience has enabled her to observe a broad spectrum of plant species and the conditions under which they grow. This led her to question the prevailing theory about seed size.

Research in tropical biology has long focused on natural history and basic biology, as the bewildering diversity and complexity of these ecosystems has made them seem beyond the reach of quantitative ecological theory. In recent years, however, as larger datasets have accumulated, and some general patterns have begun to emerge, mathematical models have been increasingly been applied -- and have provided important insights.

"This simple, elegant theory, so well grounded in sound natural history, is a considerable advance in our understanding of plant species and how they coexist," said Egbert Leigh, of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

Financial support was provided by the HSBC Climate Partnership, a Packard Fellowship in Science and Engineering, the University of Minnesota and the U.S. National Science Foundation.

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State's largest student career fair to take place Monday at Convention Center for U of M students, recent alumni



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

February 22, 2010

More than 3,000 University of Minnesota students and recent alumni will crowd the Minneapolis Convention Center, 1301 2nd Ave. S., looking for jobs or internships Monday, Feb. 22 at the University of Minnesota Job and Internship Fair.

The fair, which is free and now in its eighth year, is sponsored by the career services offices from the University of Minnesota's Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Twin Cities and Rochester campuses. Attendees will have plenty of opportunities to choose from because the fair, which runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., will feature over 200 potential employers. Attendees are required to pre-register at www.umjobfair.org.

"This will be the largest student career fair in Minnesota this year," said Paul Timmins, College of Liberal Arts Career Services Director. "The organizations in attendance will be looking for candidates to fill a vast array of full-time positions and internships."

The event is free for University of Minnesota students and recent alumni (graduated within three years of the fair). Free bus transportation to the convention center will be provided between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Attendees can also find a list of all the employers at the fair, tips for preparing for the fair and suggestions on how to have a successful experience by visiting the fair's Web site at www.umjobfair.org.

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U of M's MnTAP helps Minnesota businesses save more than $1 million in 2009

MnTAP is celebrating 25 years of providing assistance and real solutions to businesses

Contacts: Krysta Larson, MnTAP, kjlarson@umn.edu, (612) 624-4697
Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/22/2010) —The Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) helped businesses save more than $1 million in 2009 through industry-tailored pollution prevention and energy efficiency solutions. With more than 17 million pounds of waste reduced and cost savings that total more than $1 million, several Minnesota businesses benefited from the assistance of MnTAP last year.

MnTAP is a business assistance program in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota that helps Minnesota businesses implement industry-tailored solutions that maximize resource efficiency, increase energy efficiency, prevent pollution, and reduce costs, to improve public health and the environment. In 2010, MnTAP is celebrating 25 years of providing assistance and real solutions to businesses.

To realize savings like the $1 million in 2009 and to best assist businesses, MnTAP staff members offer site-specific services including site visits, student interns, team facilitation and the Materials Exchange program. MnTAP's free technical assistance provides businesses with on-site, industry-tailored solutions to reduce waste, increase efficiency, save money on disposal and raw material costs and decrease regulatory compliance burdens.

In 2009, MnTAP's staff of engineers and scientists conducted more than 200 customized site visits that helped companies identify pollution prevention and energy efficiency opportunities. By going on-site, MnTAP staff members gain a better understanding of processes and can identify strategies and tools for improving efficiency and reducing waste at each particular site. Companies that implemented suggestions resulting from MnTAP site visits realized environmental reductions of nearly 4 million pounds of waste, 2.3 million gallons of water, 481,200 kWh, and 24,100 therms.

Another way that MnTAP reached Minnesota businesses in 2009 was through the intern program. Summer interns, hired and paid by MnTAP, worked with six companies and evaluated processes to recommend pollution prevention and energy efficiency solutions. The interns made recommendations that could potentially result in over $600,000 in total savings, once implemented. Overall, the interns provided cost-saving solutions while gaining hands-on learning experiences.

Facility teams, facilitated by MnTAP, addressed a number of issues in 2009 including wastewater loading, water use, and energy use. By working with MnTAP to form a team, companies can be successful in engaging employees in investigating and implementing pollution prevention and energy efficiency opportunities.

By using MnTAP's Materials Exchange program in 2009, companies were able to divert more than 500,000 pounds of waste from the landfill. Materials Exchange is a free service that links organizations that have reusable goods they no longer need to those who can use them. Exchanges save the participating companies purchase and disposal costs and reduce the amount of waste entering landfills every year.

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U of M to host symposium on 21st century agriculture

What: "21st Century Agriculture: Balancing Productivity and Conservation in a Changing Environment" Agronomy/Agroecology Centennial Symposium
When: 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23
Where: Cargill Building, Room 105, 1500 Gortner Ave., University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus

Contacts: Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

February 22, 2010

Experts from agribusiness and research universities will examine how scientists are framing the future of agricultural production with research that aims to address emerging environmental challenges at a symposium on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus.

Topics at "21st Century Agriculture: Balancing Productivity and Conservation in a Changing Environment" include sustainable agriculture; managing agricultural landscapes; and how nutrient needs can improve global food production. Speakers include executives from Monsanto and Pioneer Hi-Bred as well as experts from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, University of Michigan and other agricultural research universities. The student-organized symposium is part of the agronomy and plant genetics department's 100th anniversary celebration.

The symposium is free, but pre-registration is encouraged. It is sponsored in part by the Minnesota Soybean Research Council. To learn more and preregister, visit http://agronomy.cfans.umn.edu/Centennial_Symposium.html.

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

Contacts: Diane Cormany, College of Education and Human Development, dcormany@umn.edu, (612) 626-5650
Ryan Maus, University News Service, maus@umn.edu, (612) 624-1690

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/23/2010) —Thirty-eight Minnesota elementary schools will be honored for their achievement in reading at 11:15 a.m Friday, Feb. 26 by the Minnesota Center for Reading Research in a presentation and ceremony at the University of Minnesota's Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

Schools chosen for the honor are those elementary schools that made adequate yearly progress in reading during school years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 after failing to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) in the previous year.

Representatives from three schools will briefly share what led to their school's success, including some specific actions their schools undertook to impact reading achievement.

The recognition of accomplishment in reading will be preceded by a keynote presentation by Matt Burns, a professor in the University of Minnesota's Educational Psychology Department. His lecture will examine the cooperation amongst general, special, and remedial education reading instruction programs in elementary schools. Burns will share research-validated strategies that schools have used to successfully streamline and integrate their special education and general education reading instruction so that students using both programs have been able to make substantial gains in their reading skills.

The event is open to the general public. A private luncheon for honored guests will follow the presentation and award ceremony. The schools to be honored are:

Akin Road Elementary, Farmington Public Schools
Babbitt Elementary, St. Louis County Public Schools
Bellingham (Knoll) Elementary, Ortonville-Bellingham Public Schools
Bonner Elementary, Stewartville Public Schools
Cuyuna Range Elementary, Crosby-Ironton Public Schools
Dugsi Academy, St. Paul, MN
Eagle View Elementary, Pequot Lakes Public Schools
Farmington Elementary, Farmington Public Schools
Franklin Elementary, Rochester Public Schools
Gideon Pond Elementary, Burnsville Public Schools
Grainwood Elementary, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools
Groveland Park Elementary, St. Paul Public Schools
Hayden Heights Elementary, St. Paul Public Schools
Jackson Magnet Elementary, St. Paul Public Schools
Kasson-Mantorville Elementary, Kasson-Mantorville Public Schools
Kenwood Elementary, Minneapolis Public Schools
King Elementary, Deer River Public Schools
Liberty Elementary, Big Lake Public Schools
Mississippi Heights Elementary, Sauk Rapids Public Schools
Naytahwaush Community Charter School, Naytahwaush, MN
Nevis Elementary, Nevis Public Schools
Northside Elementary, Benson Public Schools
NRHEG Elementary/Middle, NRHEG School District
Pine Point Elementary, Ponsford, MN
Pinecrest Elementary, Hastings Public Schools
Randolph Heights Elementary, St. Paul Public Schools
RTR Elementary School, RTR Public Schools
Sauk Centre Elementary, Sauk Centre Public Schools
South Terrace Elementary, Carlton Public Schools
Sun Path Elementary, Shakopee Public Schools
Sunrise River Elementary, North Branch Public Schools
Sunset Terrace Elementary, Rochester Public Schools
Washington Elementary, Anoka-Hennepin Public Schools
Westwood Elementary, Elk River Public Schools
Westwood Elementary, Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools
Westwood Elementary, St. Cloud Public Schools
Wilson Elementary, Owatonna Public Schools

The Minnesota Center for Reading Research is part of the University of Minnesota's College of Education and Human Development. For more information, visit www.cehd.umn.edu/reading or call (612) 624-4561.

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Director-General of the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization to visit the U of M

Visit includes speech about Global Agriculture and Food Security on Thursday



Jacques Diouf was elected Director-General of the UN-FAO in 1993.

Media Note: In addition to the speech, there is expected to be a media availability with Jacques Diouf from 1:15 to 1:45 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26. Media members interested in attending the speech or the media availability are asked to call Martha Douglas at (612) 626-9712.

What: UN-FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf will deliver a public speech, "Global Agriculture and Food Security: Situation and Perspectives"
When: 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 25
Where: Theater, St. Paul Campus Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul

Contacts: Martha Douglas, University of Minnesota Foundation, mdouglas@umn.edu, (612) 626-9712
Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, mathre@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

February 24, 2010

Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization, is visiting the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus on Feb. 25 to 26 to learn about the U's research, education and outreach in the areas of global food safety, security and sustainability. He will be interacting with U leaders across the university, and will deliver a public speech on Thursday, Feb. 25.

Diouf was elected Director-General of the UN-FAO in 1993 and is now in his third term in this position. He started his career in 1963, holding positions in national and international agricultural institutions based in France, Senegal, Nigeria, Liberia and Canada. He has B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from French universities, including a Doctor of Philosophy in Social Sciences of the Rural Sector from the Sorbonne.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO also helps developing and transitioning countries modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices and ensure good nutrition for all. Since their founding in 1945, they have focused special attention on developing rural areas, home to 70 percent of the world's poor and hungry people.

The University of Minnesota's commitment to global food issues spans many units, with research, education and outreach in the areas of food security, safety and sustainability, public health, agricultural and biological research, the environment, animal health and food safety, the food industry and food distribution, policy and leadership, among others.

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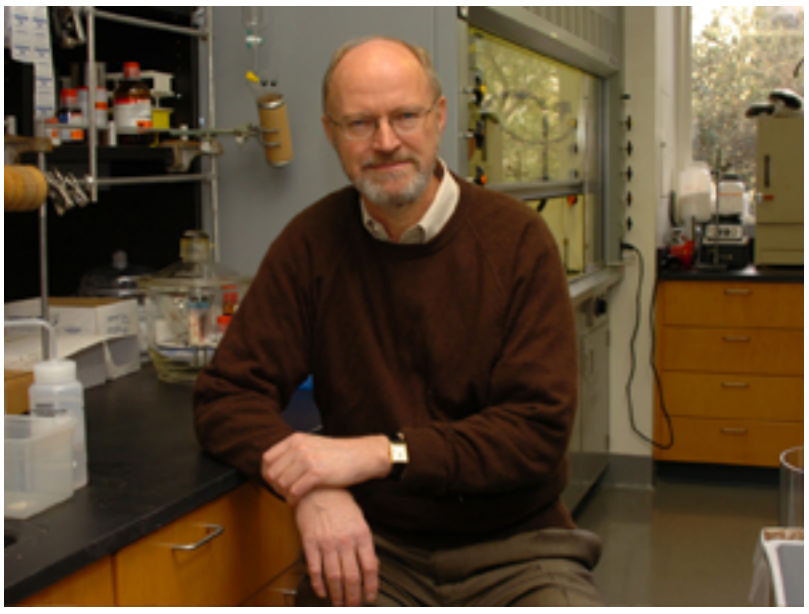
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Nobel Prize winner to speak at U of M March 2 about commercial applications of his breakthrough research

Public lecture is part of two-day Honeywell-Nobel Initiative event



Robert Grubbs won the 2005 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and will speak March 2 at the U of M as part of a Honeywell-Nobel Initiative event.

Media Note: Media may also attend a special invitation-only presentation by Nobel Laureate Robert Grubbs to students entitled “The Road to Nobel” where he will discuss his life story and his path to success. This presentation is 3:15-4:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 2 Smith Hall, Room 119, 207 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Who: 2005 Chemistry Nobel Prize Winner Robert Grubbs
What: Nobel Public Lecture "Fundamental Research to Commercial Products"
When: 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m., Tuesday, March 2
Where: Smith Hall, Room 100, 207 Pleasant St. S.E., University of Minnesota Minneapolis Campus

Contacts: Ryan Mathre, University News Service, mathre@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552
Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, rzurn@umn.edu, (612) 626-7959
Jessica Francisco, Weber Shandwick, jfrancisco@webershandwick.com, (201) 248-4932

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/24/2010) —2005 Chemistry Nobel Prize Winner Robert Grubbs will present a public lecture on the commercial applications of his breakthrough research that has enabled a variety of applications ranging from the production of tough polymers to development of highly functionalized pharmaceuticals. His lecture, which is part of a two-day Honeywell-Nobel Initiative event, will specifically highlight the unique and powerful olefin metathesis reaction.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

The lecture will also be webcast live online at www.honeywellscience.com. By signing up, viewers can also take part in the post-lecture Q&A session with Grubbs.

The University of Minnesota is hosting this lecture as one of only a select few universities worldwide involved in the Honeywell-Nobel Initiative. The University of Minnesota is the first university to host two Nobel Laureates through this initiative.

Designed to inspire the next generation of engineers and scientists, the Honeywell-Nobel Initiative establishes a forum for students worldwide to learn directly from Nobel Laureates in Chemistry and Physics through a combination of live on-campus events, interactive content and broadcast programs. This innovative partnership seeks to teach students the complex science behind Nobel Prizes in Physics and Chemistry while encouraging their highest aspirations in ways that are motivating and engaging. For more information, visit www.honeywellscience.com

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UMPD asks for public's help in identifying suspects

Contacts: Timothy Busse, University Services, busse006@umn.edu, (952) 457-7506 (cell)
Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551



Please call the U of M Police Department at (612) 624-COPS if you have any information on this case.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (02/26/2010) —University of Minnesota Police are asking for the public's help in identifying three suspects in a robbery that occurred in the Carlson School of Management building (331 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis) at approximately 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 23.

The robbery victim -- a university employee -- was in her office when two suspects entered, threatened violence and demanded money. The victim complied and was not harmed, and the suspects fled.

Both suspects are between the ages of 18 and 20 years old and both spoke with an east African accent. A third suspect is also seen in the photos captured by campus video surveillance cameras.

If you have information about the identity of the suspects in the photos, or any information about the case, please call the University of Minnesota Police Department at 612-624-COPS. Refer to case number UM-10-050809.

Additional photos:





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U of M Board of Regents to hold special meeting Monday

Contacts: University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

February 27, 2010

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold a special meeting on Monday, March 1 at 11 a.m. in the W.R. Peterson Room of the McNamara Alumni Center in Minneapolis. The purpose of the meeting will be to consider a resolution to hold a nonpublic meeting to discuss attorney-client privileged matters, specifically, authorizing possible commencement of litigation with respect to certain statutory, environmental and other claims of the University of Minnesota.

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Sherlock Holmes, propaganda, and all the queen's men showcased in 2010 U of M Libraries exhibits

Media Note: Images of each exhibit are available on request



An example image from the U of M Libraries' "Propaganda" exhibit (full image below).

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/01/2010) —The University of Minnesota Libraries announce the following slate of exhibits opening over the coming year at the Elmer L. Andersen and Wilson libraries. All exhibits are free and open to the public. Information about exhibit opening receptions will be available as they are scheduled at http://blog.lib.umn.edu/lib-web/events/

Ritual of Reading: Religion and the Illustrated Book
March 22 – May 14
T.R. Anderson Gallery

Throughout history, the illustrated book has served a significant role in the practice of religion and the expression of religious beliefs. Visual images are incorporated into written texts to nurture a greater understanding of religious narratives and evoke acts of spiritual contemplation. Ranging from bibles to codices to examples of great literature and reproductions of master paintings, the books in the Francis V. Gorman Rare Art Book Collection and the University's Special Collections demonstrate the key role art and artists play in the cultivation and promotion of religion, faith and spirituality.

Below the Surface: Ten Years of Archives and Special Collections in Elmer L. Andersen Library
March 29 – June 25
Andersen Gallery

Join us in celebrating the first decade of the Elmer L. Andersen Library as we look deeper into the archives and special collections held in the caverns below. Explore unexpected themes and untold stories from the rich archives of our collective past. Learn more about the building and how archival materials are found, processed and made available for research. Come and discover the treasures kept below the surface.

Images with Impact: Propaganda through Popular Media
May 3 – July 31
Andersen Atrium Gallery

Governments and social agencies seek to effect change on populations through the use of vivid imagery. This exhibit, which draws from the East Asian Library, Special Collections and Rare Books, and the Kautz Family YMCA Archives, explores the propaganda of health, education and political identity in China, Japan, and Korea in the twentieth century.

The Spirits of Sherlock Holmes
June 1 – August 29
T.R. Anderson Gallery

July 12 – October 15
Andersen Gallery

The Sherlock Holmes Collections present two exhibits in conjunction with its triennial conference. The Andersen Library exhibit will explore the many meanings of the word "spirits" and how they relate to Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, and the Victorian Era. The concurrent exhibit in the T. R. Anderson Gallery will highlight items from the collection of the late Allen Mackler, whose replica of the sitting room at 221B Baker Street is on permanent display adjacent to the exhibit gallery.

Matteo Ricci and the Jesuits in China
September 15 – November 10
T.R. Anderson Gallery

Jesuit missionaries often led the way for political and cultural contacts with other peoples and the Jesuits in China were no exception. Manuscript letters as well as publications by and about these missionaries will be the focus of this exhibit, which will feature the famous 1602 world map by Zhong Wentao and Jesuit Matteo Ricci. For more information on the map, visit bell.lib.umn.edu.

50th Anniversary of the University of Minnesota Women's Center
September 1 – October 30
Andersen Atrium Gallery

The first women's campus center in the nation when it opened in 1960, the Women's Center at the University of Minnesota catered to "Rusty Ladies," women who wanted to maintain their knowledge and abilities between college graduation and empty nesting. This exhibit traces the history of the Women's Center from its origins as the Minnesota Plan for the Continuing Education of Women to today, using artifacts from the work of memorable and influential people, curriculum and program innovations, and personal and professional development activities.

Saving Our Lives: Ten Years of the Tretter Collection at the University of Minnesota
November 1, 2010 – January 28, 2011
Andersen Gallery

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Tretter Collection's arrival at the University, this exhibit reflects on the importance of collecting the GLBT community and the range of materials we are able to make available for research—everything from medieval manuscripts to the latest Pride t-shirt.

All the Queen's Men: Elizabeth I and the Foundations of Empire
November 10, 2010 – January 22, 2011
Andersen Atrium Gallery

Queen Elizabeth I of England planted the seeds of Britain's future empire through the expeditions of men like Sir Francis Drake, Sir Walter Raleigh, and Sir Martin Frobisher. England's overseas expansion in the Elizabethan Age will be the backdrop for this exhibition, which will highlight the exploits of the intrepid explorers that were the "queen's men."

At the Center of the World: Istanbul Past & Present
November 18, 2010 – February 11, 2011
T.R. Anderson Gallery

Istanbul has been declared the European Union City of Culture for 2010. The James Ford Bell Library will celebrate with an exhibition showcasing different perceptions and aspects of this amazing city—often the center of both a global economy and global politics—from its ancient past to its conflicted present.

A Heart Connects Us: The Experience of Migration and the 'Minnesota School' of Immigration History
February 2 – April 30, 2011
Andersen Atrium Gallery

In pursuing his dream of a collaboration that would collect immigrant letters in Europe and America, Theodore Blegen worked to reveal "grassroots history" through his scholarship at the University of Minnesota and other institutions. The Immigration History Research Center makes that dream come alive in a multi-media project that constructs emotional portraits of immigrants through Finnish, Italian, Russian, and Ukrainian letters from the IHRC's ethnic collections. The exhibit includes selections from Blegen's personal papers drawn from the collections of the University Archives.

Andersen Gallery is located on the first floor of Elmer L. Andersen Library; the Atrium Gallery on the second and third floors, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis. Hours and directions are available at http://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 Ave. S., Minneapolis. Hours and directions are available at http://wilson.lib.umn.edu.



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Statement from U of M President Bruininks regarding Central Corridor light rail line

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/01/2010) —The following is a statement from University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks regarding the proposed Central Corridor light rail line. Today, March 1, is the deadline for certain federal claims related to the Central Corridor light rail project.

“Although we continue to have deep and fundamental concerns about the impact that light rail will have on our campus -- particularly on the critical research projects conducted along the length of Washington Avenue -- the University’s Board of Regents chose not to file suit in federal court.

“Done well, the Central Corridor project is good for the University, for our neighbors and for the community. We have devoted literally thousands of hours to working with our Met Council counterparts to find a way for light rail and the University’s education and research mission to coexist successfully. We have tentative agreements in place for how light rail can be built and operated safely across our campus while minimizing adverse impacts on our daily work. We are meeting almost daily to reach agreement on how to measure and fix any problems that may occur in the future. Given the distance we’ve come, these last steps seem within our powers.

“We believe we can resolve our differences without federal litigation. The resources and attention of both parties will be better spent finding shared solutions for the remaining issues we face, and I sincerely hope we can work together to move this project forward.”

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Distinguished philosopher Antony Duff joins U of M Law School faculty

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Antony Duff, a prominent theorist in criminal law and punishment, will join the U of M faculty as a tenured professor beginning in the fall of 2010

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/02/2010) —The University of Minnesota Law School is pleased to announce that Antony Duff, a prominent theorist in criminal law and punishment, will join the faculty as a tenured professor beginning in the fall of 2010. Duff comes to Minnesota from the department of philosophy, University of Stirling, Scotland.

Duff is widely recognized as one of the most influential authorities in criminal law theory, and his writings have brought renewed interest to the field. Major works include "Intention, Agency and Criminal Liability," "Criminal Attempts" and "Answering for Crime: Responsibility and Liability in the Criminal Law."

He is also a leading scholar in punishment theory and philosophy. Among his landmark books, which have changed people's thinking on the topics, are "Trials and Punishments" and "Punishment, Communication and Community."

In September 2009, Duff presented the Law School's annual Dewey Lecture on the Philosophy of Law, entitled "In Search of a Theory of Criminal Law."

"I am extremely pleased that Antony has accepted our offer to join the Law School faculty this fall," said Law School Dean David Wippman. "He is one of the most important philosophers of criminal law in the world today, and his research and writing have made substantial contributions to many facets of the discipline."

In Britain, Duff recently organized and led a three-year interdisciplinary project examining the nature, function and normative underpinnings of the criminal trial, funded by the United Kingdom's Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). The project produced the three-volume book series "The Trial on Trial." The AHRC has also funded a four-year follow-up project on criminalization that began in 2008.

Duff is founding co-editor of the journal Criminal Law and Philosophy and of the Oxford University Press book series Studies in Penal Theory and Philosophy. He is a member of the AHRC Peer Review College, and he chaired the philosophy sub-panel of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise of the Higher Education Funding Councils, which fund British universities.

Faculty and program expansion at the Law School is backed by the Robina Foundation, which provided a $6.1 million grant to support the new program on Law, Public Policy and Society.

The program is committed to innovative public policy research, transformation of the curriculum and teaching mission and training that generates visionary problem-solving skills.

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The "Culture of Wall Street" to be explored at University of Minnesota Headliners event

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Karen Ho is an anthropology professor at the U of M and author of "Liquidated: An Ethnography of Wall Street"

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March 2, 2010

Karen Ho, an author, U of M anthropology professor and former investment banker, will lead an open forum at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 4 in the Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul, on the unique, and often eyebrow-raising cultural aspects that define Wall Street. Ho says that while America has struggled to regain its economic footing in recent years, staggering compensation packages are back in vogue for the same people that expedited the nation's financial collapse. The average American worker faces frozen wages, furloughs, plundered retirement funds and double-digit unemployment. Still, legislative oversight preventing practices that precipitated the current economic turmoil have been slow in coming.

Join Ho as she discusses these and other aspects of Wall Street culture such as:

• How did short-term shareholder value become such a short-sighted corporate goal?
• Does today's financial crisis differ from past boom and bust cycles?
• What would it take to instigate meaningful reform?

The forum includes an audience question and answer session. The event is part of the ongoing Headliners series presented by the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased by calling (612) 624-4000 or online at cce.umn.edu/headliners. Tickets may be available for purchase at the door, however advanced registration for the event is encouraged as seating is limited.

Ho is associate professor of anthropology at the University of Minnesota, where she was named a McKnight Land Grant Professor for 2007-09. This award acknowledges promising junior faculty who are pushing the boundaries of knowledge in their scholarly fields. While studying anthropology at Princeton University In the mid-1990s, Ho took a leave from graduate school to embed herself as a business analyst at Bankers Trust, now part of Deutsche Bank, and spent the next three years doing an anthropological study of Wall Street. Her 2003 dissertation, published last summer as the critically acclaimed book "Liquidated: An Ethnography of Wall Street," exposes the dominance of the financial culture that set the stage for our current economic crisis. She also is the author of "Situating Global Capitalisms: A View from Wall Street," published in 2005.

Headliners is a program provided by the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education. Through the CCE, motivated adults enrich their personal and professional lives through learning opportunities ranging from courses, workshops and retreats, to credit certificates and bachelor's and master's degrees. For more information about the college, call 612-624-4000, or visit www.cce.umn.edu.

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U of M sociological magazine explores issue of aging in society

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"Aging Contexts" is available for free online until March 15.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/02/2010) —America is known as a "graying society" -- one in which our population is, on average, getting older. But much of our society, from our social policies to our approaches to community involvement, isn't yet prepared for the changes aging will bring.

In its recent issue, "Contexts," a sociological magazine housed at the University of Minnesota and edited by U of M sociology professors Doug Hartmann and Christopher Uggen, has turned its attention to these challenges and opportunities in a series of articles and features.

"Contexts" has bundled some of its best pieces together into a free e-book (available for Kindle and other e-readers), available online at http://contexts.org/aging. "Aging in Contexts" is available free for a limited time (March 1-15) with the generosity of the American Sociological Association and the University of California Press.

A featured column is written by U of M sociology professor Phyllis Moen on the topic of "Redefining Retirement."

"Contexts" is written in an engaging, approachable style to bring sociology's latest insights to the general public.

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U of M
School of
Journalism
and Mass



Communication and University Bookstore to host authors Bob McChesney and John Nichols

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March 3, 2010

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the University Bookstore at the University of Minnesota will host authors Bob McChesney and John Nichols for a lecture and book signing at 6 p.m. March 25, in 130 Murphy Hall, 206 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public.

In "The Death and Life of American Journalism: The Media Revolution that will Begin the World Again" (Nation Books; Jan. 5, 2010), media experts McChesney and Nichols explore the crisis of modern journalism. Beyond the tremendous job losses associated with a dying print-media industry, they argue that the loss of a free, viable and informative press could threaten our open democracy.

“America, like any country that would be democratic, requires not merely a free press but a functional press -- media that regard the state secret as an assault to popular governance, that watch the politically and economically powerful with a suspicious eye, that recognize as their duty the informing and enlightening of citizens so that they may govern themselves in a republic,” write McChesney and Nichols.

Though McChesney and Nichols make the case that state investment in journalism is vital to news media survival, they do not expect monetary assistance alone to bailout the media. Their book reviews the roles of differing business models, competing technologies and changing advertising demands in creating the crisis and presenting option for revitalizing journalism. They offer expert advice to those who can change the face of journalism, including:

- Quit blaming the Internet for the ‘demise’ of newspapers
- Embrace the surge of ‘pro-am’ journalism and crowd-sourcing
- Investigate partnerships between the media and institutions focused on the free-flow of information
- Consider new “low profit” business models.

McChesney and Nichols present a bold prescription for the newspaper industry’s ills—one that should make policy makers, activists on the left and right, journalists, and, above all, citizens stand up and listen. Rather than sound the death knell of journalism, "The Death and Life of American Journalism" offers hope; it is a vibrant call to action on behalf of the people’s right to know.

About the Authors
McChesney is the Gutgsell Endowed Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the author or editor of 16 books. His work has been translated into 21 languages. He is co-founder of Free Press, a national media reform organization and hosts “Media Matters” on NPR-affiliate WILL-AM radio. He lives in Madison, Wisc. More information is available at www.robertmcchesney.com.

Nichols has worked as a daily newspaper journalist and magazine writer for 25 years, reporting from more than 25 countries and interviewing every United States president since Jimmy Carter. A pioneering political blogger for The Nation, he is the magazine’s Washington correspondent. He is also the associate editor of the Capital Times, the daily newspaper in Madison, Wisc. A co-founder of Free Press, he appears regularly on MSNBC, CNN, the BBC and other broadcast and cable networks.

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"Rethinking State Government" with former Gov. Carlson and Vice President Mondale

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to offer special course featuring past and present Minnesota policy makers and influencers



Former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale on March 10 will kick off a special course from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/04/2010) —Coinciding with the final stretch of the 2010 Minnesota legislative session, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at the University of Minnesota will offer a unique opportunity this spring to receive a behind-the-scenes tutorial on “Rethinking State Government” in Minnesota.

The eight-session course will kick off with an OLLI open house and special presentation by former Minnesota Gov. Arne Carlson and U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale from 1-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, at the Roseville Lutheran Church, 1215 Roselawn Ave. W., Roseville. Carlson and Mondale’s presentation will begin at approximately 1:45 p.m.

Drawing on their collective experiences in public service, Carlson and Mondale will discuss challenges and trends facing Minnesota state government. They will address critical issues such as the increasing influence of special interests on policy makers; a growing disconnect between revenue needs of ongoing programs and the current tax structure; and what both see as a continuous preoccupation with trivial issues that allow important problems to remain unresolved and be passed on to future generations.

Featuring well-known speakers with backgrounds in Minnesota politics, policy and the judiciary, the weekly course officially begins on Thursday, March 25, from 12:30-2 p.m. at the St. Paul Jewish Community Center, 1375 St. Paul Ave., St. Paul. It will run through May 13.

The dates, topics and speakers for the classes are:

Thursday, March 25
“Finance, Budgeting and Taxation: The creation and refinement of the state budget”
John Gunyou, former Minnesota commissioner of finance and current city manager of Minnetonka

Thursday, April 1
“Office of the Governor: Setting the policy agenda and relationships with the Legislature”
Cyndy Brucato, former director of communications and policy advisor to former Gov. Arne Carlson and currently anchor at KSTP-TV

Thursday, April 8
“The State Senate: How does the Senate shape state government? What obstacles slow the work and how do senators deal with outside pressures?”
Roger Moe, former Minnesota Senate majority leader

Thursday, April 15
“The Judiciary: What is the role of the judiciary in state government? Is the judicial system becoming more political, and, if so, how should this be addressed?”
Russell Anderson, retired chief justice, Minnesota Supreme Court

Saturday, April 24
“The State House of Representatives: Can this institution be bipartisan? Can its majority caucus work with the governor of another party?”
Dee Long, former Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives

Thursday, April 29
“Elections: Is it time for reform of the elections laws? What would be the impact of an earlier party primary?”
John Marty, current Minnesota state senator and candidate for governor

Thursday, May 6
“Politics and Lobbying: How do interest groups influence policy?”
Tom Berkelman, former state representative and current director of government affairs for Comcast; and John Kaul, lobbyist and political commentator

Thursday, May 13
“Can We Rethink State Government?”
Curt Johnson, former executive director of the Minnesota Citizens League, chair of the Metropolitan Council and deputy chief of staff to former Gov. Arne Carlson

The course is free and open to the public. For more information and to register, call (612) 624-7847 or write to olliregb@umn.edu. Visit OLLI’s Web site at www.cce.umn.edu/olli.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, an affiliated program of the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education, is a membership-based community of older adults in the Twin Cities metropolitan area who enjoy learning and spending time with like-minded individuals. OLLI programs focus on active learning in dynamic and respectful environments free of tests and prerequisites.

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Get ready for gardening season at a U of M Horticulture Day



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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/04/2010) —Anticipate the greener days of spring. The University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners will host nearly 20 different “Horticulture Day” events across the state from now through April. To locate an event near you, visit www.extension.umn.edu/GardenInfo and click on “Horticulture Day.”

Horticulture Day presenters are University of Minnesota faculty, green industry experts and Extension-trained Master Gardeners who will bring information on the latest trends and topics for gardens and home landscapes. The events will give participants a break from the snow and slush while beginning to think about their 2010 gardens. In addition to a full slate of workshops, most events feature demonstrations, displays and Master Gardener booths to answer horticulture questions.

Whether participants' interest is growing their own vegetables and fruits, installing environmentally friendly landscapes, dealing with pests like the emerald ash borer, or learning about the latest varieties of annuals and perennials, there will be fun and learning opportunities for the novice and the experienced gardener alike.

Registration and admission costs vary depending on location and whether a meal is provided. For more Extension gardening resources, visit www.extension.umn.edu/GardenInfo.

As volunteers, University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners perform at least 25 hours of work in their communities each year, helping with public projects and sharing their learning with other gardeners. For more information on becoming a Master Gardener, visit www.mg.umn.edu.

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University of Minnesota study answers the question "How Many Food Companies are in Minnesota?"

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/04/2010) —Minnesota has long been known for its food industry and leadership in the areas of flour milling, grain shipping and food processing. But just how big is the industry? Researchers at the University of Minnesota now know the answer.

A new report from The Food Industry Center at the university found 2,357 food companies in the state, not counting Minnesota's more than 81,000 farms. Three food companies -- SUPERVALU, CHS, Inc. and Target – are among Minnesota's top five Fortune 500 companies. Seven of Minnesota's 19 Fortune 500 companies are food companies.

Food Industry Center researchers Jean Kinsey and Koel Ghosh calculated the numbers by creating a database of all the state's food-related business and industrial units and supplementing that information with local knowledge and other data. The researchers counted only companies that are truly headquartered here or that have a single location. For example, International Dairy Queen, which is owned by Omaha-based Berkshire Hathaway, is not included.

In addition to the companies list, the new report also includes data on the size of the state's food industry:

- Total sales in 2008 were $329.8 billion
- More than 164,000 employees are involved in the food industry.
- The largest 18 companies, those with more than $500 million in annual sales, make up only 1.5 percent of Minnesota's food companies, but they employ almost 41 percent of all the food industry workers and generate more than 95 percent of all sales in this sector.

The report is available on The Food Industry Center website, http://foodindustrycenter.umn.edu and includes a complete list of the 2,357 Minnesota food companies counted for this report.

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U of M Board of Regents to meet March 11 and 12

When: Thursday, March 11 and Friday, March 12
Where: 600 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

March 5, 2010

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold its March meeting on Thursday, March 11 and Friday, March 12 at the McNamara Alumni Center in Minneapolis. Included on the meetings' agenda is a discussion on how the university meets the needs of student veterans, a presentation on the Minnesota state economy as well as the strategic plan for the new Biomedical Discovery District on the East Bank campus.

The schedule for the meeting is as follows:

Thursday, March 11

8:30 – 9:30 a.m., Audit Committee, East Committee Room. Compliance Officer Lynn Zentner reports on her office's activities.

9:45 – 11:45 a.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. The committee hears an update on the Minnesota state economy from State Economist and U of M professor Tom Stinson. The annual investment consultant's report is also discussed and a number of policies are reviewed. Controller Mike Volna also provides an update on the Enterprise Financial System.

9:45 – 11:45 a.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, West Committee Room. The committee hears a presentation on the work the university is doing to meet the needs of student veterans as well as student outreach, recruitment and success on the coordinate campuses.

1:30 – 2:20 p.m., Board meeting, Boardroom. President Robert Bruininks, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences Frank Cerra and CFO Richard Pfutzenreuter discuss the strategic plan and financial implications of the new Biomedical Discovery District facilities.

2:45 – 4:45 p.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, East Committee Room. The committee acts on three policies, which were reviewed at the February meeting: student financial aid, academic misconduct and college constitutions. In addition, Cerra and Medical School Executive Vice Dean Mark Paller present on medical education.

2:45 – 4:45 p.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will take action on real estate transactions involving the Rochester campus. They will also act on a series of capital budget amendments, including the addition to Griggs Hall on the Duluth campus, interior renovation design for Folwell Hall and the a recreational sports addition on the Twin Cities campus, renovations in the Lions Research Laboratory and cancer and cardiovascular projects in the Biomedical Discovery District. Action will also be taken on schematic plans for the American Indian Learning Resource Center and Griggs Hall on the Duluth campus. Finally, the committee will review the board policy on historic preservation.

Friday, March 12

9 – 11:30 a.m., Board of Regents meeting, Boardroom. The board will act on the individual business or financial conflicts of interest policy reviewed in February. Bruininks and Pfutzenreuter will also present budget framework and principles.

More information on the Board of Regents meeting can be found at www.umn.edu/regents.

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Design Intersections symposium to ponder "Disruptive Effects: How Design is Changing Your World (and how to profit from it)"

New University of Minnesota College of Design series seeks to stimulate business community thinking about design and its application in new ways



Jane McGonigal is director of game R&D for the Institute for the Future and consults with corporations on the problem-solving value of alternate reality games. She will speak at the College of Design's "Design Intersections" symposium March 18.

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

March 8, 2010

Internationally renowned future forecaster and game designer Jane McGonigal will be the keynote speaker at the first Design Intersections business symposium, noon to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 18, at the 3M Auditorium, Carlson School of Management, 321 - 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The series is sponsored by the University of Minnesota's College of Design in partnership with Larsen, a Minneapolis-based national design, branding and interactive agency.

"Disruptive Effects: How Design Is Changing Your World (and how to profit from it)," is the title of the first program in the Design Intersections series, which is envisioned as exploratory, interactive dialogs among designers and representatives of other disciplines discussing the consequences of design-induced change.

Symposium attendees will play McGonigal's alternate reality game, "World Without Oil," using smart phones and laptops. Named one of the most 100 creative people in business by "Fast Company," McGonigal is fresh from an appearance at the sold-out 2010 TED Conference last month. She is director of game R&D for the Institute for the Future and consults with corporations on the problem-solving value of alternate reality games.

Other symposium presenters include Tom Erickson, an interaction designer and researcher for IBM's T.J. Watson Research Center, and Nora Paul, director of the U of M's Institute for New Media Studies. Tom Fisher, dean of the College of Design, will moderate the symposium.

The purpose of the Design Intersections series is to:
- Stimulate business community thinking about design and its application in new ways.
- Inspire designers to see opportunities in periods of rapid, unpredictable transformation.
- Learn how design can impact global issues including environment, healthcare, the economy, communications and culture.

Conference attendance is open to the public, and will be most beneficial to managers and decision makers; designers, creatives and technologists; university faculty, students and staff; and research and funding partners.

For more information and to register, visit http://intersections.design.umn.edu. A fee of $150 includes lunch and a post-symposium reception.

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Statement from U of M General Counsel Mark Rotenberg regarding ruling in Central Corridor light rail line lawsuit

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/08/2010) —The following is a statement from University of Minnesota General Counsel Mark Rotenberg regarding Hennepin County District Court Judge Janet Poston's decision today to reject the Metropolitan Council's motion to dismiss the University's case seeking protection for its research facilities along the Central Corridor light rail project.

"The University is very pleased with Judge Poston's decision. We anticipate today's decision will be helpful in accelerating agreement on the challenging issues that remain between us and move this important transportation project forward to successful completion," said Rotenberg.

"We believe protection of the public's research infrastructure goes hand-in-hand with building the Central Corridor, and we look forward to ongoing discussions with the Metropolitan Council to make this happen."

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Hidden habits and movements of insect pests revealed by DNA barcoding



The Asota caricae moth has a two-inch wingspan and a 2,500 mile distribution. Image courtesy of Lauren Helgen, Smithsonian Institution.

Media Note: For a high-resolution image of the Asota caricae moth referenced in the article, visit http://bit.ly/aB4PEb. The moth has a two-inch wingspan and a 2,500 mile distribution. Image is courtesy of Lauren Helgen, Smithsonian Institution. For a copy of the research paper, contact Jeff Falk at jfalk@umn.edu.

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/09/2010) —University of Minnesota researcher George Weiblen and colleagues have found a faster way to study the spread and diet of insect pests.

Using a technique called DNA barcoding, which involves the identification of species from a short DNA sequence, Weiblen and an international team of researchers studied populations of numerous moth and butterfly species across Papua New Guinea. DNA barcodes showed that migratory patterns and caterpillar diets are very dynamic. In one case, a tiny moth that is distributed from Taiwan to Australia, has recently crossed thousands of miles of Pacific Ocean.

The research, "Population genetics of ecological communities with DNA barcodes: An example from New Guinea Lepidoptera," was published in the Early Online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences on March 1.

To view the complete article, visit http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2010/03/01/0913084107.full.pdf+html.

“DNA barcoding was developed for rapid identification but it also provides information about the habits and history of species,” Weiblen says. He says this technique is of particular interest in Papua New Guinea, a country slightly larger in size than California with an insect diversity more than three times that of the United States. “New Guinea is one of those special places on Earth where we know very little about its biodiversity. This rich natural environment is increasingly threatened by economic development, and I’m concerned about how much biodiversity might be lost before we’ve had a chance to understand it. DNA barcoding helps to increase the pace of discovery.”

Weiblen says that DNA barcoding can play an important role in studying the arrival of invasive species, such as the emerald ash borer, a species recently introduced from Asia. “We need to understand the genetic history of invasion in order to combat the pests that threaten trees and crops,” Weiblen says. “DNA barcoding can pinpoint the geographic source of an invading species and measure the distances over which pest species can travel.”

Weiblen is an associate professor of plant biology in the university’s College of Biological Sciences and a curator of plants in the Bell Museum, a unit of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. He has studied plant and insect diversity of Papua New Guinea’s forests for the past 17 years. Weiblen’s colleagues in the DNA barcoding study were researchers from the Smithsonian Institution, the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, the University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic, as well as the University of Minnesota.

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U of M student-run Radio K to broadcast from South By Southwest Music Festival March 19-20

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South by Southwest is a popular annual music festival in Austin, Tex. that routinely attracts over 15,000 registrants.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/10/2010) —Radio K (KUOM), the University of Minnesota's award-winning student-run radio station, will send a contingent of six students to Austin, Tex. to broadcast from the popular South By Southwest (SXSW) Music and Media Festival March 19-20.

The broadcasts will include performances and interviews with bands as well as exclusive reports from the conference. SXSW is in its 23rd year and attracts nearly 17,000 registrants annually. Radio K, which recently transitioned to a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week broadcast format, can be heard at 770 AM, 100.7 FM, 104.5 FM and online at radiok.org.

"Radio K is one of the first and only student-run stations to broadcast from South by Southwest," said station manager Sara Miller. "This is a tremendous learning opportunity for our students and a great way for them to gain practical real-world experience they can bring with them to the job market someday."

Radio K also broadcast from SXSW in 2009.

In addition to the on-site broadcasts, the student staff of Radio K will produce additional content -- including videos, blogs, photos, interviews, "Tweets" and more -- while on location in Texas. More information can be found at RadioK.org.

Radio K plays an eclectic variety of independent music both new and old. The station is an empowering educational opportunity for University of Minnesota students to develop and enhance unique broadcast and media skills at a part of the university's College of Continuing Education.

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Students' perceptions about the Earth's age influence their acceptance of human evolution

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/10/2010) —High school and college students who understand the geological age of the Earth (4.5 billion years) are much more likely to understand and accept human evolution, according to a University of Minnesota study published in the March issue of the journal Evolution.

The finding could give educators a new strategy for teaching evolution, since the Earth's age is typically covered in physical rather than biological science classes.

Researchers Sehoya Cotner and Randy Moore, professors in College of Biological Sciences, and D. Christopher Brooks, of the university's Office of Information Technology, surveyed 400 students enrolled in several sections of a University of Minnesota introductory biology course for non-majors.

The survey included questions about knowledge of evolution and whether students were taught evolution or creationism in high school as well as questions about religious and political views. Participation was voluntary and had no effect on grades for the course.

The researchers extracted six variables from the survey to explore factors that contributed to students' views about the age of the Earth and origins of life and the relation of those beliefs to students' knowledge of evolution and their vote in the 2008 presidential election.

Using that information, they created a model that shows, for example, when a student's religious and political views are liberal, they are more likely to believe that the Earth is billions, rather than thousands, of years old and to know more about evolution. Conversely, students with conservative religious and political views are more inclined to think the Earth is much younger (20,000 years or less) and to know less about evolution.

"The role of the Earth's age is a key variable that we can use to improve education about evolution, which is important because it is the unifying principle of biology," said lead author Sehoya Cotner, associate professor in the Biology Program, which provides general biology classes for University of Minnesota undergraduates.

Through this and previous surveys, Cotner and her colleagues have learned that 2 percent of students are taught creationism only, 22 percent are taught evolution and creationism, 14 are taught neither and 62 percent evolution only.

"In other words, about one in four high school biology teachers in the upper Midwest are giving students the impression that creationism is a viable explanation for the origins of life on Earth," Cotner says. "That's just not acceptable. The Constitution prohibits teaching creationism in schools."

The researchers noted that understanding the Earth's age is a difficult concept; even Darwin found it challenging. Teaching and understanding creationist views of about the Earth's age and life's origins are much easier.

The paper cites a 2009 Gallup poll that coincided with the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth reporting that only four out of 10 people in the U.S. believe in evolution. The poll also reported that 16 percent of biology teachers believe God created humans in their present form at some time during the last 10,000 years.

The complete study, "Is the age of the Earth one our 'sorest troubles?' Students' perceptions about deep time affect their acceptance of evolutionary theory," can be accessed at http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/fulltext/123192457/PDFSTART.

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Registration now open for University of Minnesota Bell Museum's Science Discovery Day Camps for kids

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/11/2010) —The University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History is now accepting registrations for its popular Science Discovery Day Camps beginning June 14 for children ages kindergarten through sixth grade.

Each weeklong camp introduces campers to a range of science-related topics from the survival tactics of baby animals, to forensic science and crime scene analysis. Campers meet university researchers and take field trips to kid-friendly learning centers like the university's animal hospitals, bee labs and Raptor Center.

The camps include age-appropriate classroom and laboratory activities, as well as outdoor exploration. The museum's summer long suite of topics is designed to keep children learning all summer with fresh content and activities.

This summer, the Bell Museum offers 33 different camps on 16 topics designed for up to 15 children per camp. Camp offerings include Bunnies of Steel—The World of Baby Animals; Bootcamp for the Beginning Biologist; and Crime Scene Investigation for Kids.

Bell Museum Science Discovery Day Camps offer flexible pick-up and drop-off times for working parents. For details, visit www.bellmuseum.org or call (612) 624-9050 Tuesday through Friday to speak with a registration specialist.

The Bell Museum is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences. Sciences. For more than a century children have learned about science by visiting the Bell Museum or attending its programs. Every year, approximately 20,000 school children learn about science from Bell Museum educators.

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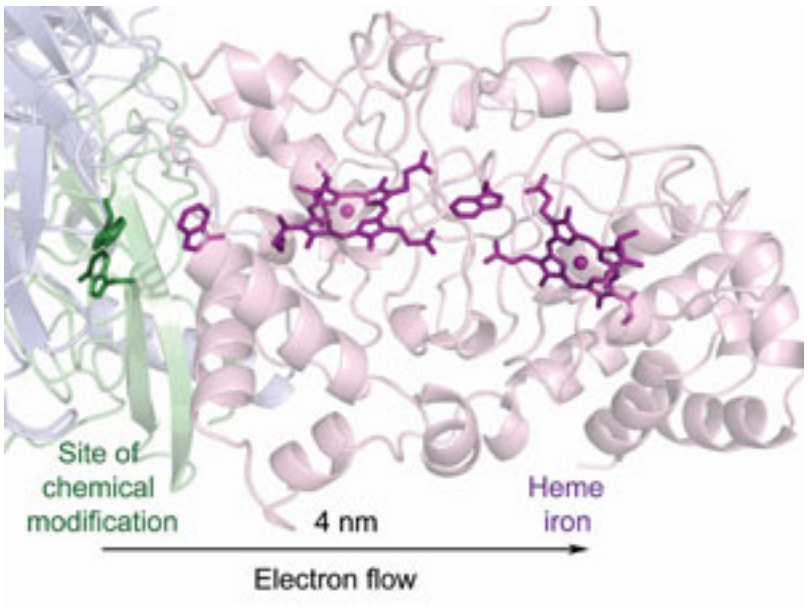
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U of M researcher discovers how electricity moves through cells

Finding has implications for improving energy efficiency

Media Note: For a high-resolution graphic illustrating this research, contact Jeff Falk at jfalk@umn.edu.



This illustration shows the molecular details of a multi-protein battery and wire that generates and conducts biological electricity.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/11/2010) —Researchers at the University of Minnesota have created a molecular image of a system that moves electrons between proteins in cells. The achievement is a breakthrough for biology and could provide insights to minimize energy loss in other systems, from nanoscale devices to moving electricity around the country.

The research, led by Carrie Wilmot, an associate professor in the College of Biological Sciences, is published in the March 12 issue of Science.

“Evolution has been fine-tuning electricity in organisms for a lot longer than humans have been using it,” Wilmot says. “We can learn a lot from nature about how to use it more efficiently. This new glimpse at how the body uses electricity could lead to nanotechnology to shrink electronic circuitry even further or a more efficient grid to provide power to homes and businesses.”

Energy generated by intracellular movement of electrons is the fundamental power source that enables humans to exist. As electrons move within cells, energy is channeled to create complex molecules, such as protein and DNA. These are the building materials that enable organisms to grow, maintain themselves, and store energy. Wilmot’s images, obtained using x-ray crystallography, will advance the effort to understand this process better.

“Obtaining a crystal structure of a complex cellular electron transfer system is like being behind stage at a magic show,” says Vernon Anderson, who oversees biochemistry grants at the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute of General Medical Sciences. “We have always known there was a trick, but now the Wilmot group has provided a unique view of how this extraordinary chemical feat is accomplished.”

Wilmot, an associate professor in the College of Biological Sciences, is known in the scientific community for pioneering a technique to freeze biological catalysts (enzymes) as they accelerate and orchestrate chemical reactions. This produces snapshots at different points during the reaction that can be viewed as frames in a movie that defines the molecular and structural changes that occur as the chemistry unfolds.

Faculty in the College of Biological Sciences conduct research in all areas of biology, from molecules to ecosystems, to advance knowledge and support applications in medicine, renewable energy, agriculture and biotechnology. For more information, go to www.cbs.umn.edu.

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U of M Board of Regents to recognize new McKnight Land-Grant Professors

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/11/2010) —Ten junior faculty members who have been named McKnight Land-Grant Professors for 2010-12 will be recognized by the Board of Regents at their March 12 meeting. The award aims to advance the careers of the university's most promising junior faculty at a critical point in their professional lives.

"These faculty members are in the early stage of their careers and have already proven themselves to be national and international leaders among their peers," said Tim Mulcahy, vice president for research. "Recognizing their potential and supporting their research and scholarship is critical for advancing knowledge. This award is an indication of our strong desire to keep their talent at the University of Minnesota."

Typically, recipients go on to win increasingly prestigious awards, both inside and outside the university, and pursue productive careers.

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

The awards are determined through a university-wide competition administered by the Office of the Vice President for Research. Each award includes a research grant for two consecutive years, summer support and a research leave in the second year. The 2010-12 recipients and their areas of research are:

- **Vladas Griskevicius**, marketing and logistics management: Evolutionary roots of modern consumer behavior
- **Ibrahim Volkan Isler**, computer science and engineering: Googling the planet—robotic sensor networks for environmental monitoring
- **Alex Jassen**, classical and Near Eastern studies: Religion, violence, and the Dead Sea scrolls
- **Daniel Kaplan**, dermatology: Skin immunity—distinguishing beneficial micro-organisms from potentially dangerous pathogens
- **Kenneth Kozak**, fisheries, wildlife, and conservation biology, and Bell Museum of Natural History: What can salamanders tell us about the origin and fate of the world's biodiversity hotspots?
- **Vuk Mandic**, physics and astronomy: Searching for gravitational echoes of the Big Bang
- **Jennifer Jane Marshall**, art history: American sculpture in the age of mechanical reproduction
- **Dylan Millet**, soil, water, and climate: Atmospheric chemistry—linking land-atmosphere exchange to air quality and climate
- **Yoichiro Mori**, mathematics: Three-dimensional model of electrical activity in cells to advance understanding of heart and brain physiology
- **John Ohlfest**, pediatrics and neurosurgery: Harnessing the precision of the immune system to treat brain tumors

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

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University of Minnesota convenes forums to tackle Minnesota's future

On three evenings this spring, experts will offer solutions to three critical issues facing the state

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/11/2010) —As Minnesota's policymakers continue to work through Minnesota's looming budget deficit, the University of Minnesota will host "Minnesota's Future: 3x3 – 3 Evenings, 3 Critical Issues Facing Minnesota, 3 Solutions," an innovative forum designed to address the critical public policy issues facing the state today. Moderated by leading university scholars, the three forums will discuss solutions to the challenges facing Minnesota's economy and business climate, health care system and education and workforce development.

The three 90-minute forums will be held 5-6:30 p.m. on March 23, March 30 and April 6 at the Humphrey Center's Cowles Auditorium, 301-19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The forums are open to the public and free of charge.

"We know that every day across Minnesota, policy makers and civic leaders are focused on our state's pressing challenges, searching for strategies to ensure Minnesota's future," says Steven Rosenstone, the university's vice president for Scholarly and Cultural Affairs. "Here at the University of Minnesota, faculty and staff are working to identify breakthrough solutions to the challenges facing not only Minnesota, but the nation and the world. These forums bring university expertise to bear on the big issues before us in an engaging and timely manner."

The "Minnesota's Future" series is being presented by the University Metropolitan Consortium, which links university teaching, research and outreach in the area of metropolitan, urban and suburban change and development to public, private and non-profit sector organizations working in these areas. "Minnesota, once considered the 'state that works,' is facing challenges that threaten its quality of life," says Judith Martin, co-director of the University Metropolitan Consortium. "In serving as a convener of these forums, our goal is to address the key question – 'What should Minnesota do?'"

Following is an overview of the topics and presenters.

Tuesday, March 23
"A Thriving Economy and Competitive Business Environment"
Led by Tom Stinson, professor in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences' department of Applied Economics, and Minnesota state economist
Panelists: Dan Carr, president and CEO, The Collaborative; Tom Gillaspy, Minnesota state demographer; Tim Penny, former U.S. Congressman and senior fellow at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs

Tuesday, March 30
"A Healthy Minnesota"
Led by John Finnegan, dean of the School of Public Health; moderated by Lorna Benson, reporter, Minnesota Public Radio
Panelists: Dave Moen, medical director of Care Model Innovation, Fairview Health Services. Additional panelists to be announced.

Tuesday, April 6
"A Workforce Prepared for the Global Economy"
Led by Kent Pekel, executive director of the university's College Readiness Consortium
Panelists: Larry Gray, professor in the Institute of Technology's School of Mathematics; Delores Henderson, principal, St. Paul Ames Elementary; Arthur Reynolds, professor in the College of Education and Human Development's Institute of Child Development

For further information on the "Minnesota's Future" forums, visit https://events.umn.edu/Minnesotas-Future-3x3-3-Evenings-3-Challenges-3-Solutions-003960.htm.

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University of Minnesota named to community service honor roll

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/12/2010) —The University of Minnesota has been named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement.

"It is great to see the University of Minnesota once again make the national honor roll" said Andrew Furco, associate vice president for public engagement at the university. Our public engagement agenda has focused on advancing community-engaged work across all aspects of our mission. The work that students, staff, and faculty conduct through volunteer and community service projects are great complements to the community-engaged research and teaching activities underway across the university." According to Furco, who oversees the University's Office for Public Engagement, "The number of institutions receiving honor roll recognition for community service has increased tremendously over last two years." He believes this is a testament to the growing importance of community engagement in higher education.

Projects, programs, and other activities supported by the Office for Public Engagement at the university can be found at http://www.engagement.umn.edu/

The corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the annual Honor Roll award, recognized more than 700 colleges and universities for their impact on issues from poverty and homelessness to environmental justice.

The Honor Roll includes six colleges and universities that are recognized as Presidential Awardees, with an additional 115 named to the Distinction List and 621 schools named as Honor Roll members. Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors including the scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses. Click here for a full list of Honor Roll recipients.

The corporation oversees the Honor Roll in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact and the American Council on Education. It is a federal agency that engages more five million Americans in service through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov.

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Going green to be seen: U of M researcher finds people will forgo luxury for green products when status is on the mind

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/15/2010) —Environmentally friendly products are everywhere one looks. Energy efficient dishwashers, bamboo towels, the paperless Kindle and, of course, the ubiquitous Prius are all around. But why do people buy these “green” products? Do they care about the environment or is there something else at play? “Green purchases are often motivated by status,” says Vladas Griskevicius, assistant professor of marketing at the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management. “People want to be seen as being altruistic. Nothing communicates that better than by buying green products that often cost more and are of lower quality but benefit the environment for everyone.”

In the recently published paper “Going Green to Be Seen: Status, Reputation, and Conspicuous Conservation,” Griskevicius and co-authors find that people will forgo luxury and comfort for a green item. The catch? People will forgo indulging for themselves only when others can see it. “Many green purchases are rooted in the evolutionary idea of competitive altruism, the notion that people compete for status by trying to appear more altruistic,” says Griskevicius. His research finds that when people shop alone online, they choose products that are luxurious and enhance comfort. But when in public, people’s preferences for green products increases because most people want to be seen as caring altruists.

Nowhere is this clearer than the highly visible and easily identifiable Toyota Prius, which essentially functions as a mobile, self-promoting billboard for pro-environmentalism. “A reputation for being a caring individual gives you status and prestige. When you publicly display your environmentally friendly nature, you send the signal that you care,” states Griskevicius.

Interestingly, the study also shows that status motives increased desirability of green products especially when such products cost more—but not less—relative to non-green products. This explains why the Prius price tag and why old-fashioned items like hand operated reel lawn mowers are holding their price. “When you are motivated by status, you will forgo luxury features to obtain an inferior green product that tells others that you care,” Griskevicius says.

For entrepreneurs and companies looking to capture the green market, the key may be getting the product to be purchased and used in public. When others can see you do good, both you and the environment benefit. But in the privacy of ones home, luxury and comfort is still the winner.

Vladas Griskevicius’s teaching and research utilizes theoretical principles from evolutionary biology to study consumers' often unconscious preferences, decision processes, and behavioral strategies. The paper “Going Green to Be Seen: Status, Reputation, and Conspicuous Conservation,” published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, was co-authored by Joshua Tybur (University of New Mexico) and Bram Van den Bergh (Rotterdam School of Management). The paper and more information on Professor Griskevicius can be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/vgriskevicius.

The Institute for Research in Marketing is part of the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. Established in 2005, the Institute fosters innovative, rigorous research that improves the science and practice of marketing. More information can be found at http://www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute.

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U's American Indian Cultural House to host film series

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/15/2010) —The University of Minnesota American Indian Cultural House will be hosting a film series March 24 and April 21 to help raise public awareness and celebrate the works of American Indian and First Nation films that challenge racial stereotypes.

The first film in the series, "Redskins, Tricksters and Puppy Stew," will be shown at 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 24. Directed by Drew Hayden Tayler, this documentary looks at the complex issues of Native identity, politics and racism through the eyes of comedic performers

The development of this series is intended to provide leadership opportunities to students who participate in the American Indian Cultural House. Students learn about organizing community events and building collaborations with departments and other student organizations.

The second film, "Qallunaat: Why White People are Funny," will be shown at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 21. This docucomedy is a collaboration between filmmaker Mark Sandiford and Inuit writer and satirist Zebedee Nungak about what it must feel like to be the object of the white man's gaze.

Both films are at the Bell Auditorium and are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information visit http://blog.lib.umn.edu/mcae/aich/film/

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

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University of Minnesota announces 2010 Siehl Prize For Excellence in Agriculture laureates



Sander "Sandy" Ludeman (left) and Donald Helgeson (right) were two winners of the 2010 Siehl Prize for Excellence in Agriculture.

Media Note: Embargoed until 12 noon, Tuesday, March 16
Photos and biographical details of all three winners are available and the recipients may be available for interviews after the announcement. To arrange an interview, contact Becky Beyers.

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Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/16/2010) —A tireless promoter of soybeans, the leader of one of Minnesota's best-known food companies and a world-renowned scientist and teacher at the University of Minnesota are this year's recipients of the prestigious Siehl Prize For Excellence in Agriculture.

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

- Sander "Sandy" Ludeman (production agriculture), a farmer from Tracy, Minn., who led the drive to create the National Soybean Checkoff, the commodity self-funding program that has dramatically increased awareness and production of soybeans around the globe over the past two decades.

- Donald Helgeson (agribusiness) of St. Cloud, who along with his brother Jerry bought the family's small hatchery in the 1950s and grew it into what's today known as Gold'n Plump Poultry. The largest fully integrated chicken producer in the Upper Midwest, Gold'n Plump breeds and hatches its own chickens, mills its own feed, and processes its products in company-owned plants.

- Ronald Phillips (knowledge), one of the University of Minnesota's most distinguished faculty who is known for his groundbreaking discoveries in plant genetics and genomics. His was the first laboratory to regenerate corn plants from cells in tissue culture, a contribution that allowed for development of genetic engineering in cereal crops.

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

The Siehl Prize was created in the early 1990s by a generous gift from New Ulm-area livestock breeder and businessman Eldon Siehl, a dedicated philanthropist who had a lifelong interest in agricultural systems. Siehl was concerned that people were losing touch with their agrarian roots and wanted his gift to ensure that achievements in agriculture would be recognized and celebrated. Recipients receive a $50,000 award as well as a sculpture and lapel pin designed by Minnesota artist Thomas Rose especially for the Siehl Prize.

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College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences offers "Classes Without Quizzes" featuring everyday science for the general public

New kids-only sessions on honeybees, mammals and dairy science added to this year's lineup

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/16/2010) —The state economy, landscaping, local foods and the latest alternative-energy research are among the featured topics at this year's "Classes Without Quizzes" on Saturday, April 10 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 1:30 p.m. in the Classroom Office Building, 1994 Buford Ave., St. Paul. This year for the first time includes kids-only sessions on honeybees, mammals and dairy science.

Lee Frelich of the college's department of forest resources will present the keynote address, "Climate Change and Minnesota Forests."

The eight mini-seminars include:

Recreational Trails: Opportunities & Challenges Related to Physical Activity: Recreational trails have multiple benefits, including the opportunity to contribute to improved physical health. Minnesota Tourism Center director and professor Ingrid Schneider will discuss the challenges and consequences of trail-related activities.

Going Local: Interest in local foods has been growing rapidly, but local foods still account for only a small portion of food purchases. Applied Economics Professor Robert King will share findings from recent case studies exploring local food-supply chains and their prospects for growth.

Preparing for the Worst: Emerald Ash Borer Hits Minnesota's Streets and Landscapes: A primer on the symptoms of emerald ash borer, control and treatment options, and taking advantage of the situation to diversify a community's urban forest by introducing some new replacement species. Urban forestry professor Gary Johnson explains.

Edible Landscaping: Want to grow your own fruits and vegetables but don't want to sacrifice your ornamental landscape? Short on space? Tired of the same old annuals year after year? Then edible landscaping is for you! Horticulturalist Emily Tepe will provide some tips for incorporating edibles into your landscape this season.

The New Normal: The Challenge for Minnesota's Economy: The Great Recession is over and the recovery is underway. However, the economic conditions we will see over the next quarter-century have changed substantially. State demographer Tom Gillaspy and state economist Tom Stinson will explain how the "old normal" is over and the "new normal" has begun.

Using Biomass for Alternative Energy: The emerging bioenergy industry offers new markets that lead to increased profitability while providing opportunities to enhance ecosystem services. But how do we grow enough biomass for energy without affecting food and fiber production? Agronomist Gregg Johnson will explore these issues and share findings from new research that addresses these concerns.

Sustainable Animal Agriculture: All plant- and animal-based agriculture has an impact on our environment. Animal agriculture has been singled out as having a major impact on environmental quality and climate change, but misperceptions persist. Department of animal science professor Jim Linn will discuss the issues related to environmental quality, greenhouse gases and food animal production, particularly focusing on the dairy industry.

Return of the Bed Bugs: They're back! Entomologist Stephen Kells shares the story of these tiny invaders, where they came from and what you can do to avoid them.

Registration for Classes Without Quizzes costs $25 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://www.cfans.umn.edu/AlumniFriends/Events/CWQ/ or call (612) 624-0822.

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Regents approve demolition of University of Minnesota Music Education Building

Contacts: Tim Busse, University Services, busse006@umn.edu, (612)624-2863
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/17/2010) —The Regents of the University of Minnesota have approved the demolition of the Music Education Building. Demolition will involve salvaging usable sandstone, underground utility and tunnel work and landscape restoration. The Music Education Building was constructed in 1888 and vacated in 1997.

A copy of the Environment Assessment Worksheet will be posted on the University of Minnesota Capital Planning and Project Management Website at http://www.cppm.umn.edu/master_planning.html.

For more information, contact James Litsheim, Capital Planning and Project Management at litsh002@umn.edu (612) 624-4359.

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University of Minnesota study: Fungus can attack crops in unexpected way

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/17/2010) —The disease attacking your tomato plants this summer may have migrated from a completely unrelated fungus, according to a University of Minnesota study.

The study, published this week in the journal Nature, found that fungi are more adaptable than previously thought and may "horizontally" transfer genes. The process is similar to the way bacteria quickly develop antibiotic resistance or obtain toxins. The transfer process, discovered in the university's plant pathology department, had previously been unknown.

Corby Kistler, an adjunct professor at the university and a scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, was part of an international research group that discovered the ability to cause tomato wilt disease in the microscopic soil fungus known as Fusarium oxysporum is carried on special chromosomes that can easily move between fungal strains. Kistler and his colleagues discovered these new chromosomes during a USDA-funded project that compared the genomes of three species of Fusarium fungus that cause disease on different plants, including the tomato wilt fungus.

"When we did the comparison, we saw that the tomato strain had 11 chromosomes very similar to the other fungi, but then an additional four chromosomes that looked like nothing we'd ever seen before," Kistler said. "These chromosomes had many features that made them look like they came from a completely different species." Further examination of these chromosomes also showed them packed with genes involved in making the fungus a plant pathogen and so they quickly were named "pathogenicity chromosomes" by Kistler and his colleagues.

The discovery gives fresh perspective on reports of new pathogenic races of the wilt fungus arising rapidly in tomato fields. While it is clear these new pathogens may arise due to horizontal transfer of pathogenicity chromosomes, the exact process by which they move is still unknown.

"Growing healthy plants, whether as a farmer or a home gardener, is about staying one step ahead of pathogens," Kistler said. "Because of this work, we know more about the toolbox fungi have to cause disease. Our job now is to develop tools of our own aimed at those traits that make fungi harmful to plants."

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Ugandan soccer coaches to visit Minnesota through U of M exchange program

International Sport Connection brings African coaches to U.S. to learn new techniques and curriculum



Jens Omli studied the techniques of Ugandan soccer coaches while visiting the country three years ago.

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March 18, 2010

Four Ugandan soccer coaches travel to Minneapolis March 22-30 to work with partners from the University of Minnesota and Macalester College to learn advanced coach training and collaborate on a new coaching curriculum to take back to children and youth soccer players in Uganda.

The week-long coaching program is part of an exchange program through the International Sports Connection (ISC), a partnership that involves U of M educators in the School of Kinesiology and the Institute of Child Development (ICD), former Golden Gopher soccer player and coach Lisa Berg, Macalester head men's soccer coach Ian Barker and the Federation of Uganda Football Association (FUFA).

Funded by an International Sports Programming Initiative grant from the SportsUnited Division of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, the ISC will help Ugandan coaches prepare their young players for future responsibilities along with teaching soccer skills and promoting community development.

The visiting Ugandan coaches will engage in a core training of coaching techniques and observation sessions held around the Twin Cities, led by Jens Omli in ICD, Diane Wiese-Bjornstal and Stacy Ingraham in kinesiology, as well as Berg and Barker.

The coach-training program is modeled after a style of coaching that Omli, then a U of M doctorate student, studied three years ago when he visited Uganda. He spent time with Ugandan soccer coach Stone Kyambadde and his Wolves Football Program in Kampala, Uganda, observing how Stone mentored his players and taught them both life and soccer skills.

"We are using soccer to bring nations and communities together," said Omli. "In East Africa, a soccer ball is a powerful magnate, which attracts children to a place where they can receive consistent contact with caring adult mentors. As the leader of a soccer team, coaches have an opportunity to teach skills and strategies that will prepare children for future responsibilities that they will face, on and off of the field."

This May, the Minnesota educators will then travel to Kampala to collaborate with FUFA in educating 160 coaches in teaching, training, managing and mentoring. These coaches will in turn pass along their new skills to at least seven coaches in their districts. The objective of the ISC program is to train over 2,500 Ugandan soccer coaches over the next two years, as these coaches will ultimately mentor over 50,000 young people in life skills while teaching them how to play and compete in soccer.

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U of M Law School to host international congress on human trafficking

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/18/2010) — Experts in human trafficking, international criminal law, international children's issues, victimized populations and other human rights fields will assemble at the University of Minnesota Law School April 2 for the 2010 International Congress on Human Trafficking.

Sessions are open to the public and will run from 9:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Law School's Courtroom 180, 229 19th Ave. S. Minneapolis. A closing lecture and reception will follow in Auerbach Commons on the lower level.

The Congress will bring a comprehensive look to trafficking in its many manifestations, including trafficking for labor, drugs, sex and military purposes. It also will address the vulnerability of children to traffickers in international disaster hot spots and methods to combat this problem.

Michele Bratcher Goodwin, Everett Fraser Professor of Law, is the congress organizer. She holds joint appointments at the University of Minnesota Medical School and School of Public Health and is a prolific author and researcher on such issues as reproductive law, medical tourism, organ transplantation, law and status and socioeconomics in medicine. Her co-participants at the Congress:

• Danette Buskovick, director of Minnesota Statistical Analysis Center, Office of Justice Programs, and chief investigator in first statewide study of human trafficking

• Emma Christopher, Australian Research Fellow, University of Sydney and Gilder Lehrman Fellow, Yale University

• Sara Dillon, associate professor of law, Suffolk University Law School

• Maria Grahn-Farley, associate professor of law, Albany Law School

• Linda Miller, founder of human trafficking and exploitation victim support and advocacy organization Civil Society

• Luz E. Nagle, professor of international law and international criminal law, Stetson University College of Law

• Song Richardson, associate professor of law and co-director of Center for Law & Science, DePaul College of Law

• David M. Smolin, Harwell G. Davis Professor of Constitutional Law and director, Center for Biotechnology, Law and Ethics, Cumberland School of Law, Samford University

• Elizabeth Sussekind, professor of criminology and human rights, Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

• Harriet A. Washington, author of award-winning Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present

This congress is the first in a series on international trafficking issues led by Professor Goodwin. The next one, on organ trafficking, will be held in Brazil in May 2010.

Members of the scientific committee overseeing the series are Professors Richardson and Sussekind; Dorothy A. Brown, Emory University Law School; Glenn Cohen, Harvard Law School; Abbe Gluck, Columbia University Law School; and Mary Simmerling, Weill Cornell Medical College.

The human trafficking series is part of the Law School's deepening focus on international law and human rights, elements in its new Program on Law, Public Policy, and Society (LaPPS), which was developed to support innovative public policy research, visionary approaches to law, and practical solutions to complex problems. The Robina Foundation provided a $6.01 million grant to back the LaPPS and the Law School's goals of excellence in public policy research and curriculum reform.

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University of Minnesota asks students, staff and faculty to all play a role in creating a safe campus

Campus Safety Awareness week begins Sunday, March 21 with safety briefing for parents

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/18/2010) —Lock your door, walk in groups after dark, call the security escort service and call 9-1-1 if you see anything suspicious. Those are just a few of the messages the University of Minnesota wants to instill in students, faculty and staff as part of Campus Safety Awareness Week which runs Sunday, March 21 until Friday, March 26.

The week has been set aside to promote and encourage personal responsibility and ownership for campus safety and security, said Greg Hestness, University of Minnesota Police Chief and assistant vice president of public safety.

The week's events will include a safety briefing with parents, doughnuts with University of Minnesota Police officers, and activities in university residence halls and sorority and fraternity houses. Students living in residence halls will be asked to take a Safety Pledge where they can commit to steps they can take to increase personal safety and the safety of others.

The university has many resources in place to make the campus safe including: university police; security cameras; security escorts; security monitors and a safe ride home for students from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. But having individuals commit to taking actions to bolster safety on campus makes an impact, he said.

"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," Hestness said.

To reach students, faculty and staff with the safety messages this week, the university will communicate with them through e-mail, newsletters, the campus newspaper and coffee and doughnuts with university police officers. The university will also use social media to reach out to students including a video on YouTube. To view the video, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eE0foGW7JBg.

And, in today's culture, the university will also communicate with parents because they, in many cases, are the best conduits to students.

"Many of today's students talk, e-mail, instant message or text their parents frequently, so we do see that as an important way to get important messages to students," said Marjorie Savage, director of the university's Parent Program.

To that end, a safety briefing for parents of U of M students will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 21 in the Frontier Hall Lounge, 701 Fulton St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Representatives from the UMPD, Housing and Residential Life and the Office of Student Affairs will be on hand to discuss safety and meet parents.
To engage with students one-on-one, university police officers will be holding "Coffee and Doughnuts with the Cops."

Police will be handing out doughnuts and coffee and talking with students from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Coffee and Doughnuts with the Cops will be held at the following locations:

- Monday, March 22 -- Dinkytown at the corner of 15th Avenue and Fifth Street.
- Tuesday, March 23 -- St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul
- Wednesday, March 24 -- Walkway entrance of the Washinghton Avenue Pedestrian Bridge on the West Bank.
- Thursday, March 25 -- Coffman Union Plaza, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.
- Friday, March 26 -- Transportation and Safety Building, 511 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

For more information about Public Safety Week, visit http://www1.umn.edu/prepared.

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U of M Extension announces flood-related web, phone resources

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March 18, 2010

University of Minnesota Extension announced today its coordinated system of online and phone answer resources available for those with flood-related questions, both during a flood emergency and while recovery efforts are underway.

According to the National Weather Service, flooding has already begun ahead of the Red River crest expected on Sunday. Communities along the Minnesota, Crow Wing and Mississippi rivers are also monitoring rising waters and preparing for overland flooding.

Citizens can access the most up-to-date information on flood response, safety and cleanup by visiting Extension's flood impacts website, www.extension.umn.edu/Flood or calling Extension's toll free phone services, the Flood Information Line (1-800-232-9077) and the AnswerLine (1-800-854-1678).

"When a devastating natural disaster like this hits, Extension's role is to respond rapidly with the research-based information people need most," said Extension Dean Beverly Durgan. "Our staff across Minnesota work with state and federal partners and their North Dakota colleagues to deliver information via grassroots efforts, our website and our phone answer lines."

Extension's online resources include information on food safety and safe drinking water, as well as coping with the long-term aspects of family financial recovery. Both phone services will refer callers to appropriate state and federal agencies if additional information is needed.

Extension's Flood Information Line is a resource for questions about water, crops, horticulture and climatology issues. Extension's AnswerLine provides answers to household and family oriented questions, including food safety concerns.

For more information on disaster response resources from University of Minnesota Extension, visit www.extension.umn.edu/DisasterResponse.

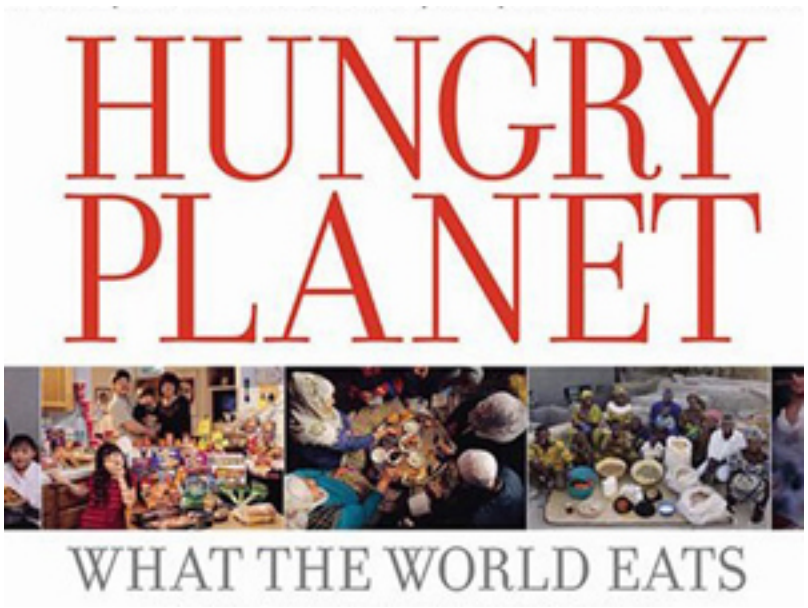
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Bell Museum to host evening with Hungry Planet: What the World Eats authors Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio Saturday, April 24



Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio, authors of the best-selling "Hungry Planet: What the World Eats," will present at the Bell Museum April 24.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/22/2010) —Photographer Peter Menzel and writer Faith D'Aluisio, authors of the best-selling *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*, will present a dazzling tour of the world's dinner plates at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 24 at the Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. Winner of the 2006 James Beard Foundation Book of the Year, Hungry Planet visually documents what 30 families in 24 counties eat in a week, and tackles such topics as the rise of fast food and obesity with captivating photos and lively text.

Menzel and D'Aluisio will discuss what inspires their travels and why food is an important part of their work. They will preview their new book, *What I Eat: Around the World in 80 Diets* the much anticipated follow-up to Hungry Planet that looks at the daily food habits and caloric intakes of 80 individuals ranging from a Tibetan yak herder, to a Bangladeshi sweatshop seamstress, a fashion model, a NASA astronaut and a homeless New Yorker.

The authors will be introduced by Lee Svitak Dean, editor of the Star Tribune's Taste section and author of *Come One, Come All: Easy Entertaining with Seasonal Menus*. A food writer and editor for more than three decades, Dean has won awards from the James Beard Foundation and the Association of Food Journalists.

The event is in conjunction with the Bell Museum's Hungry Planet exhibit which combines Menzel's large-scale photographs and D'Aluisio's narrative with hands-on displays and provocative Thursday evening programming.

Tickets for the event are $15 for Bell Museum members; $20 for non-members. Prior to the presentation, members are invited to meet the authors over light refreshments in the museum's Hungry Planet exhibit between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Call museum registrations at (612) 624-9050 for details. Pre-registration is required for the member event.

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.

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Children's literature author and illustrator Nancy Carlson receives U of M's 2010 Kerlan Award

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March 22, 2010

The University of Minnesota Libraries will present prominent local children's literature author and illustrator Nancy Carlson with the 2010 Kerlan Award 1:15 p.m Saturday April 24 at Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The award presentation and speech by Carlson is free and open to the public. The ceremony is preceded by a noon luncheon (cost: $20; $15 for Kerlan Friends), which requires advance registration by April 16.

Kerlan Friends membership information and the luncheon registration form is available at: http://special.lib.umn.edu/clrc/whatsnew.php

The Kerlan Award is presented annually “in recognition of singular attainments in the creation of children’s literature and in appreciation for generous donation of unique resources to the Kerlan Collection for the study of children’s literature.”

For more information, please contact the staff of the Children's Literature Research Collections at (612)624-4576 or e-mail clrc@umn.edu.

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UnitedHealth Group provides $1 million in scholarships for Carlson School health care actuarial program

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/22/2010) —The Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota received a $1 million gift from UnitedHealth Group to support a scholarship program aimed at encouraging more students to pursue careers as health care actuaries. This gift comes as part of UnitedHealth Group's "United Minnesota" initiative.

Launched in 2007, this 10-year, $100 million initiative supports communities in Minnesota by advancing health, education and social well-being through alliances with organizations that have demonstrated success in improving the quality of life in their communities and the state. Health care actuaries serve a vital role in projecting costs, predicting trends and ensuring that regulations are met by combining skills in business, finance and statistics.

The UnitedHealth Group Actuarial Scholarships will provide up to two semesters of full-time, undergraduate, in-state tuition for as many as 15 enrolled undergraduate students per year on the U's Twin Cities campuses for five years. Applicants will need to demonstrate math comprehension and skill, and will be drawn primarily from undergraduate programs in the Carlson School, the College of Liberal Arts, the Institute of Technology and the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

The Medical Industry Leadership Institute (MILI) at the Carlson School of Management will coordinate and manage the scholarship program for the university. MILI will also convene both faculty and industry advisory boards to help set eligibility criteria and to help plan two professional seminars per year for scholarship recipients and industry representatives.

"UnitedHealth Group's generous gift will provide significant support to students interested in the important field of health care actuarial science," said Stephen Parente, associate professor of finance and director of the MILI. "Health care actuaries serve an important role in managing and assessing risk, a critical component of successful health care systems. Our close proximity to such a strong medical industry in the Twin Cities area provides the ideal environment for this partnership with UnitedHealth Group, and we are excited about what this engagement will produce."

"This new actuarial scholarship program will greatly enhance the accessibility and visibility of the University of Minnesota's program to more undergraduate students interested in the profession," said Larry Gray, professor of mathematics and director of undergraduate studies at the Institute of Technology. "We are pleased that UnitedHealth Group values our strong academic program and appreciates the impact such a program has on ensuring a qualified, high-caliber pool of health care actuaries in the future."

"Looking to the future, we see a real demand for credentialed actuaries," said Kyle Brua, UnitedHealth Group vice president and actuary. "We're thrilled to be partnering with the Medical Industry Leadership Institute (MILI) at the Carlson School of Management, one of the leading public research land-grant institutions in the country to support this area of study and ensure a strong work force of tomorrow."

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U Law School's Environmental Sustainability Clinic to discuss PACE financing

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

March 22, 2010

The University of Minnesota Law School's Environmental Sustainability Clinic and the Environmental Law Society are offering a review of Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing for Minneapolis homeowners 12:15-1:10 p.m. Monday, April 5 in Room 50 of Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

The program will feature a presentation on the clinic's research findings and the effectiveness of PACE financing, as well as a discussion of other programs that could be implemented.

In PACE financing programs, a governmental unit sells bonds to acquire funds for loans to homeowners and commercial entities to pay for renewable energy systems or energy-efficiency improvements. The loans are repaid via a long-term, voluntary special assessment on property taxes. Currently, PACE financing programs are active in only a few cities around the country. However, several cities are in the process of developing programs, California has a statewide program in the works, and the White House has been promoting a policy framework.

This free presentation will assess the potential benefits and concerns of the PACE model for cities and local governments. law students, members of the university community and interested members of the general public. Presenters welcome feedback on their work, and future drafts of the clinic's report may include attendee suggestions.

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University of Minnesota College Readiness Grants awarded

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/24/2010) —Seven grants totaling $140,000 have been awarded to six Minnesota public middle and secondary schools and one public school district to serve as pilots for Ramp-Up to Readiness, a school-wide college readiness program for secondary students developed and administered by the University of Minnesota College Readiness Consortium.

Grant recipients for 2010-2011 are:

• Dunwoody Academy, Minneapolis
• Forest Lake Area Schools, Forest Lake
• Irondale High School, New Brighton
• Murray Jr. High School, St. Paul
• Olson Middle School, Minneapolis
• Richfield Sr. High School, Richfield
• Twin Cities Academy, St. Paul

In addition, Ellis Middle School in Austin received approval to pilot the Ramp-Up framework. The school plans to seek its own funding through a private foundation.

The $140,000 in grants were made available with private funding from the Bush Foundation.

“The primary goal of the pilot is to increase the number and diversity of Minnesota students who graduate from high school after they’ve achieved the Ramp-Up to Readiness goals,” says Kent Pekel, executive director of the College Readiness Consortium. “Those goals are academic readiness, admissions readiness, career readiness, financial readiness and personal and social readiness. We’ve worked with school systems and other researchers during the past two years to develop the Ramp-Up strategies and tools that these schools will be using during the coming year.”

Through participation in Ramp-Up to Readiness, students complete a research-derived sequence of courses, projects, activities, and experiences designed to prepare them for college success. The program was developed over two years through reviews of published research and national best practices and intensive collaboration with leading junior and senior high schools in Minnesota. The cumulative cost of the research and development behind Ramp-Up to Readiness is about $2 million.

This process has resulted in a program that strives to at put an entirely new group of students on the college prep track and accelerate the academic momentum of those who are already there.

The University of Minnesota's College Readiness Consortium engages educators, school districts, state education organizations, and the business community to improve student success in the Pre-K-12 system as it exists today.

It also works to change the Pre-K-12 system itself--transitioning it from an Industrial Age model where few students were prepared for postsecondary education to one in which all students are expected and supported to go beyond a high school diploma. Toward that end, the consortium is working to:

• Align Pre-K-12 and higher education policies and practices through the Minnesota P-20 Education Partnership.
• Help school principals and other leaders create and sustain schools in which every student is on the path to college readiness through the Minnesota Principals Academy executive development program.
• Work with junior and senior high schools to implement Ramp-Up to Readiness, a college readiness program that will guide students through a research-based sequence of courses, projects, activities and experiences that develop the knowledge, skills and habits for success in higher education.
• Create the K12@U Web site and conduct public outreach initiatives that increase the awareness of the importance of postsecondary success and of University resources that can help K-12 schools and students reach that goal.

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U of M School of Music professor Fernando A. Meza to host Marimba 2010 International Festival and Conference

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/24/2010) —University of Minnesota School of Music professor Fernando A. Meza will host the Marimba 2010 International Festival and Conference from Wednesday, April 28 through Saturday, May 1, 2010. Marimba 2010 will bring innovative marimba artists from more than 20 countries to the Twin Cities for the common purpose of celebrating the marimba in its many formats around the world.

Marimba 2010's artistic partners include Twin Cities organizations the Minnesota Orchestra, The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, VocalEssence, the Schubert Club, Southern Theater, University of Minnesota School of Music, Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum and Minnesota Public Radio.

The festival will present leading marimba artists Eric Sammut, Katarzyna Mycka, Nancy Zeltsman, She-e Wu, Gordon Stout, Momoko Kamiya, Pedro Carneiro and Marimba Nandayapa among more than 40 others at the Ted Mann Concert Hall with the generous support of the General Mills Foundation, the Youth Orchestra of the Americas, Minnesota Percussion Association, the French Consulate in Chicago, College of Liberal Arts, Office of International Programs, European Studies, Consortium for the Study of the Asias, the Institute for Global Studies at the University of Minnesota and the Mexican Consulate in St. Paul as well as the artistic partners listed.

The festival will present approximately 21 recitals and three lecture/demonstrations at Ted Mann Concert Hall, which will be available to festival registrants (for registration information, please visit the festival's website www.marimba2010.org). The opening concert on Wednesday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Ted Mann Concert Hall, as well as a program on Thursday April 29 at 11:00 a.m. at the Weisman Art Museum (333 East River Parkway, Minneapolis) is free and open to the public.

Educational sessions will be presented in schools in the larger metropolitan area and as well as nine concerts with the artistic partners at various locations in the Twin Cities including: Concerto No.2 for Marimba and Orchestra by renowned marimba virtuoso Nebojsa Jovan Zivkovic at Orchestra Hall with the Minnesota Orchestra on April 29, 30, and May 1; So Percussion at the Southern Theater on April 29 and 30; Janus Percussion at the Landmark Center as part of the Schubert Club's Courtroom Concert Series at noon on April 29; Engine 408 Series at the SPCO Center on April 29 and May 1; and Mallets and Melodies at the St. Paul Cathedral with Philip Brunelle and VocalEssence.

Festival artistic director and host Fernando Meza describes the festival as "a once-in-a-lifetime event featuring the best artists globally and locally, and an uplifting musical occasion to rejoice and experience the cultural richness of this wonderful instrument worldwide."

For a complete schedule of events and artist roster, visit www.marimba2010.org or call (612) 626-1094 for a brochure and more information.

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U of M Opera Theatre presents Mozart's "The Magic Flute" April 15-18

Contacts: Lisa Marshall, School of Music, marsh396@umn.edu, (612) 626-109

March 24, 2010

The University of Minnesota School of Music's University Opera Theatre will present W.A. Mozart's The Magic Flute ("Die Zauberflöte") at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis. Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15 through Saturday, April 17 and at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 18. The performance will feature music by Mozart and libretto by Emmanuel Schikaneder in German with English supertitles.

David Walsh, university Opera Theatre Director and School of Music professor, will direct and Mark Russell Smith, School of Music professor and Artistic Director of Orchestral Studies, will conduct.

A pre-performance discussion with Walsh begins 45 minutes before each staging in the lobby of the concert hall. Parking is available in the 21st Ave. ramp, one block southwest of the concert hall. Photographs available upon request, and requests can be e-mailed to marsh396@umn.edu. For more information on University Opera Theatre, visit opera.umn.edu.

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.

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University of Minnesota Police to hand out doughnuts and safety information outside Coffman Thursday, March 25

What: University of Minnesota police hand out doughnuts as part of Campus Safety Awareness Week
When: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 25
Where: Coffman Union Plaza, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

March 24, 2010

Students will be greeted by University of Minnesota Police bearing doughnuts and personal safety messages from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 25 at the Coffman Union Plaza, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The meet and greet is part of Campus Safety Awareness Week, which runs through Friday, March 26.

"Coffee and Doughnuts with the Cops" is designed as an event where students and police 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, University of Minnesota Police Chief and assistant vice president of public safety.

The university will also use social media to reach out to students, including a video on YouTube. To view the video, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eE0foGW7JBg.

Police will be out again with coffee and doughnuts from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., Friday, March 26 at the Transportation and Safety Building, 511 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

For more information about Public Safety Week, visit http://www1.umn.edu/prepared.

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University of Minnesota's River Life program and the National Park Service launch Gopher Ranger program

Opportunity for undergraduate students is first-of-its-kind in the country



Participants in the Gopher Ranger program undertake a winter snowshoe hike at Fort Snelling State Park in February.

Contacts: Todd Reubold, Institute on the Environment, reub0002@umn.edu, (612) 624-6140
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Denise Niedzolkowski, National Park Service, Denise_Niedzolkowski@nps.gov, (651) 290-3030 ext. 238

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/25/2010) —The River Life program, part of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, and the National Park Service (NPS) are partnering this spring semester on the newly-established Gopher Ranger program.

The program connects University of Minnesota undergraduate students to National Park Service programs and learning opportunities within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area – the national park that includes 72 miles of the Mississippi River flowing through the Twin Cities metro area and the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus.

"Our students have an opportunity to work in a national park, no matter what their major or level of study," said Pat Nunnally, River Life coordinator. "This will help many of them in their chosen careers."

Gopher Rangers will start out exploring and learning about the river before moving into more advanced experiences like assisting with canoe trips for youth, habitat restoration and internships. This involvement will pave the way for possibly completing program requirements or working for the National Park Service.

To hear audio of Nunnally discussing the Gopher Ranger program, visit: http://bit.ly/bp8Rdd.

"Gopher Ranger is the first step in a much stronger relationship with the University of Minnesota," said Paul Labovitz, superintendent at the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. "Going into the 21st century, there's a lot we need to learn about managing an urban park sustainably and the university will be a key partner in that effort."

Upcoming Gopher Ranger special events include "The History and Culture of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area" on Wednesday, March 31. Students will be instructed by NPS historian John Anfinson on the history that played out along the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities – from the importance of the river to the Dakota Indian people, the mills of Minneapolis, the first locks on the river and the creation of the region's noted park system.

On Wednesday, April 21, students will then learn about "The Natural History of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area," home to endangered river mussels, river otter and many bird and fish species as well as pesky non-native plant communities. By becoming immersed in the story of how the river and its banks have been abused and restored helps students understand the challenge and opportunities facing the next generation of river stewards.

Both events will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. at the offices of Wilderness Inquiry, 808-14th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

For more information on the Gopher Ranger program and to see a list of upcoming events and internship opportunities, visit http://www.nps.gov/miss/supportyourpark/gopherranger.htm or e-mail the University of Minnesota's River Life program at rlp@umn.edu.

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James Lenfestey to present a view of China's Cold Mountain through poetry and film at University of Minnesota Libraries

Contacts: Marlo Welshons, University Libraries, welshons066@umn.edu, (612) 625-9148
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, mathre@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/25/2010) —Poet James Lenfestey will read from "A Cartload of Scrolls: 100 Poems in the Manner of the T'ang Dynasty Hermit Poet Han-Shan" 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13 at the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis. A reception will follow the reading, with copies of available for sale and signing by the author.

In 1974, Lenfestey came upon the book "Cold Mountain: 100 Poems of the T'ang Dynasty Poet Han-shan." The result 33 years later is his collection of poems inspired by the form and sensibility of that 1,200-year-old Chinese hermit poet, yet brimming with Lenfestey's own humor. Lenfestey will also show a short film of his pilgrimage to China where he paid homage to Han-Shan at his hermit cave.

Lenfestey is the first poet to appear in a new annual Pankake Poetry Series, 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 6 at 612-624-9339 or stangret@umn.edu.

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U of M public forum to discuss the economic and community impacts of transitway corridors in the Twin Cities

What: Transitway Impacts on the Twin Cities Metropolitan Region: Research Results and Future Implications
When: 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, March 26
Where: Humphrey Ballroom, Radisson University Hotel, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Michael McCarthy, Center for Transportation Studies, mpmccarthy@umn.edu, (612) 624-3645
Ryan Mathre, University News Service, mathre@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/25/2010) —The University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies will host a public forum 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, March 26 to discuss the economic and community impacts of transitway corridors in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The forum will be held at the Humphrey Ballroom, Radisson University Hotel, 615 Washington Ave. S.E. Minneapolis

Even before Minnesota's first light-rail line began service, local policymakers and staff were interested in the potential economic and social impacts of major transitways on the surrounding community. One local program, the Transitway Impact Research Program (TIRP), is utilizing a range of resources and expertise from the University of Minnesota to investigate the impact.

Friday's event is structured to allow participants to learn about the initial TIRP program research findings, engage in active learning discussions with University of Minnesota researchers, and hear about potential impacts of research findings on future transitway developments. Panelists include representatives from the Minnesota Legislature, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit, Hennepin County, and the City of St. Paul.

The event is free and open to the public but space is limited. A full agenda and more information is available at http://www.cts.umn.edu/Events/transitways/2010/index.html.

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U of M President Bruininks hails passage of financial aid legislation

Contacts: University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/25/2010) —As a reconciliation bill that would make fixes to a previously passed health care bill was sent back from the U.S. Senate to the U.S. House today, University of Minnesota President Robert H. Bruininks lauded the bill's higher education-related provisions:

"This student aid legislation is critically important to the University of Minnesota. People often criticize Congress for looking for short-term fixes and foregoing smart investments for politically expedient ones. This measure shows the opposite: it invests in human capital, in our economy and our society over the long-term.

"The University of Minnesota and its students have had a very positive experience taking part in the Direct Loan Program. That's why we have been supportive of the conversion of federal student aid to the Direct Loan program.

"We are also very encouraged by the investment of loan subsidies to support the Pell Grant. The Pell Grant has been the single most effective program to create opportunity for students of low and moderate income. For some 9,000 students each year across the University of Minnesota system, Pell is the foundation for creating opportunity. In recent years, we have leveraged state grants and private gifts so that grants and scholarships now cover all tuition and fees for Pell-eligible Minnesota undergraduates.

"This legislation shows our nation's promise: a serious, 10-year commitment to the Pell Grant in what is projected to be an increasingly difficult domestic funding environment. This measure will allow the Pell Grant to keep pace with inflation. It also deals decisively with a looming shortfall in Pell that is due in part to our nation's current economic challenges.

"Lawmakers and the president truly deserve our thanks for this far-reaching student aid measure."

Additional information on Direct Loans, the Pell Grant and the federal student loan program:

• According to the National Direct Student Loan Coalition (NDSLC), in the 2009-10 academic year, 2,300 schools successfully originated Direct Loans, and nearly all institutions nationwide are now ready to begin originating Direct Loans beginning July 1 of this year.

- NDSLC also reports that schools that have transitioned during the last year have reported overwhelmingly that the transition was easier and less expensive than expected
- The University of Minnesota is a member of the NDSLC and has been an active volunteer resource for other colleges and universities making the switch to Direct Loans.

• Each year, approximately 9,000 students across the University of Minnesota's five campuses – typically between 16 and 18 percent of undergraduates – benefit from roughly $25 million in Pell grants.

- About 8 million U.S. students rely on the Pell Grant scholarship each year to help pay for college.
- If Congress does not act to pass this bill now, as many as 8 million students could see their Pell grant awards cut by 60 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Education, going from the current Pell Grant maximum of $5,550 to $2,150 next year.
- In addition, approximately 500,000 students nationwide (current and future) could lose their Pell eligibility altogether.

• An additional benefit will accrue to future federal student loan holders under the reconciliation bill. The Income Based Repayment will be modified so that beginning in 2014 a borrower's base loan payments cannot exceed 10 percent of the borrower's income (down from the current 15 percent), and unpaid balances are forgiven after 20 years (down from 25 years).

• Changes that the Senate made to the reconciliation bill early this morning are related to the Pell Grant, but are relatively minor. One change eliminates a provision that would apply if the Consumer Price Index drops below zero after 2013 and the other eliminates language that strikes the ability of the Department of Education to ratably reduce the size of the grants. Both changes are considered technical and leaders in both chambers have indicated they will address these issues through future legislative vehicles.

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Chris Farrell to discuss post-recession consumer spending at University of Minnesota open forum

Award-winning economics author and journalist will explore 'The New Frugality'

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/26/2010) —American Public Media's Chris Farrell will take to the stage at the University of Minnesota this coming Thursday, April 1, to explain past patterns of post-recession spending and explore trends in personal spending habits following the most recent economic downturn.

After every recession since World War II, penny pinching quickly fell out of fashion as Americans returned to their previous spending habits. As the economy recovers, Americans will either remain on a path of frugality and sustainability, or revert back to the spending habits that defined America's pre-recession credit-fueled affluence.

Attendees are invited to join Farrell as he discusses these and other aspects of America's current economic zeitgeist such as:

- How does this instance differ from past recession bounce-backs?
- Will America's current penchant for frugality be long-term?
- What are the consequences if consumer spending increases to pre-recession levels?

The forum will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 1 at the St. Paul campus' Continuing Education and Conference Center (formerly the Earle Brown Center), 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul, and includes an audience question and answer session. The event is part of the ongoing Headliners series presented by the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased by calling (612) 624-4000 or online at www.cce.umn.edu/headliners. Tickets may be available for purchase at the door; however, advanced registration for the event is encouraged as seating is limited.

Farrell is the economics editor for Marketplace Money, American Public Media's nationally syndicated personal finance program, and serves as chief economics correspondent for American Radio Works and Minnesota Public Radio. An award-winning journalist, he is the recipient of two Gerald Loeb Awards in business journalism for the radio documentaries, "The World Turned Upside Down" and "Minnesota in the Dot.com Age."

Farrell holds degrees from Stanford University and the London School of Economics. He is a contributing editor at Business Week magazine, writes a weekly column for the Minneapolis Star Tribune, and is the author of "Deflation: What Happens When Prices Fall" and "Right on the Money: Taking Control of Your Personal Finances." His latest book, "The New Frugality: How to Consume Less, Save More, and Live Better," will be available at this event for sale and signing.

Headliners is a program provided by the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education. Through the CCE, motivated adults enrich their personal and professional lives through learning opportunities ranging from courses, workshops and retreats, to credit certificates and bachelor's and master's degrees. For more information about the college, call (612) 624-4000 or visit www.cce.umn.edu.

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University of Minnesota's award-winning solar-powered house to be available for purchase

State-of-the-art home took fifth place at 2009 Department of Energy Solar Decathlon



The completed ICON Solar House sits on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. at the 2009 Solar Decathlon in October.

Media Note: A pre-purchase proposal meeting and site visit will take place at 1 p.m. Monday, March 29 in the U of M's ReUse Center, 883 29th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/26/2010) —Have you ever wanted to own a home that was powered by nothing but the sun? The University of Minnesota's entry into the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) 2009 Solar Decathlon will be available for purchase to the general public. A pre-proposal meeting and site visit will take place at 1 p.m. March 29 in the U of M's ReUse Center, 883 29th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. Interested buyers are required to submit a purchase proposal by April 12.

The 550-square-foot home, which took fifth place overall (out of 20 teams) in October's Solar Decathlon (a DOE-sponsored contest that challenges universities from around the globe to design and construct the most efficient and appealing sun-powered dwelling), is known as the ICON Solar House due to its classic gabled roof design. It was designed and built by a consortium of professionals and students in the U of M's Institute of Technology, College of Design and College of Continuing Education.

Minimum bid on the house will be $200,000. The house has a retail value of over $550,000 and exceeds all relevant building codes. An allowance of $20,000 will be provided by the university for consulting and assistance in assembling the ICON House on site; the unit is currently disassembled.

For more information on the purchase process, as well as a sales brochure, visit http://www.uservices.umn.edu/purchasing/standard_services.html#um. Interested buyers may also contact Chip Foster in U of M Purchasing Services at foste048@umn.edu.

The ICON Solar House contains all the comforts of home along with the benefits of some of the most advanced technology available on the market today. The home placed highly in several key categories in the October competition, including first place in Engineering, first in Lighting Design, third in Home Entertainment, third in Appliances, fifth in Hot Water and fifth place in Market Viability.

To learn more about the ICON Solar House, including images and video of the completed home, visit http://solardecathlon.umn.edu.

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University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum hires new director

Edward Schneider to start at new post this summer

Contacts: Judy Hohmann, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum,



Ed Schneider will join the Arboretum as its fourth director since it was founded nearly 52 years ago, and will also serve as a professor in the Horticulture Department at the U of M.

jhohmann@umn.edu, (952) 443-1445
Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/29/2010) —The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum will welcome a new director this summer, Edward Schneider, currently president and CEO of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden in California. Schneider will join the Arboretum as its fourth director since it was founded nearly 52 years ago. Schneider will also serve as a professor in the Horticulture Department at the university.

"The Arboretum will benefit greatly from Schneider's leadership and experience as it continues to grow as a community resource and popular environmental attraction in this challenging economy," said Dean Allen Levine of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) at the University of Minnesota, of which the Arboretum is a part. The Arboretum, located in Chanhassen, is a premier public garden, with more than 1,100 acres of gardens, woodlands and natural areas; and 115 year-round employees.

Since 1992, Schneider has headed the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, located on 65 acres in historic Mission Canyon, and featuring over 1000 species of rare and indigenous plants. He has also served as adjunct professor at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Prior to that, Schneider held faculty appointments at Texas State University, most recently as dean of the College of Science for more than eight years.

"The University of Minnesota allows me to combine my two passions, teaching and directing a world respected garden. My career began as a professor and for the past 18 years I've led the Santa Barbara Garden," said Schneider.

After an extensive national search and series of interviews with several candidates, a search committee recommended the hiring of Schneider to Emily Hoover, professor and head of the department of Horticultural Science in CFANS, with negotiations with Schneider completed just this week. Arboretum Director Emeritus Peter J. Olin stepped down in June 2008 after serving the Arboretum for 24 years. The Peter J. Olin Directorship Endowment was established in his honor to endow the director's position. Professor Mary Meyer has served as Interim Director for the past two years, expertly guiding the Arboretum to record visitorship and membership in 2009 and increasing partnerships within the university, the larger and corporate community to support education and the mission of the Arboretum.

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Xcel Energy executive to speak on clean energy future at U of M

What: Carlson School of Management's 1st Tuesday Speaker Series
When: 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 6, 2010
Where: McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis
Media contact: Johnny Thompson, Carlson School of Management, (612) 625-8567, thom3374@umn.edu
Registration contact: https://www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/firsttuesday; To reserve a table for 10 guests, call 612-626-9334

Contacts: Johnny Thompson, Carlson School of Management, thom3374@umn.edu, (612) 625-8567

March 29, 2010

David Sparby, vice president & chief financial officer, Xcel Energy, will speak at the Carlson School of Management's "1st Tuesday Speaker Series" at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 6, at the University of Minnesota's McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

In his 1st Tuesday remarks, Sparby will discuss "Building a Clean Energy Future."

Previously, Sparby was president and chief executive officer of Northern States Power Company-Minnesota, an Xcel Energy Company, responsible for the company's electric and natural gas operations in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. Sparby joined Northern States Power Company-Minnesota in 1982 as a staff attorney and has held numerous positions in Gas Supply, Corporate Rates, Regulatory Services and Regulatory Affairs.

In 2008, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty appointed Sparby to the Midwestern Greenhouse Gas Accord Advisory Group. The group has developed recommendations for the establishment of targets for emission reductions in the Midwest. These recommendations provide a platform for the Midwestern concerns and priorities in the current discussion regarding a federal carbon cap-and-trade mechanism. In addition, Sparby served on the governor's Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group (MCCAG).

The advance registration deadline for the 1st Tuesday Speaker Series is Thursday, April 1. A fee of $28 includes lunch and parking in the Washington Avenue Ramp. The fee for walk-ins is $35, but space is limited. Refund cancellations are required by Thursday, April 1. To register, call 612-626-9634 or visit carlsonschool.umn.edu/events.

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U of M significantly expands financial aid for Minnesota students through "U Promise Scholarship"

Contacts: University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/29/2010) —Officials at the University of Minnesota are reminding current and prospective students that a recent expansion to the University of Minnesota Promise (U Promise) Scholarship makes more Minnesota students eligible for need-based aid than ever before. At the beginning of the current academic year, a new middle-income tuition aid program was combined with an existing low-income scholarship program (the Founders Free Tuition Program) to form U Promise. The newly expanded program now also guarantees need-based aid to Minnesota resident undergraduates from families making up to $100,000 per year and does not have to be repaid.

President Robert Bruininks has made student financial support—especially need-based aid—one of his top fundraising priorities. “The U Promise scholarship expands our groundbreaking need-based aid strategies to include students from middle-income Minnesota families,” he said. “Often students from lower-income families have access to greater levels of scholarship support. Clearly, support for middle-income students was the next frontier—the area of greatest unmet need. The U Promise scholarship enables the University to invest in the future of even more Minnesota students.”

“In these challenging economic times, it’s important for Minnesota parents and students to know we have one of the most aggressive need-based aid programs in the country,” said Provost Tom Sullivan. “Even those who might not have thought they qualified for financial aid in the past may now be covered. U Promise underscores our firm commitment to provide students with a world-class education that also is affordable.”

Eligible Minnesota resident undergraduates enrolled at any of the university’s five campuses will receive one of the following scholarships:

• The U Promise Free Tuition Scholarship (previously named the Founders Free Tuition Program) ensures that 100 percent of tuition and fees are covered, if the student is eligible for a Federal Pell Grant and his/her state and federal gift aid does not cover the full cost of university tuition and fees.

• The U Promise Middle Income Scholarship, worth up to $1,750, if the student is not eligible for a Federal Pell Grant but has a family income of up to $100,000.

Sullivan added that U Promise scholarships are awarded automatically to students, based on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

“Students and their families should complete the FAFSA form; if they qualify, they automatically get the aid,” Sullivan said. “There isn’t a separate application process.”

The expanded U Promise Scholarship started with the Fall 2009 semester. During that semester, 13,329 students—or 42.2 percent of the resident undergraduate student population—received aid through the program.

The new scholarship is part of a broad, ongoing strategy to improve access to financial support for attending the university. “Since the Promise of Tomorrow Scholarship Drive was launched in 2003, we have doubled both the number of scholarships the university provides each year and the average amount per award,” Bruininks said. “Our success in recent years with raising private support for student scholarships means that today, the University of Minnesota provides more financial support for our students than state and federal aid programs combined.”

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Minnesotans view tourism as "very important" to economy

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/29/2010) — A new attitudes assessment survey sponsored by the University of Minnesota Tourism Center reveals that a majority of the state's residents feel tourism is "very important" to the economy.

Among the respondents surveyed during the fourth quarter of 2009, 70 percent indicate tourism is "very important," while a whopping 99 percent say they see it as either "important" or "very important" to the state's economy.

"These results help demonstrate an awareness that travel and tourism is an important part of our state," said Ingrid Schneider, Director of the U of M Tourism Center. "Traveler dollars flow through economies at all levels. Further, the tourism attractions and opportunities add to Minnesotans' quality of life."

According to Explore Minnesota Tourism, the industry generates $11.2 billion in leisure and hospitality sales in Minnesota, including $694 million in sales tax, and accounts for close to 250,000 jobs.

National legislation enacted earlier this month is aimed at promoting the United States as a desirable global travel destination, attracting more visitors, new spending and tax revenue. Although the United States experienced a 10 percent drop in overseas visitors during the last decade, attendance at local events and seasonal festivals is up, according to Tourism Center faculty.

Programming from the U's Tourism Center provides local event staff, festival organizers and volunteers with the essential knowledge and organizational tools to operate successful community events, says Schneider.

This attitudes research study was supported by the Carlson Chair of Hospitality, Travel and Tourism, and conducted as part of the 2009 Minnesota State Survey by the Minnesota Center for Survey Research.

From September 25, 2009, to November 19, 2009, 840 telephone interviews were conducted with Minnesota residents aged 18 or older. The margin for error was 3.5 percent. Regardless of region of the state, education level, age or income, Minnesotans agreed about the importance of tourism.

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 Extension programs in festival and event management, visit www.extension.umn.edu/Festival. For more information about how the Tourism Center helps improve the state's tourism industry, including a video, visit www.tourism.umn.edu.

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University of Minnesota study finds Hiawatha light-rail line has significantly improved job access for low-wage workers



The Hiawatha Light Rail line in the southern Metro has provided low-wage workers with better access to jobs, according to a new U of M study.

Photo courtesy of Steven Vance/Flickr.com

Contacts: Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/30/2010) —The Hiawatha light-rail line provides significant benefits for transit-dependent low-wage workers and improves overall transportation equity in the Twin Cities, according to new University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies research.

By focusing on the impacts of the Hiawatha light-rail line, which runs between downtown Minneapolis and its southern suburbs, the study's authors attempted to uncover whether Twin Cities transitways effectively connect low-wage workers with suitable job opportunities. Low-wage workers are defined as workers with average monthly earnings no higher than $1,200.

The study found that following the opening of the Hiawatha line in 2004, the number of low-wage jobs accessible by 30 minutes of transit travel in morning peak hours increased by 14,000 or 50 percent in light-rail station areas and by 4,000 or 25 percent in areas with direct, light-rail-connecting bus routes.

In addition, low-wage workers have increasingly been locating near station areas. Hiawatha and related transit upgrades are estimated to have drawn 907 low-wage workers into the Hiawatha station areas. Out of the 907 relocated workers, 78 percent moved to areas near the Cedar-Riverside, Franklin Avenue and Lake Street-Midtown stations.

Likewise, the number of low-wage employers has increased near station areas, with Hiawatha and related transit upgrades having, by estimate, brought in more than 5,000 low-wage jobs into areas near downtown Minneapolis and suburban Bloomington light-rail stations.

"Public transportation plays an important role in addressing poverty, unemployment and equal opportunity goals," says Yingling Fan, the study's principal investigator and an assistant professor in the university's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. "Increasingly, often entry-level job opportunities are located away from low-wage workers. However, these workers often don't have access to vehicles for commuting, or they struggle to afford them. These factors make low-wage workers more transit-dependent than ever before."

The study area included the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan region and used data from several sources, including the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) database, the U.S. Census Bureau and Metro Transit.

For more information, visit www.cts.umn.edu/Research/Featured/Transitways.

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U.S. Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson to visit U of M to raise awareness about violence against women

U of M's Aurora Center one of only 11 visits by U.S. Department of Justice tour

Media Note: All media must present government-issued photo I.D. (such as driver's license) and valid media credentials.

Who: Laurie Robinson, assistant attorney general, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs
What: A panel discussion about responding to violence against women on campus. In addition to Robinson, speakers will include University of Minnesota leaders and staff from the U's Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education and community violence prevention experts.
When: 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 31
Where: Coffman Union Theater, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, MN

Contacts: Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

March 30, 2010

Assistant Attorney General Laurie Robinson in the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs will visit the University of Minnesota on Wednesday, March 31 to raise public awareness about violence against women and to speak with students, faculty and staff about ways to prevent violence against women on college campuses.

Robinson will deliver remarks and meet with students, faculty and community partners during a panel discussion at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, March 31 in the Coffman Union Theater, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. Robinson's visit is part of a nationwide college campus tour by top department officials to raise awareness and to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act.

The U of M is one of only 11 universities included in the tour. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) recognizes the University of Minnesota's Aurora Center for Advocacy and Education as one of the best in the nation when it comes to programs that serve survivors of sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking.

Along with Robinson, Wednesday's panel will include Jerry Rinehart, vice provost for Student Affairs, University of Minnesota Police Chief Greg Hestness, Kaoru Kinoshita, an Aurora Center volunteer, Jamie Tiedemann, director of the Aurora Center and others. Roberta Gibbons, associate director of Aurora Center, will serve as moderator.

Many campuses on the tour including the U of M receive the department's Office on Violence Against Women's "Grants to Reduce Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking on Campus Program." In fact, Aurora is one of only three schools that have received grants each year for the last 10 years and in that time Aurora has received more than $1 million in DOJ grant money, Gibbons said.

The Aurora Center was founded in 1989 and is part of the university’s Office for Student Affairs. The center provides free and confidential crisis intervention to victims of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking and harassment. It also offers services to friends or loved ones who are concerned about people who have experienced these types of crimes. It accepts walk-in clients and a 24-hour; 365 days a year help line.

The center also provides education and training to University of Minnesota students, staff and faculty, as well as to the Twin-Cities community, reaching nearly 5,000 people per year with a prevention message of hope and respect.

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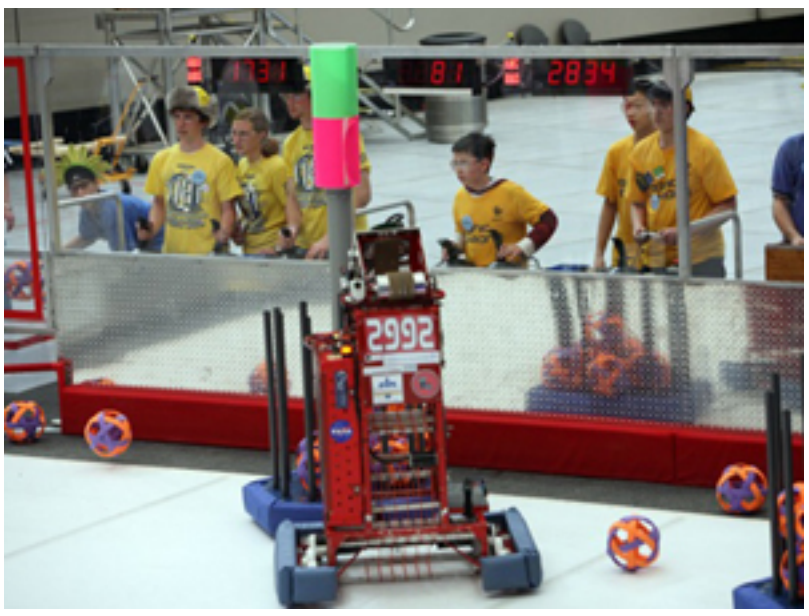
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Robots take over U of M sports arenas April 2-3

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Hundreds of students from Minnesota and the surrounding areas will descend upon Williams and Mariucci Arenas April 2-3 for the FIRST Robotics Competition.

March 30, 2010

Two arenas full of screaming fans and 126 high school teams from Minnesota and surrounding states are extending the Minnesota tournament frenzy another week at the Minnesota Regional FIRST Robotics Competitions 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday April 2-3 at the University of Minnesota's Williams and Mariucci arenas, 1925 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The championship matches are 1:45-4:45 p.m., Saturday, April 3, when there will be non-stop robot action.

The event is free and open to the public. In addition, the first 500 people entering each arena on Friday and Saturday mornings will receive free admission tickets to the Science Museum of Minnesota courtesy of the Medtronic Foundation.

The University of Minnesota Institute of Technology (soon to be called the College of Science and Engineering) is one of the sponsors of the event.

Borrowing a page from the sports playbook, the robotics competition uses the excitement of sports to promote science, technology, engineering and math in a fun and interactive way.

The FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition challenges each team of high school students and their mentors to build a robot in six weeks and enter the robot in competitions designed by a committee of engineers and other professionals. The competing robots are nearly three feet by four feet and stand up to five feet tall.

This year's game, called "Breakaway," is a game played on a 54-by-27-foot field. Two robot alliances, one red and one blue, composed of three teams each, compete in each match of two minutes and 15 seconds. The object of the game is to attain a higher score than your opponent by shooting soccer balls into a goal, climbing on the tower or platform, or by lifting a robot from the same alliance off the playing surface. Robots are autonomous during the first 15 seconds of play and teleoperated for the remaining two minutes.

A video simulation of this year's game is available at http://z.umn.edu/firstrobotics10.

Those attending the competition are also allowed into the pits area where they can talk to teams and see robot repairs in action.

Winning teams from the regional event will advance to the national championship April 15-17 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

Just four years ago, there were only two FIRST Robotics teams in Minnesota. With sponsorships from the University of Minnesota and corporations such as Medtronic, Boston Scientific, 3M, St. Jude Medical, Lockheed Martin, General Mills, Cargill, BAE Systems, PTC, Pentair and others, the number of robotics teams in Minnesota has grown to more than 100 teams this year. Worldwide there are more than 1,800 FIRST Robotics teams involving more than 45,000 high school students.

For more information, including a full schedule and list of competing teams, visit http://www.mnfirstregional.org.

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University of Minnesota Imagine Fund lecture series to feature world-famous Finnish architect Juhani Pallasmaa and groundbreaking American playwright Leigh Fondakowski



An example of the work by world-renowned Finnish architect Juhani Pallasmaa, one of the speakers at the University of Minnesota Imagine Fund's inaugural 2010 visiting scholars lecture series.

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/30/2010) —World-renowned Finnish architect Juhani Pallasmaa and critically-acclaimed American playwright Leigh Fondakowski are headlining the University of Minnesota Imagine Fund's inaugural 2010 visiting scholars lecture series. At six events in April, Pallasmaa and Fondakowski will meet for thought-provoking conversations as they explore their fields and share ideas about the creative process.

"The University of Minnesota provides a thriving arts, design and humanities community where creative expression, innovative thinking and dialogue are valued and encouraged," said Tom Sullivan, University of Minnesota provost. "We are excited to see what the juxtaposition of these two accomplished creative thinkers will unearth and bring to light."

Pallasmaa is widely regarded as Finland's greatest living architect. His exhibits on Finnish architecture have been shown in more than 30 countries, and he has written extensively on architectural, environmental and cultural theory. Among Pallasmaa's many books on architectural theory is "The Eyes of the Skin - Architecture and the Senses," which has become a classic of architectural theory and is required reading at schools of architecture around the world.

Fondakowski was head writer of the critically acclaimed play, "The Laramie Project," which dramatizes the reaction to the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, a gay University of Wyoming student, in Laramie, Wyo. Her internationally recognized work highlights the experiences of society's outsiders and of individuals in tragic public events. Fondakowski's latest work is The People's Temple, a theatrical examination of the 1978 Jonestown massacre (Guyana).

Established in 2009, the university's Imagine Fund program is supported by a grant from the McKnight Foundation and is a system-wide effort designed to support the arts, humanities and design.

The series is free and open to the public. Discussion dates and themes are:

Image and Meaning
7 p.m. Monday, April 5
Bell Auditorium, Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis

Novelty and Tradition
7 p.m. Wednesday, April 7
Shepherd Room, Weisman Art Museum, 333 East River Parkway, Minneapolis

Reality and Fiction
7 p.m. Monday, April 12
Bell Auditorium, Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis

Time and Timelessness
7 p.m. Wednesday, April 14
Shepherd Room, Weisman Art Museum, 333 East River Parkway, Minneapolis

Expression and Anonymity
7 p.m. Monday, April 19
Varsity Theater, 308 4th St. S.E., Minneapolis

Imagination and Compassion
3 p.m. Thursday, April 22
Teatro Zuccone, 222 E. Superior St., Duluth

For more information about the Imagine Fund and the lecture series, visit www.artsandhumanities.umn.edu.

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Respected agricultural economist Reynold P. Dahl dies at age 86

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Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/30/2010) —Well known University of Minnesota economist Reynold (Reese) P. Dahl died Saturday after a short illness.

Dahl, 86, a Professor Emeritus in the applied economics department, was widely known for his teaching, extension and research in futures markets, commodity and grain marketing and agricultural economics.

Reese is best known for his work in commodity marketing and international grain trading. A longtime teacher of the grain marketing and futures and options courses in Applied Economics, Dahl trained a generation of grain and commodity traders. "Name a major agribusiness in the Twin Cities that has an agricultural commodity division and it likely has or has had an alum of Reese Dahl's courses in an executive position," said Brian Buhr, head of the applied economics department.

Dahl officially retired in June 1994 but occasionally returned to his office to vigorously debate the state of the grain markets or economy in general with anyone willing to take up the challenge of matching his formidable knowledge and enthusiastic opinions.

He served as a public member of the Board of Directors of the Minneapolis Grain Exchange from 1972 to 1980. "I had the pleasure of joining Reese at the final day of floor trading at the Minneapolis Grain Exchange," Buhr said. "A parade of former students streamed by to reminisce about their days in Reese's class. It was a delight to see students and their mentor's faces light up as they swapped stories."

Dahl was born in Willmar, Minn. His service at the University stretches back to 1950, when upon completing his master's degree he was appointed as instructor in what was then called the agricultural economics department. In 1954, he completed his Ph.D; in 1955 he was appointed an assistant professor. He stayed in the department until his retirement.

In addition to his teaching and extension work, Dahl was active in international aid and development projects. From 1962-63 he worked as a commodity market consultant in Belgium. In the late 1960s, he worked on the U.S. Agency for International Development project in Tunisia, and he continued his international projects in Latin America and Africa in the 1970s.

He is survived by his wife Alyce Dahl and two children, daughter Ann Dahl Schlender and son John Dahl. Funeral arrangements are planned for 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 31 at The Church of Corpus Christi in Roseville, MN. There will be a one hour visitation prior to the service.

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Bruininks to deliver 2010 State of the University Address on Thursday

Contacts: University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551



U of M President Robert Bruininks will give his 2010 State of the University Address Thursday afternoon.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/30/2010) —University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will give his 2010 State of the University Address at 3 p.m. Thursday, April 1, in Coffman Memorial Union Theater, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Bruininks' speech, "Chart the Future: Partners for the Public Good," will call for a higher education renaissance in Minnesota, in which both the state and the university reaffirm the importance of education, research and public engagement and seek to better align goals and systems with the needs and expectations of the state and its citizens.

Such a renaissance, according to Bruininks, will require the entire university community to devote itself to strategically refocusing the university's academic mission and aggressively reducing costs and growing non-state revenue.

In addition to specific to strategies secure the university's financial future, the president will propose an independent commission on the redesign of higher education in Minnesota and encourage a common vision and stronger partnerships, both within the university and between the university and the state.

A live video stream of the address can be viewed here: http://www1.umn.edu/pres/stateoftheu2010.html.

The address will also be aired at the following UM locations:

- UM-Crookston: 220 Dowell Hall
- UM-Dultuh: 173 Kirby Plaza
- UM-Morris: Science Auditorium
- UM-Rochester: Room 398

A brief question-and-answer session will follow the address.

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2010 State of the University Address canceled due to laryngitis

Contacts: University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

March 31, 2010

The 2010 State of the University of Minnesota Address, scheduled for 3 p.m. Thursday, April 1, in Coffman Memorial Union Theater has been canceled as U of M President Robert Bruininks works to recover his voice from a case of laryngitis.

“Each year I look forward to discussing our best thoughts and ideas for moving the university forward in this forum,” Bruininks said. “Unfortunately, I am currently unable to speak audibly for extended periods of time -- and while I remain hopeful that my voice will return to full capacity soon, we needed to make this decision today in order to communicate it with the Regents, the coordinate campuses, the media and the public in a timely manner.”

Since the spring semester will end next month, the speech will not be rescheduled. Instead, the president intends to post his remarks in full on the Office of the President Web site (http://www1.umn.edu/pres) on Monday, April 5. President Bruininks also indicated his intention to look for additional opportunities to interact with the university community this spring and next fall.

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Researchers demonstrate breakthrough in early detection and monitoring of chronic diseases

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (03/31/2010) —A University of Minnesota research team, led by electrical and computer engineering professor Jian-Ping Wang and medicinal chemistry associate professor Chengguo Xing, has demonstrated a magnetic nanotechnology-based diagnostic technique that can accurately identify disease biomarkers and detect diseases in their early stages in unprocessed human blood, saliva or urine.

This research, published in the March 31 issue of the Journal of the American Chemical Society (JACS), highlights technology that may lead to performing accurate, multiple tests enabling early detection and monitoring of chronic disease, disease reoccurrence, and therapy efficacy. Their research also paves the way for identifying bio-molecules that make up various diseases, immune defense mechanisms, environmental and biosafety monitoring.

“Our current health care system is facing an enormous financial burden mainly due to increasing cases of chronic diseases such as cancer,” says Wang. “Due to the complexity of human biology and the chronic nature of cancer, it is extremely challenging to identify valid cancer biomarkers and to detect cancers in their early stages. Patients must always visit a clinic for testing. A low-cost, family-based medical device, which would allow patients to monitor cancer developments over a period of time by simply testing droplets of blood, saliva or urine for cancer biomarker changes, could have a major impact on cancer control through early detection.”

Traditional detection methods, like the ELISA test, take a long time to process, require high-cost equipment and professional training of staff, and do not provide the precision needed. The new method could provide portable, low-cost, rapid, multiplex, background/matrix-insensitive and more precise testing.

The current giant magnetoresistive (GMR) detecting principle employs a sandwich-based approach and uses iron oxide nanoparticles. This method compromises the detection sensitivity and monotonicity that cannot provide an accurate quantification.

The university team demonstrated the new, two-layer detection scheme where distance of the disease biomarkers to the sensor is minimized. This two-layer approach enhances the detection over the traditional sandwich-based approach by 3.4 to 39 times, depending on the size and orientation of the antibody and protein used. The University team used their unique high-magnetic-moment nanoparticles, which are three to 10 times higher in signal than traditional iron oxide nanoparticles, depending on the particle size and applied field. Another key invention enabling this demonstration is their novel GMR sensor. With the integration of all these characteristics, the team demonstrated the detection of low concentration biomarker in unprocessed human sera samples based on magnetic nanotechnology for the first time.

The research has been partially supported by National Science Foundation. Entities at the University of Minnesota that provided support include the Center for Nanostructure Application, Nanobiotechnology Initiative and Institute for Engineering in Medicine.

For the abstract and full text of the research report, visit http://z.umn.edu/biomarker.

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U of M hosts third annual Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship Research Showcase

Research topics range from fighting wildland fires to Iron Range English

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

April 5, 2010

The University of Minnesota Graduate School will host the third annual Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (DDF) Research Showcase noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 6, 2010 in the Great Hall of Coffman Union, 300 Washington Avenue S.E., Minneapolis. About 65 of the top recipients of the 2009-10 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships will showcase their research, which covers roughly 40 fields, from engineering to English.

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships are awarded to outstanding, final-year doctoral candidates making timely progress toward the degree. Candidates are nominated by their academic programs to an all-university competition. This year, 113 fellowships were awarded through the Graduate School Fellowship Office.

“Graduate students are knowledge creators and key contributors to the research mission of the University,” said Henning Schroeder, vice provost and dean for graduate education. “The showcase cuts across disciplines and is a chance to see what the next generation of researchers is doing. We can get a glimpse of trends in the intellectual work of the university, which is a real crossroads of top talent from around the world.”

Research in the showcase will span fields from aerospace engineering to humanities to water resource sciences. A sampling of the topics: how sleep affects learning, stem cell therapies for heart disease, infection resistance before birth, biofuel development, planning for wildland fires, soybean root diseases, long-term effects of preschool, fatherhood in medieval times and Iron Range English.

The showcase is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

For a list of all the presenters visit
http://www.grad.umn.edu/fellowships/enrolled_students/Doctoral_Research_Showcase.html.

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Two University of Minnesota students named Barry M. Goldwater scholars

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/06/2010) —Two University of Minnesota students were named 2010 Barry M. Goldwater Scholars and three students (including one from the University of Minnesota-Morris) received Honorable Mention.

The annual award is given to outstanding sophomores and juniors pursuing research-oriented careers in math, engineering and science all around the nation. The scholarship provides up to $7,500 per year for up to two years of undergraduate study.

The full scholarship recipients are:

Grant Remmen is a sophomore majoring in astrophysics, physics and mathematics in the Institute of Technology (soon to be named College of Science and Engineering). Remmen plans to pursue a doctorate in astrophysics. He is also in the University Honors Program. He intends to pursue a career in research, possibly at NASA or at a university. Remmen is presently researching black holes with professor Robert Gehrz. Remmen completed an assessment of dark matter distribution in the Milky Way Galaxy with professor Thomas Walsh during his freshman year. He is a United States Presidential Scholar, National Merit Scholar, Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholar and Bentson Scholar. Remmen is also a member of Golden Key International Honour Society and Sigma Pi Sigma (Physics Honor Society).

Xiaoying Lou is a junior in the College of Biological Sciences (CBS) majoring in Biochemistry. She plans to pursue an M.D. as well as a Ph.D. in Biochemistry or Pharmacology and envisions a career as a physician-scientist working in drug development for cardiovascular diseases. Currently, Lou is investigating how molecular inhibitors regulate hormone receptors that control blood pressure and bone growth. Her advisor is Lincoln Potter, Associate Professor of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics. Lou is also studying mechanisms of vascular function in heart failure patients with Donald Dengel, Associate Professor of Kinesiology. Previously, Lou studied yeast genomics with Robin Wright, Genetics Professor and Associate Dean in the College of Biological Sciences, and conducted research in cardiothoracic surgery with Dr. Rosemary Kelly, Associate Professor of Surgery. Lou is President of the Biological Science Research Club. Among her many academic awards, she is a National Merit Scholar and Bentson scholarship recipient. She is also the CBS Student Board President for 2010-2011.

U of M-Twin Cities Honorable Mentions **Scott Isaacson** and **Brent Keller** are both juniors in the Institute of Technology. Both students are actively involved in undergraduate research at the University of Minnesota and in summer programs.

Isaacson is a chemical engineering student, planning to earn his doctorate in materials science. He hopes to work at NASA on aerospace and renewable energy-related materials.

Keller is majoring in chemical engineering and chemistry and intends to pursue a doctorate in either chemical engineering or material science. He aspires to conduct research in nanotechnology and teach at the university level.

U of M-Morris Honorable Mention **Rebecca Joy Lindquist** is a chemistry and anthropology major and hopes to earn a doctorate in environmental chemistry, conduct research in sustainable chemistry and teach at the university level.

The Goldwater Scholars were selected on the basis of academic merit from a field of 1,111 mathematics, science, and engineering students who were nominated by the faculties of colleges and universities nationwide. Many of the Scholars have dual majors in a variety of mathematics, science, engineering, and computer disciplines.

Congress established the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program in 1986 to honor Senator Barry Goldwater, who served his country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years of service in the U.S. Senate. For more information on the Goldwater Scholarship go to http://www.act.org/goldwater.

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Katie Couric to speak at the University of Minnesota Alumni Association 2010 Annual Celebration

Couric to speak on "The Power of Resilience," reflecting on professional and personal experiences



Katie Couric will speak at the U of M Alumni Association 2010 Annual Celebration April 24.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/06/2010) —Katie Couric will headline the University of Minnesota Alumni Association 2010 Annual Celebration on Saturday, April 24. Couric is the anchor and managing editor of "CBS Evening News," a "60 Minutes" correspondent and a leading advocate in the fight against cancer. She will speak on "The Power of Resilience," reflecting on professional and personal experiences.

The annual celebration begins at 5:30 p.m. with a reception and dinner, followed by the program at 7:30 p.m, and will take place at Mariucci Arena, 1901 4th St. S.E., Minneapolis.

"We are thrilled to welcome Katie Couric, Emmy award-winning journalist and the first female solo anchor of a network evening news broadcast, to the University of Minnesota campus," said Archie Givens, '66, '68, volunteer president of the Alumni Association national board of directors and CEO and director of Legacy Management & Development Corporation in Minneapolis. "The Alumni Association's brand-new CEO, Phil Esten, is looking forward to his first annual celebration. You won't want to miss this opportunity to socialize with university alumni and campus friends and hear Katie Couric in Mariucci Arena, a unique venue for this type of event."

Tickets are on sale now for the event. Tables of 10 for the dinner and program are $600 for Alumni Association members and $700 for non-members. Individual tickets are $60 for Alumni Association members and $70 for non-members. Individual tickets for the program only are $20 for members and $30 for nonmembers. Student members of the Alumni Association are invited to attend the program free of charge; student non-members for $20. Complete ticket and event information is available at www.MinnesotaAlumni.org.

The 2010 Annual Celebration is sponsored by WCCO and Mortenson Construction.

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a 60,000-member organization whose members are ambassadors for the excellent teaching and breakthrough research that happens at the University every day. For more information, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org or call (612) 624-2323.

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University of Minnesota study will examine how North Dakota landscapes affect health of U.S. bees

Bee health has major impact on human food supplies



Marla Spivak is a researcher in the University of Minnesota Extension's Bee Lab.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/07/2010) —A new study led by a University of Minnesota investigator is aimed at discovering how changing land use in North Dakota's prairie pothole region affects the health of bees and their ability to pollinate crops nationwide.

The three-year study's goal is to connect bee populations and health data with historical records of agricultural and natural land use in the region, and use that information to help predict how changes in climate, available land-cover and other environmental factors could affect bees.

Researchers will collect data on honey bees' nutritional health, disease resistance and exposure to pesticides in floral-rich and poor North Dakota landscapes and will measure the same factors on the bee colonies after they are transported to California to pollinate almond orchards. More than 1 million colonies move to California each winter for pollination, and their health has a major influence on human food supplies, said Marla Spivak, the University of Minnesota researcher who will lead the project.

The researchers are focusing on North Dakota in part because it is the nation's largest honey producer, but also because land use in the Prairie Pothole Region has been the subject of detailed studies on ecosystem services and climate change by a number of federal agencies, Spivak said. The results will show how shifts in land cropping patterns in the Midwest influence our national pollinator services as measured in West Coast almond orchards.

"Our study is unique in that we will test directly how the diversity and abundance of pollen and nectar sources affect the health of both honey bees and our important native bee pollinators," Spivak said.

The study is funded by a $500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Collaborators on the project include Ned Euliss from the U.S. Geological Survey in Jamestown, N.D., and Jeff Pettis from the USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

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University of Minnesota to host Idealist.org Nonprofit Career Fair and Working for Change Conference

Joint events provide opportunity to learn about and apply for careers in social justice, health care, nonprofit and government work

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/07/2010) —For those interested in pursuing or advancing a career in social justice, nonprofit or government work, the University of Minnesota is hosting the 2010 Idealist.org Nonprofit Career Fair and Working for Change Conference on Tuesday, April 13, at Coffman Union, Great Hall, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. Both events are expected to draw attendees from across the region. The events are free of charge and open to the public, with no registration required.

“The goal of the conference and career fair is to help people answer the key question, ‘What’s in my future?’” says Laurel Hirt, director of the university’s Community Service-Learning Center, which helps organize the event. “There is a great interest in social justice and nonprofit careers among both students and non-students, and we are excited to provide a forum for exploration and getting the proverbial ‘foot in the door.’”

The Working for Change Conference will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and provide an opportunity to learn about a range of social justice-oriented careers, with a particular focus on jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities in the nonprofit sector and government. The conference will feature panel discussions and workshops. A schedule and list of sessions is available at www.servicelearning.umn.edu/Events/idealistfair.html.

The Idealist.org Nonprofit Career Fair is open to students and non-students and will feature a broad range of organizations looking for prospective employees. Attendees will be able to network, distribute resumes and meet with recruiters about job, internship and volunteer opportunities. The fair will take place from 12 to 4 p.m. A list of organizations attending is available at http://idealist.org/if/idealist/en/CareerFair/Viewer/default?career-fair-id=243.

A special health professionals careers fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in rooms 304 and 305, with advance registration required at www.healthcareers.umn.edu/shortcourses/home.html or by phone at (612) 624-6767.

The workshop and fair are co-hosted by the university’s Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, the Community Service-Learning Center, the Health Careers Center and the Carlson School of Management Undergraduate Business Career Center. Other partners include the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, Minnesota’s Private Colleges Career Consortium, Minnesota College and University Career Services Association, Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs (HECUA) and the Minnesota Association for Experiential Learning.

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University of Minnesota receives $2.5 million to revitalize electrical power engineering education

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/08/2010) —The University of Minnesota was awarded $2.5 million in Recovery Act funding today from the U.S. Department of Energy to lead a nationwide consortium of universities to revitalize electrical power engineering education. The funding is part of a nationwide $100 million effort for 54 smart grid workforce training programs that will help prepare the next generation of workers in the utility and electrical manufacturing industries.

The consortium led by the University of Minnesota will facilitate the implementation of labs at the university level to create a new educational framework in power engineering that will transform undergraduate and graduate education and research in the areas of renewable energy (such as wind, solar, storage and energy conservation) and meet the challenges of making the electrical grid cleaner, smarter and more reliable.

This new funding complements other federal grants at the University of Minnesota, including those from the National Science Foundation, NASA and the Office of Naval Research. The award also builds on a recent $8 million U.S. Department of Energy grant to the University of Minnesota and regional partners for advanced wind energy research and strengthens efforts to create a center of excellence for smart grid research at the university.

This project includes a community of more than 80 collaborating universities that will further disseminate the laboratory curriculum to other universities and technical and community colleges in their region.

“Building and operating smart grid infrastructure will put tens of thousands of Americans to work,” said U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu. “Today's investment will help ensure that we have the workforce in place to meet this need. This is a great opportunity for workers to upgrade their skills and earn more, or for laid off workers from other industries to start fresh in a new and growing field.”

Matching funds from various sources make up the remaining 40 percent of the total cost of the University of Minnesota-led project. These include: U of M Institute of Technology (soon to be called the College of Science and Engineering), Electrical Power Research Institute (EPRI), U of M Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, U of M Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE), U of M Center for Electric Energy and 65 universities across the country.

To view the full list of projects selected by the U.S. Department of Energy to receive funding visit, http://www.energy.gov/news/8842.htm.

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University of Minnesota to host world's largest medical devices conference April 13-15

Conference includes keynote address about impact of health care reform, live surgery broadcast and research on more than 100 emerging topics

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 Institute of Technology.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/09/2010) —Medical device leaders from across the country, in both industry and academia, will converge next week at the University of Minnesota's ninth annual Design of Medical Devices Conference (DMD) April 13-15 at the Radisson University Hotel, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

More than 1,000 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 three-day conference will address major trends related to medical device design, policy, engineering, education and commercialization. The conference includes multiple speakers, scientific poster sessions, and technical/scientific workshops with topics such as cardiovascular engineering, neuroengineering, health informatics, nanodevices, tissue engineering, medical electronics, health care reform and much more.

A conference highlight is a keynote address by former U.S. Sen. Dave Durenberger on the impact of federal health care reform on the future of the medical device industry. Conference attendees will also be able to observe a live surgery that will be broadcasted via videoconference from the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview. In addition, there will be two scientific poster sessions that will showcase more than 100 emerging topics in biomedical engineering and medical device design.

The conference also includes a medical devices industry job fair, mini-symposium on regulatory issues, academy for innovation and a 5K fun run.

"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. "Ten years ago we had a vision to establish an event where leaders from academia and industry would come together to share the latest in medical device design. This vision has become a successful reality and continues to exceed even our own expectations."

The conference is presented by the University of Minnesota Institute for Engineering in Medicine's Medical Devices Center, the Institute of Technology (soon to be called the College of Science and Engineering), the Academic Health Center, and the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Several corporations are also providing industry sponsorships including Boston Scientific, Medtronic Inc., OneMedPlace, St. Jude Medical, Experimental Surgical Services, LifeScience Alley and Minnetronix.

For more information about the Design of Medical Devices Conference, visit www.dmd.umn.edu.

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Design in 7 - Seven Twin Cities design professionals to offer tales from the trenches

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/09/2010) —Whether you're an aspiring designer or established practitioner looking to compare notes with peers, the University of Minnesota College of Design is hosting an innovative new event to provide a forum for the exchange of experiences, knowledge and the latest trends in Minnesota architecture, apparel, graphic and interior design, housing, landscape architecture and retail.

"Design in 7: 7 Stories, 7 Minutes" will take place 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at the Weisman Art Museum, 333 East River Parkway, Minneapolis. A reception with presenters will follow the program.

Presented by the College of Design Student and Alumni Board, Design in 7 will feature seven notable Twin Cities professionals who will share thought-provoking, inspiring and sometimes curious tales from the trenches. Speakers will have seven minutes each for their presentation.

Speakers include John Cuningham, founder of Cuningham Group Architecture; Chuck Hermes, chief experience officer for Clockwork Active Media Systems; Anita Barnett, FIIDA, principal with Perkins+Will; Damon Farber, president of Damon Farber Associates/Landscape Architects; Wayne Laberda, clothing designer with Target Corp; Amy Michielle Freeman, owner of SoHo Exchange, Inc.; and Bill Mague, Artspace portfolio director.

The event is free of charge to current students, general admission is $20 and registration is required at http://register.cce.umn.edu/Course.pl?sect_key=184067.

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U of M Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare to give first Child Welfare Leadership Award

Rob Sawyer selected for outstanding contributions to child welfare practice

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/09/2010) —The University of Minnesota Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (CASCW) will award the first annual Child Welfare Leadership Award at 9 a.m. Thursday, April 15 in the Coffman Theater in Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Avenue S.E., Minneapolis.

The award presentation will take place as part of CASCW's 11th annual Child Welfare Conference which is being broadcast live via Web stream to child welfare practitioners in over 30 counties around the state and hundreds of practitioners across the country.

The Child Welfare Leadership Award is presented to an outstanding leader in the field of public child welfare in Minnesota. Public child welfare includes child protection, foster care, and/or adoption services provided by counties or the state.

This year's recipient, Rob Sawyer, has been a leader in developing and implementing innovative child protection practices in Minnesota for more than 40 years. His leadership has made Olmsted County a model for child protection practice, and his efforts have made a clear difference in the lives of abused and neglected children in Minnesota. He has served on numerous Minnesota state task forces interested in child welfare services. In February the American Humane Association Children's Division appointed Sawyer a senior fellow.

"Rob is very deserving," said Paul Fleissner, director of Olmsted County Community Services. "He has led an amazing transformation of services in child welfare, and I am very happy that CASCW is recognizing his passion and commitment to vulnerable children and their families."

For more information on CASCW, the 11th annual Child Welfare Conference, or the Child Welfare Leadership Award visit: http://www.cehd.umn.edu/SSW/CASCW/

The Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare is part of the School of Social Work, housed in the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development.

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Israeli scholar Elhanan Yakira to speak at U of M on "The Holocaust and the Jewish State"

Who: Elhanan Yakira, professor of philosophy at Hebrew University, Jerusalem
When: 4 p.m., Thursday, April 15
Where: 101 Walter Library, U of M East Bank, 117 Pleasant St SE, Minneapolis
What: Lecture, “The Holocaust and the Jewish State”
How: Free and open to the public

Contacts: Kelly O'Brien, College of Liberal Arts, obrie136@umn.edu, (612) 624-4109

April 12, 2010

Elhanan Yakira, professor of philosophy at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, will appear at the University of Minnesota at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 15 to give a talk, “The Holocaust and the Jewish State.”

Professor Yakira’s book, Post-Zionism, Post-Holocaust: Three Essays on Denial, Forgetting, and the Delegitimation of Israel, has just been published in English by Cambridge University Press. In it, he explores how the Holocaust is used in some academic circles in Israel, Europe, and the United States as an instrument of delegitimizing the Jewish state. He argues that this exploitive use of the Holocaust by reputable and highly sophisticated academics parallels the infamous rhetoric of Holocaust denial.

In a recent interview, Yakira explains that the essays in the book were intended to be an argument against the Israeli community of scholars who compare Israel’s treatment of Palestine to how Nazi’s treated the Jews in Europe. “As I worked on the English edition,” he says, “it became clear that the Israelis are nurtured by an international community: a huge subculture devoted to the de-legitimation of Israel, the Zionist idea, and the Jewish nation. What I did in the book was essentially to take one element of this campaign--the manipulation of the Holocaust -- and show how it was morally and intellectually wrong.”

Yakira’s talk takes place at Walter Library (117 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis), room 101, on the university's east bank campus. He is available for interviews in Minneapolis on April 15 and 16.

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Carlson School of Management to host Women's Leadership Conference April 30

Theme of conference is "Connect, Empower, Succeed"

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/12/2010) —The Carlson School of Management is hosting the sixth annual Women's Leadership Conference, entitled "Connect, Empower, Succeed," from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, April 30, at the Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave. S. Minneapolis. Registration is required and early registration by April 21 is highly recommended. There will be no on-site registration.

The Women's Leadership Conference provides a forum for women within the Twin Cities' business community to engage in meaningful dialogue, while creating and sustaining a network of current and future business leaders. Additionally, the conference is designed to support the forward focus of Minnesota business women by providing lifelong learning opportunities and resources to enrich professional careers and personal goals.

The conference will include keynote addresses from Linda Keene, CEO of Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys, and Nazie Eftekhari, founder and CEO of HealthEZ. Workshops and panel discussions will round out the day's events.

Full registration is $150 to participate in all of the day's activities, and there are reduced rates available for current University of Minnesota students and staff. Registration is available at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/wlc. Event contact is Keelii Addy, (612) 626-7407 or cdi@umn.edu.

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"Poisoned Waters" producer Hedrick Smith to speak on pollution

April 27 lecture is part of "2010 - The Year of the Water" series sponsored by University of Minnesota and Freshwater Society

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/12/2010) —More than three decades after the Clean Water Act was supposed to make America's waters clean enough for swimming and fishing again, major waterways across the country are still in perilous condition. Runoff from industry, agriculture and massive suburban development is flowing into waters from Chesapeake Bay to the Mississippi River to Puget Sound.

Hedrick Smith, who produced 2009's critically acclaimed PBS Frontline documentary "Poisoned Waters," will deliver a lecture at the University of Minnesota on Tuesday, April 27, that will examine the sources and dangers of that pollution and the policies that have allowed it to continue. The lecture will be at 7 p.m. in the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Student Center Theater, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul. The event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited and registration is required. To register, go to www.freshwater.org.

Smith, a Pulitzer Prize- and Emmy-winning reporter and producer, also will talk about some of the pollution solutions that his documentary reported. He will discuss the nation's track record on water quality and deliver a tough-minded report card.

"We are at a crossroads, and most people don't know it," Smith says. "Back in the 1970s, we made real progress on the most visible pollution from industry and wastewater treatment plants. But since the 1990s, we have been backsliding. The environment has almost slipped off the political radar screen."

A panel of Minnesota water-quality experts will appear with Smith and join him in taking questions from the audience.

The lecture, titled "Poisoned Waters: The Pollution Peril," is sponsored by the Freshwater Society and the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences. Smith's talk will be the second in a Moos Family Speaker Series that the Freshwater Society and the College of Biological Sciences are sponsoring as part of "2010 - The Year of Water," a yearlong celebration of water and observance of the threats water faces.

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.umn.edu/cbs.

The Freshwater Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and inspiring people to value, conserve and protect all water resources. Located in Excelsior, Minn., adjacent to Lake Minnetonka, it has a long history of association with the University of Minnesota.

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Gift of $3 million expands U's capacity in small animal orthopedic surgery

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/12/2010) —A $3 million gift received by the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine will be used to expand research and teaching in veterinary orthopedic surgery at the university and improve veterinary care and education for companion animals in India.

The gift is from the Tata Group, a worldwide business conglomerate based in India. Ratan Tata, chairman of the Tata Group, was referred to University of Minnesota professor Michael Conzemius in 2008 when he was searching for a professional facility for surgical care for companion animals. Tata's experience with the care and facilities at the University's Veterinary Medical Center inspired him to discuss with Trevor Ames, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, how the same type of facilities and care might be established in India, where services of this caliber do not exist for companion animals.

The gift will be used to create an endowment supporting small animal orthopedic surgery and to establish the Tata Group Chair in Orthopedic Surgery, which will be held by Conzemius. A professor of surgery at the college since 2006, Conzemius leads a research team that is internationally recognized for basic and clinical research in elbow replacement systems, gait analysis and the genetics of ligament injury and repair. This work has also led to greater understanding of the postoperative effects of rehabilitation and improvements after canine surgery, and optimizing techniques for use of canine adult stem cells. Conzemius has pioneered an animal model for understanding important human orthopedic conditions such as those affecting the hip joint. Funds from the endowment will be used to provide additional support for faculty conducting research in these areas.

The gift will also be used to advance veterinary education in India by creating the university's first formal exchange program with the Karnataka Veterinary School in Bangalore, India, in which veterinary students and veterinarians will come to the University of Minnesota to be trained in advanced techniques in veterinary medicine and surgery.

"Professor Michael Conzemius is extremely well respected in the veterinary world and has developed several advanced techniques and implants, the applications of which have been on the leading edge of orthopedic surgery and post-surgical care," Tata said. "I have great personal respect and regard for Professor Conzemius and the University of Minnesota's Veterinary Medical Center for its very caring approach to companion animal treatment. This grant will support advanced research by Professor Conzemius and the training of young veterinarians, including those from India, so that the level of animal care can be greatly enhanced."

The University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center is the most comprehensive veterinary hospital in the United States, with faculty internationally recognized for teaching and research excellence. As one of the largest veterinary teaching hospitals in the United States, the center sees more than 30,000 cases each year, providing state-of-the-art equipment, facilities and care.

"Clients bring their animals here because they know they will experience medical care unsurpassed in the world," Ames said. "Our success is driven by our commitment to research, which has positioned us as leaders in a transformation taking place today in companion animal health and care."

College of Veterinary Medicine researchers have used the mapping of the canine genome and the development of new genetic technologies to discover the inherited basis of exercise-induced collapse in dogs. They are now researching the genetic basis of cranial cruciate ligament rupture, an orthopedic condition that causes hind limb lameness in nearly 20 percent of dogs, hypothesizing that genetic mutations may predispose some dogs to the condition. Research involving new methods to evaluate and treat musculoskeletal conditions, including joint replacement therapy, provides groundbreaking new treatment alternatives. In collaboration with researchers at the University of Minnesota Medical School, veterinary researchers are developing tumor-specific vaccines for dogs with brain cancer, which could lead to treatments for people as well.

"I'm honored to hold the new Tata Group Chair in Orthopedic Surgery," Conzemius said. "It has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Tata and his colleagues. I look forward to continued collaboration so that we can eventually bring sustained state-of-the-art veterinary care to India."

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University of Minnesota saves more than $2.25 million by reducing energy use

U's energy reduction leads to 25,000 fewer tons of CO2 being released into atmosphere

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/13/2010) —The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities has reduced its energy consumption by five percent, saving the university more than $2.25 million annually and resulting in 25,000 fewer tons of CO2 being released into the atmosphere. The campus' It All Adds Up conservation program, launched in 2009 by the university's Facilities Management (FM) department, set a five percent energy reduction goal for fiscal year 2010. That goal was reached at the end of March -- three months early.

U of M President Robert Bruininks and Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien launched the ambitious initiative last year on Beautiful U Day. The It All Adds Up efforts show the university's commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency, as well its drive to reduce costs during these difficult economic times. It All Adds Up's three-pronged strategy includes recommissioning buildings, collecting energy pledges from the campus community and identifying energy reduction opportunities in university operations.

FM's Energy Management department began an aggressive project last year to recommission 40 buildings per year for energy efficiency. Just as a mechanic can improve a car's fuel economy with a tune-up, a recommissioning team improves a building's energy efficiency. Simple, low cost measures can reduce energy consumption while maintaining or improving a building's performance. A typical recommissioning study and implementation of the resulting energy conservation opportunities will yield 5 to 15 percent in energy savings.

"Our entire team has worked diligently to meet the five percent goal -- and it's paid off," said Energy Management assistant director Jim Green. "But the work doesn't stop there. We intend to build on this success. I'm confident our engineers and technicians will continue to find new ways to make our buildings even more energy efficient."

As part of It All Adds Up, Bruininks and FM representatives challenged the university's students, faculty and staff to commit to simple energy saving habits by taking an Energy Conservation Pledge. FM set a goal of collecting 10,000 pledges from students, faculty and staff by the end of fall semester. The 10,000th pledge came on Thursday, Dec. 17.

"The campus community has expressed their desire to contribute to energy savings at the U," Bruininks said. "Ten thousand pledges show that our students, faculty and staff are just as committed as we are to saving energy and money at the U."

Finally, FM launched the Energy Conservation Operations (ECO) Team, a multi-unit task force determined to identify and implement energy reduction ideas throughout the university's overall operations. The team rolled-out its first initiative in 2009 -- a green computing pilot that could save the university $40 per machine annually. University Services computers are now run through the following step down process that conserves energy when a machine is not actively in use:

- After 10 minutes, monitor will be turned off.
- After 15 minutes, hard drive will be turned off.
- After 60 minutes, computer will enter stand-by mode. This has the largest impact on energy savings.

The combined efforts of Facilities Management's recommissioning program, the energy-saving habits adopted by students, faculty and staff and the ECO Team's operational improvements add up to big energy savings.

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U of M Regents professor Ron Phillips honored with prestigious 'Medal for Science'



Ron Phillips has been a faculty member at the U of M since 1968.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/14/2010) —Renowned University of Minnesota plant geneticist Ron Phillips has been awarded the ISA 2010 Medal for Science, the highest honor awarded by the Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Bologna in Bologna, Italy.

The Medal for Science is the highest honor awarded by the institute and recognizes "research contributions characterized by both excellence and influence;" the University of Bologna is considered one of the world's oldest and most prestigious universities.

Phillips, who has been a faculty member at the University of Minnesota since 1968 and developed one of the early programs in modern plant biotechnology applied to agriculture, will retire next month. He was the first to regenerate corn plants from cells in tissue culture, a contribution that allowed for development of genetic engineering in cereal crops. His research since then has focused on the improvement of cereal crops through plant genetics and molecular biology. He was nominated for the Medal for Science by a group of scientists at the University of Bologna's department of agro-environmental science and technology.

This award is one of many in Phillips' long career; he also is a recipient of the Wolf Prize in Agriculture presented at the Knesset in Israel and has been a member of the National Academy of Sciences since 1991. On May 24, his career at the University of Minnesota will be celebrated with an all-day research symposium. The symposium will feature Phillips' past graduate students and postdoctoral scientists, many of whom have become plant genetics experts in their own right.

"This award is a distinct honor recognizing our efforts in 'Mobilizing Science for Agriculture,' the title of my acceptance speech," Phillips said. "The University of Minnesota provides excellent opportunities to discover innovative approaches to help alleviate the hunger of one billion malnourished people in today's world, a problem that does not have to exist."

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University of Minnesota College of Design faculty to visit camps in Haiti

More than one million Haitians are currently homeless and living in makeshift conditions

Media Note: Media availability with faculty and ARC president Daniel Wordsworth will take place 9:30-10 a.m. Thursday, April 15 at American Refugee Committee world headquarters, Loring Park Office Building, Suite 204, 430 Oak Grove St., Minneapolis.

Media are asked to arrive by 9:15 a.m. and RSVP to jfalk@umn.edu or (612) 626-1720 if planning to attend. Street parking and meters available on 15th St. Parking is also available in a parking lot across the street from the Loring Park Office Building, accessible from Oak Grove St. If using this lot, ARC will need your license plate number to register you as a guest.

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Therese Gales, American Refugee Committee, thereseg@archq.org, (612) 221-5161

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/14/2010) —Three University of Minnesota College of Design architecture faculty will travel to Haiti Friday through Tuesday, April 16-20, as volunteers with the Minneapolis-based American Refugee Committee to assess camps for people displaced by the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Professors Leslie Van Duzer, Ozayr Saloojee and John Comazzi will assess the shelter and community living conditions of two camps managed by the American Refugee Committee, and, subsequently, consult on how to best help displaced communities to rebuild.

“The people of Haiti have experienced unthinkable trauma, seeing their homes and communities destroyed and living in makeshift camps, a state that poses a range of challenges,” says Van Duzer. “Our goal will be to provide workable solutions to help individuals and communities address current camp and shelter challenges and rebuild in an safe and effective manner.”

Over the course of five days, the faculty will visit ARC managed camps in Port au Prince and Fond Parisien. They will observe the overall camp structure and learn about access to water and sanitation, the living spaces, how health care services are delivered, the availability of child-friendly spaces, recreational areas and provisions for temporary educational facilities.

“The rainy season will bring mudslides, floods and a rapid spread of disease,” said Daniel Wordsworth, president of the American Refugee Committee. “Shelter is a critical issue, and we’re pleased to partner with the University of Minnesota to look at ways to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the people of Haiti.”

For more information about the American Refugee Committee, visit www.arcrelief.org.

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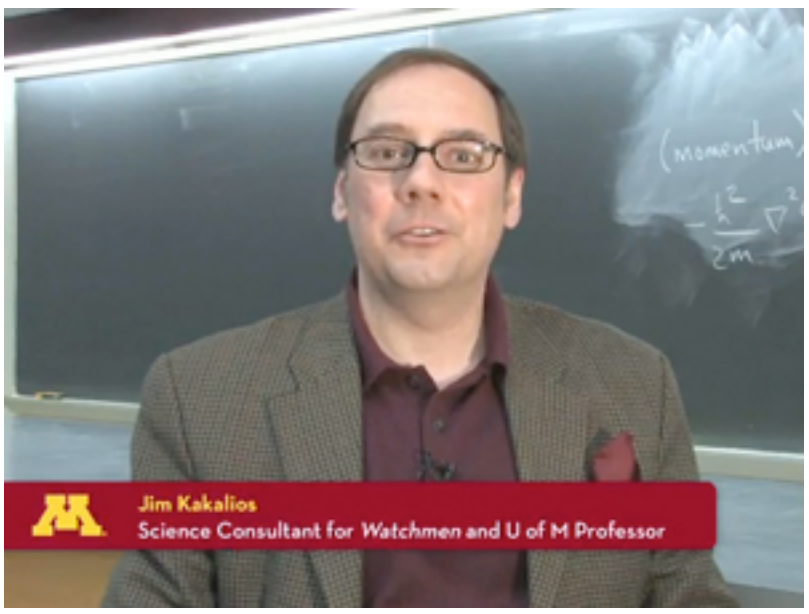
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University of Minnesota's "Science of Watchmen" video nominated for 2010 Webby Award, "Internet's highest honor"

Fans can vote for the U of M's video online



"Science of Watchmen," featuring University of Minnesota physics professor James Kakalios (above), has garnered over 1.6 million online views and has been nominated for a Webby Award.

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/14/2010) —The University of Minnesota's popular online video, "Science of Watchmen," featuring physics professor James Kakalios has been nominated for "Best Video" in the Variety category of the in the 14th Annual Webby Awards.

Hailed as the "Internet's highest honor" by the New York Times, The Webby Awards is the leading international award honoring excellence on the Internet.

As a nominee, the University of Minnesota is eligible to win a Webby People's Voice Award, which is voted online by the global Web community. From now until April 29, fans can cast their vote for Kakalios and the U of M in The Webby People's Voice Awards by going to facebook.com/UofMN and clicking out the "Vote for the U" tab.

"Science of Watchmen" debuted in February of 2009 in anticipation of the summer comic book blockbuster "Watchmen" and has garnered nearly 2 million online views on YouTube, making it one of the most-watched online videos in higher education. Kakalios, author of the best-selling "The Physics of Superheroes," was tapped by Warner Bros. to serve as an on-set science consultant for "Watchmen," which grossed over $185 million worldwide during the summer of 2009.

In the video, Kakalios explains how real-life physics concepts can be used to explain the super powers of the film's comic book heroes. The full video can be viewed at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmj1rpzDRZ0.

"Nominees like 'Science of Watchmen' are setting the standard for innovation and creativity on the Internet," said David-Michel Davies, executive director of the Webby Awards. "It is an incredible achievement to be selected among the best from the nearly 10,000 entries we received this year."

Other nominees in the Variety video category include entries from the New York Times (featuring video interviews with actors such as Tom Cruise and Will Ferrell) and an off-beat television recap show from Yahoo.com.

Winners will be announced on May 4, 2010 and honored at a star-studded ceremony in New York City on June 14 where they will have an opportunity to deliver one of The Webby Awards' famous five-word speeches. Past Webby Award winners -- and their speeches -- include Al Gore ("Please don't recount this vote."), Stephen Colbert ("Me. Me. Me. Me. Me.") and Michel Gondry ("Keyboards are full of germs.").

The Webby Awards is presented by the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, a 650-person judging academy whose members include Internet co-inventor Vinton Cerf, R/GA's Chief Bob Greenberg, "Simpson's" creator Matt Groening, Arianna Huffington and Harvey Weinstein.

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U of M professor David Tilman wins top international ecology prize

Media Note: For a high-resolution photo of Tilman, contact Jeff Falk at jfalk@umn.edu.



David Tilman was awarded the 2010 Heineken Prize for Environmental Sciences from the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/14/2010) —David Tilman, Regents Professor of Ecology in the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences, has been awarded the 2010 Heineken Prize for Environmental Sciences from the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Tilman was selected for his seminal findings, published in Science and Nature during the 1980s and 1990s, which showed that biodiversity is essential for stable and productive ecosystems and demonstrated the value of protecting endangered species. More recently, Tilman has applied his discoveries to sustainable farming practices for renewable energy, showing that biofuels made from diverse prairie grasses can offer environment benefits over those made from food crops.

“If there were a Nobel Prize for environmental science, Tilman would be a likely choice,” says Robert Elde, dean of the College of Biological Sciences. “He is at the top of his field. Nine previous winners of the Heineken prize in medicine, chemistry and biophysics have gone on to win the Nobel.”

Tilman is director of Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, a University of Minnesota field station, where he has conducted resource competition and biodiversity studies since the early 1980s. His grassland experiments, among the longest running in the world, provide a rich resource for ecology research.

Tilman joined the University of Minnesota faculty in 1976 after receiving his doctorate at the University of Michigan. Within a few years, he gained federal funding for his research at Cedar Creek, which became part of a national network of federally funded Long-Term Ecology Research (LTER) sites. The Institute for Scientific Information named him the most cited ecologist in the world for two decades, 1990-2000 and 1996-2006. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and holds a University McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair in Ecology. In 2008, Tilman received the International Prize for Biology from the Emperor of Japan.

The Dr. A.H. Heineken and Dr. H.P. Heineken Prizes, named in honor of Alfred Heineken, former Chairman of Heineken Holdings, and Henry Pierre Heineken, son of founder Gerard Adriaan Heineken, are a series of awards bestowed by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW).

The Heineken Prizes will be presented in September 2010 during a meeting of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. Each prize carries a cash award of $150,000.

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Quincy Troupe to headline African American Authors event at University of Minnesota

Who: Quincy Troupe, American Book Award-winning author of 17 books, co-author of "The Pursuit of Happyness," and recipient of the Peabody Award
When: 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 28
Where: Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., 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 http://www.tickets.umn.edu

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April 15, 2010

Quincy Troupe -- American Book Award-winning author of 17 books, co-author of "The Pursuit of Happyness," and recipient of the Peabody Award -- will appear at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 28,in Coffman Union, University of Minnesota, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. Troupe will read from and discuss his work with series host Alexs Pate, University of Minnesota professor and author of the novel "Amistad."

The event is part of the annual NOMMO African American Authors Series annually. This is the third year the series has been co-presented by the Givens Foundation and the University of Minnesota Libraries.

"Nommo" is a Dogon word meaning "the magic power of the word."

"Too many vital African American writers, and I count myself among them, find our work sprouting shallow roots on the periphery of public awareness. My conversations with these authors present rare opportunities to publicly define the state of the art of African American literature and to locate our work and contributions within the present authoring of our literary tradition," Pate says.

More about Quincy Troupe
Troupe is the author of seventeen books, including American Book Award winners "Snake-Back Solos" and "Miles: The Autobiography." In 1991, he received the prestigious Peabody Award for "The Miles Davis Radio Project," broadcast in seven parts on National Public Radio. Troupe co-authored the best seller "The Pursuit of Happyness" with Chris Gardner, which chronicled Gardner's journey from homelessness to success on Wall Street. The book became the basis of an award-winning movie of the same name, starring Will Smith. Troupe is professor emeritus of creative writing and American and Caribbean literature at the University of California, San Diego, and the founding editorial director for Code Magazine. He is currently editor of Black Renaissance Noire, published by the Institute of African American Affairs at New York University.

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University of Minnesota LearningLife Fest explores "New Pathways to Happiness"

Experts to discuss processes that help keep minds sharp and forge new neural pathways to happiness

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/15/2010) —Five experts on topics ranging from the human brain, to creativity and eating will take attendees on “New Pathways to Happiness” at the University of Minnesota College of Education’s LearningLife Fest this Saturday, April 17. The event takes place 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

For generations, popular science held that the human brain – and with it, an individual’s personality – remained basically unchanged after maturity, and that neural plasticity was largely limited to children and adolescents.

In the 1990s, that long-held belief began to change. Recent research has demonstrated that new brain cells are, in fact, created throughout our lifetime, and that when one works on building new neural connections, one experiences improved cognitive function and memory capacity as well as a positive sense of well-being.

The goal of LearningLife Fest is to bring the latest human brain research and expertise together and share it in an engaging and thought-provoking manner.

An overview of the day’s presentation and the speakers:

Unleashing Your Curious Explorer (keynote address), Todd Kashdan
A psychology professor at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., Kashdan is the author of the acclaimed new book, “Curious? Discover the Missing Ingredient to a Fulfilling Life.”

Charging the “Little Gray Cells”: Reading Your Way to Well-Being, Toni McNaron
McNaron is professor emerita of English at the University of Minnesota, where she taught for 37 years and won five outstanding teaching awards. Currently, she is a literature instructor for the college’s Compleat Scholar program.

The Brain and Physical Activity, Jurgen Konczak
Professor of kinesiology at the University of Minnesota and director of the Human Sensorimotor Control Laboratory, Konczak conducts research on the human brain and movement.

Mindful Eating, Jenny Breen
A recipient of a 2009 Bush Leadership Fellowship, Breen is a chef for the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. She is at work on a natural foods cookbook and serves as an instructor for the college’s Compleat Scholar and Curiosity Camp programs.

A New Way of Looking at Creativity, Dennis Cass
The author of “Head Case: How I Almost Lost My Mind Trying to Understand My Brain,” Cass currently teaches at Carleton College in Northfield and is an instructor for the Compleat Scholar program.

The event is part of the ongoing LearningLife series presented by the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education. Full registration is $75 and can be completed online at www.cce.umn.edu/Fest or by calling (612) 624-8290.

LearningLife is a program provided by the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education (CEE). Through the CCE, motivated adults enrich their personal and professional lives through learning opportunities ranging from courses, workshops and retreats, to credit certificates and bachelor’s and master’s degrees. For more information about the college, call 612-624-4000, or visit www.cce.umn.edu.

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University Of Minnesota School Of Music announces the 2010 Craig and Janet Swan Composer Prize call for works

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/15/2010) —The University of Minnesota School of Music is pleased to announce the 2010 Craig and Janet Swan Composer Prize competition, a national competition for New Works for Mixed Chorus. Guidelines and an application for the competition are available on the School of Music website at www.music.umn.edu/enscomp/competitions.php. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, June 30, 2010.

The Swan Composer Prize competition, underwritten by the Swans, is an annual event and the emphasis rotates among choral, wind ensemble, and orchestral works. The competition was created in response to the generosity, vision and abiding interest in music as a living art on the part of Craig and Janet Swan. The Swan Prize competition is open to composers in earlier career stages currently residing in the United States; all entries remain anonymous throughout the entire two-tier adjudication process. The American Composers Forum and the University of Minnesota School of Music collaboratively administer the competition.

The single prize-winning work will receive a monetary award of $1,500 and its world premiere by the University Singers under the baton of Kathy Saltzman Romey and Matthew Mehaffey. The prize-winning work will be announced in September 2010 and will be awarded publicly at the time of the premier performance in Spring 2011. In addition, the School of Music will invite the composer of the winning work to the Twin Cities campus for rehearsals and composer master classes, and to be present at the premier performance. For questions about the Craig and Janet Swan Composer Prize, please contact Lisa Marshall, communications manager, at marsh396@umn.edu.

The 2009 Craig and Janet Swan Composer Prize for Orchestra was awarded to Jonathan Kolm for his work Prophecies.

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U of M students to host first-ever Agriculture Awareness Day

Cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys and sheep to pay Northrop Mall a visit

What: University of Minnesota students and Minnesota agriculture groups host Agriculture Awareness Day
When: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 20
Where: Northrop Mall and Plaza, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis

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Jason Kaare, student organizer, kaare002@umn.edu, (952) 356-5099

April 15, 2010

University of Minnesota students, faculty and staff will learn about how American agriculture provides the necessities of everyday life – food, fiber, clothing and fuel – at the first annual Agriculture Awareness Day on Tuesday, April 20.

The event takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Northrop Mall and Plaza, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Organized under the leadership of students in the University of Minnesota Agricultural Education Club, the goal of the event is to raise awareness of how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced and showcase the critical role agriculture plays in maintaining a strong economy. A broad range of Minnesota agricultural producers, associations and government agencies are joining the students in this effort.

Attendees will have the chance to talk with Agricultural Education Club members and industry representatives to learn more about various aspects of the agriculture industry. The event will feature interactive booths and the chance for people to see cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys and sheep.

The student organizers have created a Facebook page to provide information and exchange ideas on the event, http://www.facebook.com/AgAwareness.

Organizations participating in Agriculture Awareness Day include Midwest Dairy Association, Minnesota Ag and Water Resource Coalition, Minnesota Beef Council, Minnesota Corn Growers, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Farm Bureau, Minnesota Farmer's Union, Minnesota Foundation for Responsible Animal Care, Minnesota Pork Board, Minnesota Soybean Growers, Minnesota Turkey Growers, University of Minnesota Extension and University of Minnesota Master Gardeners.

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U of M Board of Regents schedules emergency meeting on Friday

Contacts: University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

April 15, 2010

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents has scheduled an emergency meeting for Friday, April 16, 2010 at 2 p.m. in the boardroom at 600 McNamara Alumni Center.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider possible easements and possible agreements that may be reached with the Metropolitan Council, and to a consider a resolution to hold a nonpublic meeting to discuss attorney client privileged matters related to the Central Corridor light rail transit project.

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Minnesota farm income dropped sharply in 2009, report shows

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Minnesota's median farm income dropped 63 percent in 2009, according to a report from U of M Extension and MNSCU.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/15/2010) —Median net farm income dropped 63 percent in 2009 among more than 3,000 Minnesota farms, a new joint report by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system and University of Minnesota Extension shows.

The median net farm income for the combined groups of producers was $33,417 in 2009, down from $91,242 in 2008. The median means half of the producers earned more and half earned less. Net farm income is used for living expenses, income taxes, retirement and business reinvestment.

“Minnesota’s farmers faced some formidable conditions last year,” said Richard Joerger, director of the Minnesota State College and Universities system’s farm business management education programs. “The drop in income was driven largely by reduced profits for nearly all livestock producers, higher costs for crop producers, and large reductions in the value of their crop and livestock inventory.

The analysis used data from 2,324 farms that participated in system’s farm business management programs and 95 members of the Southwest Minnesota Farm Business Management Association. The Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota analyzed the data.

“Overall, the average farm earned a 3.1 percent rate of return on assets, down from 10.5 percent in 2008,” said Dale Nordquist, Extension economist with the University of Minnesota’s Center for Farm Financial Management. “This is the lowest return on assets for farms in these programs in the 17 years that data have been collected.”

The analysis also showed:

• Crop farmers, who had received relatively higher commodity prices, had lower profits. Median income for crop farms dropped to $60,101, down 55 percent from 2008. Average prices received for major crops dropped to $60,101, down 55 percent from 2008. Average prices received for major commodities in 2009 were: $3.80 for corn, down from $4.17 in 2008; $9.84 for soybeans, down from $10.30; and $5.81 for spring wheat, down from $7.55.

• The 399 participating dairy farms experienced a severe drop in income with many farms experiencing losses. Median income for dairy farms dropped to $2,077 from $58,081 in 2008. The average price received for milk was $13.57 per hundred pounds compared to $19.46 in 2008. Although dairy producers cut their costs of production to $15.46 per hundred pounds, they could not lower costs enough to be profitable.

• Many hog farmers experienced a second consecutive year of losses or extremely low profits. The median hog producer lost $73,525 in 2009 compared to making a modest profit of $4,876 in 2008. The hoped-for price increase never materialized as the price-per-hundred pounds sold dropped to $43.30, down from $48.53 in 2008.

• Beef farms continued to show weak profitability. The beef producer with the median net income experienced a net farm loss of $13,138, down from a loss of $6,810 in 2008.

• Corn and soybean yields were higher with corn at 180 bushels per acre up from 167 bushels in 2008; soybeans at 42 bushels an acre, up from 40; and spring wheat holding steady at 62 bushels an acre both years.

• Average cost of production for an acre of corn increased by 12 percent. Seed cost increased 23 percent, fertilizer costs went up by 35 percent, and land rent was up 9 percent.

Details of the annual analysis are available at www.finbin.umn.edu through the University of Minnesota’s Center for Farm Financial Management, which provides educational programs and software tools that are practical, timely and applicable to real-world farm situations.

Each year, between 3,000 and 3,500 farmers enroll in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities farm business management education programs. Instructors teach producers how to maintain business records, create and execute marketing plans, and interpret and apply business analysis information to their farming operations. Information is available at www.fbm.mnscu.edu.

University of Minnesota Extension is a partnership between federal, state and county governments that provides scientific knowledge and expertise to the public. Extension faculty and staff live and work across the state, in regional and county offices as well as university campuses and research and outreach centers.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system and University of Minnesota Extension are Equal Opportunity employers and educators.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system comprises 32 state universities and community and technical colleges serving the higher education needs of Minnesota. The system serves about 260,000 students per year in credit-based courses and an additional 164,000 students in non-credit courses.

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Documentary "Water for Mulobere" premieres April 27 at the University of Minnesota

Film follows the U of M chapter of Engineers Without Borders as they travel to Uganda and install a solar-powered water pump at the Hope Integrated Academy

Contacts: Todd Reubold, Institute on the Environment, reub0002@umn.edu, (612) 624-6140
Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/16/2010) —The short documentary “Water for Mulobere” will premiere at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 27, at the University of Minnesota’s Coffman Union Theater, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

During the summer of 2009, a team of up-and-coming engineers helped bring clean drinking water to an African village. As part of an Engineers Without Borders project, the University of Minnesota student group installed a solar-powered water supply system for an entire school and its surrounding community in Mulobere, Uganda. Beth Anderson, video producer with the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment, was there to capture the story on video.

“I hope that by seeing the documentary people will realize what a problem the lack of safe drinking water is around the world,” Anderson says. “In the case of this particular community in Uganda, if a student has to spend hours each day collecting water or becomes sick after drinking unsafe water, the result is less time spent in school.”

The evening begins with a performance by the Hayor Bibimma African Dance Company and closes with a Q&A session with several of the students and the filmmaker. Julian Marshall, professor in the civil engineering department and faculty advisor for the U of M chapter of Engineers Without Borders, will serve as emcee for the evening.

The goal of Engineers Without Borders is to help create a more stable and prosperous world by partnering with local organizations and NGO’s to provide necessities such as clean water, power, sanitation and education to communities around the world. The University of Minnesota chapter that traveled to Uganda included undergraduate and graduate students from the Institute of Technology (soon to be called the College of Science and Engineering) and the School of Public Health.

The documentary was produced by the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment and the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE). The Institute and IREE also provided funding for the Uganda project. The premiere is being supported by a grant from the University of Minnesota’s Office of International Programs’ Global Spotlight initiative.

The event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the event starts at 7 p.m. Seating is limited and attendees are asked to arrive early.

A Water for Mulobere trailer can be viewed at:
http://environment.umn.edu/multimedia/video_waterformulobere_trailer.html.

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University of Minnesota reaches tentative agreement with Metropolitan Council on Central Corridor Light Rail

Contacts: University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/16/2010) —Negotiators from the University of Minnesota and the Metropolitan Council reached tentative agreement on the framework of a plan to allow the Central Corridor light rail line (CCLRT) to proceed on time and on schedule. The university's Board of Regents meets in an emergency meeting on Friday afternoon to take action on the framework as well as easements that would allow construction to begin on advanced traffic improvements on campus this summer.

"Since the beginning of the CCLRT project, the University's objectives have been two-fold: to bring light rail to campus, and protect University research," said university Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien. "The agreement we have reached with the Metropolitan Council is very good news. It is the first step in achieving our objectives and allowing the advanced traffic improvements to start on schedule. We now have a framework for a comprehensive agreement that includes the necessary protections for research."

As part of the agreement, the parties have agreed to:
· Use the science-based standards, developed over 18 months, for the design, engineering, construction and operation of the line, with remedies for exceedances; and
· A construction management plan with standards for the advanced traffic improvements, that provide the framework for an overall construction management plan.

University President Robert Bruininks said, "This is good news for the University of Minnesota and the entire community. We have long been one of the most transit-oriented communities in the Midwest and this new light rail line will enhance the accessibility of our campus for students, faculty, staff and visitors."

"We're relieved to learn that the tentative agreement provides the precautions necessary to protect our research environment," said university Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy.

"Major public works projects all encounter bumps in the road and there is no question this one has had its fair share," said Bruininks. "But, this tentative agreement that I will recommend to the board today, represents significant progress. We are pleased that this important infrastructure project can move forward and be built on time and on budget."

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Novelist Rafael Yglesias to speak at U of M "Great Conversations" event

Yglesias to be joined by U of M professor Madelon Sprengnether to discuss “The Transformative Power of Art”

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/16/2010) —Novelist Rafael Yglesisa will discuss “The Transformative Power of Art” with University of Minnesota Regents Professor Madelon Sprengnether in the kickoff event of the U of M College of Continuing Education's "Great Conversations" series. The event takes place at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 20 in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. S., Minneapolis.

Described by the New York Times as "one of America's most prominent novelists," Rafael Yglesias is a screenwriter and the author of nine novels. His novel “Fearless” was made into a 1993 major motion picture, for which he also wrote the screenplay. After a 13-year absence, his latest novel, “A Happy Marriage,” has just been published to rave reviews.

Yglesias's film “Fearless” was the subject of a chapter in Sprengnether's acclaimed book, “Crying at the Movies: A Film Memoir.” A faculty member in the University of Minnesota English Department, Sprengnether is a Regents Professor, the highest honor bestowed on the university’s professors.

The April 20 event is the first of the 2010 Great Conversations series, which offers thought-provoking discussion between university faculty and distinguished thought leaders from around the world. Tickets are $28.50, with discounts available for university students, faculty and staff. For tickets, visit www.cce.umn.edu/conversations or call the Northrop Auditorium box office at (612) 624-2345

Upcoming conversations include “The Global Economic Crisis” with J. Brian Atwood and Hernando de Soto on May 25 and “World Pandemics and the Environment” with Jonathan Foley and Lawrence Brilliant on June 15.

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University of Minnesota Board of Regents takes next step toward agreement with Metropolitan Council on Central Corridor light rail line

Contacts: University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/16/2010) —During an emergency meeting today, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents took the next step toward reaching an agreement with the Metropolitan Council to begin construction on the Central Corridor light rail line near the university campus. In a unanimous vote, the board approved a resolution delegating authority to President Robert Bruininks, in consultation with the board, to execute an agreement between the university and the Metropolitan Council to mitigate the adverse effects of the light rail line's construction and operations on the university and its research facilities and to grant temporary construction easements on university land to begin advance traffic improvements.

After several days of mediation, representatives of both entities had reached agreement on a framework, but by the time of the board meeting, had not finalized the wording, which necessitated the board's delegation of authority. Once the agreement is signed by both parties, the university has said it intends to grant temporary construction easements needed for construction to begin this summer on roads on campus.

"This has been a long and winding process and we're pleased to have an agreement on critical issues that protect the U's research. University and Met Council lawyers simply need more time to finalize the wording of this agreement, which is why we opted for this delegation of authority," said Board of Regents Chair Clyde Allen. "Bringing light rail to campus will have enormous benefit for the university community and the state. There are additional important agreements to come, but mediation helped is take a major step forward today."

The parties have agreed in principle to:
· Use the science-based standards, developed over 18 months, for the design, engineering, construction and operation of the line, with remedies for exceedances;
· A construction management plan with standards for the advanced traffic improvements, that provide the framework for an overall construction management plan; and
· Continue mediation the last week in April to complete a second memorandum of understanding between the University and Met Council to formalize the details.

University President Robert Bruininks said, "We have long been one of the most transit-oriented communities in the entire Midwest and this new light rail line will enhance the accessibility of our campus for students, faculty, staff and visitors. From the beginning of these discussions, we've said this can be done without compromising our research enterprise, which is important to our state's economy. We're one step closer to that end."

The board's action does not change the lawsuit filed by the university in state court. Officials from the university said the lawsuit would be dropped once all agreements are finalized.

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U of M President Robert Bruininks to unveil details of conservation program's expansion during Beautiful U Day kickoff



The U of M's It All Adds Up program reached its energy reduction goal three months ahead of schedule.

Media Note: Visuals including bales of plastic recyclables that will serve as backdrop to kickoff

Who: University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks and Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien
What: Beautiful U Day kick-off and It All Adds Up conservation program expansion
When: 8 a.m. Thursday, April 22
Where: Northrop Plaza, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

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April 19, 2010

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks and Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien will unveil details of the It All Adds Up conservation program's expansion to include recycling during the Beautiful U Day kickoff at 8 a.m. Thursday, April 22 on Northrop Plaza, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis.

By adding a new recycling initiative, the university hopes to build on the success of It All Adds Up's energy conservation savings this past year. Under the energy conservation program, the Twin Cities' campus has reduced its energy consumption by five percent, saving the university more than $2.25 million annually and resulting in 25,000 fewer tons of CO2 being released into the atmosphere. The university's Facilities Management (FM) department set a five percent energy reduction goal for fiscal year 2010. That goal was reached at the end of March -- three months early.

Each year, Beautiful U Day brings together students, faculty and staff for beautification and sustainability events on all University of Minnesota campuses. A recycling drive will be held on the Twin Cities' campus to spur faculty, staff and student involvement in the It All Adds Up recycling initiative.

The Twin Cities' campus will establish collection locations for the following recyclables, and donate them to organizations with a focus on sustainability. This recycling drive is only open to university faculty, staff and students. Items for collection include:

- **Books** – Worldwide Book Drive collects, sorts, stores and distributes books through donations to qualified organizations for resale or recycling. Any type of glue-bound book, including novels, children's books, encyclopedias, textbooks and magazines will be accepted.
- **Cell Phones** – Cell Phones for Soldiers collects used cell phones, sells them to environmentally-responsible recyclers and then uses the proceeds to purchase prepaid calling cards for soldiers stationed abroad. Any type of cell phone is accepted.
- **Electronics** – Asset Recovery Corporation (ARC) extends the life of electronic devices that are no longer in use at the university and manages the environmental, security and legal risks associated with their disposal. University-owned desktops, laptops, servers, printers, copiers and multifunctional units (i.e. printer/fax or scanner/copier) will be accepted.

Items can be donated on Beautiful U Day from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the following collection locations:

East Bank – Northrop Plaza
West Bank – Washington Ave. Bridge Plaza
Health Sciences – Mayo Turnaround
St. Paul – St. Paul Student Union

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U of M will host statewide high school economics challenge

What: Minnesota's state high school Economics Challenge
When: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, April 21 (Quiz Bowl competition begins at 12:45 p.m.)
Where: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, 90 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis

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April 19, 2010

Minnesota's most knowledgeable high-school economics students will show off their expertise at the statewide Economics Challenge on Wednesday, April 21, at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. The event is organized by the University of Minnesota.

Students from 14 high schools across the state will compete in the national Economics Challenge, which includes both written tests and a quiz-bowl style competition. The highest-scoring team will advance to a state winners' contest; the six highest scoring teams from that event advance to the national championship in New York City.

At the state level, schools compete in three divisions: the Adam Smith division (advanced programs); the David Ricardo division (large schools); and the Joan Robinson division (small schools).

Each team has four members who participate in three rounds. For rounds one and two, the top three individual scores on each team are combined for a team score; in round three, team members answer questions together. The top two schools in each division after the first three rounds then compete in a winner-take-all, "lightning round" buzzer competition.

"The Economics Challenge recognizes and rewards student achievement in economics," said Claudia Parliament, executive director of the Minnesota Council on Economic Education, which is housed at the university. "It is very impressive to watch the students respond to very difficult questions. Their understanding is a tribute to the high quality teachers of economics in Minnesota."

In 2009, a team from Little Falls competed in the national competition in New York City, outperforming more than 2,000 teams from across the country to become the national champions. Minnesota students and their coaches have reached the national level contest in seven of the nine years of competition, more than any other state.

For 2010, student teams competing in the Adam Smith division are: Century Senior High School, Rochester; Eden Prairie High School; Moorhead Senior High School; St. Charles Secondary School; and St. Thomas Academy.

Student teams competing in the David Ricardo division are: Duluth East; Fergus Falls High School; Little Falls Community High School; Mounds View High School; and Princeton High School.

Student teams competing in the Joan Robinson division are: Albany Senior High; Cloquet Senior High; Fertile-Beltrami High School; and Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial.

The National Economics Challenge, sponsored by the Council for Economic Education, is the only national economics competition for high school economics students. Its purpose is to honor and reward achievement in economics understanding and to showcase outstanding high school economics programs and teachers.

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$16 million NSF renewal grant to fund fluid power center based at University of Minnesota

Grant will fund continued research in hybrid vehicles, medical devices, robotics and more

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/19/2010) —The University of Minnesota announced today that the Engineering Research Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power (CCEFP) based at the Twin Cities campus has received a four-year, $16 million renewal grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Industry partners will augment NSF funding with cash and in-kind contributions, and the center's seven university partners will contribute an additional $3.2 million.

An NSF site visit team, which includes experts in fluid power from across the country, will visit the University of Minnesota this week to review the program and learn more about current research, education, outreach and industry partnerships.

More than 30 faculty, 300 undergraduate and graduate engineering students, and 57 industry sponsors across the country have been involved in the CCEFP since its inception in 2006 through an initial NSF grant. More than 25 research projects focus on a variety of fluid power applications including hydraulic hybrid vehicles, rescue robots, medical devices and energy efficiencies for excavating machinery. Results are already impressive with 14 inventions disclosed and more than 100 technical papers published.

The center's education and outreach program is equally ambitious, with more than 20 projects designed to attract pre-college students to science and engineering, educate all mechanical engineering undergraduate students about fluid power, raise the general public's awareness of fluid power, increase the diversity of students and researchers in fluid power, and establish lasting forums where industry and academia can exchange ideas.

"The CCEFP has already made landmark breakthroughs," said Kim Stelson, center director and University of Minnesota mechanical engineering professor. "The center has transformed hydraulic and pneumatic research in this country from isolated efforts by a few to a cohesive, strategically-directed collaborative team linking seven universities and many leaders in the fluid power industry. Recognition of these efforts continues to grow, as the center's work impresses academic and engineering audiences worldwide. Our efforts in education and outreach show significant results, too, as the CCEFP works with established, effective partners to maximize program impact."

The CCEFP is headquartered at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and is a research center within the University's Institute of Technology (soon to be called the College of Science and Engineering). Other universities in the center's network include the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Georgia Institute of Technology, Purdue University and Vanderbilt University. Outreach universities include the Milwaukee School of Engineering and North Carolina A&T State University. Outreach institutions include the National Fluid Power Association, Project Lead The Way and the Science Museum of Minnesota.

The CCEFP is one of 15 NSF-funded Engineering Research Centers charged with conducting pioneering research in emerging technologies and in training the next generation of engineers to be leaders in innovation.

Additional information about the Engineering Research Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power is available at www.ccefp.org.

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University of Minnesota Libraries send Google first shipment

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The University of Minnesota is sending its first shipment of books to Google this month to be digitized as part of its Google Books project.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/20/2010) —The University of Minnesota Libraries are sending the first shipment of books to Google this month, to be digitized as part of the Google Books project (books.google.com). When complete, the multi-year project will have digitized more than 1 million volumes (books and bound journals) from the libraries' general collections.

Among the volumes included will be selections from Minnesota's distinctive collections related to forestry, bee-keeping and Scandinavian literature and area studies. Other titles identified as candidates for digitization are the 1916 document "A preliminary survey of the more important archives of the territory and state of Minnesota," a 1918 book "Minnesota election laws in theory and practice," and an undated volume titled "Economic development of Minnesota: 1849-1873, from the messages of the governors."

The scanning project is part of a 2007 agreement between Google and the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC, the academic arm of the Big Ten Conference) to digitize upwards of 10 million unique volumes from the collections of CIC libraries that signed the agreement.

When the works scanned are determined to be in the public domain, Google will provide the libraries with copies of the digital files created through the project, which will be archived in the HathiTrust (www.hathitrust.org), a non-profit shared digital repository launched by the CIC with an ever-expanding number of supporting institutions.

According to Peggy Johnson, associate university librarian, "This initiative is an example of the kinds of cooperation -- both among peers and with outside parties--that will further access to the collective resources held in our libraries. The Google project, coupled with programs to coordinate preservation of print collections, offers promise for effective and sustained access to library collections in the future."

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U of M Tucker Center's Spring Distinguished Lecture to focus on gender, physical activity and aging

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April 20, 2010

The Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport's Spring 2010 Distinguished Lecture, will take place from 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, April 21, at the Hubert H. Humphrey Center 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. This free lecture, titled "Are Women Aging Successfully?: New Thinking and Research about Gender and Physical Activity," will feature renowned author, journalist and speaker Mariah Burton Nelson.

The world's population is rapidly aging. By 2030, the number of U.S. citizens over 65 will be nearly twice what it is today and a large majority will be women. This gender difference in longevity has significant implications for women's health, well-being, and quality of life. Scholars and advocates argue that older women are disproportionately affected by ageism and that cultural factors pressure many aging women to focus more on appearance versus physical health, more on face-lifting than weight-lifting.

Mariah Burton Nelson, an internationally known author, journalist, and speaker on gender and sports and the Executive Director of the American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation, challenges us to ask how women can positively embrace growing older and simultaneously resist the detrimental societal forces which may negatively impact their lives. A provocative thinker and writer, Nelson will provide an inspirational look at how women can reframe ageism and redefine "successful aging." She will discuss the latest research pertaining to personal behaviors that contribute to maintaining and enhancing physical ability, cognitive function, vitality and joy as we grow older. She will also explore how we typically think and speak about aging and our own aging process, and encourage us to include stories about hope, humor, health, and happiness.

Nelson is the author of six books, including "The Stronger Women Get, The More Men Love Football." A former Stanford and professional basketball standout, she is an expert on issues related to gender and sports. She has written for The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, Newsweek, Ms. and has appeared on numerous television shows including Today, Good Morning America, Dateline and Larry King Live. A former director of the speechwriting team at AARP, Nelson joined the Gray Panthers when still in her twenties, indicative of a lifelong interest in women and aging. In 2007, Nelson was named one of the 100 Most Influential Sports Educators in America by the International Institute for Sport.

The lecture is free and open to the public. For those unable to attend, the event will also be available live online (http://z.umn.edu/tcdlslive). More information about the event is available at the Tucker Center web site: http://www.tuckercenter.org.

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Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchú Tum to engage youth as peace-builders at youthrive's PeaceJam

Menchú Tum to give public lecture Friday

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/21/2010) —Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Rigoberta Menchú Tum of Guatemala will join several hundred area high school-aged students, advisors, college mentors, and community groups to focus on "Healing Communities Torn by Racism and Violence" during the annual youthrive PeaceJam conference April 23 – 26. PeaceJam, organized locally by the Saint Paul-based nonprofit youthrive, will be held in Minneapolis at the University of Minnesota, in partnership with the University YMCA and the PeaceJam Club at the university.

As part of PeaceJam, Menchú Tum will give a lecture at 7 p.m. Friday, April 23 at the University of Minnesota's Northrop Auditorium. The lecture is open to the public. Tickets may be purchased through the Northrop Box Office and are $10 for students and $20 for non-students. She will speak in Spanish with an English translator.

Tum, a Mayan Indian from Guatemala, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992 for her work in social justice and the rights of indigenous peoples. In 1996, all of Menchú Tum's non-violent work helped lead to a peace accord in Guatemala, ending the country's 36-year civil war and giving many rights back to the Mayan people. Menchú Tum continues to work for justice and peace for her people and all indigenous people worldwide. She is the youngest woman and the only indigenous person to ever win the prize. In addition to talking about her experiences in Guatemala, she will also provide insight into the true Mayan prophecy about the year 2012, centered around a message of hope for the future.

In previous years, youthrive has brought youth together with Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Betty Williams of Northern Ireland, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel of Latin America, Dr. Shirin Ebadi of Iran, and Wangari Maathai of Kenya.

"Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, many of whom have come from environments of extreme violence and oppression, are an inspiring reminder that each of us can take nonviolent action to make positive changes in our communities," said Donna Gillen, executive director of youthrive. "Rigoberta's message of how to move beyond the hurt to actual healing is important and timely for many communities. The opportunity for youth to learn from each other and from Rigoberta, combined with the opportunity to benefit from the University of Minnesota and the University YMCA, promises to make this an incredible PeaceJam experience."

youthrive, the Upper Midwest affiliate of PeaceJam Foundation in Denver, provides young people with leadership and service learning opportunities related to peacebuilding, social justice, anti-racism, human and environmental rights and ethical leadership.

During the two-day PeaceJam conference, young people will present an overview of service projects they are undertaking in their own communities. Youth also will attend workshops focused on PeaceJam's Ten Global Calls to Action, developed by Nobel Laureates working with the PeaceJam Foundation. The Call to Action encourages young people to carroy out one billion acts of peace in the next 10 years.

For information on how youth may participate in the PeaceJam conference or the community-wide service project in south Minneapolis, contact youthrive at (651) 224-3066.

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University of Minnesota School of Music presents Jazz Ensembles in A Salute to Big Bands

Contacts: Lisa Marshall, School of Music, marsh396@umn.edu, (612) 624-1094

April 21, 2010

The University of Minnesota School of Music brings back the magic of the Big Band era with “A Salute to Big Bands,” a live recreation of a 1940s radio broadcast at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, May 4 at Ted Mann Concert Hall at 2128 South 4th Street. “A Salute to Big Bands” will be emceed by KBEM-FM Jazz 88 radio host Jerry Swanberg and recorded for broadcast on KBEM-FM Jazz 88. This event is free and open to the public.

The concert will feature School of Music Jazz Ensembles I and II along with director Phil Hey’s ensemble Jazz at 12:20 with special guest emcees Jerry Swanberg, Leigh Kamman, Bruce Warner, and Emmanuel Perry. School of Music director of jazz studies and professor Dean Sorenson will direct the program.

School of Music Jazz Ensembles will perform favorites from the Glenn Miller Orchestra, Harry James Orchestra, Jimmie Lunceford Orchestra, Duke Ellington Orchestra, Benny Carter Orchestra, Artie Shaw Orchestra, Charlie Barnet Orchestra, and the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra.

The evening’s emcees will announce the program in four parts as if they were originating from Twin Cities jazz venues from the heyday of Big Bands — the Prom Ballroom, St. Paul; Club Casino in the St. Paul Hotel, St. Paul; Minnesota Terrace in the Nicollet Hotel, Minneapolis.

This program is made possible with support from the University of Minnesota School of Music, KBEM-FM Jazz 88, and the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

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High-speed rail in Minnesota tops agenda of upcoming transportation conference

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April 21, 2010

National transportation priorities can influence decisions at the state and local level. But investment trade-offs can come at the expense of other infrastructure needs.

Minnesota leaders will discuss efforts to ensure the state is part of a high-speed passenger rail network during the opening session of the 21st annual Transportation Research Conference, April 27-28, at RiverCentre in St. Paul, sponsored by the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies. Panelists will also consider the impact of national priorities on road, bridge, and transit investment priorities in Minnesota.

The conference will feature leading scholars in the fields of transportation funding, transportation technology, and land-use planning, as well as public officials and transportation professionals.

Eric Peterson, president of the American High Speed Rail Alliance, will provide the conference opening keynote presentation "Building Momentum for Sustainable American High-Speed Rail."

Featured luncheon speaker Catherine Ross, director of the Georgia Institute of Technology Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development, will discuss how cities are now the building blocks for "mega-regions," the new economic unit in world markets, and how this growth empowers development of healthy cities and regions in the 21st century. Ross is editor of the new book "Megaregions: Planning for Global Competitiveness."

Concurrent sessions at the research conference will touch on a range of topics, including:

- How light rail has improved job access for low-wage workers
- Structural monitoring of the new 1-35W bridge
- Keeping older drivers safe
- Impact of farm implements on rural roads
- Linking transportation initiatives like LRT with city design options
- Intelligent transportation systems and privacy

This annual Transportation Research Conference is sponsored by the U of M's Center for Transportation Studies. More than 75 presentations over two days. For a full conference schedule, fees, and registration, see www.cts.umn.edu/events/researchconf.

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Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment awards more than $5.1 million to 24 U of M energy projects

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/21/2010) —The Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE) has awarded more than $5.1 million to 24 renewable energy research and demonstration projects at the University of Minnesota.

The selected projects focus on a wide-range of topics, including solar energy, wind power, next generation biofuels, materials for increased energy efficiency and life-cycle analysis of energy systems.

"The innovative research and demonstration being advanced by these new investments will lead to transformative technologies," says Dick Hemmingsen, IREE director. "We'll continue to advance the university's position as a renewable energy leader both nationally and internationally."

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

Faculty members, graduate students and post-docs, undergraduates and research scientists at University of Minnesota campuses and research and outreach centers around the state will be involved with the projects. Funds were awarded in three categories including large grants, early career grants and seed grants.

Large grants support integrated, multi-disciplinary research teams working on projects up to three years in duration. Early career grants enable faculty in the early stages of their careers to launch and/or accelerate innovative research programs consistent with IREE's mission. Seed grants are one year and explore the potential for high-risk, high-potential projects that are in the initial stages of development.

The projects selected to receive IREE large grants include:

Engineering of a Multi-Species Fermentation Platform for Biofuel Production
Project lead: Claudia Schmidt-Dannert, biochemistry, molecular biology and biophysics
Award: $472,500

Solar Recycling of CO2 to Fuels
Project lead: Jane Davidson, mechanical engineering
Award: $500,000

New Environmentally Benign Sulfides for Sustainable Large-Scale Photovoltaics
Project lead: Eray Aydil, chemical engineering and materials science
Award: $500,000

Converting Sunlight into Electricity with High Efficiency Organic Solar Cells
Project lead: Daniel Frisbie, chemical engineering and materials science
Award: $500,000

Processing DDGS into Biofuels and Other Value-Added Products; Pilot Development and Commercialization
Project lead: Pavel Krasutsky, Natural Resources Research Institute
Award: $250,000

Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES) Using Abandoned Mine Pits on the Mesabi Iron Range of Minnesota
Project lead: Donald Fosnacht, Natural Resources Research Institute
Award: $250,000

Materials Innovation to Enable Solar Home Heating in Cold Climates
Project lead: Susan Mantell, mechanical engineering
Award: $300,000

Next-Generation Biofuels and the Ecosystem Services They Provide: Sustainability and the Biomass Production Landscape
Project lead: Jason Hill, Institute on the Environment
Award: $500,000

Performance and Emissions of a Second Generation Biofuel - Dimethyl Ether (DME)
Project lead: David Kittelson, mechanical engineering
Award: $500,000

A complete list of grant recipients, including early career and seed grants, is available at: http://environment.umn.edu/news_events/press_releases/pressrelease_ireegrants42010.html.

The U of M's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE) a signature program of the Institute on the Environment, promotes statewide economic development; sustainable, healthy and diverse ecosystems; and national energy security through development of bio-based and other renewable resources and processes. Since its inception in 2003, IREE has supported nearly 200 projects in areas including bioenergy and bioproducts; solar; hydrogen; wind, hydro and geothermal power; conservation and efficient energy utilization; and policy, economics and ecosystems. Funding for IREE comes from Xcel Energy's Renewable Development Fund as directed by the Minnesota Legislature. For more information on IREE and to view the complete project database, please visit www.environment.umn.edu/iree.

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On Beautiful U Day University of Minnesota president asks students, faculty and staff to increase recycling efforts

University builds on success of conservation program that has saved the U $2.25 million

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/22/2010) —As part of this year's Beautiful U Day celebration, University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks and Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien announced today the expansion of the It All Adds Up conservation program to include recycling. The U of M is committed to recovering an additional five percent (450 tons) of campus waste for recycling by the end of 2012. Such an increase would prevent nearly 900 tons of CO2 from entering the atmosphere and save more than $50,000 annually.

By adding a new recycling initiative, the university hopes to build on the success of It All Adds Up energy conservation savings this past year. Under the energy conservation program, the Twin Cities' campus has reduced its energy consumption by five percent, saving the university more than $2.25 million annually and resulting in 25,000 fewer tons of CO2 being released into the atmosphere. The university's Facilities Management (FM) department set a five percent energy reduction goal for fiscal year 2010. That goal was reached at the end of March -- three months early, Bruininks told a crowd gathered this morning to kickoff Beautiful U Day.

Currently, only 40 percent of all campus waste is recycled, due in part to many people routinely throwing out recyclables. Students, faculty and staff can help reach the five percent goal by familiarizing themselves with campus recycling options and thinking about how to reuse or recycle items before trashing them. Details are available at www.umn.edu/italladdsup.

Recycling at the U
The U's Recycling program is developing new approaches, increasing awareness and updating infrastructure in order to increase the percentage of materials recovered and the efficiency of processing them.

Each person has the ability to determine how much waste they create. Keeping the 3 R's in mind are a great guide for reducing waste. They are:

Reduce -- Reduction is the most sustainable and efficient waste management strategy. Waste that is not produced does not require handling, transport or disposal. There are many ways to reduce your waste, like printing on both sides of paper and carefully calculating your product orders to reflect only what you need.

Reuse -- Avoid creating more waste by reusing items or passing them on to others. Utilize reusable containers instead of disposables, repair products and donate items no longer in use to someone who needs them. The U's ReUse Program www.umn.edu/reuse or (612) 626-9152 helps find new homes for items that you or your department no longer use.

Recycle -- Recycling contributes significantly to mitigating climate change. Every one pound of recycling saves two pounds of CO2 from entering the atmosphere. The U of M recycling program collects office paper, newspapers plus and commingled bottles and cans using the color-coded QUAD System. While more than 12 tons of recyclable materials are recovered from campus each day, significant amounts of additional recyclables could still be recovered. The energy saved from recycling two weeks worth of campus aluminum could supply electricity to an average home for 10 years.

It All Adds Up
It All Adds Up's recycling message will be distinguishable by the signature blue color, in contrast to the energy message's green color scheme. On Beautiful U Day, volunteers wearing blue It All Adds Up t-shirts in four locations around the Twin Cities campus collected old books, cell phones and electronics to be donated to the following environmentally responsible recyclers:

- The Worldwide Book Drive collects, sorts, stores and distributes books through donations to qualified organizations, resale or recycling.

- Cell Phones for Soldiers collects used cell phones, sells them to environmentally responsible recyclers and then uses the proceeds to purchase prepaid calling cards for soldiers stationed abroad.

- Asset Recovery Corporation extends the life of electronic devices that are no longer in use at the University and manages the environmental, security and legal risks associated with their disposal.

Launched on Beautiful U Day 2009, the It All Adds Up program set a goal to reduce energy consumption five percent by the end of fiscal year 2010 (June 30). That goal was surpassed in March.

The program's three-pronged energy conservation strategy of recommissioning buildings, collecting energy pledges and identifying energy reduction opportunities in university operations has really paid off.

It All Adds Up challenged the university's students, faculty and staff to commit to simple energy saving habits by taking an energy conservation pledge. The campus community responded by recording 10,000 pledges by the end of fall semester.

The It All Adds Up efforts show the university's commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency, as well its drive to reduce costs during these difficult economic times. There is still progress to be made towards energy conservation and recycling on campus, and It All Adds Up will continue to bring its message to the campus community.

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U of M Center for German and European Studies to present 6th Major Healthcare Forum

Experts from Germany and United States will discuss, compare management of health care reform

What: Managing Innovation and Reform in Healthcare -- Access, Quality, Cost -- 6th Annual American & German trans-Atlantic experts forum
When: Tuesday-Wednesday, April 27-28, 2010
Where: University of Minnesota McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis
Who: Healthcare policy experts and decision makers from Germany and the U.S.: Commissioner Cal Ludeman, Dept. of Human Services, State of Minnesota; Frank Cerra, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, University of Minnesota; Stephen Schondelmeyer, director, PRIME Institute, University of Minnesota; Dave Durenberger, National Institute for Health Policy; Mary Brainerd, CEO, HealthPartners, and 40 German representatives of government, academia, and insurance.
How: Paid registration is required. Both days: $900. State/Govt. Employees: $150. MN Chamber of Commerce members: $350
FFI (public): Center for German & European Studies, University of Minnesota
http://www.cges.umn.edu, 612-626-7705

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April 23, 2010

The Center for German and European Studies at the University of Minnesota will present a forum on healthcare reform and progress on April 27 and 28. Participants are experts from Germany and the United States, representing government, business, insurance, healthcare providers and health educators at the University of Minnesota, among others.

A key issue under discussion this year includes the recently passed national health care plan, which includes the requirement of health insurance for all through nonprofit health insurance companies. Germany, for decades, has provided universal health care for its citizens under a similar plan.

This sixth annual event, involving Germany's Federal Ministry of Health, Germany's Federal Ministry of Economics, and the Academic Health Center at the University of Minnesota, this forum brings together the full range of healthcare policy constituencies: local, state, and national government; doctors; insurers; pharmaceutical companies; employers; and patients. This year, conference attendees will hear from Germany's Federal Minister of Health; Minnesota Commissioner of Human Services Cal Ludeman; HealthPartners' CEO Mary Brainerd; Dave Durenberger, former U.S. Senator and senior health policy fellow, University of St. Thomas; AARP national board member Skip Humphrey; and many others.

During summer 2009, the Center for German and European Studies sponsored a 13-member delegation to Germany that included Minnesota elected and appointed officials and health industry leaders. They explored issues of health policy, insurance, hospitals, doctors, e-health and pharmaceuticals with counterparts in the German government and health care industry. Many of the German officials they met with then will be in Minneapolis for this forum.

Regular registration fee is $900. State and government employees may register at the reduced rate of $150. MN Chamber of Commerce members may register at $350. Registration information, along with full program schedules and speaker biographies, is available at www.cges.umn.edu.

The Center for German & European Studies at the University of Minnesota promotes trans-Atlantic dialogue on public issues of major common concern and is considered one of the nation's top centers for innovative interdisciplinary teaching and research on Germany and Europe.

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Students to use display, flash mob to raise awareness about tragedy of college student suicide Monday, April 26

1,100 backpacks to be on display representing number of college students lost to suicide yearly

Who: Student groups concerned with college student mental health
What: Display of 1,100 backpacks to raise awareness about college student suicide and flash mob "freeze" to show support for people who suffer from mental health problems
Where: Lawn in front of Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis
When: Backpacks will be on display from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday April 26. At 12:15 p.m., there will be a flash mob "freeze" to show support for those with mental health issues.

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April 23, 2010

In an effort to shed light on the tragedy of college student suicide and to start a dialogue about a heavily stigmatized topic, Active Minds at the University of Minnesota along with other student groups will be hosting a Send Silence Packing public education display from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, April 26 in front of Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The display will include 1,100 backpacks that will dot the landscape in front of Coffman. The backpacks represent the 1,100 college students lost to suicide each year.

The display is a part of a Mental Health Awareness Day being hosted by a coalition of student groups, featuring mental health resources from the university as well as student groups. The group will be passing out information about mental health, student suicide and where people can go to go to seek help. At 12:15 p.m., there will be a flash mob "freeze" by university students. Students will remain frozen in place for five minutes around the Send Silence Packing exhibit and they will be wearing shirts to proclaim their support of people who suffer from mental health problems.

Send Silence Packing was developed by Active Minds, Inc., the leading voice for college student mental health in the United States. The national organization has collected and continues to collect backpacks and personal stories in memory of loved ones lost to suicide. By displaying backpacks with personal stories that put a face to the lives lost to suicide, Send Silence Packing carries the message that preventing suicide is not just about lowering statistics, but about saving the lives of students, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and friends across the nation.

The Mental Health Advocacy Day has been organized and co-sponsored by a number of U of M student groups including Active Minds, Mindfulness for Students, the Social Justice Leadership Retreat, the Women's Student Activist Collective, Boynton Health Services, University Counseling and Consulting Services, Students Today, Leaders Forever, Mental Health Advocates, The Aurora Center, Housing and Residential Life, Black Student Union and Psi Chi.

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Carlson School of Management announces new chairs and professorships

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/27/2010) —The Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota recently announced eight new appointments to professorships and two new appointments to chairs in recognition of the recipients' excellence in research, teaching and service contributions, international reputation and evidence of impact. All but one appointment will go into effect on July 1, 2010.

"Chairs and professorships are the highest honor we can present to our most valuable faculty members," says Alison Davis-Blake, dean of the Carlson School of Management. "These named positions are truly reflective of the high quality of our faculty, and give us the ability to recruit and retain the best researchers who deliver at an outstanding level in the classroom, in professional service and in community outreach. The Carlson School is truly grateful to be home to these distinguished individuals."

Through the generous efforts of the Carlson School's Board of Overseers, two new professorships have been created, to which the following faculty members have been appointed:

· Board of Overseers Professor of Information and Decision, associate professor Ravi Bapna (PhD, University of Connecticut), Information and Decision Sciences.

· Board of Overseers Professor of Human Resources and Industrial Relations, professor Michelle Duffy (PhD, University of Arkansas), Human Resources and Industrial Relations.

From other contributions:

· Professor Rohini Ahluwalia (PhD, Ohio State University), Marketing and Logistics Management, is appointed the Curtis L. Carlson Trust Professor of Marketing.

The following faculty members were newly appointed to fill existing vacant chairs and professorships:

· Professor Chris Nachtsheim (PhD, University of Minnesota), Operations and Management Sciences, is appointed the Frank Donaldson Chair in Operations Management.

· Professor John Boyd (PhD, University of Pennsylvania), Finance, is appointed the Banking Industry of Minnesota Chair.

· Associate professor Gedas Adomavicius (PhD, New York University), Information and Decision Sciences, is appointed the Carolyn I. Anderson Professor in Business Education Excellence.

· Associate professor Zhaoyang Gu (PhD, Tulane University), Accounting, is appointed the Honeywell Professor of Accounting.

· Associate professor Stephen Parente (PhD, Johns Hopkins University), Finance, is appointed the Minnesota Insurance Industry Professor of Health Finance and Insurance.

· Associate professor Pervin Shroff (PhD, Columbia University), Accounting, is appointed the Carl L. Nelson Professor of Accounting.

· Associate professor Kathleen Vohs (PhD, Dartmouth College), Marketing and Logistics Management, will also be appointed to a professorship. This appointment will go into effect in summer 2011, after the McKnight Presidential Fellowship she holds ends. At that time, the specific named position that professor Vohs will hold will be identified.

Carlson School chairs and professorships now number 35.

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.

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University of Minnesota professor Stephen Polasky elected to National Academy of Sciences

Polasky becomes just 32nd U of M professor to receive accolade



Stephen Polasky becomes the 32nd U of M faculty member to be elected to National Academy of Sciences.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/27/2010) —University of Minnesota applied economics professor Stephen Polasky has been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences.

He is one of 72 new members and 18 foreign associates from 14 countries who were elected today in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Polasky becomes just the 32nd University of Minnesota faculty member to receive the honor in the 147-year history of the academy.

Polasky is the Fesler-Lampert professor of ecological/environmental economics in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences at the university. He is a resident fellow at the university's Institute on the Environment and is on the faculty of the ecology, evolution and behavior department in the College of Biological Sciences. He currently serves on the Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board, the board of directors for the Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics, and the board of directors and the science council of The Nature Conservancy. He was elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2009 and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2007.

The National Academy of Sciences is a private organization of scientists and engineers dedicated to furthering science and its use for the general welfare. It was established in 1863 by a congressional act of incorporation signed by Abraham Lincoln that calls on the Academy to act as an official adviser to the federal government, upon request, in any matter of science or technology.

Additional information about the Academy and its members is available online at www.nasonline.org.

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University of Minnesota hosts International Conference of the Society for the Arts in Healthcare Conference

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/27/2010) —The University of Minnesota is the local host of the 21st annual International Conference of the Society for the Arts in Healthcare Conference, which will be held Wednesday, April 28 to Saturday, May 1 at the Minneapolis Hilton, 1001 Marquette Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The conference will bring together physicians, nurses, therapists, artists, dancers, poets, writers, architects, art consultants, art program administrators, and art, music, and dance therapists to share cutting edge programs, research and ideas about the use of arts to enhance well being and healing.

During the conference, attendees will explore model arts in healthcare programs and built environments in a wide range of traditional and non-traditional healthcare settings throughout the world. Through a wide variety of presentations and performances, they will also learn about world-class arts in healthcare programs and research. The presentations and performances will feature music, dance, drama, design, and visual and literary arts-the healing arts in hospitals, healthcare, and arts centers that support patients, their families and communities.

The University of Minnesota's Boynton Health Service is a strong supporter of the use of the arts to enhance health and the healing environment and is proud to have played the lead role in successfully bringing the conference to Minneapolis.

Throughout Boynton's hallways, original works of art by artists with University of Minnesota connections can be found in waiting areas and treatment rooms. Boynton has also has developed strong ties with other campuses, local, and national arts in healthcare efforts. Dr. Gary Christenson, chair of Boynton's art committee, also serves as co-chair of the Minnesota Arts in Healthcare Network and was recently elected to the Board of the Society for the Arts in Healthcare.

Boynton has arranged several special events in anticipation of the conference, including the official "opening" of our own Art-O-Mat vending machine, only the second in the state of Minnesota, and will host the exhibit Art Under the Microscope this month.

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University of Minnesota opens new facility in North Minneapolis on May 12

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April 28, 2010

The University of Minnesota and the residents of North Minneapolis will celebrate the opening of a first-of-its kind collaborative facility that serves the needs of urban communities. The Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center (UROC) holds its grand opening on Wednesday, May 12, from 1 to 6 p.m. at 2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Minneapolis.

As one of the very few land-grant research universities located in an urban setting in the United States, the University of Minnesota has placed a priority on discovering solutions to the many complex issues facing urban communities. The first major step in this initiative is the establishment of UROC, housed in a renovated building in North Minneapolis in the heart of a highly diverse community. UROC is currently home to 12 university programs that are committed to pursuing research and outreach in an authentic and fully-engaged partnership with individuals and organizations in the Northside communities.

“The University of Minnesota is committed to developing strategic, sustainable partnerships with urban communities, residents and governments, leading to positive, measurable outcomes with significant impact toward improving lives and stimulating economic growth,” says university Senior Vice President Robert Jones.

The event is free and open to the public and will include building tours, refreshments, an art exhibit by Fawzia Kahn and Lynn Fellman, a youth choir performance by CitySongs and brief remarks by University of Minnesota Board of Regents Chair Clyde Allen, university President Robert Bruininks and several community and government leaders who have been instrumental in making the partnership a reality. Jones will host the event that includes welcome festivities at 3:30 p.m., followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony and short program at 4 p.m.

Ora Hokes, a long-time Northside resident who participated in all of the early meetings that led to UROC’s formation, says UROC is a fulfillment of the community’s vision. “When I look at the end product—UROC—and think about all the community requested of the university—it’s all there,” she says. “The U says, ‘We’re going to walk with you.’ So we’re seeing programs at UROC that help young parents learn to feed their kids healthy meals and that help our young entrepreneurs get a solid start. The U listened to us and the U heard us.”

The event will provide an opportunity for guests to talk with community partners and university faculty and staff about the many research, outreach and education programs in the facility that are designed to address key issues such as health and nutrition, education, the arts, and community and economic development. These programs are highlighted at http://www.uroc.umn.edu/programs/index.html.

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University of Minnesota student wins prestigious Beinecke Scholarship

Paige Patchin is the third U of M student in three years to win coveted award



Paige Patchin became the third U of M student in three years to win the coveted Beinecke Scholarship this year.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/29/2010) —Paige Patchin, an honors junior majoring in history and geography, has been awarded a 2010 Beinecke Scholarship. She is one of 20 students nationwide to receive this prestigious award for outstanding undergraduates who intend to pursue graduate study in arts, humanities or social science fields. Beinecke Scholars receive $34,000 toward their graduate education

Patchin grew up in Forest Lake and came to the university with the intention of becoming a high school social studies teacher like her father. Delving into historical research projects with mentors, professor Sarah Chambers and professor Patrick McNamara, Patchin soon realized that her love of research and habit of questioning received knowledge was driving her toward graduate study. Her fascination with human histories and cultures is informed by rich interdisciplinary interests in geography and natural history, the relationship of technology to society, post-colonial theory and cultural theories of the body.

This semester, she is conducting independent research in Bolivia with the support of a Donovan Research Scholarship from the Department of History. She will graduate in 2011 and intends to pursue a doctorate in history or geography.

"I am just really excited to be able to continue my education and can't wait to see where in the world it takes me," Patchin said.

The Beinecke Scholarship Program was established in 1971 by the Sperry and Hutchinson (S & H) company to honor brothers Edwin, Frederick and Walter Beinecke, corporate and civic leaders who led S & H for several decades in the mid-20th century. The program seeks to encourage and enable highly motivated students to pursue opportunities available to them and to be courageous in the selection of a graduate course of study. The University of Minnesota, Twin Cites is among approximately 100 American colleges and universities that are eligible to nominate one student per year for a Beinecke Scholarship. The university was first invited to participate in the Beinecke Scholarship competition in 2003. Patchin is the fourth U of M student to receive a Beinecke Scholarship, and the third in the last three years.

The Beinecke Scholarship is the latest in a long list of scholarships Patchin has received in her time at the university. She is the recipient of a Selmer Birkelo Scholarship from the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), a CLA Alumni Scholarship, two Undergraduate Research Opportunities grants and the Talle Scholarship in History for 2010-11.

The other recent Beinecke Scholars are Dustin Chacon (linguistics, received in 2009) and Jeffrey Hunger (psychology, received in 2008). Sarah Hampton (anthropology, 2006) was the U's first Beinecke Scholar.

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See Red-Headed Woodpeckers at U of M ecology field station

Increasingly scarce birds are famous for bright red heads, contrasting black and white bodies and assertive behavior



Photo courtesy of Flickr.com

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April 29, 2010

If you've ever wanted to see a Red-Headed Woodpecker up close, you'll have your chance on Saturday, May 8 at the U of M College of Biological Science's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve (CCESR), 2660 Fawn Lake Drive, East Bethel. Expert guides will lead visitors on tours through the reserve to observe the state's largest breeding population of these increasingly scarce birds.

Once very common in the United States and Canada, Red-Headed Woodpeckers have declined by more than half since 1966, partly because their preferred habitats -- dead trees in open, deciduous woods or grassland savannas -- are vanishing. Woodpeckers build nests in cavities in dead trees and need open, grassy areas for swooping down on insects. But the reasons for the dramatic drop in their numbers are not fully understood.

After migrating south for the winter, the Cedar Creek woodpeckers have just returned to the reserve to find mates and set up nesting cavities in trees. According to Mary Spivey, CCESR education coordinator, chances are very high that visitors will see one or more on May 8. "I've never been disappointed when I've taken groups out in past years," she says. Last year, birdwatchers counted nearly 50 of the woodpeckers at Cedar Creek.

The distinctive woodpeckers are noted for their bright red heads, contrasting black and white bodies and assertive behavior. They often make nests in populated areas that provide dead trees and grass (e.g., parks and golf courses) and aren't as fearful of humans as many birds.

Members of the Redheaded Woodpecker Recovery Project will lead tours from 1 to 3 p.m. Tours will leave from the Lindeman Research and Discovery Center on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations are required for groups of five or more and for those who need van transportation to the nesting sites. Please call (763) 434-5131 for reservations or with questions. Walking shoes and binoculars are recommended. Since capacity is limited, it may not be possible to accommodate those who arrive later.

Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve is a 5,400-acre ecology research site about 30 minutes north of the Twin Cities, with natural habitats representing the entire upper Midwest. It is owned and operated by the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences. Ecosystem science was launched at Cedar Creek in 1942, when Raymond Lindeman, a graduate student who conducted his research at Cedar Creek, showed how energy, beginning with photosynthesis, moves through ecosystems. Today, a team of University scientists, including Regents Professors David Tilman and Peter Reich, use Cedar Creek as their living laboratory to understand how agriculture, energy use and other human activities are affecting global ecosystems. On the Web: www.cedarcreek.umn.edu.

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U of M professor William Angell to join U.S. Sen. Klobuchar at news conference regarding radon in homes

Radon gas is leading cause of lung cancer for nonsmokers

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/29/2010) —Leading University of Minnesota radon researcher William Angell will join U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar at a news conference where Klobuchar will announce federal legislation she is introducing to reduce exposure to cancer-causing radon gas in homes.

The news conference will take place 11 a.m. Friday, April 30 at the home of Dave Hansen and Karen Lilley, 2079 Dudley Ave., St. Paul.

Angell, a housing studies faculty member in the university's College of Design and a U of M Extension housing technology specialist, is one of the world's foremost experts on the presence of radon gas in homes and consulted with Klobuchar's staff in drafting the bill.

Radon is an odorless, colorless and radioactive gas created by the decay of uranium in soil. Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer (after smoking), responsible for more 20,000 deaths each year in the United States, including an estimated 1,000 deaths each year in Minnesota.

Indoor residential exposure occurs when radon gas enters through cracks in floors, walls and construction joints, or gaps in foundations around pipes, wires and pumps.

Although radon exists naturally in every part of the country, Minnesota has one of the highest concentrations. In addition, radon is a more serious concern in Minnesota because of cold-weather building methods that tend to seal air inside the home. Also, many Minnesota homes have basements that are used for living spaces. The Minnesota Health Department estimates that more than one-third of all homes in the state have dangerous radon levels.

Several years ago, Minnesota passed landmark state legislation that requires all new homes (as of June 2009) to have radon ventilation systems.

Visit Extension's Housing Technology site for more information on radon resources in Minnesota at http://www.extension.umn.edu/HousingTech.

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U of M Alumni Association to highlight children's health care topics in visits to Mankato and Redwood Falls

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (04/30/2010) —The University of Minnesota Alumni Association Statewide Speakers Tour will make stops in Mankato on May 3 and Redwood Falls on May 10 to discuss children's health care topics and the new University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital.

Event topics and information:

Patient care for children with cystic fibrosis
Dr. Terri Laguna, assistant professor in the Division of Pediatric Pulmonary and Critical Care at the University of Minnesota
12 p.m. Monday, May 3
Mankato Downtown Kiwanis
City Center Hotel
101 E. Main St., Mankato

"What's new at the U," including information on the impact of the new University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital on children's health care and research.
Mary Kay Delvo, Alumni Association director of advocacy
12 p.m. Monday, May 10
Redwood Falls Rotary
Pizza Ranch
1360 E. Bridge St., Redwood Falls

The Statewide Speakers Tour is an ongoing Alumni Association initiative whose purpose is to help the citizens of Minnesota understand that the university is a resource for each and every one of them. Other stops on the 2009-10 Statewide Speakers' Tour can be found at http://www.minnesotaalumni.org/s/1118/content.aspx?sid=1118&gid=1&pgid=325 or by contacting Mary Kay Delvo at delvo003@umn.edu or (612) 626-1417.

Opening in 2011, University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital will be an ecologically friendly, 227,000-square-foot facility that consolidates the hospital's 50 pediatric specialties in one patient- and family-centered location. This new facility will ensure that children and families have access to leading health care and new thinking -- all in a world-class, state-of-the-art setting.

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a 60,000-member organization whose members are ambassadors for the excellent teaching and breakthrough research that happens at the university every day. For more information, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org or call (612) 624-2323.

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University of Minnesota College of Design students to fly kites for children of Haiti

230 kites will be flown over university's East Bank campus

What: University of Minnesota students fly 230 kites to show solidarity with the children of Haiti
When: Approximately 3:55 p.m. Tuesday, May 4
Where: Mississippi River bank behind Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Laura Weber, College of Design, l-webe@umn.edu, (612) 625-6566
Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

May 3, 2010

University of Minnesota College of Design students will fly 230 kites to raise awareness and show their solidarity with children of Haiti who have been displaced by the Jan. 12 earthquake. The kites will be then be brought to Haiti by the American Refugee Committee (ARC) and distributed among children living in displaced people camps.

The 230 students will gather at 3:35 p.m. in the Bell Museum auditorium, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis, and then walk down Church Street to the riverbank behind Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The kites will be up and flying by approximately 3:55 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the kite flying will be postponed to Wednesday, May 5, or Thursday, May 6.

The students are members of architecture professor Leslie Van Duzer's Design Fundamentals class. Van Duzer and her fellow professors Ozayr Saloojee and John Comazzi traveled to Haiti April 16-20 as volunteers with the Minneapolis-based ARC to assess camps for displaced people.

While in Haiti, they assessed the shelter and community living conditions of two camps managed by the ARC. Based on their observations, the three faculty are currently consulting with the ARC on how to best help displaced people rebuild their communities.

There are officially 1.3 million people displaced by the magnitude-7 earthquake. Hundreds of thousands of people currently live in settlement camps that evolved with little or no planning. These Haitians live in makeshift tarp homes and shanties, a condition that is further threatened by the approaching rainy season.

For more information about the ARC and its efforts in Haiti, visit www.arcrelief.org.

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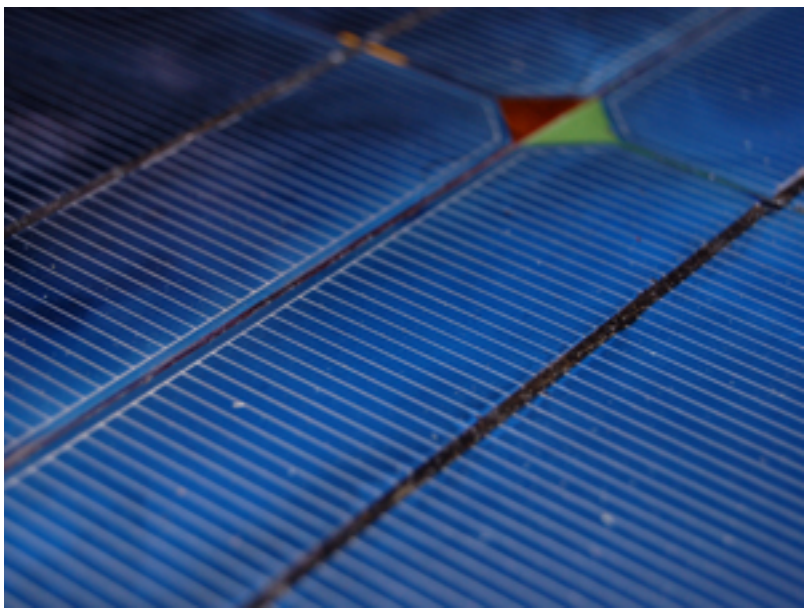
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U of M solar car team to unveil new car May 6

New team, new car gear up for race across America in June

When: 11 a.m. Thursday, May 6
Where: McNamara Alumni Center Plaza, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis
(if raining, the car will be available for viewing inside McNamara Alumni Center)



A close-up view of a solar panel on the new U of M solar car, the Centaurus II. The car will be unveiled at a special event Thursday, May 6.

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

May 3, 2010

The University of Minnesota Solar Vehicle Project team will provide a sneak preview of its newest solar-powered car at a special event for the media and sponsors at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 6 on the McNamara Alumni Center Plaza, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. Those attending will see the new car take its first test drive, view the car's inner workings and hear from members of the team about their upcoming race.

This is the first public viewing of the car in preparation for the 2010 American Solar Challenge, a 1,100-mile race from Tulsa, Okla. to Chicago, Ill., June 19-27. The University of Minnesota is one of only 18 teams from the United States, Canada, Germany and Taiwan competing this year in designing, building and driving a car completely powered by the sun.

The general public is invited to view the car and talk with members of the team from 2:30-4 p.m. Friday, May 7 in the courtyard east of Lind Hall, 207 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. If raining, the car will be available for viewing under the overhang of the Electrical Engineering/Computer Science Building near the Lind Hall courtyard.

The University of Minnesota's car, named Centaurus II, is a completely new generation design from the university's previous eight solar vehicles. The most noticeable change is the new design that incorporates drastically improved aerodynamics and solar array encapsulation to maximize speed and range for the race. The current car is just over 3 feet tall, about 16 feet long and nearly 6 feet wide. It weighs about 400 pounds.

The 30 students on the team are all from the Institute of Technology (soon to be called the College of Science and Engineering). 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 Institute of Technology (College of Science and Engineering), major sponsors of the University of Minnesota's solar car include 3M, Altium, Cirrus, Delta, PAR, Caterpillar, Freescale Semiconductors, General Plastics, University of Minnesota Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment, Programming Plus, EMJ Metals, Advance Circuits, AeroHydro, AltaMAR Laser, Finishline Design, Hexcel, Teklam, Neutrik, National Instruments, Plascore, Pro-Equipment, Sysco Asian foods, Vicor, and Wayzata Rotary Club.

For more information on the history of the university's Solar Vehicle Project team and photos of the previous eight cars, visit www.svp.umn.edu.

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University of Minnesota commencement ceremonies set for May

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/04/2010) —During the 2009-10 academic year, the University of Minnesota expects to award more than 14,000 degrees, and a large percentage of those graduates will partake in commencement ceremonies this month.

A few notable speakers at this year's ceremonies include:

• Narayana Kocherlakota, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and previously a professor of economics and chair of the economics department at the University of Minnesota, will speak at the College of Liberal Arts' two commencement ceremonies at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, May 16.

• Erma Vizenor, Chairwoman of the White Earth Tribal Council since 2004, will speak to the graduates of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences at 7 p.m. Friday, May 14.

• United States Senator Amy Klobuchar, the first woman elected to represent the state of Minnesota in the U.S. Senate and former Hennepin County chief prosecutor, will speak to those graduating from the Law School at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 15, and graduates of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs on May 16.

• Lucinda Maine, the executive vice president and CEO of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, president of the Federation of Association of Schools of the Health Professions and board member for Research! America will be the commencement speaker for the College of Pharmacy at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 8.

• Richard Florida, founder of the *Creative Class Group*, an advisory services firm charting new trends in business and community, was recently named the 'Best and Brightest' by Esquire Magazine and will speak to graduates of the Carlson School of Management at 9 a.m. (graduate students) and 1 p.m. (undergraduate students) Monday, May 17.

The complete commencement schedule, including speakers, for the university's colleges and schools is as follows:

• Medical School: Dr. Robert A. Buckman, medical oncologist at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto and professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto, 9 a.m. Friday, May 7, Northrop Memorial Auditorium

• Graduate School: U of M Regents Professor Eric Sheppard (geology), 2 p.m. Friday, May 7, Northrop Memorial Auditorium

• Institute of Technology: Fred Colen, executive vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Boston Scientific, 7 p.m. Friday, May 7, Northrop Memorial Auditorium

• College of Continuing Education: U of M President Robert Bruininks, 10 a.m. Saturday, May 8, Northrop Memorial Auditorium

• College of Pharmacy: Lucinda Maine, executive vice president and CEO of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, 2 p.m. Saturday, May 8, Northrop Memorial Auditorium

• College of Education and Human Development: Eric Jolly, president of the Science Museum of Minnesota, 7 p.m. Thursday, May 13, Northrop Memorial Auditorium

• School of Dentistry: Dr. Linda Niessen, vice president for clinical education for Dentsply International, 2 p.m. Friday, May 14, Northrop Memorial Auditorium

• College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences: Erma Vizenor, Chairwoman of the White Earth Tribal Council, 7 p.m. Friday, May 14, Northrop Memorial Auditorium

• Law School: U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, 10 a.m. Saturday, May 15, Northrop Memorial Auditorium

• College of Design: Hani Ayad, vice president of design and destination planning worldwide for Oranscon Development (Cairo, Egypt) 3 p.m. Saturday, May 15, Northrop Memorial Auditorium

• College of Biological Sciences: Jasper Rine, Howard Hughes Professor and professor of genetics, genomics and development at the University of California, Berkeley, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 15, Northrop Memorial Auditorium

• College of Liberal Arts: Minneapolis Federal Reserve president Narayana Kocherlakota, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, May 16, Northrop Memorial Auditorium

• Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs: Klobuchar, 2 p.m. Sunday, May 16, Ted Mann Concert Hall

• Carlson School of Management: Richard Florida, founder of the *Creative Class Group*, graduate ceremony at 9 a.m., undergraduate ceremony at 1 p.m. Monday, May 17, Northrop Memorial Auditorium

• School of Public Health: Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, 5 p.m. Monday, May 17, Northrop Memorial Auditorium

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U.S. Department of Commerce official to discuss nation's economic recovery during visit to University of Minnesota

Discussion to focus on the unique nature of the recession and the challenges for recovery

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Becky Beyers, CFANS, bbeyers@umn.edu, (612) 626-5754

May 5, 2010

"Tracking the U.S. Economic Recovery" will be the topic of conversation on Monday, May 10 as Rebecca Blank, undersecretary for economic affairs at the U.S. Department of Commerce, addresses a University of Minnesota audience. The discussion will focus on the unique nature of the recession and the challenges for recovery, with attention to job creation, innovation and economic stimulus. Blank's talk is at 3 p.m. in the St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

The lecture is free and open to the public, but registration is required. To register, visit http://www.apec.umn.edu/HouckLecture2010.html.

Blank is the economic adviser to the secretary of commerce and head of the Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA). She oversees the two premier statistical agencies in the United States, the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Within ESA, she supervises a staff of economists and policy analysts who produce a wide variety of reports and forecasts that help develop and assess domestic and international policy.

Blank served as one of the three members of the President's Council of Economic Advisers under President Bill Clinton from 1997-1999. She also served as dean of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan and co-director of University of Michigan's National Poverty Center. Prior to these positions, she was a professor of economics at Northwestern University and director of the Northwestern University/University of Chicago Joint Center for Poverty Research.

She is an alumna of the University of Minnesota Applied Economics department in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and is this year's invited speaker for the James P. Houck Lecture on Food and Consumer Policy. The lecture series is co-hosted by the University of Minnesota's Department of Applied Economics and The Food Industry Center.

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U of M's Sr. Vice President Robert Jones honored for leadership in expanding international education

Jones one of three honored by Association of Public Land-grant Universities (APLU)



University of Minnesota's Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration Robert Jones

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/05/2010) —The University of Minnesota's Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration, Robert Jones, is one of the 2010 recipients of the Michael P. Malone International Leadership Award, sponsored by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU).

Established in 2000, the annual award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to international education at public and land-grant institutions. The award is named in honor of Michael P. Malone, president of Montana State University from 1991 until his untimely death in 1999. Malone made many contributions to MSU and U.S. higher education through his work as chair of APLU's Commission on International Programs, where he focused the group's efforts on issues critical to international education programs. The award will be presented during the summer meeting of the APLU Commission on International Programs in July 2010.

"This year's Malone Awards recipients have worked tirelessly to promote international education and development," said APLU President Peter McPherson. "Their focus on international problems speaks well of America's highly regarded university system and the willingness of our scholars to promote higher education around the globe."

Jones, also a professor of agronomy and plant genetics at the university, has raised the visibility and priority of the institution's international programs by establishing international partnerships, facilitating global scholarship and faculty development, and recruiting international students and scholars.

"Making the University of Minnesota a truly international university has been one of our priorities," said university President Robert Bruininks. "The relationships that are fostered through international exchanges in education and research have a lasting, positive impact on Minnesota's economy. I appreciate the exceptional leadership of Dr. Jones in this area. There is no one more deserving of this prestigious award."

Jones' commitment to promoting international perspectives and the importance of globalization led to the elevation of the senior international officer (SIO) position to associate vice president and dean of international programs as well as creating a new position and internal grant program through an assistant vice president for international scholarship that reports to the SIO. As a result, the university has more than doubled funding for international research, travel, study and exchange. Jones led efforts to internationalize the curriculum across all academic colleges in order to prepare students to live as global citizens. He also spearheaded successful efforts to establish many new faculty exchanges and international research opportunities at universities in China, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Norway, South Africa and Tanzania.

"I am deeply grateful to APLU for selecting me for this award," said Jones. "But my efforts to internationalize the University of Minnesota have been a team effort, so I accept this honor on behalf of everyone who has worked hard to bring international perspectives to our institution."

The other two Malone Award winners are Charles W. Steger of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) and Barbara J. Stoecker of Oklahoma State University.

Founded in 1887, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) is an association of public research universities, land-grant institutions, and many state public university systems. APLU member campuses enroll more than 3.5 million undergraduate and 1.1 million graduate students, employ more than 645,000 faculty members, and conduct nearly two-thirds of all academic research, totaling more than $34 billion annually. As the nation's oldest higher education association, APLU is dedicated to excellence in learning, discovery and engagement. For more information, visit www.aplu.org.

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U of M Board of Regents to meet next week, discuss presidential search

When: Wednesday, May 12 - Friday, May 14, 2010
Where: 600 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-1690

May 7, 2010

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold its monthly meeting next week at 600 McNamara Alumni Center. Included on the agenda is a work session to discuss the presidential search process, as university President Robert Bruininks' contract ends in 2011. The board will also hear a presentation on the future of historic Northrop Auditorium and will tour the university's new Urban Research and Outreach Center (UROC) on Minneapolis' north side.

Highlights of the meeting include:

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

3 – 5 p.m., The board tours the university's Urban Research and Outreach Center (UROC), 2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Minneapolis.

Thursday, May 13, 2010

8:30 – 10:30 a.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will act on a number of policy updates, including ones on endowment funds, investment of reserves and investment transactions. There will also be a discussion about the finances of Intercollegiate Athletics.

8:30 – 10:30 a.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will review and act on annual promotion, tenure and continuous appointment recommendations. Provost Tom Sullivan will also report on comparisons and analysis of faculty compensation.

10:45 – 11:45 a.m., Board meeting, Boardroom. Sullivan and Vice President for Cultural and Scholarly Affairs Steven Rosenstone will present on the vision for the future of historic Northrop Auditorium.

1:30 – 3:30 p.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will act on a policy update on historic preservation and review/act on schematic plans and capital budget amendments. Also, Chancellor Charles Casey will review the Crookston campus master plan and the committee will discuss issues related to the president's recommended FY2011 annual capital improvement budget.

1:30 – 3:30 p.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will review a policy update pertaining to the University of Minnesota Press. Sullivan and vice provost and dean of graduate education Henning Schroeder will provide a discussion on graduate education.

3:45 – 4:45 p.m., Board work session, East Committee Room. Board Chair Clyde Allen will lead a work session on the presidential search process. William Funk of R. William Funk & Associates has been engaged by the Board of Regents to assist with a national search for a new president. Mr. Funk will discuss the search process and the consultant's role at this meeting.

Friday, May 14, 2010

9:15 a.m. – noon. Board of Regents, Boardroom. The board will honor a number of award winners, NCAA champions, the new CEO of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association Phil Esten and the outgoing Vice President for Equity and Diversity Rusty Barcelo. It will also appoint two members to the University of Minnesota Medical Center Fairview (UMMCF) board and review board policy updates on awards, honors and recognitions and namings. Bruininks will present his recommended capital improvement budget for FY2011 for review as well.

More information on the Board of Regents meeting can be found at www.umn.edu/regents. The Friday meeting will be webcast on that site beginning at 9:15 a.m.

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University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners to hold Twin Cities plant sales during May and June

Contacts: Catherine Dehdashti, University Extension, ced@umn.edu, (612) 625-0237

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/07/2010) —University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners will hold five Twin Cities metro-area plant sales during the months of May and June. Shoppers will find plants that Master Gardeners have started from seed or dug from their own yards.

There's something for everyone -- native plants, vegetables, herbs, annuals and perennials -- for shade and sun. These sales events offer reasonably priced plants and Extension Master Gardeners to answer gardening questions. There is no entrance fee.

Upcoming sales take place in:

Dakota County: May 15, 9 a.m. to noon, University of Minnesota Outreach, Research and Education Park (UMore), 1605 West 160th St. W., Rosemount.

Hennepin County: May 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Hopkins Pavilion, 11000 Excelsior Blvd., Hopkins.

Ramsey County: May 22, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Ramsey County Extension Building, 2020 White Bear Ave., Maplewood.

Anoka County: May 27, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Anoka County Government Center, 2100 3rd Ave., Anoka.

Washington County: June 6, noon to 3 p.m., Washington County Fairgrounds, 12300 N. 40th St., Lake Elmo.

For more detailed information about these and other Master Gardener plant sales, visit www.extension.umn.edu/go/1029. All proceeds benefit local University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener programs.

As volunteers, University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners perform at least 25 hours of work in their communities each year providing knowledge-based gardening education and information. For more information on becoming a Master Gardener, visit www.mg.umn.edu.

For more gardening resources from University of Minnesota Extension, visit www.extension.umn.edu/GardenInfo.

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Eleven U of M students selected for U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarships

Contacts: University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/10/2010) —Eleven University of Minnesota students have been awarded Critical Language Scholarships, a program sponsored by the United States Department of State, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. The U.S. Department of State has selected approximately 575 U.S. undergraduate and graduate students for this scholarship in 2010. The students will spend seven to 10 weeks in intensive language institutes throughout the summer in the 15 countries where these languages are spoken.

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program was launched in 2006 by the National Security Language Initiative (NSLI) and is aimed to increase the number of students learning foreign languages, which are critically needed in the U.S. These languages include: Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla/Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Turkish and Urdu. The NSLI further developed itself with the CLS program to strengthen national security and prosperity with strategic language learning.

The students receiving the scholarship for the summer of 2010 from the University of Minnesota are:

Tyler Conklin, studying Turkish in Turkey
Brianna Crowley, studying Turkish in Turkey
Anna Pirsch, studying Turkish in Turkey
Susan Metzger, studying Russian in Russia
Meredith Knaak, studying Korean in South Korea
Stephanie Rozman, studying Hindi in India
Rebecca Armstrong, studying Chinese in China
Dustin Chacon, studying, Bangla/Bengali in Bangladesh
Greta Bliss, studying Arabic in Jordan
Michelle Baroody, studying Arabic in Egypt
Kelly Heitz, studying Arabic in Jordan

The Critical Language Scholarships for Intensive Summer Institutes was launched in 2006 to increase opportunities for American students to study critical-need languages overseas and is part of a wider U.S. government effort to dramatically expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical-need languages. CLS program participants are expected to continue their language study beyond the scholarship and apply their critical language skills in their future professional careers.

In 2010, the CLS program received nearly 5,300 applications with a range of academic disciplines. Students from all 50 states were selected for the highly competitive scholarship through a merit-based selection process.

For further information about the CLS Program or the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, visit www.clscholarship.org and http://exchanges.state.gov.

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24-hour BioBlitz to count creatures in Rosemount's woodlands, prairies and trout stream set for June 11-12

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum, sheph001@umn.edu, (612) 624-7389
Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

May 10, 2010

Minnesota BioBlitz 2010 will focus on the woods, streams and restored prairies of suburban Rosemont from 5 p.m. Friday, June 11 to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 12. The annual event is coordinated by the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History.

BioBlitz, an intensive 24-hour race to count an area's plants and animals, is part contest, part festival, part educational event and part scientific endeavor. Each year this family-friendly event attracts hundreds of amateur and professional scientists from around the state who use sonar detectors, nets, bug lights, binoculars and laptops to count and chronicle an area's plants and animal life. Public volunteers work alongside biologists to collect plants and insects and live-trap animals, which are identified before being released back into the wild.

This year's Minnesota BioBlitz will be held at the Vermillion Highlands Research, Recreation and Wildlife Management Area, an area known for landscapes that include remnants of historic woodlands, pockets of natural and restored prairie and the celebrated Vermillion River.

"We usually hear the word 'biodiversity' in regard to rainforests with their vast number of species," says Jennifer Menken, BioBlitz organizer and Bell Museum educator. "Yet, the diversity of plant and animal life -- from red fox to tiger beetles to morels and mollusks -- in our suburban areas is just phenomenal."

Here's a breakdown of scheduled events

Friday, June 11:

- 5 p.m. - Kick-off and survey site set-up
- 8:30 p.m. - Nocturnal animal survey
- 9:30 p.m. - Night insect collecting

Saturday, June 12:

- 6 a.m. - Bird hike
- 8 a.m. - Bird banding
- 8 a.m. - Mammal survey
- Noon - Insect netting
- 1 p.m.- Mushroom walk

New events will be added every day at http://www.bellmuseum.org/bioblitz.

BioBlitz aims to increase the public's awareness of an area's biological diversity (location changes every year), offers a chance for citizens to work with scientists, and provides an environmental benchmark for natural resource managers of Minnesota natural resource managers. Minnesota BioBlitz is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The event is free and open to the public. For a complete schedule of events, visit http://www.bellmuseum.org/bioblitz. For information and scientific volunteer opportunities, contact Jennifer Menken at menke004@umn.edu.

The Bell Museum is part of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. It is the state's official natural history museum and maintains more than 4 million scientific specimens from Minnesota and around North America and the world. More than 30,000 people visit the museum each year.

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U of M biology undergrad curriculum gets thumbs up from external review team

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/10/2010) —The University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences' undergraduate curriculum got thumbs up from a national team of external reviewers following an April 25-27 site visit, citing the Nature of Life program, research-based foundations courses and the quality of students and faculty as examples of excellence.

Reviewers included Bruce Alberts, editor of Science, former president of the National Academy of Sciences, and former chair of the National Research Council; Bill Wood, a national biology education leader and member of the National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council; and Ken Burtis, dean of the College of Biological Sciences at the University of California, Davis.

The team met with 10 groups of faculty, students and staff over two days and visited classrooms and labs. They also used a 160-page self-study prepared by the college for the review.

Their report noted that the Nature of Life program could provide a national model for students entering undergraduate science programs. Students they spoke with identified the formation of lasting relationships, setting clear expectations and orientation to university level research as valuable benefits.

The team was impressed with Foundations of Biology, a new series of courses for freshmen that employs research-based problem solving rather than lectures. Courses are conducted in an active-learning classroom where students sit at round tables and tackle real-world problems as teams, learning biology basics in the process. The team commended the university for using the same model in the new Science Classroom Building in Minneapolis, which has 10 active learning classrooms.

The reviewers said that active, research-based learning is the pedagogy of the future for science education. "We don't know of another university in the country with this many active-learning classrooms. And frankly, the committee is extremely envious of these facilities," the report stated.

Comments also focused on the "enthusiasm, level of engagement and academic aspirations" of students, the "dedication" of faculty, and the "energetic and enlightened" leadership provided by Associate Dean Robin Wright and Dean Bob Elde.

The reviewers made several recommendations for improvement. These included extending the active learning approach to upper division classes, providing longer appointments for non-tenured teaching faculty and creating a department or center of biology education staffed by teaching faculty. According to Wright, the college will immediately begin bringing people together to act on these recommendations.

Wright says the review confirmed college leadership's perceptions about the quality of the program and plans for the future. She believes the active learning approach makes better students and better teachers.

"We all learn by wrestling with problems," Wright says. "Watching students approach problems in active learning classes helps me understand what they can and can't do so I can figure out how to challenge them. It makes me a better teacher."

The College of Biological Sciences aspires to provide the best undergraduate biology curriculum in the United States. That is difficult to measure because undergraduate programs aren't ranked, but according to the review team, the college is making substantial progress towards this goal.

"It's gratifying to know they don't think it's an impossible dream," Wright says.

To read the complete external review and the self-study, go to www.cbs.umn.edu/main/intranet/curriculum.

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U of M President Robert Bruininks to testify before Minnesota Senate Committee on Higher Education



U of M President Robert Bruininks

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

May 10, 2010

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks will testify before a Minnesota Senate Committee on Higher Education hearing scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 11, in Room 123, State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul.

Bruininks will provide an update on the University District Alliance, an initiative comprised of the university's Minneapolis campus area neighborhoods, business associations, university student government, the city of Minneapolis, Augsburg College and the University of Minnesota.

Since its establishment in 2007, the alliance is working to make the university district area a vibrant, safe, healthy and sustainable place for people of all ages to live, work, learn, do business and visit.

For more information on the alliance, go to https://www.myu.umn.edu/metadot/index.pl?id=3856578.

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See Change conference on visual communication brings nationally known speakers to the University of Minnesota

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/11/2010) —The University of Minnesota School of Journalism and Mass Communication is partnering with AIGA, the professional association for design, to host *See Change: The Power of Visual Communication* on Thursday, May 20, and Friday, May 21 at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus.

The See Change conference will include a Thursday opening night dinner with keynote speaker Nigel Holmes who is an explanation graphics designer. Presentations will feature both national and local luminaries, who will share current insights on innovative projects, working philosophies and survival techniques in the fast-paced business climate.

In addition to Holmes, speakers will include: interactive designer and Pentagram partner Lisa Strausfeld; photographer Rodney Smith; Gary Koepke, co-founder and executive creative director of the advertising agency Modernista!; Janet Froelich, creative director of Real Simple; Doug Powell, designer, entrepreneur and strategist; and designer Sharon Werner.

The conference is intended for curious creatives to refresh their talents with innovative ideas and imagery. This exchange is important as visualists struggle to reinvent themselves for the next "best thing." New technology and media outlets continually create new challenges and opportunities that affect how people work and see. The See Change conference is one way to bring visual people together to navigate the ever-morphing communication landscape.

The inspiration for this program comes from 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 the creation of the school’s accredited sequence in Photographic Communication. Smith and his wife Pat have given the University of Minnesota a gift to help sponsor this type of event designed for the 21st century. The intention is to develop a program that will be held annually under the auspices of the U of M’s SJMC and partners from the visual communication community.

The cost of the program is $75 for members of partner organizations, $90 for non-members, and $25 for students. The registration deadline is May 16. To learn more about the conference and register visit www.seechangeconference.org.

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Lendley (Lynn) Black named chancellor of the University of Minnesota Duluth



Lendley (Lynn) Black will succeed Kathryn Martin at the chancellor of UMD August 1, pending Board of Regents approval.

Photo courtesy of Kennesaw State University.

Media Note: To download a high-resolution picture of Lendley (Lynn) Black, visit http://bit.ly/caRyLF.

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Susan Latto, University of Minnesota-Duluth, slatto@d.umn.edu, (218) 348-5688

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/11/2010) —In a message to students, faculty and staff of the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) today, university President Robert Bruininks announced the appointment of Dr. Lendley (Lynn) Black as the new chancellor of UMD. Black's appointment is effective August 1, 2010, pending Board of Regents approval on May 14. Black would succeed Chancellor Kathryn Martin, who retires July 31.

"Dr. Black's candidacy for this position received strong support from the Duluth and University communities," Bruininks said. "His demonstrated leadership ability, strong administrative and academic credentials and experience and commitment to communication, collaboration and consensus building made him the top candidate for this position. I strongly believe he has the qualifications and leadership style to drive the unique academic needs of the campus."

Black comes to UMD from Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia, where he served as Vice President for Academic Affairs from 2002 until he was promoted in 2006 to his current position as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. He has a long record of senior administrative experience, including nine years as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, three years as Director of Undergraduate Studies and more than three years as Director of Student Advising at Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas. He earned his Ph.D. in Theatre at the University of Kansas.

"U of M Duluth is very fortunate to have Lynn Black as its Chancellor designate," said Kennesaw State President Daniel Papp. "Lynn is a true academic leader, and even more importantly, he is a fine human being. Kennesaw State's loss is U of M Duluth's gain."

Bruininks said Black has a demonstrated record of success leading comprehensive strategic planning efforts with the full engagement of the campus and surrounding communities; establishing strong and trusting relationships with faculty, staff, and students as well as civic and business leaders in the community; leading significant fundraising efforts for both campus and community organizations; demonstrating a strong personal and professional commitment to the value of diversity; leading several curriculum innovation efforts to better support student learning and success; and serving as a vocal advocate for campus needs and priorities.

"Throughout the interview process and especially during my visit to Duluth, I have been impressed with the outstanding faculty, staff, students, and community partners of this exceptional institution," said Black. "Located on the banks of Lake Superior and part of one of the best public research universities in the world, this is an exciting opportunity and I look forward to this new role."

Bruininks also expressed his appreciation for Martin's service at UMD, calling her time as chancellor a "significant period of growth" for the campus.

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U of M Bell Museum, MCAD to partner on summer exhibits showcasing nature art of two generations

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/12/2010) —From the contemplative watercolors of a self-taught naturalist, to an unnerving interpretation of General George Custer's dog, the University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History's summer exhibits celebrate artwork of the natural world across several generations.

"Nature in Art Across the Generations" opens June 12 with "The Shape of Nature: The Art of Frances Lee Jaques," a retrospective of the acclaimed Minnesota naturalist who painted the backdrops of many of the museum's dioramas. Jaques, who died in 1969 at the age of 81, left a legacy of wilderness-inspired art that continues to influence artists today. The exhibit features 80 of Jaques' oil and watercolor paintings, pencil sketches and sculptures, as well as numerous books, photographs and artifacts from his life and times.

A companion exhibit, "An Archive, A Forest: An Exhibition," by Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) opens June 19 in the museum's Jaques Gallery and highlights the work of three recent MCAD graduates—John Bell, Ginny Maki and Branden Martz, artists whose work deals with interpreting and defining themselves in relationship to nature. The museum's dioramas and scientific collections inspired this exhibit that includes drawings, installations, paintings, photography, sculpture and objects from the museum’s collections.

"These exhibits represent the diversity in interpretation of the natural world – from classic wildlife studies to modern pieces that speak intimately about an individual's relationship and reaction to nature," says Don Luce, Bell Museum curator of exhibits. "The Bell Museum is a place where natural science and art often merge—we're excited to host an exhibit that illustrates this feature to a dramatic degree."

“MCAD students Bell, Maki and Martz studied the natural history collections at the Bell Museum and now have the opportunity to show their artwork alongside the collections they studied,” says Tom Haakenson, chair of the school's department of liberal arts. “The museum has provided a rare and interesting opportunity for the dialogue between inspiration and art production to come full-circle.”

An opening reception for the two exhibits will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 24, with refreshments and will be followed with a 7 p.m. gallery tour lead by Luce. At 8 p.m., there will be a panel discussion with MCAD artists and Haakenson.

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. Recognized nationally and internationally for its innovative approaches to visual arts education, MCAD is home to nearly 800 students pursuing Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Science and Master of Fine Arts degrees.

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Eight teams from the United States and India compete to launch businesses for clean energy and water in India

International finals of the Acara Challenge scheduled for May 17 at the University of Minnesota

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/12/2010) —The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment will host the international finals of the Acara Challenge 2010 on Monday, May 17 in seminar room 380, Institute on the Environment, VoTech Building, 1954 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

The Acara Challenge 2010 focuses on creating businesses that address clean water and clean energy needs for underserved populations in India. Teams of students from the United States and India will present business plans during the finals, and then the winning groups will travel to India in June to conduct further research. In July, the teams will return to the Institute on the Environment for an on-campus incubation period during which time they will work with a commercialization team to refine and launch their business.

"As the review committee judges the teams in the finals, we will be focused on practical solutions to energy and water issues in India" said Fred Rose, co-director of the Acara Institute. "The Challenge is a starting point for both the Acara Institute and the students, with the ultimate goal of moving beyond ideas to impact."

"Seeing the ideas being proposed here gives me hope for the future," said Julian Marshall, co-director of the Acara Institute and a resident fellow at the Institute on the Environment. "These students are working to tackle some of the biggest global challenges we face."

The teams traveling to St. Paul for the finals include:

Energy for Cooking

· University of Minnesota/Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee: A lease-to-own and maintenance and repair business for biodigesters that produce biogas for cooking
· Yale University/TERI University: A New Delhi-based company selling and delivering lunches from kitchens powered by biogas
· K. J. Somaiya Institute of Management: A business that manufactures and sells solar powered stoves
· Duke University/India Institute of Technology Delhi: A hybrid stove technology using solar and biomass

Clean Water

· Vellore Institute of Technology/University of Illinois-Chicago: A community-sized solar still and distribution system for clean water
· Arizona State University/TERI University: A decentralized treatment system for converting waste water into usable, and marketable, grey water
· Vellore Institute of Technology/University of Hartford : A system to remove contaminants from tannery wastewater
· University of Minnesota/Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee: A drip irrigation system for farmers

The Acara Challenge 2010 is part of the Acara Institute at the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment. The Acara Institute's mission is to develop sustainable business solutions that address global societal challenges through academia and industry partnerships.

The May 17 finals will be available online at https://umconnect.umn.edu/acara. For more information on the Acara Institute and a complete schedule for the Acara Challenge finals, visit http://acarainstitute.org.

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U of M College of Design faculty and American Refugee Committee president to discuss key insights gained from recent Haiti trip

Support for victims of Jan. 12 earthquake needed now more than ever, ARC president says

What: Media availability with U of M College of Design faculty and American Refugee Committee President Daniel Wordsworth
When: 8 a.m. Friday, May 14. **Media are asked to RSVP to jfalk@umn.edu or (612) 626-1720 if planning to attend and to arrive by 7:50 a.m.**
Where: 225 Rapson Hall, 89 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. Parking is available in the Church Street Garage, directly across the street from Rapson Hall: www.umn.edu/twincities/maps/ChurchGar

Contacts: Laura Weber, College of Design, l-webe@umn.edu, (612) 625-6566
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Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

May 12, 2010

American Refugee Committee President Daniel Wordsworth will join three University of Minnesota College of Design architecture faculty at 8 a.m. Friday, May 14 to discuss key insights gained from the professors recent trip to Haiti to assess camps for people displaced by the Jan. 12 earthquake. The three faculty visited Haiti April 16-20 as volunteers with the Minneapolis-based ARC.

Over the course of several days, professors Leslie Van Duzer, Ozayr Saloojee and John Comazzi assessed the shelter and community living conditions of three camps managed by the ARC. They observed the overall camp structures and learned about access to water and sanitation, shelter, health care, child-friendly spaces, recreational areas and provisions for temporary educational facilities.

Based on their observations, the professors are currently consulting with the ARC on how to best help displaced people rebuild their communities.

There are officially 1.3 million people displaced by the magnitude-7 earthquake. Hundreds of thousands of people currently live in settlement camps that evolved with little or no planning. These Haitians live in tents or makeshift shanties, a condition that is further threatened by the onset of the rainy season.

“The rainy season will bring mudslides, floods and a rapid spread of disease,” said Wordsworth. “Shelter is a critical issue, and we’re pleased to partner with the University of Minnesota to look at ways to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the people of Haiti.”

For more information about the ARC and its efforts in Haiti, visit www.arcrelief.org.

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Indian ambassador to deliver public lecture at U of M May 18

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Meera Shankar is the Indian ambassador to the United States.

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

May 13, 2010

Meera Shankar, Indian ambassador to the United States, will deliver a public lecture, "U.S.-India Knowledge Partnership: Emerging Opportunities" 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 18 in the University of Minnesota Bell Museum auditorium, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public.

This is the first official visit to Minnesota by Ambassador Shankar. Her three-day visit to the state (May 17-20) follows a trade mission Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty took to India in 2007. She is the guest of the Minnesota Trade Office and will promote and strengthen commercial, cultural, educational and humanitarian ties between Minnesota and India.

India is Minnesota's 20th biggest export market.

The lecture is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Office of International Programs, the India Association of Minnesota, TiE Minnesota, India Chamber of Commerce and the Minnesota International Center.

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Setting time limits for hunting and fishing, rather than quotas, may help maintain wildlife populations, U of M researcher says



Craig Packer is an ecologist at the University of Minnesota

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/13/2010) —Hunting and fishing quotas limit the number of game animals or fish an individual may take based on harvests from the previous year. But according to a new study co-authored by University of Minnesota ecologist Craig Packer, this strategy may jeopardize wildlife populations.

The authors recommend that wildlife managers rethink policies for sustainable utilization. Setting limits on the number of days allowed for hunting and fishing rather than the number of trophies would be a more effective way to ensure continued supply and to prevent extinction.

Results of the study are published in the May 13 issue of Science.

“Quotas don’t consider population fluctuations caused by disease outbreaks, harsh weather and other variables that affect animal abundance from year to year,” Packer explains. “Hunters and fishermen can work harder to make their quotas when desirable species are scarce. The extra pressure can cause populations to collapse.” Setting limits on the amount of time spent hunting could better protect fragile populations.

John Fryxell and Kevin McCann, from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, along with colleagues in Norway and the United States, developed a model based on mass action assumptions about human behavior and current hunting and fishing regulations. They tested the model using data from three populations of deer and moose from Canada and Norway over a 20- year period. Packer’s work on the impact of trophy hunting on lion populations in Africa and cougars in the United States, helped to inspire the current study.

The problem is exacerbated by the traditional practice of open access, Fryxell noted. Hunters and fishermen tend to choose spots based on word of mouth, which travels slowly. By the time they are well known, popular sites may already have shrinking populations and visitors may need to work harder and longer to reach quotas, which further endanger the species. Once populations are depleted, restoring them is a challenge.

“It can take decades for large animal populations to recover from collapses, as we know from our disastrous experience with cod stocks off the coast of Newfoundland, Fryxell said. “We need to make strategic long-term changes to make a difference.”

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U of M Board of Regents sets presidential search process

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/13/2010) —During a work session today, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents discussed a formal search process for selecting the 16th president of the university. President Robert Bruininks concludes his term as president in June 2011 and plans on returning to the faculty.

"One of the board's most important responsibilities is choosing a president for the university," said board Chair Clyde Allen. "This will be an open and fair process that involves the university community and the entire state."

The board will be using a national search consultant to advise the board on search features, identify potential candidates, handle candidate inquiries and provide logistical assistance.

A presidential search advisory committee, appointed by the board and chaired by a regent, will consist of internal and external stakeholders. Allen said it will "reflect the diverse demographics of the university and the state of Minnesota."

The outlined steps in the search process are as follows:

0. Board approves search plan;
1. Board selects desired leadership characteristics for a new president and appoints a search advisory committee;
2. Search advisory committee recruits pool of candidates, reviews their qualifications and selects candidates for initial interviews;
3. Search advisory committee conducts interviews and forwards semi-finalists to board;
4. Board reviews semi-finalists and publicly names finalists;
5. Finalists visit campus for public interviews by the board and meetings with campus community;
6. Board selects president.

The board expects to launch an informational website about the search process in the coming weeks.

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University of Minnesota unveils new Central Corridor construction website for students, faculty, staff and visitors

www.lightrail.umn.edu is go-to site for info on campus road construction

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/14/2010) —The University of Minnesota unveiled a new website this week providing Central Corridor Light Rail Transit line construction updates.

The site (www.lightrail.umn.edu) is where members of the university community and visitors can go to find a convenient, central reference for navigating the university's Twin Cities campus as Central Corridor construction gets underway this month.

"This summer will be the beginning of a very busy construction season that will cause traffic congestion around campus. We want to provide information on construction projects and route changes so faculty, students, staff and visitors have the information they need to plan ahead and avoid frustration and delays," says Kathleen O'Brien, vice president for University Services. "We hope people will take the time to do their 'homework,' use these tools and ease their trip to campus."

Lightrail.umn.edu will feature maps detailing construction impacts as well as regularly updated information on road and sidewalk closures; detours; and parking restrictions. In addition, the site will provide links to the official construction information provided by the Metropolitan Council, which is managing the project.

Once completed, the Central Corridor will connect St. Paul to Minneapolis through the university's East and West Bank campuses, with three transit stations planned for the campus area.

For the Metropolitan Council's Central Corridor project website, see www.centralcorridor.org.

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Ertugrul Tuzcu assumes University of Minnesota Alumni Association presidency

A native of Turkey, Tuzcu is a longtime Twin Cities retail industry executive

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/17/2010) —Ertugrul Tuzcu, former president and chief operating officer of Eden Prairie-based Lifetouch National School Studios, has been elected volunteer national president of the 60,000-member University of Minnesota Alumni Association for 2010-11. He is the organization's 74th president.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to be the alumni association's volunteer president at this critical time for the University of Minnesota," says Tuzcu. "Now more than ever, with the economic pressures on the university, we need to find new ways to engage with and connect our alumni to their alma mater. I look forward to helping set the alumni association's new five-year strategic plan over my next year in office."

Tuzcu, (M.S. '78), will officially assume the presidency on July 1. Outgoing volunteer national president Archie Givens, '66, '68, presented Tuzcu with the president's gavel at the alumni association's annual celebration on April 24.

"I look forward to working with Ertugrul to make sure the alumni association is a relevant advocate for this great university and to improve the services and opportunities we offer to alumni," says Phil Esten, CEO of the alumni association. "His business background and passion for the university will greatly help us as we chart the alumni association's new course for the coming years."

A member of the board of directors since 2004, Tuzcu has given volunteer leadership to the association's finance/audit and marketing and communications committees. He led the way to developing the alumni association's identifiable brand and new interactive website.

Prior to joining Lifetouch, he had a 29-year career working his way up at Dayton's, Marshall Fields and Macy's to become executive vice president of stores.

Born and raised in Turkey where he completed his undergraduate education, Tuzcu came to Minnesota in 1976 to attend the University of Minnesota to achieve his master's degree from the Institute of Technology. His personal interests include travel, sports, music, reading and spending time with his family. He resides in Minneapolis' Lowry neighborhood with his wife Karen and daughter, Zeynep.

Also assuming new leadership roles on the board on July 1 are:

- **Mary McLeod**, president-elect
- **Maureen Reed**, first vice president
- **Kent Horsager**, vice president
- **Susan Adams Loyd**, vice president
- **Kipling Thacker**, vice president
- **Patrick Schott**, secretary-treasurer

New board members include:

- **Dave Abbruzzese**, Southeast USA representative
- **John Campe**, Southeast Minnesota representative
- **Linda Hofflander**, at-large representative
- **Dan McDonald**, at-large representative
- **Tom McDonald**, Northeast USA representative
- **Beth Pinkney**, at-large representative
- **Patricia Spence**, Central Minnesota representative

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a 60,000-member organization whose members are ambassadors for the excellent teaching and breakthrough research that happens at the University every day. For more information, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org or call (612) 624-2323.

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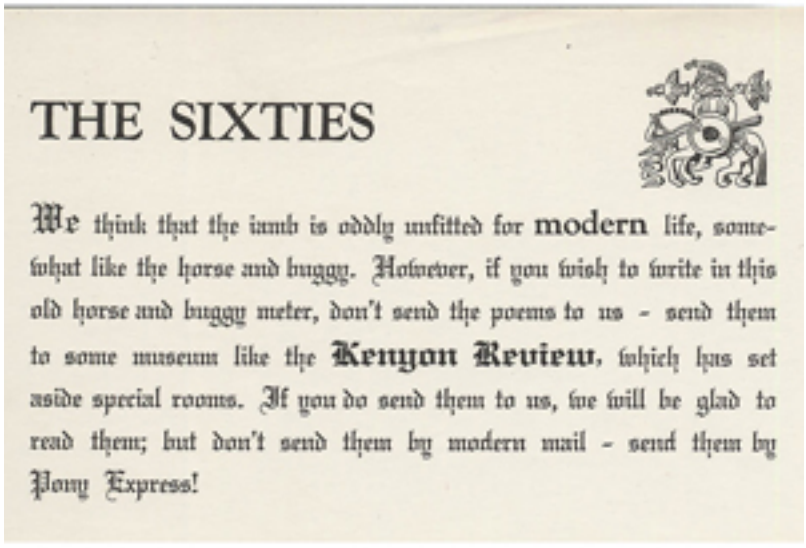
News

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Robert Bly Papers now available for research at University of Minnesota Libraries

Media Note: Digital images available on request


THE SIXTIES

We think that the iamb is oddly unfitted for modern life, somewhat like the horse and buggy. However, if you wish to write in this old horse and buggy meter, don't send the poems to us - send them to some museum like the Kenyon Review, which has set aside special rooms. If you do send them to us, we will be glad to read them; but don't send them by modern mail - send them by Pony Express!

An example of the work that will be on display at the University of Minnesota Libraries' newly-opened Robert Bly collection.

Contacts: Marlo Welshons, University of Minnesota Libraries, welsh066@umn.edu, (612) 625-9148
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/17/2010) —The University of Minnesota Libraries has announced that the papers of Robert Bly -- internationally recognized poet, translator, social critic and author -- are now open to the public.

Appointments to use the Robert Bly Papers in the Elmer L. Andersen Library reading room (open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.) can be made by contacting mssref@umn.edu or (612) 624-8812. A detailed finding aid of the collection is at http://special.lib.umn.edu/findaid/xml/mss081.xml. Selected materials are available online at http://digital.lib.umn.edu/pachyderm/robertbly.

When purchased by the Libraries in 2006, the appraiser John Wronoski of Boston assessed Bly as "by any account among the most important of living poets" and his archive as "among the most extensive and complete we have encountered or of which we are aware for any author of his generation (or a subsequent generation)."

Now fully processed, the collection includes manuscripts, journals, his extensive correspondence with many writers including James Wright, Donald Hall and James Dickey, audiovisual items, photographs, publisher proofs, news clippings, scrapbooks, school assignments from childhood through Harvard and the State University of Iowa, his service in the U.S. Navy, as well as materials from his career in writing, translating and publishing poetry, prose and plays.

This comprehensive collection provides an invaluable resource to scholars and admirers of Bly's distinguished body of work and preserves the legacy of one of the world's greatest living writers. The primary source materials provide opportunities for research in many subjects, including the artistic process of creating poetry, prose, and plays; analysis of changes in 20th century poetry; Vietnam War protest documentation; Men's Movement development and continuation; translation of poetry from various original languages; and the history of 20th century publishing.

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More than 1,000 high school students to converge at the U of M for lively world language classes

40-minute mini-classes include *Swahili: Beyond Hakuna Matata*; *Origami: The Japanese Art of Paper Folding* and *German Music Game: Deutschland Idol!*

Media Note: During the event, media should contact Kelly O'Brien at (612) 227-9102 or check in with her on the ground floor of Folwell Hall

What: World Languages Day
When: 9:45 a.m. to 12:05 p.m. Tuesday, May 18
Where: Jones and Folwell Halls, University of Minnesota east bank campus

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May 17, 2010

More than 1,000 Minnesota high school students are expected to participate in the seventh annual University of Minnesota World Languages Day Tuesday, May 18. Language students will attend three 40-minute mini-classes about and in 24 of the 40 foreign languages taught at the U of M. A few of the class titles include: *Swahili: Beyond Hakuna Matata*; *Delices de France* class ("Delicacies of France" class); *The Korean Alphabet in 40 Minutes*; and *How Many Ways Could a Roman Stick Out His Tongue*?

Most of the 60 classes are taught in English, with a selection taught in French, German and Spanish. Classes are very fast-paced and include verbal language practice through games, song, comedy and even food. World Languages Day gives Minnesota students an opportunity to explore language beyond what they are learning in high school, and helps them develop new cultural and global perspectives.

World Languages Day is presented by the College of Liberal Arts' Language Center. The Language Center's goal is to enhance second language instruction at the University of Minnesota. In keeping with this overall goal, the center provides audio, video and computer facilities and equipment, assists in the preparation of instructional material for audio, video and computer language use, and offers training and consultation to instructors concerning the application of new instructional technologies.

The university's College of Liberal Arts offers 40 languages taught through nine departments. Offerings include the languages the Classical world, Somali, Swahili, Arabic, Vietnamese, Hmong, Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Hindi, Urdu, Turkish, Dakota, Ojibwe, most European languages and others.

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Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment and Minnesota Corn Growers announce jointly funded projects

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/17/2010) —The Minnesota Corn Research & Promotion Council (MCR&PC) and the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE), a signature program of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, recently announced the two organizations have agreed to cooperatively fund five research projects in 2010. All five projects are being conducted in whole or in part by the University of Minnesota.

"The MCGA – IREE funding partnership reflects the significant overlap of the goals of both organizations, said MCR&PC Chair Myron "Mickey" Peterson, a corn and soybean farmer from Renville County. "MCR&PC and IREE are both committed to rural development in Minnesota and to ensuring that our air, water and land remain healthy and productive," Peterson said. "Both organizations also recognize the importance of increasing our national energy security, through development of home-grown, renewable bioenergy."

"We're pleased to partner with the MCGA to support these research projects," said Richard "Dick" Hemmingsen, IREE director. "These efforts will advance our mission of promoting economic development; sustainable, healthy, and diverse ecosystems; and national energy security."

MCR&PC has committed over $500,000 to the projects, with IREE pledging nearly $140,000.

The following projects have been funded jointly by MCR&PC and IREE:

Adding value to ethanol production by-products (distiller's grains) through production of bio-char and bio-oil -- United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service / University of Minnesota

The goal of this project is to capture more energy from the ethanol co-product – distillers' grains – while at the same time producing a potential soil-improvement product called bio-char. The potential long-term outcomes of this project are the development of pathways to produce on-farm energy using an ethanol co-product (distillers grains, usually used as a livestock feed), as well as to further decrease the carbon footprint of corn farming by returning more carbon to the field.

Densification of corn stover used for renewable fuel – University of Minnesota, Morris

This project investigates and evaluates equipment that is best suited to prepare bulk corn stover (corn stalks and leaves) for the process of converting it to energy. Ultimately, the project is expected to provide information necessary to develop portable densification equipment for use near the point at which stover is collected in the fields. Currently, transportation costs of low-density stover makes the process of converting it to energy cost prohibitive.

Catalytic gasification of corn residues – University of Minnesota

This project investigates the "gasification" of corn stalks, leaves and cobs, as well as distillers grains, in order to produce transportation fuels, dimethyl ether and ammonia. This process could result in more versatile and less expensive approach to converting solid biomass into liquid transportation fuels.

Transforming corn from a commodity crop to a higher-energy multipurpose biofuel crop – University of Minnesota

Research on a new strain of high-oil corn is being conducted to better understand the genetics behind high-oil content and how to efficiently transfer this trait to high-yielding corn varieties. The study includes an economic analysis of the procedure which will help guide future research.

Ethanol fermentation CO2 utilization as a direct feedstock component for commercial algae production -- American Algae, LLC

American Algae is developing a proprietary system to commercially produce algae on a large scale with a minimum physical footprint. Researchers hypothesize that an ethanol plant can be a complimentary host to this technology system.

The project will collect raw carbon dioxide from an operating ethanol plant's fermentation process and assess its utility as a critical nutrient in the growth of algae for biofuels production. The project will utilize the University of Minnesota's extensive database and knowledge of algae strains for testing.

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University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment launches NorthStar Initiative to address grand sustainability challenges

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/17/2010) —The University of Minnesota is launching a unique new collaboration with some of the world's most influential decision makers from the private sector, government, consulting and non-governmental organizations. As part of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, members of the NorthStar Initiative for Sustainable Enterprise (NISE) will collectively work toward solutions to global sustainability challenges.

NorthStar's consortium participants, along with University of Minnesota faculty are meeting every six months to identify barriers to, and opportunities for, environmental and social innovation. This ongoing dialogue informs a parallel research agenda, generating new and actionable knowledge. Research projects currently underway focus on identifying drivers for increased material cycling and metrics for framing sustainable consumer choices.

"Ultimately, we are attempting to transform how the university works with practitioner experts to create and apply knowledge," said Tim Smith, director of the NorthStar Initiative for Sustainable Enterprise. "Today's environmental and social challenges are too big for any single organization, so we need to develop new ways of leveraging existing understanding, tackling information gaps and sharing innovative solutions across sectors."

NorthStar participants represent some of the nation's leading companies and organizations including 3M, Accenture, Andersen Corp., Aurora Strategic Advisors, Aveda, Best Buy, Cities Management, Dell Inc., Domini Social Investment LLC, Faegre & Benson LLP, General Mills, Great Plains Institute, Green Seal Inc., The Heinz Center, InterfaceRAISE, The Marvin Companies, Medtronic Inc., Minnesota Environmental Initiative (MEI), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Procter and Gamble, Science Museum of Minnesota, Tennant, The Nature Conservancy, Tunheim Partners, Tysvar LLC, United Nations Foundation, U.S. EPA, Worldwatch Institute and ZipCar/GoLoco.

The initiative's next meeting will take place May 20-21 at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Greg Allgood, director of Proctor and Gamble's Children's Safe Drinking Water program, will deliver the keynote address. Discussion panels will focus on designing for sustainable consumption, creating value through exchange relationships and energy, water and ecosystem integration. Outcomes from these discussions will form a series of research projects to be announced by mid-summer.

The meeting is by invitation-only. Members of the media are encouraged to contact Todd Reubold, Institute on the Environment director of communications (reub0002@umn.edu), for interview requests and further information.

The NorthStar Initiative for Sustainable Enterprise (NISE), a unique program of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, is helping organizations address complex sustainability challenges by aligning both private and public interests. NISE takes a collaborative approach to research and information exchange, leveraging expertise from multiple sectors to address complex environmental issues. NISE provides an opportunity for industries, governments and individuals to move beyond incremental solutions and marginal "greening" efforts to more meaningful, systemic change, by sharing knew knowledge and pioneering solutions without diminishing the market's power to innovate. For more information, please visit: http://environment.umn.edu/nise.

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U of M study finds rising levels of dioxins from common soap ingredient in Mississippi River sediments

Dioxins in general decreasing, but those derived from triclosan increasing



Researchers collected water samples at Lake Pepin in southeastern Minnesota for this study.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/18/2010) —Specific dioxins derived from the antibacterial agent triclosan, used in many hand soaps, deodorants, dishwashing liquids and other consumer products, account for an increasing proportion of total dioxins in Mississippi River sediments, according to University of Minnesota research.

The study appears online in the May 18 issue of the journal Environmental Science and Technology.

The researchers, from the university's Institute of Technology (soon to be College of Science and Engineering), found that over the last 30 years, the levels of the four dioxins derived from triclosan have risen by 200 to 300 percent, while levels of all the other dioxins have dropped by 73 to 90 percent.

In April, the Food and Drug Administration announced it would study the safety of triclosan, which has been linked to disruptions of hormonal function and may also play a role in the evolution of bacterial resistance to antibiotics. In papers published in 2003 and 2009, university civil engineering professor William Arnold and his colleague Kristopher McNeill, a former professor in the university's Department of Chemistry, discovered that triclosan, when exposed to sunlight, generated a specific suite of four dioxins.

In the current study spearheaded by Jeff Buth, a recent Ph.D. graduate in chemistry (supervised by Arnold and McNeill), the researchers examined sediment core samples from Lake Pepin, an enlargement of the Mississippi River 120 miles downstream from the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area. The sediment cores, containing a record of pollutant accumulation in the lake for the past 50 years, were analyzed for triclosan, the four dioxins derived from triclosan, and the entire family of dioxin chemicals. The study was a collaborative effort between researchers at the University of Minnesota, Pace Analytical (Minneapolis), the Science Museum of Minnesota and Virginia Tech.

“These four dioxins only come from triclosan. They didn’t exist in Lake Pepin before triclosan was introduced,” Arnold said. “In the most current sediments, these triclosan-derived dioxins account for about 30 percent of the total dioxin mass.”

Triclosan was first added to commercial liquid hand soap in 1987, and by 2001 about 76 percent of commercial liquid hand soaps contained it, researchers say. About 96 percent of triclosan from consumer products is disposed of in residential drains, leading to large loads of the chemical in water entering wastewater treatment plants.

Triclosan is incompletely removed during the wastewater treatment process, and when treated wastewater is released to the environment, sunlight converts some of the triclosan (and related compounds) into dioxins. Triclosan and the dioxins ended up in Lake Pepin sediments by sticking to organic particles in the river, which then sank when they reached the calmer waters of the lake.

The toxicity of the dioxins derived from triclosan currently is not well understood, nor is the extent of their distribution in the environment at large, Arnold says.

To read the complete study, visit http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es1001105.

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U of M opens new research center focused on research and practice involving Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/19/2010) —Faculty experts from five U of M colleges are collaborating within the newly opened the Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) Education Center. Housed in the College of Education and Human Development's Interdisciplinary Research Center, the STEM Education Center is focused on developing and measuring best practices in teaching and learning when it comes to science, technology, engineering, mathematics and related disciplines.

"As careers and even day-to-day tasks become more technical, students must learn about STEM-related fields to succeed. Helping students understand how science and math fit into their everyday lives and guiding teachers in the best ways to educate and measure comprehension in these areas are key to ensuring students graduate with the knowledge they need," explains the center's co-director, associate professor Gillian Roehrig. "Graduating students who are well-prepared for STEM careers is also critical to the economic success of our region." Assistant professor Tamara Moore from the College of Education and Human Development's Department of Curriculum and Instruction co-directs with Roehrig.

The STEM Education Center already has a number of collaborative research projects underway involving outreach to youth and educators. They include:

- Reach for the Sky: A three-year partnership with the White Earth 21st Century After School Program and schools on the White Earth Reservation that uses an inquiry-based curriculum, experiential design, cultural relevance and a youthful perspective to help make STEM engaging to students. Content focuses on energy and alternative energy sources. Read more about Reach for the Sky in Tradition and Innovation.

- 3M STEM Fellowship Program: Funding from the 3M Foundation supports U of M graduate students who are helping with professional and curriculum development and assessment in targeted schools that are integrating STEM in their curricula. The 3M Fellows are working with Mahtomedi Public Schools, North Saint Paul Schools, and South Washington County Schools.

- The MEDIA Project: An NSF-funded collaboration with six other universities to study the use of model-eliciting activities, which are complex, open-ended, real-world problems rooted in realistic contexts, for K-12 and undergraduate STEM education, especially related to engineering.

These projects reflect the STEM Education Center's four research priorities: STEM integration to deepen students' contextual understanding and interest in each discipline; understanding how students learn and understand scientific and mathematical concepts; preparation of STEM instructors for pre-kindergarten through postsecondary levels; and evaluation and measurement of instruction and student learning.

For more information about the STEM Education Center, see http://www.cehd.umn.edu/stem.

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New Orleans school experiment not serving needs of all students, says U of M Law School's Institute on Race & Poverty

School system fails to provide equal education opportunity, says new study

Contacts: Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/20/2010) —After Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of the public school infrastructure in New Orleans, Louisiana embarked on a massive effort to rebuild the entire New Orleans public school system, launching the nation's most extensive charter school experiment. The goal was to provide a quality education to all New Orleans students, regardless of race, socioeconomic class, or where they live.

The University of Minnesota Law School's Institute on Race and Poverty (IRP) evaluated the success of the rebuilding efforts in a new study -- "The State of Public Schools In Post-Katrina New Orleans: The Challenge of Creating Equal Opportunity" -- which found that the rebuilt public school system fails to adequately provide equal educational opportunity to all New Orleans students.

The study finds that the state-driven reorganization has created a "separate but unequal tiered system of schools" which sorts white students and a relatively small share of students of color into selective, high-performing schools, while steering the majority of low-income students of color to high-poverty, low-performing schools.

The study also finds racial and economic segregation in the city and metropolitan area to be a continuing concern, still undermining the life chances and educational opportunities of low-income students and students of color. It documents that school choice in the form of charter schools does not by itself empower students of color to escape the negative consequences of segregation, especially when it leads them to racially-segregated, high-poverty, low-performing schools.

The IRP report details how the growing charter sector in New Orleans has undermined equality of opportunity in the city's schools by directly selecting their students (through selective admission requirements in the case of Orleans Parish School Board- and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education-run charter sectors) and by skimming the most motivated students (through their enrollment strategies, discipline and expulsion practices, transportation policies, location decisions, and marketing and recruitment efforts in the case of Recovery School District-run charters). The report shows that school performance varies significantly across five sectors, and not so much by charter versus traditional schools, because schools in each sector have different abilities to select their students.

The report criticizes the single-strategy approach that exclusively relies on the expansion of the charter sector, recommending instead a multi-pronged strategy which expands school choice on a regional basis. It calls for a more balanced, regional approach to public education, including a renewed commitment to the city's traditional public schools and enhanced choices for students in the form of regional magnet schools and new inter-district programs.

The study was commissioned by the Loyola Institute for Quality and Equity in Education in New Orleans. A copy of the report's executive summary can be found on the institute's website at (http://www.irpumn.org).

The University of Minnesota Law School's Institute on Race & Poverty (IRP) investigates ways that policies and practices disproportionately affect people of color and the disadvantaged. The IRP works to ensure that people have equal access to opportunity, and to help areas to develop in ways that will promote access to opportunity and maintain regional stability. Visit the institute's website at http://www.irpumn.org.

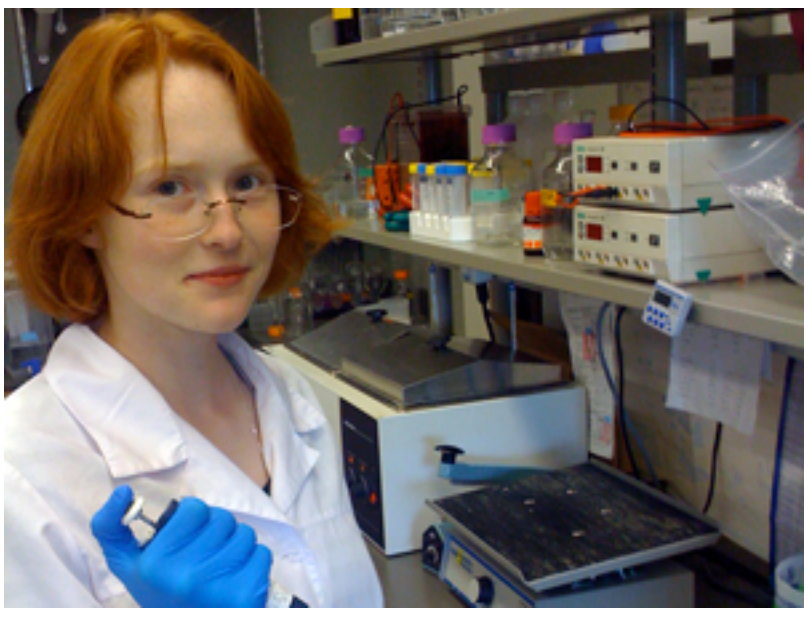
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University of Minnesota gets $1.5 million grant from Howard Hughes Medical Institute to engage students in research



A new $1.5 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute will allow the U of M to engage undergraduate students in cutting-edge research.

Media Note: For a high-resolution photo of a College of Biological Sciences student conducting research, please contact jfalk@umn.edu.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/20/2010) —The College of Biological Sciences at the University of Minnesota has been awarded $1.5 million from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) for an innovative program to improve undergraduate biology education by engaging all undergraduates who take biology courses in hands-on research.

“This grant will make it possible to achieve our goal of providing authentic research experiences to every student who enters our classrooms, whether they began with us as freshmen, transferred to CBS from a community college, or are simply fulfilling a general education requirement,” said Robin Wright, associate dean for academic and faculty affairs and director of the HHMI program.

The Minnesota Mississippi Metagenome Project (M3P) will provide many of these research opportunities. M3P is an effort to use cutting edge genomic approaches to identify microorganisms at the headwaters of the Mississippi and evaluate the impact of agricultural fertilizers, bacterial contamination, and other kinds of pollution on microbial ecology at different points along the river. The four-year award will create opportunities for about 800 transfer students and 12,000 non-science majors to gain a deeper understanding of the nature, process and limitations of science through research experience.

The award will support eight postdoctoral HHMI Teaching Fellows who will be paired with HHMI Faculty Fellows to develop research curriculum and learn teaching skills. The award also supports creation of the Northstar Institute for Science Education, where the Teaching and Faculty Fellows will work together to design educational materials and evaluate the results of their educational research.

“We expect that the collaboration of faculty and postdoctoral researchers catalyzed by the Northstar Institute will promote a rich culture of scholarship throughout our college,” Wright said.

Postdoctoral researchers are scientists who have completed their Ph.D. degrees and are spending several years working on a research project with a faculty mentor. Many postdocs choose careers as professors where they are expected to teach undergraduate classes. However, their postdoctoral training typically focuses on their scientific research. When they become professors, they learn to teach by trial and error.

“We want postdocs to know that teaching is as important as research and that it can be approached scientifically,” Wright says. “That will make them more effective teachers.”

CBS aspires to have the best undergraduate biology curriculum in the United States. A recent external review confirmed that the college is making progress toward that goal. The HHMI grant makes it possible to take the next steps to continue along that trajectory, Wright says.

The award is one of 50 grants totaling $79 million awarded by HHMI to universities around the country to inspire creative strategies to strengthen high school and undergraduate biology education. HHMI announced the grants on Thursday, May 20.

HHMI, the nation’s largest private funder of science education, has spent $1.6 billion since 1985 to reform life sciences education from elementary through graduate school. Their goal is to encourage professors to think as hard about teaching as they do about research.

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No change in plans for the June 27 U2 concert at U of M

Contacts: University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/21/2010) —The launch of the U2 360° tour set for June 3rd in Salt Lake City has been postponed after lead singer Bono had emergency back surgery today, according to concert producer Live Nation.

There has been no change in plans for the June 27th U2 concert at the University of Minnesota TCF Bank Stadium. The university has no further information about the tour at this time.

Additional tour information will be forthcoming, according to Live Nation.

Visit www.u2.com for complete tour information and updates.

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University of Minnesota/Indian Institute of Technology team wins Acara Challenge 2010

Students to launch business focused on clean energy for cooking in Charba, India

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Erin Binder, Acara Institute, binderin@gmail.com, (612) 290-6343

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/25/2010) —A team of students from the University of Minnesota and the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee recently won the Acara Challenge 2010. The Acara Challenge focuses on creating businesses that address clean water and clean energy for underserved populations in India.

The team – operating under the business name BioServ – developed an affordable, weekly maintenance program for previously-installed biogas units in the community. Since respiratory illness through cooking is the eighth leading cause of death in India, the business aims to dramatically improve indoor air pollution while also providing jobs to maintenance workers in small towns throughout India.

The four University of Minnesota students on the team are: Judd Eder, a full-time MBA student, Carlson School of Management; Katheryn Hope, a 2010 graduate with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, Institute of Technology (College of Science and Engineering); Anthony Jakubiak, a senior majoring in civil engineering, Institute of Technology (College of Science and Engineering); and Charles O'Neil, a 2010 graduate with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, Institute of Technology (College of Science and Engineering).

“In India, hundreds of thousands of biogas plants have been installed for home use,” says Eder. “Most of the units are not being used due to a variety of maintenance issues. BioServ will be equipped to tackle these issues, and in doing so make a real and lasting impact in rural India.”

The BioServ team will travel to India in June to conduct further research. In July, the team will return to the University of Minnesota’s Institute on the Environment for an on-campus incubation period during which time they will work with a commercialization team to refine and launch their business.

“Clean energy and clean water are global issues that need local, practical business solutions,” says professor Julian Marshall, co-director of the Acara Institute, faculty advisor to the team and civil engineering faculty member in the University of Minnesota's Institute of Technology. “It’s a pleasure working with motivated students and industry partners on a project that has potential for real impact.”

In addition to BioServ’s victory in the clean energy category, the Acara Challenge awarded the top prize in the clean water group to the team from the University of Illinois, Chicago/Vellore Institute of Technology. Their business – JAL Water for Life – plans to establish a water purification and distribution company that uses a single-basin solar still along with a basic ultraviolet system to desalinate and purify 100,000 liters of water a day.

Twenty-five teams with over 200 students from India and the United States competed in this year’s challenge.

“Our expansion from three schools last year to 14 this year indicates how strongly motivated students are when it comes to solving pressing environment issues with real business solutions” said Fred Rose, executive director of the Acara Institute. “Our industry partners and mentors also played a critical role in supporting the teams in this year’s challenge.”

For more information on the Acara Institute and the Acara Challenge 2010, visit: http://acarainstitute.org.

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U of M seminar to provide job-seeking tips for students, recent grads

Media Note: Media interested in covering this event are encouraged to contact the University News Service for more information and to RSVP.



U of M seniors and recent graduates can receive job-seeking tips, as well as a chance to network with potential employers, at Thursday's "You've Graduated: What Now?" seminar at Coffman Memorial Union.

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

May 26, 2010

With graduation completed for the University of Minnesota's class of 2010, many recent graduates have begun their job searches. An upcoming seminar, called "You've Graduated: What Now?" will take place from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 27 in the Mississippi Room of Coffman Union Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

The intensive seminar will equip students with tools to search for a job in a challenging economy. Sessions will give attendees the inside scoop on how to conduct a creative job search, craft an outstanding resume, interview effectively and use social networking sites like LinkedIn to network.

Recent U of M graduates (since December 2009) and seniors could register for the seminar.

Students will also have the opportunity to network, including a speed networking session at 2 p.m., with professionals from the Minnesota Twins, Securian Financial, Target Stores, and the Mayo Clinic, among others.

The event, coordinated by the Career Services offices at the University of Minnesota, costs $10 to attend and includes lunch. More information on the event (registration is now closed) can be found at http://z.umn.edu/jobworkshop.

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University of Minnesota statement regarding verdict in the Jimmy Williams trial

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/26/2010) —The following is a statement from University of Minnesota General Counsel Mark Rotenberg regarding the verdict in the trial of Jimmy Williams vs. Tubby Smith and the University of Minnesota:

“The university respects the jury process, but respectfully disagrees that Joel Maturi or Tubby Smith did anything wrong. Refusing to hire Jimmy Williams was the right call, and the university stands behind these officials.

“This case has always been about obeying the rules. Obeying NCAA rules is key to the integrity of Gopher athletics. Tubby Smith has never had a single major violation in his 30+ years of coaching, and he’s never hired anyone with the history of multiple major NCAA violations like Jimmy Williams has. Under Joel Maturi, not a single Gophers coach has ever been hired with a record of major violations like Jimmy Williams has.

“The extraordinary amount awarded is completely unjustified by the facts, and the university and Coach Smith will be considering a variety of post-trial options, including an appeal.”

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Renowned LGBTQ lecturer Judith "Jack" Halberstam to speak at U of M June 24

Halberstam to discuss “Queer Contemporary Femininities in the Age of Lady Gaga”

Contacts: Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720
Alicia Cordes, Office for Equity and Diversity, acordes@umn.edu, (612) 625-0498

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (05/27/2010) —Judith “Jack” Halberstam, a prominent queer and gender studies expert, will speak on “Queer Contemporary Femininities in the Age of Lady Gaga” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 24 at the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The lecture is planned around the commemoration of the 41st anniversary of the Stonewall riots, an important milestone in the modern American LGBTQ social movement. The lecture also takes place during the annual Twin Cities Gay Pride celebration week.

“Ultimately, we will be learning what masculinity and femininity might mean in the age of Gaga, and what Lady Gaga might represent about new and old feminisms,” says Halberstam.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota, Halberstam is a professor of English and director of the Center for Feminist Research at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Halberstam teaches courses in queer studies, gender theory, art, literature and film. Halberstam is also the author of “Female Masculinity,” “The Drag King Book,” “Skin Shows: Gothic Horror and the Technology of Monsters,” and the new book “In a Queer Time and Place: Transgender Bodies, Subcultural Lives.” For further information and photos, visit Halberstam's website at www.egomego.com/judith/home.htm.

This lecture is free and open to the public. A reception and book signing will follow in the adjacent Humphrey Atrium. Planning is underway for additional events with Halberstam; visit the GLBTA Programs Office website for updates: www.glbta.umn.edu.

This event is sponsored by the Graduate Interdisciplinary Group in Sexuality Studies, as well as the Institute for Diversity, Equity, and Advocacy (IDEA), an initiative of the university’s Office of the Vice President and Vice Provost for Equity and Diversity (OED), and the GLBTA Programs Office, which is part of the Office for Equity and Diversity. The event is co-sponsored by: Steven J. Schochet Endowment for GLBT Studies and Campus Life; the Women’s Center; the Graduate School; Queer Graduate and Professional Student Association (QGPA); Institute for Advanced Study (IAS); GLBT Studies Minor; Department of Chicano Studies; Department of American Studies; Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies; and the Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies at the University of Minnesota Libraries.

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University of Minnesota awarded grant to open research Center for International Business Education and Research

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/01/2010) —The University of Minnesota has been awarded a $1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to establish a Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) at the Carlson School of Management to increase and promote the nation's capacity for international understanding and competitiveness.

With a mission to advance the knowledge and understanding of global business issues to transform leaders, markets and solutions, the new center plans to focus on three key themes: emerging markets, environmental sustainability, and less-commonly taught languages. The U of M CIBER will serve businesses and educators in Minnesota and is expected to also become a resource for Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

"Business outreach and collaboration with companies on international issues have long been a hallmark of the Carlson School of Management," said Michael Houston, Carlson School associate dean of International Programs and U of M CIBER director. "This grant will build on and leverage what we're already doing to further benefit companies, educational institutions and other units within the University."

The center expects to introduce several business outreach activities that will better expose regional and national business leaders to sustainability as a competitive advantage and the opportunities and challenges that exist in select emerging markets.

For educators, CIBER anticipates providing:

· A summer institute for K-16 language instructors with the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA).

· A summer program for K-12 teachers on an international business topic through the University's Institute for Global Studies.

· Increased involvement of language instructors in study abroad programs.

"Being awarded a CIBER adds depth and breadth to the University of Minnesota's and the Carlson School's increasingly diverse international portfolio, and is further recognition of our dedication to introducing students to the world at every opportunity," said Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean of the University's Office of International Programs. "The grant will result in connections and outcomes that will benefit our campus, our community, our region and our world."

Minnesota's Congressional delegation and the governor's office supported the University of Minnesota's grant application. The University will match federal funds it receives over the next four years.

Officials are currently conducting a search for the center's managing director and will begin operations in the early fall.

Created by Congress in 1988 and administered by the U.S. Department of Education under Title VI, Part B of the Higher Education Act of 1965, the CIBER network links the manpower and technological needs of the United States business community with international education, language training and research capacities of universities across the country. There are now 33 centers serving as regional and national resources to business people, students and teachers at all levels.

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.

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U.S. Supreme Court grants University of Minnesota's petition to hear case involving Social Security taxes on university's medical residency programs

Contacts: Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, 612-624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/01/2010) —The following is a statement by the University of Minnesota General Counsel Mark Rotenberg on the U.S. Supreme Court agreeing to hear a case involving the university's medical students:

"This morning the United States Supreme Court granted the University of Minnesota's and Mayo's petition to hear an important case dealing with FICA (Social Security) taxes on the university's medical residency programs. This is good news for the university and for the nation's 8,000 medical residency programs and over 100,000 medical residents.

"For more than 20 years the university has been at the forefront of a legal struggle with the IRS over the question whether medical residents have to pay FICA taxes on their stipends from the university. A federal law exempts from social security taxes compensation of a student who is employed by a university and attending classes at the university. In 1998 the university won a federal appeals court decision declaring that its medical residents are eligible for the student exemption. This resulted in a refund to its medical residents and to the university of approximately $45 million. The IRS responded to this decision by adopting a regulation that excluded medical residents from the student exemption. In the case now being reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the IRS regulation.

"The U.S. Supreme Court grants review in only 1% of the cases in which a petition is filed. This is only the second case involving the university ever heard by the Supreme Court since the university's founding in 1851. We are very pleased that the Supreme Court Justices will now give this case very careful consideration. The government itself has acknowledged that the question in this case involves billions of dollars in pending tax refund claims, and hundreds of millions of dollars per year in FICA taxes that must come from increasingly scarce medical education funds. In agreeing to hear this case today, the Supreme Court has acknowledged the exceptional importance of this question for medical residency programs and medical residents across the United States."

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University of Minnesota researcher finds that flooring can affect how consumers make purchase decisions

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The type of flooring beneath our feet could play a role in the purchase decision-making process, says new U of M research from the Carlson School's Institute for Research in Marketing.

Photo courtesy of Flickr.com

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/03/2010) —From teachers to hairdressers, people who stand on their feet all day will tell you that the flooring beneath them can be the difference between a good day and a bad one. But can the difference between carpet and hard tile flooring affect how you make decisions? Research published this month by Joan Meyers-Levy, a professor of marketing at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management, and author of the famed ceiling height study, suggests that the way people judge products may be influenced by the ground beneath them.

In the study, published in the June 2010 issue of the *Journal of Consumer Research*, authors Meyers-Levy and Juliet Zhu and Lan Jiang (University of British Columbia) explored the feelings evoked by the two most common flooring types in retail environments: hard vinyl tile and carpet. "When a person stands on carpeted flooring, it feels comforting," says Meyers-Levy. "But the irony is that when people stand on carpet, they will judge products that are close to them as less comforting."

The authors first conducted a study to show that carpeting truly does evoke a greater sense of physical comfort than tiled flooring. "Given this finding, we then tackled a more practical and intriguing question," says Meyers-Levy. "Would these bodily sensations elicited by the flooring transfer to people's assessments of products that they observe while shopping?"

The researchers had participants stand on either soft pile carpet or hard tile and view products that were either close to them or moderately far away. When the products were a moderate distance away, people's judgments of them were unconsciously guided by their bodily sensations. That is, if they were standing on soft carpet and viewed a product that was moderately far away, they judged that item's appearance to be comforting. However, people who examined products while standing on this same plush carpet judged items that were close by as being less comforting than they did if the products were moderately far away. "When we look at objects that are close by, the bodily sensations elicited by the flooring are more likely to be used as a comparison standard, not an interpretive frame," states Meyers-Levy.

These findings have important implications for all brick and mortar retailers and service providers. Elements of interior décor such as flooring are more than matters of function or style. They may be directly tied to how a consumer perceives products, and that can determine whether or not the consumer purchases the good. Standing on solid ground with your consumers has always been important, but this research suggests that it may be the difference between a sale and failure to close the deal.

"Context Effects from Bodily Sensations: Examining Bodily Sensations Induced by Flooring and the Moderating Role of Product Viewing Distance." is forthcoming in the *Journal of Consumer Research* in June 2010. Joan Meyers-Levy is the Holden-Werlich School-Wide Professor of Marketing at the Carlson School. Her research examines a variety of consumer behavior issues related to visual and verbal communication, memory, information processing, and gender, as well as individual differences.

The Institute for Research in Marketing is part of the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. Established in 2005, the Institute fosters innovative, rigorous research that improves the science and practice of marketing. More information can be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute.

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U of M research helps answer age-old question of what makes musical note combinations sound pleasing

Contacts: Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801



People prefer musical chords that are harmonically related, say the results from a new U of M study.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/04/2010) —Ever since ancient times, scholars have puzzled over the reasons that some musical note combinations sound so sweet while others are just downright dreadful. The Greeks believed that simple ratios in the string lengths of musical instruments were the key, maintaining that the precise mathematical relationships endowed certain chords with a special, even divine, quality. Twentieth-century composers, on the other hand, have leaned toward the notion that musical tastes are really all in what you are used to hearing.

University of Minnesota researchers, reporting in the May 20 online edition of Current Biology, think they may have gotten closer to the truth by studying the preferences of more than 250 college students from Minnesota to a variety of musical and nonmusical sounds. "The question is, what makes certain combinations of musical notes pleasant or unpleasant?" asked Josh McDermott, who conducted the studies at the University of Minnesota before moving to New York University. "There have been a lot of claims. It might be one of the oldest questions in perception.

The University of Minnesota team, including collaborators Andriana Lehr and Andrew Oxenham, was able to independently manipulate both the harmonic frequency relations of the sounds and another quality known as beating. (Harmonic frequencies are all multiples of the same fundamental frequency. For example, notes at frequencies of 200, 300, and 400 hertz are all multiples of 100. Beating occurs when two sounds are close but not identical in frequency. Over time, the frequencies shift in and out of phase with each other, causing the sound to wax and wane in amplitude and producing an audible "wobbling" quality.)

To hear examples of sounds that study participants found both pleasant ("consonant") and unpleasant ("dissonant") visit http://bit.ly/93Oqeb. Also, to hear Oxenham discuss his research in a "University of Minnesota Moment," visit http://bit.ly/dgq4kU.

The researchers' results show that musical chords sound good or bad mostly depending on whether the notes being played produce frequencies that are harmonically related or not. Beating didn't turn out to be as important, says Oxenham. Surprisingly, the preference for harmonic frequencies was stronger in people with experience playing musical instruments. In other words, learning plays a role -- perhaps even a primary one, McDermott argues.

Whether you would get the same result in people from other parts of the world remains to be seen, McDermott says, but the effect of musical experience on the results suggests otherwise. "It suggests that Westerners learn to like the sound of harmonic frequencies because of their importance in Western music. Listeners with different experience might well have different preferences." The diversity of music from other cultures is consistent with this. "Intervals and chords that are dissonant by Western standards are fairly common in some cultures," he says. "Diversity is the rule, not the exception."

That's something that is increasingly easy to lose sight of as Western music has come to dominate radio waves all across the globe. "When all the kids in Indonesia are listening to Eminem," McDermott says, "it becomes hard to get a true sense."

Dr. Oxenham leads the Auditory Perception and Cognition Lab in the U of M's Psychology Department, where the work was completed.

"There are increasing number of people studying the science behind music and the science behind music perception and we are one of growing number of groups doing this kind of work," Oxenham says.

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New national survey finds that Americans support road safety policies once thought too contentious to implement



MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/04/2010) —Americans are overwhelmingly supportive of policies to reduce road fatalities, including many policies considered by public officials and citizens to be too contentious to implement, according to a new national survey by The Center for Excellence in Rural Safety (CERS) at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

CERS researchers recently conducted an extensive review of research related to various road safety public policies. The research finds that six public policies are particularly effective in reducing rural road fatalities, says Lee Munnich, CERS director. They include: Primary seat belt laws, sobriety checkpoints, a motorcycle helmet mandate, graduated driver's licenses, automated speed enforcement, and breathalyzer-based ignition locks.

Adoption of many of these evidence-based policies has been limited in part by a perception among some policymakers that the policies lack public support. However, the findings of this national survey call these assumptions into question, Munnich says.

Of the 1,205 people surveyed, here are the findings in each category:

- **Primary seat belt laws.** "Allowing law enforcement officials to stop and ticket drivers for failure to obey seatbelt laws." 72 percent support (42 percent "very supportive," 31 percent "somewhat supportive")
- **Sobriety checkpoints.** "Allowing law enforcement officials to stop drivers at checkpoints and ticket those driving drunk." 82 percent support (58 percent "very supportive," 25 percent "somewhat supportive")
- **Motorcycle helmet mandate.** "Requiring motorcyclists to wear a helmet." 84 percent support (67 percent "very supportive," 18 percent "somewhat supportive")
- **Graduated driver's licenses.** "Requiring new drivers to gain experience and skills." gradually over time in low-risk environments before giving them a full driver's license." 88 percent support (61 percent "very supportive," 27 percent "somewhat supportive")
- **Automated speed enforcement.** "Enforcing speed limits through the use of automated camera and radar devices." 64 percent support (29 percent "very supportive," 35 percent "somewhat supportive")
- **Breathalyzer-based ignition locks.** "Requiring people convicted of drunk driving to install a device on their car that locks the ignition if the driver fails an automated in-vehicle breathalyzer test." 88 percent support (68 percent "very supportive," 20 percent "somewhat supportive")

"The research tells us which policies save lives, but many policymakers have been assuming that the public opposed those policies," Munnich says. "But these findings show remarkably strong public support."

Large majorities of self-described conservatives, moderates, liberals, rural citizens, urban citizens and suburban citizens all supported the six policies. Males and females both overwhelmingly supported the policies, though significantly larger majorities of females supported the policies.

Overall, 91 percent of Americans said that it was important that their local lawmakers work to improve the safety of roads in their areas. Ninety-two percent of conservatives, 86 percent of moderates and 92 percent of liberals thought it was important.

"It's unusual to see this much support across-the-board for any public policy issue," Munnich says. "We know which policies save lives and we now know the public supports those policies. It will be interesting to see what policymakers do with that information."

The survey was sponsored by CERS, and conducted by Critical Insights of Portland, Maine. The findings represent the responses of a randomized national probability sample of 1,205 registered voters who drive at least once per week. The survey was conducted from March 23 to May 6, 2010. The margin of error for questions in which the entire sample is considered is +- 2.8 percent. The margin of error is higher when smaller sub-populations are analyzed.

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U of M Board of Regents to hear Bruininks' budget recommendations, appoint presidential search advisory committee

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

June 4, 2010

At its meetings next week, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents will be presented with President Robert Bruininks' recommended operating budget for fiscal year (FY) 2011 and will also take the next steps in the presidential search process. Also as part of the meeting, the board conducts its annual meeting to set meeting dates for 2010-11. In addition, the board will hold a public forum on the president's proposed operating budget at 11:30 a.m. Monday, June 14.

The budget Bruininks will present addresses a budget challenge for FY2011 of approximately $152 million, caused by a combination of state appropriation reductions, increased costs and critical investment needs. For resident undergraduate students, the budget will hold tuition to a 4.4 percent increase by using federal stimulus dollars. Also, the University of Minnesota Promise Scholarship will continue, meaning students who are eligible for the federal Pell Grant will see no tuition increase and many middle-income students will see a tuition increase smaller than 4.4 percent, or even a decrease.

The board will also appoint a presidential search advisory committee, approve a charge for that committee and discuss the characteristics they are seeking in the next president. Bruininks' contract ends in June 2011.

The schedule for the meeting is as follows:

Thursday, June 10

8:15 – 9:30 a.m., Audit Committee, East Committee Room.

9:45 – 11:45 a.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will review and act on a certification resolution pertaining to the issuance of debt for state-supported biomedical facilities.

9:45 – 11:45 a.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will hear from a panel of experts on the impact of state and federal health care reform legislation on the UPlan. Included on the panel is Minnesota Commissioner of Human Services Cal Ludeman, director of the Carlson School's Medical Industry Leadership Institute Stephen Parente, Senior Vice President Frank Cerra and Professor Fred Morrison, who is a member of the university's benefits advisory committee and health care administrative work group. Athletics Director Joel Maturi will give his annual report on intercollegiate athletics. The committee will also review two policies, one pertaining to disability services and one dealing with employee recruitment and retention.

1:30 – 3:30 p.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will conduct a public hearing on proposed changes to traffic regulation ordinances and take action on the proposal. It will also act on the campus master plan for the Crookston campus and review and act on schematic plans for the cancer/cardiovascular projects that are part of the biomedical discovery district. The committee also will review and act on amended project boundaries for the UMore Park sand and gravel resources project. In addition, the committee will review and act on a resolution to nominate the Northrop Mall District to the National Register of Historic Places.

1:30 – 3:30 p.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will act on a policy revision pertaining to the University of Minnesota Press. Vice Presdident for Research Tim Mulcahy and University Librarian Wendy Pradt Lougee will also discuss research dissemination.

3:45 – 4:45 p.m., Board meeting, Boardroom. Board Chair Clyde Allen will lead a discussion on the presidential search process. The board will appoint members to a Presidential Search Advisory Committee and will also act on the search advisory committee charge and the characteristics the board is seeking in the next president.

Friday, June 11

9 a.m. – noon. Board of Regents meeting, boardroom. The board conducts its annual meeting first, setting meeting dates for the next academic year. The monthly meeting convenes immediately after, where the board will hear the annual report of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association. The board will also act on the president's recommended FY2011 capital improvement budget. In addition, Bruininks and CFO Richard Pfutzenreuter will present the president's annual operating budget for FY2011 (which the board acts on later in June).

Monday, June 14

11:30 a.m., Public forum on the president's recommended operating budget for FY2011, boardroom.

More information on the Board of Regents and live streaming of the board meetings can be found http://www.umn.edu/regents.

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U of M Extension Hennepin County Master Gardener Tour slated for July 10

Contacts: Catherine Dehdashti, University Extension, ced@umn.edu, (612) 625-0237

June 4, 2010

The third annual University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Learning Garden Tour in Hennepin County will take place from 9 to 4 p.m., Saturday July 10.

Visit eight beautiful gardens designed and maintained by Extension Master Gardeners, offering great inspiration along with the latest gardening techniques. This year's gardens are clustered in a convenient route through the Plymouth and Wayzata area.

Representing a multitude of garden styles and interests, find your favorite among native plant gardens, butterfly gardens, waterfront gardens, kitchen gardens, container gardens and more. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer all gardening questions. Eight on-site demonstrations provide an educational dimension, for both beginning and advanced gardeners, and include:

- Native Plants – How to Go Wild in Your Yard
- Landscaping for Family Life
- Container Gardening – Spotlight on Welcome
- Kitchen Gardens: Grow your Passion for Flavor
- Gardening with Wildlife (includes live raptor demo)
- Inviting the Pollinators – Ideas to Attract Those Bees, Butterflies and Birds We All Love
- Serenity Garden – Indulge Your Senses
- Gardening is a Process – Learning What Works for You

Tickets are $15 per person prior to the event or $20 the day of the tour. Tickets can be ordered online at http://www.hcmg.umn.edu, at the Hennepin County Master Gardener office at 479 Prairie Center Drive, Eden Prairie, or by calling (612) 596-2130.

Admission includes entry to all eight gardens, brochure with garden descriptions, locations and driving instructions, on-site demonstrations, and free handouts on selected yard and garden topics. The tour will go on rain or shine. All proceeds benefit University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener community programs in Hennepin County.

As volunteers, University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners perform at least 25 hours of work in their communities each year, helping with public projects and sharing their learning with other gardeners. For more information on becoming a Master Gardener, visit http://www.mg.umn.edu.

For more gardening resources from University of Minnesota Extension, visit http://www.extension.umn.edu/GardenInfo.

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University of Minnesota does not plan to revisit stadium alcohol policy, president and Board of Regents chair say

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/07/2010) —Officials at the University of Minnesota said today the recent change in state law would not impact university policy regarding alcohol sales in TCF Bank Stadium, Williams and Mariucci Arenas.

“We appreciate that a number of legislators worked to find a middle ground on this issue,” said university President Robert Bruininks. “But, the university did not seek out this legislative change and has been very clear that it was never our intent to provide alcohol in the general seating areas of our athletic venues.”

In 2009, after state law was changed to require the university to sell alcohol everywhere in the stadium if it was provided anywhere, the board voted to remove it from campus athletic events altogether. This change resulted in a substantial reduction in university revenues from premium seating areas. Despite this impact, Bruininks said that after consultation with the leadership of the Board of Regents, he would not be asking the board to revisit the issue.

“This is a college campus,” said Board of Regents Chair Clyde Allen. “We have the well-being of our students and community to consider. This new law does not change the board’s strong position that we will not be selling alcohol in general seating areas, where many of our fans are students.”

No university in the Big Ten Conference sells and/or serves alcohol in general seating areas of athletic venues. Two schools, including the University of Minnesota, have completely “dry” stadiums. The rest allow alcohol to be sold/served in limited access, premium-seating areas.

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U.S. Departments of Commerce and Energy to promote smart grid as job creation opportunity during event at the University of Minnesota

The Business of Smart Grid conference is scheduled for June 9 on the St. Paul campus

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/07/2010) —Mary Saunders, deputy assistant secretary of Commerce for Manufacturing and Services with the U.S. Department of Commerce, and Steve Hauser, vice president of Grid Integration with the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), will be featured speakers at the Business of Smart Grid conference at the University of Minnesota on Wednesday, June 9.

The event is being sponsored by the Minnesota Trade Office, a division of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, and the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE), a signature program of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment.

The term "smart grid" refers to the use of intelligent monitoring systems as a means of more efficiently delivering electricity from power producers to end-users.

The Business of Smart Grid conference will look at how recent, significant government and industry investment in smart grid technology will impact emerging business and job creation opportunities in the state and region.

The daylong event will feature national speakers on topics including:

- The smart grid concept
- U.S. government policy priorities for smart grid and clean energy
- U.S. Department of Energy vision for the smart grid
- International and export business opportunities in smart grid
- Venture capital and investment in a smart grid future
- The communications backbone – technology standards critical to smart grid
- Smart grid domestic and international opportunities
- The promise of smart grid – an engine for job growth

"The University of Minnesota is pleased to join the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development in sponsoring this important conference," said Rod Larkins, IREE associate director. "Successful research and development of smart grid technology, and moving this technology into full market penetration, will position Minnesota and the U.S. for significant job growth and economic development in coming years."

Saunders' presentation will focus on U.S. clean energy and export policy priorities. Hauser will highlight NREL's new programs and partnerships and national efforts to create a smarter grid.

Saunders will be arriving in the Twin Cities on June 8 and is available for interviews before the conference (For more information, contact Cory Churches, communications and outreach specialist, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3251, cory.churches@trade.gov).

Leading the list of Minnesota experts at this event is Massoud Amin, professor in the department of electrical and computer engineering and director of the Technological Leadership Institute at the University of Minnesota. Amin is a respected international expert in smart grid technology and will also present and moderate panel discussions.

The Business of Smart Grid conference will take place at the Northstar Ballroom, St. Paul Student Center, University of Minnesota, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul. For more information and to register, visit: www.environment.umn.edu/news_events/events.html.

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Building to be named in honor of U of M's 12th president Kenneth H. Keller

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The current Electrical Engineering/Computer Science Building (on the East Bank) will be renamed Kenneth H. Keller Hall July 1 in honor of the U of M's 12th president.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/08/2010) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents has approved naming the Electrical Engineering/Computer Science Building on the east bank campus of the university's Twin Cities campus in honor of former university president and chemical engineering professor Kenneth H. Keller. The building was completed during Keller's presidency and is located next to his departmental home of Amundson Hall.

"We have a long and proud tradition at the University of Minnesota of honoring our past presidents by naming a building after them," said Board of Regents Chair Clyde Allen. "Making the Electrical Engineering/Computer Science building into 'Kenneth H. Keller Hall' in honor of our 12th president was a natural choice. It's close to his academic home and also reflects one of President Emeritus Keller's lasting legacies for our university."

Kenneth H. Keller joined the University of Minnesota chemical engineering faculty in 1964. He subsequently became chair of the Faculty Consultative Committee, acting dean of the Graduate School, and vice president for academic affairs. In 1984, Keller was chosen to be acting president, and in 1985 was named University of Minnesota president, serving the university in that role until 1988. After two years at Princeton University and seven years as a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, Keller returned to the University of Minnesota in 1996 as the Charles M. Denny, Jr. Professor of Science, Technology, and Public Policy in the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. Keller was designated President Emeritus by the Board of Regents in 2006 and is currently director of the Bologna Center of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, a multidisciplinary graduate program in international affairs enrolling students from 35 to 40 countries each year.

The university's Electrical Engineering/Computer Science Building, located at 200 Union St. SE, is one of the university's largest academic buildings at more than 336,000 square feet, and is home to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and the University's Nanofabrication Center, all within the University's Institute of Technology (soon to be called the College of Science and Engineering). The naming will be effective July 1, 2010, and the formal dedication ceremony to name the building in honor of Keller will take place in the fall.

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Peace Corps partnering with University of Minnesota to offer new Master's International program in civil engineering

Media Note: Peace Corps Master's International Program Manager Eric Goldman will be visiting the University of Minnesota on Monday, June 14 and will have limited time for media. To schedule an interview, call Preston Smith in the University News Service at (612) 625-0552.

Contacts: Rhonda Zurn, Institute of Technology, rzurn@umn.edu, 612-626-7959
Peace Corps Press Office, pressoffice@peacecorps.gov, 202-692-2230
Preston Smith, University News Service, smith@umn.edu, 612-625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/10/2010) —Peace Corps welcomes a new University of Minnesota-Twin Cities graduate program to Master's International. The program in the university's Institute of Technology (College of Science and Engineering) will offer Peace Corps Master's International students the opportunity to combine graduate studies with Peace Corps service abroad to a earn a master's degree in civil engineering.

The program, focused on environmental engineering and water resources engineering, will include one year of study at the University of Minnesota and 27 months service with the Peace Corps. This is only the second Master's International program in Minnesota. The University of Minnesota also offers a Peace Corps Master's International program – introduced in 1994 – in natural resources science and management within the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

"Peace Corps is excited to build upon our already-strong partnership with the University of Minnesota," said Eric Goldman, Peace Corps program manager for Master's International. "The new civil engineering program will enable Peace Corps Masters International students to put their University of Minnesota education to work in communities worldwide and earn credit for their service abroad."

Participants in more than 60 Peace Corps Master's International programs typically finish one year of graduate school in the U.S. before earning additional academic credit while serving as Peace Corps volunteers abroad.

"We are thrilled to offer this new program," said Julian Marshall, a University of Minnesota civil engineering assistant professor and McKnight Land-Grant professor of urban sustainability. "More and more, students want not only to learn skills, but also to apply those skills to real-world problems."

The University of Minnesota is one of the top Peace Corps volunteer-producing schools in the country, and has consistently been in the top 25 of Peace Corps' Top College annual ranking for the last 10 years. Altogether, 1,269 University of Minnesota alumni have served in the Peace Corps since the agency's founding by president John F. Kennedy in 1961.

For more information about the new program, visit www.ce.umn.edu/graduate/peace_corps.

Additional information on Master's International is available at www.peacecorps.gov/masters.

As Peace Corps approaches its 50th anniversary, its service legacy continues to promote peace and friendship around the world with 7,671 volunteers serving in 77 host countries. Historically, nearly 200,000 Americans have served with the Peace Corps to promote a better understanding between Americans and the people of 139 host countries. Peace Corps Volunteers must be U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age. Peace Corps service is a 27-month commitment.

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24-hour BioBlitz to count creatures in Rosemount's woodlands, prairies and trout stream set for June 11-12

What: BioBlitz, an intensive 24-hour race to count an area's plants and animals
When: 5 p.m. Friday, June 11 to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 12
Where: Vermillion Highlands Research, Recreation and Wildlife Management Area. Check in is at the UMore Park Administration Building, 1605 160th St. W., Rosemount

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, Bell Museum, sheph001@umn.edu, (612) 624-7389 or (612) 599-1148, cell
Jennifer Menken, BioBlitz Onsite Coordinator, (612) 845-5148, cell
Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

June 10, 2010

Minnesota BioBlitz 2010 will focus on the woods, streams and restored prairies of suburban Rosemont from 5 p.m. Friday, June 11 to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 12. The annual event is coordinated by the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History.

BioBlitz, an intensive 24-hour race to count an area's plants and animals, is part contest, part festival, part educational event and part scientific endeavor. Each year this family-friendly event attracts hundreds of amateur and professional scientists from around the state who use sonar detectors, nets, bug lights, binoculars and laptops to count and chronicle an area's plants and animal life. Public volunteers work alongside biologists to collect plants and insects and live-trap animals, which are identified before being released back into the wild.

This year's Minnesota BioBlitz will be held at the Vermillion Highlands Research, Recreation and Wildlife Management Area, an area known for landscapes that include remnants of historic woodlands, pockets of natural and restored prairie and the celebrated Vermillion River.

"We usually hear the word 'biodiversity' in regard to rainforests with their vast number of species," says Jennifer Menken, BioBlitz organizer and Bell Museum educator. "Yet, the diversity of plant and animal life -- from red fox to tiger beetles to morels and mollusks -- in our suburban areas is just phenomenal."

For a schedule of events, visit http://www.bellmuseum.org/bioblitz.

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University of Minnesota and UN Food and Agriculture Organization form historic collaboration

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/10/2010) —The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the University of Minnesota have approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will be the foundation of a new collaboration to address a range of issues associated with global food security.

The MOU was signed by FAO Director-General Dr. Jacques Diouf along with University of Minnesota Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Tom Sullivan.

The FAO's mission – to create a world without hunger – includes a mandate to raise levels of nutrition, improve agricultural productivity, better the lives of rural populations and contribute to the growth of the world economy.

"The FAO is charged with addressing some of the most pressing issues of global food security and nutrition," said Sullivan. "The University of Minnesota -- with our world renowned research and expertise in food safety, security and sustainability -- is uniquely positioned to work in collaboration with the FAO on the full range of these issues, across many academic disciplines."

Sullivan added, "This MOU has enormous potential to bring to bear the university's academic rigor in these areas along with the business expertise of our corporate partners, the multinational food companies headquartered in Minnesota, to help solve the global grand challenges of food safety, security and sustainability."

The agreement provides a framework for the University of Minnesota and FAO to work together to alleviate hunger through the application of e-learning, extension and capacity building programs. The university will also engage collaborators across the globe from other universities, the private sector, public sector, non-governmental organizations and inter-governmental organizations to exchange knowledge and share best practices to solve the global hunger crisis.

In advance of signing the MOU, Diouf said, "I was impressed by the work being undertaken by the University of Minnesota and hope this agreement will lead to increased collaboration between our institutions and other partners to address agriculture development and food insecurity."

Specifically, the MOU outlines collaboration in the areas of animal and veterinary science, human health, plant health, fish health, food safety, food science, nutrition, communications and distance education, including e-learning, to:

- Develop and deliver leadership capacity building programs for emerging and mid-career leaders in government, industry, non-profit organizations and intergovernmental organizations;
- Share best practices to enhance public and private collaboration on food security and economic development;
- Identify experts that could contribute to FAO's technical assistance programs;
- Promote networks of professional experts;
- Encourage the exchange of scientists, faculty members and graduate students to assist with various capacity building projects and programs;
- Develop innovative education and training programs that offer university credentials upon successful completion;
- Collaborate on scalable education, training and professional development programs including distance-education and e-learning; and
- Organize conferences, seminars, training workshops and technical meetings at the global, regional and country levels.

"Global food security is a defining challenge of our time," said Allen Levine, dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. "Through this collaboration, the University of Minnesota can put our world class research to work and, together with the FAO, create revolutionary strategies to provide food that is healthy, accessible and sustainable -- locally and around the world."

The MOU will involve the research and expertise of the university's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; School of Public Health; College of Veterinary Medicine; College of Biological Sciences; Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs; Extension services and Office of International Programs.

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U of M Board of Regents appoint presidential search advisory committee, discuss characteristics of next president

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, wolter@umn.edu, (612) 625-8510

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/10/2010) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents appointed a search advisory committee as it begins the search for the 16th president of the university. President Robert Bruininks has announced his intention to leave the presidency at the end of his contract in June 2011.

In addition, the board discussed a charge for the search advisory committee as well as the characteristics they will be seeking in the new president.

Regent Patricia Simmons of Rochester will chair the search advisory committee, which consists of twelve members, including representation of students, faculty, staff, alumni and members of the community.

The membership of the committee includes:

Patricia Simmons, Chair
Regent

David Bernlohr
Distinguished McKnight University Professor and Head
Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Biophysics
Joint Department of the Medical School and College of Biological Sciences
University of Minnesota

Nancy Carpenter
Professor of Chemistry, Division of Science and Mathematics
University of Minnesota Morris
Morse Alumni Award for Undergraduate Education

Etty DeVeaux
Administrative Director, Department of Plant Biology and
Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior
College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and
College of Biological Sciences, University of Minnesota

Marti Hope Gonzales
Associate Professor, Department of Psychology
College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota

Elliot Kaplan
Attorney and Partner
Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi

Ryan Kennedy
B.A., Political Science, College of Liberal Arts 2009
Candidate, Master of Public Policy, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs

Richard Leppert
Regents Professor, Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature
College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota
Morse Alumni Award for Undergraduate Education

Allen Levine
Dean and Professor, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences
University of Minnesota
Director, Minnesota Obesity Center

Bruce Mooty
Attorney and Principal
Gray Plant Mooty

Carol Person
Judge (retired), Minnesota District Court
Sixth Judicial District, Duluth

Eric Sheppard
Regents Professor, Department of Geography
College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota

More information on the presidential search is available at http://www.presidentsearch.umn.edu.

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Statement from the University of Minnesota about the expansion of the Big Ten Conference

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University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/11/2010) —The following is a statement from University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks about the expansion of the Big Ten Conference to include the University of Nebraska:

“Today’s decision that the University of Nebraska will be joining the Big Ten Conference next year is very good news for the University of Minnesota and our entire state.

“The strength of Husker athletics is known around the country and we look forward to that spirited competition. In the academic arena, there will be just as much opportunity for collaboration on research in areas such as agriculture, food science, bioscience, the liberal arts and other important areas.

“The Big Ten Conference is unique not only because we’re one of the best collegiate athletics conferences in the country, but because of the rich and vibrant academic relationships we have built from Minnesota to Penn State, through our Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC). The University of Nebraska will be a welcomed and strong addition.”

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Award-winning physician Larry Brilliant to discuss relationship between health of the planet, health of people at June 15 Great Conversations event

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Preston Smith, University News Service, smith@umn.edu, 612-625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/14/2010) —Larry Brilliant and Jonathon Foley will share the stage this coming Tuesday at the University of Minnesota as they discuss the intertwined relationship of the environment and the spread of infectious disease. In a year featuring sweeping changes to the U.S. health care system followed by the worst environmental disaster in generations, this timely topic digs into where environment and pandemics intersect.

Join Brilliant and Foley as they explore:
• How disease is affected by environment
• The national security and environmental policies that affect the spread of infectious disease
• Examples of links between environmental health and how pandemics spread

The forum is the third and final installment of the 2010 Great Conversations series presented by the College of Continuing Education, and will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 15 at the Ted Mann Concert Hall located on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota.

Brilliant is an American physician, epidemiologist, author and philanthropist. He is the former director of Google's philanthropic arm and has served as CEO of two public companies. From 1976-79, he participated in the successful W.H.O. smallpox eradication program and in 2005 was awarded the TED Prize for this critical work. In April 2009, he was chosen to oversee the Skoll Global Threats Fund, established by eBay founder Jeff Skoll.

Foley is the director of the Institute on the Environment (IonE) at the University of Minnesota, where he is a professor and McKnight Presidential Chair in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior. He also leads the IonE's Global Landscapes Initiative.

Tickets are $28.50, with discounts available for university students, faculty and staff. For tickets, visit www.cce.umn.edu/conversations or call the Northrop Auditorium box office at (612) 624-2345. Tickets may be available for purchase at the door, however advanced registration for the event is encouraged as seating is limited.

Great Conversations is a program provided by the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education. Through the CCE, motivated adults enrich their personal and professional lives through learning opportunities ranging from courses, workshops and retreats, to credit certificates and bachelor's and master's degrees. For more information about the college, call 612-624-4000, or visit www.cce.umn.edu.

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University of Minnesota's Food Industry Center names new director

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Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/15/2010) —Distinguished economist Robert King will become director of The Food Industry Center at the University of Minnesota next month. King, a professor and former head of the university's Department of Applied Economics, replaces the center's founding director, Jean Kinsey, who is retiring.

King's research focuses on local food systems, organic agriculture, and on management issues facing food retailers, farmer cooperatives and farmers. He teaches courses on managerial economics and cooperatives and helps advise Cornercopia, the university's student organic farm. He has been involved with numerous projects at the center since its founding in 1995 and has been a faculty member in the applied economics department since 1983.

The department and center also have hired a new associate director/associate professor, Timothy Beatty, who is internationally known for his work in consumer economics and consumer behavior, particularly as they relate to food and health. He currently teaches and does research at the University of York and for Statistics Norway. He earned his doctorate in agricultural and resource economics at the University of California, Berkeley. Kinsey, who joined the applied economics department in 1976, has been widely honored for her consumer behavior research and teaching and has been a member of the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis as well as president of the American Agricultural Economics Association.

The Food Industry Center, based in the department of applied economics, is a collaboration of faculty, students, and industry leaders from across the nation and the world that address the issues of an efficient, ethical, healthy, and safe food system. The center addresses cross-sector issues through developing and disseminating data and analysis focused on how food moves from farm to fork. As part of the Industry Studies Association, it is the only industry studies research center that studies the food industry.

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Talking on your cell phone while driving may be hazardous to your close relationships, University of Minnesota professor says

Contacts: Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, 612-624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/15/2010) —Warnings about the dangers of distracted driving while using a cell phone are prevalent these days, but cell phone use while driving may also put family relationships in jeopardy, says University of Minnesota professor Paul Rosenblatt.

The same factors that make using a cell phone while driving more hazardous -- longer reaction times and impaired attention -- can also make family communication in that situation more risky, says Rosenblatt in an article in the current issue of Family Science Review. The article, authored by Rosenblatt and graduate student Xiaohui Li, provides a speculative theoretical analysis on the topic. Rosenblatt is a family social science professor in the university's College of Education and Human Development.

"If we assume that the relationship risks involved in talking on a cell phone while driving are similar to the driving risks -- both tasks involve divided attention and distraction -- we can develop ideas about how a family relationship may be impaired," Rosenblatt says in the article.

For example, studies have indicated that cell phone use while driving leads to slower reaction times on the road. This could translate to the driver's cell phone conversation as well.

"A delay in the conversation could be a problem if the person (spouse or partner) on the other end of the conversation interprets the delayed reaction as an indicator of ambivalence, of not having a ready answer or of hiding something. This all leads to upsetting the partner," Rosenblatt says.

And, what if the driver misses important details of the conversation? This could lead to misunderstandings and more hard feelings, he says.

"In general, cell phone usage while driving might lead to missed relationship stop lights, slow reactions to dangerous relationship circumstances, loss of control of one's part of the interaction, and interaction mistakes that could lead to conflict, hurt feelings, misunderstandings, and possibly even serious damage to the relationship," Rosenblatt says in the article.

The partner who is not driving might be worried about the driver's safety and may cut a conversation short so the driver can concentrate, but the driver might interpret that in a negative way.

In addition to the relationship problems created by talking on cell phone while driving, a number of problems arise that both people have when one of them is driving while talking on a cell phone.

The lack of visual cues including gestures, facial expressions and posture creates challenges. Poor cell phone reception and the noise from the automobile and the road can all contribute to misunderstandings, he says.

In the article, Rosenblatt explores five hypothetical examples of possible relationship problems that could arise when a driver is talking with a family member via cell phone. The examples he explores include the partner asking the driver to run an errand; a family member calls with good news; a family member calls with bad news; arguments over the phone and apologies over the phone. Each of the scenarios can be wrought with frustration and misunderstanding.

Most relationships can manage the added difficulties related to cell phone use.

"However, for couples in which things have been so difficult that they both are considering ending the relationship, problems arising from a difficult phone conversation, may push their relationship to the tipping point," Rosenblatt says.

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University of Minnesota College of Design's "Design Lab" to teach design thinking skills to K-6 teachers and students

A “Learning Village” to be designed at Highlands Elementary School in Edina June 15-18

What: Design Lab will help K-6 teachers and students build design thinking skills.
When: Tuesday through Friday, June 15-18. Media interested in covering Design Lab, must RSVP with Laura Weber or Jeff Falk.
Where: Highlands Elementary School, 5505 Doncaster Way, Edina

Contacts: Laura Weber, College of Design, l-webe@umn.edu, (612) 625-6566
Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

June 16, 2010

The University of Minnesota College of Design’s Design Lab (DLab) workshop this week will help K-6 teachers and students build critical design thinking skills. DLab will take place Tuesday through Friday, June 15-18, at Highlands Elementary School, 5505 Doncaster Way, Edina.

Participants will receive hands-on instruction from assistant professor of architecture John Comazzi and undergraduate and graduate students and will use the design process to understand and engage with natural phenomenon. Over the course of four days, students ages 5-11 will design a series of gathering spaces that incorporate wind, water, light and sound using sustainable materials such as straw bales and willow reeds. Highlands Elementary teachers will participate in the project as well, learning ways to incorporate the design process into their curriculum.

“In preparing our students to successfully operate within an increasingly complex and interconnected world, it is imperative that we prepare them with the necessary skills to innovate and solve problems,” says Comazzi. “The interdisciplinary nature of design education gives students a range of competencies to activate and integrate their knowledge of core subjects like geography and algebra, or language arts and history, to solve a myriad of challenges presented to them.”

Design lessons will focus on sketching, diagramming, model building and prototyping structures. Participants will present their finished projects at 2:30 p.m. Friday, June 18.

A second DLab will take place July 6-9 at Jane Addams School for Democracy/Cherokee Heights Elementary in St. Paul.

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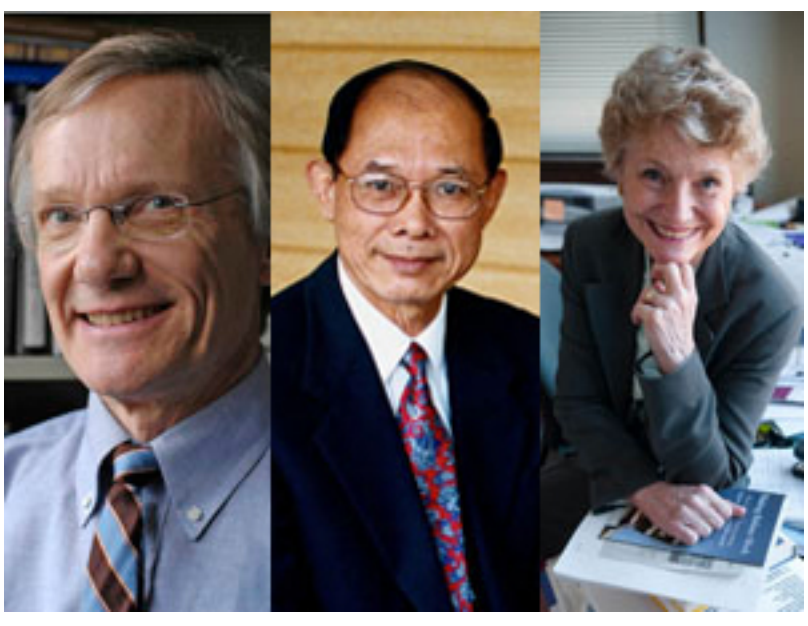
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Three new Regents Professors named by University of Minnesota

Media Note: High-resolution images available upon request.

Contacts: Preston Smith, University News Service, smith@umn.edu, 612-625-0552



New Regents Professors for 2010 are William Iacono (left), Horace Loh (middle) and Karen Seashore (right).

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/17/2010) —Three University of Minnesota professors have been named Regents Professors by the university's Board of Regents. The designation is the highest level of recognition given to faculty by the university.

They are William Iacono, Distinguished McKnight Professor, professor of psychology, psychiatry, neuroscience and law, and adjunct professor of child development; Horace Loh, Frederick and Alice Start Professor and head of the department of pharmacology, Medical School; and Karen Seashore, Robert H. Beck Professor of Ideas in Education, professor in the department of organizational leadership, policy and development in the College of Education and Human Development.

“Year after year, Regents Professors represent the best and brightest in their fields, and this year's selection is no exception," said University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks. “Their bold discoveries and commitment to excellence across a wide range of disciplines embody the mission and aspirations of a world-class research and land-grant university.”

The addition of the new Regents Professors increases the total number of current Regents Professorships to 30.

“Our new distinguished group of Regents Professors are exemplars of the academic excellence that abounds at the University of Minnesota,” said Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Thomas Sullivan. “Throughout their careers, professors Iacono, Loh and Seashore have produced outstanding academic contributions, engaged their students in the classroom and provided exceptional service, thereby enhancing the reputation of the University of Minnesota. It is a privilege to honor this group.”

William Iacono (Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts)

Iacono is a pioneer in the neurobiological approach to the study of mental disorders and one of the world’s leading clinical psychologists/experimental psychopathologists. He has made seminal contributions to adolescent and adult developmental psychopathology, substance abuse, psychiatric epidemiology, behavior genetics, and lie detection and he is considered to be one of the world’s foremost research scientists in these areas. He is best known for the Minnesota Twin Family Study, a benchmark longitudinal investigation of approximately 2000 adolescent twin pairs and their parents. He has published over 350 papers and he ranks among North America’s most cited and productive clinical psychologists.

Iacono has contributed extensively in leadership and service activities at the departmental, university, national, and international level. His scholarly appointments include president of the Society for Psychophysiological Research; chair of the Society’s Publication Board; and associate editor of the journal Psychophysiology. He has received lifetime scientific achievement awards from the Society for Psychophysiological Research and the Society for a Science of Clinical Psychology, and he currently holds a MERIT award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. He has also served as chair or member of numerous NIH study sections, and he has been a consultant on lie detection to a wide variety of government agencies. He currently serves as the director of the university’s Clinical Psychology Training Program and for over 20 years he has directed the Minnesota Center for Twin and Family Research. He has served as the primary advisor for over 40 doctoral and postdoctoral students as well as many young faculty members and successful academicians.

Horace Loh (Department of Pharmacology, Medical School)

Loh is regarded as an outstanding scholar who has attained national and international prominence for his pharmacology research on addictions to morphine and related substances and the scientific basis for the treatment of opiate addiction. For more than 30 years his research has had a major impact on the understanding of how opioid drugs work on a cellular and molecular level. He has published over 580-refereed manuscripts, which have been cited over 15,000 times. He has mentored more than 30 Ph.D. students and over 100 post-doctoral fellows, many who have gone on to successful careers as directors of national institutes, heads of departments, professors, deans, founders of biotechnology firms, leaders in the pharmaceutical industry and scientists.

He was one of three scientists to receive the first MERIT, or Method to Extend Research in Time, Award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He received the Senior Scientist Award from the NIH numerous times. Loh was also among the first four inductees in the Academic Health Center’s Academy for Excellence in Health Research at the University of Minnesota and received the first Senior Investigator Award from the Medical School.

Karen Seashore (Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development, College of Education and Human Development)

Seashore is an internationally acclaimed scholar whose research is grounded in social science theory and who is considered to be the most important methodologist in the field of school improvement and school leadership in the last quarter century. Her work on entrepreneurial science is said to have changed the understanding of science and research and is considered to be the gold standard of early work on entrepreneurial science. She has published 13 books, 17 major monographs, 73 peer-reviewed articles and 52 chapters.

She has served on many editorial boards and review panels including the National Science Foundation’s sections on Sociology and on Ethics and Values in Science and Technology, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Spencer Foundation. In addition to serving on numerous university-level committees such as the Faculty Consultative Committee, the Senate Committee on Educational Policy, the Senate Committee on Finance and Planning, and as vice chair of the University Senate, she has served as associate dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Education, as director of the Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement, chair of the Department of Educational Policy and Administration and as Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development.

The Regents Professor position was established in 1965 by the Board of Regents to recognize the national and international prominence of faculty members. It serves as the highest recognition for faculty who have made unique contributions to the quality of the University of Minnesota through exceptional accomplishments in teaching, research and scholarship or creative work and contributions to the public good.

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University of Minnesota researchers clear major hurdle in road to high-efficiency solar cells

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U of M researchers have cleared a major hurdle in the drive to build solar cells with potential efficiencies up to twice as high as current levels.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/17/2010) —A team of University of Minnesota-led researchers has cleared a major hurdle in the drive to build solar cells with potential efficiencies up to twice as high as current levels, which rarely exceed 30 percent.

By showing how energy that is now being lost from semiconductors in solar cells can be captured and transferred to electric circuits, the team has opened a new avenue for solar cell researchers seeking to build cheaper, more efficient solar energy devices. The work is published in this week's Science.

A system built on the research could also slash the cost of manufacturing solar cells by removing the need to process them at very high temperatures.

The achievement crowns six years of work begun at the university's Institute of Technology (College of Science and Engineering) in Professor Xiaoyang Zhu's lab in the Chemistry Department in collaboration with chemical engineering and materials science professors Eray Aydil and David Norris and spearheaded by U of M graduate student William Tisdale. Professor Zhu is now at the University of Texas-Austin.

In most solar cells now in use, rays from the sun strike the uppermost layer of the cells, which is made of a crystalline semiconductor substance—usually silicon. The problem is that many electrons in the silicon absorb excess amounts of solar energy and radiate that energy away as heat before it can be harnessed.

An early step in harnessing that energy is to transfer these "hot" electrons out of the semiconductor and into a wire, or electric circuit, before they can cool off. But efforts to extract hot electrons from traditional silicon semiconductors have not succeeded.

However, when semiconductors are constructed in small pieces only a few nanometers wide -- "quantum dots" -- their properties change.

"Theory says that quantum dots should slow the loss of energy as heat," said Tisdale. "And a 2008 paper from the University of Chicago showed this to be true. The big question for us was whether we could also speed up the extraction and transfer of hot electrons enough to grab them before they cooled. "

In the current work, Tisdale and his colleagues demonstrated that quantum dots—made not of silicon but of another semiconductor called lead selenide -- could indeed be made to surrender their "hot" electrons before they cooled. The electrons were pulled away by titanium dioxide, another common inexpensive and abundant semiconductor material that behaves like a wire.

"This is a very promising result," said Tisdale. "We've shown that you can pull hot electrons out very quickly – before they lose their energy. This is exciting fundamental science."

The work shows that the potential for building solar cells with efficiencies approaching 66 percent exists, according to Aydil.

"This work is a necessary but not sufficient step for building very high-efficiency solar cells," he said. "It provides a motivation for researchers to work on quantum dots and solar cells based on quantum dots."

The next step is to construct solar cells with quantum dots and study them. But one big problem still remains: "Hot" electrons also lose their energy in titanium dioxide. New solar cell designs will be needed to eliminate this loss, the researchers said.

Still, "I'm comfortable saying that electricity from solar cells is going to be a large fraction of our energy supply in the future," Aydil noted.

The research was funded primarily by the U.S. Department of Energy and partially by the National Science Foundation. Earlier grants provided by the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE) also supported this research. Other authors of the paper were Brooke Timp from the University of Minnesota and Kenrick Williams from UT-Austin.

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U of M Board of Regents to act on 2011 fiscal year budget Tuesday

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June 18, 2010

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will meet at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 22, 2010, at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. On the agenda is action on President Robert Bruininks' proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2011. Bruininks presented the budget at the board's meeting on June 11 and the board held a public forum on June 14, to hear from members of the university community on the proposed budget.

Full information on the board's agenda for the June 22 meeting, visit http://www1.umn.edu/regents/docket/2010/june/index.html.

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University of Minnesota Alumni Association magazine earns top national recognition

"Minnesota" magazine honored for "strong and varied story selection and willingness to engage with major issues"

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/21/2010) —The University of Minnesota of Minnesota Alumni Association's "Minnesota" magazine has been named best college alumni magazine of its size by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). Published four times a year, "Minnesota" this month won the prestigious international 2010 Circle of Excellence Gold Award for "Best College and University General Interest Magazine" with a circulation of 30,000 to 75,000.

"Minnesota took the top award on the basis of its well-thought out and substantive editorial content, especially its strong and varied story selection and willingness to engage with major issues in a way that relates to the institution," according to judges' comments.

The Silver Award went to Denison University, "Denison Magazine," while the College of Charleston, "College of Charleston Magazine," and the North Carolina State Alumni Association, "NC State Alumni Magazine," both shared the Bronze Award.

Judges pointed in particular to three "Minnesota" articles: a story about a University of Minnesota-led investigation into deaths from lung disease among taconite miners in the state; an interview with former professor Gary Schwitzer whose research focuses on weaknesses in reporting about health care; and an article focusing on university horticulturalist Jeff Gillman whose work counters frequently dangerous and ridiculous gardening myths.

"Now more than ever, our alumni are looking for an engaging and meaningful connection to the U of M," says Phil Esten, Alumni Association CEO. "'Minnesota' provides such a connection, through its mix of hard news, features, profiles and commentary, all against the backdrop of a crisp and colorful layout. We are proud to stand out among our peers and carry forward the standard of excellence 'Minnesota' has set nationwide."

Published continuously since 1901 and produced under the leadership of editor Shelly Fling and managing editor Cynthia Scott, "Minnesota" magazine explores the discoveries, accomplishments and work of University of Minnesota faculty, students and alumni through articles about campus life, higher education and university events. It is sent to the approximately 60,000 members of the Alumni Association.

"To be recognized as the best among its peers with this CASE award is one of the highest honors a college or university magazine could receive," says Fling, editor since 1998. "'Minnesota' magazine strives to demonstrate how critical the University of Minnesota is to the state and in addressing vexing world problems. And I'm thrilled that this award will bring more attention to this great institution's work."

For the complete list of 2010 Circle of Excellence awards winners, see www.case.org/Award_Programs/Circle_of_Excellence/2010_Winners.html.

For more information about "Minnesota" magazine and to read the current issue online, go to www.MinnesotaAlumni.org.

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Medical Biosciences Building named for Win and Maxine Wallin

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/21/2010) —In recognition of a lifetime of support, the University of Minnesota has named the newest building in its Biomedical Discovery District the Winston and Maxine Wallin Medical Biosciences Building.

The building houses researchers working in brain sciences, including Alzheimer's disease and movement disorders, and immunology. It is part of the growing Biomedical Discovery District, a state-of-the-art research park located near TCF Bank Stadium.

"The Wallins' generous gifts of time, talent and financial support have contributed immeasurably to the life and vitality of the University of Minnesota — their commitment to higher education and medical research is unrivaled," said university President Robert Bruininks. "The Winston and Maxine Wallin Medical Biosciences Building aptly honors their longtime commitment to and support of the University of Minnesota."

In addition to their generous financial support, the Wallins — both University of Minnesota graduates — have contributed their time and talents to the advancement of higher education, particularly in the health sciences.

In 1993, Winston "Win" Wallin became a special adviser to then-university President Nils Hasselmo, overseeing the Academic Health Center in a time of great turbulence and change. He also chaired the Masonic Cancer Center's capital campaign, which raised $30 million to construct the Masonic Cancer Research Building — the only building on campus fully supported by private dollars. Additionally, he and Maxine personally established the Winston R. and Maxine H. Wallin Land-Grant Chair in Cancer Prevention and Genetics and were major contributors to the John H. Kersey Chair in Cancer Research.

As chair of the Medical School's Dean's Board of Visitors, an advisory group to the dean, Win Wallin was an early advocate of the Biomedical Discovery District and championed the importance of medical research to the future of the university and the state.

He is currently a trustee of the Minnesota Medical Foundation, a member of the Medical School Dean's Board of Visitors and trustee emeritus of the University of Minnesota Foundation. In 1992, he was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award and in 1995 was presented with an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the Medical School.

Win and Maxine Wallin are recognized for their extraordinary commitment to higher education through a tremendously successful college scholarship program for Minneapolis high school students.

In his professional life, Win Wallin earned wide admiration for his strong and ethical leadership. After 34 years with Pillsbury, rising from grain trader to president and chief operating officer, he became chief executive officer of Medtronic, Inc., and within six years led the pioneering Minnesota medical device maker to world prominence.

He has served as Campaign Minnesota honorary co-chair and on the Masonic Cancer Center Community Advisory Board; as a member of the presidential advisory search committee in 1996; and chair of the Carlson School of Management Board of Overseers.

Building namings such as this are approved both by the All-University Honors Committee, which consists of faculty, students, staff and alumni as well as the Board of Regents.

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Study helps to explain why some tropical species are rare while others are common

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Helene Muller-Landau is a researcher in the College of Biological Sciences.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/24/2010) —Tropical forests are bursting with biodiversity, but many species in these communities are extremely rare. This begs the question: why are some species rare while others are common? New results from a study by researchers from the University of Minnesota and Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) show that interactions among community members play an important role in determining which organisms thrive. The study found that when a seedling of a rare species is growing next to an individual of its same species, it has a significantly lower chance of surviving. In contrast, seedlings of common species seem little affected by related neighbors.

The findings are reported in the Friday, June 25 online issue of Science. Helene Muller- Landau, adjunct professor in the College of Biological Sciences' Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior and postdoctoral researcher Liza Comita are co-authors. Muller-Landau and Comita are both associated with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, where the study took place. Comita is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis.

The work is part of a large, long-term study of plant biodiversity in a lowland tropical forest on Panama's Barro Colorado Island. The study site -- a large forest plot about the size of 90 football fields -- includes more than 400,000 individual trees and shrubs of over 300 species that have been marked, mapped and measured every five years for the last 30 years. A unique window on climate change and other large-scale processes, the experiment was established to help scientists better understand how plant life organizes itself into communities. A five-year study of seedlings at the site produced the new finding.

For years, researchers have noticed that individuals surrounded by neighbors of the same species do not grow and survive as well as individuals surrounded by other species. Some evidence suggests that this is either because pests and pathogens move more readily between individuals of the same species, or because they are competing with each other for the same resources.

“The seedling survey showed that even though plants can be shaded out by individuals of the same or of other species, there are real differences in the survival of different species depending upon how many of their neighbors are the same species,” said Muller-Landau. “Some of our colleagues are working on the specific mechanisms that explain these differences, and we look forward to seeing their results, which will be published soon.”

“Based on information about the survival of more than 30,000 seedlings of 180 species of tropical trees, we found that seedlings of rare species are much more sensitive to the presence of neighbors of their own species than seedlings of common species are,” said Comita, who is the primary author. “In other words, when a seedling of a rare species is growing next to an individual of its same species, it has a significantly lower chance of surviving. This suggests that rare species are prevented from becoming common, because as they produce more and more seedlings, those seedlings have lower survival. This tells us where to look for mechanisms that explain why certain species are rare and provides clues about how to conserve rare species that are vulnerable to extinction.”

The HSBC Climate Partnership, a Packard Fellowship for Science and Engineering, the U.S. National Science Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation supported this research.

# # #

Ref. Liza S. Comita, Helene C. Muller-Landau, Salomon Aguilar and Stephen P. Hubbell. 2010. Asymmetric density dependence shapes species abundances in a tropical tree community. Science doi:10.1126/science.1190772

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Director of U of M's BCED wins Twin Cities community award

Contacts: University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/25/2010) —Craig Taylor, director of the University of Minnesota Office of Business and Community Economic Development (BCED), has received the 2010 Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal/Minnesota Minority Supplier Development Council Advocate of the Year award.

Taylor has headed the BCED since its formation in 1999. He holds a certificate in executive management from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, a master's degree in public affairs with a concentration in business and economic development from the University of Minnesota, and a certificate in business management from the university's Carlson School of Management.

Sharon Banks, construction project manager for BCED, has also been recognized as one of 10 Minority Business Corporate Executives of 2010 by the Business Journal.

Last year, Banks received the 2009 Minnesota Minority Small Business Champion of the Year Award by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The Minority Small Business Champion award is presented annually in each state to individuals who assist small businesses through outstanding advocacy efforts on behalf of minority-owned small businesses.

Banks earned a bachelor's of science degree in business management from Cardinal Stritch University and a master's degree in public affairs with a concentration in economic development from the University of Minnesota.

For more information about BCED, see www.ced.umn.edu.

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Americans worried about the quality of Gulf seafood, according to University of Minnesota study

Contacts: Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/28/2010) —Americans are almost universally aware of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, and they are concerned about its potential impact on the safety of Gulf seafood, according to new data from a continuing survey conducted by the University of Minnesota.

The survey is part of an ongoing weekly consumer confidence poll conducted by The Food Industry Center at the U of M. During the most recent survey, 99 percent of respondents said they were aware of the spill and 85 percent say they are following news about it closely or have heard a lot about it.

The possible effects of the spill on Gulf seafood are of at least some concern to 89 percent of respondents, and 50 percent said they are "extremely concerned." When asked how the oil spill will affect their consumption of seafood, 54 percent report some impact, with 44 percent of that group saying they will only eat seafood that they know does not come from the Gulf of Mexico, and another 31 percent saying they will eat less seafood regardless of where it comes from.

"Given the amount of news coverage the oil spill has received, these results may not be surprising, but it does show that consumers are connecting the event to food safety," said Dennis Degeneffe, a research fellow at The Food Industry Center.

The ongoing study continuously tracks consumers' perceptions about food safety and the food supply, using telephone surveys of about 175 people each week. The total sample for the six-weeks since the beginning of the oil spill is 1,076. The study is conducted jointly with the Louisiana State University AgCenter and is funded by the National Center for Food Protection and Defense, a Homeland Security Center of Excellence.

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University of Minnesota solar car takes second in American Solar Challenge

Minnesota team wins sportsmanship and electrical excellence awards

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/28/2010) —The University of Minnesota Solar Vehicle Project team finished second overall and took home two additional awards over the weekend in the 2010 American Solar Challenge, a seven-day, 1,100-mile race from Tulsa, Okla., to Chicago, Ill., June 19-26. The team, made up of students from the university's Institute of Technology (College of Science and Engineering), finished with a total elapsed time of 30 hours, 26 minutes and 53 seconds.

The University of Minnesota won the sportsmanship award for the third consecutive time. They won the same award at the 2005 and 2008 solar car races. In addition, the University of Minnesota team won the electrical excellence award for the car's reliable and well-designed electrical and electronic system.

In the track race prior to the cross-country race, the University of Minnesota team finished in third, but tied with Stanford University for the fastest lap at two minutes, five seconds.

"We are very proud of our car's custom electronics and our spirit of helping other teams throughout the race," said Alan Jacobs, a senior materials science and physics double major. "It's amazing to us that we had such a great race since this is the first time we've raced this car. Most of the other top-finishing teams were able to work out problems with their new cars during races in 2009."

The University of Minnesota was one of 17 teams from the United States, Canada, Germany and Taiwan competing in designing, building and driving a car completely powered by the sun. The University of Minnesota's car, named Centaurus II, is a completely new generation design from the university's previous eight solar vehicles.

About 30 students collectively spent more than 50,000 hours during 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.

Read more about the race from the students on their blog at http://www.svp.umn.edu. For more details about the race, visit the American Solar Challenge website at http://www.americansolarchallenge.org.

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U of M School of Music's Oct. 13 convocation to feature keynote speaker Paul Phoenix of The King's Singers



Paul Phoenix, acclaimed tenor with The King's Singers.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/29/2010) —Paul Phoenix, acclaimed tenor with The King's Singers and an avid spokesperson for musicians' ability to engage diverse audiences will give the University of Minnesota School of Music fall convocation program keynote address at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. S., Minneapolis. This event is free and open to the public.

Phoenix began his musical training at age nine as a chorister with the St. Paul's Cathedral Choir, during which time he made several successful recordings as featured treble, including the Geoffrey Burgon award-winning theme to the BBC's 1979 adaptation of John le Carré's novel "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy."

After graduating from the Royal Northern College of Music in 1991, Phoenix worked as a freelance singer for six years enjoying a varied existence, from backing Elaine Paige in concert, to coaching singing to the boy trebles of Westminster Under School. In September 1997, he joined The King's Singers and travels the world with that group, singing in some of the finest concert halls, churches and cathedrals in the world. His two-day residency at the school will include working with the Men's Chorus and meeting with students, faculty and university administrators.

One of the world's most celebrated vocal groups, The King's Singers have a packed schedule of concerts, recordings, media and education work that spans the globe. Championing the work of young and established composers, they remain consummate entertainers, a class act with a delightfully British wit. From Gesualdo and György Ligeti to Michael Bublé, The King's Singers are instantly recognizable for their spot-on intonation, their impeccable vocal blend, the flawless articulation of the text and incisive timing.

School of Music Director David Myers says, "Paul is a charismatic speaker and world-class professional musician whose real-world experience and expertise will inspire our students about both the challenges and possibilities for success in 21st century music careers."

Phoenix's convocation keynote will address the importance of community engagement in relation to the continuing U of M School of Music initiative to integrate public engagement into its curriculum and research. In addition to other events, Phoenix will meet with the school's Engaged Department Leadership Team. Supported by a $10,000 grant from the University of Minnesota's Office of Community Engagement, the school has undertaken a career enhancing effort for aspiring professional musicians of the 21st century: preparing them, through projects, internships and entrepreneurial efforts, to become engaged artist-leaders among the increasingly diverse societies and communities in which they live and work. The 2009 School of Music Fall Convocation featured renowned conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Marin Alsop.

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 500 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of more than 50 artists, scholars and teachers. The School of Music presents more than 400 free concerts per year. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.music.umn.edu or call (612) 626-1094 for a brochure.

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Survey finds drivers mistakenly believe winter is most dangerous travel time

Upcoming Fourth of July Weekend is actually often the deadliest time for driving

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/30/2010) —The vast majority of Americans interviewed in a new national poll believe winter is the most dangerous time for driving, but the truth is this coming Fourth of July weekend often is the deadliest time.

In survey findings released today, researchers at the University of Minnesota's Center for Excellence in Rural Safety (CERS) discovered that an overwhelming 83 percent of Americans consider winter to be "the most dangerous season to be driving on rural roadways." Only eight percent believe summer is the most dangerous time. Four percent found spring the most dangerous time, and four percent see fall as the most dangerous time.

However, about one-in-three fatalities happen during the three months of summer, a significantly higher fatality rate than the winter months, as well as the overall non-summer rate. Moreover, the Fourth of July is often the most dangerous driving day of the year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Crowded rural roads and holiday-related drinking are among the many factors that contribute to the danger.

"Americans' sense of seasonal driving risk is skewed," said Tom Horan of CERS, which conducted the survey. "We are wary of winter driving, but let our guard down during summer holidays, when fatalities are most likely to occur."

Rural roads are particularly perilous. While U.S. Census figures show that about one out of five (21 percent) Americans live in rural areas, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has found that about six out of 10 (57 percent) percent of highway deaths occur on roads that it considers rural.

Lighter traffic and pleasant scenery on rural roads can lull drivers into a false sense of security. This can lead to motorists driving at unsafe speeds, as well as distracted, fatigued, unbelted or impaired, driving, all of which increase the likelihood of a crash. Additionally, emergency response time to a rural crash and hospital transport times can be lengthy and thus jeopardize survival rate. Crash victims are five to seven times more likely to die from their injuries unless they arrive at a trauma center in the first half-hour following the crash.

Today, CERS also released the Top 100 Summer Rural Hot Spots, or the rural areas that have experienced the most fatalities over the past eight years during the summer months. While 32 states have rural areas in the Top 100, the states with the most "hot spots" are Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia (in alphabetical order). Because of ties, there are 115 hot spots on the Top 100 list. A searchable map showing all of the hot spots is available at www.saferoadmaps.org.

The hot spots are presented in a visually arresting Google Map-based format, where viewers can zoom from a national map showing all 100 spots, all the way down to a photo of each individual section of the road.

To help drivers plan safe trips, CERS created SafeRoadMaps, a Google Maps-based system which allows anyone visiting www.saferoadmaps.org to enter a zip code, municipality name or street address and immediately see a map or satellite image all of the road fatalities that have occurred in the chosen area over the past eight years. Details about each individual crash are also available, such as whether the driver was wearing a seatbelt, drinking, or speeding. The tool also notes which life-saving public policies, such as strong seat belt laws, are being employed in the chosen area.

"As drivers get ready for the holiday weekend, they can use this tool to learn about the deadliest spots on their routes," Horan said. "That awareness helps drivers focus on staying safe. It also helps local leaders see which rural roads in their areas are dangerous."

The survey was sponsored by CERS, and conducted by Critical Insights of Portland, Maine. The findings reflect responses from a national probability sample of 1,205 registered voters who drive at least once per week. The margin of error is +- 2.8%.

CERS provides citizen-centered research, training, and outreach to enhance rural safety and to meet the needs of rural transportation practitioners and policymakers. It operates as a joint venture of the University of Minnesota•s Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and Center for Transportation Studies.

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University of Minnesota Institute of Technology changes name to the College of Science and Engineering

Change will more clearly describe unique combination of science and engineering disciplines



On July 1, the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology changes its name to the College of Science and Engineering.

Contacts: Rhonda Zurn, College of Science and Engineering, rzurn@umn.edu, 612-626-7959
Preston Smith, University News Service, smith@umn.edu, 612-625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/30/2010) —On July 1, the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology changes its name to the College of Science and Engineering. The change will more clearly describe the unique combination of science and engineering disciplines within the college to prospective students and faculty, business partners and research-granting agencies. The University of Minnesota's Board of Regents approved the name change last December.

The college's Dean's Advisory Board, comprised of alumni and business leaders, recommended in 2008 that the dean pursue a name change for the college. Members of the advisory board have agreed to donate private funds to cover costs incurred due to the name change.

"The Institute of Technology name (with its acronym IT) has become increasingly problematic in terms of securing financial support and recognition for critical academic programs within our college," said Steven L. Crouch, dean. "Today, IT has come to mean information technology to virtually everyone. In addition, few people outside the university have an understanding of the difference between the Institute of Technology and various research institutes at the university that do not have academic degree programs."

The University of Minnesota is the only major research institution in the United States that combines science and engineering disciplines within one academic unit of the university. Established in 1935, the college encompasses 10 engineering programs, computer science, mathematics, statistics and five physical sciences including physics, chemistry, astrophysics, geology and geophysics. The College of Science and Engineering also oversees or is part of more than a dozen interdisciplinary research centers and facilities.

The college currently enrolls more than 7,000 undergraduate and graduate students and employs about 400 faculty. The college has more than 55,000 living science and engineering alumni. About half of those alumni live in the Twin Cities metro area.

For more information, visit the college's new website (launching July 1) at http://cse.umn.edu.

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Institute on the Environment joins forces with international Natural Capital Project

New partnership links IonE with Stanford University, The Nature Conservancy and World Wildlife Fund

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (06/30/2010) —The University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment today announced a new partnership with the international Natural Capital Project, a worldwide effort to align economic forces with conservation. The other partners include Stanford University, The Nature Conservancy and World Wildlife Fund.

Founded in 2006, the Natural Capital Project aims to mainstream the values of nature into major resource decisions. Working with public, private and nonprofit partners around the world, "NatCap" is developing practical, science-based software for mapping and valuing societal benefits provided by healthy ecosystems. The Natural Capital Project is using this software in major policy decisions now underway in Canada, China, Hawaii, Indonesia, South America and Tanzania.

The Natural Capital Project is led by an interdisciplinary team of scientists and project leaders from Stanford, The Nature Conservancy and World Wildlife Fund. U of M applied economics professor Steve Polasky, an IonE resident fellow, is one of the leaders of the project's ecosystem service mapping and valuation effort. This new partnership will increase opportunities for collaboration between IonE and other Natural Capital researchers and collaborators.

"We would be nowhere without the world-class expertise and experience from U of M, and we're thrilled to recognize that formally now by teaming up as full partners," said Gretchen Daily, Stanford-based co-founder and chair of the project.

"The Natural Capital Project is one of the most important environmental projects in the world," said Jon Foley, director of the Institute on the Environment. "It's answering one of the really big questions: How much is nature worth, and how do we start to include ecosystem goods and services into our economic system? By joining this project, the Institute on the Environment will be working with world-class ecologists, economists and practitioners, and in return, we will be contributing our expertise in ecological economics, land use and agriculture, and environmental systems modeling. It's a fabulous partnership for everyone involved."

To learn more about the Natural Capital Project, visit www.naturalcapitalproject.org.

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"Imagining the Mississippi: 30 Ways to Transform the Riverfront" to feature design solutions for the two mile stretch of Mississippi River through Minneapolis

Exhibit opens July 7 at Mill City Museum

What: "Imagining the Mississippi: 30 Ways to Transform the Riverfront" exhibit to feature U of M College of Design students' visions for the Mississippi Riverfront in Minneapolis
When: July 7 through Aug. 8
Where: Mill City Museum, 704 S. 2nd St., Minneapolis

Contacts: Laura Weber, College of Design, l-webe@umn.edu, (612) 625-6566
Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720
Jessica Kohen, Minnesota Historical Society/Mill City Museum, jessica.kohen@mnhs.org, (651) 259-3148

July 1, 2010

"Imagining the Mississippi: 30 Ways to Transform the Riverfront," a new exhibit produced by University of Minnesota College of Design students, opens Wednesday, July 7, at the Mill City Museum, 704 S. 2nd St., Minneapolis.

The exhibit includes a design book that offers 30 separate visions of how the public can get closer to the Mississippi River along the Minneapolis Central Riverfront, transforming the vision of the river and city. The public is invited to comment on the designs.

Since January 2010, undergraduate architecture research assistants Daniel Carlson, Andy Cleven, Julia Hill, Kevin Lang, Michael Nickerson and Davidson Ward have worked with professor of architecture Leslie Van Duzer and the university's Mississippi River expert Patrick Nunnally to assemble a state-of-the art design book, complete with plans, sections and photo-realistic images of what the proposed designs would look like in today's environment.

The visions include new bridges, a thermal spa, the adaptive reuse of grain silos, water-level access to the river, a swimming pool built into a lock and the reconstruction of St. Anthony Falls.

An opening reception will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 7, when visitors can hear remarks by Carlson, Ward and Nunnally. The students will be on hand to discuss their work during the event. A cash bar and light snacks will be available.

For more information about "Imagining the Mississippi," see www.imaginethemississippi.com.

For more information about the Mill City Museum, including opening hours, see www.millcitymuseum.org.

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U of M researchers launch 'Parenting 2.0' project

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/02/2010) —University of Minnesota researchers have launched a new online research project to help understand how and why parents use technology. Called "Parenting 2.0," the project findings will be used to develop University of Minnesota Extension and other outreach programs for parents and families.

Parents who use the Internet and are willing to share their experiences are encouraged to visit the survey website at www.extension.umn.edu/go/1036. The survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Jodi Dworkin, Extension family relations specialist and associate professor in the Department of Family Social Science is co-directing the research with Susan Walker, associate professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. Both departments are housed in the College of Education and Human Development.

"We hope to determine some of the processes and outcomes around parent technology use, such as how parents use the Internet for seeking advice and information about parenting," said Dworkin. "Additionally, we'd like to know how parents use the Internet for family-oriented communications, such as monitoring children's online behavior and participating in social networking themselves."

To learn more about Parenting 2.0, visit www.extension.umn.edu/go/1036.

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Construction projects to impact traffic on and around University of Minnesota campus in Minneapolis

East River Road to close to through traffic

Contacts: Tim Busse, University Services, busse006@umn.edu, (612) 624-2863 or (952) 217-5094
Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/02/2010) —People visiting the University of Minnesota campus in Minneapolis should be aware of a number of construction and utility projects that will impact traffic on and around campus. On Tuesday July 6, East River Road will close to through-traffic from just north of Arlington Avenue to the area under the Washington Avenue Bridge to make room for construction and utility projects. The bike and pedestrian path on the west side of East River Road will also close and the work is expected to add to the traffic congestion and delays across campus. Download a map here https://www.myu.umn.edu/public/cc-ERR-trafficmap.pdf

The closure is necessary to accommodate construction and utility work by three different agencies. The work includes the installation of an electrical duct bank and storm sewer by the University of Minnesota, advanced traffic improvements associated with the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit line, and stabilization of the Mississippi River Bank by the Minneapolis Park Board.

The work is the first phase in a series of projects that are expected to extend into Fall Semester. While East River Road will be closed to through-traffic, there will be access to the East River Road Garage, the Weisman Garage and the Mississippi River Flats. Detour and warning signs will be posted.

In addition to the closure to through-traffic, East River Road will be reduced to one lane west of Harvard Street by the hospital loading dock area. Two-way traffic will be allowed, but drivers will be asked to take turns through the area. The lane reduction is expected to last two weeks.

In all construction zones on and around campus, please keep safety in mind.

Stay Out of Construction Areas: Orange construction fencing, barrels and barriers are there for your safety. Please obey them. The potential for injury isn't worth the few minutes you'll save cutting through a construction site.

Slow Down: On your bike or in your car, please slow down in construction areas. Keep an eye out for workers, vehicles and equipment.

Stay Alert: Whether walking, driving or biking in construction areas, pay attention. Hang up your phone, turn off your iPod, and be fully aware of the conditions around you.

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U of M Board of Regents to meet July 7

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

July 2, 2010

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold its July meeting on Wednesday at the Twin Cities campus. Included on the agenda is recognition of University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) Chancellor Kathryn Martin, who retires on July 30.

The board meets all day on Wednesday and then convenes its annual two-day retreat on Thursday and Friday in Owatonna, Minn.

The schedule for the meeting is as follows:

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

8:15 – 9:15 a.m., Audit Committee, East Conference Room.

9:30 – 10:45 a.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will review and act on a resolution related to an identify theft prevention program and the issuance of debt for state-supported biomedical research facilities.

9:30 – 10:45 a.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will receive an update from Provost Tom Sullivan and Vice Provost Robert McMaster on financial aid for the 2010-11 academic year. In addition, the committee will act on policies related to disability services and employee recruitment and retention.

11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will act on a resolution to nominate the Northrop Mall District for the National Register of Historic Places. It will also act on a five-year lease for the Soudan Underground Laboratory in St. Louis County. Both review and action will occur on schematic plans for a wind turbine at the university's UMore Park property in Dakota County and phase II of renovation of Akerman Hall as well as a capital budget amendment for the Center for Magnetic Resonance Research.

11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, East Committee Room. Senior Vice President Robert Jones and Dean of International Programs Meredith McQuaid will present on international education.

1:15 – 2:15 p.m., Board of Regents meeting. UMD Chancellor will be recognized. The board will also hear a presentation on priorities for development by the University of Minnesota Foundation and Minnesota Medical Foundation.

Immediately following the meeting, the board will consider a resolution to hold a non-public meeting of the Board of Regents to discuss attorney-client privileged matters.

Thursday, July 8 and Friday, July 9, 2010

Board of Regents annual retreat, Gainey Conference Center, Owatonna.

More information on the Board of Regents and live streaming of the board meetings can be found at www.umn.edu/regents.

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U of M College of Design's "Design Lab" to teach design thinking skills to local K-6 teachers and students

A “Learning Village” to be designed at Baker Community Center/Cherokee Heights Elementary School in St. Paul, July 6-9

What: Design Lab will help local K-6 teachers and students build design thinking skills
When: Tuesday through Friday, July 6-9. Media interested in covering Design Lab, must RSVP to Laura Weber or Jeff Falk
Where: Baker Community Center, 209 W. Page St., St. Paul

Contacts: Laura Weber, College of Design, l-webe@umn.edu, (612) 625-6566
Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

July 6, 2010

The University of Minnesota College of Design’s Design Lab (DLab) workshop this week will help local K-6 teachers and students build critical design thinking skills. DLab will take place Tuesday through Friday, July 6-9, at Baker Community Center, 209 W. Page St., St. Paul.

Participants will receive hands-on instruction from assistant professor of architecture John Comazzi and undergraduate and graduate students and will use the design process to understand and engage with natural phenomenon. Over the course of four days, students ages 4-11 will design a series of gathering spaces that incorporate wind, water, light and sound using sustainable materials such as straw bales and willow reeds. Cherokee Heights Elementary School teachers will participate in the project as well, learning ways to incorporate the design process into their curriculum.

“In preparing our students to successfully operate within an increasingly complex and interconnected world, it is imperative that we prepare them with the necessary skills to innovate and solve problems,” says Comazzi. “The interdisciplinary nature of design education gives students a range of competencies to activate and integrate their knowledge of core subjects like geography and algebra, or language arts and history, to solve a myriad of challenges presented to them.”

Design lessons will focus on sketching, diagramming, model building and prototyping structures. Participants will present their finished projects at 4:30 p.m. Friday, July 9.

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U of M announces major investment in research infrastructure

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John Merritt, Office of the Vice President for Research, merri205@umn.edu, (612) 624-2609

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/07/2010) —In his report today to the Board of Regents, University President Robert Bruininks announced a $20 million “Infrastructure Investment Initiative” (I3) to address research infrastructure needs deemed critical to the university's continued competitiveness.

Funding for I3 comes from the university’s share of royalties from technology commercialization. Nearly five years ago Bruininks and Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy decided to place a portion of the funds into a contingency fund to support future research needs or opportunities.

“Given the university’s financial challenges over the past couple years, the decision to deploy this contingency fund now will help address critical research infrastructure needs identified by our faculty and support strategic research objectives,” said Bruininks.

Funding will be targeted at significant investments for shared resources that support high-end research needs, including major equipment purchases. Funds can also be used to support highly trained technical personnel needed to support major research equipment or provide critical expertise to support complex research areas. The initiative will also provide funding for infrastructure needed to support scholarship in the arts and humanities, including performance areas, technical equipment, and other needs.

"This initiative will provide support to faculty research and scholarly pursuits in critical areas, providing long-term benefits to the entire university community," said Mulcahy.

Revenue from the commercialization of university technology has provided support for a number of other critical initiatives over the past five years, including:
- Creation of a $50 million “21st Century Fund,” a graduate fellowship program;
- Support for the “Imagine Fund,” a grant program that supports projects in the arts, humanities, and design;
- Creation and funding of the “Minnesota Futures” program, which provides seed funding for new interdisciplinary research programs;
- Support for the Institute for Advanced Study, which seeks to ignite creative, innovative, and profound research and discovery in the sciences, humanities and the arts.

An internal request for proposals for the funding will be announced in late August.

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An open letter from the University of Minnesota Board of Regents

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, wolter@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

July 8, 2010

The following is an open letter from the University of Minnesota Board of Regents:

That a small group of pioneers established the University of Minnesota before the state itself was formed may come as a surprise to some. According to historian James Gray, our state's founders insisted on an "institution of the highest order" when the Minnesota territory was only two years old, a time when the tallest structures on the Mississippi weren't buildings but trees!

From that prescient decision over 150 years ago has grown a university of which every Minnesotan can be proud. Globally recognized for excellence in research and teaching, while staying true to its commitment to improving the lives of all through statewide outreach, the U is every Minnesotan's university.

Given the historic and close relationship of the University to the people of Minnesota, the most important task of the Board of Regents, the University's 12-member legislatively elected governing body, is to select the University's president. As well known as the University is, the process by which the Board of Regents selects a president is decidedly unfamiliar. Consider: this fall while we will be selecting the 40th governor of Minnesota, the Board of Regents will be selecting just the 16th president of the University of Minnesota!

This state has been well served by the presidents of the University of Minnesota since its ambitious founding in 1851. Indeed, the Board of Regents expects each new president to build upon the University's strong foundation of achievement while articulating a clear and compelling vision for its future.

Now, as we begin celebrating the leadership of Robert H. Bruininks as the University's 15th president, and turn to selecting his successor, we also reach out to the people of Minnesota. We invite you to participate. We welcome your thoughts and observations. Updates on the selection process will be posted on our website http://www.presidentsearch.umn.edu.

Finally, thank you for your support of the University of Minnesota.

Sincerely,
The University of Minnesota Board of Regents

Clyde Allen, Chair
Linda Cohen, Vice Chair
Anthony Baraga
Richard Beeson
Dallas Bohnsack
John Frobenius
Venora Hung
Steven Hunter
Dean Johnson
David Larson
Maureen Ramirez
Patricia Simmons

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World's top drum and bugle corps to compete at TCF Bank Stadium

Marching Music's Major League™ is largest drum and bugle corps competition ever hosted in Minnesota

Media Note: Publicity photos available upon request.



TCF Bank Stadium will play host to 3,200 young drum corps performers July 17.

Contacts: Nina Shepherd, 612-599-1148
Preston Smith, University News Service, smith@umn.edu, 612-625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/12/2010) —Dazzling marching formations, stunning choreography and exemplary musical talent guaranteed to thrill will be on display by the 23 best drum and bugle corps in the world when they compete July 17 at TCF Bank Stadium at the University of Minnesota starting at 2 p.m.

DCI Minnesota, produced by Drum Corps International, will feature 3,200 young performers – including a number of Minnesotans – from throughout the country who will showcase their world-class musical, marching and dancing talents in the largest drum and bugle corps competition ever hosted in Minnesota.

Performing what organizers call "a football halftime show on steroids," these elite and exclusive marching music ensembles each feature up to 150 brass musicians, percussionists and dancers ages 14 to 22. Their performances wow audiences with an energetic blend of challenging musical arrangements and spellbinding marching formations and dance choreography that are delivered with precision, artistry and showmanship. The music is an array of classical, jazz, pop, rock music and show tunes, from George Gershwin and Gustav Maher to Jon Bon Jovi and The Beatles.

The evening's grand finale will be a performance by the 2009 defending world champion Blue Devils, the Santa Clara Vanguard and about 100 Minnesota students who will be attending a band camp July 14-17, which will be held in conjunction with DCI Minnesota.

Two Minnesota-based all-ages drum corps also will be competing. Minnesota Brass of St. Paul is the highest scoring all-ages drum corps west of Pennsylvania, having placed second at the Drum Corps Associates World Championships in 2008 and 2009. The Govenaires, from St. Peter, compete in the smaller Class A division and are the defending 2009 DCA Class A World Champions.

DCI Minnesota is one of 115 stops across the nation that comprises the annual Drum Corps International Tour. From June through mid-August, these elite groups cover more than 10,000 miles and rehearse an average of 10 hours a day, traveling with a convoy of busses, semi trucks and support vehicles at night and sleeping on school gym floors. The competitions are at the some of country's top venues, including the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, GA, the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., and INVESCO Field at Mile High in Denver, Colo. The tour culminates with the 2010 Drum Corps International World Championships Aug. 12-14 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

Ensembles competing during DCI Minnesota include the Blue Devils of Concord, Calif.; Carolina Crown of Ft. Mill, S.C.; The Cadets of Allentown, Pa.; The Cavaliers of Rosemont, Ill.; Santa Clara Vanguard of Santa Clara, Calif.; Bluecoats of Canton, Ohio; Boston Crusaders of Boston, Mass; and Blue Stars of La Crosse, Wis.

Twin Cities high school band students participating in the System Blue Marching Skills Camp will be practicing with The Santa Clara Vanguard and The Concord Blue Devils on the field of TCF Bank Stadium at the University of Minnesota Thursday, July 15 and Friday, July 16. The students, who start camp at the University on Wednesday, July 14, will perform at the event's grand finale at 9:30 p.m. Saturday, July 17 with the Blue Devils, last year's reigning DCI champions and the world record holder for the most titles awarded to any corps.

Tickets for DCI Minnesota start at $27 and can be purchased online at www.DCI.org/tickets or at the stadium box office beginning at 11 a.m. on the day of the event. Performances begin at 2 p.m. Special group rates are also available. Visit www.DCI.org for additional event details. TCF Bank Stadium is located at 2009 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis.

About Drum Corps International
Drum Corps International is the world leader in producing events for the world's most elite and exclusive marching ensembles for student musicians and performers. Founded in 1972, DCI has developed into a powerful, nonprofit, global youth organization with far-reaching artistic, educational and organizational influence. Drum Corps International is Marching Music's Major League™. Learn more about the exciting world of Drum Corps International and its member corps on the Web at www.DCI.org or call (317) 275-1212. Drum Corps International is located in Indianapolis.

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U of M project digitizes immigrant love letters

"A Heart Connects Us: Immigrant Letters and the Experience of Migration" provides insight into letters written between 1850 and 1970



The Digitizing Immigrant Letters project from the Immigration History Research Center features letters written in languages other than English exchanged by international migrants and their loved ones between 1850 and 1970.

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/12/2010) —The Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) at the University of Minnesota is in the midst of a pilot project to digitize letters revealing the depth of emotion between immigrants in languages other than English. The letters were exchanged by international migrants who lived in North America and their loved ones who were left behind in the years between 1850 and 1970.

"A Heart Connects Us: Immigrant Letters and the Experience of Migration" provides unique online access to and interpretation of letters for a diverse audience of scholars, teachers, students and the general public. The pilot project includes selected materials from the IHRC's archival collections.

The pilot project's first online exhibition was recently completed and can be accessed at www.ihrc.umn.edu. Additional student and staff research is being currently conducted to create a multimedia exhibition for spring 2011.

"Our vision is to create access to resources for a diverse group of scholars, students and general readers who want to understand and compare migration across traditional scholarly boundaries," says Donna Gabaccia, director of the IHRC and Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair in Immigration History.

"A Heart Connects Us" is part of IHRC's larger "Digitizing Immigrant Letters" project, which focuses on providing a way for scholars to study the spread of literacy and its effect on transnational human relationships, as well as identities and networks of intimacy during separations.

"Rhythms of writing and reading in the past differ from how we compress time and space in our communications today," said Sonia Cancian, a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellow affiliated with the IHRC and off-site director of the project. "This project will allow scholars to study whether the emotional and identity outcomes are different, as well."

Five collections of letters written in Croatian, Finnish, Italian, Latvian and Ukrainian from among the IHRC's large holdings of immigrant materials were selected for inclusion in "A Heart Connects Us." Between four and seven letters from each collection were transcribed, translated and scanned, and photographs from the collections were added to the online repository.

The ultimate goal of the "Digitizing Immigrant Letters" project is to expand into a multi-institutional digital archive, thus becoming an international resource to connect university researchers to materials currently only available onsite in repositories in Asia, Europe and other North America historical institutions.

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U of M Recognizes 2010 Farm Families of the Year

Media Note: Photographs of families who attend the Aug. 5 recognition ceremony will be posted to http://mnfarmfamilies.cfans.umn.edu after Aug. 12.

Contacts: Catherine Dedashti, U of M Extension, ced@umn.edu, 612-625-0237
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Preston Smith, University News Service, smith@umn.edu, 612-625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/13/2010) —Seventy-three families from around the state, one from each participating county, have been named a “2010 Farm Family of the Year” by the University of Minnesota.

The families will be officially recognized in a ceremony Thursday, Aug. 5 at the annual Farmfest near Redwood Falls, Minn. Visit the university’s farm family website at http://mnfarmfamilies.cfans.umn.edu/. Profiles of the 2010 honorees and information on the recognition event can be found on the website at www.extension.umn.edu/go/1040.

“Almost all Minnesota farms are family farms,” said Bev Durgan, dean of University of Minnesota Extension. “These farm families are a major driver of Minnesota's economy and the vitality of Minnesota's rural communities. The University of Minnesota is proud to recognize these farm families for their contribution to agriculture and their communities."

Families receiving honors were selected by their local county Extension committees and have demonstrated a commitment to enhancing and supporting agriculture and agricultural production.

The diversity of Minnesota family farms can be seen by looking at a sample of the 2010 honorees:

Douglas Lawrence Family of Anoka County
The Douglas Lawrence family farm was established in 1957 when Douglas’s father purchased a farm and three registered Hereford bred cows with calves in Coon Rapids. Known today as Lawrence Herefords, the farm is now in the fourth generation of raising and showing cattle. Besides the Herefords, the Lawrence family has 320 turf acres in Anoka County. Doug, Joann and their sons and grandchildren are all involved with the family operation.

John and Leila Arndt of Kandiyohi County
John and Leila purchased their Willmar area farm in 1972. The farm began as a beef cow operation, but is now a 200-acre farm and bison ranch. Besides 300 head of bison, they raise oats, corn and soybeans. The farm has a selection of different cuts of bison for sale, and they are involved with the Farm to School program and many other organizations.

Kramer Farms of Renville County
Eugene Kramer was born into a family of 12 children. Eugene, the oldest, and Mike, the youngest, decided they would start farming together. As Eugene and his wife Carol began growing a family, their five boys also began farming with Eugene and Mike. They raise corn, soybeans, sugar beets, kidney beans, sweet corn and peas.

Tom and Lisa Walsh Family of Swift County
In 1992, Tom Walsh took over the family farm his parents had been running for 50 years. His farm started with feed cattle, a cow/calf operation and some crops. Eight years later, he and his brother, with some partners from Morris, built a 2,000 cow dairy. They have since built another dairy. Today, Tom is the managing partner in the dairy operations. In addition, he raises corn and alfalfa and has a small beef cow herd.

Coleman Farms of Watonwan County
In 1967, Dennis Coleman purchased a 160-acre farm in South Branch Township with the help of his parents. A year later, Dennis and his wife Sonja started a hog operation. Today the Coleman family operates a 1,200 sow farrow-to-finish hog operation, which is mostly located on the original 160 acres. In addition to the hog operation, they run 2,700 acres of soybeans and corn.

Along with Farmfest, university units sponsoring the recognition event include University of Minnesota Extension, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Farmfest runs Aug. 3-5 at the Gilfillan Estate, near Redwood Falls. Event hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Aug. 3 and 4, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 5. Admission is $10 per person, and those 18 and under are admitted free. More information on Farmfest is available at www.farmshows.com/ffst.

Here is a complete listing of the 2010 University of Minnesota Farm Family of the Year honorees, by county:

County - Family
Aitkin - Ron and Sharon Dotzler Family
Anoka - Douglas Lawrence Family
Becker - Spadgenske Dairy
Benton - Joe and Wendy Knapek Family
Big Stone - Wulff Family Farm—Walter and Sheila Wulff
Blue Earth - Jeff and Julie More & Family
Brown - Jenna and Mike Griebel Family
Carlton - Bill and Ruth Sharratt
Carver - Andy and Jodene Stuewe
Cass - The Stockman’s
Chippewa - Schultz-Schaefer Family Farm
Chisago - Diamond B Farms
Clearwater - Gary and Aryls Mathis
Cottonwood - Kent Erickson
Dakota - Al and Beth Bester & Family
Dodge - Currier Family
Douglas - Andy and Emily Siira
Faribault - Don and Nancy Linder Farm
Fillmore - Lind Family Farms
Freeborn - Pat and Rosanna Staloch
Goodhue - Jaeger Farms
Grant - Paul and Carol Anderson Family
Hennepin - Picha Farms
Houston - Paul and Helen Solum Family
Isanti - Rodney and Sara Elmstrand
Jackson - Brian and Bruce Ihnen Families
Kanabec - Thoeny Farms
Kandiyohi - John and Leila Arndt
Kittson - Ronald and LaVonne Anderson
Lac qui Parle - The Daren Schmidt Family
Lake of the Woods - Elmo and Alcia Sorrels
Le Sueur - Jerry and Peggy Cooney Family
Lincoln - Glen S. Johnson Family
Mahnomen - Robert and Carol Schafer Family
Martin - Robert and Melissa Garry
McLeod - Jonathon and Debbie Posusta Family
Meeker - Prairie Gold Farm (The Buers)
Mille Lacs - Kevin and Tammy Krotzer & Family
Morrison - Jim and Debbie Knopik
Mower - Larry Larson & Family
Murray - Stan and Jean Larson
Nicollet - John and Beverly Schroeder Family
Nobles - Wagner Family Farm
Norman - Germolus Family Farm
Olmsted - Roeder Farms
Otter Tail - Bruce and Arleen Stone
Pine - Mach Family
Pipestone - Schulze Dairy
Polk - Steve and Betty Ness
Pope - Maanum Family
Ramsey - City Backyard Farming, Xe Susane Moua
Red Lake - Leslie and Alice Hofstad
Redwood - Bruce and Ann Tiffany
Renville - Kramer Farms
Rice - Estrem Family Farms
Rock - John and Jeanne Bowron
Roseau - Jon and Valerie Johnson
Scott - Zweber Family
Sherburne - Shady Nook Farm; Neal and Judy Weis Family Farm
Sibley - The Bruce and Nelva Lilienthal Family
Stearns - Nick and Tara Meyer Family
Steele - Heers Family Farm
Stevens - Steven and Lori Kill
Swift - Tom and Lisa Walsh Family
Todd - Clasemann Dairy LLC
Traverse - Pederson Family
Wabasha - Jack and Cindy Stamschror
Wadena - Dennis and Nancy Benson
Waseca - The Leon and Beth Schoenrock Family Farm
Washington - Gordy and Bonnie Tank & Myron and Linda Tank
Watonwan - Coleman Farms
Winona - Duane and Cindy Herber Family
Yellow - Medicine Kvam Farm

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University of Minnesota master's program in Management of Technology extends deadline to Aug. 1

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/15/2010) —The University of Minnesota master's program in Management of Technology (MOT) has a few spots remaining for the class starting Fall 2010. The program has extended its deadline for interested applicants to Aug. 1.

The MOT is a unique management master's degree program designed for seasoned, full-time technical professionals who seek to develop their leadership and business skills.

The MOT program is similar to an MBA with some important differences. In addition to addressing finance, accounting and marketing, the MOT curriculum includes future-focused topics that teach graduates to leverage technological innovation to drive business, such as technology foresight and forecasting, innovation management, and new technology product development and commercialization. The MOT Capstone Project class is a project that addresses a significant work-based management or business issue.

The MOT program, which has been offered at the university through the College of Science and Engineering's Technological Leadership Institute for nearly 20 years, is one of the first programs of its kind in the nation. Since its inception, more than 500 students have participated in the MOT program from more than 200 sponsoring companies.

For more information about enrolling or to begin the application process, call 612-624-8826, send an email to mot@umn.edu or visit the website at http://tli.umn.edu/graduate/mot.

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U of M announces 14 student Fulbright scholars for 2010-11 school year

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/19/2010) —Fourteen University of Minnesota students (nine graduate and five undergraduate) have received Fulbright grants for 2010-11 to pursue graduate study or research in a foreign country beginning next year. All of the undergraduate awards and one graduate award were made to recent graduates.

Minnesota graduate students won three of only 10 student Fulbrights offered nationally for study in Norway.

The graduate student recipients are:

Alyssa Mae Anderson, a doctoral student in entomology in the U of M's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS), is the 2010-11 winner of the award for the University of Minnesota Graduate School's Fulbright Scholarship Exchange Program with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim, Norway. Dr. Torbjorn Ekrem invited her to join his lab to learn the techniques used for DNA barcoding of Chironomidae. Anderson graduated magna cum laude from St. Olaf College with a B.A. in biology in 2006.

Andrew James Carlson, a master's student in mechanical engineering currently developing a new amphibious robotic platform at the U's Center for Distributed Robotics within the College of Science and Engineering (CSE), won a scholarship to the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). In Norway, he will aid in developing a test bed for optical measuring with use in manufacturing quality control of oil pipe welding. Carlson received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 2009.

Rolf Erik Jacobson, a master's student in architecture in the College of Design (CDes), received a Fulbright Full Grant to investigate and compare energy efficient building envelopes in Minnesota and Norway. He will join a team of researchers at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) Research Centre on Zero Emission Buildings. Jacobson received a master's of architecture from the University of Minnesota in 2007 and a B.A. in physics and mathematics from St. Olaf College in 2001.

Andrew Reine Johnson, a doctoral student in sociology in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), is one of 15 students nationally to receive a Fulbright Full Grant to Brazil. He will conduct ethnographic research on religion in Brazilian prisons and its corresponding impact on civil society, the prison system and the life course of prisoners. Johnson received a B.A. in sociocultural studies from Bethel University in 2000 and a M.A. in urban studies from Temple University in 2004.

Moana Light McClellan, a doctoral student in plant biological sciences in CFANS, received a Fulbright Full Grant to examine the ecological and social dimensions of regenerating tropical dry forest on private lands in Costa Rica. McClellan received a B.A. in natural sciences from New College of Florida in 2003.

David Simon Morton, a doctoral student in history in CLA, received a Fulbright Full Grant to examine the role of shelter in Maputo, Mozambique, specifically the construction and maintenance of shantytowns in the midst of poverty and political repression. Morton received a B.A. in history from Yale University in 1997.

Heather Elaine O'Leary, a doctoral student in anthropology in CLA, is one of twenty students nationally to receive a Fulbright Full Grant to India. She will investigate everyday negotiations and understandings of water rights in India and how socioeconomic status affects perceptions of ethical water use. O'Leary received a B.A. in sociology from the University of Michigan in 2003 and a M.A. in social science from the University of Chicago in 2005.

Raphi Konstantin Rechitsky, a doctoral student in sociology in CLA, is one of ten students nationally to receive a Fulbright Full Grant to Ukraine. His dissertation research investigates changing ethnic relations in Ukraine spurred by newly arrived "transit" migrants. Rechitsky received a B.A. in sociology from Southern Illinois University in 2005.

Annie Katsura Rollins, '10, M.F.A. in theatre arts within CLA, received a Fulbright Full Grant to learn and research the world's oldest known tradition of shadow puppetry in China. Her focus will be on mastering the ancient methods of hand cutting and dyeing leather puppets and researching the design and theory of their shadow play stage design. Rollins received a B.F.A. in drama from Carnegie Mellon University in 2002.

The undergraduate student recipients are:

Thomas Flynn, a December 2008 graduate in political science in CLA, was awarded a Fulbright Full Grant to Jordan. During his undergraduate career, Flynn studied Arabic at the University of Minnesota and on study abroad programs in Damascus and Beirut. His experience volunteering at the Center for Victims of Torture in Minneapolis led to a research interest in the center's work with Iraqi refugees in Jordan. During his Fulbright year, Flynn will conduct research at the center's offices in Amman and Ibrid on the interactions between the center's largely Western-trained staff and their Iraqi clients to discover how cultural barriers may be surmounted in order to provide more effective treatment of torture victims. Along with the Fulbright, Flynn has received a Critical Language Enhancement Award for further Arabic language study.

Sara Gregg, a 2009 magna cum laude graduate in Spanish studies and Russian in CLA, was awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Russia. She will engage in classroom teaching, serve as a resource for Russian teachers of English, and enhance her fluency in Russian language. Gregg aspires to a career as a high school language teacher and an advocate for the teaching of foreign languages, especially Russian, in the United States. She spent the 2009-10 year as an English teacher at a low-income public school in Madrid. While in college, she studied abroad in both Spain and Russia. In conjunction with the Fulbright, Gregg has been awarded a Critical Language Enhancement Award to continue her studies of Russian language.

Woody Hanson, a spring 2010 graduate with a bachelor of science in architecture in CDes, is the recipient of a Fulbright Full Grant to Cyprus. Last summer, with funding from the Metropolitan Design Center and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, Hanson conducted overseas research on the Nicosia Master Plan, an architectural heritage preservation project spanning the Greek-Turkish divide in Nicosia, Cyprus. As a Fulbright Scholar, Hanson will return to Nicosia to visually and historically document this preservation effort and to learn about the potential for architectural heritage preservation to improve relations between divided communities.

Emily Kippels, a 2010 summa cum laude graduate in anthropology in CLA, will spend the coming academic year in Mexico as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant. During her undergraduate career, Kippels studied abroad in Cape Town, South Africa, and in Cuernavaca, Mexico. She is engaged extensively in community service, including assisting patients in the Aqui Para Ti program at Hennepin County Medical Center's East Lake Clinic. Kippels intends to pursue a career in education. While in Mexico, she will also seek opportunities to volunteer with a health care organization serving underprivileged populations.

Thomas Snyder, a 2009 magna cum laude graduate in global studies and political science in CLA, received a Fulbright Full Grant to China. Snyder will research the efficacy of the Revitalize Northeast China program in promoting economic development and reducing poverty in rural areas near the industrial city of Harbin. Snyder studied Chinese for several years at the university and received a U.S. State Department-funded Critical Language Scholarship to Harbin in summer 2008. After his Fulbright year, he intends to pursue a master's degree in Chinese studies and work in government.

The Fulbright competition for students is administered at the University of Minnesota through the Graduate School and the Office for National Scholarships in the University Honors Program.

An international educational exchange program, the Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Since its inception, the Fulbright Program has provided approximately 300,000 participants, chosen for their leadership potential, with the opportunity to observe each others' political, economic, and cultural institutions; exchange ideas; and embark on joint ventures of importance to the general welfare of the world's inhabitants. The program operates in more than 155 countries worldwide. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement as well as on demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

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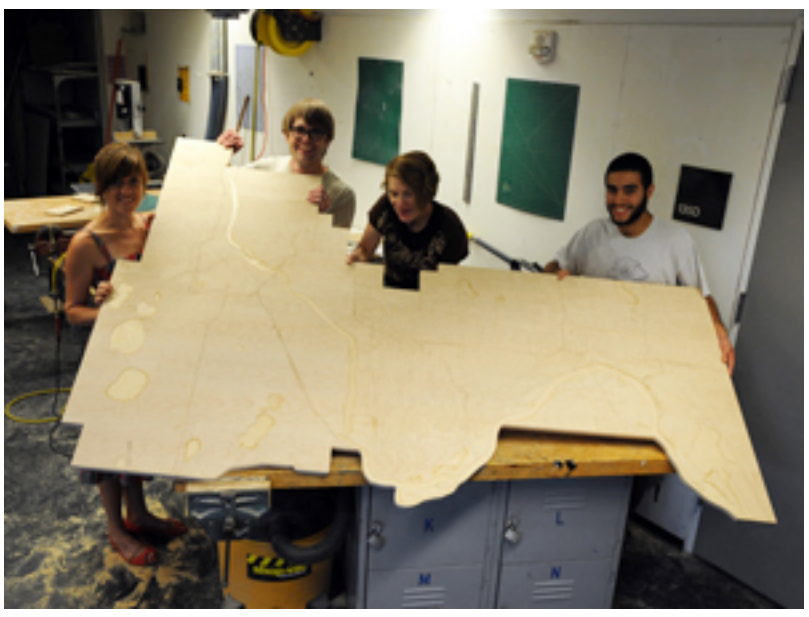
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U of M professor's new public art project to map joy and pain in the Twin Cities

"Unseen/Seen: The Mapping of Joy and Pain" to be unveiled at Father Hennepin Bluffs Park this Friday, July 23



U of M professor and artist Rebecca Krinke (third from left) shows her map of the Twin Cities area with several students.

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July 20, 2010

People in Minneapolis-St. Paul will receive an unusual opportunity starting Friday. They can map where in the Twin Cities they have experienced joy and pain. Called "Unseen/Seen: The Mapping of Joy and Pain," this new, interactive outdoor public art project is traveling to several parks in Minneapolis this summer and flows from the creative mind of Rebecca Krinke, associate professor in the University of Minnesota College of Design's Department of Landscape Architecture.

The project's sculptural setting includes a unique table-like object that contains a custom, wooden map of the Twin Cities. The scale map has streets clearly labeled to provide easy orientation for mapping, and visitors have the opportunity to literally add color to this map -- gold where they have felt joy and gray for pain. Members of the project team will be on hand in each location to talk with anyone interested about the project and invite them to add their experiences to the map.

"Unseen/Seen: The Mapping of Joy and Pain challenges conventional ways of seeing the Twin Cities", says Krinke. "The project has the potential to be revealing, even cathartic." Krinke is partnering with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in her project.

"We at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board are thrilled to be a partner in this process," says Diane Moe, cultural arts administrator for the board. "We are confident it will bring individuals of all ages to the parks to view and participate in this fabulous idea."

The project is the first step in what Krinke envisions as a continuing exploration of pain/joy through public art and the community engagement. Bringing the project to the national, even international level is planned. In 2011, she plans to designate a day for cities, public art programs and individuals to create a setting and event for The Mapping of Joy and Pain in their city.

Schedule for the Mapping of Joy and Pain project:

Friday, July 23, Father Hennepin Bluffs Park, Minneapolis, 3-7 p.m.

Special Location: Saturday, July 24, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday, July 31, Gluek Park, Minneapolis, 3-7 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 6, Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis, 3-7 p.m.

Additional parks and dates are being planned; see Krinke's website for updates at www.rebeccakrinke.com.

Krinke is a multimedia artist and designer working in sculpture, installations and site art. In broad terms, her work deals with issues related to trauma and recovery. Krinke’s sculpture often explores and embodies themes of trauma - using the body as a starting point - while her installations and site works have focused on ideas of recovery - through contemplative, transformative environments.

University students Yamuna Golden, David Kerber and Michael Dorfman assisted her in this project. Kevin Groenke and Justin Kindlespire of the College of Design provided lasercutting and woodworking expertise. In addition, university student Joseph Cronick is producing a video documentary on the project. The University of Minnesota’s Imagine Fund and the university’s Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program provided funding for this project.

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Large national study strongly links educational leadership to student achievement

Good school leadership is critical to good education, University of Minnesota researcher says



Kyla Wahlstrom is a professor in the College of Education and Human Development. Her most recent study has broad implications for how leadership affects learning across the United States.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/21/2010) —A new study released today, the largest of its kind, offers important new evidence affirming the strong connection between what school leaders do and student achievement - and sheds new light on what effective leadership involves.

The conclusions in the report, *Learning from Leadership: Investigating the Links to Improved Student Learning*, by researchers Kyla Wahlstrom and Karen Seashore Louis from the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development and Kenneth Leithwood and Stephen Anderson from the University of Toronto, have broad implications for the understanding of how leadership affects learning across the United States.

“The rubber hits the road in the classroom; that’s where the learning happens,” said Wahlstrom. “Leadership is important because it sets the conditions and the expectations in the school that there will be excellent instruction and there will be a culture of ongoing learning for the educators and for the students in the school.”

The study demonstrates a strong, positive link between educational leaders — particularly principals — and student learning outcomes. As the topic of student achievement and test scores dominates policy discussions at the local, state, and national levels, schools and districts face mounting pressure to improve student outcomes. The report provides vital information for policymakers and educational leaders to help students succeed.

Researchers of the $3.5 million study, funded by The Wallace Foundation and conducted over six years, conducted more than 1,000 interviews, surveyed more than 8,000 teachers and administrators, and observed in more than 350 classrooms at all grade levels.

“In *Learning from Leadership* — the largest study of school leadership to date — researchers found the strongest evidence yet of principals’ significant effects on student achievement,” said Edward Pauly, director of research and evaluation at The Wallace Foundation. “With current constraints on state and district budgets, this research is all the more timely; the case is stronger than ever for investing in better leadership to improve schools and bring benefits to all students.”

Learning from Leadership is an important contribution to the Wallace Foundation’s 10-year body of research into understanding and improving leadership in educational settings. The study’s authors examined leadership extensively and in its many forms — from the state and district levels to individual principals, school board members, teachers, and community members. They found that collaboration among these stakeholders correlated with improved student learning.

Learning from Leadership discusses how superintendents and principals can most effectively drive gains in student achievement and how and why their practices result in instructional improvement in some contexts and not others.

“Among many other findings, I anticipate readers will be especially interested in our findings about successful leadership practices, the importance of distributing those practices in coordinated ways, and the key contribution of leader efficacy in accounting for district success," said Leithwood.

Among the report’s key findings:

- Student achievement is higher in schools where principals share leadership with teachers and the community; principals play a key role in encouraging others to join.
- Higher-performing schools generally ask for more input and engagement from a wider variety of stakeholders.
- District support for shared leadership fosters the development of professional communities. Where teachers feel attached to a professional community, they are more likely to use instructional practices that are linked to improved student learning.
- In districts where levels of student learning are high, district leaders are more likely to emphasize goals and initiatives that reach beyond minimum state expectations for student performance.

Major challenges to effective school leadership include:

- The stark lack of district support for principals’ professional development and a lack of regular contact between most principals and their district office. District leadership also needs to increase support for principals to use data-driven decision-making.
- The direct negative effect of principal turnover on student achievement due to disruptions in cooperation and shared leadership with teachers
- A lack of real and sustained leadership directed to improve instruction in high schools
- The absence of comprehensive approaches to education reform in most states

The rich set of findings in *Learning from Leadership* can help educators, policymakers, and other thought leaders understand how student achievement is linked to leadership at all levels of the education system, from the classroom to the state capital. The report’s implications are vast, but one message is clear: “Schools and districts that don’t have good leaders will struggle,” said Wahlstrom. “So leadership absolutely makes a difference. I can’t say that strongly enough: Good leadership is critical to good education.”

The full report is available for free from cehd.umn.edu/carei or wallacefoundation.org. A full executive summary and a four-page Knowledge in Brief are also available.

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Robina continues LaPPS program support with $2 million gift to U of M Law School

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/21/2010) —The University of Minnesota Law School has received a $2 million gift from the Robina Foundation, extending its support of the Law School's Program on Law, Public Policy, and Society (LaPPS).

The new pledge will enhance LaPPS's continued development, including recruitment and retention of high-quality faculty members and implementation of initiatives to advance the curriculum reform that is making the Law School a national model.

The gift builds on the Robina Foundation's earlier grant of $6.01 million for 2008-12, which jump-started the new LaPPS program. The program supports innovative public policy research and an enriched curriculum that prepares law students to serve as agents of social transformation.

Robina funding has supported new faculty in international law, criminal law, and law and science; new capstone courses for upper-level students; faculty research on cutting-edge public policy problems; and new student internships and post-JD fellowships. The recent gift will continue promotion of inventive new policy proposals, visionary and pragmatic approaches to law, and practical solutions to complex problems.

The Robina Foundation was created by James H. Binger ('41) shortly before his death in 2004 to fund forward-thinking projects at major institutions. His goal was to encourage new ideas and transformative approaches that will have a positive effect on critical social issues. The Law School, Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, The Council on Foreign Relations and Yale University were selected to receive major funding.

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Kids could get more whole grains from after-school snacks, University of Minnesota study finds

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Whole wheat graham crackers, U of M researchers say, could be a good way to ensure kids get their daily recommended servings of whole wheat.

Image courtesy of Flickr.com.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/22/2010) —An after-school snack of graham crackers might be one way to get children to eat more whole grains, a new study from the University of Minnesota shows.

Federal nutrition guidelines recommend at least three servings a day of whole-grain foods, but previous studies have found that children typically only eat about one serving per day, largely because they don't like the taste or texture of whole-grain foods.

In this study, researchers served graham snacks with four levels of whole-grain flour content to about 100 elementary-school children in a Roseville, Minn. after-school program. The researchers measured how much of each kind of snack was thrown away uneaten. The surprising finding: the students ate just as many crackers with higher whole-grain content as the more processed versions.

"Graham snacks provide a healthy, highly acceptable whole grain food that kids love to eat," says Len Marquart, the lead investigator on the study. "This is an excellent way for kids to get up to an additional serving of whole grain per snacking occasion."

To avoid any influence of branding or recognition of something the students had eaten before, all the crackers looked alike and the students ate from plain aluminum packets. Some of the students also participated in taste tests and focus groups about how the crackers could be improved.

The study is published in this month's British Food Journal and is available online at http://www.emeraldinsight.com/journals.htm?issn=0007070x&volume=112&issue=7.

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U of M landscape architecture student to help green the grounds of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva

Project is part of a larger commitment by the U.S. State Department to sustainable design at its embassies and diplomatic facilities around the world



U of M student Natalie Ross will spend two weeks in August studying the U.S. Mission to the United Nations complex in Geneva, Switzerland.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/22/2010) —Natalie Ross, a third-year master of landscape architecture student at the University of Minnesota's College of Design, is one of nine U.S. landscape architecture students who will spend the first two weeks of August studying the grounds surrounding the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, and drafting a sustainable landscape design that can be phased in over five years.

The students will work alongside three Swiss landscape architecture students, and under the guidance of three American landscape architecture educators, to deliver a comprehensive, sustainable landscape design that improves the landscape's performance while also demonstrating American expertise.

"I think it's great that the U.S. government is putting forth effort to be more thoughtful of green design and energy efficiency, and the green focus really motivated me to apply for this project," Ross says. Associate professor of landscape architecture Rebecca Krinke encouraged Ross to apply for the project. "It will be a unique opportunity to collaborate with students representing programs from all across the country who will bring different approaches to green design," Ross says.

This unique collaborative design project is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Mission and the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). More than 130 applications were received by ASLA and screened to select a team with the widest breadth of skills, talents and experience.

The U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva represents the United States at the United Nations and other international organizations and is a major center for multilateral diplomacy in Europe. The building regularly hosts diplomats from around the world for important bilateral and multilateral discussions on a variety of security, economic and political issues, including the recent negotiations on the New START nuclear treaty.

A committee that included representatives from ASLA and the Department of State selected the students. Applicants were required to be U.S. citizens and to submit a résumé; 400-word- statement of interest; faculty recommendations; and three samples of project work.

For further information about the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and the ASLA, see the respective websites at http://geneva.usmission.gov and www.asla.org.

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University of Minnesota to lead initiative on home energy efficiency in cold climates

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/23/2010) —A public-private partnership led by University of Minnesota researchers has been chosen by the U.S. Department of Energy to help develop cost-effective solutions that dramatically reduce the average energy use of housing while improving comfort and quality.

Fifteen projects nationwide will receive up to $30 million over the next 18 months as part of the department's "Building America" program. The grants were announced this week.

The Minnesota project, called the NorthernSTAR Energy Efficient Housing Research Partnership Team, will use a holistic approach to building performance, particularly as it applies to housing in cold climates. Using this approach, a new or retrofitted house must achieve multiple performance outcomes of energy efficiency, durability, indoor air quality and low environmental impact. While most energy-efficiency programs address only the house, a holistic approach involves the entire process, from construction delivery system to helping homeowners save energy.

The project will be led by Pat Huelman of the university's Cold Climate Housing Program and John Carmody of the U's Center for Sustainable Building Research. "The construction, operation and maintenance of our homes use approximately one-quarter of our nation's total energy consumption," Huelman said. "This initiative will conduct the research and provide the outreach needed to support a growing energy retrofit industry. The results will be to create new job opportunities that will enhance the performance and value of our nation's housing stock, save homeowners and renters money, and provide long-term benefits to our environment."

The project incorporates scientists from a broad range of disciplines and will use research facilities throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin to help develop strategies not only for energy technologies but for making those technologies available and understandable to all communities.

University of Minnesota researchers involved in the project are from the U of M's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, College of Design, College of Science and Engineering, U of M Extension, Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment and the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Other key partners include the Center for Energy and the Environment, Energy Center of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Building Knowledge, Building Green, Hunt Utilities Group, Verified Green, McGregor Pearce, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Wagner Zaun Architecture.

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Advisory

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University of Minnesota to announce start-up company based on atrazine treatment technology

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July 28, 2010

What: An atrazine remediation technology based on the research of U of M biochemist Lawrence Wackett and microbiologist Michael Sadowsky will serve as the basis for a start-up company launched by two recent College of Science and Engineering graduates, Joe Mullenbach and Alex Johansson.

- All four will be available for interviews
- Tours available of Wackett's lab in the BioTechnology Resource Center

When:

10 a.m. to noon, Thursday, July 29

Where:

Gortner Laboratory, Room 240H
1479 Gortner Ave., St. Paul
University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus

Why:

Atrazine is a selective herbicide that is widely used by farmers in the United States to control broadleaf weeds and grasses, but in recent years its safety has been the subject of much debate among scientists. The EPA has long required water systems to test and treat for atrazine. This biocatalyst-based drinking water filtration technology can reduce atrazine concentrations to below the detectable limit of 0.1 ppb without producing a water waste stream.

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U of M School of Music announces fall 2010 season events

Oct. 16 Collage Concert to honor university President Robert Bruininks and his wife, Dr. Susan Hagstrum



The U of M School of Music has announced its 2010 fall season events.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/28/2010) —The University of Minnesota School of Music has announced its fall 2010 event offerings. Fall highlights include the 10th Anniversary All-School Collage Concert on Oct. 16, featuring more than 300 students and faculty in performance, and the Fall Convocation on Oct. 13, featuring keynote speaker Paul Phoenix of The King's Singers.

In addition, this year's Collage Concert will honor university President Robert Bruininks and his wife, Dr. Susan Hagstrum, for their years of service to the university and their support of the School of Music.

Most School of Music events are free, unless otherwise noted, and all events are open to the public. The school's Ferguson Hall (2106 4th St. S., Minneapolis) and Ted Mann Concert Hall (2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis) are both located on the U of M's West Bank. Convenient parking is available at the university's 19th Avenue and 21st Avenue parking ramps; one must pay a fee to park in these ramps.

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.

FALL 2010 EVENTS

ALL-SCHOOL EVENTS

School of Music Fall Convocation
With keynote speaker Paul Phoenix, tenor and member of internationally renowned The King's Singers.
Wednesday, Oct. 13 • 10 a.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

10th Anniversary Collage Concert
Featuring more than 300 students and faculty performing in a musical extravaganza. This year's Collage Concert will honor university President Robert Bruininks and his wife, Dr. Susan Hagstrum, for their years of service to the university and their support of the School of Music.
Tickets: $16 adults/$11 children; U of M students, faculty, staff, alumni and retirees. General admission. (612) 624-2345 or tickets.umn.edu
All proceeds support the School of Music Community Engagement Initiative.
Saturday, Oct. 16 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

BAND EVENTS

Wind Ensemble
Featuring the world premiere of Gregory Mertl's Piano Concerto for Piano and Symphonic Winds with Solungga Liu, guest pianist (written for Solungga Liu and the U of M Wind Ensemble). Craig Kirchhoff, conductor
Tuesday, Oct. 12 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

Symphonic Band and University Band
Jerry Luckhardt and Alicia Neal, conductors
Wednesday, Oct. 13 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

Campus Bands
Eric Allen and John Zarco, conductors
Thursday, Oct. 21 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

Marching Band Indoor Concerts
Tickets: (612) 624-2345 – on sale after Sept. 7
Saturday, Nov. 13 • 7 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 14 • 3 p.m. | Northrop Memorial Auditorium

Wind Ensemble
Featuring the regional premiere of Carter Pann's Concerto Logic for Piano and Wind Symphony with Carter Pann, guest pianist. The program will also feature the The Singers, Minnesota Choral Artists, (Matthew Culloton, conductor) who join U of M Wind Ensemble in a performance of Igor Stravinsky's Mass. Craig Kirchhoff, conductor
Tuesday, Nov. 23 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

Wind Ensemble: Chamber Music
Craig Kirchhoff, conductor
Tuesday, Nov. 30 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

Symphonic Band and University Band
Jerry Luckhardt and Alicia Neal, conductors
Wednesday, Dec. 1 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

Campus Bands
Eric Allen and John Zarco, conductors
Thursday, Dec. 2 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

Conducting Symposium
Advanced registration required. Call (612) 624-6873.
Saturday, Dec. 11 • 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Ferguson Hall

CHORAL EVENTS

University Men's and Women's Chorus: Fall Program
Friday, Nov. 5 • 7:30 p.m. | University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave S.E., Minneapolis

University Singers Fall Concert: The Music of Jeffrey Van
Kathy Saltzman Romey, Matthew Mehaffey, and Christopher Owen, conductors
Jeffrey Van, guitar
Friday, Nov. 12 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

University Choirs: Sounds of the Season
An all choir holiday event. Kathy Saltzman Romey, Matthew Mehaffey, and graduate student conductors
Friday, Dec. 3 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

JAZZ EVENTS

Jazz Ensemble I: The Music of Bob Brookmeyer
Thursday, Oct. 14 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

Jazz Ensembles II and III
Monday, Oct. 18 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

Jazz Ensemble I opens for the JazzMN Orchestra
JazzMN Orchestra – Kenton's 100th Kickoff featuring vocalist Stephanie Nakasian.
Tickets: www.jazzmn.org
Saturday, Nov. 20 • 7:30 p.m. | Hopkins High School Performing Arts Center, 2400 Lindberg Dr., Minnetonka

Jazz Combos in Concert
Monday, Nov. 29 • 7:30 p.m. | Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall, Ferguson Hall

Jazz Ensembles I and II: Old Wine, New Bottles
Modern arrangements of classic jazz tunes.
Monday, Dec. 6 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

OPERA EVENTS

University Opera Theatre presents Robert Aldridge's Elmer Gantry
Libretto by Herschel Garfein. Based on the novel by Sinclair Lewis. David Walsh, director
Tickets: $22/$12 students & children. Two for one tickets for U of M students, faculty, alumni, staff and retirees. (612) 624-2345 or tickets.umn.edu.
Thurs., Nov. 18 – Sat., Nov. 20 • 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 21 • 1:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

ORCHESTRAL EVENTS

Campus String Orchestra
Performing Grieg's Holberg Suite and Sibelius's Rakastava (The Lovers). Foster Beyers, conductor
Friday, Oct. 22 • 7:30 p.m. | Location TBD

University Symphony Orchestra
Mark Russell Smith conducts the music of Johann Strauss, Jr. (Die Fledermaus Overture) and Berlioz's ground-breaking Symphonie fantastique. Doctoral candidate Jeffrey Specht conducts Richard Strauss's orchestral tour-de-force Don Juan.
Monday, Oct. 25 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

Campus Orchestra: A Night of Dances
Featuring Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake Suite, Gounod's Faust ballet music, Bizet's Carmen Suite 1 and 2, Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 5, and Strauss's Blue Danube or Emperor's Waltz.
Monday, Nov. 1 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

University Symphony Orchestra
Featuring the Concerto Competition winner and Beethoven's Symphony No. 7. Master's candidate Erik Rohde leads Gershwin's American in Paris.
Monday, Dec. 13 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

Campus Orchestra and String Orchestra
Performing Dvorak's New World Symphony and a symphony by F. J. Haydn.
Wednesday, Dec. 15 • 7:30 p.m. | Ted Mann Concert Hall

ABOVE AND BEYOND

U of M Organ Student Showcase
University of Minnesota organ students perform on the historic 108-rank Æolian-Skinner Pipe Organ in Northrop Memorial Auditorium. Sponsored by the Friends of the Northrop Organ
www.northroporgan.org
Tuesday, Nov. 23 • 7:30 p.m. | Northrop Memorial Auditorium

U of M Guitar Ensemble
Friday, Dec. 3 • 4:30 p.m. | Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall

GUEST/ALUMNI EVENTS

Guest Recital: Jürgen Essl, organ
One of the foremost organists and composers in today's European musical scene and a professor at the Stuttgart Hochschule für Musik, Jürgen Essl performs on the historic 108-rank Æolian-Skinner Pipe Organ in Northrop Memorial Auditorium.
Sponsored by the Friends of the Northrop Organ, www.northroporgan.org
Thursday, Sept. 16 • 7:30 p.m. | Northrop Memorial Auditorium

The International Violin Competition of Indianapolis (IVCI)
Experience the finals of the Eighth Quadrennial IVCI in real time on a large screen format via Internet2. The competition will feature the finest playing from the next generation of concert artists.
Fri., Sept. 24 and Sat., Sept. 25 • Time TBD | Ferguson Hall, Room 225

U of M Organ Alumni Showcase
University of Minnesota organ alumni perform on the historic 108-rank Æolian-Skinner Pipe Organ in Northrop Memorial Auditorium.
Sponsored by the Friends of the Northrop Organ
www.northroporgan.org
Tuesday, Oct. 12 • 7:30 p.m. | Northrop Memorial Auditorium

FACULTY EVENTS

Guest and Faculty Recital: Instant Composition
Finnish organist, music theorist and composer Atte Tenkanen will give a lecture-demonstration on contemporary, art music related free improvisation together with SOM visiting professor Erkki Huovinen as his multi-instrumental duo companion.
Wednesday, Sept. 8 • 5 p.m. | Ferguson Hall, Organ Studio (213)

Faculty and Student Recital: Music of Bach and Baldwin
Performing eight arias by Bach with trumpets, horns, timpani, and continuo featuring John De Haan, Thomas Ashworth, Fernando Meza and John Tranter. Also featured are Dean Billmeyer, Charles Ullery, Michael Gast and Caroline Lemen. Seven of Baldwin's graduate students will perform his Concerto for Seven Trumpets and Timpani.
Monday, Sept. 20 • 7:30 p.m. | Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall

Faculty Recital: Alexander Fiterstein, clarinet and Timothy Lovelace, piano
Debut recital of award winning clarinetist and faculty member Alexander Fiterstein with faculty member Timothy Lovelace, piano. The program will include works by Brahms, Debussy and Weinberg.
Monday, Nov. 15 • 7:30 p.m. | Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall

Faculty Recital: Dean Billmeyer, organ
University organist Dean Billmeyer performs a special Winter Solstice Recital on the historic 108-rank Æolian-Skinner Pipe Organ in Northrop Memorial Auditorium.
Sponsored by the Friends of the Northrop Organ
www.northroporgan.org
Tuesday, Dec. 21 • 7:30 p.m. | Northrop Memorial Auditorium

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Two recent University of Minnesota graduates launch start-up company based on atrazine treatment technology



Mullenbach and Johansson on signing day.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (07/29/2010) —An atrazine remediation technology based on the research of University of Minnesota biochemist Lawrence Wackett and microbiologist Michael Sadowsky will serve as the basis for a start-up company launched by two recent College of Science and Engineering graduates, Joe Mullenbach and Alex Johansson. NewWater, the start-up created by Mullenbach and Johansson, will offer a biocatalyst-based drinking water filtration technology that can reduce atrazine concentrations to acceptable levels.

Atrazine is a selective herbicide that is widely used by farmers in the United States to control broadleaf weeds and grasses. More than half of U.S. corn acreage, for example, is treated with atrazine. First registered for use in 1959, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has long required water systems to test and treat for atrazine. In recent years the safety of atrazine has been the subject of much debate among scientists, and the EPA recently initiated a new scientific evaluation to determine whether current regulations need to be strengthened.

Mullenbach, a mechanical engineering major, and Johansson (chemistry) became interested in this clean technology when professor Sadowsky led a session of a Carlson School of Management course entitled Applied Technology Entrepreneurship. "It is an exciting technology that solves a difficult problem," said Mullenbach. "The university's Holmes Center for Entrepreneurship helped us immensely in transitioning from research to start-up company."

"We were intrigued when we first heard the presentation," Johansson added. "We were able to combine the knowledge we gained in both business and engineering classes to create a commercially viable product that solves a significant public health issue." In order to help create the start-up, in which the university holds an equity stake, the Venture Center (part of the Office for Technology Commercialization) offered guidance and crafted a license agreement that grants NewWater the use of three university patents. This is the 10th start-up company based on university technology that has been launched over the past 18 months.

In NewWater's technology, enzymes developed by Wackett and Sadowsky will serve as a catalyst to initiate bacterial metabolism of atrazine, decomposing it into harmless by-products. The process does not produce a water waste stream, and it can treat to much lower levels of atrazine than can be achieved with the current solution, activated carbon.

"We are excited to see our basic research being developed into a technology that has a lot of potential," said Wackett. "This technology will allow farmers to continue enjoying the benefits provided by atrazine while ensuring that the chemical isn't finding its way into water supplies."

NewWater was recently named a semifinalist in both the Minnesota Cup, an annual, statewide competition that seeks out aspiring entrepreneurs and their breakthrough ideas, and the Cleantech Open, the world's largest cleantech business competition whose mission is to identify, fund and foster entrepreneurs whose ideas address today's most urgent energy, environmental and economic challenges.

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U of M Extension receives grant to continue poverty reduction work in communities

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/02/2010) —University of Minnesota Extension has been chosen by the Northwest Area Foundation (NWAF) to bolster poverty reduction strategies across the state, focusing on financial literacy education, leadership development, public policy engagement and building awareness of poverty.

Seven universities nationwide will receive grants totaling $1.9 million to expand the work of Horizons, an 18-month leadership development program for rural towns with populations of 5,000 or fewer and poverty rates of at least 10 percent. The grants were announced this week.

Extension will use the funding to continue ongoing work in up to 25 communities already taking part in Horizons. The work will extend through July 2011, emphasizing education, long-term capacity-building and tangible results. “Horizons communities have valuable knowledge and civic engagement experiences to share with each other and with a broader statewide audience," said Dick Senese, Extension associate dean for community vitality. “This grant will provide a platform for that teaching and learning.”

The grant will also fund collaborative efforts with Extension partners to help needy families access financial management training and tax preparation services. A new initiative will train local citizens to participate in public forums and communicate the concerns of small communities to public policymakers. Another program will encourage university graduate students to examine issues of poverty within the context of their fields.

Adding to the NWAF grant, Minnesota communities have leveraged more than $1.5 million in funding for local projects through prior Horizons program participation, according to Senese.

“I am a huge cheerleader of Extension and the Horizons program,” said Greg Warner, Horizons community leader in Mountain Lake and Jackson “The resources they offer are exactly what our community needs to develop leaders and increase prosperity.”

Established in 1934 by Louis W. Hill, the son of Great Northern Railway founder James J. Hill, the NWAF supports efforts to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable prosperity across the eight states served by the railroad: Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

For more information on University of Minnesota Extension’s Horizon’s program, visit www.extension.umn.edu/Community/Horizons.

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New exhibit to showcase U arts scholarship winners and raise funds for new scholarships

"Appreciation: A Celebration of the U of M Arts Scholarship Program" exhibit opens at Katherine E. Nash Gallery Aug. 12



Miles Mendenhall, a former U of M art student and star of the Bravo reality TV series "Work of Art: The Next Great Artist," will be one of the featured artists at "Appreciation: A Celebration of the U of M Arts Scholarship Program," opening at the Katherine E. Nash Gallery Aug. 12.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/03/2010) —"Appreciation: A Celebration of the University of Minnesota Arts Scholarship Program," which showcases the art and curatorial work of Miles Mendenhall, a former student in the university's Department of Art and contestant in Bravo's "Work of Art: The Next Great Artist" show, will open at the Regis Center for Art's Katherine E. Nash Gallery, 405 21st Ave. S., University of Minnesota West Bank, Minneapolis, on Tuesday, Aug. 10.

As a new twist on traditional fundraising for student scholarships, Mendenhall and Drew Peterson, one of the exhibiting artists, are each donating limited edition screen prints to donors who give to scholarships at the $500 level and above. Like all of the artists in Appreciation, Mendenhall and Peterson were scholarship recipients when they were students.

“The fact that there were donors investing in the future of their artistic community gave me a confidence in myself that I would not have otherwise had,” Mendenhall says. Prints can be previewed at http://art.umn.edu/press.

Mendenhall is currently competing on "Work of Art" to win $100,000 and an exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum. The entire show has been recorded, but Mendenhall is keeping his vow of secrecy as to just how far he got.

Appreciation surveys recent work by artists Sarah Baker (’10), Drew Peterson (’09), Claire Anderson (’10), Oakley Tapola (’09), Alexander Schluender (‘09) and Mendenhall, and features site-specific and collaborative works created specifically for the exhibition.

Appreciation opens Tuesday, Aug. 10. An opening reception with the artists will be Thursday, Aug. 12 — the day after the finale of “Work of Art” — from 7 to 9 p.m. The exhibition runs through Aug. 26. Gallery hours during the exhibition are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed Sunday and Monday. Please note: Gallery hours for Thursday, Aug. 12: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., reopening from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is free. For further information, visit www.art.umn.edu or call (612) 624-6518.

The Bachelor of Fine Arts program at the University of Minnesota is a highly competitive program for students intending to pursue advanced degrees in the visual arts and/or careers as professional artists. These students are the recipients of prestigious undergraduate awards, including the Yale Norfolk residency and have gone on to earn MFA’s from elite graduate programs in the arts.

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Americans take more risks when they drive the nation's rural highways, new University of Minnesota study says

Americans are more likely to feel safe eating, using a cell phone and drinking and driving on rural highways

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/04/2010) —While Americans are much more likely to die on rural highways than urban freeways, a new survey released today found that they feel much more relaxed and prone to risk-taking on rural highways.

"Americans are taking unnecessary risks on rural roads," says Lee Munnich, director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Excellence in Rural Safety (CERS), which sponsored the survey. "They're more relaxed and comfortable with risk-taking on the roads where they are most likely to be killed. We have a lot of education to do."

Rural roads are particularly perilous. While U.S. Census figures show that about one out of five (21 percent) Americans live in rural areas, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has found that about six out of 10 (57 percent) highway deaths occur on roads that it considers rural. But Americans don't seem to understand the risk on rural highways, according to the findings.

For instance, 69 percent of Americans responded that they felt safe on multilane freeways in urban areas, while 79 percent felt safe on two-lane highways in rural areas.

Rural highways are also the most likely place for people to feel relaxed, with 38 percent responding that they feel relaxed on rural highways and just 19 percent feeling relaxed on urban freeways. Among rural residents, 69 percent felt relaxed on rural highways, versus just 13 percent who felt relaxed on urban freeways.

This feeling of relaxation and safety seems to lead to a bit more risk taking on the more dangerous rural highways. For instance, Americans are more likely to feel safe eating, use a cell phone and drinking and driving on rural highways than they are on urban freeways. This is particularly true of rural residents. For instance, among rural residents, 44 percent said they feel safe using a cell phone on a rural highway versus 14 percent who feel safe suing a cell phone on an urban freeway.

The exception to this trend of Americans feeling more comfortable engaging in risky driving behaviors on rural highways is speeding. About half of Americans feel safe speeding on urban freeways (47 percent), while a third feel safe speeding on rural highways.

In an open-ended question, survey respondents who felt safer on rural highways than urban freeways were asked why they felt this way. The most common answer (51 percent) was that there were just fewer things on the road to worry about -- less traffic, less congestion and fewer people. The second most common answer (31 percent) was that the driver knew the area and felt comfortable in the area.

"Logic would dictate that drivers would be most cautious and alert on the most dangerous roads, but Americans seem to be lulled into a false sense of security on our tranquil rural highways," said Munnich. "It's a less chaotic experience, so it apparently feels like a safer experience. This is a myth we have to bust."

The survey was sponsored by CERS, and conducted by Critical Insights of Portland, Maine. The findings reflect responses from a national random sample of 1,205 registered voters who drive at least once per week. The margin of error is +- 2.8 percent.

CERS provides citizen-centered research, training, and outreach to enhance rural safety and to meet the needs of rural transportation practitioners and policymakers. It operates as a joint venture of the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and Center for Transportation Studies.

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U of M research finds ovulating women



A new study from Kristina Durante, a researcher in the Carlson School of Management, says that ovulating women unconsciously buy sexier clothing to compete with other potential rival women.

unconsciously buy sexier clothing to outdo attractive women

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/04/2010) —Ovulating women unconsciously buy sexier clothes, says new research from the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management. The study finds that ovulating women unconsciously dress to impress – doing so not to impress men, but to outdo rival women during the handful of days each month when they are ovulating.

“The desire for women at peak fertility to unconsciously choose products that enhance appearance is driven by a desire to outdo attractive rival women,” says Kristina Durante, a post-doctoral fellow at the Carlson School. “If you look more desirable than your competition, you are more likely to stand out.”

This research, forthcoming in the Journal of Consumer Research, provides some of the first evidence of how, why, and when consumer behavior is influenced by hormonal factors. Durante and co-authors focused their predictions on the fact that competition for a suitable partner would be influenced by a woman’s fertility status.

“We found that, when ovulating, women chose sexier fashion products when thinking about other attractive, local but not distant women,” says Durante. “If you are in New York, a woman who lives in LA isn’t going to be seen as competition.”

Although the end result is to attract the best romantic partner available, Durante’s research found that ovulating women’s choice of dress is motivated by the other women in their environment. “In order to entice a desirable mate, a woman needs to assess the attractiveness of other women in her local environment to determine how eye-catching she needs to be to snare a good man,” Durante says.

In the study, researchers had ovulating women view a series of photographs of attractive local women and then asked them to choose clothing and accessory items to purchase. The majority of participants chose sexier products than those who had been shown photographs of unattractive local women or women who lived over 1000 miles away. This change in consumer choice is not a conscious decision and non-ovulating women are not subject to the effect.

The current findings have practical implications for marketers because ovulatory cycle effects may profoundly influence women’s consumer behavior. “For about five to six days every month, normally ovulating women—constituting over a billion consumers—may be especially likely to purchase products and services that enhance physical appearance,” says Durante. Such products include not only clothing, shoes, and fashion accessories, but also cosmetics, health supplements, fitness products, medical procedures, and more.

# # #

The paper “Ovulation, Female Competition, and Product Choice: Hormonal Influences on Consumer Behavior,” forthcoming in the Journal Consumer Research, was co-authored by Kristina Durante and Vladas Griskevicius at the Carlson School of Management, Sarah E. Hill (Texas Christian University), Carin Perilloux (University of Texas, Austin) and Norman Li (Singapore Management University). The paper and more information on Professor Griskevicius can be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute/vgriskevicius.

Durante’s research focuses on how social and biological factors unconsciously influence consumer behavior. Her research has been featured in over 250 media outlets worldwide including Psychology Today, New Scientist, Fox News, The Chicago Sun-Times, The Daily Mail, and The Globe and Mail.

Vladas Griskevicius’s teaching and research utilizes theoretical principles from evolutionary biology to study consumers' often unconscious preferences, decision processes, and behavioral strategies.

The Institute for Research in Marketing is part of the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. Established in 2005, the Institute fosters innovative, rigorous research that improves the science and practice of marketing. More information can be found at www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/marketinginstitute.

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Award-winning actor Santino Fontana to speak to University of Minnesota theater students Aug. 9



Santino Fontana is a 2004 alumnus of the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program and an up-and-coming Broadway actor.

Media Note: Fontana is available to speak with the media on Sunday evening and on Monday. Interview requests may be coordinated with Kelly O'Brien, obrien136@umn.edu or (612) 624-4109 and (612) 227-9102 (mobile).

Contacts: Kelly O'Brien, College of Liberal Arts, obrie136@umn.edu, (612) 624-4109
Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

August 4, 2010

Santino Fontana, a 2004 alumnus of the University of Minnesota/Guthrie Theater BFA Actor Training Program and 2010 Drama Desk Award winner, will be in the Twin Cities on Sunday and Monday, Aug. 8-9, to speak with U of M theater students and supporters.

While in Minneapolis, Fontana appeared in six Guthrie productions, most notably as Hamlet in the last production staged on Vineland Place. Since moving permanently to New York, he has appeared in several high profile roles on Broadway, including Tony Elliot, the older brother to "Billy Elliot"; Stanley Jerome in "Brighton Beach Memoirs," for which he won the Drama Desk Award in May; and most recently Rodolfo in "A View From the Bridge," with Liev Schreiber and Scarlett Johansson. Fontana famously had to drop out of "Bridge" in January after suffering a concussion during a stage fight with Schreiber.

For a video clip of Fontana's performance in "Brighton Beach Memoirs," where he played alongside longtime "Roseanne" star Laurie Metcalf, see http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBc2mjEcMHc.

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Motorists should plan alternate routes with Monday's closure of Pleasant Street on U of M East Bank

Contacts: Tim Busse, University Services, busse006@umn.edu, (612) 624-2863
Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/06/2010) —Road construction continues on the University of Minnesota's East Bank in Minneapolis and motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians should routinely check the university's Parking and Transportation to see if their routes are affected at http://www1.umn.edu/pts/ .

On Monday, Aug. 9, Pleasant Street will close to all traffic between Arlington Street and Washington Avenue, in Minneapolis. Vehicle traffic will be rerouted to Oak Street and pedestrian and bicycle traffic will be rerouted across Northrop Plaza to the east of Johnston Hall. The closure is necessary to accommodate advanced traffic improvements associated with the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit line and is expected to reopen on Aug. 25. Detour and warning signs will be posted.

Work will take place at the intersection of Pleasant Street and Arlington Street, between Fraser Hall and Johnston Hall, where crews will install a deep storm sewer pipe. The west entrance to Johnston Hall will be closed during construction but access to all others buildings along Pleasant Street will not be affected.

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University of Minnesota architecture student helps design school and clinic in Ethiopia

Furi School Project to serve underdeveloped rural community outside Addis Adaba



U of M architecture graduate student Andrew Blaisdell is helping to design a school and clinic in Ethiopia.

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/10/2010) —In 2009, when Wosen Kifle, a Minneapolis resident and native of Ethiopia, asked the University of Minnesota College of Design for assistance in designing an elementary school and clinic complex on his family's land in Furi, outside of Addis Adaba, Ethiopia, architecture graduate student Andrew Blaisdell was presented with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Advised by assistant professor of architecture Ozayr Saloojee and supported by the College of Design, Blaisdell took on the project and, over the course of the past year, has been developing the conceptual and design framework of the project. In addition, he was sponsored by the college's School of Architecture and the dean's office to visit Furi last spring to assess the unique socio-cultural and material conditions of the area.

His involvement quickly grew into a deeper interest in educational environment design, prompting Blaisdell to center his master's thesis on the topic of technology and its influence on the design of education spaces.

"The primary results of my research were that students of all kinds learn best through curiosity, not compulsion, and that they are capable of teaching themselves an incredible amount through small peer groups if the teacher changes his/her role from captain to co-conspirator" Blaisdell says. "The design for the Furi School attempts to allow for this hands-on learning through a number of loosely connected and easily transformable spaces within a cohesive structure."

Since graduating with his masters of architecture degree in May, Blaisdell has been actively continuing his work on the design of the project. Fundraising for the Furi School Project, led by a Minneapolis-based nonprofit, is ongoing and, with the help of individual donors, Blaisdell and Kifle hope to attend the school's groundbreaking in the near future.

Inspired by his work on the project, Blaisdell is now involved with a second design project in Africa, supporting the development of a preliminary layout for a new cancer treatment center at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center outside Moshi, Tanzania.

For more information about the Furi School Project, including Blaisdell's design renderings and site photos, visit www.furischool.org.

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Carlson Executive Education launches scholarship program

Ten small companies or nonprofits to receive up to $3,500 to improve business skills

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Preston Smith, University News Service, smith@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/12/2010) —Carlson Executive Education is awarding 10 scholarships, valued at up to $3,500 each, to Minnesota-based small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and entrepreneurs who best articulate how their organization would benefit from new knowledge and skills. The scholarships can be used to explore a variety of topics taught at the Carlson School including finance, marketing, operations, strategy, leadership and personal performance improvement.

“More than 250 Minnesota companies turn to Carlson Executive Education each year because they know gaining new insights or improving upon existing skills can be the difference that helps their business survive or even thrive in today’s economy,” said Mark Kizilos, assistant dean of Executive Education.

“However, there are organizations in our area that simply can’t afford to fund professional development right now. For 10 of those organizations, the Carlson Executive Education scholarship can help develop their people, giving them the skills to move the business forward without having to make a financial commitment.”

Scholarship winners will be able to attend one of Carlson Executive Education’s “Topic-Specific” open enrollment programs, which typically consist of two-to-four-days of instruction, or one of its “Momentum Series” programs that are half-day or full-day courses.

The scholarship is available for small companies or nonprofits that have fewer than 100 employees, as well as individual entrepreneurs. Scholarships will be awarded to the applicants based on their ability to articulate the positive impact attending an Executive Education program could have on their organization.

Visit www.carlsonschool.umn.edu/execed for more information or to apply online. The deadline for scholarship applications is December 10.

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.

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University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education to offer new Master of Professional Studies in Arts and Cultural Leadership

The new program will serve the leaders and drivers of the state's cultural institutions.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/12/2010) —The University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education has announced a new graduate program designed to give Minnesota arts professionals the education they need to advance both their careers, and the interests of the cultural institutions they serve. The Master of Professional Studies in Arts and Cultural Leadership (ACL) is available to students for the first time with an inaugural class beginning in the fall of 2010.

The Twin Cities has long been an area with high involvement in the arts. With more than 100 theatre, dance, music and visual arts organizations, the area is a Midwest beacon of cultural activity. The new ACL program at the state's flagship university will provide an opportunity for those who develop, design and run these institutions to strengthen the professional leadership needed to maintain and advance these cultural assets.

"As an educator, I have been seeking input from the arts and culture sector for over a decade, about the ways managers could better steward and grow the valuable work of artists and cultural workers —and how the University of Minnesota could play a role in that development," said Sherry Wagner-Henry, director of graduate programs for the College of Continuing Education. "Through focus groups, surveys and one-on-one conversations, the connection always came back to a professional masters program, aimed at staff already working in the industry."

The program is designed for experienced professionals that seek higher-level, creative approaches to arts leadership and management. Those entering the program will have worked in the field and desire skills that can help them be more effective at the creative problem solving process arts leaders must master. This is an applied degree, meaning that whenever possible, learning will take place in the field with the state's network of professionals working as mentors, and organizations offering opportunities for research and project-based learning.

"Through mentorship, applied and peer-to-peer learning opportunities, the University of Minnesota, along with a host of community and regional partners, seems best positioned to create and deliver a program of continued learning that will inspire a motivate the next generation of arts and cultural leaders," Wagner-Henry said.

The new program is a response to the demand for development opportunities from the state's arts population. The ACL program tentatively plans to admit 10-15 students per fall and spring term beginning in September 2010. For further information about the Master of Professional Studies in Arts and Cultural Leadership, contact the CCE Graduate Programs Office at cceacl@umn.edu.

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U of M Alumni Association kicks off 2010-11 Statewide Speakers Tour in Marshall Aug. 19

New theme is U of M's role in building and sustaining a strong state economy

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Becky Beyers, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, bbeyers@umn.edu, (612) 625-5754

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/16/2010) —Every year the University of Minnesota Alumni Association travels across the state talking about current university issues and the university's impact on the state.

The Alumni Association's 2010-11 Statewide Speakers Tour program, "Building and Sustaining a Strong Economy: The University of Minnesota's Unique Role," will highlight the connection between the university's nine Research and Outreach Centers associated with the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) and their impact on teaching, discovery and the state's economy.

Attendees will learn about the centers, which are strategically located throughout Minnesota. Faculty members will talk about such topics as feeding a growing world population, water, climate, the natural environment, reliable and accessible food growing and distribution systems, biofuels and bioproducts.

"The Research and Outreach Centers, affectionately known as ROCs, represent in a very real and practical way the university's mission to respond to the needs of all Minnesotans," says Greg Cuomo, CFANS associate dean for extension and outreach. "Each center has its own character and strengths responding to local needs, and we are excited to bring the ROCs story to communities across the state this year."

The ROCs consist of the following entities: Northwest Research and Outreach Center, Crookston; West Central Research and Outreach Center, Morris; Southwest Research and Outreach Center, Lamberton; Southern Research and Outreach Center, Waseca; Rosemount Research and Outreach Center, Rosemount; Cloquet Forestry Center, Cloquet; Horticultural Research Center and the Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen; Sand Plain Experimental Research Farm, Becker; and North Central Research & Outreach Center, Grand Rapids.

The first stop on the tour is at 7 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, at the Marshall Sunrise Rotary, Marshall Area YMCA, 200 S. A St., Marshall, and will feature remarks by Cuomo.

Communities interested in bringing the program, "Building and Sustaining a Strong Economy: the University of Minnesota's Unique Role," to their community, may contact Mary Kay Delvo, Alumni Association advocacy director, at delvo003@umn.edu or (612) 626-1417. For more information, including upcoming tour stops, visit the Statewide Speakers Tour webpage at www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/Statewide_Tour.

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a 60,000-member organization whose members are ambassadors for the excellent teaching and breakthrough research that happens at the University every day. For more information, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org or call (612) 624-2323.

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U of M prepares for environmental assessment of UMore Park property

Contacts: Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/17/2010) —The University of Minnesota today issued a request for proposals to assess environmental conditions on its 5,000-acre UMore Park property in Dakota County. During World War II, the property, owned by the federal government, was a gunpowder production facility.

The assessment includes approximately 3,500 acres that comprised the former Gopher Ordnance Works (GOW) property to determine the type and extent of contamination present. The competitive public process to identify the contractor that will conduct the technical assessment will tentatively conclude in October 2010, with work commencing immediately following the selection of the contractor.

Prior to the University's acquisition of the property, the parcel was part of a 12,000-acre gunpowder manufacturing facility. The United States government acquired the property in 1942. Construction was never fully completed on one of the two smokeless powder manufacturing lines that were originally planned. However, one of the production lines was in operation for nine months, from January through October 1945. The University acquired the property in two parcels in 1947 and 1948.

The University's plan for the UMore Park property is to develop a sustainable community of 20,000 to 30,000 people over the next 30 years. The University's Board of Regents approved the concept master plan for the property in December 2008. The property lies in both the City of Rosemount and Empire Township.

Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien said, "Given the future plans for UMore Park, we need to make sure we understand the full impact of past activities there, before the University owned it. As a good steward of its property and a good neighbor in the region, the University will determine the level of contamination at the site, and after reviewing the outcome, will evaluate next steps toward remediating the site."

The so-called Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) will include the collection of samples of soil, groundwater and building materials to be analyzed for various potential contaminants. The assessment will comply with all Minnesota Pollution Control Agency requirements.

City of Rosemount Mayor William Droste said, "This is a positive step for everyone in our city, county and region. We appreciate that the University is keeping us up to date and we'll work with them to keep our residents informed of the process and eventual findings." Dakota County Board Chair Tom Egan added, "Dakota County has supported the University's efforts to address aspects of the former Gopher Ordnance Works status over time. We are especially pleased that they are moving forward now to assess any environmental concerns."

The assessment is likely to be completed in late 2011. After that the university will work with the Army Corps of Engineers and others on any necessary cleanup.

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The U of M at the "Great Minnesota Get Together"

Maroon and Gold Day is Sunday, Aug. 29

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/18/2010) —Like the rest of state, the University of Minnesota is gearing up for the 2010 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. 26 through Monday, Sept. 6.

Over the course of 12 days, more than 100 university experts and scholars will be on hand to share their cutting-edge research and discoveries that have impacted the world.

"The university has one of its most exciting years of acts and displays," said Drew Swain, who coordinates the university's State Fair presence. "Where else on the fairgrounds can you learn how to juggle, perform a simulated surgery, talk with real astronomers and experience the future of 'smart clothing' – all in one place?"

In addition to the hundreds of experts from the university, visitors can enjoy dynamic stage programs from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. daily, meet horticulture experts, get an up-close-and-personal view of relics from the world's largest Sherlock Holmes collection and even learn some Chinese.

Maroon and Gold Day is Sunday, Aug. 29. Visitors are encouraged to proudly wear their maroon and gold attire, stop by the U's building for trivia and Goldy Gopher appearances, and see the U of M in the State Fair parade.

For a complete schedule and map of university events, visit the U of M's State Fair webpage, www.statefair.umn.edu.

For transportation to the fair, a free shuttle runs daily from free parking locations on the Minneapolis campus. The public is invited to park and ride from these locations. For detailed parking and shuttle information, visit www.mnstatefair.org/general_info/get_here/park_ride.html.

University News Service will issue daily news releases featuring the next day's U fair events. The U of M building is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

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U of M licenses unique plant protection product

Animal repellent works from the inside out

Contacts: June Kallestad, UMD-NRRI, jkalles1@d.umn.edu, (218) 720-4300
John Merritt, VP Research Communications, merri205@umn.edu, (612) 624-2609
Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801



University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) scientist Tom Levar has developed a way to protect plants from browsing by deer and mice by delivering a natural hot pepper concentrate through the roots of young plants, making them inedible.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/19/2010) —Adapting a chemical used to deliver medicines through the skin, University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) scientist Tom Levar has developed a way to protect plants from browsing by deer and mice by delivering a natural hot pepper concentrate through the roots of young plants, making them inedible.

“This is a game-changing technology,” said Elizabeth Summa, president of Repellex USA, which licensed the technology from the university. “We’re excited because there really is no other systemic deer repellent like this. It goes right into the plant, and doesn’t wash off like spray deterrents.”

Levar, a forestry and horticulture specialist at UMD’s Natural Resources Research Institute, was familiar with how Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) was used in veterinary and sports medicine to open pores in a membrane and move medicines through skin. He developed the plant formulation to move different types of protection chemicals through easily accessible plant pores.

In the case of Repellex, tablets with the delivery formulation are placed near the roots of a plant and, when watered, release a natural hot pepper concentrate known as capsicum that is absorbed by the plant, making it inedible.

“This is a great application because capsicum is very safe and very effective,” said Levar. “There is no genetic modification. Eventually the plant will outgrow the capsicum treatment, but it lasts much longer than spray repellents.”

This systemic plant conditioning composition, as the technology is formally known, can also be used with insecticides or fungicides. “That includes anything within the realm of plant protection that includes small molecule active ingredients,” said Levar. He started his research on the DMSO formulation with a bitter substance used to keep children from sucking their thumb.

“We did a lot of testing, mostly with tree growers in nurseries where they have a huge problem with mice eating away at their plants,” said Summa. “We think professional growers and homeowners will find value in planting two tablets with their trees and not having to worry about their investment.”

The product has been submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for registration. Once approved, it will be available to commercial growers and shipped to retailers, likely in time for the spring planting season.

The university’s Office for Technology Commercialization negotiated the license agreement for the systemic plant conditioning composition with Repellex. “This is an excellent example of how research at the Natural Resources Research Institute can be applied in an environmentally sound manner and, at the same time, help promote economic development and create jobs,” said Eric Hockert, technology marketing manager.

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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; before and after that the judging area is closed to everyone but the judges. To arrange interviews outside this time frame, please contact Becky Beyers or Gordon Rouse. A list of winning entries will be available Tuesday evening.

What: The International Cold Climate Wine Competition
When: 11:30 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, Aug. 24
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, International Cold Climate Wine Competition, gfrouse@iccwc.org, (651) 636-3039
Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/19/2010) —A panel of experts will taste and judge wines from commercial wineries in 17 states Tuesday, Aug. 24, 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 second annual competition is a partnership between the Minnesota Grape Growers Association, the Minnesota State Fair and the University of Minnesota, which developed several of the cold-hardy grapes used to make the wines in the competition. The winning wines will be displayed at the 2010 Minnesota State Fair.

The awards will be based on blind tastings by 21 expert judges. Judges include prominent wine writers, restaurateurs, retailers and wine educators. Seven-judge panels will determine the initial awards, with top-scoring wines evaluated by all the judges for "best of" categories and the Governor's Cup award.

The "Minnesota Governor's Cup" award will go to the Minnesota winery placing highest in the competition.

Only professional wineries are eligible to compete. The Fair's annual winemaking competition, with categories for amateur winemakers, will continue as a separate entity.

For further details on the event, see www.iccwc.org.

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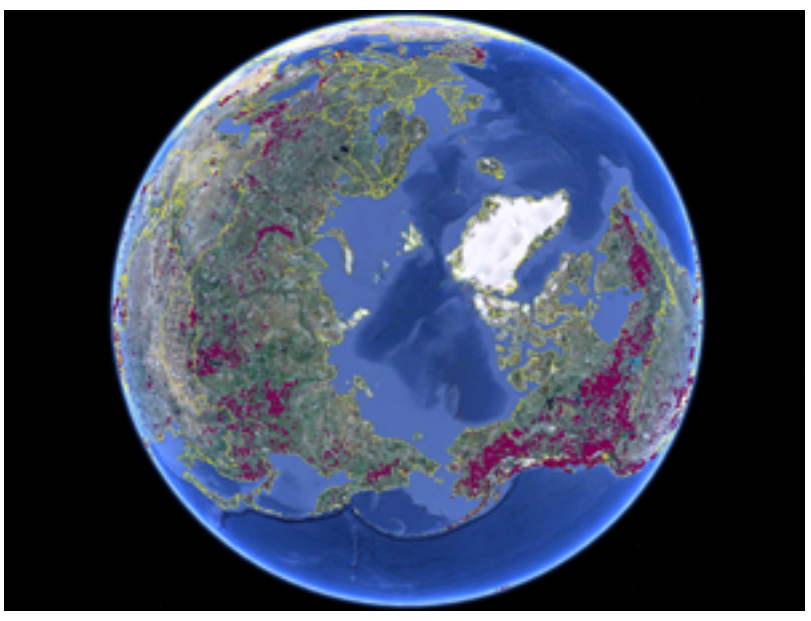
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University of Minnesota team to lead $10 million NSF project on advancing the study of global climate change

One of only three awards from the National Science Foundation rewards research that promises to define the future of computing and information

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Pamela Vold, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, vold@cs.umn.edu, (612) 625-2424
Preston Smith, University News Service, smith@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552



The pink dots denote major changes in the eco-system due to human actions such as logging and natural disasters such as hurricanes, fires, droughts and floods. The carbon released by many of these events contribute to the global warming.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/19/2010) —A multi-disciplinary team of researchers led by University of Minnesota computer science professor Vipin Kumar in the university's College of Science and Engineering has been awarded a $10 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to study climate change.

The team includes faculty and researchers from the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, and the Institute on the Environment, as well as researchers from North Carolina A&T University, North Carolina State University, Northwestern University and University of Tennessee/Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

The University of Minnesota is one of only three lead institutions nationwide receiving the latest round of awards under the NSF's Expeditions in Computing program. The program, established in 2008 by NSF's Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE), is aimed at pushing the boundaries of computer science research. The awards represent the single largest investments by the NSF in basic computer science research.

Climate change is one of the defining environmental challenges facing our planet. Yet, there is considerable uncertainty regarding the social and environmental impact due to the limited capabilities of existing physics-based models of the Earth systems. Consequently, important questions relating to food security, water resources, biodiversity, and other socio-economic issues over relevant temporal and spatial scales remain unresolved. The costs of mitigating climate change or adapting to it can be enormous.

The University of Minnesota-led research team aims to significantly advance the science of climate change by using data-driven methods that will make use of the wealth of climate and ecosystem data available from satellite and ground-based sensors, the observational record for atmospheric, oceanic, and terrestrial processes, and physics-based climate model simulations.

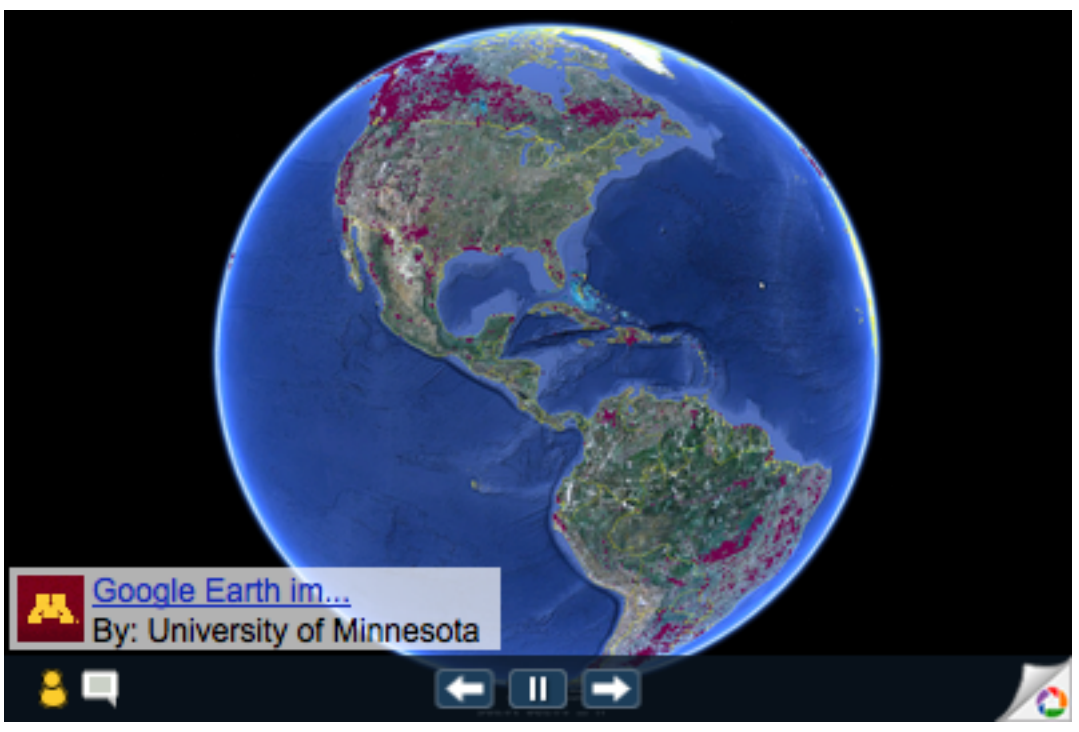
"These methods have the potential of circumventing the limitations of the physics-based models and provide new understanding of the complex nature of the Earth systems and the mechanisms contributing to the adverse consequences of climate change," Kumar said. Methodologies developed as part of this project will be used to gain actionable insights and to inform policymakers.

"This prestigious NSF award is a wonderful affirmation of the breakthrough research being undertaken by University of Minnesota faculty, " said Tim Mulcahy, U of M vice president for research. "I congratulate Vipin Kumar and his team on this terrific accomplishment."

This project is related to the University of Minnesota's work (also led by Kumar) on the monitoring of the global forest cover under partnership of the Planetary Skin Institute, named as one of TIME magazine's Best Inventions of 2009.

"The overall objective in both of these projects is to use information technology to help deal with the challenges of climate change," Kumar said.

The NSF Expeditions-funded project at the University of Minnesota will receive $2 million per year for the next five years.



The pink dots denote major changes in the eco-system due to human actions such as logging and natural disasters such as hurricanes, fires, droughts and floods. The carbon released by many of these events contribute to the global warming.

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U of M to host ribbon-cutting for new Science Teaching and Student Services building Aug. 24

Building to serve as new hub for student life, including technology-rich "classrooms of the future" and One Stop Student Services



University of Minnesota leadership and students will participate in a special ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Science Teaching and Student Services (STSS) building at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24, at the building's south entrance, located off of the Washington Avenue pedestrian bridge. Classes in the STSS will begin this fall semester.

Media Note: Special media tour from 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24. RSVPs requested at smith@umn.edu. The street address is 222 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis. Parking is available in the Washington Avenue Parking Ramp, www.umn.edu/twincities/maps/WashRamp, or the East River Road Garage, www.umn.edu/twincities/maps/ERivRdGar.

Contacts: Preston Smith, University News Service, smith@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552
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August 20, 2010

University of Minnesota leadership and students will participate in a special ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Science Teaching and Student Services (STSS) building at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24, at the building's south entrance, located off of the Washington Avenue pedestrian bridge. Classes in the STSS will begin this fall semester.

Speakers will include university Regent Linda Cohen, President Robert Bruininks and Provost Tom Sullivan.

The 115,000-square-foot building, which replaces the demolished Science Classroom Building, will be home not only to new, state-of-the art "active learning" classrooms but also to numerous student services offices, including One Stop Student Services, veterans services, career services and the financial aid office.

The building has five stories and offers a wide view of the West Bank and downtown Minneapolis over the Mississippi River. It has 10 active learning classrooms, which provide for technology-driven and collaborative interaction among students and faculty. To learn more about the capabilities of these active learning classrooms, visit http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IfT_hoiuY8w. There are also five multipurpose classrooms and two larger lecture halls in the building.

In addition, the STSS is designed to meet or exceed the requirements of Minnesota's stringent B3 sustainable design code and seeks LEED Gold certification. Sustainable features include day-lighting, natural convection, raised floors employing displacement ventilation, and high-performance glass featuring custom ceramic frit patterns to improve energy efficiency and building performance.

The building was designed by University of Minnesota alumnus William Pedersen from the New York-based architecture firm Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates in association with Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc. of Minneapolis. Pedersen will participate in the ribbon-cutting. For a map of the building's location and related information, see www.umn.edu/twincities/maps/STSS.

The building was funded two-thirds by state bonding dollars approved by the Legislature in 2008.

A special media tour will take place in advance of the ribbon-cutting from 10 to 11 a.m. The tour will feature special, behind-the-scenes presentations of the building's highlights and the new classrooms' capabilities. Interested media must RSVP to smith@umn.edu.

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Reproductive biologist Louis Guillette to speak on environmental contaminants and birth defects Sept. 14

Third lecture in series sponsored by University of Minnesota and Freshwater Society

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/20/2010) —Are chemical contaminants in the foods we eat and in the products we put into and on our bodies and in our lakes and rivers causing birth defects in humans?

Louis J. Guillette Jr., an internationally recognized reproductive biologist who has spent 25 years studying sexually stunted alligators and other wildlife from polluted waters in Florida and around the world, says a growing body of research shows those chemicals -- including trace amounts often found in lakes and rivers -- do cause birth defects, both in animals and humans.

On Sept. 14, Guillette, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Medical University of South Carolina, will deliver the third in a series of lectures sponsored by the University of Minnesota's College of Biological Sciences and the Freshwater Society.

Guillette's lecture, aimed at a general audience, is titled "Contaminants, Water and Health: New Lessons from Wildlife." A panel of Minnesota experts on environmental contaminants will appear with Guillette.

The lecture will be at 7 p.m. in the theater of the university's St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford St., St. Paul. The lecture, supported by an endowment honoring former university president Malcolm Moos, is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and registration is required. To register, go to www.freshwater.org.

Guillette has served as a science adviser to many United States and foreign agencies and has testified before Congress about environmental health issues. He recently joined the faculty of the Medical University of South Carolina after 25 years at the University of Florida.

At Florida, he studied a number of animal species – especially alligators – in ecosystems contaminated by agricultural and industrial chemicals. Many of those chemicals have been found to be endocrine-disrupting compounds that interfere with the animals' hormone systems.

In field studies Guillette found evidence of infertility and birth defects involving both the male and female sex organs of alligators. In laboratory experiments, Guillette and researchers working with him exposed alligator eggs to the same chemicals and found the same abnormalities in hatchlings. In addition to his new position at the Medical University of South Carolina, Guillette has an endowed professorship in marine genomics at the Hollings Marine Laboratory in Charleston, S.C. He also is a professor at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Chevy Chase, Md.

The lecture series is part of the Freshwater Society's 2010 – The Year of Water celebration. The first two lecturers in the series were Robert Glennon, a University of Arizona law professor who has written two books on water sustainability, and Hedrick Smith, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and film maker who produced "Poisoned Waters," a Public Broadcasting System "Frontline" documentary.

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U of M dedicates new Science Teaching and Student Services building

Building to serve as new hub for student life, including technology-rich "classrooms of the future" and One Stop Student Services

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, wolter@umn.edu, (612) 625-8510



The ribbon cutting for the new STSS Building featured, from left to right: student veteran Chris Holbrook, U of M President Robert Bruininks, Regent Linda Cohen, building architect and U alum Bill Pedersen, College of Biological Sciences associate dean Robin Wright, Provost Tom Sullivan and Minnesota Student Association president Sarah Shook.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/24/2010) —University of Minnesota leadership and students today dedicated the new Science Teaching and Student Services (STSS) building, located at the gateway to the university's East Bank campus in Minneapolis.

The 115,000-square-foot STSS, which replaces the demolished Science Classroom Building, will be home not only to new, state-of-the art "active learning" classrooms but also to numerous student services offices, including One Stop Student Services, veterans services and career services.

"This really is the future of education at our Twin Cities campus," said university President Robert Bruininks. "We're grateful to the people of Minnesota for making this investment in their University."

The building, which was funded in large part by state bonding funds, has five stories and offers a wide view of the West Bank and downtown Minneapolis over the Mississippi River. It has 10 active learning classrooms, which provide for technology-driven and collaborative interaction among students and faculty. There are also five multipurpose classrooms and two larger lecture halls.

"Active learning classrooms are the classrooms of the future and have proven results in improving educational achievement for students," said university Provost Thomas Sullivan. "There is a critical need for more degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields to meet expected job growth. This new facility supports our efforts to educate the scientists and engineers who make the discoveries of tomorrow."

In addition, the STSS is designed to meet or exceed the requirements of Minnesota's stringent B3 sustainable design code and seeks LEED Gold certification. Sustainable features include day-lighting, natural convection, raised floors employing displacement ventilation, and high-performance glass featuring custom ceramic frit patterns to improve energy efficiency and building performance.

The building was designed by University of Minnesota alumnus William Pedersen from the New York-based architecture firm Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates in association with Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc. of Minneapolis.

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University of Minnesota math institute receives $20.5 million NSF grant

Institute is among the nation's top math institutes

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/24/2010) —The University of Minnesota's Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) has been awarded a $20.5-million National Science Foundation (NSF) renewal grant over the next five years. The renewal grant continues the IMA's tradition as one of the nation's top math institutes in terms of funding.

The IMA, which is part of the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering, is one of the world's premier mathematics institutes bringing the world's best mathematicians together with the best minds from other scientific and technological disciplines. The teams of researchers search for math-based answers to some of humanity's most challenging problems.

During the past three decades, the institute's programs have sparked entirely new fields of scientific research -- such as the mathematics of materials science -- and greatly nourished the growth of many existing fields of research, ranging from mathematical biology to algebraic statistics. The IMA's collaboration with industry has led to new technologies such as improved cardiac ablation therapy and optimization methods for airplane design.

"This grant -- which will support our programs for the next five years -- is a strong endorsement of the IMA by the National Science Foundation and the mathematics community," says IMA Director Fadil Santosa. "The IMA is the leading institution in the country that brings together cutting-edge mathematics with other scientific disciplines to tackle real world problems in industry, technology and society."

Each year the IMA selects a specific research field and brings more than 1,000 visitors to the University of Minnesota campus to address the most significant problems in that field of research. Visitors include workshop participants, lecturers, and others who may work at the institute for as long as a year. Past areas of focus have included molecular biology, applications of algebraic geometry and imaging. In 2010-11, the IMA's area of focus will be computational mathematics applied to simulation science and engineering.

Visitors to the IMA have developed breakthroughs in everything from neuroscience and biomedical imaging to production line optimization. Recent advances include a new algorithm that greatly reduces the amount of exposure to X-rays for patients who need CT scans and a new control theory that opens the door to building automatic, real-time safety systems capable of bringing automobiles out of a four-wheel skid on an icy highway and saving lives.

"We are proud that our IMA has become a preeminent mathematics institute that is a model for other institutions worldwide," said Steven L. Crouch, dean of the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering. "The IMA's research and outreach programs highlight the key role that mathematics plays in solving problems in many areas of science and engineering."

The IMA also operates a prestigious postdoctoral program that attracts some of the world's most promising young mathematicians to campus for the opportunity to work and study with the world's best and brightest mathematical minds. Many have gone on to become research leaders at major universities or attain important positions in industry.

"Renewed, strong support of the IMA at the University of Minnesota enables us to continue to cultivate interdisciplinary excellence in mathematics and its applications," says University of Minnesota president Robert Bruininks. "For nearly 30 years, this institute has been a center of academic strength and comparative advantage for the university and an essential component of our goal to be one of the top public research universities in the world. This funding assures it will remain so for the foreseeable future."

About the IMA: Founded in 1982, the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications (IMA) brings together the best minds in math and the sciences to solve pressing problems facing our society, our industries, and our planet. We succeed by developing fundamental new mathematics and by exploring its applications to scientific and technological challenges across disciplines.

The NSF has provided continuous funding to the IMA since its inception. In addition, the IMA receives major funding from the University of Minnesota. We are also building an endowment through private gifts and industry support to help ensure a successful future.

For more information, visit: www.ima.umn.edu

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U of M Bell Museum of Natural History launches new monthly film series beginning Thursday, Sept. 16

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/25/2010) —The University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History will reignite its 60-year old tradition of movie screenings with a new monthly film series highlighting the quirky side of science and pop culture beginning Thursday, Sept. 16.

Through provocative subjects and unconventional narrative, Bell Museum Film Night aims to spark curiosity and conversation about scientific discovery, human-animal interactions and environmental challenges. The films were selected for their topical appeal, as well as artistic value.

"These aren't films you'd see on the Discovery Channel, " says Bell Museum film coordinator Shanai Matteson. "They're off-beat, art house, award-winning documentaries with a point of view not typically found in commercial cinema."

The yearlong series will tackle three distinct themes -- collecting and collectors, ecological landscapes and animal encounters -- and will run through spring of 2011. Each screening will feature a social hour during which the audience can mingle and discuss the film with experts in the field.

The series kicks off with four films on the topic of collecting and collectors addressing the question: Why do humans collect and what do our collections say about us? Films include The Gleaners and I (2001), Chances of the World Changing (2006) and Seed Hunter (2008).

Admission to each film is: $5 museum members, seniors, university students, staff and faculty; $8 general public. Tickets are available at the door and online on the program's film partner Take-up Productions at http://www.take-up.org. Bell Museum Film Nights are part of a new line up of Thursday evening programs that range from films, to guest artist installation events to walkabouts and discussions. For upcoming events, visit bellmuseum.org.

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.

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University of Minnesota Language Resource Center receives nearly $1.4 million from U.S. Department of Education

Grant supports the nation's need to improve language teaching and learning

Contacts: Jennifer Schulz, Office of International Programs, schul160@umn.edu, (612) 624-0557

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/25/2010) —The University of Minnesota's Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA) has received nearly $1.4 million over the next four years from the U.S. Department of Education's Title VI Language Resource Center program. The purpose of this competitive grant program is to establish, strengthen and operate centers to improve the nation's capacity for teaching foreign languages. CARLA is one of only 15 centers in the country funded by this Title VI program. This is the sixth cycle of funding the center has received from this program since it was created in 1993.

"We are honored to be able to continue to build on the work that has made CARLA a well-known name in the language teaching community both within Minnesota and across the nation," said Dr. Elaine Tarone, CARLA director. "We are passionate about creating cutting-edge language resources and offering high-quality professional development programs. This new cycle of funding will give us the opportunity to extend and deepen our support for K-16 language teachers and their students."

During the funded period of 2010-2014, CARLA will focus on a number of exciting projects to improve language teaching. In addition to offering its extensive website of free resources for language teaching and learning, and its internationally-known annual summer institutes for language educators, CARLA will use the new funding to:

• Develop a unique online course on how to teach languages online
• Conduct an online survey to identify national trends in the teaching of less commonly taught languages
• Create online modules to improve teachers' ability to rate their students' speaking and writing abilities
• Produce online video vignettes to showcase best practices in immersion teaching for on-demand professional development
• Develop a model third-year postsecondary "Green German" course that imparts advanced language skills through environmental and sustainability content
• Sponsor the 7th Biennial Language Teacher Education Conference at the University of Minnesota in May 2011

Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean of international programs, sees CARLA's work as a critical aspect of the university's commitment to internationalization. "CARLA's outstanding work in providing professional development to language teachers supports our mission to internationalize the teaching, research and outreach of the University. When empowered to do their best work, language teachers can support and deepen our students' journey to becoming global citizens."

CARLA is housed in the Office of International Programs at the University of Minnesota, and actively collaborates with faculty and staff from both the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Education and Human Development. Additionally, CARLA will work in partnership with three other University of Minnesota centers that have been funded by Title VI to operate for the next four years: the Center for International Business Education and Research in the Carlson School of Management, and the European Studies Consortium and the Institute for Global Studies, both housed within the College of Liberal Arts.

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Linda Berglin, Tom Huntley named U of M Alumni Association 2010 Legislators of the Year

Pair honored for support of medical education at Aug. 24 U of M Alumni Association national board meeting

Media Note: For high-resolution images of the 2010 Legislators of the Year with U of M President Robert Bruininks, please contact jfalk@umn.edu.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/25/2010) —Minnesota Sen. Linda Berglin and Rep. Tom Huntley were honored as the University of Minnesota Alumni Association 2010 Legislators of the Year at the association's national board of directors meeting on Aug. 24.

"Senator Berglin and Representative Huntley are receiving this award for their strong, enthusiastic support and commitment to the University of Minnesota and to higher education," said Ertugrul Tuzcu, national chair of the Alumni Association. "They are especially committed in their support of medical education and the financing required to meet the health care workforce needs of our state."

During the 2010 legislative session, Berglin and Huntley both played critical roles in the preservation of the Medical Education Research Certificate (MERC) grant program. MERC's goal is to support the clinical training of health care professionals in all settings, including in rural areas and safety-net facilities.

The MERC fund flows through the federal Medicaid program, with federal matching funds providing the state with additional resources for medical education. The university's Academic Health Center is central to the training of health professionals in Minnesota, and has always been a key stakeholder in the MERC discussions at the state Capitol.

A reduction in the MERC program's funding would have been devastating to the hands-on education and training of the university's students in area hospitals, health and dental clinics, pharmacies and other health care sites.

Each year the Alumni Association honors legislator(s) who exhibit outstanding leadership in support of the University of Minnesota resulting in the passage of or preservation of higher education policy and/or funding.

"Senator Berglin and Representative Huntley are true champions of medical education," said Phil Esten, president and CEO of the Alumni Association. "They value the work of the Academic Health Center schools, and have been tremendously supportive of our efforts over many years."

Berglin, who represents District 61 in Minneapolis, is serving her ninth Senate term. She chairs the Health and Human Services Budget Division of the Senate's Finance Committee. Huntley is serving his ninth term, representing District 7A in Duluth. He chairs the Health Care and Human Services Finance Division of the House's Finance Committee.

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a 60,000-member organization whose members are ambassadors for the outstanding teaching and discovery that happens at the university every day. For more information, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org or call (612) 624-4982.

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University of Minnesota president Robert Bruininks to join Humphrey Institute



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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/25/2010) —The Humphrey Institute announced today that University of Minnesota president Robert H. Bruininks will join its faculty at then end of his presidency June 30, 2011. Bruininks will move his research portfolio to the Humphrey Institute after an administrative leave to further develop his teaching, research, and publishing responsibilities.

“Bob Bruininks has provided visionary leadership for the University. We are thrilled that he has chosen the Humphrey Institute as the next step in his distinguished career as a teacher, scholar, administrator, and advocate for education—along the continuum from pre-K through higher education,” says Humphrey Institute Dean Brian Atwood. “Most know Bob as the leader of this great University, but he also has a strong foundation in education policy issues. The Humphrey Institute is the perfect home for the next phase of his career."

Bruininks was appointed the 15th president of the University of Minnesota on November 8, 2002. He has served the University for more than 40 years, formerly as a professor, dean, and executive vice president and provost. Previously the dean and professor at the University of Minnesota’s College of Education and Human Development, Bruininks earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Western Michigan University, and his Master of Arts and doctor of philosophy degrees from George Peabody College (now Vanderbilt University's Peabody College of Education and Human Development).

“For decades now, my academic home has been the College of Education and Human Development, and I plan to maintain that faculty affiliation. However, my future work will likely center around two broad themes that are strongly tied to the academic mission of the Humphrey Institute: transformative public leadership and human capital and economic development,” said Bruininks. “I am especially interested in advancing interdisciplinary scholarship in these areas, building on my past experience as a tenured faculty member in the departments of educational psychology and organizational leadership, policy, and development, Although I expect a busy final year as president of this great university, of course I am looking forward to this future appointment to the Humphrey Institute.”

When he begins his work at the Humphrey Institute, Bruininks will be affiliated with the Center for Integrative Leadership, an interdisciplinary University-wide center closely aligned with Bruininks’ research interests in transformative public leadership. The center itself models this priority in that it is administered and jointly operated by the Humphrey Institute and the Carlson School of Management.

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U of M at the Minnesota State Fair: Schedule for Thursday, Aug. 26

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

August 25, 2010

It's less than 12 hours before the gates open at the 2010 Minnesota State Fair, and the University of Minnesota is among the largest attractions at this year's fair. Fairgoers are invited to visit the university's main building and stage located at the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street.

For more information about the U at the State Fair, visit www.statefair.umn.edu.

The U of M State Fair highlights for Thursday, Aug. 26:

On the U of M stage

10 a.m. Do You Have A Mole or A Rash?
11 a.m. Am I Having A Stroke?
12:20 p.m. Gopher Kids Study
1 p.m. An Apple A Day!
2 p.m. Medication Therapy Management Quiz
3 p.m. Ethical Issues in Mandatory Childhood Vaccinations
4 p.m. Music with Radio K

Building exhibitors

9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Gopher Photos and Trophies

The University of Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletics space features a pictorial review of all Gopher Sports. View Championship Trophies and watch a reel of highlight videos. Tickets are also available for purchase with exclusive specials.

9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Weisman Art Museum

Learn more about the Weisman Art Museum, its current exhibition and its expansion project. Answer trivia questions about the museum and its art collection.

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Gopher Kids Study

The Gopher Kids Study will be enrolling 500 children at the 2010 State Fair and monitoring them throughout 2011 and 2012 to determine the genetics underlying normal health and development. Children ages one to 11 years who live in Minnesota and St. Croix and Pierce Counties in Wisconsin are invited to participate. Learn more at www.peds.umn.edu/gopherkids.

9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Department of Astronomy

Discover the wonders of the sky through the Department of Astronomy. This exhibit will include many tools used by University of Minnesota astronomers, including an infrared camera, 3D simulations and a telescope. Meteorites, activities from astronomy labs, and information on the Department of Astronomy's research and sponsored events will also be part of the exhibit.

9 a.m. – 9 p.m. Smart Clothing: the Imagine Fund and Apparel Design

Come experience the future of fashion: When electronics meets clothing design, the possibilities are endless. This exhibit will showcase developments in smart clothing sponsored by the Imagine Fund and ongoing in the Apparel Design program.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Office of Business Relations

Goldy Gopher means business! Come visit the OBR booth and find out how the U of M can help your business. And while you are at it, get Goldy Gopher paste-on tattoos for the kids.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sustainable Shelters and Animal Architecture

Preview the Bell Museum's new Sustainable Shelters: Dwelling within the Forces of Nature exhibit. Learn and compare how humans and animals have adapted to changing environments.

3 - 9 p.m. Center for Bioethics and the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology

Center for Bioethics:
This interactive display focuses on ethical issues in pediatric vaccinations. Visitors will have the chance to give an opinion and expand their awareness about ethical decision making. Learn more at www.ahc.umn.edu/bioethics.

Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology:
Learn basic genetics by extracting DNA from dried peas and use Punnett Squares for predicting genotypes and phenotypes. Learn more at http://pathology.umn.edu.

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"Welcome Week" welcomes first-year U of M students to campus Sept. 1

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



Over 5,000 members of the U of M's Class of 2014 will participate in the annual six-day Welcome Week program beginning Sept. 1.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/26/2010) —First-year students at the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus will arrive on campus Tuesday, Aug. 31 and Wednesday, Sept. 1 to participate in the popular "Welcome Week" program, six days of activities designed to give the over 5,000 members of the U of M's Class of 2014 a positive start to their college careers.

Now in its third 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. A study of participants in Welcome Weeks 2008 and 2009 showed that students are more likely to feel a "sense of connection" on campus and establish meaningful relationships with upperclassmen, advisors, support staff and faculty after going through the orientation and Welcome Week programs.

"Welcome Week 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," says Beth Lingren Clark, director of the U of M's Orientation and First-Year Programs. "We work hard to be intentional with Welcome Week programming, making it fun and interesting, and students that 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."

Students navigate Welcome Week in small groups, and each group is led by upper-class Welcome Week leader volunteers -- of which there are over 450.

Each of Welcome Week's six days (Sept. 1-6) features a different theme. Thursday, Sept. 2 is "College Day" in which students participate in creative activities specific to the U of M college to which they're enrolled; "U of M Day" on Friday, Sept. 3 will culminate in a Pride and Spirit pep rally at TCF Bank Stadium; Saturday, Sept. 4 is "Involvement and Engagement Day" that gives students the opportunity to participate in a service project for a local organization; and on Sunday, Sept. 5, students will explore the Twin Cities through small group excursions to noteworthy locations throughout Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Labor Day (Sept. 6) is reserved to allow students to relax and prepare for the first day of classes on Tuesday, Sept. 7.

More information and a complete schedule of Welcome Week activities can be found at welcomeweek.umn.edu. Select day-by-day highlights include:

Tuesday, Aug. 31
2 p.m. - 9 p.m.: Residence Hall move-in for first-year students living in on-campus housing

Wednesday, Sept. 1
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Residence Hall move-in for first-year students living in on-campus housing

Thursday, Sept. 2
9:45 a.m. - 11 a.m.: New Student Convocation; featuring official welcome message from U of M President Robert Bruininks (Mariucci Arena).
11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.: College Day Activities; students can meet faculty and learn about resources and opportunities available from their chosen college.
8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.: Keynote motivational speaker Jermaine Davis shares how to create an intentional first year of college and make it your own (Mariucci Arena).

Friday, Sept. 3
8:30 - 9:30 p.m.: “Pride and Spirit” event; Golden Gopher football coach Tim Brewster and athletic director Joel Maturi will address the first year class, followed by the new class tradition -- the creation of a giant "M" on the field of TCF Bank Stadium.

Saturday, Sept. 4
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.: Community Engagement Day; students will either participate in a community service experience or an engagement symposium to focus the importance on making community connections.
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.: Explore- U; students can explore involvement opportunities by attending this student organization and vendor fair.
9:30 p.m. - 1 a.m.: Students can spend the evening on rides at Nickelodeon Universe at the Mall of America.

Sunday, Sept. 5
12 p.m. - 4 p.m.: Community Exploration Day; small groups of students will connect and explore Downtown Minneapolis, Victoria Crossing in St. Paul, or Uptown and Calhoun Square.

Monday, Sept. 6
Free time/relaxation day.

Tuesday, Sept. 7
First day of fall semester classes.

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The U of M at the State Fair this weekend

Sunday is Maroon and Gold Day

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

August 27, 2010

This weekend, there's much to be seen and heard at the University of Minnesota's main building and stage at the State Fair, located at the corner of Dan Patch and Underwood Street.

An annual highlight among fairgoers: Maroon and Gold Day is Sunday, Aug. 29. Visitors are encouraged to proudly wear their maroon and gold attire, stop by the U's building for trivia and Goldy Gopher appearances, and see the U of M in the State Fair parade.

University President Robert Bruininks will be joined at the parade by the chancellors of the U of M's four coordinate campuses: Charles Casey (Crookston), Lendley "Lynn" Black (Duluth), Jacqueline Johnson (Morris) and Stephen Lehmkuhle (Rochester).

Complete information is available at www.statefair.umn.edu.

U of M State Fair highlights for Saturday, Aug. 28:

On the U of M stage

10 a.m. Child Research at the U
11 a.m. U Connects Stage Stars
12 p.m. The Mapping of Joy and Pain in the Twin Cities
1 p.m. U Connects Stage Stars
2 p.m. Salsa Dancing
3 p.m. Child Research at the U
4 p.m. Music with Radio K

Aug. 28 U of M building exhibitors

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Gopher Kids Study

The Gopher Kids Study will be enrolling 500 children at the 2010 State Fair and monitoring them throughout 2011 and 2012 to determine the genetics underlying normal health and development. Children ages one to 11 years who live in Minnesota and St. Croix and Pierce counties in Wisconsin are invited to participate.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Innovative Engineers

Come and see how the student group Innovative Engineers is extending the reach of renewable energy to the developing world. The exhibit will include an interactive display which invites spectators to spin a 1kW wind turbine and generate electricity. The exhibit will also include informational displays and handouts detailing the work that Innovative Engineers is currently doing.

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. CFANS - Department of Food Science and Nutrition

Learn about food and nutrition from experts in the Department of Food Science and Nutrition.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Child Development Research

Learn about discoveries in child development from world leading researchers and find out ways to get your child involved in these projects.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Gopher Photos and Trophies

The University of Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletics space features a pictorial review of all Gopher Sports. View Championship Trophies and watch a reel of highlight videos. Tickets are also available for purchase with exclusive specials.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota, Duluth

Representatives from the University of Minnesota, Duluth will be present to answer questions regarding the coordinate campus and its current initiatives.

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Mapping of Joy and Pain in the Twin Cities

The Mapping of Joy and Pain is a temporary, traveling work of participatory public art that has been visiting parks and public spaces in Minneapolis and St. Paul this summer. The project contains a large wood map, and fairgoers are invited to contribute to the map. Fairgoers can add gold coloring to locations where they have experienced joy and gray coloring where they have experienced pain. This mapping reveals an emotional understanding of the Twin Cities - allowing us to understand our cities and neighborhoods in new ways.

1 - 5 p.m. Immigrant Letters at the Immigration History Research Center

Come learn about the exciting Immigrant Letters project from the Immigration History Research Center! Explore the past and present of Minnesota's immigrant history with facsimiles and audio recordings of letters held in the IHRC's archives (some dating back to the 1800s). There will also be information on how you can contribute to the project from your own family history.

1 - 5 p.m. Emerald Ash Borer

Extension educator Gary Wyatt will discuss the identification and management of emerald ash borer.

3 - 9 p.m. Medical School - Department of Family Medicine and Community Health

This interactive exhibit will provide visitors with a chance to have questions answered with Ask the Doctor and Ask the Pharmacist activities. Visitors will also have a chance to learn about current and upcoming research projects.

5 - 9 p.m. Sherlock Holmes at the Fair

The U of M has the world's largest Sherlock Holmes collection. Tim Johnson, curator of the collection, and friends invite you to have your picture taken with the world's most famous consulting detective and to learn more about Holmes and his world. Items from the collections will be on display along with a chance to match wits with some of the best Sherlockian minds in Minnesota. "The Game is Afoot!" Come join us for the adventure!

5 - 9 p.m. University Partnership for Health Informatics

UP-HI (University Partnership for Health Informatics) educates health professionals to transition from paper to electronic health records. We educate Health Informatics professionals in specialties to improve the quality, safety, outcomes and value of health services in Minnesota.

Aug. 29 on the U of M Stage

10 a.m. Face Painting with U of M Homecoming Royalty
11:15 a.m. Access MN Radio Interview with President Bruininks
12 p.m. Gopher Sports Update Radio Interview with Athletics Director Joel Maturi
12:30 p.m. President Bruininks and the Alumni Band
1:15 p.m. Know Your U Trivia
2 p.m. Face Painting with U of M Homecoming Royalty
3 p.m. Engineers Without Borders— U of M Student Chapter
4 p.m. Music with Radio K

Aug. 29 U of M Building Exhibitors

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Department of Neuroscience

This interactive exhibit display focuses on everything a person needs to know about the brain and its fascinating functions. Visitors will get the chance to experience brain demonstrations up close and personal.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics - Minnesota Space Grant Consortium

This exhibit by the Minnesota Space Grant Consortium will include items used by the high-altitude ballooning team to do weather balloon missions to "Near Space," including scientific payload boxes and pictures and video clips from past missions. Come discuss aerospace opportunities in Minnesota, see a display of spacecraft models and do hands-on activities with miniature rocket launchers, miniature hovercraft and more!

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Joel Tallaksen - West Central Research and Outreach Center

1-5 p.m.: Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering

5-9 p.m.: Paul Porter - Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sustainable Shelters and Animal Architecture

Preview the Bell Museum's new Sustainable Shelters: Dwelling within the Forces of Nature exhibit. Learn and compare how humans and animals have adapted to changing environments.

9 - 11 a.m. Gopher Women's Basketball Fast Break Club

The Fast Break Club, the Gopher Women's Basketball booster club, will be offering information on membership along with Gopher Basketball tattoos. Gopher Women's Basketball Student Athletes will also be making appearances to sign autographs.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Gopher Photos and Trophies

The University of Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletics space features a pictorial review of all Gopher Sports. View Championship Trophies and watch a reel of highlight videos. Tickets are also available for purchase with exclusive specials. Goldy Gopher will be available from 1:15 to 1:45 p.m.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Homecoming 2010: Paint the Town Gold

Visit the 2010 Homecoming booth for fun and festive maroon and gold promos, a chance to meet the Homecoming Royalty Court and to learn more about exciting events taking place from Sept. 26 - Oct. 2 as part of Homecoming 2010: Paint the Town Gold.

11 a.m. - noon Meet UMD's New Chancellor

UMD alumni and friends will have the opportunity to meet new chancellor Dr. Lendley (Lynn) Black.

noon - 9 p.m. Gopher Women's Basketball Fast Break Club

The Fast Break Club, the Gopher Women's Basketball booster club, will be offering information on membership along with Gopher Basketball tattoos. Gopher Women's Basketball Student Athletes will also be making appearances to sign autographs.

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U of M research provides insights into the roots of gamblers' fallacies and other superstitions

Research helps explain causes of seemingly irrational human decision-making

Media Note:
Embargoed until 2 p.m. CST Monday, Aug. 30.



New U of M research may help explain why gamblers sometimes exhibit seemingly irrational behaviors.

Image courtesy of Flickr.com.

Contacts: Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720
Tessa Eagan, College of Liberal Arts, teagan@umn.edu, (612) 625-3781

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (08/30/2010) —Gamblers who think they have a “hot hand,” only to end up walking away with a loss, may nonetheless be making “rational” decisions, according to new research from University of Minnesota psychologists. The study finds that because humans are making decisions based on how we think the world works, if erroneous beliefs are held, it can result in behavior that looks distinctly irrational.

This research, forthcoming in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) “Early Edition,” examines the roots of a seemingly irrational human decision strategy that occurs in so-called binary choice tasks, which has perplexed researchers in economics, psychology and neuroscience for decades. In these tasks, subjects are repeatedly asked to choose between two options, with one option having a higher probability of being correct than the other (imagine a biased coin that will land on heads 70 percent of trials, and tails on 30 percent of trials). While the right strategy is to always pick the higher probability option, subjects instead choose the options in proportion to the probability of it being correct.

“The overarching idea is that there is typically structure in the world, and it makes sense that when we make decisions, we try to understand the structure in order to exploit it,” says Shawn Green, a post-doctoral fellow in the College of Liberal Arts’ Department of Psychology and Center for Cognitive Sciences. “One of the simplest kinds of ‘structure’ is when the outcome that just occurred tells you something about what is likely to happen next.”

“Where people go astray is when they base their decisions on beliefs that are different than what is actually present in the world,” says Green. “In the coin example, if you toss a coin five times and all five times are heads, should you pick heads or tails on the next flip? Assuming the coin is fair, it doesn’t matter – the five previous heads don't change the probability of heads on the next flip - it's still 50 percent - but people nevertheless act as though those previous flips influence the next one.”

Green says when things are actually independent over time, meaning they don’t have any structure, people will interpret results through possible structures, a way of thinking often seen among gamblers. For example, gamblers who win three hands in a row, may believe themselves to be “hot” and thus more likely to win the next hand. Green, with advisors Daniel Kersten and Paul Schrater, showed that similar behaviors are seen even in an optimal, fully rational computer learner given similar incorrect beliefs about the world.

Furthermore, when the context of the task was changed so that subjects understood that the outcomes were actually independent, a drastic shift in their behavior was noted, with subjects all doing the “right” thing for the way the world actually worked.

“This demonstrates that given the right world model, humans are more than capable of easily learning to make optimal decisions,” Green says.

# # #

The paper “Alterations in choice behavior by manipulations of world model,” forthcoming in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), was co-authored by C. Shawn Green, Charles Benson, Daniel Kersten and Paul Schrater in the Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota.

Upon publication, the paper can be found at http://www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.1001709107. For an advance copy, please contact the PNAS Press Office at PNASNews@nas.edu or (202) 334-1310.

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The U of M at the State Fair: Gopher athletes take center stage Sept. 1; parenting tips on Sept. 2

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

August 31, 2010

A range of Gopher sports will take the stage at the State Fair this Wednesday, Sept. 1. Fairgoers are invited to visit the U of M stage and building, located at the corner of Dan Patch and Underwood Street, for a chance to catch up with their favorite athletes.

On Thursday, Sept. 2, U of M parenting expert Marjorie Savage will take the stage to walk parents through the process of sending their children to college.

Complete information is available at www.statefair.umn.edu. For the U of M Extension's 4-H programming and events at the State Fair, go to www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/state-fair.

U of M State Fair highlights for Wednesday, Sept. 1:

On the U of M stage

10 a.m. Gopher Alumni Band
10:30 a.m. Gopher Soccer
11 a.m. Gopher Women's Basketball
11:30 a.m. Gopher Golf
12 p.m. Gopher Women's Hockey
12:30 p.m. Gopher Men's Hockey
1:15 p.m. Gopher Women's Track and Field
1:45 p.m. Baseball
2:15 p.m. Gopher Women's Swimming and Diving
2:45 p.m. Gopher Men's Swimming and Diving
3:15 p.m. Gopher Softball
3:45 p.m. Gopher Alumni Band
4:00 pm Music with Radio K

U of M building exhibitors

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Department of Surgery

Are you interested in learning more about managing your weight and health concerns? Stop by the Department of Surgery's exhibit to learn about new advances in surgical and medical weight management. Interactive opportunities include a laparoscopic surgery training module, videos of surgical procedures, staff to assist with calculation of your BMI (body mass index) and interactive games to test your nutrition and fitness knowledge.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Engineers Without Borders - U of M Student Chapter

No water, no toilets, no waste removal, no electricity! EWB-UMN provides unique opportunities to interdisciplinary teams of students to address these issues in developing countries around the world. Learn how EWB has successfully implemented environmentally and economically sustainable projects. The students have partnered with disadvantaged communities to improve sanitation and recycling in Haiti and provide clean water supply in Guatemala and Uganda.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Gopher Photos and Trophies

The University of Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletics space features a pictorial review of all Gopher Sports. View Championship Trophies and watch a reel of highlight videos. Tickets are also available for purchase with exclusive specials. Goldy Gopher will be available from 3 to 4 p.m.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Department of Recreational Sports Alumni Program

Come back to "The Bank" for the Inaugural Intramural Alumni Flag Football Tournament to be held in TCF Bank Stadium on Sunday, Oct. 10. Put your old intramural team back together and play for another championship or we can place you on a new team. Alumni of all ages are encouraged to participate and join in the fun.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sherlock Holmes at the Fair

The U of M has the world's largest Sherlock Holmes collection. Tim Johnson, curator of the collection, and friends invite you to have your picture taken with the world's most famous consulting detective and to learn more about Holmes and his world. Items from the collections will be on display along with a chance to match wits with some of the best Sherlockian minds in Minnesota. "The Game is Afoot!" Come join us for the adventure.

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Clinical and Translational Science Institute

Stop by and tell us what you know about clinical research at the U and receive a small gift.

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Disability Services

Disability Services (DS) at the University of Minnesota is a unit within the Office for Equity and Diversity. With a mission statement of "Advancing Access for Everyone," Disability Services promotes access and equity for all students, faculty, staff and guests of the University of Minnesota through the exceptional design of innovative learning and working environments and the collaborative education and partnership with the University community. Meet staff and learn more about the many accommodations and services provided at the University. Participate in the "Accessibility Scavenger Hunt" and learn about accessibility features at the State Fair.

1 - 5 p.m. Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport

The first and only one of its kind in the world, the University of Minnesota's Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport is an interdisciplinary research center leading a pioneering effort to examine how sport and physical activity affect the lives of girls and women, their families, and communities. Information on Title IX, cutting edge research, and our latest report "Developing Physically Active Girls" will be available.

1 - 5 p.m. Confucius Institute

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota (CIUMN) 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. As a part of the University's outreach mission, the Confucius Institute utilizes resources at the University and in the state to serve Minnesota communities statewide. Programming includes cultural and language training for individuals and the business community, professional development training and support for Chinese language teachers, and language and cultural programming for the general public throughout the year.

3 - 9 p.m. Gopher Kids Study

The Gopher Kids Study will be enrolling 500 children at the 2010 State Fair and monitoring them throughout 2011 and 2012 to determine the genetics underlying normal health and development. Children ages one to 11 years who live in Minnesota and St. Croix and Pierce Counties in Wisconsin are invited to participate.

5 - 9 p.m. OSWall (Open Source Wall)

Oswall (Open Source Wall) is an experimental wall prototype that challenges conventional residential wall construction through an open, collaborative approach to material, fabrication, and installation methods. It proposes an "open source" construction platform in which third-party designers, engineers, scientists, or "do-it-yourselfers" can create, produce, market, and sell "applications" that are plugged into the wall. This project is supported by the university's Imagine Fund.

5 - 9 p.m. Center for Sustainable Building Research & the Bell Museum of Natural History

Researchers from the Center for Sustainable Building Research and curators from the Bell Museum of Natural History will be sharing information about the upcoming Bell Museum exhibit called "Sustainable Shelter." They will showcase hands-on interactive exhibit components that illustrate sustainable building concepts, as well as a variety of animal-built structures.

Sept. 2 on the U of M stage

10 a.m. Medical Devices Center
11 a.m. Ballroom Dance Club
12 p.m. Going with the Flow: How to Maintain Your Septic System
12:30 p.m. Preserving Minnesota's Waters
1 p.m. Parenting Expert Marjorie Savage - Sending Kids to College
2 p.m. Ballroom Dance Club
3 p.m. Breakdancing
4 p.m. Music with Radio K

Sept. 2 U of M building exhibitors

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Center for Drug Design

This interactive exhibit gives visitors the opportunity to see molecular modeling close-up and examine cheek swabs using a microscope. Kids of all ages will also enjoy the slime table.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Medical Devices Center

Come see the future of medical device research at the U of M. This display will include body part models, rapid prototyped parts and devices, a visible heart demonstration, a demo using a WiiMote allowing the user to move a computer model with hand movement and many surgical devices. Test your skills at the laparoscopic knot-tying suturing station. Talk with experts and find out more about the state-of-the-art research that includes designing, prototyping and testing new medical devices.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Gopher Women's Gymnastics 10.0 Club

The 10.0 Club, the Gopher Women's Gymnastics booster club, will be offering information on membership along with Gopher tattoos. Gopher Women's Gymnastics Student Athletes will also be making appearances to sign autographs.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Gopher Photos and Trophies

The University of Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletics space features a pictorial review of all Gopher Sports. View Championship Trophies and watch a reel of highlight videos. Tickets are also available for purchase with exclusive specials. Goldy Gopher will be available from 11 a.m. to noon.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University News Service

Come learn about the latest news at the U.

3 - 9 p.m. Masonic Cancer Center

This interactive exhibit focuses on cancer's effects on the human body. Visitors can take a Cancer Quiz and also see first-hand, from real human tissue samples, the distress caused by cancer on the body.

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U of M Board of Regents to act on proposed final Central Corridor agreement, easements on Sept. 8

Contacts: University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/01/2010) —The University of Minnesota and the Metropolitan Council have completed negotiations on a proposed final agreement that would allow the Central Corridor light rail line (CCLRT) to proceed while protecting the critical research mission of the university and its campus environment. The university's Board of Regents will act on the agreement and easements at its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 8.

"The University and the Met Council have been working together to achieve mutual goals to improve the transportation system in the metropolitan area and to protect the University's research enterprise and our campus community," said university Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien. The proposal will go to the board with President Robert Bruininks' recommendation.

In April, the U of M and Metropolitan Council okayed a preliminary agreement and temporary easement that enabled summer construction to begin on advanced traffic improvements around campus.

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Hormel Institute study reveals capsaicin can act as cocarcinogen

Research links chemical in widely consumed foods to skin cancer

Contacts: Gail Dennison, The Hormel Institute,



A new study from The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, links capsaicin, a component of chili peppers, to skin cancer.

Photo courtesy of Flickr.com.

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/02/2010) —The September cover story of the nation's leading cancer journal, "Cancer Research," features a new study from The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota, that links capsaicin, a component of chili peppers, to skin cancer. While the molecular mechanisms of the cancer-promoting effects of capsaicin are not clear and remain controversial, The Hormel Institute has shown a definite connection to formation of skin cancer through various laboratory studies.

Ann Bode, professor in the institute's Cellular and Molecular Biology Research Section, led the research team on this study along with colleagues Mun Kyung Hwang and Zigang Dong.

Capsaicin, widely consumed worldwide in foods that contain chili peppers, is also used in topical creams for pain relief and its role in cancer development is controversial. Capsaicin has been shown to induce apoptosis (cell death) in cancer cells. However, research findings have also shown that it can also act as a carcinogen, especially at the tumor promotion stage.

Bode says the possibility that capsaicin induces inflammation and may affect cancer development is a critical result of the study. "Most notably, the results raise concerns that a natural compound found in hot peppers used in over-the-counter topical pain remedies might increase skin cancer risk," Bode says.

The study's key findings include:
-The co-carcinogenic effect of capsaicin appears to be mediated through the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) and not the transient receptor potential vanilloid subfamily member 1 (TRPV1), a known pain receptor.
-Topical application of capsaicin on the dorsal skin of wildtype or TRPV1 knockout mice induced tumors in both types but more and larger skin tumors in the knockout mice.
-A known inflammatory enzyme, cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) was highly elevated following treatment with capsaicin.

Other researchers working with Bode on this study included Sanguine Byun, Nu Ry Song, Hyong Joo Lee and Ki Won Lee.

Funding for this research was provided by The Hormel Foundation, National Cancer Institute and the Korean Research Foundation.

The Hormel Institute, University of Minnesota (and its Mayo Clinic research partner), is a world-renowned cancer research center located in Austin, Minn. Specializing in research leading to cancer prevention and control, it currently has 11 cancer research departments and 130 faculty and staff.

For more information and to download photographs, visit www.hi.umn.edu.

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University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment to host international bioenergy convention

Sept. 14-16 gathering in Minneapolis will help define global bioenergy vision

Contacts: Todd Reubold, Institute on the Environment, reub0002@umn.edu, (612) 624-6140
Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/02/2010) —Bioenergy industry experts, policymakers, NGO leaders, stakeholders, academics and presenters from around the world will gather in Minneapolis for the Global Sustainable Bioenergy (GSB) Project's North American Convention Sept. 14-16. The meeting, hosted by the University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment, is the last of five continental conventions that together will create a vision and path forward for bioenergy as a global resource.

The GSB Project is a collaborative effort led by universities and organizations around the world. Overall leadership is provided by representatives from the University of Minnesota, Penn State, Dartmouth and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Convention presentations will include:

- Maximizing bioenergy output from currently manged lands -- a U.S. case study
- Biofuels in Brazil -- lessons for success
- Bioenergy -- a Canadian perspective
- Bioenergy and the food system: Potential synergies and international examples
- The challenges of measuring land use and land use change
- The complete agenda is available at http://environment.umn.edu/gsb/agenda.html

Convention participants will evaluate the working hypothesis that it is physically possible for bioenergy to sustainably meet a substantial fraction of future demand for energy services while feeding humanity and meeting other needs from managed lands, preserving wildlife habitat, and maintaining environmental quality. At the end of the gathering, participants will produce a resolution that, along with similar resolutions already drafted on four other continents, will help set the course for bioenergy research and application for decades to come.

The convention will also include a special evening keynote presentation on Sept. 15 by Roger Thurow, author of the book "ENOUGH: Why the World's Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty." The keynote is open to the public and individual tickets are available.

All events are scheduled for the Marquette Hotel, 710 Marquette Ave., Minneapolis.

Press passes are available for the convention. If you are a member of the media, please contact Stephanie Szurek, Institute on the Environment events coordinator, at (612) 626-1202 or sjszurek@umn.edu.

For more information and to register, go to http://environment.umn.edu/gsb/index.html.

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U of M Board of Regents to meet Wednesday, Sept. 8

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, wolter@umn.edu, (612) 625-8510

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/02/2010) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold its monthly meeting next week on Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010 at the McNamara Alumni Center on the Twin Cities campus. Included on the agenda is introduction of the new chancellor of the University of Minnesota Duluth, Lynn Black, and an update on strategic positioning by President Robert Bruininks and review of the annual University Plan, Performance and Accountability Report.

The schedule for the meeting is as follows:

Wednesday, Sept. 8

9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will review and act on schematic plans for the expansion of the recreation center on the Twin Cities campus and will act on a capital budget amendment for the Oak Street Parking Ramp Bike Center. Vice President for University Services Kathleen O'Brien and Associate Vice President for Facilities Mike Berthelsen will also provide a facilities condition assessment update.

9:30 – 11:30 a.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, East Committee Room. Provost Tom Sullivan will give a report on academic program changes in undergraduate and graduate programs.

1:30 – 2:45 p.m., Board of Regents work session, Boardroom. Vice President for University Relations Karen Himle will present on the university's annual reputation survey.

Immediately following work session, Board of Regents meeting, Boardroom. Black is introduced to the board. Regents professors are also recognized. Bruininks and Sullivan provide the strategic positioning update as well as review of the University Plan, Performance and Accountability Report. A portion of the meeting will be closed so the Board can discuss attorney-client privileged matters. Following that discussion, the meeting will be reopened and the Board will consider an agreement between the University, the Metropolitan Council, Hennepin County, and the City of Minneapolis related to the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) line.

More information on the Board of Regents, the full docket materials and live streaming of the board meetings can be found at www.umn.edu/regents.

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Labor Day weekend at the State Fair shines spotlight on U of M science projects

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

September 3, 2010

A range of University of Minnesota science projects will take center stage at the State Fair this Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 4-5. Fairgoers are invited to visit the U of M stage and building, located at the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Underwood Street, for a chance to explore the often surprising roles biology, chemistry and physics play in our lives.

In addition, representatives from the university's Crookston campus will be on hand throughout the weekend to discuss the distinct programs the campus offers. U of M, Crookston alumni who stop by will receive a special memento.

Complete information is available at www.statefair.umn.edu. For the U of M Extension's 4-H programming and events at the State Fair, go to www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-h/state-fair.

U of M State Fair highlights for Saturday, Sept. 4:

On the U of M stage

10 a.m. The Physics Force
11 a.m. The Physics Force
12 p.m. Cypher Coalition Hip-Hop
1 p.m. Juggling Club
2 p.m. Voices Merging
3 p.m. Juggling Club
4 p.m. Music with Radio K

U of M building exhibitors

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Student Sight Savers

Visitors to the Student Sight Savers exhibit will have the opportunity to get their vision tested and their eyes screened for early signs of eye disease. Screenings will be provided by medical student volunteers from the University of Minnesota and local ophthalmologists. Our goal is to provide this free service to Minnesotans and catch individuals with early signs of disease. Additionally, information will be available on common eye diseases as well as how to maintain good visual health.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Department of Chemistry Outreach Program

Chemistry is all around us. Come join the University of Minnesota Chemistry Outreach Program as we explore the everyday chemistry of your home. This exhibit features hands-on experiments to see how chemists have helped shape our lives. With us, you can explore basic polymers, acids/bases and the chemistry behind some of the foods we eat.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Gopher Football Goal Line Club

The Goal Line Club, the Gopher Football booster club, will be offering information on membership.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Gopher Photos and Trophies

The University of Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletics space features a pictorial review of all Gopher Sports. View Championship Trophies and watch a reel of highlight videos. Tickets are also available for purchase with exclusive specials.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota, Crookston

Visit with representatives from the Crookston campus of the University of Minnesota and learn about the distinct programs it offers. U of M, Crookston alumni, stop by and receive a special memento.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Biology Without Borders

Biology Without Borders is a Campus Life Organization at the University of Minnesota which serves to facilitate ethical volunteer experiences locally and abroad for undergraduate students. Students involved in the organization learn while working to address issues relating to biology.

9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Parenting 2.0

Parenting 2.0 is a collaborative research project designed to improve our understanding of the ways in which, and the reasons that parents use technology. The project seeks to determine some of the processes that take place that impact parent learning online and the outcomes from parents' use of technology. Data collected at this exhibit will be used to design, test and implement educational resources and applications for families.

1 - 5 p.m. Students Today Leaders Forever

Students Today Leaders Forever is a student group/nonprofit, founded at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, that reveals leadership through service, action, and relationships

3 - 9 p.m. The Aurora Center

The Aurora Center will provide literature and information on preventing relationship violence. Visitors will test their knowledge with a quiz, which will discuss common myths about forms of violence from the Green M&M Project, one of the center's popular presentations. Prizes will be given to those who participate.

5 - 9 p.m. Youth Studies, School of Social Work

Introducing the Youth Studies program through exploring the myths of young people.

Sept. 5 on the U of M stage

10 a.m. U Swing Dancing
11 a.m. Omulu Capoeira Guanabara (Brazilian Martial Arts, Music & Dance)
12 p.m. Minne Ami Rueda
1 p.m. Omulu Capoeira Guanabara (Brazilian Martial Arts, Music & Dance)
2 p.m. U Swing Dancing
3 p.m. Minne Ami Rueda
4 p.m. Music with Radio K

Sept. 5 U of M building exhibitors

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Anatomy Bequest Program

Test your anatomy knowledge and see how the generosities of individuals who bequeath their bodies to the University of Minnesota impact the anatomy education of health practitioners. Interactive anatomy opportunities and educational information is available at this booth focusing on the importance and impact of whole body donation at the University of Minnesota.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. College of Science and Engineering Solar Vehicle Project

A car that can travel on power from the sun may sound like science fiction, but it is a reality at the University of Minnesota. Come see the latest solar car built by University undergraduate students, which won the 2009 Formula Sun Grand Prix, a closed-track race at MotorSport Ranch in Cresson, Texas. See the inner workings of the car and talk to members of the team.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Gopher Photos and Trophies

The University of Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletics space features a pictorial review of all Gopher Sports. View Championship Trophies and watch a reel of highlight videos. Tickets are also available for purchase with exclusive specials!

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. University of Minnesota, Crookston

Visit with representatives from the Crookston campus of the University of Minnesota and learn about the distinct programs it offers. U of M, Crookston alumni, stop by and receive a special memento.

9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Gopher Women's Basketball Fast Break Club

The Fast Break Club, the Gopher Women's Basketball booster club, will be offering information on membership along with Gopher Basketball tattoos. Gopher Women's Basketball Student Athletes will also be making appearances to sign autographs!

3 - 9 p.m. Clinical Neurosciences

Experience the power of academic medicine in caring for your brain at the University of Minnesota - through delivery of quality, compassionate care and discovering medical breakthroughs in clinical research. Stop by to tour healthy and diseased brains, gain knowledge about the neurosciences and 'spin the wheel' to win a prize.

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Jonathan Spence to headline events celebrating arrival of rare 1602 "Map of 10,000 Countries" at University of Minnesota libraries



Matteo Ricci's "Map of the 10,000 Countries of the Earth" will be on display at the University of Minnesota's James Ford Bell Library beginning Sept. 15.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/07/2010) —Matteo Ricci's 1602 Kunyu wanguo quantu, or "Map of the 10,000 Countries of the Earth," will be the focus of a series of events this fall at the University of Minnesota, including an appearance by Jonathan Spence, renowned China scholar and 2010 presenter of the National Endowment for the Humanities' (NEH) prestigious Jefferson Lecture.

Jonathan Spence, Sterling Professor of History Emeritus at Yale University and the author of several books including "The Memory Palace of Matteo Ricci," will deliver the 48th Annual James Ford Bell Lecture at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 7, in Willey Hall, 225 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Tickets are available at www.tickets.umn.edu or 612-624-2345. Individual tickets are $15 for the general public; $10 for Associates of the James Ford Bell Library or Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries; free to students with ID. Group discounts are also available.

Spence's lecture, entitled "Ricci's Map: Its Place in His China Strategy," is part of a celebration of the arrival of the Ricci Map at the University of Minnesota's James Ford Bell Library after being on exhibit at the Library of Congress and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts earlier this year.

Purchased by the James Ford Bell Trust for the benefit of the James Ford Bell Library, the map will be featured in the exhibit "Matteo Ricci and the Jesuits in China" from Wednesday, Sept. 15 through Wednesday, Nov. 10, at the Bell Library, located on the 4th Floor of Wilson Library, 309 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. The exhibit is open to the public Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

An exhibit opening reception, featuring Ann Waltner, U of M professor of Ming History, will be held on at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 23. The reception is free and open to the public, but reservations are required by Friday, Sept. 17, at (612) 624-1528 or jfbell@umn.edu.

About the Map
The 1602 Ricci Map, printed with wood blocks on six scrolls of native paper, measures almost 6 feet by 12 feet and is the oldest surviving Chinese map to depict the Americas. Also called the "Impossible Black Tulip" because it is so rare, the map is among six known complete examples of the 1602 printing and the only one in North America. The legendary map is the second most expensive printed rare map ever sold; the first was the Waldseemüller world map, the first to name America and owned by the Library of Congress. The James Ford Bell Library owns a globe gores version of the Waldseemüller -- a small map printed from a single woodblock, intended to be cut out and affixed to a globe. More about Matteo Ricci and the Ricci map is available at www.lib.umn.edu/bell/riccimap.

About the James Ford Bell Library
The Bell Library makes history come alive through its collection of rare books, maps, and manuscripts that focus on trade and cross-cultural interaction before ca. 1800. The Bell Library's collection and innovative programs support scholarship and education at all levels, enriching our community by advancing understanding of this global heritage, making the world we live in more meaningful. Learn more at www.lib.umn.edu/bell.

About the James Ford Bell Trust
The Trust was established by James Ford Bell, founder of General Mills, to benefit the library that bears his name. The acquisition of the Ricci map by the Trust is the result of a two-year search for an important enhancement to the collection in keeping with its founder's vision and complementing other major holdings. Trustees of the James Ford Bell Trust are Dr. Ford W. Bell, President of the American Association of Museums, and Diane B. Neimann, noted philanthropic advisor.

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U of M achieves two firsts with incoming class

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, wolter@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/07/2010) —As the 2010-11 school year begins this week, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities reached two important milestones – receiving the largest number of applications ever in school history and increasing the mean ACT composite score for the incoming class to 27.

“Our record number of applications and the exceptional academic profile of our students this year demonstrates that the University of Minnesota is a talent magnet for motivated and accomplished undergraduates across the state and around the world,” said Provost Tom Sullivan. “I’m delighted that our undergraduate classes are stronger and more competitive each year. Clearly, we’re a university with a powerful, positive academic reputation.”

For the current freshman class, estimated to be around 5,300, the university received 36,800 applications – an increase of nearly 9 percent over last year, and an increase of nearly 100% since 2004.

The mean ACT composite score for incoming freshman also jumped from 26.6 last year to over 27 this year.

Although the full academic profile of the incoming class will not be finalized until October, Sullivan said these two signs represent meaningful progress for the U.

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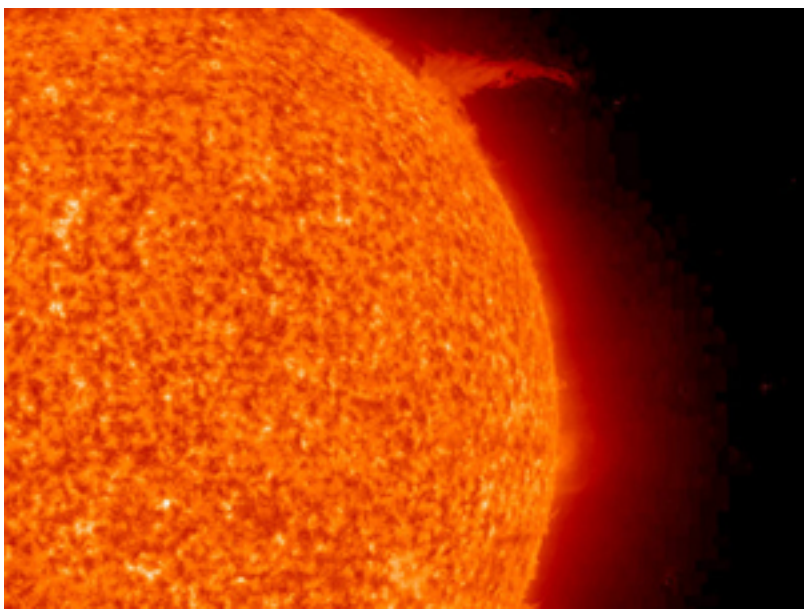
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U of M to get $7 million for NASA trip to the Sun

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NASA's Solar Probe Plus (SPP) project will venture closer to the Sun than ever before.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/08/2010) —The University of Minnesota will be part of an experiment on NASA's Solar Probe Plus (SPP), a spacecraft that will travel closer to the sun than ever before. NASA recently announced a $7 million grant to the university as part of the $180 million SPP project. The project is slated to launch no later than 2018.

The university is participating in the FIELDS experiment, one of four instrument suites aboard the spacecraft. Part of the FIELDS suite is an instrument called the Time Domain Sampler (TDS), which will measure electric and magnetic fields, radio emissions and shockwaves that course through the environment of the sun. The College of Science and Engineering's School of Physics and Astronomy associate program director Keith Goetz and his team developed the TDS. The spacecraft will travel to within four million miles of the sun’s surface.

The principal investigator of the FIELDS experiment is University of Minnesota alumnus and current physics professor Stuart Bale, now at the University of California Berkeley (UCB) and director of the UCB Space Sciences Lab. The University of Minnesota’s Goetz, physics professors John Wygant and Cynthia Cattell as well as physics professor emeritus Paul J. Kellogg, all of the School of Physics and Astronomy, will all participate in the project.

"Solar Probe Plus is really the most interesting mission we can do in the field of space physics," said Goetz. "Going so close to the sun will allow us to determine the mechanisms that lead to the million-degree solar corona as well as the million-miles-per-hour stream of charged particles from the sun called the solar wind."

"This project allows humanity's ingenuity to go where no spacecraft has ever gone before," said Lika Guhathakurta, SPP program scientist at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C. "For the very first time, we'll be able to touch, taste and smell our sun."

The Solar Probe Plus mission is part of NASA's Living with a Star Program. The program is designed to understand aspects of the sun and Earth's space environment that affect life and society. NASA’S Goddard Space Flight Center with oversight from NASA’s Science Mission Directorate’s Heliophysics Division manages the program.

For more information about the Solar Probe Plus mission, visit: http://solarprobe.gsfc.nasa.gov or or http://solarprobe.jhuapl.edu.

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Minnesota health care experts to study German health care system

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A high-ranking delegation of health care experts from Minnesota and Washington, D.C. will meet in Berlin, Sept. 14-20, for a seminar on health care policy that compares the U.S. and German systems.

Photo courtesy of Flickr.com.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/08/2010) —With comprehensive health reform signed into law by President Obama a little less than six months ago, a high-ranking delegation of health care experts from Minnesota and Washington, D.C. will meet in Berlin, Sept. 14-20, for a seminar on health care policy that compares the U.S. and German systems.

This is the second consecutive year that the University of Minnesota's Center for German and European Studies has organized this trip. This year's focus is on health insurance. The new legislation calls for the creation of state-based health insurance exchanges and Minnesota is positioning itself to maintain its national leadership role by creating an exchange well before the 2014 deadline.

Germany's nonprofit statutory health insurers provide some parallels to what that new Minnesota exchange might look like. Germany has provided high-quality universal health care for its citizens since 1883, when its chancellor Otto von Bismarck established the world's first national health care system.

The 16-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:

Sanne Magnan, Minnesota health commissioner
Carol Backstrom, Minnesota assistant health commissioner
Linda Berglin, Scott Dibble, John Marty and Linda Scheid, Minnesota state senators
Joe Atkins, Minnesota state representative
Patrick Geraghty, Blue Cross Blue Shield/Blue Shield Plus of Minnesota president and CEO
Ghita Worcester, Ucare senior vice president
Julie Brunner, Council of Minnesota Health Plans president
Frank Cerra, U of M senior vice president for health sciences
David Jones, Hennepin County Medical Center board chair
Connie Perpich, Planned Parenthood-Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota
Stephen Schondelmeyer, Prime Institute, U of M College of Pharmacy
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, the Berlin-based Bundesverband Managed Care and the German Academic Exchange Service.

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 and 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 co-operating partner. It is the only such cooperation in the United States.

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National Press Club president to speak at U of M Sept. 28

Topic is “Power and the Press: Covering Washington in the Obama Era”

What: National Press Club President and U of M alum Alan Bjerga to speak at School of Journalism and Mass Communication
When: 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28
Where: Murphy Hall conference center, 1st floor, 206 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis

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

September 8, 2010

Alan Bjerga, president of the National Press Club, will discuss “Power and the Press: Covering Washington in the Obama Era” at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28 at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s conference center, Murphy Hall, 206 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public.

Bjerga, an award-winning international agricultural reporter and School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC) alum, will share his perspective on what has been happening in Washington, D.C. as reporters adapt to new forms of media, the new economics of news organizations and age-old questions of reporting on political power.

Bjerga, who grew up on a farm in northern Minnesota, writes for Bloomberg News. He previously worked in the Knight-Ridder Washington, D.C. bureau. He began his career with the St. Paul Pioneer Press and also reported for the Sioux Falls Argus Leader and Wichita Eagle. He holds a bachelor's degree from Concordia College in Moorhead and a master's degree from the SJMC.

The event is cosponsored by the SJMC and the Silha Center for the Study of Media Ethics and Law. For more information about the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, visit www.sjmc.umn.edu.

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"Reputations Aren't Drunk-Proof": U of M students launch campaign to reduce high-risk drinking



Designed and implemented by undergraduates from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, "The Other Hangover" campaign focuses on social consequences

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/09/2010) —A group of students from the University of Minnesota's School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC) have taken a break from their usual routine of studying and test-taking to tackle the very real-world task of implementing a fully-integrated advertising campaign aimed at reducing high-risk drinking behavior among their peers.

Launched today, The Other Hangover project takes a different approach from previous health campaigns targeting excessive drinking habits among college students. Focusing on the negative social and reputational consequences of high-risk drinking behavior, The Other Hangover uses edgy and arresting advertising messages designed to grab students' attention -- and cause them to consider the full implications of their drinking habits.

"What's unique about this project is that it's a completely student designed and student-driven initiative," said Dan Lans, SJMC undergraduate and one of several student project leaders. "We're really talking to our peers about the dangers of high-risk drinking, and asking them to think about their behavior from a different perspective. Also, it's a great opportunity for our group to see something we've all worked really hard on become a reality on campus."

A common slogan throughout the campaign, "Don't Over Do It," stresses the campaign's message of moderation, while individual ads focus attention on the common social "hangovers" created by a night of heavy drinking, such as shame, regret, embarrassment or guilt. The tag-line, "Reputations Aren't Drunk-Proof," appears frequently within campaign advertisements.

The Other Hangover is the award winning creation of a group of undergraduate advertising students from the SJMC, who competed in the 2009 National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC). The campaign designed by the university's NSAC team was considered among the best and most innovative in the country, and following the competition the sponsors of the event, The Century Council, invited the U to apply for a $75,000 grant to be used to implement and evaluate portions of the campaign. The Century Council is a national non-profit organization that promotes responsible decision-making around alcohol consumption.

SJMC graduate students Nathan Gilkerson and Michelle Gross authored the grant application last fall and have worked throughout the summer to help lead a group of eight SJMC undergraduate students in adapting and implementing the various aspects of the campaign.

The group of SJMC undergraduates have coordinated everything that goes into executing a campaign, from graphics and web design work, to researching and managing printing vendors, along with negotiating contracts with media outlets. Elements of the campaign will be visible both online and across the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities campus.

Along with a significant online presence -- via both a student-designed web site (www.theotherhangover.com) and a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/theotherhangover) -- traditional advertising will also appear in The Minnesota Daily, on a Stadium Village billboard, bus shelter displays, sidewalk and mirror clings throughout campus and on posters and promotional items. Advertising has also been coordinated to appear within the student seating sections, bathrooms and on the large screen video board during Gopher football games at TCF Bank Stadium this fall.

The Other Hangover campaign is launching on the Twin Cities campus this September, in conjunction with the start of the fall semester, and will run through December.

Undergraduate student members of The Other Hangover launch team: Rachel Armstrong, Lauren Fink, Hope Horstmann, Daniel Lans, Laura Rask, Fiona Severson, Zach Stern and James Wakely.

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U of M offers kids a chance to participate in 2010 Homecoming parade

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September 9, 2010

The University of Minnesota's 2010 Homecoming celebration, "Paint the Town Gold," will feature events beginning Sept. 24 through the Oct. 2 football game against Northwestern and is the U of M's largest campus-wide event activity. The U of M Homecoming committee is offering kids ages 12 and under the chance to be a special guest in the 2010 Homecoming Parade Oct. 1 by submitting entries to a maroon-and-gold themed coloring contest.

Entry forms and contest details can be found online at www.homecoming.umn.edu, picked up at the Coffman Union and St. Paul Student Center Information Desks on campus or at Dick Blick Art Materials' Roseville and Edina locations. Entries must be received by Sept. 18. One girl and one boy winner from three age groups (4 and under, 5 to 8 and 9 to 12) will receive a gift basket, with the top girl and top boy being featured guests at the Oct. 1 parade.

For more information about Homecoming 2010, visit www.homecoming.umn.edu.

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First in the nation: U of M Women's Center celebrates its 50th anniversary

Opening reception for Andersen Library exhibit on Women's Center takes place Sept. 15

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Alicia Cordes, Office for Equity and Diversity, acordes@umn.edu, (612) 625-0498

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/10/2010) —The University of Minnesota Women's Center is celebrating its 50th anniversary this fall, with several special events taking place to shine a light on the center's pioneering history as the first of its kind.

The University of Minnesota's Women Center was founded in 1960 as the Minnesota Plan for the Continuing Education of Women. The plan was created to address the needs of women who returned to college after having children. It became the first women's center on a university campus and continues to serve as an example for college women's centers across the country.

"Throughout its history, the Women's Center has established many women's initiatives that have emerged as their own entities, created grants and awards for women students, and consistently responded to the dynamic needs of its diverse constituency," said Peg Lonnquist, the center's director. "A catalyst for women's equity, the Women's Center supports the university community in its efforts to create a healthy climate in which women flourish and reach their full potential in both the University of Minnesota and beyond."

Celebrations shift into high gear at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 15, with the official opening of a Women's Center history exhibit at the university's Andersen Library, atrium gallery, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis. Speakers will include Wendy Pradt Lougee, university librarian; Kris Lockhart, associate vice president in the Office for Equity and Diversity; Gayle Graham Yates, president of the Friends of the University Library and founder of the university's Women's Studies program; Anitra Cottledge, Women's Center assistant director; and Peg Lonnquist.

This exhibit, which runs through October, traces the history of the Women's Center from its origins to today, using artifacts from the work of memorable and influential people, curriculum and program innovations, and personal and professional development activities. Kimberly Clarke is the curator.

On Oct. 1, a special panel discussion, "Living Legends Reflect: Working toward Women's Equity on Campus," will take place at noon at Andersen Library, Room 120. The discussion will feature former Women's Center leadership, including Jessica Morgan, Claire Walter-Marchetti and Don Opitz.

The discussion will be followed by a 3 p.m. 50th anniversary homecoming and networking gala at McNamara Alumni Center, Memorial Hall, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. The event will feature keynote remarks by Nancy "Rusty" Barceló, president of Northern New Mexico College and former U of M vice president and vice provost for Equity and Diversity.

For complete Women's Center 50th anniversary information and events, visit www.umn.edu/women/50/index.html.

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SPARK Festival draws global electronic music and arts performers to the U of M's West Bank Arts Quarter

Week-long celebration kicks off Sept. 29

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

September 10, 2010

The University of Minnesota's West Bank Arts Quarter will present the SPARK Festival of Electronic Music and Arts, Wednesday, Sept. 29 through Saturday, Oct. 2. The SPARK Festival is a week-long celebration of the latest electronic music and arts, featuring fresh works created by artists from around the globe — the United States, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

SPARK will present a significant portion of its programming in the historic "Love Power Church" building at 1407 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis, in addition to numerous venues within the university's West Bank Arts Quarter. In its eighth year, SPARK brings internationally recognized scholars and performers to the West Bank Arts Quarter for lectures, performances and master classes. Other festival highlights include presentations by artists on their works and ideas, video and sound installations, guerrilla-style events throughout the quarter and expanding to other venues including the Love Power Church and the 1419 Artist Collective.

This year's featured composers and performers include multi-instrumentalist, composer and improviser Fred Frith, London-based electronic duo Furt, Montreal-based composer/performer group Klaxon Gueule and Chicago-based trio Friction Brothers. This year's Night Life programming includes DroidBehaivior, techno-master Moe Espinoza (Drumcell), Los Angeles-based electro-duo Vangelis and Vidal Vargas, Danish electronics recycler Mikkel Meyer and dub-step warrior Puzzleweasel.

In addition to the extensive music programming, SPARK 2010 is proud to present new commissioned works by the winners of the "Art(ists) On the Verge 2" program by Northern Lights: Arlene Birt, Kyle Phillips, Tyler Stefanich and Tectonic Industries will premiere their new media installation works at the University of Minnesota's Regis Center for Art. SPARK will also host the Urban Caravan Bicycle Tour; a mobile media project by Minneapolis Art on Wheels artists, Andrea Steudel and Luke Anderson.

The opening reception, concert and exhibition event will take place at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30 in the Regis Center for Art's Quarter Gallery. For an up-to-date schedule of SPARK events, visit www.sparkfestival.org. Photographs are available upon request by e-mailing mbalhorn@macalester.edu.

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Product design takes center stage at U of M Sept. 17

Day-long event to explore “Making, Selling, Buying, Using: Emerging Issues in Product Design”

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

September 10, 2010

Minnesota’s product design community will come together for a one-day symposium, “Making, Selling, Buying, Using: Emerging Issues in Product Design,” Friday, Sept. 17, at the University of Minnesota’s Twin Cities campus.

Presented by the university’s College of Design, the event will feature presentations from a variety of perspectives and keynotes by Andrew Blauvelt, chief of communications and audience engagement, Walker Art Center; Maggie Breslin, design researcher, Mayo Clinic SPARC Program; and the college’s incoming product design faculty member Barry Kudrowitz.

Culminating years of planning, the college kicked off a graduate minor in product design this year and launched the Wearable Product Design Center, which fosters research connections among apparel design faculty.

"We hope the symposium furthers interest in product design at the university and in the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota community," said Steven McCarthy, graphic design professor and program director who organized the symposium with Lucy Dunne, assistant professor of apparel design. "We hope to develop interest in our new product design program and get faculty and people in private practice and industry interested in collaborations."

The day program (10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.) takes place at Walter Library, Room 402, 117 Pleasant St. S.E., Minneapolis. The evening program (5:30-8:30 p.m.) takes place at the Campus Club, Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

Online registration for the symposium is required at http://making.design.umn.edu.

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U of M honors Bruce Mooty for leadership and service

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/13/2010) —Bruce Mooty, a principal of the Minneapolis-based Gray Plant Mooty law firm, will be honored by the University of Minnesota Alumni Association Sept. 29 for his outstanding volunteer service and leadership to the association.

Mooty will receive the university's Alumni Service Award at the Alumni Awards Celebration at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis, held as part of Homecoming 2010. The award honors long-time service and a legacy of volunteerism. Celebration programming begins at 5:30 p.m.

"Bruce has been a tireless and passionate supporter of the University of Minnesota for many years," said Phil Esten, president and chief executive officer of the Alumni Association. "He has contributed an incredible amount of time, wisdom and experience to the Alumni Association for nearly a decade, and his impact within the university community will be felt for years to come."

A graduate of the College of Liberal Arts and the University of Minnesota Law School, Mooty is the fourth member of his family to serve as national president of the Alumni Association. As president, Mooty played a key leadership role in implementing the association's new brand that positioned members as ambassadors for the university's work. He also traveled to Minnesota communities across the state to discuss the university's impact.

Mooty was first elected to the board as an at-large representative in 2002. He then served as vice president from 2003-2006, first vice president in 2006-2007, president-elect in 2007-2008, national president in 2008-2009 and past president in 2009-2010. In addition, Mooty served as chair of the Alumni Association Board Development Committee and as co-chair of the Alumni Association Advocacy Committee.

In testament to his expertise and valued counsel, Mooty has been chosen to serve on search committees for key leadership positions at the university. He recently served as co-chair of the search committee for the new chief executive officer of the Alumni Association, and was recently named to the committee charged with helping the Board of Regents find the next president of the University of Minnesota.

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

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Quality Bicycle Products' Steve Flagg receives University of Minnesota's 2010 Entrepreneur of the Year award



A 1974 graduate of the university with a degree in economics, Steve Flagg was named the University of Minnesota's 2010 Entrepreneur of the Year.

Contacts: Steve Rudolph, Carlson School of Management, skr@umn.edu, (612) 624-8770
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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/13/2010) —Steve Flagg, founder of Quality Bicycle Products (QBP), was honored with the University of Minnesota's Entrepreneur of the Year award at the Minnesota Cup Competition Final Awards Reception held at the McNamara Alumni Center. The ceremony featured remarks from University President Robert Bruininks and also announced the winners of the 2010 Minnesota Cup, a competition that encourages entrepreneurial spirit and highlights the position of the University of Minnesota as a hub for innovation.

"In Quality Bicycle Products, Steve Flagg has built a remarkable company and an incredible culture," said John Stavig, professional director of the Gary S. Holmes Center for Entrepreneurship at the Carlson School of Management, who presented the award to Flagg. "The university is proud to recognize Steve as an entrepreneurial role model who pursued his passion, instilled his personal values into the organization, set the standard for social responsibility and created opportunities for his employees that have benefitted our entire community."

"Steve Flagg has played a major role in making Minneapolis America's best bike city and QBP has been the catalyst for the state's thriving cycling-related economy."

The Entrepreneur of the Year award recognizes university alumni who founded, and are currently leading, remarkable businesses while serving as exemplary role models for the next generation of entrepreneurs. Past honorees include Joel Ronning (Digital River), Tim and Valerie Doherty (Doherty Employment Group), Robert Stephens (Geek Squad) and Gary Holmes (CSM Corporation).

A 1974 graduate of the university with a degree in economics, Flagg started QBP in 1981 with his wife, Mary Henrickson. The company, which began in a small office supplying bike shops with hard-to-find items from Japan, has since grown to become the industry's largest parts and accessories distributor, supplying more than 30,000 stock-keeping units to more than 5,000 dealers worldwide. In addition to selling other manufacturers' products, QBP operates several proprietary brands including Salsa, Surly and Civia.

Along with its phenomenal business growth, QBP has been raised the bar for corporate stewardship. The company believes it's good business to make the world a better place and does so through efforts in advocacy, community service and environmental stewardship. This includes donating six percent of after-tax profits to related causes.

On the environmental scene, QBP has been a pioneer in sustainable business practices. Its 135,000-square-foot-distribution center houses one of the largest solar installations in the Midwest and was awarded a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold rating. Later this year the company will open a similar environmentally-friendly facility in Ogden, Utah.

Flagg also promotes a unique culture of engagement and shared learning at QBP where the vast majority of employees are biking enthusiasts, many of whom started in the warehouse before advancing to new roles. Flagg is a frequent speaker in entrepreneurship classes at the Carlson School and personally hosts student tours of his unique company.

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.

About the Minnesota Cup

In six years since its inception, the Minnesota Cup competition has spurred over 5,000 entries from 48 counties around the state. The competition's mission is to seek out, support, celebrate and promote Minnesota's newest, most innovative business ideas and connect resident entrepreneurs with leading executives, investors and the University of Minnesota. The Holmes Center and alumni founders of the competition hope it will inspire new business ventures and drive economic growth in the state of Minnesota.

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Grant will help U of M researchers develop biomass policy



Jason Hill is a professor in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and one of the lead researchers for the project.

recommendations

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/14/2010) —Researchers from the University of Minnesota will evaluate how a variety of biomass production options would affect the Mississippi River watershed and use the results to make policy recommendations for increasing the sustainability of the burgeoning bio-energy industry.

The five-year project will be funded in part by a grant from the U. S. Department of Energy, which last week announced awards of $16.5 million for biomass research and development. The U of M grant is one of only three in the nation to focus on sustainable bioenergy feedstock production.

"The bioenergy industry will require ever greater amounts of grasses, trees, and crop residues to achieve our nation's renewable energy goals," said Jason Hill, principal investigator on the project. "Our research will provide the industry, farmers, and lawmakers with information on how and where to grow and collect these and other biomass sources more sustainably. What we learn here in the Mississippi River watershed may also serve as a model for improving our national bioenergy policy."

Hill and his co-principal investigator, Tracy Twine, will analyze and make recommendations about which bioenergy feedstocks to use, where to produce or collect them, their economic impact and how biomass production may be affected by climate change or other environmental shifts. Hill is an assistant professor in the department of bioproducts and biosystems engineering and Twine is an assistant professor in the soil, water and climate department.

In addition to the Department of Energy grant, the project is funded by the U of M's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and Institute on the Environment's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment.

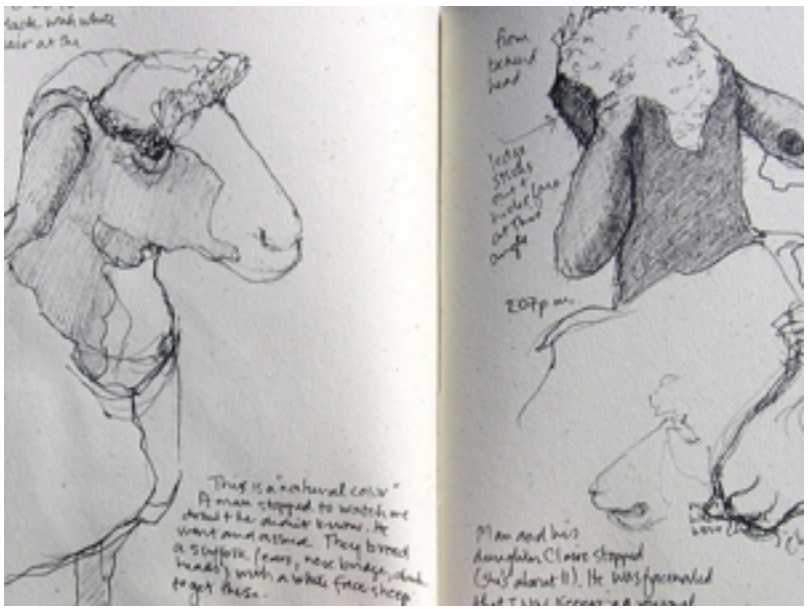
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Bell Museum's "Sketch Nights" offer people the chance to sketch rare objects with illustrator Roz Stendahl



An example work from local artist and U of M alum Roz Stendahl. Stendahl will lead U of M Bell Museum "Sketch Nights" event on the first Thursday of every month.

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September 15, 2010

If you've ever hankered to paint a Passenger Pigeon, sketch a still life of the North Woods or capture a caribou on canvas, consider the University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History your studio. The museum's new monthly Sketch Night offers the visual journalist, the accomplished artist and the casual hobbyist the opportunity to sketch real museum objects alongside other area artists in a one-of-a-kind setting. The first event is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7.

Each Sketch Night -- held the first Thursday of every month -- is themed around a museum display or object from the museum's scientific collections. The subject matter will range from rare animal mounts to exotic nests, skeletons, fossils and other natural history objects. Roz Stendahl, a local artist and illustrator known for her customized art classes and workshops, will informally lead the evening. Refreshments and basic art supplies will be available for purchase.

Many objects featured at Sketch Night are also available on a rental basis to general public as part of the museum's specimen loan program. Rentable objects in the museum's loan collections include bird and mammal mounts and skins, animal bones and skulls, nests, fossils, shells, antler and horns. The program is a unique resource and reference point for artists, designers, photographers and decorators. The objects are available to rent for anyone with a valid driver's license. For rental details, call (612) 626-7133 or e-mail menke004@umn.edu.

Bell Museum Sketch Nights are part of a new line up of Thursday evening programs that range from films to guest artist installation events to walkabouts and discussions. For upcoming events, visit bellmuseum.org.

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.

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U of M landscape architecture students to turn parking spot into temporary park Sept. 17

PARK(ing) Day calls attention to the importance of urban open space



Members of Students for Design Activism turn a San Francisco parking spot into a mini-park earlier this year. A similar effort will take place at the U of M Sept. 17.

Photo courtesy of SDA.

Contacts: Laura Weber, College of Design, l-webe@umn.edu, (612) 625-6566
Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

September 15, 2010

A group of students in the U of M College of Design's department of landscape architecture will turn a parking spot into a temporary green space from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17. The group, Students for Design Activism, is participating in PARK(ing) Day to address cultural and environmental issues through an engaging and educational design of urban space.

PARK(ing) Day is an annual, worldwide event with the goal of inspiring city dwellers to transform metered parking spots into temporary parks for the public good.

In particular, the student's installation will demonstrate the effective use of plants in treating urban runoff before pollution enters waterways such as the Mississippi River.

The students will be "parking" Pillsbury Drive Southeast near the University of Minnesota Field House on the East Bank campus.

Students for Design Activism is a new official student organization on campus. Anyone interested in learning more or being a part of this initiative can stop by the PARK(ing) Day event or get in touch with Anna Lawrence, the group's president, at lawr0176@umn.edu.

For more information, visit the students' PARK(ing) Day profile at http://my.parkingday.org/profile/StudentsforDesignActivism.

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University of Minnesota to observe Constitution Day with Law School presentations

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The University of Minnesota Law School will present a program on Constitution Day, Sept. 17, commemorating the U.S. Constitution.

September 16, 2010

The University of Minnesota Law School will present a program on Constitution Day, Sept. 17, commemorating the U.S. Constitution.

"We the People: Constitution Day" will be held from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17, in Lockhart Hall (Room 25), University of Minnesota Law School, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

This program will also be presented as a live webcast. For access to the live program, click here. One continuing legal education credit has been requested.

Alexandra Klass, professor of law and associate dean for academic affairs at the Law School will give an introduction to the Constitution Day presentations. Hari Osofsky, associate professor of law and associate director of the Law, Geography, and Environment with the university's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences, will present "Climate Change Meets the Constitution."

Osofsky will discuss how litigation over climate change in U.S. courts has grappled with complex constitutional issues, such as standing and political question doctrine. As this jurisprudence continues to develop, courts will continue to face these issues against a rapidly evolving policy backdrop.

In "The Constitutional Dimensions of Health Care Reform," Amy Monahan, associate professor of law, will examine constitutional issues surrounding the requirement contained in recently enacted health care legislation that Americans purchase health insurance coverage or face a monetary penalty.

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U of M School of Music presents The International Violin Competition of Indianapolis finals in high definition, Sept. 24-25

Competition features the next generation of the world's finest concert artists

Contacts: Lisa Marshall, School of Music, marsh396@umn.edu, (612) 626-1094
Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

September 16, 2010

The University of Minnesota School of Music will present The International Violin Competition of Indianapolis -- "The Indianapolis" -- finals for viewing in real-time high-definition at 7 p.m. on both Friday, Sept. 24, and Saturday, Sept. 25, in Ferguson Hall, Room 225, 2106 4th St. S., Minneapolis. This event is free and open to the public.

The viewings offer the opportunity to experience the finest playing from the next generation of concert artists on a large screen format via Internet2. Seating is limited and reservations are required. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Late seating between pieces only. RSVPs are required to professor Sally O'Reilly at (612) 624-0846 or oreil004@umn.edu.

The competition was founded in 1982 under the artistic leadership of Josef Gingold to discover major violin talent and nurture careers. Every four years, music lovers from all parts of the globe focus their attention on The Indianapolis. Now regarded as one of the most respected music competitions in the world, laureates uphold a tradition of excellence as soloists, chamber musicians and orchestral leaders in today’s foremost cultural centers. On the web: www.violin.org.

The school's Ferguson Hall is located on the U of M’s West Bank campus. Convenient parking is available at the university's 19th Avenue and 21st Avenue parking ramps; one must pay a fee to park in these ramps.

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.

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German official at U of M for 20th anniversary of German reunification

Karsten Voigt will share personal and political insights into Germany of 1990

Media Note: Voigt is available for interviews in Minneapolis on Tuesday, Oct. 5, and Wednesday, Oct. 6.



Karsten Voigt is the German government's recent coordinator for cooperation with the United States, a position he held until Nov. 2009.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/17/2010) —German government official and political insider Karsten Voigt will give two public talks at the University of Minnesota during the week following the 20th anniversary of German reunification, which is Sunday, Oct. 3.

On Tuesday, Oct. 5, he will speak on "Germany and In-Migration: Problems, Prejudice and Productive Solutions." On Wednesday, Oct. 6, Voigt will speak on "The Political is Personal: 20 Years of United Germany and Post Cold-War Europe." Sponsored by the university's Center for German and European Studies (CGES), both events take place from 12 to 1:15 p.m. in 1210 Heller Hall, 271 19th Ave. S, Minneapolis.

The Berlin Wall was dismantled in November 1989 and by the end of spring 1990, no one among the combined 80 million citizens in East and West Germany doubted that their lives were intimately connected to the political events that were transforming central Europe. In March 1990, East Germans voted in their country's first free election since 1933. The results set the stage for the "Two Plus Four" negotiations that removed the last obstacle to the unification of Germany on Oct. 3. Germany in 1990 was all about hope and change. The events of 1990 also set the stage for the euro when French president Mitterand made France's agreement contingent on Germany's promising a future European monetary union.

Voigt is the German government's recent coordinator for cooperation with the United States, a position he held for ten years until November 2009. His political career started early. From 1969 to 1972, he led the Social Democratic Party's youth organization and accumulated credentials as a bona fide leftist. In 1976, he was first elected to the German Bundestag and served as a member of parliament for the next 22 years. Considered an analyst and strategic thinker, he became the foreign policy spokesperson for the Social Democrats' parliamentary group in 1983. He is a board member of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) in Berlin, the Aspen Institute Berlin, and at CGES.

In the mid-1980s, he met and fell in love with an East German journalist. In the summer of 1989, when thousands of East German citizens began leaving for the tiny hole in the Iron Curtain in Hungary, he experienced the drama of these political events in a very personal way. His lover was among the refugees. Today they are happily married, live in Berlin in an area known for its large immigrant population, and have a 13-year old son.

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Dr. Aaron Friedman named Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean of the University of Minnesota Medical School



Dr. Aaron Friedman was named vice president for health sciences and dean of the University of Minnesota Medical School.

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/17/2010) —Dr. Aaron Friedman, current chair of the University of Minnesota's department of pediatrics, was named vice president for health sciences and dean of the University's Medical School today by President Robert Bruininks. Pending approval by the Board of Regents at its October meeting, Friedman will begin in the position following Dr. Frank Cerra, who announced he was stepping down earlier this year.

"This marks a significant milestone in a complex transition of leadership in the university's health sciences," said Bruininks. "For more than two decades, Frank Cerra has provided transformative leadership at the Medical School and in the health sciences – and we are truly grateful for his service."

Bruininks continued, "Aaron Friedman is an entrepreneurial and visionary change agent. His personal integrity, high energy and ability to work across academic and organizational boundaries make him the perfect person to lead our health sciences at this time."

Friedman is the Ruben-Bentson Chair and Professor of Pediatrics in the Medical School, where he has served since he arrived at the university in 2008. Before coming to the university, he was chair of the departments of pediatrics at Brown Medical School in Providence, Rhode Island (2004-2008) and at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1996-2004). While at Wisconsin, Friedman also chaired the University Committee, the primary all-university faculty governance committee.

"The University of Minnesota has a long history of leadership across the health sciences," Friedman said. "I look forward to helping this institution ensure that leadership continues in the years ahead."

In addition to his current role in the Medical School, Friedman is currently pediatrician-in-chief at the University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital, a role he previously held at the Hasbro Children's Hospital/Rhode Island Hospital. Friedman also serves as a member of the board of directors of the American Board of Pediatrics, of which he was chair in 2008, and is active in the American Academy of Pediatrics. His research and scholarly work have centered on amino acid transport and factors influencing growth in chronic renal failure, and he serves as chair of a steering committee for an NIH-sponsored clinical trial in pediatric nephrology. He is the 2010 recipient of the Henry Barnett Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics nephrology section for his contributions to children with kidney disease and to the pediatric nephrology community.

Friedman will devote half of his time to transitional issues, beginning on Oct. 15 and will begin in his new duties Jan. 3, 2011, pending approval by the board.

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University of Minnesota Statement regarding postponement of the "Troubled Waters" documentary

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/17/2010) —The following is a statement from Dr. Susan Weller, director of the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum of Natural History that was sent to members of the Bell Museum community today:

"In 2008, the University of Minnesota (Bell Museum of Natural History) received a legislative appropriation, and subsequent additional private funding, to develop an educational documentary on the waters of Minnesota, designed to promote watershed understanding and citizen action in protecting, restoring and conserving water resources.

"Our standard procedure at the Bell Museum is that our exhibits and educational products have at least one researcher who oversees the project's scientific integrity from inception to completion. Unfortunately, this procedure was not followed by the Bell Media unit for production of the documentary, 'Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story.' As Director of the Bell Museum, I am responsible for ensuring these standards are followed, and I regret our error in this case.

"Recently, this documentary was previewed by a number of University officials and faculty. In hindsight, this review should have occurred much earlier. As a result of input received from these viewers, I have postponed the premiere of the film at the Bell Museum. I have requested a small group of qualified faculty review the film. These faculty will advise me on whether the documentary as edited meets the specifications of the legislative appropriation to the University, and is scientifically accurate, objective and balanced in its presentation.

"The overall purpose of the review is to assure that the University meets its responsibilities under the legislation to provide the best quality product, one that meets the expectations contained in the legislation and provides high-quality educational material for viewers. No outside interests, as erroneously reported by some news sources, have been involved in this internal decision-making process.

"The Bell Museum of Natural History looks forward to hosting the premiere of the film when this process is concluded. I ask for your understanding and patience as we produce a film that meets our high standards of excellence as a public portal of University research and education on environmental issues."

Sincerely,
Dr. Susan J. Weller
Director and Professor

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U of M study estimates farm-to-school's local economic impact

Media Note: Minnesota celebrates its first Farm to School Week, initiated by the Minnesota School Nutrition Association and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Sept. 20-24.



Filling school lunch trays with fresh, locally grown foods that are easy to incorporate into school menus can contribute as much as $430,000 annually to a regional economy, according to new research from University of Minnesota Extension.

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Preston Smith, University News Service, smith@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/20/2010) —Filling school lunch trays with fresh, locally grown foods that are easy to incorporate into school menus can contribute as much as $430,000 annually to a regional economy, according to new research from University of Minnesota Extension.

The recent study examined the potential economic impact of farm-to-school programs, focusing on a five-county area of central Minnesota that encompasses Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena counties. Students attending schools in the region total 20,840, according to the Minnesota Department of Education.

“In this part of Minnesota, a $400,000 annual impact could support two to three full-time farms,” said Ryan Pesch, Extension community economics educator and co-author of the report.

The range of economic impact in the region varied greatly depending on the schools’ level of involvement—from $20,000 if every school featured one locally grown meal per month up to $430,000 if they sourced a large amount of certain products from local farmers. The analysis concentrated on foods most easily added to school menus right away and available from local farmers: apples, beef hot dogs, cabbage, carrots, oatmeal, potatoes, sweet corn and wild rice.

“We learned that the cost to process fresh fruits and vegetables is the most significant barrier for farmers and school districts wanting to forge ahead with these activities,” said Pesch. “It takes time and labor to process fresh produce, and most growers understand the budget restraints schools are under. At the same time, local farmers find it challenging to meet the wholesale prices of large-scale distributors, although they are cost competitive on select foods.”

According to Stephanie Heim, Extension farm to school coordinator and a registered dietitian, the study’s findings will help inform the efforts of many other Minnesota communities looking to start farm-to-school programs. “Parents, teachers, any community members looking to support local farm-to-school efforts can help by connecting farmers with the schools in their communities,” said Heim. “A strong relationship between farmers and schools is the foundation for building programs that last.”

Arlene Jones, who runs an 80-acre farm in Crow Wing County, agrees that growing local connections plays a huge part in the progress of farm to school. “So much of it depends on the school district size, farm size and storage and delivery systems,” said Jones. “Does the farmer own a refrigerated truck? Schools and farmers must work together to create a model they can use in order for it to be successful.”

The study was a joint project of University of Minnesota Extension, the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture and University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. To access a report and fact sheet on the farm-to-school study, visit www.extension.umn.edu/EconomicImpact/.

For more information on farm to school or how to get started, visit Extension’s Farm to School website, www.extension.umn.edu/farm-to-school.

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U of M research shows U.S. teen hearing loss is much lower than has been widely reported

Research shows hearing loss percentage is much smaller due to limitations in the precision of hearing tests



New research from University of Minnesota hearing scientists shows that fewer than 20 percent of teenagers in the United States have a hearing loss as a result of exposure to loud sounds. Image courtesy of Flickr.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/20/2010) —New research from University of Minnesota hearing scientists shows that fewer than 20 percent of teenagers in the United States have a hearing loss as a result of exposure to loud sounds, thus offering a different analysis of data reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) in August.

The U of M's research, forthcoming in the Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research, points out that the small hearing losses that audiologist are trying to identify with conventional hearing tests are subject to measurement error and that as many as 10 percent or more of children are falsely identified as having a noise induced hearing loss using these methods.

"Most media have emphasized the link between exposure to loud sounds and hearing loss when referring to the JAMA study," says Bert Schlauch, professor in the university's Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences. "However, many of the findings of the JAMA study are not consistent with hearing loss caused by exposure to loud sounds." These conclusions were drawn from an ongoing study of the hearing of the University of Minnesota Marching Band and a forthcoming paper in the Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research authored by Schlauch and Edward Carney.

The U of M researchers measured the hearing of members of the university's marching band and found about 15 percent had hearing loss. Researchers followed the band members over the period of a year. When the results of multiple hearing tests were averaged, more than half of the apparent noise induced hearing losses disappeared, a finding consistent with measurement error.

The JAMA study examined two sets of data collected as part of a national study of health and nutrition. Schlauch and Carney examined the older data set that was included in the JAMA study. A highly cited study, published in the journal Pediatrics, examined the older data set and reported an estimated prevalence of 14.9 percent of 12 to 19-year-old children who had hearing loss consistent with noise exposure.

Schlauch and Carney report, based on computer simulations modeling the statistical properties of hearing tests, that as much as 10 percent of the 14.9 percent figure is consistent with false positive responses. In other words, people with normal hearing can produce spurious responses during a hearing test that look like a mild hearing loss, a result consistent with measurement error.

"Our findings do not mean that people should not be concerned about exposure to loud sounds, such as those from personal stereo devices, live music concerts or gun fire," Schlauch says. "The damage may build up over time and not appear until a person is older. For all sounds, the risk increases the more intense the sound and the longer the exposure, particularly from sustained or continuous sounds."

# # #

The paper, "Are False Positive Rates Leading to an Overestimation of Noise-Induced Hearing Loss," forthcoming in the Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research, was co-authored by Bert Schlauch and Edward Carney. Ongoing work is a collaborative effort with Su-Hyun Jin, University of Texas at Austin, and Bert Schlauch, Peggy Nelson and Edward Carney in the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota.

The paper can be found online at http://jslhr.asha.org/cgi/content/abstract/1092-4388_2010_09-0132v1.

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How can plant foods improve Americans' diet? U of M summit aims to find out

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September 20, 2010

A summit this month at the University of Minnesota will examine how plants contribute to human health and how Americans could be motivated to eat more fruits and vegetables.

"Food for Thought," presented by the university's Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute and Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, will include updates on the latest scientific research about the importance of plants in our diets as well as case studies on what happens when institutions incorporate more plants into their menus. The summit will be Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at the Radisson University hotel in Minneapolis and at the Arboretum in Chaska.

The summit's first day includes nationally known scientists from both the academic and public policy worlds, as well as New York Times food columnist and author Mark Bittman. Along with individual presentations, the speakers will discuss ways to increase plant-food consumption in a panel discussion format. That evening, Bittman will speak and sign books at the Arboretum.

The second day includes a talk by Bittman as well as discussions about cases where a plant-based diet has been incorporated into schools and other institutional settings. The day also features a lunch created by Brenda Langton, owner of Spoon River restaurant, cookbook author and senior fellow at the University's Center for Spirituality and Wellness.

Major sponsors of the summit include Lakewinds Natural Foods. Registration costs vary; admission is reduced for university faculty, staff and students and Arboretum members. For details and online registration, visit www.arboretum.umn.edu/healthyfoodsummit2010.aspx.

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University of Minnesota Police to hand out doughnuts and safety information as part of Fall Campus Safety Awareness Week

What: University of Minnesota Police to hand out doughnuts and safety information
When: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21
Where: Northrop Plaza, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis

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September 20, 2010

University of Minnesota Police bearing doughnuts and personal safety messages will greet students from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21 on Northrop Plaza, 84 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis. The meet and greet is part of Fall Campus Safety Awareness Week, which runs through Friday, Sept. 24.

"Coffee and Doughnuts with the Cops" is designed as an event where students and police 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," says Greg Hestness, University of Minnesota Police Chief and assistant vice president of public safety.

Police will be out again with coffee and doughnuts from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 22 at the Transportation and Safety Building, 511 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, and from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 23 at the St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave., St. Paul.

Fall Campus Safety Awareness Week with the motto A Safe You is a Safe U has been set aside to promote and encourage personal responsibility and ownership for campus safety and security.

Students living in residence halls will be asked to take a Safety Pledge where they can commit to steps they can take to increase personal safety and the safety of others.

Through e-mails and advertising, university leaders will remind students of the many resources in place to make the campus safe including: university police; security cameras; security escorts; security monitors and a safe ride home for students from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Having individuals commit to taking actions to bolster safety on campus makes an impact.

For more information about Fall Campus Safety Awareness Week, visit http://www1.umn.edu/prepared.

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Maroon and gold's finest: Alumni Association honors top volunteers, groups and programs Sept. 29

Annual event honors individuals and groups who devote time, energy and talent to promote the U of M across the state, nation and world

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/20/2010) —The University of Minnesota Alumni Association will honor its outstanding alumni volunteers, groups and programs Wednesday, Sept. 29 at the 2010 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 University of Minnesota community benefits in many ways from the valuable contributions and service of its dedicated alumni,” said Phil Esten, president and chief executive officer of the Alumni Association. “We are honored to annually recognize individuals who devote an incredible amount of time, energy and talent to promote the University of Minnesota across the state, nation and world, and who encourage engagement through unique and meaningful ways.”

Seven groups and four individuals will receive Alumni Association awards in recognition of outstanding service and programming during the past year. For outstanding overall programming, the Outstanding Alumni Society award goes to the School of Nursing Alumni Society and the Outstanding Alumni Chapter award goes to the Washington, D.C. Chapter.

Receiving Program Extraordinaire awards for outstanding and creative, innovative and engaging activities are the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences Alumni Society; the College of Science and Engineering Alumni Society; the School of Dentistry Alumni Society; the West Central Lakes Chapter; and the Dakota County Chapter.

The Faculty/Staff Volunteer of the Year award goes to Stephen Schondelmeyer, professor of Pharmaceutical Economics in the College of Pharmacy. Student Volunteer of the Year awards will go to Amie Jo Digatono from the College of Pharmacy; Anna Michael from the College of Veterinary Medicine; and Jeff Remakel from the School of Dentistry.

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a membership organization that has advocated for the university’s important work for more than a century. By joining the Alumni Association, alumni become ambassadors for the university. For more information, go to www.MinnesotaAlumni.org or call 800-862-5867.

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U of M to "Paint the Town Gold" during 2010 Homecoming celebration



Bruininks to serve as parade Grand Marshal during final year of presidency

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September 21, 2010

The University of Minnesota will "Paint the Town Gold" during Homecoming 2010, scheduled for the week of Sept. 26 through Oct. 2. U of M President Robert Bruininks will serve as Grand Marshal for the 2010 Homecoming parade, scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1. Bruininks, the 15th president of the University of Minnesota, step down from that post in 2011.

The parade features numerous floats from student groups, academic colleges and programs, university departments and many local area businesses. The parade will travel a six block stretch from 15th Avenue S.E. and University Avenue to the corner of Oak Street S.E. The Homecoming Pep Fest will immediately follow at Gateway Plaza outside TCF Bank Stadium.

Homecoming week also offers many opportunities for the university community to get involved and give back to the local community. In partnership with Roundy's Foundation and the Emergency Foodshelf Network, Homecoming is hosting a "Stuff the Truck" food drive throughout the week. Food bins will be located at various Homecoming events, as well as Willey Hall, Coffman Memorial Union and the St. Paul Student Center, to drop-off non-perishable food items. Last year over 4,000 pounds of food were donated by the university community during Homecoming.

Students will perform various community service projects during a "Thank U" event on Sunday, Sept. 26. These service projects range from cleaning our streets by picking up trash or window washing, to participating in pre-existing service projects for non-profit organizations focused on HIV/AIDS awareness and education. Students, staff, faculty and alumni can also donate blood at the annual Homecoming blood drive on Wednesday, Sept. 29.

Homecoming will wrap up Saturday, Oct. 2 when the Golden Gopher football team hosts Northwestern University at TCF Bank Stadium beginning at 11 a.m. For a full schedule of events and information, visit www.homecoming.umn.edu.

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U of M School of Music presents concert in honor of University President Robert Bruininks Oct. 16

The program will feature the finale from Johann Strauss Jr.'s opera Die Fledermaus



The 10th Anniversary Collage Concert will honor University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks and his wife, Dr. Susan Hagstrum, for their service to the university and their longtime support of the School of Music.

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September 21, 2010

The University of Minnesota School of Music presents its 10th Anniversary Collage Concert, an annual ensemble concert with more than 400 students and faculty performing in a non-stop, surround-sound, musical extravaganza, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

This year's concert program will honor University President Robert Bruininks and his wife, Dr. Susan Hagstrum, for their service to the university and their longtime support of the School of Music.

The Collage Concert is a showcase of all that the School of Music has to offer, including performances by choral, orchestral, jazz, chamber, world music, and band ensembles as well as operatic interludes and solo performances by faculty and students. The program will feature the finale from Johann Strauss Jr.'s opera Die Fledermaus.

Tickets are $16 for adults and $11 for children and University of Minnesota students, faculty, staff, retirees and alumni. General admission seating. To purchase tickets, call (612) 624-2345 or visit tickets.umn.edu. All proceeds will support the School of Music Community Engagement Initiative. Parking is available in the 21st Ave. ramp, one block southwest of the concert hall.

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 650 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of more than 50 artists, scholars and teachers. The School of Music presents more than 400 free concerts per year. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.music.umn.edu or call (612) 626-1094 for a brochure.

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Joachim Eble of Joachim Eble-Architektur is considered Germany's "grandfather of green building."

Internationally renowned eco-city expert Joachim Eble to discuss sustainable communities at U of M Sept. 28

Eble is considered a "grandfather of green building"

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September 21, 2010

Germany's "grandfather of green building," Joachim Eble of Joachim Eble-Architektur, will discuss his experience designing sustainable, healthy communities and eco-cities at an interdisciplinary lecture at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28, at the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management, 3M Auditorium, 321 - 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The UMore Park distinguished lecture featuring Eble will open with a brief introduction of the vision for a sustainable, university-founded community at UMore Park by Carla Carlson, executive director of the Office for UMore Park Academic Initiatives. Following Eble's lecture, a reactor panel consisting of Thomas Fisher, dean of the College of Design; Allen Levine, dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; and Laurie McGinnis, director of the Center for Transportation Studies, will share their expertise and perspectives on issues around economic, environmental and social sustainability.

The lecture will close with a light reception and opportunity to visit with Eble and colleagues from 5 to 6 p.m.

Eble's work covers climate-responsive strategies emphasizing energy and water efficiency and conservation, efficient transportation and transit options, healthy building materials, as well as the significance of public consultation and community participation in the planning process.

"Joachim Eble's sustainable design experiences in Europe and Asia have resulted in a unique perspective on the integration of urban structure, energy and material flows, transportation and socio-economic goals," said Carlson. "The interdisciplinary nature of his work is relevant to interests across the breadth of the university and the local professional community."

His most recent research and development project, funded by the European Union's executive body, includes leadership of the quality support group for the ECOCITY project that defines European state-of-the-art sustainable development. He is also Germany's coordinator and technical partner on SNOWBALL-Energy Smart Urban Design.

The event is free but individuals are requested to register to ensure a space. Registration, program details and related information about the lecture is available at www.umorepark.umn.edu/news/Eble.

The event is sponsored by the Office for UMore Park Academic Initiatives with the generous assistance of the following cosponsors: Center for Spirituality and Healing; Center for Transportation Studies; College of Design; College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences; College of Science and Engineering; Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs; Institute on the Environment; Office of International Programs; and the School of Public Health.

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Cutting-edge home building technology and natural systems showcased in Bell Museum's new "Sustainable Shelter" exhibit

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/21/2010) —The University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History looks at innovative home building technologies and strategies that can help restore the health and viability of natural systems in a new exhibit, "Sustainable Shelter: Dwelling Within the Forces of Nature," opening Oct. 16, 2010 and running through May 15, 2011.

Just as birds select and gather materials from their local environments to fashion safe and nurturing nests, humans use natural resources to build homes to meet an array of needs and desires. But while shelters in the animal kingdom work in tandem with natural cycles, human shelters typically consume more than they need in natural resources and energy. "Sustainable Shelter" investigates the way human dwellings extract, use and discard energy, water and other natural resources.

Through graphics, cartoons, interactive computer games, model homes and mock shelters, visitors can explore how ordinary activities -- from reading a book to drying clothes -- impact the planet's carbon and water cycles. The exhibit also compares and contrasts human dwellings with those of other animals, offers a cross-cultural look at human dwellings from around the world and looks at the changes in building methods and consumption patterns of U.S. houses over the past 150 years. Visitors will also get the chance to try out ways to make their homes more energy efficient and environmentally sustainable with hands-on exhibits.

Admission to the exhibit is free with regular museum admission. The exhibit was co-developed by the university's Center for Sustainable Building Research. 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. Visit bellmuseum.org for details.

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U of M



The St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) was recently awarded $7.1 million from the National Science Foundation to renovate its facility on Hennepin Island.

environmental and energy research lab awarded $7.1 million for renovations

Original lab built in 1938 as a project of the Works Progress Administration

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/21/2010) —The St. Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL), an interdisciplinary research unit of the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Minnesota, was recently awarded $7.1 million from the National Science Foundation to renovate its facility on Hennepin Island.

The grant is awarded via the Academic Research Infrastructure program (funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009), which invests in the repair and renovation of existing research facilities.The University of Minnesota will contribute an additional $8.7 million for critical renovation costs not eligible for the NSF funding from the University's appropriation from the Minnesota Legislature earlier this year for critical repairs and infrastructure needs of existing buildings. The renovation costs will total nearly $16 million to revitalize the aging lab.

For more than 70 years, scientists from around the world have been drawn to SAFL to work on innovative solutions to the world’s environmental, water resources and energy-related problems.

Built in 1938 as a project of the Works Progress Administration, the SAFL building was originally funded by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act passed by Congress in 1935. After seven decades the lab is showing its fair share of wear and tear, but the new stimulus grant will bring it full circle, rehabilitating a deteriorated infrastructure and enabling critical new research on energy and environmental sustainability.

“This is a historic moment for SAFL and the University of Minnesota,” said Fotis Sotiropoulos, SAFL’s director and lead researcher for the grant. “Since its inception, the laboratory has been a leader in science-based solutions to major environmental and energy related problems through research, education and outreach. This renovation will enable us to continue and expand our leadership role well into the 21st century.”

The lab intends to use the funding to enhance existing facilities and expertise toward improving wind-power efficiency and reliability; optimizing water-power energy devices and assessing their environmental impact; expanding biofuels research focusing on algal bioreactors; enhancing environmental restoration and management, including streams, rivers and deltas; and to allow researchers, practitioners and a broad spectrum of learners to participate in SAFL through cybercollaboration and virtual experiments.

To learn more about the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, go to www.safl.umn.edu.

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U of M statement on reduction in the Jimmy Williams verdict

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/21/2010) —The following is a statement from University of Minnesota General Counsel Mark Rotenberg regarding the reduction in the verdict awarded to Jimmy Williams in his suit against the University of Minnesota and head mens basketball coach Tubby Smith:

"The university is pleased that the trial court has reduced Mr. Williams' award by $250,000. However, we continue to believe that the verdict cannot stand. The university intends to file an appeal with the Minnesota Court of Appeals."

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United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization leader to receive U of M honorary degree today

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Jacques Diouf, director-general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), will be honored with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Minnesota.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/23/2010) —Jacques Diouf, director-general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), will be honored with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Minnesota at 3:30 p.m. today in McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. The degree is the highest honor conferred by the university.

The FAO, which Diouf has headed since 1993, leads international efforts in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. Its mandate is to improve agricultural productivity and production, raise levels of nutrition, better the lives of rural populations, and contribute to overall economic growth and development.

In 1996, Diouf initiated the World Food Summit, which aimed to renew global commitments to eliminate hunger and malnutrition, and to achieve sustainable food security for all people. The summit, held in Rome and involving 185 countries, led to a plan of action known as the “Rome Declaration,” which includes strategies for reducing world hunger by 50 percent by the year 2015.

Diouf is a native of Senegal and is fluent in four languages. He holds degrees from universities in Senegal and France and in his career has served as United Nations ambassador from Senegal as well as other national and international roles.

Last February, he visited the University of Minnesota and met with key deans, faculty and leading researchers working on global food security, safety and sustainability to discuss ways the U of M and the FAO/United Nations could partner to end world hunger. From that meeting, a formal memorandum of understanding was signed by the U of M and FAO – which has become the basis for a series of ongoing, collaborative actions to share practical applications and exchange knowledge and best practices to reduce hunger.

“We came away thoroughly inspired and motivated to meet these global food challenges through public-private partnerships,’ said Allen Levine, dean of the university’s College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. “After hearing Dr. Diouf’s vision, and his desire to engage other partners in this noble goal of ending world hunger, we concluded that the possibilities of this new global partnership could be world-changing and transformational. His leadership in this area is exemplary and, because we share his steadfast commitment to creating a world without hunger, we are pleased to offer him the university’s highest honor.”

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"Troubled Waters" screening to take place as originally scheduled

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/23/2010) —The University of Minnesota has announced that the film “Troubled Waters” will be available today. A showing of the film will take place at the Bell Museum on the originally scheduled date of Oct. 3. A discussion of the film will follow the showing.

Professor Susan Weller, director of the Bell Museum of Natural History, has this week obtained and had an opportunity to review documents that indicate that a review process for the film had taken place. After reviewing this material, Weller has concluded that there is no longer a need for an additional faculty panel to review the film as announced on Sept. 17. The film is being made available today in the form it was in prior to that announcement.

Senior Vice President and Provost Tom Sullivan said today to the University’s Faculty Consultative Committee that the University is pleased with this result, “The Bell Museum and its faculty and staff are well known for their quality productions and educational materials. I look forward to the originally planned release of ‘Troubled Waters.'”

Weller said that together with the viewing of the film, the evening will also include an open forum discussion of the many interesting issues and viewpoints raised by the film. “We are excited by the prospect of hosting a discussion forum of the issues and viewpoints raised by 'Troubled Waters.' It is just this kind of intellectual engagement with our exhibits and productions at the Bell that we believe are exactly what the role of Minnesota’s research University should be.”

The screening will be held on Oct. 3 at 4:30 p.m. at the Bell Museum auditorium, 10 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis. Tickets, which are free and available on a first-come-first-served basis, can be obtained by calling (612) 624-9050 or e-mailing belladm@umn.edu.

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U of M's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs supports community advocacy and improvement organizations

CURA-sponsored grant writing workshop takes place Sept. 28

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/24/2010) —The University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) is strengthening its efforts to keep community advocacy and improvement organizations viable in this age of tight funding.

On Tuesday, Sept. 28, CURA is sponsoring a grant writing workshop for neighborhood organizations at the Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway N., St. Paul. Half-day sessions and a panel of funders will help organizations develop best practices for communicating their relevance and impact in a challenging fiscal and social landscape.

CURA will award a $2,500 mini-grant to one of the attending organizations.

The workshop and mini-grant is just one way CURA supports communities by connecting the resources of the University of Minnesota with the interests and needs of urban communities and the region. CURA also sponsors faculty and student-led applied based research as well as provides other forms of technical assistance such as GIS mapping. On the Web: www.cura.umn.edu.

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U of M Board of Regents to hold special meeting Monday

Contacts: University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

September 24, 2010

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold a special meeting at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 27 in the boardroom, 600 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The purpose of the meeting will be to review and take action on a resolution relating to the issuance of up to $150 million in special purpose debt to support construction of a new Academic Ambulatory Care Center (AACC). This action is part of a $100 million federal grant application. Minnesota Masonic Charities has also pledged $10 million to the project.

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Prominent law professor Daniel Farber to speak at U of M on the BP Deepwater Horizon environmental disaster



Daniel Farber is a former U of M law professor and currently the faculty director of the Center for Law, Energy, and the Environment at the University of California, Berkeley.

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September 24, 2010

Renowned environmental law professor Daniel Farber, University of California, Berkeley School of Law, will give the lecture "Blue Bayou: The BP Deepwater Horizon Blowout and the Social and Environmental Erosion of the Louisiana Coast" at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7, at the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs' Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Farber's lecture is the first of two 2010-11 Lecture Series on Law, Health & the Life Sciences on "From Climate Change to the Gulf Oil Spill: Law and Science in Times of Crisis" and is sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences.

Farber, a former University of Minnesota law professor, will discuss how the Louisiana Coast was under grave threat from erosion, rising seas and pollution even before the explosion on the British Petroleum Deepwater Horizon platform. Whole communities have vanished under the rising water and the livelihoods and communities of people who depend on fishing for income has been threatened. The oil spill is a critical blow to these struggling communities and to threatened coastal ecosystems. In this lecture, Farber will argue that environmental law needs to take a more holistic view, integrating consideration of multiple environmental threats and linking communities with ecosystems.

In addition to being named the Sho Sato Professor of Law and Chair of the Energy and Resources Group at the University of California, Berkeley, Farber is also faculty director of the Center for Law, Energy, and the Environment. He serves on the editorial board of Foundation Press, and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS) and of the American Law Institute. He is the editor of Issues in Legal Scholarship. Farber is a graduate of the University of Illinois, where he earned his bachelor of arts, masters of arts and law degrees. He graduated, summa cum laude, from the College of Law and was the class valedictorian. He also served as editor-in-chief of the University of Illinois Law Review.

The lecture is free and open to the public. It is co-sponsored by the university's Consortium on Law, Health & the Life Sciences and Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences. For more information, visit www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu.

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Silha Lecture to explore "Not Child's Play: The Misguided Effort to Regulate Violent Video Games"

Paul Smith, attorney for national video game dealers' group, to speak at U of M Oct. 18



Paul Smith, considered one of the "40 Most Influential Lawyers of the Past Decade," will deliver the 25th annual Silha Lecture 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 18.

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

September 27, 2010

Paul Smith, considered one of the "40 Most Influential Lawyers of the Past Decade," will deliver the 25th annual Silha Lecture 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 18, at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

The title of Smith's lecture is “Not Child’s Play: The Misguided Effort to Regulate Violent Video Games.” The event is free and open to the public and will include an opportunity for audience Q&A. No reservations or tickets are required.

Are video games that allow players to “kill,” “dismember” or “sexually assault” images of human beings protected by the First Amendment as free expression? Or do they encourage antisocial behavior, justifying government restrictions on their availability to children?

In February 2009, the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals struck down a California statute banning the sale of violent video games to minors as an invalid content-based restriction on speech. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review the decision, and will be asked to uphold the California law’s provisions, which are similar to those used to censor obscene speech.

Smith will argue on behalf of the video game dealers’ group in Schwarzenegger v. Entertainment Merchants Association when it is heard by the Supreme Court this fall. In his lecture, Smith will discuss the constitutional challenges to regulating the media that minors consume.

A partner in Jenner & Block’s Washington, D.C. office, Smith is chair of the firm’s Appellate and Supreme Court, Creative Content, and First Amendment practices. He has had an active Supreme Court practice for many years, making oral arguments in 13 cases, including Lawrence v. Texas and United States v. American Library Ass’n. Smith also represents various clients in trial and appellate cases involving commercial and telecommunications issues, the First Amendment, intellectual property and election law.

Smith graduated from Amherst College and Yale Law School, and clerked for Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell. In 2008, Legal Times listed him as one of 30 “Champions” of the past 30 years in Washington, D.C., honoring attorneys who uphold the profession's core values of public duty and client service. In 2010, the National Law Journal named him one of the 40 Most Influential Lawyers of the Past Decade.

The Silha Center is based at the university's School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Silha Center activities, including the annual lecture, are made possible by a generous endowment from the late Otto Silha and his wife, Helen.

Parking is available in the 19th Avenue ramp across the street from the Humphrey Institute, and at the 21st Avenue Ramp nearby. More information about directions and parking can be found at www.umn.edu/pts.

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U of M Tourism Center film wins regional Emmy

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/27/2010) —"Tourism in Minnesota, Ideas at Play," a half-hour special made in collaboration with Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) highlighting the role of tourism in Minnesota's economy, won a regional Emmy award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The award was announced Sept. 25, at the Upper Midwest Regional Emmy Awards Gala at the Pantages Theater in Minneapolis.

The University of Minnesota Tourism Center video production features the stories of five regional tourism initiatives, highlighting how collaboration among businesses and individuals creates commendable, sustainable contributions to local economies. The program also features the university's role of research and education in supporting community tourism efforts.

"This award is a testament to the collaborative nature of Minnesota tourism," said Ingrid Schneider, director of the Tourism Center. "The film celebrates University and community partnerships, and the film itself was a collaborative effort among our partners."

The program won the Emmy for Outstanding Business and Consumer Program Special. The TPT production team of Steve Spencer (producer), Tom Trow (executive in charge), Joseph Demko, John Kendall, Jim Kron and Valerie Mondor share the award.

"Tourism in Minnesota, Ideas at Play" can be viewed regularly on Twin Cities Public Television stations and online at www.tourism.umn.edu/NewsEvents/Videos.

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.

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U of M Regents take next step in Academic Ambulatory Care Center project

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/27/2010) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents today unanimously approved the issuance of up to $150 million in bonds to help fund a new 405,000 square foot, $250 million Academic Ambulatory Care Center (AACC). The board's action, taken during a special meeting, was necessary for the university to seek nearly $100 million in federal competitive grant funds through the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA). Although the university will issue the bonds, they would be paid off by Fairview Health Services and University of Minnesota Physicians.

"There is enormous need for this facility to meet current demand in the health sciences and to prepare for future growth," said board Chair Clyde Allen. "I applaud university staff and our partners from Fairview and University of Minnesota Physicians for working quickly to put us in a good position to compete for these federal funds."

University officials said the new facility is necessary as a significant majority of current clinics are at capacity with no room for expansion. Built in 1974, the current facility handles nearly five times the volume of care that was initially projected. The new five-story facility would be built on land currently owned by the university and would vastly improve patient access and also allow for future expansion.

The federal Infrastructure to Expand Access to Care (IEAC) program would provide a single grant of up to $100 million to an "institution of higher education with an academic health center and the State's sole public academic medical and dental school." The AACC project "perfectly fits the mold" of what the federal program is looking to fund, university officials said. Fairview Health Services and University of Minnesota Physicians have been intricately involved in the grant application. In addition, Minnesota Masonic Charities has pledged $10 million towards the project.

The grant application, which requires certification by the governor, is due on Sept. 30.

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University of Minnesota bee researcher Marla Spivak receives "genius grant" from MacArthur Foundation

Prestigious award comes with $500,000 grant

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University of Minnesota researcher Marla Spivak, a nationally and internationally respected expert on honeybees' health, is developing practical applications to protect honey bee populations from decimation by disease while making fundamental contributions to our understanding of bee biology.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/28/2010) —University of Minnesota entomologist Marla Spivak has been named one of 23 recipients of this year's "genius grants" from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Spivak, a nationally and internationally respected expert on honeybees' health, is developing practical applications to protect honeybee populations from decimation by disease while making fundamental contributions to our understanding of bee biology.

"This is significant recognition for a truly distinguished member of our faculty," said Provost Tom Sullivan. "This is only the second time in University of Minnesota history that one of our faculty has won this award. We congratulate Professor Spivak and her outstanding portfolio of research."

Spivak and the other fellows all were selected for their creativity, originality, and potential to make important contributions in the future. As a new MacArthur Fellow for 2010, Spivak will receive a $500,000 "no strings attached" grant. MacArthur Fellowships come without stipulations and reporting requirements and offer fellows unprecedented freedom and opportunity to reflect, create, and explore. The unusual level of independence afforded to Fellows underscores the spirit of freedom intrinsic to creative endeavors. The work of MacArthur Fellows knows neither boundaries nor the constraints of age, place, and endeavor, according to the foundation.

"This group of Fellows, along with the more than 800 who have come before, reflects the tremendous breadth of creativity among us," said MacArthur President Robert Gallucci. "They are explorers and risk takers, contributing to their fields and to society in innovative, impactful ways. They provide us all with inspiration and hope for the future."

Spivak, who has been a member of the U of M College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences' department of entomology faculty since 1993, has been honored numerous times for her teaching work as well. In 2009 she was named a Distinguished McKnight Professor, an honor the University of Minnesota reserves for its highest-achieving faculty who recently have attained full professor status.

Spivak's research

Essential to healthy ecosystems and to the agricultural industry as pollinators of a third of the United States' food supply, honeybees have been disappearing at alarming rates in recent years due to the accumulated effects of parasitic mites, viral and bacterial diseases and exposure to pesticides.

To mitigate these threats, Spivak's research focuses on genetically influenced behaviors that confer disease resistance to entire colonies through the social interactions of thousands of workers. Her studies of hygienic behavior -- the ability of certain strains of bees to detect and remove infected pupae from their hive -- have enabled her to breed more disease-resistant strains of bees for use throughout the beekeeping industry.

Spivak's "Minnesota Hygienic" line of bees offers an effective and more sustainable alternative to chemical pesticides in fighting a range of pests and pathogens, including the Varroa mite, a highly destructive parasite that spreads rapidly through Western honey bee colonies. By translating her scientific findings into accessible presentations, publications, and workshops, she is leading beekeepers throughout the United States to establish local breeding programs that increase the frequency of hygienic traits in the general bee population. With additional investigations into the antimicrobial effects of bee-collected plant resins under way, Spivak continues to explore additional methods for limiting disease transmission and improving the health of one of the world's most important pollinators.

In addition to her research, Spivak leads the university's Bee Lab, which provides research and education to professional and amateur beekeepers. The university's bee research and outreach program, which has been operating since 1918, is the only one of its kind in the Upper Midwest, the top honey-producing region in the United States.

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U of M Ph.D. programs fare well in National Research Council Assessment

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Sixty-nine of the university's more than 100 doctoral programs were ranked in the most recent NRC assessment, released today.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/28/2010) —In arguably one of the most comprehensive reviews of doctoral programs in history, the University of Minnesota performed well, university officials said today. Sixty-nine of the university's more than 100 doctoral programs were ranked in the assessment, which provides universities across the country with a range of quantitative data so they can improve graduate education. University officials said they believe the number of U of M programs assessed -- 69 Ph.D. programs -- is the second highest of any university out of the 212 that participated in the study, showing the breadth and quality of the institution.

"Our goal as one world's most comprehensive public research universities is to offer an outstanding graduate education across a range of disciplines," said Provost Tom Sullivan. "I am encouraged that the assessment shows our strengths, with over 60 percent of our programs crossing the top 25 percent nationally, across a wide range of doctoral programs in agriculture, engineering, humanities, sciences and social sciences. The data will be a part of our ongoing process to support and improve graduate education at the University of Minnesota."

Sullivan noted that although the National Research Council (NRC) assessment is based on data from 2005, it will serve as a valuable measurement starting point as 2005 was just at the beginning of the university's landmark strategic positioning work, which included restructuring of a number of colleges and graduate education.

Among the top assessed programs were Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics; Chemical Engineering; Chemistry; Child Psychology; Civil Engineering; Ecology, Evolution and Behavior; Entomology; Food Science; Germanic Studies; Kinesiology; Materials Science and Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Natural Resource Science and Management; and, Psychology.

"While the NRC data does not provide the kind of rankings used in the popular press; rather, the NRC does give us ranges of ratings to see where we stack up - and volumes of important information that can be used to help us continue to improve the quality of graduate education," said Henning Schroeder, the university's dean of graduate education.

"My colleagues and I are pleased to see that so many doctoral programs across the University have done so well," said Professor Gary Balas, chair of the aerospace engineering and mechanics department, which was rated as one of the best in the country by the NRC assessment. "The assessment clearly demonstrates that we're a productive faculty with close attention to seeing that our graduate students succeed.With such a need today for cross-disciplinary problem solving, the U is uniquely positioned to lead the way forward."

More information on the U of M's showing in the 2010 NRC assessment can be found at: www.grad.umn.edu/transition/nrc/nrc.html.

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Food writer Mark Bittman to keynote U of M symposium on healthy eating



Mark Bittman, food writer for the New York Times and cookbook author, will discuss nutrition and scientific messaging from a journalist's perspective.

What: Plant Foods for Human Health Symposium
When: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1
Where: Radisson University Hotel, 625 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska

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Barb DeGroot, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, (952) 443-1459
Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

September 28, 2010

Nationally and internationally renowned speakers will present state-of-the art insights regarding beneficial plant foods at the University of Minnesota Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Symposium this week.

Other key issues to be discussed include food safety, barriers to fruit and vegetable consumption and how dietary supplements can be developed from plant components. Mark Bittman, food writer for the New York Times and cookbook author, will discuss nutrition and scientific messaging from a journalist's perspective.

Two panel discussions will bring the morning and the afternoon speakers together to give their insights on scaling up plant foods for the improvement of human health. The first day of the symposium will be from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30 at the Radisson University Hotel, 625 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. That evening, Bittman will give a lecture and sign books at the U of M Landscape Arboretum, 675 Arboretum Dr., Chaska.

The conference's second day, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1 at the Arboretum, includes presentations by Bittman as well as case study presentations by food-service experts.

The conference is co-hosted by the university's Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute, an interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach center and the arboretum. Major sponsors include Lakewinds Natural Foods.

To register, go to http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/healthyfoodsummit2010.aspx. Fees range from $25 for students, $65 for university faculty and staff, and $110 for the general public. Registration includes a continental breakfast, lunch and snacks.

For a complete symposium agenda, go to http://www.hfhl.umn.edu.

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November conference to re-evaluate international economic law

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September 28, 2010

The University of Minnesota Law School and the Minnesota Journal of International Law will host the biennial conference of the American Society of International Law's (ASIL) International Economic Law Interest Group this year. The conference, entitled "International Economic Law in a Time of Change: Reassessing Legal Theory, Doctrine, Methodology and Policy Prescriptions," will be held Nov. 18-20, at the Law School, Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

More than 50 speakers from academia, international organizations, private practice and government will make up 14 panels to address and re-examine international economic governance, its rising complications and a variety of international and transnational economic law issues. There will be speakers from Asia, Africa, Europe and North and South Africa. The keynote addresses will be presented by Ricardo Ramirez, a member of the World Trade Organization Appellate Body; Beth Simmons of Harvard University; and Jose Alvarez of New York University Law School.

A special panel will be dedicated to the reissuance of Robert E. Hudec's 1987 classic Developing Countries in the GATT Legal System and will feature representatives from the WTO and World Bank.

This conference is made possible by ASIL Midwest and the ASIL International Economic Law Interest Group in co-sponsorship with the University of Minnesota Law School and the Minnesota Journal of International Law.

The conference fee is $75 for ASIL members and $100 for nonmembers. Students, faculty and University of Minnesota employees may register for free (valid University ID required at check-in).

For further details and registration, go to http://asil.org/activities_calendar.cfm?action=detail&rec=149.

Questions may be directed to professor Greg Shaffer at shaffer@umn.edu or 612-625-2630.

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A statement from U of M President Robert Bruininks regarding the "Troubled Waters" documentary

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/28/2010) —The following is a statement from University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks regarding the Bell Museum documentary, “Troubled Waters”:

“I have been traveling abroad for the past week, but was aware of the concerns about the ‘Troubled Waters’ film and am in full support of the decision to present the film as scheduled and conduct a public forum afterward. As the facts surrounding the production of the film have become clearer, it was readily apparent to me that this is an issue of academic freedom; as a result, we immediately resolved to show it as planned. This is certainly not the first time the University and its leadership have stood behind the academic freedom of its faculty and staff with regard to complex or potentially controversial issues—indeed that is a fundamental value of the university.

“Certainly, the decision and rationale regarding whether or not to show the film as scheduled could have been handled differently and communicated more clearly. It is important for me to acknowledge that Vice President Himle was asked by the Bell Museum to review the film, and she raised questions and concerns about it in her capacity as Vice President of University Relations. As I have said before, Vice President Himle is an important member of my executive team, and I have confidence in her leadership and integrity.

“At no point was there a question about the importance of the issues raised in the film or whether such a film should be made and shown. I am pleased that we now have a consensus within the administration and faculty on our current course of action. We will continue to work together to protect academic freedom and the quality of scholarship and outreach at the U. We will continue to review this situation, and I am confident we will learn from this and improve our procedures as we move forward.

“The issues related to the Minnesota watershed are of critical importance to Minnesotans, to our nation, and to me personally. I am pleased that the Bell Museum, under the capable leadership of Prof. Weller, will provide the public with ample opportunity to see the film and participate in the robust discussion that will follow.”

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University of Minnesota researchers to study off-shore wind energy storage

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The National Science Foundation has awarded College of Science and Engineering researchers a four-year, $2 million grant to lead a national research team to develop a localized method for storing off-shore wind energy.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (09/29/2010) —The National Science Foundation has awarded the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering researchers a four-year, $2 million grant to lead a national research team to develop a localized method for storing off-shore wind energy.

The researchers aim to develop a localized method for storing energy from off-shore wind turbines in high pressure compressed air vessels before conversion to electricity. This storage would help alleviate power supply and demand imbalances during the day.

The project makes use of the comparative advantages of hydraulics and pneumatics in a so-called "Open Accumulator" architecture, and an isothermal air compressor/expander design. This novel approach avoids losses associated with multiple conversions and allows the electrical generator and the transmission lines to be substantially down-sized. The interdisciplinary research involves fluid flow, nanotechnology, heat transfer, machine design and systems and control.

“This grant will help us make progress on storing large amounts of energy and quickly turning on and off the storage unit to greatly improve the economics and utility wind power, especially off-shore,” said Perry Li, a University of Minnesota mechanical engineering professor and lead researcher on this grant. “Storage is a key factor in our success in achieving the national goal of obtaining 20 percent of our energy from wind by 2030.”

Li is also the deputy co-director of the NSF Engineering Research Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power based at the University of Minnesota. This project will leverage research done at the center.

Other key researchers on the team include University of Minnesota mechanical engineering professor Terry Simon, Eric Loth at the University of Virginia, James Van de Ven at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute and Oakland California-based industry partner Lightsail Energy.

The award is made through NSF’s Emerging Frontier in Research and Innovation (EFRI) and the Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI) programs. This grant is one of only 14 EFRI awards funded in this round and one of only four in the Renewable Energy Storage (RESTOR) category.

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Natural history and contemporary art merge in Bell Museum Social, a series featuring the work of Twin Cities-based artists beginning Oct. 28

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September 29, 2010

Fans of natural history, popular culture and the avant-garde can look forward to a unique combination of art installation and social happening at *Bell Museum Social*, a new evening of entertainment at the University of Minnesota Bell Museum of Natural History beginning Thursday, Oct. 28.

Presented four times in the coming year, each social will feature the work of an artist-in-residence whose natural history-themed installation is inspired by museum objects and research into the museum's scientific collections.

The artists, participants of the museum's Artist Research Initiative were chosen for their interest in museums and natural phenomena. They receive a stipend in return for six weeks of work that involve reinterpreting or "re-imagining" the museum's objects and collections through the lens of contemporary art. The art installations and live performances that result are based on unlimited access to the museum's 4.2 million natural history specimens, photographs and vintage documentary films.

In addition to the guest artists' work, the evening will feature participatory activities, live music and featured speakers in a social setting.

The line up includes the following artists and topics:

- 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28 -- "Bell Museum Social Collections." Bush Foundation Fellowship winner Matthew Bakkom will present a new work based upon the meaning he draws from a curious assortment of photographs, films and specimens found in the basement of the museum.

- 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2 -- "Bell Museum Social Light." Founder of Minneapolis Art on Wheels and University of Minnesota assistant art professor Ali Momeni will transform the museum's historic dioramas into otherworldly spaces through application of light and sound.

- 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24 -- "Bell Museum Social Skin." Dance and video artist Olive Bieringa, whose BodyCartography Project investigates the physical resonance of space in urban, wild and domestic landscapes, will investigate the role skin plays in protection, camouflage and sensory stimulation.

- 7 p.m. Thursday, April 28 -- "Bell Museum Social Hive." Book artist and photographer Jeff Millikan, whose work incorporates bees, honey and beeswax, will explore the beauty and range of the museum's insect collections.

The event is free with regular museum admission and includes hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. Bell Museum Social is part of a new line up of Thursday evening programs that range from films, to sketch nights to walkabouts and discussions.

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.

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Playwright Leigh Fondakowski to teach rare, six-week course on creating theatrical plays at U of M this fall

Course will focus on Fondakowski's new play "Casa Cushman," which explores the life and work of 19th century American actress Charlotte Cushman



American playwright and director Leigh Fondakowski is coming to the U of M's Institute for Advanced Study this fall to teach a rare, six-week intensive course on how to create theatrical plays from researched material.

Contacts: Kelly O'Brien, College of Liberal Arts, obrie136@umn.edu, (612) 624-4109
Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

September 30, 2010

American playwright and director Leigh Fondakowski, creator of “The People's Temple” and head writer for “The Laramie Project,” is coming to the University of Minnesota’s Institute for Advanced Study this fall to teach a rare, six-week intensive course on how to create theatrical plays from researched material. The course is geared toward advanced undergraduate and graduate students and runs Nov. 1 through Dec. 6.

Using a process Fondakowski has created through her work with the Tectonic Theater Project, a New York City-based national theater company, students will be guided through the process of translating current events, history and interviews to the stage. Part discussion, part studio exploration, this step-by-step process teaches students how to think theatrically and how to create new work from real events.

In addition to in-class meetings, the course will include direct observation of the process in action while Fondakowski workshops her newest project, “Casa Cushman,” in Minneapolis in collaboration with the U of M College of Liberal Arts’ Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, the Institute for Advanced Study and The Playwrights' Center, which, based in Minneapolis, is considered one of biggest and most innovative playwriting centers in the country.

“Casa Cushman” is an ensemble play that explores the life and work of 19th-century American actress Charlotte Cushman. One of the most important actresses of her time, Cushman was famous for her interpretation of the leading male roles in Shakespeare. Cushman continually challenged Victorian notions of gender in her stage portrayals of male characters and of strong, androgynous female characters.

Fondakowski's project is based on the collection in the Library of Congress of over 1,000 unpublished letters, written by Cushman to Emma Crow, the transcription of which has been a 10-year labor of love by scholar Lisa Merrill. Many of Cushman's letters to Crow include the directive: “burn this letter,” but they were not burned. Preserved, they chronicle a Victorian-era lesbian love story.

For more information about the course, including course number and credits, visit http://www.ias.umn.edu/Courses/10FMomentWork.php. For a video of Fondakowski discussing "Casa Cushman," see http://www.ias.umn.edu/media/LeighFondakowski-Cushman.php.

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U of M Opera Theatre announces 2010-11 season featuring Robert Aldridge's "Elmer Gantry" and Johann Strauss's "Die Fledermaus"



The Opera Theatre is part of the U of M's School of Music.

Media Note:
Photographs
available upon request. Email requests to marsh396@umn.edu.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/01/2010) —The University of Minnesota School of Music's University Opera Theatre 2010-11 season will feature the Minnesota premiere of Robert Aldridge's "Elmer Gantry" (Nov. 18-21) and Johann Strauss Jr.'s "Die Fledermaus" (April 7-10, 2011) at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

Tickets: $20 general admission; $10 for U of M students; group rates. Call (612) 624-2345 or visit www.opera.umn.edu. Two for one tickets for university students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Elmer Gantry

Aldridge's "Elmer Gantry" is closely based on Pulitzer prize-winning author Sinclair Lewis' controversial 1927 satire of evangelical religion and revivalism. In Elmer Gantry, composer Robert Aldridge and librettist Herschel Garfein have created a powerful new opera, which resonates strongly in our own times. Even more striking is that its success, since the premiere in Nashville, Tenn., in 2007, has come about without the advantages of a consortium arrangement with national opera companies but rather on its own merits and to impressive national acclaim. The eponymous title character is a charismatic and galvanizing figure, in many ways iconically American, and his rise to power, as well as his relationship with the spiritual revival preacher Sharon Falconer is both fascinating and deeply disturbing. Filled with glorious choral scenes and stunning musical ensembles, "Elmer Gantry" is a compelling piece of music drama and University Opera Theatre is thrilled to be only the fourth producer of what is destined to be one of the great American operas. Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18 through Saturday, Nov. 20 and at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 21. **Note to media:** Aldridge and Garfein will visit the Twin Cities for Elmer Gantry's Minnesota premiere and will be available for interviews, schedule TBA.

Die Fledermaus

"Die Fledermaus" showcases Strauss Jr.'s special talent to be able to satirize the lives of the upstart middle classes in his beloved city in the glorious twilight of Imperial Vienna and get away with it. For these were the very people who paid to see his operettas year after year and laughed uproariously to witness their own pretensions and follies depicted on the stages of the Viennese opera houses. However, the reason is simple to grasp once you have submitted to the elegant charm, insouciant wit and sparkling 'joie de vivre' of Strauss's music. University Opera Theatre has chosen an American cultural metaphor for Strauss's Vienna in the equally glamorous and illusory world of Hollywood, where anyone can aspire to stardom and where love is exchanged flippantly and frequently. But no matter, as long as music is playing and champagne is flowing, romance will be in the air and life will be good. "Die Fledermaus" is a delightfully extravagant musical entree from an extravagant time. Libretto by Karl Haffner and Richard Genée. Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 7 through Saturday, April 9 and at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 10.

David Walsh, University Opera Theatre director and School of Music professor, will direct and Mark Russell Smith, School of Music professor and artistic director of orchestral studies, will conduct. A pre-performance discussion with Walsh begins 45 minutes before each staging in the lobby of the concert hall.

Parking is available in the 21st Avenue ramp, one block southwest of the concert hall.

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U of M Regents to meet next week, tour new Amplatz Children's Hospital, Science Teaching and Student Services building

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

October 1, 2010

During its meetings Oct. 7-8, 2010, the University of Minnesota Board of Regents will get a tour of two new university projects -- the University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital and the new Science Teaching and Student Services building. In addition, President Robert Bruininks will present his recommended state biennial budget request for 2012-13, which the board will act on at its November meeting.

Highlights of the meetings include:

8:45 - 9:45 a.m., Audit Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will receive an update on both internal and external audits.

10 - 11 a.m., Tour of University of Minnesota Amplatz Children's Hospital, 2414 - 7th St. S., Minneapolis. (Media interested in joining the tour should call in advance to reserve a space.)

1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. Chief Financial Officer Richard Pfutzenreuter and Associate Vice President for Asset Management Stuart Mason will present on the university's annual asset management report. The committee will also discuss issues related to university cost drivers and the 2012-13 state biennial budget request.

1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, West Committee Room. Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Arlene Carney will present on post-tenure review. The committee will also hear about student services in the new Science Teaching and Student Services (STSS) building.

4 - 5:30 p.m., Tour of STSS, 222 Pleasant St. SE, Minneapolis. (Media interested in joining the tour should call in advance to reserve a space.)

9 - 10:30 a.m., Board work session, boardroom. President Robert Bruininks will present on the university in new economic times.

Immediately following the work session, Board meeting, boardroom. The board will act on the "University Plan, Performance and Accountability Report." Bruininks will also present a recommended state budget request for the 2012-13 biennium.

More information on the Board of Regents and live-streaming of the board meeting can be found at www.umn.edu/regents.

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U of M graduate student travels the globe for documentary on Minnesota's hip-hop influences

"We Rock Long Distance" to feature M.anifest, Maria Isa and Tou SaiKo Lee



The trip is part of Schell's larger documentary called "We Rock Long Distance," which weaves together the stories of M.anifest, Maria Isa and Tou SaiKo Lee.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/04/2010) —University of Minnesota graduate student Justin Schell will travel to Ghana in October with M.anifest, a native of Ghana and one of Minnesota's rising musical stars, to film a musical collaboration between M.anifest and his grandfather, a noted scholar and musician from an older African generation.

The trip is part of Schell's larger documentary called "We Rock Long Distance," which weaves together the stories of M.anifest, Maria Isa and Tou SaiKo Lee – three Minnesota artists who use hip-hop as a way to create connections between different generations. Schell will follow Isa to Puerto Rico and Lee to Thailand in other portions of the project.

M.anifest's grandfather, J.H. Kwabena Nketia, is known as "Professor" in the global academic community for his pioneering work in composition and African ethnomusicology. He has always simply been "Grandpa" to M.anifest. When both men reunited at the African Music and Dance Festival in Leavenworth, Wash., earlier this year, they discovered a striking relationship between Nketia's book of poems, "Akwansosem Bi" (Stories from the Journey), written almost 60 years ago, and the rhyme and rhythmic energy of M.anifest's contemporary hip-hop music.

Inspired by their new-found musical connection, M.anifest, who has spent the last 10 years of his life in Minnesota, is now returning home to Ghana for Schell's documentary to embark on a collaboration of artistic and historic significance: Creating music with his Grandpa for the first time. While this will allow M.anifest to discover more about his grandfather, Nketia takes on a new musical challenge near the end of his life, or as he says, "when I'm still in the waiting room and not in the departure lounge."

Schell, M.anifest and producer Lauren DeSteno will depart for Ghana on Oct. 26.

The documentary forms the basis for Schell's dissertation as a doctoral candidate in Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature in the U of M College of Liberal Arts. He has worked on numerous documentary projects with the university's Immigration History Research Center.

For more information about the film, visit www.WeRockLongDistance.com. The public can provide support at the project's "Kickstarter" page: http://kck.st/aqkK7R.

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Internationally renowned performance artist Eiko, of Eiko

“Delicious Movement for Forgetting, Remembering, and Uncovering” explores Eiko & Koma’s living installation, “Naked”

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/04/2010) —This fall, a group of University of Minnesota students are having the unique opportunity to learn first-hand from a world-famous performance artist.

“Delicious Movement for Forgetting, Remembering, and Uncovering” is an experiential and experimental course taught by Eiko of Eiko & Koma, critically acclaimed dancers, choreographers and interdisciplinary artists. The course focuses on Eiko & Koma's living installation, “Naked,” commissioned and presented by the Walker Art Center, as well as Eiko & Koma's “Retrospective Project."

Offered by the university's Institute for Advanced Study, the course combines studio learning, viewing (at the Walker Art Center), seminars, reading and writing, while students have the rare opportunity to learn from Eiko herself and the people who are directly involved in the project about the essence of Eiko & Koma’s art-making.

"We are excited to be offering this class, which provides our students the unique opportunity to extend their exploration of the variety of ways in which artistic production is a way of knowing ourselves and the world around us," said Ann Waltner, the institute's director.

Designed to help students develop a deeper and more personal understanding of these artists' work, this course also offers the opportunity to formulate individual and collective reflections on the theme of nakedness as well as artist methodology, art and context and the way in which these particular artists build and sustain long-term community relationships.

"Eiko Otake is one of the leading choreographers of her generation, melding multiple aesthetics and cultural perspectives," said Carl Flink, chair of the U of M College of Liberal Arts' Theatre Arts and Dance Department. "The opportunity to work directly with this gracious artist will almost certainly be a transformative experience."

The course reading and viewing lists include postwar Japanese literature and visual and performance art works that nurtured Eiko & Koma's aesthetic.

Since 1972, Eiko & Koma have worked as co-artistic directors, choreographers and performers, creating a unique theater of movement out of stillness, shape, light, sound and time. For most of their multi-disciplinary works, Eiko & Koma also create their own sets and costumes, and they are usually the sole performers in their work.

Eiko & Koma are permanent residents of the United States and reside in New York City. They have presented their works in theaters, universities, museums, galleries and festivals worldwide, including numerous appearances in American Dance Festival, five seasons at BAM’s Next Wave Festival, and a month-long “living” gallery installation in the Whitney Museum of American Art. They are recipients of a 1996 MacArthur Fellows Program “genius grant,” two major life achievement awards in dance and the first United States Artists award.

For more information about the course, visit http://www.ias.umn.edu/Courses/10FDeliciousMovement.php.

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Civil and environmental engineering solutions to water quality problems focus of 2010 Minnesota Water Resources Conference Oct. 19 and 20

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October 5, 2010

Civil and environmental engineering solutions to wastewater issues, surface water contaminants and aquatic management will be the among the topics of this year's Minnesota Water Resources Conference, a two-day event sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Water Resources Center and College of Continuing Education Oct. 19 and 20 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre, 175 West Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul.

Featured speaker Larry B. Barber, a chief geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Central Region Office in Boulder, Colo., will kick off the conference with a talk on the "Effect of Biologically Active Consumer Product Chemicals on Aquatic Ecosystems" at 8:20 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19.

The conference will also spotlight innovative and practical water resources engineering solutions and the latest research in the area of water quality management. Topics include emerging contaminants in lakes, rivers and groundwater; technologies such as Minnesota's Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) high-resolution mapping project; and best practices in the design and application of filtration, drainage and wastewater systems.

The annual event attracts about 600 water quality and environmental researchers, environmental agency professionals, practitioners in water management, civil and environmental engineers and students. The event is co-sponsored by the university's Department of Civil Engineering, Minnesota Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Minnesota Sea Grant and the Natural Resources Research Institute.

For registration details, visit wrc.umn.edu or call (612) 625-2900.

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How we dress and why: U of M College of Design to present first-of-its-kind Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion Oct. 22



How people dress themselves and why is the subject of the new, first-of-its-kind 10-volume print edition of the *Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion*.

What: Creating the *Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion*
When: 4:30-6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22
Where: 33 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave. S., St. Paul

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

October 5, 2010

How people dress themselves and why is central to understanding humankind. This is the subject of the new, first-of-its-kind 10-volume print edition of the *Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion* and its online portal, BergFashionLibrary.com.

The University of Minnesota College of Design and Joanne Eicher, Regents' Professor Emerita and editor in chief of the encyclopedia, are hosting a celebration to mark the completion of a project that was seven years in the making at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, at 33 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave. S., St. Paul.

The event will feature behind-the-scenes stories from Eicher and other encyclopedia editors and contributors – including Kathryn Earle, managing director at Berg Publishers and creator of the Berg Fashion Library – and offer an insider's look at the creation of the first comprehensive reference to explore all aspects of dress and fashion.

Arranged geographically and written by an international team of more than 600 experts, the encyclopedia will serve as the go-to source for all issues relating to the art and anthropology of costume, dress and fashion the world over for students, scholars, members of the design and fashion industries and everyday fashion aficionados. It features 760 in-depth original articles and more than 2000 images, many rare or previously unpublished.

The event is free and open to the public but space is limited. Registrations are required by Oct. 14 at http://z.umn.edu/encyclopedia.

Following the presentations, the encyclopedia will be on display along with related objects from the Goldstein Museum of Design. Guests will be able to explore the Berg Fashion Library online. Free sewing kits will be available from Berg while supplies last and one lucky attendee will go home with a complete set of the *Encyclopedia of World Dress and Fashion* (a $2,000 value).

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U of M's NCEO receives $45 million to form new national collaborative partnership for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities

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Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/05/2010) —The U.S. Department of Education has awarded $45 million to the National Center on Educational Outcomes (NCEO) at the University of Minnesota to form a partnership that will develop a new generation of alternate assessments for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

The new National Center and State Collaborative Partnership (NCSC) will be a collaborative network of national centers and 19 states.

The co-directors of this four-year partnership are senior research fellow Rachel Quenemoen and NCEO Director Martha Thurlow. Specifically, NCSC is building a comprehensive assessment system that includes project-developed products and processes to support educators as they plan for and provide appropriate instruction that addresses common standards. These supports will help Individualized Education Program teams accurately identify the learner characteristics of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities and make appropriate decisions about how each student participates in the overall system of assessments.

The new NCSC, located at the Institute on Community Integration in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota, is one of two programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The University of Kansas received the second award to work with 11 states (Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Utah, Wisconsin, and West Virginia). These two programs will work together to ensure that both programs share knowledge as they implement their goals. The department's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) administers the award. The OSEP funded projects will also work in partnership with two assessment consortia of 44 states that are developing common general assessments through funding from the U.S. Department of Education in its Race to the Top Assessment Program.

Alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards

The NCSC partnership is focused on alternate assessments based on alternate achievement standards (AA-AAS). Alternate assessments are used to evaluate the performance of students who are unable to participate in general state assessments even with accommodations. Alternate assessments provide a mechanism for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities to be included in an educational accountability system. They are based on the grade-level content covered by the general assessment, but have different achievement expectations that are appropriately challenging for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Benefits of NCSC to states

The cost per pupil of administering an AA-AAS has been reported at $250, $375, $575 and even as much as $2,500 per student. By collaboratively developing a multi-state assessment system, it is expected that such costs incurred by states can be substantially contained once the system is developed, especially in states with very few students being tested.

"When our work is complete, the system will be available to all states, regardless of their participation in the initial development funded by this grant," Thurlow says. "The ultimate purpose is to provide states with a full set of assessments, curriculum and instructional supports and professional development tools to implement a research-based, systemic approach to improving academic outcomes for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities."

Benefits of NCSC to students

There is great potential for the NCSC to improve outcomes for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities. These students have in the past been taught a separate curriculum from their peers, often in separate settings. Since a refocus of special education funding requirements on the same general curriculum for all students over a decade ago, all students with disabilities must be participating and making progress in a curriculum based on the same academic content standards defined for all students, content that is age-appropriate, engaging and challenging. These changes have been controversial. Some are concerned that academic instruction will eliminate time for teaching important functional life-skills, like self-care and social skills. Others are concerned about the technical quality of assessments for such a highly varied group of students, since students with the most significant cognitive disabilities may learn and show what they know in different ways from their classmates, through assistive technology, pictures, symbols or textures, for example.

Quenemoen responds to these concerns saying, "Very early on in this work, we found startling evidence that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities were able to master and apply in meaningful ways the academic skills and knowledge that we never before had tried to teach them. We also know that development of new academic assessments cannot ensure improved outcomes for students without other high quality educational practices in place. That is why our project will develop not only a system of assessments to accurately reflect what the students have learned, but we will also build an integrated system of curriculum and instructional materials and intensive professional development and support to build capacity in our schools to teach these students well."

The organizational partners include NCEO as the host and fiscal agent, along with the National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment (NCIEA), the University of Kentucky (UKY) and the University of North Carolina, Charlotte (UNCC) and edCount. The 19 state partners are: Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Pacific Assessment Consortium (PAC-6), Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and Wyoming. These states together have 90,000 students with significant cognitive disabilities in grades 3 to 8 and in high school, the targeted grades for this partnership.

For further information about the National Center and State Collaborative Partnership, contact Rachel Quenemoen at quene003@umn.edu. NCEO is an affiliated center of the Institute on Community Integration (ICI), at the College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota. For more, see www.nceo.info.

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College of Education and Human Development to provide iPads to all freshmen in largest research-based iPad pilot project in the nation



College of Education and Human Development freshmen will receive iPads as part of pilot project.

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Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/06/2010) —The University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), in partnership with the University's Office of Information Technology, will provide its entire freshman class of about 450 students with iPads, in the largest pilot of its kind at a major research university. The cost of less than $216,000 is being funded entirely by private donations and will have no bearing on tuition.

CEHD faculty, who are world leaders in academic technologies and postsecondary education, will research how iPad use relates to student retention, engagement, and learning outcomes. A broad spectrum of first-year undergraduate courses in the Department of Postsecondary Teaching and Learning will incorporate the devices.

The iPads will allow CEHD freshmen to access digital textbooks, which should offer them significant cost savings. At the University of Minnesota, textbooks average about $1,000 per year for undergraduates -- equal to eight percent of the cost of tuition/fees. Digital books often cost less than half of print equivalents. Providing iPads to the entire freshman class also expands access to those students who may not otherwise be able to afford the learning technologies that the device supports.

"Mobile technology plays an increasing role in student life and student learning," says CEHD Dean Jean Quam. "CEHD faculty and students are eager to lead the way in exploring the potential of new technologies, like the iPad, in and outside of their classrooms. It's the kind of innovative research that is at the core of what we do in CEHD."

The iPad is known for its reading functionality. Display and touch-screen usability increase the potential for accessing additional information to enrich readings and curricula. Nearly 200,000 downloadable applications are also available for the iPad, with more coming online every day. This offers a great deal of flexibility to instructors as they determine how best to use the devices to support student learning.

Students will receive their iPads in late October, giving them an opportunity to become familiar with the technology before using the devices regularly in spring semester classes.

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U of M "physics of superheroes" professor to participate in national "Nifty Fifty" program

Jim Kakalios joins top national scientists in Washington D.C. Oct. 10-24.



Jim Kakalios from the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering will be presenting at the USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington D.C. Oct. 10-24.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/06/2010) —In a massive national effort to ignite a passion for science and engineering in middle and high school students, the USA Science and Engineering Festival will send more than fifty top scientists into Washington D.C. schools Oct. 10-24. Jim Kakalios from the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering will be presenting on "The Physics of Superheroes."

The organizers say that meeting scientists and engineers who love what they do will help students embrace these disciplines and consider careers in them. The Nifty Fifty, as they are called, were carefully chosen from hundreds of applicants for their differing fields, talents, divergent backgrounds and ages, and ability to convey the importance of science to our nation's future.

The scientists and engineers include high tech entrepreneurs and financiers, policy makers, actors, journalists, educators, researchers, explorers, video game developers, spies, alien hunters, astronauts and brain surgeons.

Jim Kakalios is the Taylor Distinguished Professor in the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Minnesota and bestselling author of "The Physics of Superheroes" And "The Amazing Story of Quantum Mechanics." He has also served as a science consultant on several big budget superhero films.

The university's National Center for Earth-surface Dynamics at the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory will also be displaying an exhibit at the science expo. Called "Earth Sculpting," the display will feature the touch screen application developed with the Science Museum of Minnesota and the Electronic Visualization Laboratory and the University of Illinois at Chicago. It allows visitors to "rain" on a topographic landscape by touching the screen and then exploring the route the water takes to shape Earth's surface.

About the USA Science and Engineering Festival

The first USA Science and Engineering Festival from Oct. 10-24 creates a new model for celebrating science in the nation's capital. Two weeks of science events across Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C. include 50 of the area's top scientists visiting local middle and high schools, brown bag lunches for high school students with Nobel Laureates, science open houses and a Sustainable Dreamhouse contest. A two-day Science Expo on the National Mall will feature more than 400 science and engineering organizations.

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A genetically modified crop benefits a non-modified crop by killing pests, University of Minnesota study finds

Areawide suppression dramatically reduced the estimated $1 billion in annual losses caused by European corn borer



Transgenic corn's resistance to pests has benefited even non-transgenic corn, a new study led by scientists from the University of Minnesota shows.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/07/2010) —Transgenic corn's resistance to pests has benefited even non-transgenic corn, a new study led by scientists from the University of Minnesota shows.

The study, published in the Oct. 8 edition of the journal Science, found that widespread planting of genetically modified Bt corn throughout the Upper Midwest has suppressed populations of the European corn borer, historically one of corn's primary pests. This areawide suppression has dramatically reduced the estimated $1 billion in annual losses caused by the European corn borer, even on non-genetically modified corn. Bt corn, introduced in 1996, is so named because it has been bred to produce a toxin from the soil bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) that kills insect pests.

Corn borer moths cannot distinguish between Bt and non-Bt corn, so females lay eggs in both kinds of fields, said the study's chief author, University of Minnesota entomology professor William Hutchison. Once eggs hatch in Bt corn, young borer larvae feed and die within 24 to 48 hours. Because it is effective at controlling corn borers and other pests, Bt corn has been adopted on about 63 percent of all U.S. corn acres. As a result, corn borer numbers have also declined in neighboring non-Bt fields by 28 percent to 73 percent in Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin, depending on historical pest abundance and level of Bt-corn adoption. The study also documents similar declines of the pest in Iowa and Nebraska. This is the first study to show a direct association between Bt corn use and an areawide reduction in corn borer abundance.

Economic benefits of this areawide pest suppression have totaled $6.9 billion over the past 14 years for the 5-state region. Surprisingly, non-Bt corn acres accounted for $4.3 billion (62 percent of this total benefit.) The primary benefit of Bt corn is reduced yield losses, and Bt acres received this benefit after the growers paid Bt corn technology fees. But as a result of areawide pest suppression, non-Bt acres also experienced yield savings without the cost of Bt technology fees, and thus received more than half of the benefits from growing Bt corn in the region.

Paul Mitchell, an agricultural economist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a co-author of the study, emphasized that "previous cost-benefit analyses focused directly on transgenic crop acres. This study is the first to include the value of areawide pest suppression and the subsequent benefits to growers of non-transgenic crops. In this case, the value of the indirect yield benefits for non-Bt corn acres exceeded the net value of direct benefits to the Bt corn acres." The authors note that their analysis does not consider benefits for other important Midwestern crops affected by European corn borer, such as sweet corn, potatoes and green beans. Hutchison observed however, "that additional environmental benefits from corn borer suppression are likely occurring, such as less insecticide use, but these benefits have yet to be documented."

The authors were able to document the suppression of European corn borer in Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin because state entomologists have monitored pest populations for more than 45 years in those states. Pest suppression and similar benefits to adopters and non-adopters alike may be occurring as a result of the widespread use of transgenic insect-resistant crops in other parts of the United States and the world, but those benefits cannot be documented without adequate data.

Finally, the authors emphasize that sustaining the economic and environmental benefits of Bt corn and other transgenic crops for adopters and non-adopters alike depends on the continued stewardship of these technologies. Farmers, industry, and regulators need to remain committed to planting non-Bt corn refuges to minimize the risk that corn borers will develop resistance to Bt corn. The Science magazine study shows that Bt corn is more valuable to society than originally realized, which makes maintaining its effectiveness even more important.

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Federal grant will allow U of M and partners to study economics of organic farm transition

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/07/2010) —Minnesota economists will study the economic costs associated with transitioning from traditional to organic farming through a new $1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The four-year project is aimed at gathering data about costs and returns for farmers making the switch to organic farming, said Robert King, professor of applied economics at the University of Minnesota and leader of the project. Data will come from transitioning and recently certified organic farmers who enroll in the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Farm Business Management Education program. The project also will develop print and online educational materials that will help transitioning farmers make long-term planning decisions.

U.S. producers are turning to certified organic farming systems as a potential way to lower input costs, decrease reliance on nonrenewable resources, capture high-value markets and boost farm income. While organic farming is among the fastest-growing segments of agriculture, few public studies have been done on the economic costs and returns for those who make the transition.

"As more and more farmers consider making the transition to organic production, we're seeing that uncertainty about the costs of transitioning and the return on those costs is a significant impediment," King said. "Data about the experiences and lessons learned from those who have made the transition will help other farmers decide whether to make this change."

The project will include training on fundamentals of organic transition for the 71 instructors in the state colleges and universities system's Farm Business Management Education program. The instructors will work closely with about 80 participating farmers over the life of the study to track farm financial records, offer advice and develop benchmarks for future organic transitions. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will help identify and recruit transitioning farmers to participate in the project and will administer scholarship awards, which will cover up to 90 percent of the farmers' participation costs. Individual farm data will be aggregated to ensure confidentiality, then analyzed and shared locally and nationally through the Center for Farm Financial Management's FINBIN website, as well as through publications and presentations developed specifically for this project.

"The farmers who participate will gain a deeper understanding of their own financial condition during the years of transition," King said. "Their shared experiences will also help other farmers developing transition plans, lenders evaluating business plans and loan applications from transitioning farmers, and policymakers assessing program needs."

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U of M School of Music University Singers to premiere Swan Composer Prize winner Zvonimir Nagy's "Cantus Jubilus"



As winner of the Swan Commission, Zvonimir Nagy is invited to join the School of Music as artist in residence in April 2011.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/07/2010) —The University of Minnesota School of Music today announced that the winning work of the 2011 Craig and Janet Swan Composer Prize is "Cantus Jubilus" by Zvonimir Nagy. This choral work will be premiered by the University Singers under the batons of Kathy Saltzman Romey and Matthew Mehaffey on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at St. Olaf Catholic Church, 215 S. 8th St., Minneapolis.

Nagy has been invited to attend dress rehearsals and the premiere performance. The $1,500 Swan Composer Prize will be awarded formally at the work's premiere. Based in Chicago, Nagy was educated at the Academy of Music of the University of Zagreb, Conservatoire "Jacques Ibert," École Normale de Musique de Paris and Texas Christian University, completing his doctoral studies in music composition at Northwestern University. His principal teachers include: composition – Jay Alan Yim, Augusta Read Thomas, Tristan Murail, Marko Ruzdjak; music theory – Robert Gjerdingen; organ – H. Joseph Butler; piano – Tamás Ungár, Sergei Markarov, Eugene Indjic, Damir Sekošan.

As a composer, performer and teacher, Nagy divides his time between teaching and composing at St. Xavier University, where he is professor of music theory and composition, and his post at St. Michael in Old Town Church in Chicago, where he directs the choir, oversees the music, serves as the composer-in-residence and plays the historic Kilgen pipe organ.

As winner of the Swan Commission, Nagy is invited to join the School of Music as artist in residence in April 2011 for the premiere of "Cantus Jubilus."

The Swan Composer Prize competition, underwritten by the Swans, is an annual event and the emphasis rotates among choral, wind ensemble and orchestral works. The competition was created in response to the generosity, vision and abiding interest in music as a living art on the part of Craig and Janet Swan. The Swan Prize competition is open to composers in the earlier career stages currently residing in the United States; all entries remain anonymous throughout the entire two-tier adjudication process. The American Composers Forum and the University of Minnesota School of Music administered the competition.

The American Composers Forum is committed to supporting composers and developing new markets for their music. Through granting, commissioning and performance programs, the Forum provides composers at all stages of their careers with valuable resources for professional and artistic development. By linking communities with composers and performers, the Forum fosters a demand for new music, enriches communities and helps develop the next generation of composers, musicians and music patrons. Visit www.composersforum.org for more information.

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 500 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of over 50 artists, scholars and teachers. The School of Music presents more than 400 free concerts per year. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.music.umn.edu or call (612) 626-1094 for a brochure.

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Governor proclaims Oct. 4-8 as 4-H Week in Minnesota

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/07/2010) —As part of National 4-H Week, Gov. Tim Pawlenty has proclaimed Oct. 4-8 as “4-H Week” in Minnesota, with more than 123,000 4-H participants across the state joining 6 million 4-H youth nationwide in celebrating the learning opportunities that 4-H provides.

The proclamation recognizes the efforts of Minnesota’s 4-H members to lead the way toward solving problems in their communities and making a difference for their futures.

Approximately 123,486 young people participated in University of Minnesota Extension's 4-H program in 2009—nearly a quarter of all youth between the ages of 5-19 living in the state. By taking part in the program, youth learn through hands-on experiences in 4-H’s mission mandates of science, engineering and technology, healthy living and citizenship.

For more than 100 years, 4-H has connected youth and their communities with the innovative research and resources of the nation’s 106 land-grant universities and colleges.

To learn more about Minnesota 4-H, visit www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H.

To view the governor’s proclamation, visit www.extension.umn.edu/go/1048.

For more University of Minnesota Extension news, visit www.extension.umn.edu/news.
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Statement from University of Minnesota athletic director regarding the highway deaths of U of M spirit squad members in Wisconsin

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/07/2010) —"This is a very sad day for the University of Minnesota and Gopher Athletics. The entire department was shocked to learn of this senseless tragedy and our thoughts and prayers go out to the families, friends and loved ones of the young people we lost early this morning" - University of Minnesota athletic director Joel Maturi.

Statement from University of Minnesota spokesman Daniel Wolter regarding the highway deaths of U of M spirit squad members in Wisconsin:

"The University of Minnesota community was saddened to learn today of a serious car accident early this morning in Wisconsin that resulted in the death of three individuals, two who were affiliated with our Golden Gopher Spirit Squad. Another person also affiliated with the spirit squad was injured in the accident.

"Although details of the crash, including the names of the victims, have not yet been released publicly, it is believed they were the victims of a drunk driver.

"A community response team with grief counselors will be meeting with our spirit squad this evening. Others are encouraged to visit www.mentalhealth.umn.edu for counseling resources that are available to them.

"Obviously, this is very saddening news to our university community. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of the victims and the young people who are still recovering."

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Water expert Deborah Swackhamer to deliver U of M's Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholar Lecture Nov. 4

"Drop by Drop: Everyday Solutions to Toxic Water" will address the threats facing freshwater resources and the achievements made in turning the tide toward sustainability



Swackhamer is an environmental chemistry professor in the university's School of Public Health, holder of the Humphrey Institute's Charles M. Denny Jr. Chair in Science, Technology, and Public Policy and co-director of the Water Resources Center.

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October 8, 2010

Nationally recognized freshwater expert and environmental chemist Deborah Swackhamer will deliver the University of Minnesota's annual Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Lecture at 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4, at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Swackhamer's lecture, "Drop by Drop: Everyday Solutions to Toxic Water," will address the threats facing our freshwater resources and the achievements we've made in turning the tide toward sustainability.

From the loss of natural buffers and filters such as wetlands, to the introduction of endocrines and industry and consumer-induced toxins, the planet's rivers, lakes, streams and groundwater reserves are under increasing stress. The good news is that concern for our finite water supply is beginning to take center stage in town halls and legislative chambers. Swackhamer will also offer an update on Minnesota's own groundbreaking 25-year plan for a sustainable water future.

Swackhamer is an environmental chemistry professor in the university's School of Public Health and holder of the Humphrey Institute's Charles M. Denny Jr. Chair in Science, Technology, and Public Policy. In her role as co-director of the university's Water Resources Center, Swackhamer oversees the center's research and educational programs, including the Water Resources Research Institute grants program for the U.S. Geological Survey, and develops research and educational opportunities for the center.

The Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Lecture and Award was established by the university's Women's Center to honor the scholarly accomplishments and leadership of distinguished women faculty at the university. It's named after Ada Louise Comstock, a university professor and education pioneer who became the first president of Radcliffe College in 1923.

The Women's Center is a unit of the university's Office of Equity and Diversity and supports the academic community in its efforts to create a healthy climate in which women reach their full potential. For information, visit www.umn.edu/women.

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U of M Center for Spirituality & Healing and the Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota announce the Minnesota visit of the Dalai Lama

"One Heart, One Mind, One Universe" to feature three events at the University of Minnesota May 8-9, 2011



His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is both the head of state and the spiritual leader of Tibet.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/11/2010) —The Center for Spirituality & Healing (CSH) at the University of Minnesota and the Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota (TAFM) will co-host a special visit by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on May 8. The theme of His Holiness' visit, the first official trip to the Twin Cities since 2001, will be "One Heart, One Mind, One Universe."

The Minnesota visit features three planned events:

- **Medicine Buddha Empowerment: A Tibetan Cultural Ceremony** -- 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. May 8 at Mariucci Arena, hosted by TAFM
- **Peace Through Inner Peace: a public address featuring His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama** -- 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. May 8at Mariucci Arena, co-hosted by CSH and TAFM
- **Second International Tibetan Medicine Conference: Healing Mind & Bod**y -- 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. May 9 at the University Radisson Hotel, co-hosted by CSH and TAFM. (His Holiness is not expected to attend the conference.)

Tickets for all three events will be available through the Northrop ticket office beginning Monday, Oct. 18, 2010. For more details, visit the website for these events at www.dalailama.umn.edu.

"The Center for Spirituality & Healing is honored to collaborate with the Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota on His Holiness' visit to the Twin Cities," said Mary Jo Kreitzer, director of the CSH. "The Dalai Lama is a world leader who has collaborated with scientists around the globe to advance the understanding of the power of the mind to heal. At the Center for Spirituality and Healing, we have conducted NIH-funded research on the health outcomes associated with Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction, a practice that includes meditation and yoga."

On the morning of May 8, the TAFM will welcome the Dalai Lama to conduct a special "Medicine Buddha Empowerment" initiation, a Tibetan cultural ceremony open to the public. The ceremony will be conducted in the Tibetan language with explanations offered in English.

Later that afternoon, the Dalai Lama will be the featured speaker at a public address titled "Peace Through Inner Peace." His Holiness is revered worldwide for his promotion of such basic human values as compassion, forgiveness and tolerance. His address is expected to touch on the importance of these values in advancing peace as well as promoting individual health, healing and well-being.

Along with the events featuring the Dalai Lama, the Second International Tibetan Medicine Conference: Healing Mind & Body on May 9 will bring the foremost leaders and physicians in Tibetan medicine and spirituality to the Twin Cities. The CSH hosted the first annual conference in 2001. The Second International Tibetan Medicine Conference will include physician leaders from the Men-Tsee-Khang, the Tibetan Medical Institute of His Holiness in Dharmsala, India. The event is co-hosted by the TAFM and CSH and runs from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the University Radisson Hotel. (His Holiness is not expected to attend this conference.)

Minnesota has the second largest concentration of Tibetan Americans in the United States. The Dalai Lama's return to the state coincides with the official launch of the Tibetan Healing Initiative (THI) at the CSH. For more than 10 years, the CSH has offered graduate courses in traditional Tibetan medicine. These courses bring students to India annually to visit practitioners at the Men-Tsee-Khang in Dharmsala. New THI initiatives will include research on the benefits of blending Tibetan healing with conventional health practices and integrating Tibetan practices into regional clinic and hospital settings.

"The Tibetan American community of Minnesota is overjoyed about the eminent visit of His Holiness,' said Tsewang Ngodup, president of the board of directors for TAFM. "Indeed, we consider it a very special coincidence that it was on May 8, 2001 that His Holiness came to the Twin Cities for the very first time."

His Holiness is the temporal and spiritual leader of the Tibetan people. He frequently states that his life is guided by three major commitments: the promotion of basic human values or secular ethics in the interest of human happiness; the fostering of inter-religious harmony; and the welfare of the Tibetan people, focusing on the survival of their identity, culture and religion.

About the Center for Spirituality & Healing: Recognized nationally as a resource and leader in integrated health, the University of Minnesota's Center for Spirituality & Healing's goal is to transform healthcare by educating health professionals and students about complementary therapies and healing practices, conduct rigorous scientific research into complementary and non-pharmacological interventions, provide meaningful outreach programs, and work with partners to develop integrative clinical services. The inspiration behind the Center's work is the knowledge that health and well-being are enhanced when the best of complementary and conventional care are integrated. For more information, visit www.csh.umn.edu.

About the Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota: The Tibetan American Foundation of Minnesota is dedicated to improving the quality of life of the Tibetan Community in Minnesota, and to preserving Tibetan cultural, educational and religious traditions and to preserving and promoting the values of the unique Tibetan cultural heritage under the auspices of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. TAFM is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization established in 1992 to aid in the resettlement of Tibetans in Minnesota. Under the 1990 Immigration Act, Congress granted immigrant visas to 1000 Tibetan living in India and Nepal. Under this project, and with the help of volunteers and host families, 160 Tibetans were settled in the Twin Cities area in 1992-93. For more information, visit www.tafm.org.

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"Sustainably Feeding the World" panel at U of M to include three global food experts

Media Note: All three panelists plus Pingali, Pardey and Buhr will be available for interviews after the discussion.

What: "Sustainably Feeding the World" presentations and a panel discussion by leaders at three international food and agricultural research centers
When: 1:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 18
Where: Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics, University of Minnesota St. Paul campus, 1500 Gortner Ave., St. Paul

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October 11, 2010

Three leaders of worldwide agricultural research centers will discuss how increasing global demands for food can be addressed in sustainable ways during a forum next week at the University of Minnesota.

All three panelists are directors-general of international research institutes that are part of the 15-member network known as the Consultative Group on International Research Centers. The panelists include Carlos Sere, who leads the International Livestock Research Institute based in Nairobi; Shenggen Fan of the International Food Policy Research Institute based in Washington, D.C.; and Ruben Echeverria of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, based in Cali, Colombia.

"This is a rare opportunity to hear from some of today's most knowledgeable experts on global food prospects and policy," said professor Brian Buhr, head of the Department of Applied Economics. "To have all three of them together on one panel is unprecedented."

Fan and Echeverria are graduates of the Department of Applied Economics; Later that day, Echeverria will be awarded the university's Distinguished Leadership Award for Internationals. The department also will celebrate the accomplishments of the late Vernon Ruttan, who advised both Echeverria and Fan, with a ceremony officially naming its home building as "Ruttan Hall."

Professor Philip Pardey of the Department of Applied Economics co-directs the HarvestChoice project and will moderate the panel of speakers. HarvestChoice works with all three international centers with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Prabhu Pingali, Deputy Director of the Agricultural Development Program of the Gates Foundation and an international expert on global food issues, also will attend.

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University of Minnesota startup will offer novel treatment for serious, painful vein condition

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/12/2010) —The University of Minnesota has launched a startup company based on the research of Dr. Erik Cressman. a professor and clinician in the radiology department of the university's Medical School. XO Thermix Medical's first product will be a medical device that treats chronic venous insufficiency (CVI) with a significant reduction in procedure time, which could lower cost, and much less patient discomfort than current treatments.

More than nine million Americans have significant CVI, a condition triggered by problems in one or more superficial leg veins that have blood leakage around the valves that cause the vein to remain filled with blood, especially when standing. CVI is a long-term condition that can lead to chronic life-threatening ulcers and infections of the lower extremities. The risk of CVI increases with age and is more prevalent in women. Other risk factors include a history of deep vein thrombosis, sedentary lifestyle, obesity and smoking.

"Our initial products are very much in tune with the demands for reducing medical costs and producing better results for patients that lie at the heart of health care reform," said Mike Selzer, CEO of XO Thermix. Selzer has founded and otherwise been involved in several medical device startups, including ConcepTx Medical. He was CEO of Urologix, Inc., from 1998 to 2003 and also worked at Medtronic, most recently as head of its neurostimulation business.

"One of our research interests concerns the use of thermochemical ablation to treat solid tumors, taking advantage of the heat released by appropriate exothermic reactions that have benign products, often substances already present in the body," explains Cressman. "Mike Selzer reviewed the patent and asked if I thought that the conditions would be sufficient to heat and ablate other tissues, such as veins. We quickly realized that by containing the heated by-products, we could safely obtain temperatures useful for treatment of CVI."

At the time he learned of Cressman's patent, Selzer was a participant in the unique "CEO-in-Residence" program at the university's Office for Technology Commercialization. The program aims to match business executives with university inventions by recruiting individuals who have a track record of success in establishing, financing and leading startup companies. The CEOs-in-Residence participate in reviews of intellectual property at the university and, if an appropriate opportunity is identified, contribute to or lead a new startup company.

The university is an equity partner in XO Thermix Medical, has co-invested funds with the founders, and is a joint research institution for a Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant for which the company's founders have applied. The company continues to develop the technology and will begin seeking additional investors when the business opportunity has been fully vetted this fall.

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German teachers visit and learn at Minnesota public schools

University of Minnesota center facilitates professional development and cultural exchange



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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/12/2010) —Eight visiting teachers from Germany are working with teachers at four elementary schools in the Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan School District, Oct. 11-22, as part of a teacher exchange program coordinated by the University of Minnesota's Center for German and European Studies (CGES).

The program, currently in its third year, is supported by the Checkpoint Charlie Foundation's School Teachers Enrichment Program (STEP). The host schools are Oak Ridge Elementary and Red Pine Elementary in Eagan, and Westview Elementary and Diamond Path Elementary School of International Studies in Apple Valley.

The German teachers are interested in learning from their American counterparts, especially how they are serving an increasingly diverse population of students. Twenty-five percent of students in the Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan School District are students of color, including first-generation Somali-, Ethiopian-, Vietnamese-, Laotian-, Cambodian- and Russian-American students. In addition, 20 percent of district students qualify for free or reduced-price school meals.

"German schools are facing the same kinds of changes in their schools that we are, with diversifying populations," says Sabine Engel, CGES director. "Turkish-Germans and immigrants from eastern Europe are changing the concept of what it means to be 'German,' so German schools are also trying to figure out how to work with a population that is different from what they have worked with in the past."

In addition to learning how Minnesota schools embrace diversity among their students, the German teachers are also borrowing techniques that enhance the learning climate and behavior of the students. For example, Oak Ridge's "Responsive Classroom" techniques are now used in a school in Berlin, thanks to the STEP program.

"Children all around the world are curious about other children," says former Oak Ridge principal Lisa Hannon. "They want to know if they play the same games and eat the same food. So the kids are excited to have the visiting teachers at their schools."

In May 2011, 10 U of M and Macalester College students will travel to Germany for the fifth year of a similar exchange.

Media note: Center for German and European Studies Director Sabine Engel, Diamond Path Elementary School of International Studies Principal Lynn Hernandez, Oak Ridge Elementary Principal Kris Scallon, and members of the German teacher delegation are all available for interviews.

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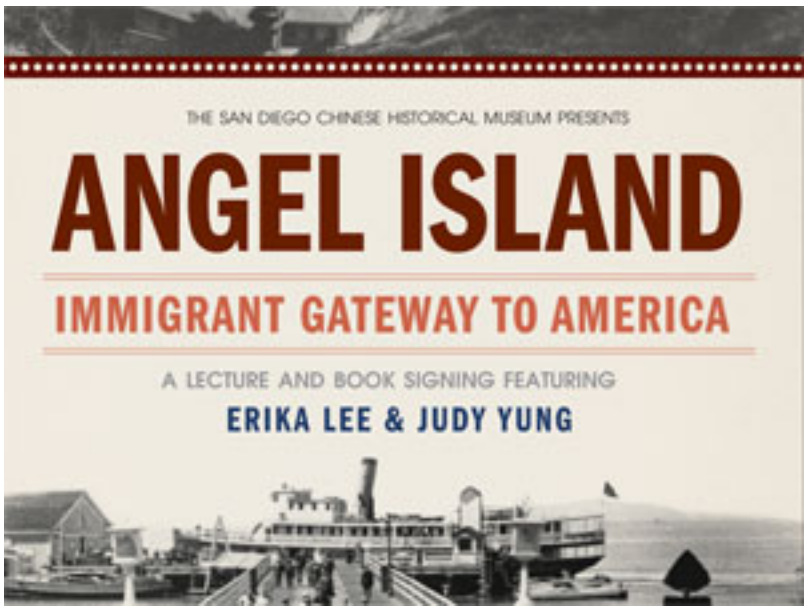
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U of M professor explores the "Ellis Island of the West" in Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America

Special book discussion and reception with co-author Erika Lee on Oct. 27



In "Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America", a new book published in August, historians Erika Lee and Judy Yung provide the first comprehensive history of the Angel Island Immigration Station.

What: Book discussion with *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America* co-author and U of M history professor Erika Lee. Free and open to the public.
When: 4:30-6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27
Where: Elmer L. Andersen Library, Room 120, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis.
Media note: Lee is available for interviews prior to the Oct. 27 event

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October 13, 2010

In *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America*, a new book published in August, historians Erika Lee, an associate professor of History and Asian American Studies at the University of Minnesota, and Judy Yung provide the first comprehensive history of the Angel Island Immigration Station.

From 1910 to 1940, more than half a million people sailed through the Golden Gate, hoping to start new lives in America. But they did not all disembark in San Francisco; instead, most were ferried across the bay to the Angel Island Immigration Station. For many, this was the real gateway to the United States. For others, it was a prison and their final destination before being sent home.

Lee and Yung, both descendants of Angel Island immigrants, uncover the stories of these surprisingly diverse immigrants through extensive new research, immigration records, oral histories and inscriptions on the barrack walls. Readers learn of Chinese “paper sons,” Japanese picture brides, Korean refugee students, South Asian political activists, Russian and Jewish refugees, Mexican families, Filipino repatriates and many others from around the world.

By examining the great diversity of immigrants who passed through America’s Pacific gateway, *Angel Island* not only commemorates the station’s 100th anniversary, but also helps today’s reader understand America’s complicated relationship to immigration, a story that continues today.

For more information on *Angel Island*, including reviews, visit http://www.aiisf.org/index.php/book.

The event is sponsored by the university’s Immigration History Research Center, the Asian American Studies Program and the Institute for Advanced Study.

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University of Minnesota launches new United Nations global food partnership in Rome

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551



The university seeks “to collaborate and share knowledge across borders and boundaries through cyberspace”, Sullivan said.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/13/2010) —University of Minnesota Provost Tom Sullivan launched a new partnership with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in Rome and outlined a shared commitment to fighting global hunger during the 7th Annual George McGovern Lecture: “Minnesota’s Global Legacy and Promise of Leadership in Food.”

Each year, the U.S. Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome organizes the lecture as the official kick-off to World Food Day activities.

In his lecture, Sullivan said, “We have not yet found all the answers to solve world hunger -- but as an academic institution, the University of Minnesota is committed to that discovery and are re-doubling our efforts through a new partnership between the University of Minnesota and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. We stand ready to follow in the footsteps of our esteemed alumnus, Norman Borlaug, and to begin the next green revolution – this time, a truly ‘green’ revolution, one that our planet can sustain as well as one that can sustain the doubling of global food demand by the year 2050.”

Last June, Sullivan, on behalf of the university, signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the FAO that commits to address a range of issues associated with global food security. As part of that commitment, Sullivan announced the university’s plans to enhance its efforts to control the threat of Ug99, and to create the Borlaug International Center for Prevention of Cereal Rusts – a tribute to humanitarian legacy of Dr. Norman Borlaug, the late University of Minnesota alumnus and Nobel Peace Prize winner who created the “Green Revolution” in India and Pakistan with his high-yield wheat seeds that saved hundreds of millions of lives by staving off starvation.

Sullivan also detailed the U of M Institute on the Environment’s Global Landscape Initiatives project, a decision support tool with detailed geographic data for every 9 km by 9 km cell on the planet, including more than 175 different crops and pastures. The research tool examines the trade-offs between changing crop areas, crop yields and environmental impacts of additional fertilizer and irrigation.

The university seeks “to collaborate and share knowledge across borders and boundaries through cyberspace”, Sullivan said. “We are exploring a variety of e-Learning possibilities and open source tools to build capacity and exchange knowledge freely – going in both directions – between the University of Minnesota and the rest of the world.”

He concluded with an overview of the groundbreaking research at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Reserve, where researchers David Tilman, Peter Reich and others are working to advance a 21st Century Green Revolution by seeking scientific solutions for agriculture that heal and sustain ecosystems around the world.

“This new global food initiative builds on the powerful traditions of the university as inspired by the outstanding contributions of Norman Borlaug and Ron Phillips and so many other dedicated teachers and researchers,” Sullivan said. “No other university can claim that heritage and such a breadth and depth of cross-disciplinary expertise. This is the right time and the right place to move forward in tackling one of the most urgent issues of our time how to sustainably feed a world whose population is expected to grow from 6.8 to 9 billion over the next 40 years.”

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Christopher Paul Curtis to speak at University of Minnesota Book Week 70th anniversary, Oct. 21



Christopher Paul Curtis's work often couples African-American history with fiction. He shows the role that children's literature can play in educating children about social issues, ideas of citizenship, and history.

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October 14, 2010

Award-winning author Christopher Paul Curtis will help the University of Minnesota celebrate 70 years of Book Week when he gives a lecture Thursday, Oct. 21. Since the 1940s, Book Week has celebrated the impact of children's literature by hosting some of the most notable writers of books for young readers, including Marguerite Henry, Madeleine L'Engle, Beverly Cleary, and Laurence Yep.

Curtis's last Twin Cities appearance was in 2003 as part of Minnesota Public Radio's Talking Volumes series. His book, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*, was the Saint Paul Reads citywide book club selection that same year. The Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis produced *Bud, Not Buddy* in 2008. Curtis will speak about his forthcoming book, *The Mighty Miss Malone*, which tells the story of Deza, to whom we were briefly introduced in *Bud, Not Buddy*.

Book Week event activities begin at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis, when faculty and graduate students from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction will present reviews of some of their top picks from children's literature published in 2010. Curtis will sign his books during a reception beginning at 5:30 p.m. To register for the reception, which costs $10, go to cehd.umn.edu/bookweek/Events/. Curtis's 6:30 p.m. lecture will be followed by another opportunity to have books signed. New Books for Young Readers will be on display from 12 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, and from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Friday, Oct. 22.

Book Week is produced by the children's literature program in the university's College of Education and Human Development, which is one of the oldest and broadest of its kind. University of Minnesota research has demonstrated that children's literature plays a vital role in teaching children reading comprehension -- a vital foundation for academic success in all subjects. A compelling story on a topic that captures a young person's imagination can help them connect to the material, provide fertile ground for higher-level thinking, and foster a love of reading that can improve academic success.

Curtis's work often couples African-American history with fiction. He shows the role that children's literature can play in educating children about social issues, ideas of citizenship, and history.

He is the winner of the Newbery Medal, the Coretta Scott King Author Award, and the Scott O'Dell Award. For the upcoming *Mighty Miss Malone*, Curtis says that while it took some time to capture protagonist Deza's voice, "when I finally caught her, I couldn't help falling in love with this bright, tough, kind and loving child." Curtis says he hopes to finish the novel soon, "because if anyone deserves a break it's Deza."

Book Week is sponsored by the Ruth Mitchell endowment, the Children's Literature Area of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, CEHD, the Red Balloon Bookshop, and the Children's Literature Research Collections of the University of Minnesota Libraries.

A complete schedule of Book Week events and registration information is available at cehd.umn.edu/BookWeek.

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College of Continuing Education holds Eastcliff event to celebrate new graduate program in Arts and Cultural Leadership

The event will celebrate the university's commitment to the development of the Minnesota cultural landscape

What: Celebration of newly created Arts and Cultural Leadership graduate program with remarks from program staff
Where: Eastcliff
176 N. Mississippi River Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55104
When: 4-6 p.m. Thursday, October 14

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Preston Smith, University News Service, smith@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

October 14, 2010

The University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education will host an event at Eastcliff, the official home of the president of the University of Minnesota, today, Oct. 14, to formally celebrate the creation of the new Master of Professional Studies in Arts and Cultural Leadership (ACL) graduate program. The event will feature short speeches from program staff and students, with Program Director Sherry Wagner-Henry discussing how the college came to realize the need for such a program, and how the new offering will offer content experts at the state's cultural institutions a guided forum through which they can interact and work with other content experts for shared growth and learning. Dr. Susan Hagstrum, university associate and board member of the Guthrie Theater, and Gayle Ober, University of Minnesota alumnus and arts advocate, are co-hosting the event.

The Twin Cities has long been an area with high involvement in the arts. With more than 100 theatre, dance, music and visual arts organizations, the area is a Midwest beacon of cultural activity. The new ACL program at the state's flagship university will provide an opportunity for those who develop, design and run these institutions to strengthen the professional leadership needed to maintain and advance these cultural assets. The program became available for the first time in the fall of 2010.

The new program is a response to the demand for development opportunities from the state's arts population. For further information about the Master of Professional Studies in Arts and Cultural Leadership, or if you have questions about the Eastcliff event, contact the CCE Graduate Programs Office at cceacl@umn.edu.

Eastcliff is located on the east bank of the Mississippi River in St. Paul, this colonial revival-style home was designed by Clarence H. Johnston Sr., Minnesota's state architect and was built in 1922. A University landmark, Eastcliff earned a spot on the National Register of Historic Places in the spring of 2000. For further information about the Eastcliff residence, please click here.

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U of M Alumni Association asks alumni, students and friends to weigh in and help form the association's new direction

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/15/2010) —The University of Minnesota Alumni Association kicked off a large-scale strategic planning project this month aimed at building greater alumni involvement and strengthening the association's leadership in advancing the university as one of the top three research universities in the world.

As part of the process, the Alumni Association wants to hear from alumni, students and friends of the University of Minnesota about how the association can best serve their needs and expectations. A feedback form for thoughts, comments and observations has been set up at www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/planning.

"With the upcoming retirement of President Bruininks and new leadership at the Alumni Association, we have the unique opportunity to look at everything we do," said Ertugrul Tuzcu, chair of the association's National Board Executive Committee. "In this challenging budget environment, it is also imperative that the association be efficiently run and highly effective as the most influential organization in advancing the University of Minnesota's goals."

The Alumni Association began formal strategic planning in five-year increments in 1995. Now with 60,000 members, the 106-year-old association has established a wide array of services for alumni and plays a visible advocacy role for the university.

In a national search, the Alumni Association selected The Napa Group, a strategy, leadership and organizational consulting firm from Novato, Calif., to facilitate the project.

Napa Group consultants have conducted strategic planning for alumni associations including the University of Tennessee, Oregon State University and Georgetown University and also worked with such alumni associations as Stanford University, Saint Joseph's University, Loyola Marymount University and the University of California, Los Angeles. The Napa Group's recent strategic planning project with the University of Tennessee Alumni Association was a featured presentation at the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's (CASE) international Summit for Advancement Leaders in July.

"Today more than ever, alumni associations are powerful voices for alma mater and play an increasingly influential role in furthering institutional objectives and alumni connections with each other," said Phil Esten, the association's president and CEO. "Our goal is a transformational strategic plan that will expand and strengthen relationships among students, alumni, friends and the university as we apply new developments in technology, communications, advocacy and alumni engagement."

For updates on the process and background documents, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/planning.

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

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University of Minnesota statement regarding visit by President Obama on Saturday, Oct. 23

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/15/2010) —The following is a statement from University of Minnesota spokesman Daniel Wolter regarding the recently announced visit by President Barack Obama to the U of M campus next week:

“The University of Minnesota is excited to welcome President Obama to campus on October 23. It’s a rare and unique honor to host the President of the United States, and President Obama’s visit will give our students and the entire university community a unique opportunity to see and hear a historic figure.

“The last sitting President to visit was President George W. Bush in July 2002, who met privately with researchers in the Academic Health Center. The last time a sitting President appeared at the University for a public event was in 1911 when William Howard Taft visited campus.

“A Gopher football game is also scheduled for October 23, so campus will be bustling with activity. Plans are in the works to address parking, building access, security and a variety of other issues and will be made public early next week.”

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University of Minnesota statement regarding "Troubled Waters" documentary

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/15/2010) —The following is a statement from University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks regarding the “Troubled Waters” documentary. Public documents about the documentary were made available starting today:

“One of the hallmarks of my 40-plus years at the university is a steadfast commitment to academic freedom. This value is the cornerstone of all great American universities. I have defended academic freedom at many levels throughout my career. The Board of Regents Policy on Academic Freedom and Responsibility, amended and strengthened during my administration, and which has been referred to as a model to be emulated by other universities, articulates principles that will not be compromised.

“That is why I am particularly disappointed in the turn of events surrounding the release of the film, Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story. I regret that the appropriate steps were not taken to ensure that academic and university leaders were convened to resolve any questions about the film and whether it had been subject to the appropriate academic review prior to the initial decision to postpone the Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) broadcast and the premiere event at the Bell Museum.

“Vice President for University Relations Karen Himle also acknowledges that this would have been a stronger course of action:

> “After I reviewed the film Troubled Waters, at the request of the staff at the Bell Museum, I knew that institutional interests as well as matters of academic freedom were intertwined. While I did consult with deans with academic responsibilities related to the subject matter of the film, my mistake was in not immediately initiating a process that more broadly engaged academic leadership and other university experts to fully evaluate the options and to then make a shared decision as to the best course of action, regardless of the short time before the film was scheduled for a screening at the Bell Museum and to air on TPT. I am sorry for this mistake and I accept responsibility for my decisions and actions in this matter." (Karen Himle)

“Today the U of M has made available to a number of requestors, and in satisfaction of media requests, the internal e-mails related to the release of the film. They will show internal disagreement on the handling of this matter. Susan Weller, director of the Bell Museum, may have said it best, ‘We are like a big family; things get messy, but they usually turn out alright.’ She is correct.

“The film was premiered at the Bell Museum in two-sold out showings, and broadcast on TPT unchanged and on the originally scheduled dates. Over the past few weeks, we have completed our review of this matter. In short, the University already has strong policy and sound practice that provide that any institutional questions regarding academic freedom should be referred to the Provost as the university’s chief academic officer. In this case, that happened only after the film had been postponed. Once it was referred, the questions were addressed, and Troubled Waters was released on the original schedule.

“I am proud that the university is the place where faculty and staff are free to explore great ideas, debate and disagree, and take divergent positions on important issues and questions, all in the pursuit of knowledge and the advancement of learning. The Board of Regents Policy on Academic Freedom and Responsibility is fundamental to furthering that activity. We have reflected on this experience and learned from it.”

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U of M's Tucker Center's Fall Distinguished Lecture to highlight health disparities among minority females

U of M scholars to discuss the critical role of physical activity in obesity prevention

Contacts: Austin Stair Calhoun, Tucker Center, calho029@umn.edu, (612) 625-7327
Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

October 15, 2010

The Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport will hold its Fall 2010 Distinguished Lecture from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 20, at the Hubert H. Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis. This free lecture, titled "Reducing Obesity among Minority Females: The Critical Role of Physical Activity," will feature these three U of M scholars: Beth Lewis, Daheia J. Barr-Anderson, and Dianne Neumark-Sztainer.

Over the past three decades, the prevalence of obesity has dramatically increased in American adults and children, with the highest increases among minority females. Nearly half of African American (46 percent) and Latina (42 percent) girls ages 12 to 19 are overweight or obese, compared to less than 3 percent of white girls. Among adults, 80 percent of African American and Latina women are considered overweight or obese. To address this national epidemic, weight gain prevention efforts for girls and women of color are urgently needed. In this lecture, a trio of prominent University of Minnesota scholars will discuss the latest research on the critical role that physical activity plays in obesity-prevention strategies and policies as well as evidence-based, culturally appropriate approaches toward increasing physical activity among women and girls of color.

The speakers are:

Beth Lewis, an assistant professor in the U of M's School of Kinesiology and also an adjunct assistant professor of psychiatry and human behavior at Brown University Medical School. Lewis is also a licensed psychologist. Lewis received her doctorate in clinical psychology and completed her internship and postdoctoral training in behavioral interventions for exercise. Her groundbreaking research focuses on how to motivate sedentary adults, especially women, to become more physically active along with examining effective interventions for physical activity promotion. Lewis has authored several peer-review articles in top-tier journals and serves as the Principal Investigator on grants funded by the National Institutes of Health. Currently, Lewis is the principal investigator on a study examining the effect of exercise on preventing postpartum depression.

Daheia J. Barr-Anderson, an assistant professor in the School of Kinesiology at the U of M and trained in epidemiology. Her research interests focus on physical activity, sedentary behaviors, and obesity prevention in children and adolescents -- particularly interventions that incorporate both physical activity and nutrition to achieve healthy outcomes and to decrease racial/ethnic health inequalities. Barr-Anderson's research examining the environmental influences of physical activity and obesity among adolescent girls has resulted in grants from General Mills and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She was recently named a Scholar at the Deborah E. Powell Center for Women's Health.

Dianne Neumark-Sztainer, a professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health, School of Public Health, and an adjunct professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the U of M. Her award-winning research focuses on adolescent nutrition and the prevention of weight-related problems including eating disorders, unhealthy weight control behaviors, body dissatisfaction and obesity. Neumark-Sztainer has published more than 250 articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals, served as the Principal Investigator on several federally-funded grants and has received numerous honors for her innovative work including prestigious awards from the National Eating Disorders Association, the International Academy for Eating Disorders, and the Eating Disorders Coalition.

The lecture is free and open to the public.For those unable to attend, the event will also be available live online (http://z.umn.edu/tcdlslive). More information about the event is available at the Tucker Center web site: http://www.tuckercenter.org.

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Acclaimed African American poets to headline seventh annual NOMMO authors series at University of Minnesota

What: Seventh Annual NOMMO African American Authors Series
Who: Poets Patricia Smith, Gary Jackson and Yusef Komunyakaa
When: Wednesday, Nov. 3, (Patricia Smith); Thursday, Feb. 24, (Gary Jackson and Yusef Komunyakaa). All events begin at 7 p.m.
Where: Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey Center, University of Minnesota West Bank campus, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis
Tickets: $15 per event; $25 for the two-event series. Complimentary tickets available to U of M students and Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries. Call (612) 624-2345 or visit www.tickets.umn.edu

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Preston Smith, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

October 18, 2010

Three widely acclaimed contemporary African American writers have been selected for this year's NOMMO African American Authors series, co-sponsored by the Givens Foundation for African American Literature and the Friends of the University of Minnesota Libraries. Patricia Smith, Gary Jackson, and Yusef Komunyakaa will read from and discuss their work with host Alexs Pate, U of M professor and author of the novel "Amistad" on Wednesday, Nov. 3, (Patricia Smith) and Thursday, Feb. 24, (Gary Jackson and Yusef Komunyakaa) at 7 p.m. in Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, on the University's West Bank campus.

About Patricia Smith

Lauded by critics as "a testament to the power of words to change lives," Smith is the author of five acclaimed poetry volumes. "Blood Dazzler," which chronicles the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Katrina, was a finalist for the 2008 National Book Award. Smith's work has been published in "Poetry," "The Paris Review," "TriQuarterly" and other literary journals/anthologies, and performed around the world. A four-time individual champion in the National Poetry Slam — the most successful slammer in the competition's history — Smith has also been a featured poet on HBO's "Def Poetry Jam" and has performed three one-woman plays, one produced by Nobel Prize winner Derek Walcott. Smith teaches in the Stonecoast MFA program at the University of Southern Maine and is a professor of creative writing at the City University of New York/College of Staten Island.

About Gary Jackson and Yusef Komunyakaa

Winner of the 2009 Cave Canem Poetry Prize for his manuscript "Missing you, Metropolis," Jackson was born and raised in Topeka, Kan. He received his MFA in Poetry from the University of New Mexico in 2008 and his poems have appeared in "Inscape," "Magma," "The Literary Bohemian" and local chapbooks. Published by Greywolf Press, "Missing you, Metropolis" is lauded by critics such as Yusef Komunyakaa, who writes that the book "embodies and underscores a voice uniquely shaped and tuned for the 21st century." Jackson currently teaches English as a Second Language in Seoul, South Korea.

Komunyakaa is the critically acclaimed author of 14 books of poetry, including "Copacetic" and "Neon Vernacular: New & Selected Poems 1977–1989," for which he received the Pulitzer Prize. His latest book of poems, "Warhorses," was published in 2008. His prose is collected in "Blues Notes: Essays, Interviews & Commentaries," and he co-edited "The Jazz Poetry Anthology." In addition to the Pulitzer Prize, his honors include the 2004 Shelley Memorial Award, the 2001 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, the Hanes Poetry Prize and the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. He is professor and Distinguished Senior Poet at New York University.

About the NOMMO African American Authors series

Presented annually since 2004 by the Givens Foundation for African American Literature, 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. Additional sponsors this year are the University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center and Cave Canem.

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How to succeed in an unpredictable marketplace: U of M College of Design convenes top minds in retail and consumer trends on Oct. 21

What: “Retail Connect: Succeeding in an unpredictable marketplace”
When: 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21
Where: University Hall, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis

Contacts: Laura Weber, College of Design, l-webe@umn.edu, (612) 625-6566
Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

October 18, 2010

What are the top consumer trends that retailers will need to address to successfully navigate the marketplace in 2012 and beyond, and what are Minnesota retailers doing now to prepare?

The University of Minnesota College of Design is convening a special forum entitled “Retail Connect: Succeeding in an unpredictable marketplace,” where leading retail and consumer trend experts will share their insights, foresights and strategies.

"The Midwest and the Twin Cities are home to some of the world's leading retailers, including Target, Best Buy and Christopher and Banks, and we want to provide an opportunity to share and learn from each other innovative ideas concerning how to successfully navigate the current challenges facing the industry," says Kim Johnson, professor and chair of the retail merchandising program in the college's Department of Housing, Design, and Apparel.

Presenters include Mike Dervos, senior vice president and regional director of stores, Macy's North Region; Roberta Bonoff, CEO and president, Creative Kidstuff; and Vickie Abrahamson, Panoramix Global.

The event is open to the public but space is limited. The cost of attendance is $20 and registrations are required at http://z.umn.edu/retailconnect.

Presented by the college’s Retail Merchandising Program, Retail Merchandising Advisory Board and the Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel.

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Suicide prevention expert to speak at U of M on "Lessons I've Learned Since Graduation in Helping, and Losing, People," Oct. 25

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

October 18, 2010

Dan Reidenberg, executive director of SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education), a national non-profit agency working to prevent suicide and help suicide survivors and those suffering with mental illness, will speak at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 25, at the University of Minnesota's Coffman Union, Mississippi Room, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. A U of M College of Liberal Arts graduate, his lecture is entitled “Lessons I’ve Learned Since Graduation in Helping, and Losing, People.”

Reidenberg is also the managing director of the National Council for Suicide Prevention and serves on the steering committees for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center and the advisory committee of Reachout.com. In addition, he is the U.S. representative to the International Association for Suicide Prevention.

Fast facts on college students and suicide

* Suicide is the third leading cause of death among people ages 15 to 24, and the second leading cause of death in college students ages 20 to 24.
* Each year, 1,100 college students are lost to suicide.
* One in four college students struggle with a mental illness, such as depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety or eating disorders.

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

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U of M Recreation, Park, and Leisure students host first Gopher Adventure Race

Contacts: Diane Cormany , College of Education and Human Development,



Modeled after the popular television show, "The Amazing Race," the Gopher Adventure Race (GAR) will pair U of M students in teams of two, competing to become the Ultimate Gopher Adventurers.

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Patty Mattern, University News Service, mattern@umn.edu, (612) 624-2801

October 19, 2010

Students from the University of Minnesota's Recreation, Park, and Leisure Studies Program will host the first "Gopher Adventure Race" for students from 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22. The racecourse begins at Bierman Athletic Field, 516 15th Avenue S.E, Minneapolis, and features highlights found throughout the East Bank, West Bank and St. Paul campuses.

Modeled after the popular television show, "The Amazing Race," the Gopher Adventure Race (GAR) will pair U of M students in teams of two, competing to become the Ultimate Gopher Adventurers. The teams will complete a variety of mental and physical challenges that will test their knowledge and navigation of the campus as well as their adventurous spirit, including climbing a boulder wall and navigating the Mississippi River by canoe. The event will be accessible to people of all abilities.

"I had the idea for the Gopher Adventure Race from watching the Amazing Race and from other collegiate events, but those had too much emphasis on 'bigger, stronger, faster,' " said Connie Magnuson, coordinator for the Recreation, Park, and Leisure Studies Program. "I wanted to emphasize mental challenges, as well as show off the features of the campus.

"The GAR highlights numerous programs and resources and provides an opportunity for students to discover unique 'gems' the university has to offer as they travel around the campuses collecting clues, solving puzzles, and completing various tasks," Magnuson said.

The Gopher Adventure Race was organized by 85 undergraduate students and their instructors, providing students a hands-on experience in the recreation field.

"I learn more through real life experiences rather than just listening to a teacher lecture to me about my occupation choice," said Whitney Clapper, a recreation, park, and leisure studies student. "By working on an actual event with my classmates, I'm not only gaining the knowledge I will need for my future, but also creating something that will inspire people to learn more about the message we are getting across."

The race will be the first collegiate event to earn Green Event Certification from FitPlanet. A portion of the race fees will be donated to Forest Forever with Three Rivers Park District for creating and maintaining critical habitats.

Other partners and sponsors include: Wilderness Inquiry, the National Park Service, The North Face, CEHD Alumni Society, Visual Impact, Chevrolet, Ambassador Press, the Minnesota Timberwolves, Metro Transit and Peace Coffee. For additional information, please see z.umn.edu/gar.

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University of Minnesota research spurs technology that could lead to test that gives new hope for lupus patients



Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that primarily afflicts women of childbearing age (artist's rendition).

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/19/2010) —Research conducted by a team led by assistant professor Emily Baechler Gillespie at the University of Minnesota's Medical School has spurred ongoing development of technology that could lead to a test that may help physicians better manage systemic lupus erythematosus, a painful and often debilitating disease.

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that primarily afflicts women of childbearing age -- particularly African American women. The exact cause of the disease is unknown. The Lupus Foundation of America estimates that at least 1.5 million Americans and some 5 million people worldwide have systemic lupus. The disease can damage any part of the body, including skin, joints, heart, lungs, and kidneys, and symptoms typically include a characteristic butterfly rash, extreme fatigue, headaches, painful or swollen joints, and fever. Lupus is characterized by "flares" where symptoms, which can range from mild to life-threatening, suddenly worsen. Steroids are the most common form of treatment for the flares.

The technology currently in development by Gillespie is based on a research project that began in 2002 under U of M professor Timothy Behrens (now at Genentech). Using an algorithm developed by Jason Bauer, a former postdoctoral associate in Gillespie's lab, the test analyzes blood samples for a panel of four chemokines, a group of proteins that are released by an activated immune system. The change in these chemokine levels can indicate that the patient is at greater risk for a flare, which may enable the physician to adjust the treatment regime to prevent or mitigate the effects of the flare. Physicians presently have no reliable way to predict a flare, which means that patients are usually not seen until after symptoms have developed and irreversible organ damage has occurred, resulting in increased pain and risk for more complications, and requiring additional medications.

"Our research shows that a test could be developed that is predictive for the majority of lupus patients, so it should help physicians to more effectively manage the disease and hopefully improve patient quality of life," said Gillespie.

The technology has been developed to date using blood samples from lupus patients being treated by professor Michelle Petri, director of the Lupus Center at John Hopkins, where more than 1,000 patients are treated for the disease.The University's Office for Technology Commercialization granted an exclusive license for the technology to Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings® (LabCorp®) (NYSE: LH), a pioneer in the commercialization of new diagnostic technologies for health care providers and one of the worlds largest clinical laboratories.

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Climate may play a role in how fast new species evolve, U of M study finds

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/19/2010) —New species may develop faster as their predecessors evolve to adapt to changing climates, a new study led by a University of Minnesota scientist shows.

The study, published in the November issue of the journal "Ecology Letters," is the first to show that the rate at which species accumulate over time is strongly related to the rate at which species adapt to different climates.

"Both rates are particularly rapid among species inhabiting tropical regions, and so our results offer a novel and surprising explanation for why so many of Earth's species are found in the tropics," said the study's lead author, Ken Kozak, who is a curator in the Bell Museum of Natural History and an assistant professor in the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology at the U of M. They also examined how overlap between species in space influenced their rate of adaptation to different climate; they found slower rates where more species overlap in their geographic ranges.

"Our findings reveal what factors influence the rate at which species adapted to climate change in the past, and suggest that interactions between species might be important in preventing the adaptation of species to human-induced climate change in the future," Kozak said.

For the study, Kozak and his co-author, John Wiens, an associate professor at Stony Brook University, examined climatic and evolutionary data from 250 species of salamanders. These 250 species are found in diverse habitats ranging from the mountaintops of North America, to the cloud forests and lowland jungles of Central and South America.

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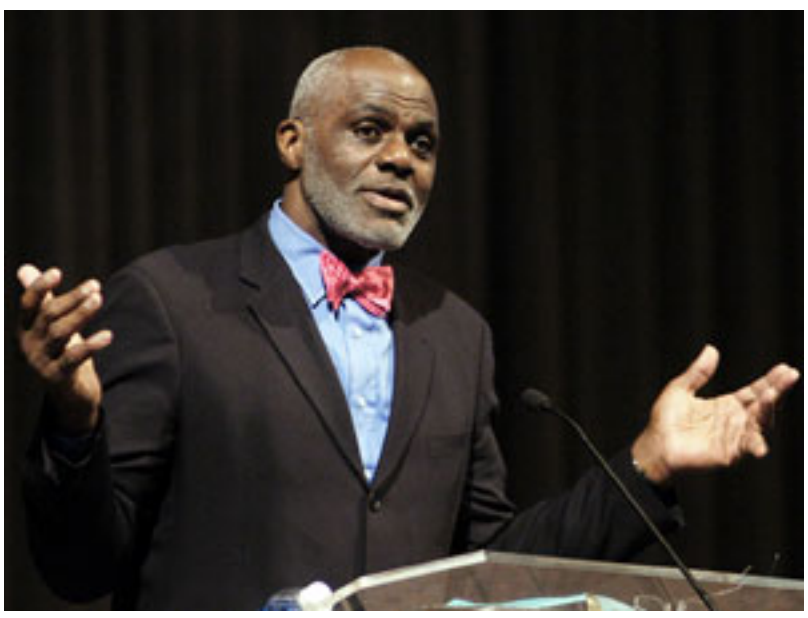
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Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page to open the new University of Minnesota LearningLife Forum Oct. 21

The former Vikings great and University of Minnesota Law School alumnus will reflect on his remarkable life



Page is a former defensive standout for the Minnesota Vikings who earned his law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School while still playing professionally.

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October 20, 2010

The University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education welcomes Alan Page back to campus the evening of Thursday, Oct. 21, for a personal account of the significant moments that have shaped our shared history.

The discussion kicks off a new series, the LearningLife Forum. During its first year, the forum will focus on the theme "Witness to History," and will ask some of Minnesota's most legendary public figures to share their experiences creating and witnessing history.

Page is a former defensive standout for the Minnesota Vikings who earned his law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School while still playing professionally. After his hall-of-of-fame football career came to a close, Page pursued his legal ambitions and currently presides as a Minnesota Supreme Court justice. With his wife, Diane, he also founded the Page Foundation, which has given over 4,000 Minnesota students of color scholarships towards their post-secondary education.

The LearningLife Forum event will consist of a discussion between Page and Cathy Wurzer, followed by a Q&A session with the audience. Immediately following the Q&A, Page will sign copies of his new biography, *All Rise: The Remarkable Journey of Alan Page*.

The event takes place at 7 p.m. at the Continuing Education and Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave., on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota.

Tickets are $15 and can be purchased by calling (612) 624-4000 or by visiting www.cce.umn.edu/learninglife. Tickets may be available for purchase at the door, however, advanced registration for the event is encouraged as seating is limited.

Future Forum speakers include the "godfather of the Minneapolis music scene" Chris Osgood (Nov. 18); noted arts patrons John and Sage Cowles (Dec. 16); former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale (Jan. 20); civil rights activist Josie Johnson (Feb. 17); world-famous transplant surgeon Dr. John Najarian (March 17); and Minnesota's prominent milling family members George and Sally Pillsbury (April 21).

The LearningLife Forum is a program of the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education. Through the College of Continuing Education, motivated adults enrich their personal and professional lives through learning opportunities ranging from courses, workshops and retreats, to credit certificates and bachelor's and master's degrees. For more information about the college, call (612) 624-4000 or visit www.cce.umn.edu.

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U of M hosts national conference on concurrent enrollment as a path to college and career

A form of dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment fosters close collaboration between high school instructors and college faculty

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/20/2010) —National leaders at the forefront of educational reform will come together Sunday through Tuesday, Oct. 24-26, at the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) annual conference, held this year in Minneapolis at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, 35 S. 7th St.

Hosted by the University of Minnesota's College in the Schools program, with assistance from the Minnesota Concurrent Enrollment Partnership, presenters will include leading experts from the American Youth Policy Forum; Jobs for the Future; the Community College Research Center at Columbia University; Middle College National Consortium; and the National Center for Restructuring Education, Schools, and Teaching.

The goal of the conference is to explore how concurrent enrollment can be used to improve academic achievement and college success of a broad range of students, including both high-achieving students and those not on a clear path to college and career.

Michelle Cooper, president of the national Institute for Higher Education Policy and a Forbes magazine “thought leader,” will be the keynote speaker.

A form of dual enrollment, concurrent enrollment fosters close collaboration between high school instructors and college faculty. College faculty select, prepare and support high school instructors who teach one or more post secondary courses in the high school during the regular school day. Students simultaneously earn high school and college credit by successfully completing concurrent enrollment courses.

Research provides strong evidence that dual enrollment and concurrent enrollment are effective tools to advance and support post secondary success by offering students a realistic view of the greater challenge of college courses and providing students with momentum that is critical for finishing a college degree.

Conference sessions will also focus on issues such as ensuring the quality of concurrent enrollment courses through professional development for high school instructors; fostering strong relationships between high school and postsecondary faculty; effective evaluation of concurrent enrollment programs; and public policy supporting high academic achievement in K-12 schools.

For information on the NACEP conference, including how to attend, please visit www.nacep.org. For information about the Minnesota Concurrent Enrollment Partnership, visit www.mncep.org. For information about the College in the Schools program, go to www.cce.umn.edu/College-in-the-Schools.

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University of Minnesota to officially dedicate Kenneth H. Keller Hall Oct. 27

Keller was U of M's president 1985-88

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The University of Minnesota will host a special dedication ceremony open to the public to mark the naming of Kenneth H. Keller Hall from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/20/2010) —The University of Minnesota will host a special dedication ceremony open to the public to mark the naming of Kenneth H. Keller Hall from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, at Kenneth H. Keller Hall, Room 3-180, 200 Union St. S.E., Minneapolis. Speakers will include former university president and chemical engineering professor Keller, U of M Board of Regents Chair Clyde Allen, University President Robert Bruininks, College of Science and Engineering Dean Steven Crouch and former chairman and CEO of ADC Telecommunications Charles Denny, Jr.

The university has a long and proud tradition of honoring past presidents by naming a building after them. The University of Minnesota Board of Regents earlier this year had approved the naming the Electrical Engineering/Computer Science Building on the east bank campus of the university's Twin Cities campus in honor of Keller. The building was completed during Keller's presidency. The renaming has been effective as of July 1.

Keller joined the University of Minnesota chemical engineering faculty in 1964. He subsequently became chair of the Faculty Consultative Committee, acting dean of the Graduate School, and vice president for academic affairs. In 1984, Keller was chosen to be acting president, and in 1985 was named University of Minnesota president, serving the university in that role until 1988.

After two years at Princeton University and seven years as a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, Keller returned to the University of Minnesota in 1996 as the Charles M. Denny, Jr. Professor of Science, Technology, and Public Policy in the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. Keller was designated President Emeritus by the Board of Regents in 2006 and is currently director of the Bologna Center of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, a multidisciplinary graduate program in international affairs enrolling students from 35 to 40 countries each year.

Kenneth H. Keller Hall is one of the university's largest academic buildings at more than 336,000 square feet, and is home to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and the university's Nanofabrication Center, all within the university's College of Science and Engineering.

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U of M biomedical experts help hundreds of middle schoolers prepare for robotics competition at Oct. 21 workshop



More than 200 students from across Minnesota, ages 9 to 14, will participate in hands-on sessions to learn more about biomedical engineering and medicine and begin preparing for “Body Forward,” the 2010 Minnesota FIRST LEGO League robotics competition.

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October 20, 2010

More than 200 students from across Minnesota, ages 9 to 14, will participate in hands-on sessions at the University of Minnesota’s Minneapolis campus from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21, to learn more about biomedical engineering and medicine and begin preparing for “Body Forward,” the 2010 Minnesota FIRST LEGO League robotics competition. The University of Minnesota research workshop for LEGO League participants is hosted by the university’s College of Science and Engineering.

The day begins with a keynote address by renowned researcher Claudia Zierold, scientific director of the university’s Center for Cardiovascular Repair, at 9 a.m. in the Moos Health Sciences Tower, Room 2-650, 515 Delaware St., S.E., Minneapolis. The students will attend various hands-on workshops throughout campus and then end their day with a performance by the Physics Force at 12:30 p.m. in the Tate Laboratory of Physics, Room 150, 116 Church St., S.E., Minneapolis.

Examples of the 10 interactive sessions for the kids include:

Medical Device Development: Build Your Own - 9:50-10:35 a.m. and 11-11:45 a.m., Shepherd Labs, 100 Union St., S.E., Room 554
During this workshop students will learn about what it means to be a medical device biomedical engineer. They will be presented with a disease and be asked to brainstorm and build the device.

Optical Mapping the Electrical Activity of the Heart - 9:50-10:35 a.m. and 11-11:45 a.m., Molecular and Cellular Biology, 420 Washington, Ave., S.E., Room 4122
During this workshop students will learn how the heart works and what tools are used to study the heart in normal and diseased states.

Virtual Reality - 9:50-10:35 a.m. and 11-11:45 a.m., Walter Library, 117 Pleasant St., S.E., Room 107
This workshop will give students an introduction to virtual reality and its uses for medical and scientific visualizations. Students will be able to experience virtual reality first hand and see a new interface for viewing medical CAT scans in 3D.

Regenerative Medicine - 9:50-10:35 a.m. and 11-11:45 a.m., Hasselmo Hall, 312 Church St., S.E., Room 4-101
Students in this workshop will learn about regenerative medicine, followed by a hands-on exercise in groups of five students to design a regenerative approach for a disease.

This year’s LEGO League competition theme, “Body Forward,” will help middle school students explore the cutting-edge world of biomedical engineering to discover innovative ways to repair injuries, overcome illnesses and disabilities, and build stronger and healthier bodies. The competition challenges students to build small autonomous robots from a kit of more than 1,000 parts, including LEGO pieces and elements such as sensors, motors and gears, to accomplish missions related to climate. Students must also complete an eight-week research project in which they identify a problem caused by climate in their community and create an innovative solution.

Last year in Minnesota, about 3,000 students competed in 13 Minnesota LEGO League competitions organized by the Minnesota nonprofit group High Tech Kids. Worldwide more than 150,000 children in 56 countries compete in LEGO League competitions.

The University of Minnesota Research Workshop, in its fifth year, is hosted by the College of Science and Engineering, in cooperation with the University’s Medical Devices Center, Physics Force, Visible Heart Laboratory, Academic Health Center, Minnesota Supercomputing Institute and High Tech Kids. Funding and in-kind support was provided by these units, along with the St. Jude Medical Foundation and High Tech Kids.

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

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U of M and U.S. Census Bureau to open new Minnesota Census Research Data Center Oct. 27

Center will advance understanding of the sources and consequences of change in American society

Media Note: Media planning to attend must RSVP to jfalk@umn.edu.

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Robert Bernstein/Neil Tillman, U.S. Census Bureau, pio@census.gov, (301) 763-3030

October 25, 2010

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks and U.S. Census Bureau Director Robert Groves will speak at a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the new Minnesota Census Research Data Center (MnRDC) at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, 120 Anderson Hall, 257 19th Avenue S.E., Minneapolis. The U of M is one of a few academic institutions nationwide to host such a center.

RDCs are secure Census Bureau facilities where researchers from academia, federal agencies and other institutions receive access to unpublished demographic and economic microdata files from the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and other federal agencies.

Data available in the RDC are critical for cutting-edge research in the fields of business, economics, epidemiology, geography, health services, population, public policy and sociology.

Funded by the National Science Foundation and the university's Office of the Vice President for Research, the MnRDC is staffed by a Census Bureau employee and meets all physical and computer security requirements for access to confidential data.

The goals of MnRDC are twofold. First, the MnRDC will help Minnesota researchers, working in collaboration with the Census Bureau and NCHS, to support and improve basic data infrastructure for economic, demographic and health research. Second, the MnRDC will stimulate new academic research that capitalizes on powerful restricted-access datasets to advance understanding of the sources and consequences of change in American society.

Currently, there are 25 researchers using the MnRDC, working on 16 projects. Projects include a study of marriage and economic opportunity in the United States using decennial census data; an examination of the role of agents and brokers in the health insurance decisions of small businesses; an analysis of the impact of educational quality on health status later in life; and a study of employer provision of health insurance under changing economic incentives created by reforms to health care.

For more information, see the MnRDC website, www.mnrdc.umn.edu, and the Center for Economic Studies at the U.S. Census Bureau, www.ces.census.gov.

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U of M celebrates Tretter collection anniversary with exhibit, open house

Community invited to submit items for time capsule and participate in oral history project

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October 25, 2010

Ten years ago, GLBT community leader Jean-Nickolaus Tretter donated his personal collection of books and other artifacts to the University of Minnesota Libraries. Since then, the Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies has continued to grow, now with more than 40,000 items providing a record of GLBT thought, knowledge and culture for current and future generations.

The U Libraries are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the arrival of the Tretter Collection with an exhibit and two special events in the Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave. S., Minneapolis, all free and open to the public.

The opening reception for the "Saving Our Lives" exhibit will be from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m on Friday, Nov. 5. A presentation highlighting the importance of preserving GLBT cultural heritage and the significant impact it can have on the lives of individuals and our community will begin at noon.

A Community Open House will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13, featuring:

* **Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra Chamber Group** performing from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
* KARE 11 News reporter **Jana Shortal** will present from 12:30-1 p.m.
* **Calliope Women's Chorus** will perform from 1-1:30 p.m.
* Guided **tours of Anderson Library archival caverns** throughout open house
* Collection of items for the **Tretter Time Capsule** (see z.umn.edu/tretterevents for contribution guidelines)
* A **video recording station** for individuals to share memories, stories and insights

The exhibit will remain open through Saturday, Feb. 5, 2011; exhibit hours and directions to Andersen Library are available at special.lib.umn.edu/hoursdir.phtml. More about the Tretter Collection is at special.lib.umn.edu/rare/tretter.phtml.

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Space shuttle astronaut to speak at U of M Oct. 28

Capt. Daniel Brandenstein to present two U of M students with $10,000 scholarships

Media Note: Astronaut Brandenstein will be available after the public talk from 1:30-1:45 p.m. for media interviews.



Capt. Brandenstein, who has flown four shuttle missions, logged more than 780 hours in space and commanded the maiden voyage of Endeavour.

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Preston Smith, University News Service, smith@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

October 26, 2010

Space shuttle astronaut Capt. Daniel Brandenstein will give a free public talk and present two University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering students with $10,000 scholarships at a special event 12:35-1:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28, in Coffman Memorial Union, Mississippi Room, 300 Washington Ave., S.E., Minneapolis. The lecture, sponsored by the University Honors Program, is free and open to the public.

Capt. Brandenstein, who has flown four shuttle missions, logged more than 780 hours in space and commanded the maiden voyage of Endeavor.

Brandenstein was born and grew up in Watertown, Wisc. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 1965, he entered active duty with the U.S. Navy. Brandenstein flew 192 combat missions in the Vietnam War.

He was serving as an A-6 flight instructor when NASA tapped him to become an astronaut in 1978. Brandenstein's first shuttle mission was as pilot aboard Challenger during the first-ever nighttime launch and landing mission. He served as shuttle commander for three subsequent missions, including the maiden voyage of Space Shuttle Endeavour.

Brandenstein served as chief of NASA's Astronaut Office from 1987-1992. He was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2003 and currently serves on the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation's Board of Directors.

In addition to the public talk, Brandenstein will present two University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering students each with a $10,000 scholarship. Half of the $20,000 in scholarship funds is from the Astronaut Scholarship Foundation (ASF), and the university's Office of the President matched the funding to provide two scholarships. The scholarship recipients are Matthew Coudron, majoring in mathematics and physics, and Scott Isaacson, majoring in chemical engineering. Both students are enrolled in the University Honors Program.

The Astronaut Scholarship is the largest monetary award given in the United States to science and engineering undergraduate students based solely on merit.

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Noted legal scholar Daniel Bodansky to speak at U of M on climate change negotiations

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Daniel Bodansky is the Lincoln Professor of Law, Ethics, and Sustainability at Arizona State University and also an affiliated faculty member in both the College of Law's Center for Law and Global Affairs and the Global Institute of Sustainability's School of Sustainability at ASU.

October 27, 2010

Renowned environmental law professor Daniel Bodansky, from the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Conner College of Law, will speak on "The International Climate Change Negotiations: The Road from Copenhagen" at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17 in the Mississippi Room at the University of Minnesota's Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Bodansky's lecture is the second of two 2010-11 Lecture Series on Law, Health & the Life Sciences on "From Climate Change to the Gulf Oil Spill: Law and Science in Times of Crisis" and is sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences. The lecture is free and open to the public. It is co-sponsored by the University's Consortium on Law, Health & the Life Sciences and Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences.

Bodansky will discuss the outcomes of last year's Copenhagen climate change conference. He will examine: Was it a success or failure? And what are the prospects for the United Nations climate change regime going forward? Is the upcoming conference in Cancun this December likely to do better than Copenhagen? What are the chances for a new legal agreement on climate change, either to supplement or replace the Kyoto Protocol? In his talk, he will discuss the past, present, and future of the international climate change negotiations.

Bodansky, the Lincoln Professor of Law, Ethics, and Sustainability at Arizona State University, is also an affiliated faculty member in both the College of Law's Center for Law and Global Affairs and the Global Institute of Sustainability's School of Sustainability at ASU. His scholarship includes two books, 24 scholarly articles and book chapters, five book reviews and more than 40 papers and presentations. He is the recipient of a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellowship, a Pew Faculty Fellowship in International Affairs, and a Jean Monnet Fellowship from the European University Institute in Florence. Bodansky currently serves on the Board of Editors of the American Journal of International Law and is the U.S.-nominated arbitrator under the Antarctic Environment Protocol. In addition, he is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the American Society of International Law.

For more information on the lecture, visit www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu.

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U of M's "Minnesota 2.0" project documents 1.5 and 2nd generation immigrants' use of social media

Project shows how use of social media helps immigrant youth develop their identity

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/27/2010) —"Minnesota 2.0," a new digital archive created by the University of Minnesota Immigration History Research Center (IHRC), aims to document how 1.5 and 2nd generation Mexican, Somali, and Hmong youth use social networking sites to express their emerging sense of identity and social connection. The archive explores the youth's connections to Minnesota and the United States, to their parents and communities, to each other and to the homelands from which their families arrived.

"Our research overturns assumptions that social networking sites are time-wasters that distract youth from more meaningful pursuits," said Yuridia Ramírez, one of the undergraduate student researchers. "Instead, we have found that participating in social networking discussions opens crucial spaces of identity formation."

Beginning in September 2009, six undergraduates and two graduate students focused on publicly-accessible Facebook fan pages and groups initiated by the three ethnic groups. The researchers wanted to examine how themes such as the following are discussed and debated:

- Ethnic identity and pride
- The struggles of living life as an immigrant and refugee
- Discussions about language as it relates to cultural and ethnic identity
- Education
- Gender and sexuality
- Homeland politics
- Religion
- Americanization and assimilation

Given the name of the project as well as the location of the IHRC, the researchers first looked at Facebook groups that were set up within Minnesota. They soon discovered no geographical boundaries were possible given Facebook's ability to transcend physical borders and given these groups' desire to connect to people around the world.

"Facebook and other types of Web 2.0 constitute a dynamic and wide-ranging platform for immigrant and refugee youth to shape their own identities as well as to connect with other youth—and even some adults—across Minnesota and across the world," said Donna Gabaccia, professor and IHRC director.

Learn more about Minnesota 2.0 and view the archive at http://z.umn.edu/ihrcmn20.

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U of M Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies to host filmmaker Michael Prazan, Nov. 4-7

Prazan will screen the local premiere of documentary on the "Holocaust by Bullets"

Who: French film director Michael Prazan
What: Screenings of "Einsatzgruppen: The Death Brigades"
When: 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4, and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7
Where: St. Anthony Main Theater, 115 Main St. S.E., Minneapolis
Tickets: $8.50 general, $6.50 students/seniors
FFI: www.chgs.umn.edu or (612) 624-0256

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October 27, 2010

French filmmaker Michael Prazan will be in Minneapolis, Nov. 4-7, for screenings of his film "Einsatzgruppen: The Death Brigades." The documentary details the SS killing squads (Einsatzgruppen, or "Intervention Groups") charged with destroying entire Jewish populations in occupied Eastern Europe during World War II.

Referred to as the "Holocaust by Bullets," the mobile death units moved through Eastern Europe into Soviet territories in 1941, recruiting assistants in the Baltic states and Ukraine to help them carry out the extermination of the Jews in towns, cities and villages. These brigades killed an estimated 1.5 million Jews between June and December 1941, their atrocities only a prelude to the mass exterminations that followed at the death camps in Poland.

The 180-minute film contains previously unseen archival footage, much of it in color, some shot as home movies by the German brigades themselves. Prazan interviews historians, Holocaust survivors, witnesses and perpetrators to give a complete view of the horror and scale of this operation which was responsible for the deaths of millions of innocent Jewish families.

The screenings will be followed by a Q&A with Prazan. His appearance is sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Prazan was born in 1970 and graduated with a degree in linguistics from the Sorbonne in 1996. He taught French literature before becoming a filmmaker. Prazan lived in Japan for several years while making his first two films, "The Nanking Massacre: Memory and Oblivion" (2006) and "Japan, the Red Years" (2002), about the terrorist tendencies of some of Japan's May '68 children. He has written a book on the making of the Einsatzgruppen film, which will be published in France later this year.

Prazan is available for interviews in Minneapolis Nov. 4-7.

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University of Minnesota one of only three schools in nation to earn straight "A's" in sustainability

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The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities is one of only three schools in the nation that has received all "A's" in the College Sustainability Report Card scores.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/27/2010) —The University of Minnesota, Twin Cities is one of only three schools in the nation that has received all "A's" in the College Sustainability Report Card scores released today. This is the fifth consecutive year the U of M has improved its marks and the first time the university has received A's in all nine categories. The College Sustainability Report Card surveyed 322 schools this year.

The Report Card evaluates campus sustainability as a whole rather than focus on one single issue. Grades are based on 52 indicators in nine categories, which are:

- Administration
- Climate Change and Energy
- Food and Recycling
- Green Building
- Transportation
- Student Involvement
- Endowment Transparency
- Investment Priorities
- Shareholder Engagement

The work of the university's long-standing Social Concerns Committee and asset management team provides a basis for high marks in the last three categories. Grades have also shifted as the data gathering process has improved and become more thorough. Student involvement was one category that increased this year's grade. University staff enlisted the help of students in efforts to meet the university's aggressive energy reduction goals in the last year as part of the "It All Adds Up" campaign.

Sustainability has long been a priority for the university. In 2004, the Board of Regents established the Policy on Sustainability and Energy Efficiency, which has fostered the integration of sustainability into research, education, outreach and campus operations.

"This year's Report Card grade reflects a comprehensive approach and years of accomplishments by a large number of engaged and committed people integrating sustainability in their own work," said Amy Short, director of sustainability at the University of Minnesota.

Having sustainability as a priority helps drive innovative, creative and practical changes that are good for the university's future, Short said.

This is the fifth annual Report Card issued by the Sustainable Endowments Institute, a Cambridge, Mass.-based non-profit organization engaged in research and education to advance sustainability in campus operations and endowment practices.

The university's full-page profile can be found on the GreenReportCard.org web site.

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U of M School of Music announces November events and concerts line-up

"Elmer Gantry" opera and 49th Annual Marching Band Indoor Concert among the highlights

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The 49th Annual Marching Band Indoor Concert takes place Saturday, Nov. 13 and Sunday, Nov. 14 in Northrop Auditorium.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (10/27/2010) —The University of Minnesota School of Music's November event highlights include the University Singers Fall Concert: The Music of Jeffrey Van (Nov. 12), 49th Annual Marching Band Indoor Concert (Nov. 13-14), Faculty Recital: Alexander Fiterstein, clarinet, and Timothy Lovelace, piano (Nov. 15), A Conversation with Carter Pann and Frank Ticheli (Nov. 18), University Opera Theatre's Minnesota premiere of Robert Aldridge's Elmer Gantry (Nov. 18-21), and Jazz Ensemble I opening for the JazzMN Orchestra (Nov. 20).

Most School of Music events are free, unless otherwise noted, and all events are open to the public. The School of Music's Ferguson Hall, 2106 4th St. S., and Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis, are both located on the U of M's West Bank campus. Convenient parking is available at the university's 19th Avenue and 21st Avenue parking ramps.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

U of M School of Music Percussion Ensemble
4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20 | Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall, Ferguson Hall
This concert by the U of M SOM Percussion Ensemble is in collaboration with the Mexican Consulate in St. Paul as part of the year long celebration of Mexico's bicentennial of independence and will consist entirely of a program of Mexican composers.

U of M School of Music Organ Student Showcase
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23 | Northrop Auditorium
Organ students at the University of Minnesota perform on the historic 108-rank Æolian-Skinner Pipe Organ in Northrop Memorial Auditorium. Sponsored by the Friends of the Northrop Organ.

ORCHESTRAL EVENTS

Campus Orchestra: A Night of Dances
7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 1 | Ted Mann Concert Hall
Featuring Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake Suite, Gounod's Faust ballet music, Bizet's Carmen Suite 1 and 2, Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 5, and Strauss's Blue Danube or Emperor's Waltz.

CHORAL EVENTS

University Men's and Women's Chorus: Fall Program
7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5 | University Lutheran Church of Hope, 601 13th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis
Program to include Felix Mendelssohn's Verleih' uns Frieden, Eliza Gilkyson's Requiem, Maurice Durufle's Messe Cum Jubilo, Nicola Porpora's Magnificat, McCartney's Blackbird, and many more.

University Singers Fall Concert: The Music of Jeffrey Van
7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12 | Ted Mann Concert Hall
Kathy Saltzman Romey, Matthew Mehaffey and Christopher Owen, conductors with featured guest Jeffrey Van, guitar. Christopher Owen will give a 20-minute pre-concert lecture on the music of Jeffrey Van at 7 p.m. in Ted Mann Concert Hall. Program to include: Night Sings to Morning* Three Poems of William Blake; A Procession Winding Around Me Four Civil War Poems of Walt Whitman; The Beatitudes; A Ring of Birds Six poems by Crane, Wordsworth, Tennyson, Lowell, Whitman; Fourteen Angels; and Moto perpetuo.

Guitarist and composer Jeffrey Van has premiered over 50 works for guitar including Dominick Argento's Letters from Composers, five concertos and a broad variety of chamber music. He has been featured on many NPR broadcasts, made several solo and ensemble recordings and appeared on 10 recordings with The Dale Warland Singers.

Van's compositions include works for guitar, guitar and violin, guitar and flute, chorus, chamber ensemble, vocal solo, organ and a concerto for two guitars and chamber orchestra. His music is published by Boosey & Hawkes, Walton, Colla Voce, Mark Foster, Earthsongs, MorningStar and Hal Leonard.

JAZZ EVENTS

Jazz Ensemble I opens for the JazzMN Orchestra
7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20 | Hopkins High School Performing Arts Center, 2400 Lindberg Dr., Minnetonka
Tickets: http://www.jazzmn.org/tickets.html
Jazz Ensemble I will open for the JazzMN Orchestra who will start Stan Kenton's 100th birthday celebration with an expanded 10-piece brass section. Dean Sorenson, director.

Jazz Combos in Concert
7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 29 | Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall, Ferguson Hall
Dean Sorenson, director.

BAND EVENTS

49th Annual Marching Band Indoor Concert
7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13
2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14 | Northrop Auditorium
Hear the Pride of Minnesota raise the roof at Northrop! Program to be selected from halftime shows such as West Side Story, Big Band, and Glee, as well as from traditional music including "Go Gopher Victory," "Hail! Minnesota," and the "Minnesota Rouser."
Tim Diem, Alicia Neal, Craig Kirchhoff, and Jerry Luckhardt, conductors. Stan Freese, master of ceremonies
Tickets: (612) 624-2345 or www.tickets.umn.edu; $20 adults, $16 children 12 and under, $15 U of M students

A Conversation with Carter Pann and Frank Ticheli
7-8:30 p.m. Thursday Nov. 18 | Ferguson Hall, Room 225
The School of Music is pleased to host "A Conversation with Carter Pann and Frank Ticheli." This session is open to all interested wind band conductors. Ticheli and Pann will be in residence at the U of M School of Music from Wednesday, Nov. 17, through Tuesday, Nov. 23.

U of M School of Music Wind Ensemble featuring Carter Pann (piano) and guest conductor Frank Ticheli
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23 | Ted Mann Concert Hall
Featuring the regional premiere of Carter Pann's Concerto Logic for Piano and Wind Symphony with Carter Pann as guest pianist. Frank Ticheli will guest conduct his "Angels in the Architecture," a work inspired by and premiered at the Sydney Opera House on July 6, 2008. The program will also feature the The Singers, Minnesota Choral Artists, (Matthew Culloton, conductor) who will join the U of M Wind Ensemble in a performance of Igor Stravinsky's Mass. Craig Kirchhoff, conductor.

U of M School of Music Wind Ensemble: Chamber Music
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30 | Ted Mann Concert Hall
Craig Kirchhoff, conductor

OPERA EVENTS

University Opera Theatre presents Robert Aldrige's Elmer Gantry
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18–Saturday, Nov. 20
1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21 | Ted Mann Concert Hall
Libretto by Herschel Garfein. David Walsh, director
Robert Aldridge's Elmer Gantry is closely based on Pulitzer prize-winning author Sinclair Lewis' controversial 1927 satire of evangelical religion and revivalism. In Elmer Gantry, composer Robert Aldridge and librettist Herschel Garfein have created a powerful new opera, which resonates strongly in our own times. Aldridge and Garfein will visit the Twin Cities for Elmer Gantry's Minnesota premiere and will be available for interviews, schedule TBA.
Tickets: (612) 624-2345 or www.tickets.umn.edu; $22/$12 students and children. Two for one tickets for U of M students, faculty, alumni, staff and retirees.

FACULTY EVENTS

Faculty Recital: Alexander Fiterstein, clarinet and Timothy Lovelace, piano
7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 15 | Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall, Ferguson Hall
Debut recital of award winning clarinetist and faculty member Alexander Fiterstein with SOM faculty Timothy Lovelace, piano. The program will include works by Brahms, Debussy and Weinberg. Fiterstein is recognized for playing which combines flawless technique and consummate musicianship with graceful phrasing and a warm, soulful tone. Considered one of today's most exceptional clarinet players, he has performed in recital and with prestigious orchestras and chamber music ensembles throughout the world. Winner of a 2009 Avery Fisher Career Grant Award, Fiterstein has been praised by the New York Times for possessing a "beautiful liquid clarity."

GUEST EVENTS

Guest Recital: Anna-Kaisa Liedes, Improvisation from a Finnish Folk Perspective
7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 5 | Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall, Ferguson Hall
This concert will span the distance from archaic Finno-Ugrian song to contemporary free improvisation, all held together by the supreme medium of emotional expression, the human voice. Anna-Kaisa Liedes has been an integral part of the development of the modern experimental folk music scene in Finland for over twenty years. Besides Finno-Ugrian song tradition and kantele playing, she specializes in vocal improvisation, exploring the possibilities of the human voice. In her doctoral work (Sibelius Academy, 2005) she focused on human vocal expressions beyond traditional singing, experimenting how far she would dare to go in her emotional expression. Supported by the Government of Finland, David and Nancy Speer, U of M Institute for Global Studies and Finnish American Cultural Activities.

Guest Recital: Benjamin Toth and Gene Koshinski, percussion
7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19 | Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall, Ferguson Hall
Benjamin Toth, professor of percussion at The Hartt School, University of Hartford, has presented concerts, radio and television broadcasts, master classes, and children's programs throughout Europe and the United States, as well as in Brazil, Ghana, Hong Kong, Japan, and Trinidad. Percussionist and composer Gene Koshinski has delighted audiences worldwide with his artistic performances and dynamic programming. He is currently instructor of percussion at the University of Minnesota, Duluth and in constant demand as a soloist and chamber musician having performed in Austria, Belgium, Germany, Jordan, Slovenia, Canada and throughout the United States.

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U of M Alumni Association Statewide Speakers Tour makes stops in Thief River Falls, Staples, Park Rapids, Virginia and Morgan in November

Theme is U of M's role in building and sustaining a strong state economy

Contacts: Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720
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October 29, 2010

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association's 2010-11 Statewide Speakers Tour program, "Building and Sustaining a Strong Economy: The University of Minnesota's Unique Role," will visit Thief River Falls, Staples, Park Rapids, Virginia and Morgan in November.

The tour highlights the university's nine Research and Outreach Centers associated with the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) and their impact on teaching, discovery and Minnesota's economy.

Events details

12 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2
Thief River Falls Rotary, Best Western, 1060 Hwy 32 S., Thief River Falls
Presenter: Marla Spivek, McKnight Distinguished Professor in entomology and recipient of a "genius grant" from the MacArthur Foundation
Title: "On the road to recovery: Bees, pollination and floral landscapes"

7 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3
Staples Rotary, The Spot Café, 116 2nd Ave. N.E., Staples
Presenter: Mary Kay Delvo, director of advocacy, Alumni Association
Topic: "What's new at the U"

12 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3
Park Rapids Rotary, St. Joseph Area Health Services, 600 Pleasant Ave., lower level conference room, Park Rapids
Presenter: Dan Erkkila, head of the university's North Central Research and Outreach Center, Grand Rapids
Topic: "Building and sustaining a strong economy: the University of Minnesota's unique role"

12 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10
Virginia Rotary, Coates Plaza Hotel, 502 Chestnut St., Virginia
Presenter: Gary Davis, dean, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth
Topic: "The University of Minnesota Medical School's role in encouraging their graduates to practice medicine in rural Minnesota"

6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 22
Morgan Lions, Lions Community Center, 117 Vernon St., Morgan
Presenter: Gary Johnson, Extension professor of urban and community forestry
Topic: "Preparing communities for catastrophic tree losses"

The ROCs consist of the following entities: Northwest Research and Outreach Center, Crookston; West Central Research and Outreach Center, Morris; Southwest Research and Outreach Center, Lamberton; Southern Research and Outreach Center, Waseca; Rosemount Research and Outreach Center, Rosemount; Cloquet Forestry Center, Cloquet; Horticultural Research Center and the Landscape Arboretum, Chanhassen; Sand Plain Experimental Research Farm, Becker; and North Central Research and Outreach Center, Grand Rapids.

Communities interested in bringing the program, "Building and Sustaining a Strong Economy: the University of Minnesota's Unique Role," to their community, may contact Mary Kay Delvo, Alumni Association advocacy director, at delvo003@umn.edu or (612) 626-1417.

For more information, including upcoming tour stops, visit the Statewide Speakers Tour webpage at www.MinnesotaAlumni.org/Statewide_Tour.

The University of Minnesota Alumni Association is a 60,000-member organization whose members are ambassadors for the excellent teaching and breakthrough research that happens at the University every day. For more information, visit www.MinnesotaAlumni.org or call (612) 624-2323.

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"Enemies of the People:" Director of new Cambodian Genocide documentary in Minneapolis Nov. 11

U of M Human Rights Program sponsors Rob Lemkin's visit

What: Screening of “Enemies of the People” with director/producer Rob Lemkin
When: 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11
Where: St. Anthony Main Theater, 115 Main St. S.E., Minneapolis
FFI public: www.hrp.cla.umn.edu or (612) 626-7947
Tickets: $10 general, $8 students/seniors

Contacts: Kelly O'Brien, College of Liberal Arts, obrie136@umn.edu, (612) 624-4109
Jeff Falk, University News Service, jfalk@umn.edu, (612) 626-1720

November 1, 2010

Rob Lemkin, director/producer of “Enemies of the People,” will appear at a screening of the film on Thursday, Nov. 11. The University of Minnesota’s Human Rights Program is sponsoring his visit.

“Enemies of the People” follows co-director/producer Thet Sambath’s journey as he methodically cultivates access to the men and women who perpetrated the massacres of two million Cambodians during the genocide of 1975-79. Sambath is on a personal quest: he lost his own family in the Killing Fields. The film is his journey to discover not how but why they died. In doing so, he hears and understands for the first time the real story of his country’s tragedy.

After years of visits and trust-building, Sambath finally persuades party’s ideological leader, Nuon Chea (aka Brother Number Two) to admit in detail how he and Pol Pot decided to kill party members whom they considered enemies of the people. Lemkin’s and Sambath’s work represents a watershed both in Cambodian historiography and in the country’s quest for closure on one of the world’s darkest episodes.

“Enemies of the People” will screen at 7 p.m. at St. Anthony Main as part of Minnesota Film Arts’ In Search of Asia: Minneapolis-St. Paul Asian Film Festival. Lemkin will follow the screening with a discussion and Q&A.

Rob Lemkin is the founder and director of Old Street Films. He has produced and directed over 50 documentaries for BBC, Channel 4 (United Kingdom), ITV, Sky, The History Channel and Arts & Entertainment. He has won numerous awards in Britain and abroad, and his work has appeared in major documentary strands for C4, BBC and ITV. He has made several films about the history and politics of Asia, including The Real Dr Evil (BBC/Arts & Entertainment 2003), Who Really Killed Aung San? (BBC2 1997), Malaya: The Undeclared War (BBC2 1998), China: Handle with Care (C4 2001) and Bearers of the Sword (C4 2002)

Rob Lemkin is available for interviews in Minneapolis on Nov. 11 and by phone the week prior.

Trailer: http://enemiesofthepeoplemovie.com/watch-clip

The university's Human Rights Program educates students by connecting them with academic and real-world experience in the field of international human rights. The program brings together faculty and students with other human rights actors, including governmental and nongovernmental organizations, to support interdisciplinary research and training in the field of human rights.

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Expanding croplands chipping away at world's carbon stocks, new study says

Study was prepared by a team of researchers from the University of Minnesota, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Stanford University, Arizona State University and The Nature Conservancy

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/01/2010) —According to a study published online today in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), nature's capacity to store carbon, the element at the heart of global climate woes, is steadily eroding as the world's farmers expand croplands at the expense of native ecosystem such as forests.

The tradeoff between agricultural production and maintaining nature's carbon reservoirs – native trees, plants and their carbon-rich detritus in the soil – is becoming more pronounced as more and more of the world's natural ecosystems succumb to the plow. The problem, experts say, is most acute in the tropics, where expanding agriculture often comes at the expense of the tropical forests that act as massive carbon sinks because of their rich diversity and abundance of plant life.

"This study is important, because it asks how we make tradeoffs between producing more food and sustaining key aspects of the environment, especially our tropical forests", says Jonathan Foley, director of the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, and a co-author on the study.

The seriousness of the problem is documented in the most comprehensive and fine-grained analysis of the world's existing carbon stocks and global crop yields. The PNAS study was prepared by a team of researchers from the University of Minnesota, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Stanford University, Arizona State University and The Nature Conservancy. The article is part of a special PNAS feature on climate mitigation and agricultural productivity in the tropics.

"We analyzed the tradeoffs between carbon storage and crop production at a level of detail that has never been possible before," according to Stephen Carpenter, one of the senior authors of the study and a professor at the Center for Limnology at UW-Madison. "The main news is that agricultural production by clearing land in the tropics releases a lot of greenhouse gases per unit of food produced."

Compared to the world's temperate regions, the tropics release nearly twice as much carbon to the atmosphere for each unit of land cleared, explains Paul C. West, the lead author of the study. "Tropical forests store a tremendous amount of carbon, and when a forest is cleared, not only do you lose more carbon, but crop yields are not nearly as high as they are in temperate areas."

"This creates a kind of 'double whammy' for a lot of tropical agriculture: we have to clear carbon-rich ecosystems to create tropical croplands, and unfortunately they often have lower yields than temperate systems," says Foley. "In terms of balancing the needs of food production and slowing carbon dioxide emissions, this is a tough tradeoff."

In the tropics, for example, it is estimated that for every ton of crop yield, carbon stocks are diminished by as much as 75 tons. Such attrition, say West and his colleagues, makes a strong case for intensifying agriculture on already-converted land instead of putting new fields into production.

"One path is to expand agricultural land," says West. "The other path is to intensify agriculture on existing lands. The realty is there will be some of both."

Today, about 20 percent of the land in temperate regions is in cropland. In the tropics, 11 percent of the land is farmed. However, in the tropics pressure to plant more land is growing fastest due to increasing human population, changing diets, food security concerns, and a rising demand for the raw materials of biofuels.

Carbon is one of the planet's most abundant elements. It is present in all known life forms and moves naturally between the biosphere, oceans and atmosphere in a process that allows the element to be continuously recycled. Human processes, and in particular agriculture, accelerate the process by rapidly converting carbon stocks in trees, other plants and the soil to carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas.

Global carbon stocks, notes West, can be analogous to a checking account: "The math is pretty simple. When you clear a forest, it is like making a big withdrawal from the checking account."

Foley, Carpenter and West believe the new analysis will be a valuable tool for governments, non-profit organizations and businesses. Already, commercial carbon exchanges are beginning to emerge and detailed knowledge of where carbon stocks are preserved or could be expanded will be valuable information.

In addition to Foley, Carpenter and West, authors of the new study include Holly K. Gibbs of Stanford University, Chad Monfreda of Arizona State University, John Wagner of the Nature Conservancy, and Carol Barford of UW-Madison. NASA, The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Department of Energy funded the study.

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University of Minnesota to study "Experiments on Rivers: The Consequences of Dams"

Nov. 11-12 conference examines the effects, both intended and unintended, of dams in the Midwest and across the world

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/04/2010) —The University of Minnesota will host a major conference on dams, “Experiments on Rivers: The Consequences of Dams,” Thursday and Friday, Nov. 11-12, at the university's Nolte Center, 315 Pillsbury Drive S.E., and the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory auditorium, 2 3rd Ave. S.E., Minneapolis.

The goal of the conference is to develop a research and policy agenda around the long-term future of dams and other large-scale engineered structures in rivers. Conference attendees will be encouraged to think broadly about the consequences of dams on human and natural ecosystems and begin to raise questions about the steps that might be necessary if one considers removal of dams.

The conference will begin with a keynote by Christopher Sneddon, professor of environmental studies and geography at Dartmouth College, titled “Concrete Revolution: Cold War Geopolitics and the Proliferation of Large Dams, 1933-1975.” Sneddon’s research focuses on the political ecology of river basin development, primarily in Southeast Asia. The talk will take place at 4 p.m. Nov. 11 at 125 Nolte Center.

Day two of the conference covers issues of dams and rivers from a variety of scales and perspectives, including governance and human rights in the Global South; dams as part of water rights and sovereignty issues for American Indians; the hydrological impacts of dam removal; and dams and culture.

“The conference is a great opportunity for policymakers, academics, social and natural scientists and others to understand the multiple impacts of dams on river communities,” said Pat Nunnally, coordinator of the River Life Program at the university's Institute on the Environment.

A pre-conference talk by Gordon Grant, USDA Forest Service research hydrologist, will focus on a case study of dam removal. This public talk is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10, and is part of the Research at the Red Stag series presented by the National Center for Earth-Surface Dynamics (NCED), a National Science Foundation (NSF) Science and Technology Center in partnership with the university's College of Science and Engineering.

“Experiments on Rivers: The Consequences of Dams” is part of the University Symposium on Abundance and Scarcity and is cosponsored by the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change (ICDC), the River Life Program of the Institute on the Environment, and the College of Science and Engineering's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, with support from the university’s Office of the Vice President for Research, the Office of International Programs' Global Spotlight, and NCED (with funding from the NSF).

The conference is free and open to the public; however, space is limited and pre-registration is advised. Box lunches will be available for conference attendees who register by Nov. 9. To register, contact the Institute for Advanced Study at ias@umn.edu or (612) 626-5054.

For more information, visit www.ias.umn.edu/Initiatives/ExperimentsOnRivers.php.

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U of M Regents meet next week, to act on state biennial budget request

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/05/2010) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents holds its monthly meetings Thursday and Friday, Nov. 11-12. Included on the agenda is action on the university's state biennial budget request, which is essentially a forecast base budget with no increase over current law.

Highlights of the meetings include:

8:15 - 9:30 a.m., Audit Committee, East Committee Room. The committee will hear a report from the university's external auditor and the report of the university compliance officer.

9:45 - 11:45 a.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. CFO Richard Pfutzenreuter will provide an update on university debt capacity and the committee will review and act on a resolution related to the issuance of university debt.

9:45 - 11:45 a.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, West Committee Room. The University District Alliance (www.community.umn.edu/alliance), will provide the committee with an update on their activities. The Alliance consists of neighborhood leaders, businesses, Augsburg College, the City of Minneapolis and community leaders, with a common goal of improving the university district as a place to live, work, do business and visit. The 2010 employee "PULSE" Survey results will be presented. In addition, Vice President of University Relations Karen Himle and Director of Internal Communications Ann Freeman will provide an update on the university's internal communications efforts. The committee will also review the policy "Conflict Resolution Process for Employees".

1:30 - 2:30 p.m., Board work session, Boardroom. President Robert Bruininks will lead a discussion of the metrics and key measures used to evaluate that university's performance.

2:45 - 4:45 p.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, East Committee Room. The chancellors from all four U of M coordinate campuses will give reports and updates on their strategic positioning work. The committee will also review the policy "Commercialization of Intellectual Property Rights".

2:45 - 4:45 p.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will review and act on a range of real estate transactions, schematic plans and capital budget amendments. The committee will also review and act on a resolution related to the final environmental impact statement for the proposed UMore Park sand and gravel resources project. Also, the committee will receive the annual report on sustainability and energy efficiency policy.

9 - 11 a.m., Board meeting, boardroom. The board will receive the annual report on private giving from the University of Minnesota Foundation and the Minnesota Medical Foundation. The board will also act on the State Biennial Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2012-13.

More information on the Board of Regents and live-streaming of the board meeting can be found at www.umn.edu/regents.

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U of M presidential search advisory committee forwards semi-finalists to Board of Regents

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/05/2010) —University of Minnesota Board of Regents Chair Clyde Allen announced today that the Presidential Search Advisory Committee has forwarded recommendations of four semi-finalists for the position of university president to the Board of Regents. Currently, Regents are individually reviewing the written files on each semi-finalist. The Board will hold a public meeting in the near future to select candidates whom it will interview. Once selected for interviews, the candidates will be finalists. In accordance with state law, the names of all candidates selected for interviews are public information and will be made public at that time.

All finalists will come to the Twin Cities Campus for meetings with University constituents and a public interview by the Board of Regents. The dates for those visits will be announced following Board action to select finalists.

The Presidential Search Advisory Committee, whose members represent the University and the state, was appointed by the Board of Regents in June to assist the Board by identifying and evaluating candidates based on Board-approved leadership characteristics. The committee was charged to forward a pool of semi-finalists for Board consideration.

“The Board sincerely appreciates the efforts of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee,” said Allen. “They are to be commended for the quality of their work, the significant time they devoted to the task, and their dedication and commitment to the University of Minnesota.”

The Board intends to appoint the 16th President of the University of Minnesota before the end of the calendar year.

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U of M hosts 2010 "Math

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The "Math and Science Family Fun Fair" features hands-on math and science experiments for the whole family.

November 5, 2010

Math plus science equals a day of fun and learning at the University of Minnesota's 2010 "Math & Science Family Fun Fair" 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13 at the university's Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. The event is free and open to the public. The first 750 people attending will receive free U of M backpacks.

The Family Fun Fair features entertaining, hands-on math and science experiences for the entire family including electric car models, supercomputers, superconducting magnets, sound sandwiches, fossils, volcano simulations and windmills.

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 explosions and flames! New this year, a Mystery Science Room explores the oddities of science with eggs that neither float nor sink, a levitating globe and water flowing with no source.

“This event is for families with kids of all ages, especially kids in kindergarten through fifth grade, who will have a chance to see the excitement that a career in science, engineering and mathematics provides,” said Katherine Cramer, outreach coordinator for the university's College of Science and Engineering.

Several Twin Cities organizations will also sponsor interactive exhibits including the B*E*S*T Outreach, The Works museum, and the Minnesota Microscopy Society. University of Minnesota sponsors and presenters include the Department of Chemistry, School of Physics and Astronomy, School of Mathematics Center for Educational Programs, Department of Geology and Geophysics, School of Dentistry, Minnesota Supercomputing Institute and several University of Minnesota science and engineering student groups.

For more information, visit www.cse.umn.edu/funfair.

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University of Minnesota to recognize student veterans on Veterans Day

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November 8, 2010

All veterans and family members, faculty, staff, students and the public are invited to attend the University of Minnesota's fourth annual Student Veterans Appreciation Day activities on Thursday, Nov. 11, to honor university student veterans' service to our country.

The ROTC Joint Military Color Guard and the Minnesota Marching Band Brass Quintet will kickoff a program at 11:30 a.m. with guest speakers University Regent Dean Johnson, CLA assistant dean for Student Services Chris Kearns and Student Veterans Association co-president Kim Wooster. The program will take place on the Northrop Plaza, weather permitting; if not, it will be held in the Northrop Atrium, 84 Church Street SE, Minneapolis.

Attendees will be served a free chili lunch (while supplies last) beginning at noon in the Northrop Atrium. The day's activities are co-sponsored by the Office for Student Affairs, One Stop Student Services, TCF Bank Foundation and Student Veterans Association.

Over 700 student veterans are currently enrolled on the Twin Cities campus of the University of Minnesota. University Veterans Services, recently relocated to 320 Science Teaching & Student Services building, East Bank campus, provides a wide range of services to military members, veterans and their families through two offices:
• Veterans Certification Office, assisting student veterans with educational benefits
• Veterans Resource Office, directing student veterans to non-educational benefits (housing, medical needs, employment, family and transition issues)

University Veterans Services is part of One Stop Student Services where students receive year-round, expert advice on enrollment, financial aid, billing, payment, records and money management on the web, by email, by phone and in person. Counselors offer individual help on a walk-in basis to prospective and current students and their families, as well as University and industry colleagues. They also share their expertise in workshops, orientations and presentations held both on and off campus throughout the year. For contact information, go online to onestop.umn.edu/contact_us/.

If you have any questions, please email veterans@umn.edu or call 612-625-8076. To request disability accommodations or information in an alternative format, call (612) 625-9578.

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Residence hall lighting retrofit project earns rebate and saves energy costs at University of Minnesota

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/08/2010) —Xcel Energy has issued a rebate check for $142,772 to the University of Minnesota Housing and Residential life staff for a residence hall lighting retrofit project done by the university's Energy Management department this year.

University of Minnesota staff retrofitted more than 7,400 inefficient T12 lamped, magnetic ballasted fluorescent light fixtures with modern solid state ballasts and high efficiency T8 lamps in eight residence halls on the Twin Cities campus. The lighting retrofit has improved the quality of light provided in the students' living spaces, study areas, common areas and dining facilities, while saving money and reducing the university's carbon footprint. The project cost $404,000 upfront, but will pay for itself in 2.6 years. Along with the $142,772 rebate from Xcel Energy for the improvements, the university will save about $100,000 annually.

"Housing and Residential Life came to Energy Management looking for ways to become more energy efficient and this lighting retrofit was a no-brainer," said Jim Green, assistant director in Energy Management at the U of M. "The end result is a better performing lighting system which consumes less energy."

The lighting systems installed qualified for prescriptive rebates under Xcel's Lighting Efficiency Rebate Program which made the return on investment in this situation very attractive, Green said.

"Everybody ended up a winner on this project and we'll continue to reap the benefits for many years to come," Green said.

In 2008, the university set a goal to reduce campus energy consumption by five percent, saving $2.25 million annually and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25,000 tons per year. The five percent goal was met in March 2010, approximately three months ahead of schedule, due mostly to an aggressive building recommissioning program.

As of Nov. 1, efficiency improvements implemented since April 2008 have saved the university more than $3 million annually in energy costs. The Residence Hall Lighting Retrofit is just one example of the hundreds of projects implemented as part of this overall energy efficiency initiative.

The benefits of the retrofits are:

- Operating Savings -- approximately $100,000 annually
- Energy Savings -- 1,654, 951 kWh annually
- Carbon Savings -- approximately 1,374 Metric Tons annually

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Carlson School of Management students to volunteer at local nonprofits

"Carlson Goes to Work" service day devoted to supporting various local nonprofit organizations

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November 9, 2010

Building on the Carlson School of Management's commitment to community engagement, the annual "Carlson Goes to Work" service day devoted to helping various supporting nonprofit organizations will be held from 12 to 4 p.m on Friday, Nov. 12.

Organized by the school's Net Impact chapter, Carlson Goes to Work will engage students and staff, along with business professionals, in an afternoon of business-focused community service at local nonprofits. The goal of the event is to launch long-term, mutually beneficial relationships between business students and the local community.

"We first organized this event last year because we saw an opportunity for both our students and the community at-large to benefit by working together," says Tommy DeMarco, founder and vice president of marketing, University of Minnesota Undergraduate Net Impact Chapter. "Participating students will be able to use the business skills and knowledge they are gaining at the Carlson School to help a nonprofit organization, while the nonprofit provides the students with real-world experience."

The event will start at noon in the Carlson School Atrium, 321 19th Avenue S, Minneapolis. Following a complimentary lunch and brief presentation, participants will be bused to various nonprofit organizations in the metro area. Buses will return to the school by 4 p.m.

Students and staff may register for the event by visiting www.netimpact-umn.com. The last day to register is Thursday, Nov. 11.

The nonprofit organizations for this year's event will include: AccoutAbility; Athlete Committed to Educating Students (ACES); AchieveMpls; African Development Center; Cookie Cart; The A-List; MS Society; AMICUS; Southeast Seniors; Minnesota Council of Churches: Refugee Services; Latino Economic Development Center; Segue Café; Students Today Leaders Forever (STLF); Outfront; and English Learning Center.

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Major section of East River Road on the U of M campus reopened

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/09/2010) —A major section of East River Road on the University of Minnesota campus reopened today after being closed over the summer for utility work. The reopening brings the University one step closer to the wrap up of a very busy season of road construction on and around campus.

• East River Road is now open from Arlington Street, around the south end of campus to Fulton Street.

• Delaware Street -- the loop road around the Weisman Art Museum to East River Road -- is also open.

• East River Road remains closed from Arlington Street north to University Avenue. Work on that section of the road is scheduled to be done in the coming weeks.

Campus traffic has been impacted since May by a variety of construction projects including Advanced Traffic Improvements associated with the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit, utility work by the U of M, construction on the Weisman Art Museum and river bluff stabilization by the Minneapolis Park Board.

New challenges will arise next spring as Washington Avenue is closed and the Metropolitan Council begins work in earnest on the Central Corridor LRT line.

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"Outreach Slam" highlights U of M College of Design's connections to Minnesota

Nov. 12 event to showcase “best-of” in college’s outreach efforts

What: U of M College of Design “Outreach Slam”
When: 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12
Where: 33 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave. S., St. Paul

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

November 9, 2010

The U of M College of Design (CDes) is hosting a first-ever public “Outreach Slam” 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12, at 33 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., St. Paul, to highlight the importance of the college’s work to the people and communities of Minnesota.

The slam will feature faculty and staff who will have five minutes (strictly enforced) to present their current outreach effort. At the end of the presentations, the audience will select the best presentation. The author of that presentation will receive $1,000 in professional development funds and the runner-up will receive $500.

“The Outreach Slam demonstrates to the university the depth and breadth of the outreach and engagement that the college undertakes to benefit the people of the state, and it shares and connects the work of individuals to their colleagues, opening doors to innovation and collaboration,” said Brad Hokanson, CDes associate dean for research and outreach.

Representative participants and topics include:
• Tasoulla Hadjiyanni (Interior Design): Toward culturally sensitive housing
• Eunice Haugen and Jeanne McElvain (Goldstein Museum of Design): Museum digitization project, outreach and teaching
• Virajita Singh (Center for Sustainable Building Research): Sustainable design in the community
• Becky Yust and Lyn Bruin (Housing Studies): Healthy homes in Hennepin County
• Jim Lutz (Architecture): Reconstruction efforts in Haiti
• Jeff Crump (Housing Studies) and Bill Conway (Architecture): Foreclosures
• Billy Weber (Center for Sustainable Building Research): Sustainable affordable housing creation
• Rebecca Krinke (Landscape Architecture): Mapping of Joy and Pain public art project

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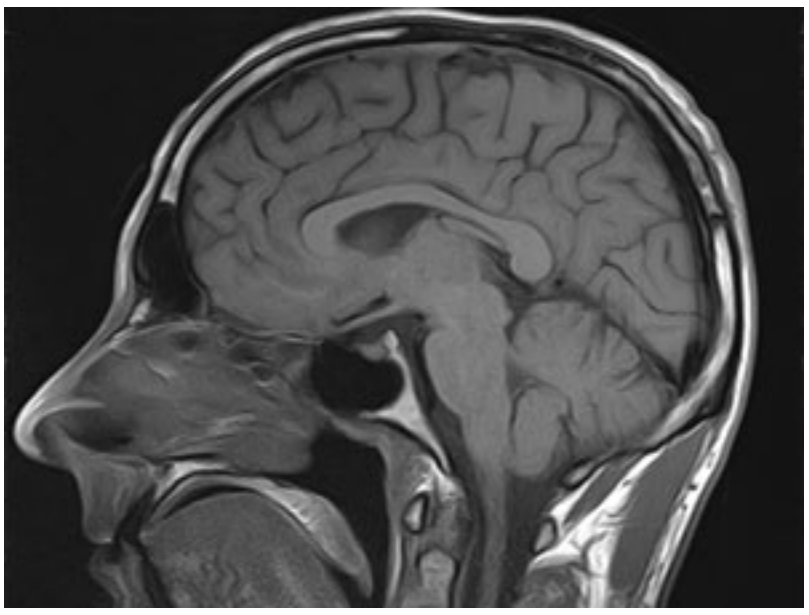
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U of M researchers find learning in the visual brain

Media Note: For a copy of the study, e-mail jfalk@umn.edu.

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The researchers' findings could help shape training programs for people who must learn to detect subtle patterns quickly, such as doctors reading X-rays or air traffic controllers monitoring radars. Image from Flickr.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/10/2010) —A team of researchers from the University of Minnesota's College of Liberal Arts and College of Science and Engineering have found that an early part of the brain's visual system rewires itself when people are trained to perceive patterns, and have shown for the first time that this neural learning appears to be independent of higher order conscious visual processing.

The researchers' findings could help shape training programs for people who must learn to detect subtle patterns quickly, such as doctors reading X-rays or air traffic controllers monitoring radars. In addition, they appear to offer a resolution to a long-standing controversy surrounding the learning capabilities of the brain's early (or low-level) visual processing system.

The study by lead author Stephen Engel, a psychology professor in the College of Liberal Arts, is published in the Nov. 10 issue of the Journal of Neuroscience.

"We've basically shown that learning can happen in the earliest stages of visual processing in the brain," Engel said.

The researchers looked at how well subjects could identify a faint pattern of bars on a computer screen that continuously decreased in faintness. They found that over a period of 30 days, subjects were able to recognize fainter and fainter patterns. Before and after this training, they measured brain responses using EEG, which records electrical activity along the scalp produced by the firing of neurons within the brain.

"We discovered that learning actually increased the strength of the EEG signal," Engel said. "Critically, the learning was visible in the initial EEG response that arose after a subject saw one of these patterns. Even a tiny fraction of a second after a pattern was flashed, subjects showed bigger responses in their brain."

In other words, this part of the brain shows local "plasticity," or flexibility, that seems independent of higher order processing, such as conscious visual processing or changes in visual attention. Such higher order processing would take time to occur and so its effects would not be seen in the earliest part of the EEG response.

Engel says these finding may also help adults with visual deficits such as lazy eye by accelerating the development of training procedures to improve the eye's capabilities.

The paper, "Perceptual Learning Increases the Strength of the Earliest Signals in Visual Cortex," was co-authored by Min Bao, Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts, and Bin He, Lin Yang and Christina Rios, Department of Biomedical Engineering, College of Science and Engineering.

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University of Minnesota leads team in discovery of novel type of magnetic wave

Findings could improve wiring in national electrical grid systems



The new findings could have implications for improving superconducting electric wires used in national electrical grids. Image from Flickr.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/10/2010) —A team of international researchers led by physicists in the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering have made a significant breakthrough in an effort to understand the phenomenon of high-temperature superconductivity in complex copper-oxides—one of the most studied scientific topics in history.

The University of Minnesota researchers and their international colleagues from Germany, France and China report the discovery of a novel type of magnetic wave involving oxygen atoms. The new findings could have implications for improving superconducting electric wires used in national electrical grids.

The study by lead author Martin Greven, an associate professor in the university's School of Physics and Astronomy, is published in the Nov. 11 issue of Nature together with a "News and Views" introduction. The research is also scheduled to be highlighted in the journal Science.

"Following the Nobel-Prize winning discovery of high-temperature superconductivity in complex copper-oxide materials in the mid 1980s, the effort to understand this phenomenon has been one of the major scientific challenges in the field of physics for the past quarter century, with more than 100,000 publications on the topic," Greven said.

"While the commercialization of these complex copper-oxide materials, in the form of superior electric wires, has recently begun, physicists have not yet been able to solve the mystery of why these exotic materials are superconducting in the first place. The materials' unusual magnetism is often argued to be responsible for their superconductivity," Greven added.

In their experiments, the researchers bombarded the copper-oxide crystals with intense beams of neutrons. The neutrons themselves are magnetic, and by carefully measuring how these particles are scattered from the crystals, the research team was able to show the existence of unusual magnetic waves involving oxygen atoms.

"We believe that our discovery sheds new light on this hotly debated subject of superconductivity," Greven said.

Other members of the research team include two of Greven's former Ph.D. students, Guichuan Yu, University of Minnesota, School of Physics and Astronomy, and Yuan Li, now at the Max Planck Institute, Stuttgart, Germany; V. Balédent, Y. Sidis and P. Bourges, Laboratoire Léon Brillouin, Gif sur Yvette, France; N. Bariši, Physikalisches Institut, Universitat Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany; K. Hradil, Institut fur Physikalisches Chemie, Universitat Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany; R.A. Mole, Forschungsneutronenquelle Heinz Maier-Leibnitz, Garching, Germany; P. Steffens, Institut Laue Langevin, France; and X. Zhao State Key Lab of Inorganic Synthesis and Preparative Chemistry, College of Chemistry, Jilin University, Changchun, China.

More information on the research can be found on the Nature website at: http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v468/n7321/full/nature09477.html.

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U of M researchers receive national grants to help improve agricultural productivity, grow more nutritious foods and fight devastating plant parasites



The U of M projects are among 28 new NSF Plant Research Program (PGRP) projects that have been awarded a total of $101.9 million to improve the nation's ability to enhance agricultural productivity, grow nutritious foods and diminish the effects of devastating plant parasites. Image from Flickr.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/10/2010) —Three University of Minnesota researchers have won new research awards from the National Science Foundation (NSF) that will help advance the world's understanding of plants and their genes.

The U of M projects are among 28 new NSF Plant Research Program (PGRP) projects that have been awarded a total of $101.9 million to improve the nation's ability to enhance agricultural productivity, grow nutritious foods and diminish the effects of devastating plant parasites.

The recipients are: Assistant Professor Adrian Hegeman and Gordon and Margaret Bailey Professor Jerry Cohen, Department of Horticultural Science, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, and Associate Professor Nathan Springer, Department of Plant Biology, College of Biological Sciences. Hegeman also holds an appointment in the Department of Plant Biology. All three faculty are also in the Microbial and Plant Genomics Institute at the University of Minnesota.

The PGRP projects use the techniques of modern genomics – sequencing and analyzing genetic material – to advance our understanding of how plant genes function and govern plants' interactions with the environment in economically important crop species, including barley, corn, cotton, rice, soybean, tomato and wheat. Each project will also incorporate outreach and educational activities, engaging K–12, community college and undergraduate students and teachers, as well as the public, in plant-related activities.

Hegeman and Cohen will receive more than $1.9 million over three years for their project, "Improving the Quantity and Quality of Plant Metabolomics Information." They will develop techniques to measure the dynamics of the metabolome, the set of small molecules that result from metabolism. Metabolomics has become an important area of research that complements and extends analysis of nucleic acids (DNA) and proteins.

Although the work will focus on rice and tomato, the methods and procedures are expected to be applicable to many plant species. The project will also organize a summer workshop in metabolomics and engage primarily undergraduate institutions as well as research-intensive universities. More information about this award is available at www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0923960.

Springer and co-principal investigator Matthew Vaughn, University of Texas at Austin, will receive more than $1.6 million over three years for their project, "Maize Epigenomic Variation." Epigenetic variation refers to heritable changes that are not due to changes in DNA but to other types of modification of the sequences, usually the addition or removal of methyl groups to the DNA.

The team will be looking at methylation patterns in maize as compared with existing datasets on genes and phenotypes. This phenomenon is not well understood but can lead to large changes in phenotype, which is important for plant breeding and crop improvement. More information about this award is available at http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0922095.

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Human Capital Research Collaborative highlights leading thinking in early childhood, health, and education

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/10/2010) —The Human Capital Research Collaborative (HCRC) -- a partnership of the University of Minnesota and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis -- has released "Childhood Programs and Practices in the First Decade of Life: A Human Capital Integration" (Cambridge University Press) authored by some of the nation's leading experts in early childhood development and policy analysis. Edited by Arthur Reynolds, Art Rolnick, Michelle Englund and Judy Temple, the volume is based on research presented at HCRC's 2007 conference, which focused on the cost-effectiveness and impact of early childhood interventions. The publication offers a multidisciplinary approach to improving interventions, practices, and policies to optimize success from childhood into adulthood.

Chapters include findings from many longitudinal studies of early interventions, including the WIC nutrition program, Head Start, the Nurse-Family Partnership, Child-Parent Centers, and small classes in the elementary grades. Recent evaluations of state-financed pre-kindergarten programs in Oklahoma, Michigan, and New Jersey are also featured. James Heckman of the University of Chicago and Edward Zigler of Yale University are just two of the noteworthy authors.

"Our focus on human capital highlights the identification of effective and cost-effective programs for public policy as well as key elements of their benefits," said HCRC co-director Arthur Reynolds.

During the 2010 HCRC conference held in October, experts focused more specifically on the impact of health on school readiness and later educational success. University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks and Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis President Narayana Kocherlakota welcomed university and national experts in the areas of pediatrics, public health, developmental psychology, education, and public policy. Speakers included Michael Georgieff, director of the University's Center for Neurobehavioral Development, Jean Abraham in the University's School of Public Health, Jack Shonkoff of Harvard University, Greg Duncan of the University of California-Irvine, and Paula Braveman of the University of California-San Francisco. They and others explored the impact of nutrition, health disparities, parental mental health, interventions, and public policy on child development. Topics included preventing obesity in early childhood, how poverty in early childhood affects later health and well-being, the influence of nutrition on cognitive development, and the impact of the new health care law on children's health.

"Developing human capital goes hand in hand with promoting health and well-being," said Rolnick, co-director of HCRC. "The conference provided a foundation for furthering interdisciplinary policy-related research at the University of Minnesota."

Held at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minnesota, the full 2010 conference is available via video at http://www.humancapitalrc.org/events/2010/hcrcconf_2010.cfm. The conference was funded, in part, by the McKnight Foundation, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

Reynolds is a professor in the College of Education and Human Development's Institute of Child Development; Rolnick is a senior fellow in the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and former director of research for the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. The mission of the HCRC is to promote effective public policies and programs for young people through multidisciplinary research on human development and learning.

Find out more about the book Childhood Programs and Practices in the First Decade of Life and about the partnership at humancapitalrc.org.

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U of M scientist at core of team compiling portal to apple research



Orchard owners and home gardeners looking for the best answers to their questions about apple trees soon will have free, easy access to all the information they need, thanks to eXtension.org.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/11/2010) —Orchard owners and home gardeners looking for the best answers to their questions about apple trees soon will have free, easy access to all the information they need, thanks to a land-grant university project funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Videos, online courses and searchable databases will be among the resources available on the web via eXtension.org, according to Emily Hoover, professor and head of the horticultural sciences department at the University of Minnesota, who is one of the leaders of the project. The project team recently received a $496,000 USDA grant to develop the first comprehensive portal on apple cultivars and rootstocks for eXtension.org.

eXtension is an interactive online learning environment that delivers researched-based knowledge developed by the nation's land-grant university experts. The new eXtension portal will be named "The Community of Practice (CoP) for Apple Rootstocks and Cultivars."

The CoP will provide region-specific apple cultivar and rootstock descriptions and recommendations to commercial producers, nursery professionals, extension educators, master gardeners, home gardeners and consumers.

"A wealth of information regarding apple varieties and rootstocks has been amassed by researchers across the United States, Canada and Mexico over the past 30 years, but was not developed to be accessible to the public," Hoover explained. "This project will enable us to develop dynamic educational tools such as interactive maps, searchable databases, videos and online courses, creating a commons of information critical to the apple industry and the apple-growing and consuming public."

The resources will help increase the adoption of new and existing apple varieties and rootstocks ideal to particular regions. As growers increase their understanding of the importance of these choices, crop characteristics will greatly improve and, she said, the incidence and impact of industry-critical pest and disease problems will be reduced.

"Producers will have access to valuable information that will increase production efficiency and profitability over the long term and contribute to the sustainability of their operations and the industry as a whole," Hoover said. Over time, the community of practice will expand to include other apple-producing regions, additional production aspects and complementary consumer information.

The project is led by researchers at the University of Minnesota and Penn State University, with assistance from co-leaders from West Virginia University, the University of Massachusetts, University of Missouri, Cornell University, North Carolina State University and The Ohio State University.

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U of M Board of Regents to name presidential finalists at Friday morning meeting

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/11/2010) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will take action at its previously scheduled meeting on Friday morning, Nov. 12, to select those who will be interviewed by the Board as part of the presidential search process. The meeting begins at 9 a.m. Those selected by the Board to be interviewed will become finalists for the position of University President.

Last week, Board Chair Clyde Allen announced that the Presidential Selection Advisory Committee had forwarded the names of four semi-finalists to the Board for its consideration to become finalists.

Once selected, finalists will be invited to campus next Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 17 and 18, for a series of meetings with students, faculty, staff and community members. Finalists will be interviewed by the Board in a public meeting, and will also participate in a separate public question and answer session with the university community.

The Board's consideration of semi-finalists will take part as new business on the Friday meeting agenda, estimated to take place between 10 and 11 a.m.

More information on the University of Minnesota presidential search can be found at www.presidentsearch.umn.edu.

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ASIL Conference to Re-Evaluate International Economic Law

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/11/2010) —As President Barack Obama meets with other leaders of the G-20 in Seoul to arrive at a joint statement regarding global economic imbalances and policies to enhance recovery, the University of Minnesota Law School prepares to host the biennial conference of the American Society of International Law's (ASIL) International Economic Law Interest Group on Nov. 18-20.

The conference, entitled "International Economic Law in a Time of Change: Reassessing Legal Theory, Doctrine, Methodology and Policy Prescriptions," will be held at the Law School, Mondale Hall, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Re-evaluation of international economic law and new forms of international economic governance, such as the G-20, are clearly becoming priorities, experts say, in light of U.S. and European economic stagnation combined with economic transformations in China, India, Brazil and other developing and transitional countries. The conference will address, among other issues, the role of international economic law institutions and the international monetary system; how international economic reforms can and should affect domestic policy, trade, science and the environment; and the future of international investment law.

Featured keynote speakers will be Professor of International Law José E. Alvarez of New York University Law School; Ricardo Ramírez Hernández, a member of the World Trade Organization Appellate Body; and Professor Beth Simmons, Director of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. Nearly 60 additional speakers and panelists -- scholars, practitioners, government officials and representatives from international organizations at the leading edge of law, politics, economics and public policy from around the world -- will offer their perspectives.

The 14 panels will address and re-examine international economic governance, its rising complications and numerous international and transnational economic law issues. A special panel will be dedicated to the re-issuance of Robert E. Hudec's 1987 classic Developing Countries in the GATT Legal System and will feature representatives from the WTO and World Bank. Hudec, the former Melvin C. Steen Professor at the University of Minnesota Law School, was central to the development of the study of international economic law.

The conference is made possible by the ASIL International Economic Law Interest Group in co-sponsorship with ASIL Midwest, the Law School, the Minnesota Journal of International Law, Cambridge University Press and Oxford University Press.

The fee is $75 for ASIL members and $100 for nonmembers. University of Minnesota students, faculty, alumni and employees may register for free (valid University ID required at check-in). For further details, the full conference agenda, and registration, go to

http://asil.org/activities_calendar.cfm?action=detail&rec=149.

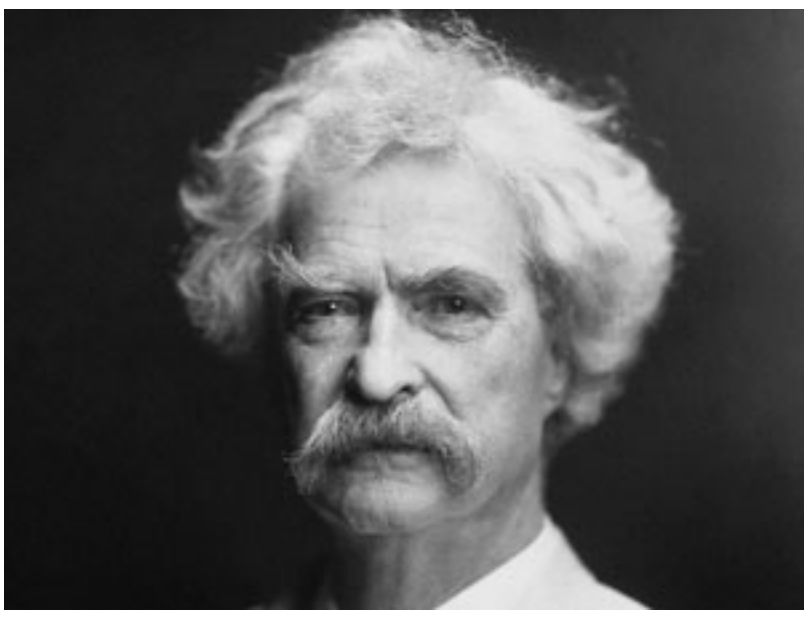
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U of M College of Continuing Education celebrates release of long-embargoed Mark Twain memoirs with "Mark Twain In His Own Words"



The life and times of Mark Twain take center stage at the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education this weekend as the release of Twain's long-embargoed memoirs are made public.

Three notable Twain experts, including legendary journalist Don Shelby, will discuss all facets of Twain's life and the revelations within the new autobiography

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November 12, 2010

The life and times of Mark Twain take center stage at the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education this weekend as the release of Twain's long-embargoed memoirs are made public. Notable Twain scholars will discuss the revealing new look into Twain's personal opinions contained in the memoirs, as well as the many other facets of Twain's life and his long-lasting impact on American literature and society.

"Mark Twain In His Own Words" will be held on Saturday, Nov. 13 at the Continuing Education and Conference Center (1890 Buford Ave.) on the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Cost is $125. For more information or to register please visit www.cce.umn.edu/Twain, or call 612-624-4000.

Scholars, including University of Minnesota English professor emeritus Edward M. Griffin, former Star Tribune travel editor and current MinnPost.com travel editor Catherine Watson and celebrated WCCO journalist and and Mark Twain book collector Don Shelby, will explore the path of Twain's life, his impact on American culture and his body of work, including the new memoirs.

The day will begin with an overview of the author by Griffin. Then, Watson will explore Mark Twain as traveler and travel writer, and Shelby will reflect on his own view of Twain - that of avid book collector and Twain "reenactor."

The memoirs come with much anticipation. Twain long fretted over how to write his personal narrative. He struggled with both content and format stating that, "We suppress an unpopular opinion because we cannot afford the bitter cost of putting it forth… None of us likes to be hated, none of us likes to be shunned."

He insisted the book be published in its entirety only posthumously – 100 years after his death. Twain explained: "A book that is not to be published for a century gives the writer a freedom which he could secure in no other way. In these conditions, you can draw a man without prejudice exactly as you knew him and yet have no fear of hurting his feelings or those of his grandsons."

Twain's unfiltered words will finally be seen through the publication of the first volume of *Autobiography of Mark Twain*. Attendees will be able to purchase the book two days prior to the official publication date.

"Mark Twain In His Own Words" is offered through the College of Continuing Education LearningLife program, which offers enrichment opportunities including short courses, seminars and workshops. More information about LearningLife is available at www.cce.umn.edu/learninglife.

U of M English professor emeritus **Edward M. Griffin** has been honored with the University of Minnesota Award for Distinguished Contributions to Post-Baccalaureate Graduate and Professional Education, the College of Liberal Arts Arthur Motley Exemplary Teaching Award and the Ruth Christie Distinguished Teaching Award in English. He holds doctorate degrees in English and American Literature from Stanford University and has published widely on colonial literature and the use of early American history and literature by modern American writers.

Don Shelby became news anchor for WCCO-TV in 1978. During his tenure, he has earned three national Emmys, the Columbia DuPont Award, The Scripps-Howard Award, the Society of Professional Journalists Distinguished Service Award and two Peabody Awards. Shelby has been active in the development of the Mississippi River and river preservation work, and has won numerous awards for his community service. He also is an avid reader and collector of books about the Mississippi River, and by Mark Twain in particular.

Catherine Watson was the first travel editor at the Minneapolis Star Tribune and served as its chief travel writer and photographer from 1978 until 2004. A writing instructor for the Split Rock Arts Program, Watson is currently travel editor for MinnPost, and has published two award-winning collections of her best-loved travel stories. Her work has won numerous awards including the Lowell Thomas Travel Journalist of the Year Award and the Society of American Travel Writers' Photographer of the Year Award.

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University of Minnesota presidential finalist announced

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Eric W. Kaler is the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Brookhaven Affairs at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, New York.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/12/2010) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents today named a finalist in the search to succeed President Robert Bruininks, when he leaves the presidency in June 2011. The finalist is Eric Kaler, Provost at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, New York. The next step in the selection process is for the candidate to visit the Twin Cities campus to meet with various constituencies in the university community and also to interview with the Board of Regents. The visit is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17 and Thursday, November 18, 2010.

“We appreciate the broad input of the university community and the work of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, chaired by Regent Simmons,” said board Chair Clyde Allen. “This next step calls for even more involvement by the university community as the board makes what is one of the most important decisions we’ll make – in selecting the next president of the University of Minnesota.”

The Presidential Search Advisory Committee received 148 nominations and applications to review. Four were recommended to the Board of Regents and the finalist was accepted by the board for consideration.

Additional information on the finalist:

Eric Kaler, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Stony Brook University

Eric W. Kaler is the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Brookhaven Affairs at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, New York. Appointed as the ninth Provost of Stony Brook University in October of 2007, Dr. Kaler received his undergraduate degree from California Institute of Technology in 1978 and his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1982. Prior to his appointment at Stony Brook, Dr. Kaler was a member of the faculty of the University of Delaware from 1989-2007. He served as the Chair of the Chemical Engineering Department from 1996 to 2000 and Dean of the College of Engineering from 2000 to 2007. Dr. 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.

In 2010, Dr. Kaler was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, which is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. He also received the Curtis W. McGraw Research Award from the American Society of Engineering Education in 1995, the American Chemical Society Award in Colloid or Surface Chemistry in 1998, and distinguished lectureship awards around the world. In 1984, Dr. Kaler was one of the first to receive a Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation. He is a Fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Chemical Society. He is the author or co-author of one edited book and over 200 papers, which have been cited more than 9,000 times, and holds 10 U.S. patents. Dr. Kaler’s research interests are in the area of surfactant and colloid science, statistical mechanics, and thermodynamics.

Part of the State University of New York system, Stony Brook University now serves nearly 24,000 students and has 2,100 faculty. It is a member of the Association of American Universities and co-manages Brookhaven National Laboratory, joining an elite group of universities, including Berkeley, the University of Chicago, Cornell, MIT and Princeton, that run federal research and development laboratories.

Dr. Kaler and his wife, Karen Kaler, have two adult sons, Charlie and Sam, and two Spanish Water Dogs.

For more information on the search, the schedule for the finalist’s visits to the University campus and additional biographical information on Dr. Kaler, please visit www.presidentsearch.umn.edu.

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U of M biology students take gold award in MIT contest to create biological machines

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The team of five College of Biological Sciences (CBS) undergraduate students that captured a gold award earlier this month at the recent International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition hosted annually by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/15/2010) —A Minnesota team of five College of Biological Sciences (CBS) undergraduates captured a gold award earlier this month at the recent International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition hosted annually by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The CBS team was recognized for showing how to build protein-based micro-compartments in E coli bacteria that could be used as nanobioreactors to carry out metabolic functions or synthetic reactions.

“Their reactor has potential practical applications in medicine, energy, industry, agriculture and other areas,” said faculty advisor Claudia Schmidt-Dannert, professor of biochemistry, molecular biology and biophysics and member of the BioTechnology Institute, which sponsored the U of M team. “We plan to build on this project for next year’s competition.”

Members included CBS juniors Matthew Adams and Rachel Farr, and CBS seniors Anthony Goering, Annie Kathuria and Ian Windsor. Adams, Farr and Goering are majoring in genetics, cell biology and development; Kathuria in genetics and neuroscience; and Windsor in biochemistry.

This year’s competition, the largest in the event’s seven-year history, attracted 130 teams from 25 countries for a total of more than 2,000 students. Teams were challenged to design, build and test a biological system that could operate within a cell. The students convened at MIT in November for a jamboree to present their projects and learn how they fared in the contest.

“Our students worked very hard over the summer and put together a fantastic project,” said advisor Jeff Gralnick, assistant professor of microbiology and BTI member. “The U of M team was very competitive with larger, better-funded teams. Our endeavor was funded through the Biocatalysis Initiative. We hope to add to this by identifying sponsors outside the university.”

Slovenia took the first place trophy for their project to control a sequence of reactions in a biosynthetic pathway. China and England were runners up. Nineteen awards, including Minnesota’s gold award, were made in specific categories.

In addition to Schmidt-Dannert and Gralnick, the group was advised by postdoctoral research associates Swati Choudhary, Ethan Johnson and Poonam Srivastava, who work in the Schmidt-Dannert lab. Johnson, who died from injuries sustained in a hit-and-run car accident in September, received special thanks from members of the group on their iGEM project website, http://2010.igem.org/Team:Minnesota.

The tribute to Johnson states that he "He nurtured the talents of us all…and made us better scientists."

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U of M Board of Regents to hold special meeting on Thursday, Nov. 18

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November 15, 2010

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents will hold a special meeting Thursday, Nov. 18 at 11:45 a.m. in the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis. The purpose of the meeting will be to interview and consider a finalist for President of the University of Minnesota.

Last Friday, the board met to name finalists to be interviewed. Dr. Eric Kaler, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs of Stony Brook University in New York, was named finalist.

For more information on the University of Minnesota's presidential search, including details of the public forum on Wednesday, visit www.presidentsearch.umn.edu.

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U of M University Opera Theatre to present the Minnesota premiere of the new American opera 'Elmer Gantry'

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Will Bryan and Bergen Baker (pictured) and Joel Mathias and Anna DeGraff sing the lead roles in University Opera Theatre's production of "Elmer Gantry." Each pair is featured in two of the four performances.

Photo by Patrick O'Leary

November 16, 2010

The University of Minnesota School of Music's University Opera Theatre will present the Minnesota premiere of Robert Aldridge's new American opera "Elmer Gantry" this week at Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, through Saturday, Nov. 20, and at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21. Pre-show discussions with composer Robert Aldridge and librettist Herschel Garfein will take place at 6:45 p.m. Thursday, Nov.18, through Saturday, Nov. 20, in the Ted Mann Concert Hall lobby.

Tickets: $20 general admission; $10 for U of M students; group rates available. Call (612) 624-2345 or visit www.opera.umn.edu. Two for one tickets for university students, faculty, staff, retirees and alumni.

J.D. Steele of The Steeles will perform the role of the Revival Singer. Composer Robert Aldridge and librettist Herschel Garfein will visit the Twin Cities for "Elmer Gantry's" Minnesota premiere and are available for interviews. An "Elmer Gantry" open forum discussion featuring Aldridge and Garfein with guests from U of M Creative Writing, the American Composers Forum and the School of Music will take place 3-5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 19, in the school's Ferguson Hall, Room 99, 2106 4th St. S., Minneapolis. This open forum is free and open to the public.

Aldridge's "Elmer Gantry" is closely based on Pulitzer prize-winning author Sinclair Lewis' controversial 1927 satire of evangelical religion and revivalism. "Elmer Gantry" is a powerful new opera, which resonates strongly in our own times. Even more striking is that its success, since the premiere in Nashville, Tenn., in 2007, has come about without the advantages of a consortium arrangement with national opera companies but rather on its own merits and to impressive national acclaim.

The eponymous title character is a charismatic and galvanizing figure, in many ways iconically American, and his rise to power, as well as his relationship with the spiritual revival preacher, Sharon Falconer, is both fascinating and deeply disturbing. Filled with glorious choral scenes and stunning musical ensembles, "Elmer Gantry" is a compelling piece of music drama and University Opera Theatre is thrilled to be only the fourth producer of what is destined to be one of the great American operas, according to critics.

David Walsh, University Opera Theatre director and School of Music professor, will direct and Mark Russell Smith, School of Music professor and artistic director of Orchestral Studies, will conduct.

Parking is available in the 21st Avenue ramp, one block southwest of the concert hall. Photographs available upon request. E-mail requests for photographs to marsh396@umn.edu. For more information on University Opera Theatre, visit opera.umn.edu.

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.

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Minneapolis punk rock icon to discuss a life in music at upcoming Witness to History forum Nov. 18

Former Suicide Commandos front man Chris Osgood will discuss how history's defining moments shaped his life and his music

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November 16, 2010

The University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education brings influential Minnesota musician Chris Osgood to campus the evening of Thursday, Nov. 18, for a personal account of the significant moments that have shaped our shared history.

Known as the "godfather of the Minneapolis music scene," Chris Osgood formed the punk rock band The Suicide Commandos in 1974 and has been rocking ever since. His pioneering musical sound paved the way for later Minnesota artists, and his efforts as a label manager and sales director at Twin/Tone Records helped launch the careers of many local bands such as The Replacements and Soul Asylum. Osgood will talk openly about how local and national headline moments were seen through his personal lens and how they influenced his sound in this revealing open forum.

The discussion is the second in a new series, the LearningLife Forum. During its first year, the Forum will focus on the theme Witness to History, and will ask some of Minnesota's most legendary public figures to share their experiences creating and witnessing history. Moderating the discussion with Osgood will be MinnPost's Jim Walsh, former City Pages music editor and award-winning columnist for the St. Paul Pioneer Press. Walsh, who is the author of "The Replacements: All Over But the Shouting," is currently at work on a book about the history of the local music scene for the Minnesota Historical Society Press.

The event takes place on Thursday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Continuing Education & Conference Center (1890 Buford Ave.), on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. Tickets are $15 and can be purchased by calling (612) 624-4000 or by visiting cce.umn.edu/learninglife.

Tickets may be available for purchase at the door, however advanced registration for the event is encouraged as seating is limited.

Osgood is best known for his role as guitarist and vocalist for the popular 70's punk band The Suicide Commandos. The band played together for only four years, but despite their relatively short existence, their influence on the Twin Cities music scene has continued. Long considered the pioneers of the Minnesota punk rock scene, Osgood and the commandos introduced the state to a whole new sound that music fans were quick to adopt.

Still working with the Twin Cities music scene, Osgood now serves as McNally Smith College of Music's vice president for external affairs. He has worked in numerous other music industry roles and was won many awards for both his playing and for his contributions to Minnesota arts and culture.

The LearningLife Forum event will consist of a discussion between Osgood and Walsh, followed by a Q&A session with the audience. The Commandos will reunite to perform an acoustic song at the event.

Future Forum speakers include noted arts patrons John and Sage Cowles (December 16); former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale (January 20); civil rights activist Josie Johnson (February 17); world-famous transplant surgeon Dr. John Najarian (March 17); and Minnesota's prominent milling family members George and Sally Pillsbury (April 21).

The LearningLife Forum is a program of the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education. Through the College of Continuing Education, motivated adults enrich their personal and professional lives through learning opportunities ranging from courses, workshops and retreats, to credit certificates and bachelor's and master's degrees. For more information about the college, call (612) 624-4000 or visit www.cce.umn.edu.

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University of Minnesota professor Karlyn Kohrs Campbell receives national award for teaching

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Karlyn Kohrs Campbell is a nationally recognized scholar of feminist and presidential rhetoric.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/16/2010) —University of Minnesota communication studies professor Karlyn Kohrs Campbell has been selected as the 2010 recipient of the Donald H. Ecroyd Award for Outstanding Teaching in Higher Education by the National Communication Association (NCA).

“Professor Campbell’s excellence as a teacher is evident at all levels of instruction,” said Edward Schiappa, professor and chair of the Department of Communication Studies. “She teaches freshman seminars for 18-year-olds, large lecture undergraduate survey courses, introductory graduate classes on rhetorical theory and criticism, and advanced doctoral seminars, all with equal enthusiasm, energy and excellence.”

Campbell is a nationally recognized scholar of feminist and presidential rhetoric. She has won every major NCA research award there is -- some of them more than once. Her excellence as a scholar-teacher has been recognized many times over, making this particular award the logical summation of a storied career as an educator. The Ecroyd Award for Outstanding Teaching in Higher Education is given to honor an NCA member who exemplifies superlative teaching in higher education.

“Karlyn is a fantastic advisor, mentor and teacher,” said communication studies graduate student Rebecca Kuehl. “Her class was one of the best courses I have ever taken; it was incredibly challenging, forced me to write a lot in a short amount of time and increased my interest in historical presidential public address. She is incredibly supportive of graduate students and is a kind and wonderful person.”

Campbell was selected by her peers for this prestigious honor, which will be presented to her during NCA’s Annual Convention, held Nov. 14-17, in San Francisco, Calif. The recipient of the award will receive a plaque and a cash award from the Donald H. Ecroyd Award Fund and will serve on the award selection committee the following year. NCA is the oldest and largest communication association in the United States, and only presents a limited number of awards every year.

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Advisory

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Minnesota high school students compete for "Golden Femur" in U of M video contest Wednesday, Nov. 17



These Hopkins High School students won the 2009 Golden Femur award with their video "Blood Cells." The 2010 awards will be handed out Wednesday, Nov. 17.

What: Minnesota high school students compete for "Golden Femur" in U of M video contest
When: 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17
Where: U of M's Mayo Memorial Auditorium, 425 Delaware St. S.E., Minneapolis.

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November 16, 2010

Who has the healthier diet -- 18-year-olds today or their grandparents when they were 18? That is the question high school students set out to answer in videos as part of the University of Minnesota's Competition for Best College in our Schools (CIS) Anatomy and Physiology Video.

More than 400 students representing 15 high schools across Minnesota will gather Wednesday at the U of M to see who has produced the best and most creative video to emphasize concepts from Michael Pollan's book "In Defense of Food." The winners of the contest -- which is part of the university's College in the Schools (CIS) program -- will take home the coveted Golden Femur trophy.

The video awards ceremony will take place at 10:45 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17, in the U of M's Mayo Memorial Auditorium, 425 Delaware St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Teams produced 20- to 90-second videos that highlight an interview with an elder (preferably a grandparent) pertaining to their diets when they were 18 years old and then comparing their diets to what 18-year-olds eat today. Students developed a script and a storyboard, selected or designed an appropriate setting and demonstrated creative shooting and editing.

The winner in the second annual video awards will receive the Golden Femur, a traveling trophy.

Second place winners will earn a Silver Scapula, while the third team walks away with a Bronze Ulna. A number of runners up will also be honored during the ceremony. Once announced on Wednesday, winning videos will be posted at http://msjensen.cehd.umn.edu/student-videos.

Murray Jensen, associate professor in the U of M's College of Education and Human Development, developed the video competition as the faculty coordinator for the U of M course "Essentials of Human Anatomy and Physiology" offered through CIS.

Through the class and the video project, students are learning that their elders were likely healthier due to their consumption of fresh foods and their level of physical activity, Jensen says. Overconsumption of fast foods and lack of physical exercise likely makes this generation less healthy, he says. The video competition helps instill the importance of a healthy diet, Jensen says.

"We want the students to learn the basics of food and nutrition, and how "the western diet" (e.g., too many calories, too much food, etc.) is directly connected to diabetes and atherosclerosis -- two expensive and complicated diseases," Jensen says. "We want our students to become knowledgeable health care leaders, and this project is a step in that direction."

UCare Fund awarded a grant that provided the money for teachers to develop the curriculum materials used by the students in this program. The grant also provided funds for other resources in the program that is titled "Smart and Healthy Students, Smart and Healthy Families."

College in the Schools at the University of Minnesota develops partnerships between the University of Minnesota and high school teachers and administrators. Students get firsthand experience with a faster pace of study and increased academic rigor while earning university credits. For more information, visit http://www.cce.umn.edu/College-in-the-Schools.

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University of Minnesota to host Midwest's premier energy, economic and environmental conference Nov. 30-Dec. 1

Day two of the E3 2010 conference will focus exclusively on wind energy in the U.S.

Media Note: Contact Mary Hoff (maryhoff@umn.edu, (612) 626-2670) in advance for a media-only registration code.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/18/2010) —What role will renewable energy play in recharging the U.S. economy? Can improvements in energy efficiency help businesses reduce their carbon footprint while boosting their bottom line? What does the future hold for wind energy in the Midwest? These are among the many urgent questions on the agenda during E3 2010: The Midwest's Premier Energy, Economic and Environmental Conference, taking place Nov. 30 through Dec. 1 in St. Paul.

Hosted annually by the University of Minnesota's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE), a signature program of the Institute on the Environment, the E3 conference explores the latest technical innovations, scientific breakthroughs and policy incentives in the renewable energy sector. Each November since 2004, nearly 1,000 representatives from academia, business, industry, government and other sectors from across North America have gathered in St. Paul to share new knowledge and discoveries.

Daniel Kammen, professor of energy at the University of California, Berkeley, and newly named chief technical specialist for renewable energy and energy efficiency at the World Bank, will deliver the morning keynote, titled "Innovations for the Clean Energy Economy."

The featured speaker during the midday portion of the conference will be Nicole Y. Lamb-Hale, assistant secretary of commerce for manufacturing and services in the U.S. Commerce Department. Lamb-Hale helps strengthen the competitive position of U.S. industries in domestic and foreign markets by coordinating Commerce Department strategies, policies and programs with U.S. industries in mind.

Along with a variety of research posters and exhibitor displays, the conference will feature 15 breakout sessions in five different tracks: Bioenergy; Solar Energy; Conservation and Energy Efficiency; Policy, Economics and the Environment; and Special Topics.

New this year, day two of the conference will focus on the future of wind energy in the United States. Megan McCluer, senior adviser for the U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Power Program, will provide the morning keynote. The rest of the day will feature speakers from industry, higher education and state and federal agencies. Topics on the agenda include research priorities for wind energy, wind storage options, the latest in renewable energy education and more.

E3 2010 takes place Nov. 30 through Dec. 1 at the Saint Paul River Centre, 199 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul. Free transportation to and from day one of the conference is available from both the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses.

The E3 conference is presented by IREE in partnership with lead sponsors Faegre & Benson and Piper Jaffray, in addition to more than a dozen category sponsors. Day two of the conference is co-sponsored by the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory, part of the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Minnesota.

Visit www.iree.umn.edu/e3 for the full conference agenda, registration details, speaker bios, shuttle schedule, hotel information and more.

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Eric Kaler named 16th president of University of Minnesota

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, wolter@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551



Eric Kaler was named the 16th president of the University of Minnesota Thursday.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/18/2010) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents today voted unanimously to name Eric Kaler as the 16th president of the university, succeeding President Robert Bruininks, who returns to the faculty in June 2011. The vote to approve Kaler came after two days of public meetings with the finalist and members of the university community, a public forum on Wednesday and a public interview at the board meeting. Kaler, 54, will be only the second university alumnus to serve as president of Minnesota's land-grant and research university.

"One thing is very clear about Eric Kaler: the more you get to know him, the clearer this decision becomes," said board Chair Clyde Allen. "The board's impressions -- and those of the university community -- are that he is a talented researcher and teacher, effective administrator and gifted communicator. These are all qualities that will serve him well as the next president of the University of Minnesota."

Allen added, "Although for many in the university community, it may seem like they just met Eric Kaler, his selection today is the culmination of a six-month process, that literally involved hundreds of people. After reviewing and recruiting candidates and resumes, we're very pleased to have reached this point, with such an outstanding president-designate."

"The University of Minnesota has held a special place in my heart," said Kaler. "This is an institution with an amazing history of achievement and a central place in the hearts of Minnesotans, but there are some enormous challenges on the horizon. It is truly humbling and a true honor to have this level of confidence bestowed upon me. Karen and I look forward to getting to know this university -- and this state -- even better in the coming months."

Kaler currently serves as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs and vice president for Brookhaven affairs at Stony Brook University in Stony Brook, New York. Appointed as the ninth provost of Stony Brook in October 2007, 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. Prior to his appointment at Stony Brook, Kaler was a member of the faculty of the University of Delaware from 1989-2007. He served as the 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.

In 2010, Kaler was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, which is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. He also received the Curtis W. McGraw Research Award from the American Society of Engineering Education in 1995, the American Chemical Society Award in Colloid or Surface Chemistry in 1998, and distinguished lectureship awards around the world. In 1984, Kaler was one of the first to receive a Presidential Young Investigator Award from the National Science Foundation. He is a Fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Chemical Society. He is the author or co-author of one edited book and over 200 papers, which have been cited more than 9,000 times, and holds 10 U.S. patents. Kaler's research interests are in the area of surfactant and colloid science, statistical mechanics, and thermodynamics.

Part of the State University of New York system, Stony Brook University now serves nearly 24,000 students and has 2,100 faculty. It is a member of the Association of American Universities and co-manages Brookhaven National Laboratory, joining an elite group of universities, including Berkeley, the University of Chicago, Cornell, MIT, and Princeton, that run federal research and development laboratories.

Kaler will assume the presidency of the university on July 1, 2011.

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U of M Chief Financial Officer Richard Pfutzenreuter named "CFO of the Year"

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University of Minnesota Chief Financial Officer Richard Pfutzenreuter has been named CFO of the year of a large, non-profit civic/cultural/educational institution by the Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal today. Image courtesy MPR.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/18/2010) —University of Minnesota Chief Financial Officer Richard Pfutzenreuter has been named CFO of the year of a large, non-profit civic/cultural/educational institution by the Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal today.

"Richard (Fitz) Pfutzenreuter has demonstrated leadership in developing financial strategies that have helped the University of Minnesota weather the terrible economic climate, while preserving the University's core mission and repositioning it for the new fiscal realities that public institutions will face. His leadership has benefited the students, citizens, and other stakeholders of the University of Minnesota," University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks said in nominating Pfutzenreuter for the award.

Pfutzenreuter was appointed vice president of the university in March 2004, chief financial officer of the university in July 1998, and treasurer in February 2000. He served as associate vice president for Budget and Finance from 1992 to 2004. Prior to coming to the U of M he held several positions with the State of Minnesota, including fiscal staff director of the Minnesota House of Representatives Ways & Means Committee from 1986 to 1992; fiscal analyst for the Minnesota House of Representatives DFL Caucus from 1981 to 1984; and transportation planner/budget analyst and management analyst in the Minnesota Department of Transportation from 1975 to 1981. Pfutzenreuter received his bachelor of arts degree from Hamline University in 1974.

"I'm very flattered by the award," Pfutzenreuter said. "It is an important award to recognize finance people in Minnesota. I'm honored to be one of the people recognized."

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University of Minnesota students head to UN climate change talks

Official observer status will provide ringside view of international negotiations in Mexico

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/19/2010) —Sixteen University of Minnesota students will participate as official observers at the UN Climate Change Conference negotiations in Cancun, Mexico, at the end of this month, where leaders from around the world will work toward long-term cooperative action to address climate change.

The students will attend the first week of the two-week negotiations, from Nov. 29 through Dec. 4. They will be available during that time to provide news updates to Minnesota media and will maintain blogs with the Twin Cities Daily Planet, Institute on the Environment and other outlets, providing a local “finger on the pulse” for the pivotal talks.

Seven of the students are enrolled in a climate change policy course offered by the university’s sustainability studies minor and co-taught by state Sen. Ellen Anderson, chair of the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Budget Division committee, and state Rep. Kate Knuth, who was part of the Will Steger Foundation’s delegation to the 2009 climate talks in Copenhagen. Along with nine other graduate and undergraduate students, they represent a spectrum of majors, including landscape architecture, law, conservation biology, civil engineering, political science, and environmental sciences, policy and management. Anderson and Knuth, who is also a conservation biology graduate student and a researcher with the Institute on the Environment, will co-lead the delegation.

“By being immersed in the negotiations, these students will gain a better understanding of the impacts of climate change, learn about laws and policies relating to climate change, and have a chance to analyze the intersection of local, national and international carbon policies and negotiations,” said Beth Mercer-Taylor, sustainability studies minor coordinator. “This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I expect will stay with them throughout their careers.”

Delegation member Jayme Dittmar, a senior pursuing an individualized degree in fisheries and wildlife, mass communication and sustainability, is looking forward to seeing history being made. “I am an aspiring environmental journalist,” Dittmar said. “I will be attending the conference in hopes of telling the story of how the world finally came together to create a working climate change treaty.”

The University of Minnesota delegation includes students from the College of Liberal Arts; the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; the College of Biological Sciences; the College of Science and Engineering; the College of Design; and the College of Continuing Education.

The students will host a public forum to discuss their experiences Dec. 9, 3–4 p.m., at the Institute on the Environment in 380 VoTech Building, on the University of Minnesota’s St. Paul campus. The public and media are welcome to attend.

For information on the sustainability studies minor: http://sustainabilitystudies.umn.edu. To follow the students’ IonE blog: http://blog.lib.umn.edu/ione/eyeonearth.

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U of M medical student Priya Sury named 2011 Rhodes Scholar

Media Note: To download a high resolution photo of Sury, click here.

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



Priya Sury, a first-year medical student at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, has been named a 2011 Rhodes Scholar. Sury is a 2010 summa cum laude graduate of Washington University in St. Louis.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/21/2010) —Priya Sury, a first-year medical student at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, has been named a 2011 Rhodes Scholar. Sury is a 2010 *summa cum laude* graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., where she majored in anthropology and spanish. Her application for the Rhodes Scholarship was endorsed by Washington University. Sury grew up in grew up in Roseville, Minn. and attended Roseville Area High School. Her parents are Raj and Shanti Suryanarayanan.

Sury intends to pursue a career as a physician and a medical anthropologist. In her application for the Rhodes Scholarship, Sury writes that, as a high school student, she found medicine to be overly sterile, and opted instead to study anthropology. In college, however, she discovered that her anthropological interest in health care practices was leading her toward medicine after all. Several community service projects gradually convinced her, she says, that in order for medicine to be effective, it must be sensitive to cultural and social needs.

As an undergraduate, Sury secured a grant from the Kathryn Wasserman Davis Foundation to develop and implement an HIV/AIDS prevention education seminar in the Dominican Republic. The seminar was offered to pregnant women who visited a clinic and volunteered to be tested for HIV. Sury was impressed by the women's strong motivation to learn how to protect themselves and their babies from infection. She founded Art for AIDS Photography, which raises funds for AIDS prevention education by selling original artwork.

Sury also created an interactive multimedia science curriculum in collaboration with Mayo Clinic and Washington University, which she used in science classes in inner-city St. Louis. While studying abroad in Santiago, Chile during her junior year at Washington University, Sury became intrigued by the popularity of yoga in Chile and conducted an ethnographic study of yoga practice in Santiago and the United States. This research formed the basis for her *summa cum laude* thesis, "Yoga, Modernity, and Paradoxes of Upper Class Discontent."

Sury plans to earn a Masters of Science in medical anthropology at Oxford, and will then return to the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities to complete her medical degree.

Thirty-two Rhodes Scholars are selected each year to represent the United States. Rhodes Scholarships provide all expenses for one to three years of study at the University of Oxford in England. The Rhodes Scholarship, established in 1902, is the oldest international scholarship. Sury is the sixth University of Minnesota-Twin Cities student to receive a Rhodes Scholarship since 2001.

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University of Minnesota civil engineering researcher finds new way to fight antibiotic-resistant bacteria

Treating municipal wastewater solids at higher temperatures proves effective

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New findings by civil engineering researchers in the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering shows that treating municipal wastewater solids at higher temperatures may be an effective tool in the fight against antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/22/2010) —New findings by civil engineering researchers in the University of Minnesota's College of Science and Engineering show that treating municipal wastewater solids at higher temperatures may be an effective tool in the fight against antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Heating the solid waste to 130 degrees Fahrenheit (55 degrees Celsius) was particularly effective in eliminating the genes that confer antibiotic resistance. These genes are used by bacteria to become resistant to multiple antibiotics, which are then known as "superbacteria" or "superbugs."

The research paper was recently published in Environmental Science & Technology, a journal of the American Chemical Society and highlighted in the society's weekly magazine Chemical & Engineering News.

Antibiotics are used to treat numerous bacterial infections, but the ever-increasing presence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria has raised substantial concern about the future effectiveness of antibiotics.

"The current scientific paradigm is that antibiotic resistance is primarily caused by antibiotic use, which has led to initiatives to restrict antibiotic prescriptions and curtail antibiotic use in agriculture," said civil engineering associate professor Timothy LaPara, an expert in both wastewater treatment and microbiology who led the new University of Minnesota study. "Our research is one of the first studies that considers a different approach to thwarting the spread of antibiotic resistance by looking at the treatment of municipal wastewater solids."

Antibiotic resistant bacteria develop in the gastrointestinal tracts of people taking antibiotics. These bacteria are then shed during defecation, which is collected by the existing sewer infrastructure and passed through a municipal wastewater treatment facility. The majority of wastewater treatment plants incubate the solid waste, called sludge, in a "digester" that decomposes organic materials. Digesters are often operated at 95 to 98 degrees Fahrenheit (35 to 37 degrees Celsius).

"Many digesters are operated at our body temperature, which is perfect for resistant bacteria to survive and maybe even grow," LaPara said.

Lab research by LaPara and his graduate student David Diehl shows that anaerobic digestion of municipal wastewater solids at high temperatures (as high as 130 degrees Fahrenheit or 55 degrees Celsius) is capable of destroying up to 99.9 percent of various genes that confer resistance in bacteria. In contrast, conventional anaerobic digestion (operated at 95 to 98 degrees Fahrenheit or about 37 degrees Celsius) demonstrated only a slight ability to eliminate the same set of genes.

"Our latest research suggests that high temperature anaerobic digestion offers a novel approach to slow the proliferation of antibiotic resistance." LaPara said. "This new method could be used in combination with other actions, like limiting the use of antibiotics, to extend the lifespan of these precious drugs."

LaPara also pointed out that raising the temperature of anaerobic digestion at wastewater treatment plants is not cost-prohibitive because the digesting bacteria produce methane gas that can be used to heat the reactor.

The Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund financially supported LaPara's recent research. LaPara has secured a grant from the National Science Foundation to continue his research examining other technologies to eliminate antibiotic-resistant bacteria in wastewater solids.

To view the most recent research report published in Environmental Science & Technology, visit http://z.umn.edu/lapara.

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Increase continues in number of farmers, lenders using debt mediation, says U of M Extension report

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/22/2010) —Even though farm prices rebounded during 2010, the lingering effects of low livestock prices, high feed costs and a lagging economy are evident in the University of Minnesota Extension Farmer-Lender Mediation Program's annual report.

For the third straight year, activity in the program showed increases during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, according to Richard Senese, Extension associate dean for community vitality and public engagement.

"Farmers and their lenders continue to rely on the program to help them work together to renegotiate, restructure or resolve their debts," Senese said. "Farmer-lender mediation gives farm operations the chance to stay in business until better times."

The report showed there were 545 cases where farm enterprises used mediation to reach agreement with lenders about debts. In 1002 additional cases, the right to use mediation to resolve debt was waived by the farmers involved.

The amount of debt addressed in mediation nearly doubled from $322 million in fiscal year 2009 to $624 million in fiscal 2010. The number of notices sent by lenders to farmers offering mediation increased by 9 percent during fiscal 2010.

Many well-managed operations are experiencing financial stress due to dramatic volatility in feed costs and market values, according to Brian Buhr, Extension economist and head of the university's applied economics department. It's likely this volatility will remain until there is greater overall economic certainty, he added.

"Low livestock profits and ripple effects from the general economy are contributing to the increase in the number of farm enterprises seeking mediation," said Buhr. "Pork and dairy profitability only recently began rebounding after extended losses due to high feed costs and lower product demand. And just as things started to improve, crop price increases have again led to higher feed costs."

Minnesota law requires that creditors with a secured debt of more than $5,000 against an agricultural property offer farmer-lender mediation before proceeding with foreclosure, repossession, cancellation of contract or collection of a judgment.

Farmers offered mediation can take advantage of a 90-day period to work with lenders to renegotiate, restructure or resolve their debts. A team of mediators, financial analysts and other University of Minnesota Extension professionals manage the program as neutral parties.

Mediation is an informal and confidential process that generally requires less cost and time than adversarial court litigation. To be eligible for farmer-lender mediation, a debtor must own or lease more than 60 acres and earn more than $20,000 in gross agricultural products the preceding year.

Extension's Farmer-Lender Mediation Program, part of USDA's Certified State Agricultural Mediation Program, tracks the number of notices offering mediation—not the total number of farms involved in mediation. The number of notices received is far more than the number of farms involved in mediation. Most Minnesota farm businesses involve multiple family members, and each family member or entity whose name appears on a debt obligation may receive a notice offering mediation.

For more information on University of Minnesota Extension's Farmer-Lender Mediation Program or to access the annual report, visit www.extension.umn.edu/community/mediation.

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For recent University of Minnesota Extension headlines, visit www.extension.umn.edu/inthenews.
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U of M mathematics graduate student awarded 2011 Rhodes Scholarship

Media Note: To download a higher resolution photo of Nadathur, click here.

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Prerna Nadathur, a graduate student in the College of Science and Engineering's School of Mathematics at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, has been named a 2011 Rhodes Scholar.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/23/2010) —Prerna Nadathur, a graduate student in the College of Science and Engineering's School of Mathematics at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, has been named a 2011 Rhodes Scholar. Nadathur, a graduate of Roseville Area High School in Roseville, Minn., received her undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago in the spring of 2010 where she majored in mathematics and minored in linguistics and philosophy. Her application for the Rhodes Scholarship was endorsed by the University of Chicago.

Nadathur is currently a first-year graduate student pursuing a masters degree in mathematics with an emphasis in mathematics education. Nadathur's parents are both faculty members at the University of Minnesota -- her father, Gopalan Nadathur is a professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, and her mother is Ameeta Kelekar, an assistant professor in the Department of Lab Medicine and Pathology.

While at the University of Chicago, Nadathur played violin in the chamber orchestra, was a leader in student government and in social justice activities and founded a chapter of Students for a Democratic Society. She has done independent research on social choice theorems and set theory. Nadathur also writes poetry and fiction, pursues classical Indian dance and has won prizes for her piano performances.

While attending Roseville High School, Nadathur participated in the University of Minnesota's Talented Youth Mathematics Program through the School of Mathematics Center for Educational Programs (UMTYMP). This educational outreach program provides a challenging alternative for Minnesota's talented mathematics students in grades 6-12. Nadathur was so successful in her UMTYMP courses that she was later hired as a teaching assistant in the program before leaving to attend the University of Chicago. As a junior and senior in high school, Nadathur was also a Post-Secondary Education Option (PSEO) student at the U of M.

At Oxford, Nadathur plans to pursue a masters of philosophy (M.Phil.) degree in general linguistics and comparative philology. After Oxford, she plans to pursue a doctorate degree in linguistics and eventually a career in the field.

Thirty-two Rhodes Scholars are selected each year to represent the United States. Rhodes Scholarships provide all expenses for one to three years of study at the University of Oxford in England. The Rhodes Scholarship, established in 1902, is the oldest international scholarship. Nadathur is the seventh University of Minnesota-Twin Cities student to receive a Rhodes Scholarship since 2001, joining former high school classmate and fellow U of M graduate student Priya Sury as those receiving the honor in 2011.

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U of M psychologists reveal the power of 'Getting in Under the Radar'

Study shows social support is most effective when provided invisibly

Media Note: To see a video with Howland and Simpson discussing their research, visit



Study recipients whose partners provided more "invisible" emotional support, but believed they had received less emotional support, experienced greater declines in anger and anxiety.
Photo courtesy Creative Commons.

http://youtu.be/gp3j1vuOrEA.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/30/2010) —New research by University of Minnesota psychologists shows how social support benefits are maximized when provided “invisibly” – that is without the support recipient being aware that they are receiving it.

The study, “Getting in Under the Radar: A Dyadic View of Invisible Support,” is published in the December issue of the journal Psychological Science.

In the study, graduate student Maryhope Howland and professor Jeffry Simpson suggest there may be something unique about the emotional support behaviors that result in recipients being less aware of receiving support.

“While previous research has frequently relied solely on the perceptions of support recipients, these findings are notable in that they reflect the behavior of both parties in a support exchange,” Howland said. “They also mark a significant step forward in understanding how and when social support in couples is effective.”

Receiving social support such as advice or encouragement is typically thought of as positive, a generous act by one person yielding benefits for another in a time of need. Effective support should make someone feel better and more competent, it is generally acknowledged. However, what is supposedly considered “support” may make someone feel vulnerable, anxious, or ineffective in the face of a stressor, Howland and Simpson found.

In the U of M study, 85 couples engaged in a videotaped support interaction in the lab. Support recipients were instructed to discuss something they’d like to change about themselves with their partners, who thus had the opportunity to provide support. After the interaction, support recipients reported how much support they had received (or were aware of receiving), and trained observers then watched the videotapes and coded the interactions to gauge the extent to which any support provided was invisible or visible.

Recipients whose partners provided more invisible emotional support such as reassurance or expressions of concern, but believed they had received less emotional support, experienced greater declines in anger and anxiety. This was also true for invisible practical support such as advice or direct offers of assistance. Additionally, in the case of invisible practical support, recipients experienced increases in self-efficacy.

Romantic partners are often a primary source of support, and understanding how the support process works between the two partners is likely to inform counseling and clinical approaches as well as future research in this area, according to the study’s authors.

For a full-text copy of the study, go to
http://pss.sagepub.com/content/early/2010/11/17/0956797610388817.full.pdf+html.

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University of Minnesota design project to develop solutions for Twin Cities campus's energy and environmental infrastructure

Zero+ Campus Design Project to provide real-world experiences to U of M students in achieving tangible sustainability outcomes

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/30/2010) — A first-of-its-kind project led by University of Minnesota landscape architects, architects, environmental scientists, campus planners and facilities managers will use the Twin Cities campus as a laboratory to integrate energy and environmental performance modeling.

The “Zero+ Campus Design Project” is an interdisciplinary collaboration between the university’s College of Design’s Department of Landscape Architecture and School of Architecture, in association with the Institute on the Environment, Capital Planning & Project Management and Facilities Management. The goal of the project is to reduce long-term costs and align campus operations with the content of its teaching and research by developing campus design solutions that have a net-positive effect on the campus’s energy use and storm water, while beautifying the campus.

“Universities, as research institutions and as long-term owners of property, have the opportunity -- and responsibility -- to explore new forms of sustainable practice,” said Tom Fisher, dean of the College of Design. “This project, which will link several disciplines and connect the academic and operational sides of the university, will show how campuses can become models of environmental stewardship.”

The U researchers attempt to integrate the energy model of buildings into the landscape. The practice of energy modeling -- the simulation of how much energy a building might use before it is built -- is well established and required for the design of all new buildings at the University of Minnesota. However, performance modeling of the landscape – storm water, biodiversity, shade and ground cover, and urban heat island – is currently not considered or integrated into the creation of building energy models. Evaporation of water and the shade created by trees can significantly cool the campus, which have a big impact on the energy use of buildings on the campus.

“This is a very exciting project and will provide real-world experiences to University of Minnesota students in achieving tangible sustainability outcomes,” said Jon Foley, director of the university’s Institute on the Environment.

Zero+ is the term used to describe buildings and places that can generate more than the energy they need from renewable sources on site. To achieve a Zero+ Campus would mean that the university would become self-sufficient in terms of energy. Zero also describes the amount of greenhouse gas emissions (which contribute to climate change) that a Zero+ Campus would emit.

Three years of funding for the project have been provided by the university’s Office of the Provost from the late Ann Salovich’s bequest to beautify the University of Minnesota campus.

For more information, visit http://zeropluscampus.umn.edu.

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U of M Extension studies climate change effects on shoreland plants

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/30/2010) —University of Minnesota Extension water resource management experts are researching how shoreland plants will be affected by the fluctuating water levels, periodic flooding and drought that climate change is expected to bring.

Shoreland plants protect water quality by stabilizing shorelines, reducing runoff and erosion, and improving wildlife habitats. Researchers have been unsure how climate change could affect shoreland plants' ability to survive.

According to Barb Liukkonen, Extension program leader in water resources, the impact of climate change may need to be considered when communities and individual property owners plan revegetation projects. "If they know which plants are more likely to survive and thrive under different climate conditions in the future, then we're going to make sure the projects that we put on our shorelines function the way we want—and help protect Minnesota's water resources," Liukkonen said.

The research team is conducting its study at the U of M College of Science and Engineering's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory in Minneapolis.

To see a video about the research, visit "Researching shoreland plants and climate change" at www.youtube.com/watch?v=rt0pyjr7XTU. For more information on water resources research and education from University of Minnesota Extension, visit www.extension.umn.edu/environment.

This video is free and available to news organizations for broadcast and website use. To interview Liukkonen, contact Catherine Dehdashti at ced@umn.edu.

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University of Minnesota licenses sensor technology to Minnesota startup

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Newly-licensed sensor technology developed at the University of Minnesota could prevent toxic byproducts of mining and other industries from ending up in the environment. Photo courtesy Creative Commons.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/02/2010) —United Science, a Minnesota startup company, has licensed sensor technology developed at the University of Minnesota that could prevent toxic byproducts of mining and other industries from ending up in the environment and improve productivity at the same time.

Chemistry associate professor Philippe Buhlmann in the university's College of Science and Engineering developed the ion selective electrode (ISE) sensor membrane. United Science will complete the design and commercialize the membrane technology, which is already being tested in the mining industry.

ISE sensors are used to detect and measure a specific ion in complex chemical solutions used in mining, food safety and health sciences. Buhlmann's fluorous sensor membrane is longer lasting, more durable and has improved selectivity and less interference than other ISE sensor membranes. Unlike other membranes it does not contain glass, making it better suited for use in caustic, high-pressure environments such as mining, as well as applications in food safety where broken glass could pose a hazard.

"We're all about unique sensing solutions," said Jon Thompson, the CEO of United Science who received his doctorate in chemistry from the U of M. United Science, based in Center City, Minn., specializes in developing chemically selective materials. "What we're after is addressing tough analytical problems. To accomplish this, we customize our sensing platform to address unmet sensing needs."

"We can get thousands of times higher selectivities than with conventional sensors," said Buhlmann, a leading researcher on fluorous membrane technology. "They are more selective and more resistant to bio-fouling."

When used in mining, the ISE sensor can prevent toxic materials from funneling back into the environment through the waste stream. Miners often use hazardous chemical reagents to draw out valuable ores during the process, but often use more than necessary to ensure all the ore is extracted. The sensor allows miners to use less toxic chemicals, which results in less toxic material in the waste stream. According to United Science, if implemented industry-wide the sensors could eliminate at least 24 tons of toxic waste emissions per mine. While the company is currently focusing on copper mines, the technology may be extended to iron mines.

"In mining applications they can use exactly the necessary amount of chemical reagent. If you add too little, you're going to lose a lot of money, because you are not separating the metal out of the ore; if you're using too much, you're wasting money and the agent ends up in the environment," said Buhlmann. "This is a perfect marriage of being economically more viable and environmentally friendly."

Buhlmann's research was funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Recently, Buhlmann and Thompson received Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grants from NSF to commercialize the technology.

Licensing this membrane technology has allowed United Science to serve a niche market -- in this case, mining -- where alternative sensing methods were absent. Beyond mining, Thompson said he plans to apply this technology to food safety, but wants to identify other areas where current sensors are inadequate or expensive.

“We were able to successfully apply the technology to some very challenging applications in the mining market. Other sensors that address challenges in other markets are under development," Thompson said. "Our market approach involves first identifying the need and value of a unique sensor; then we leverage the product platform."

Jay Schrankler, executive director of the University's Office for Technology Commercialization, said the licensing of this new technology is a win-win situation. "OTC is constantly on the lookout for commercialization partners like Jon Thompson whose market vision and leadership skills, combined with Dr. Buhlmann's technology innovation, lead to a solid business startup proposition."

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Expert to discuss climate change and transportation during U of M Center for Transportation Studies event



Dan Sperling is professor of civil engineering and environmental science and policy and founding director of the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis.

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December 2, 2010

Internationally recognized transportation expert Daniel Sperling will discuss the sustainable community of tomorrow -- what it will look like, how we will get there, and what the policy implications will be during the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies fall luncheon. "Climate Change and the Transportation Community: Conflicts and Tensions" is the title of Sperling's address, which will take place Tuesday, Dec. 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the A.E. Johnson Great Room, McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis.

The transport community has largely stood on the sidelines as debate rages over climate science and policy, according to Sperling. In his talk, he will address how emerging climate policies will directly impact transportation decisions and how the transport community can take advantage of emerging local, state, national and international initiatives. Sperling will explore the coming transformation of the transport sector, describing and analyzing policy initiatives to reduce vehicle-miles traveled, manage land use, develop alternative fuels, and transform vehicles.

Sperling is professor of civil engineering and environmental science and policy and founding director of the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis.

His areas of expertise include transportation technology assessment, energy and environmental aspects of transportation and transportation policy. He was the founding chair of the Transportation Research Board's Sustainability and Transportation standing committee. He is widely cited in leading newspapers and has been interviewed many times on National Public Radio.

He is also coauthor (with Deborah Gordon) of the book "Two Billion Cars: Driving Toward Sustainability."

Registration for the fall luncheon is available online at http://register.cce.umn.edu/Course.pl?sect_key=184833. The cost to attend is $30.

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University of Minnesota and community partners celebrate with proclamation and open house tour of refurbished computer centers

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/02/2010) —Four public computer centers, refurbished through a federal grant with the University of Minnesota and community partners, are celebrating with open houses at all four locations and a proclamation from the office of St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, Thursday, Dec. 9.

The centers are located at Asian Community Technology Center, Hmong American Partnership, Lifetrack Resources and YWCA Saint Paul.

A short program will feature remarks from Mayor Coleman, community partners and Craig Taylor, director of the university's Office for Business and Community Economic Development and one of the leads for the grant. The program will be at 3:30 p.m. at Lifetrack Resources, 709 University Ave. W., St. Paul.

The university, in partnership with 12 community organizations and the Minnesota Multicultural Media Consortium, received federal stimulus funds for the Broadband Access Project (BAP) to develop and improve computer labs in four underserved neighborhoods of the Twin Cities.

Three of the St. Paul computer centers offer free access to any adult with employment and education needs; the fourth center, at YWCA St. Paul, is available to people who sign up for free classes. Other computers centers in the project, located in both north and south Minneapolis, will be holding open houses on other dates.

As part of the refurbishing, all the computer centers received new computers, business-level Internet upgrades, new furniture and additional staff hours to provide support to users. The grant also provides for development of free classes that are now being offered at the centers.

A bus will be available for tours to the four St. Paul sites. Each site, except for the YWCA St. Paul, will be open to the public from 2 to 5 p.m. The bus schedule is as follows:

2 p.m.: Load bus at Lifetrack Resources, 709 University Ave. W., St. Paul
2:15 p.m.: Hmong American Partnership, 1075 Arcade Street, St. Paul
2:45 p.m.: YWCA Saint Paul, 375 Selby Avenue, St. Paul
3:05 p.m.: Asian Community Technology Center, 417 University Avenue, St. Paul
3:30 p.m.: Return to Lifetrack for program

About the Broadband Access Project: BAP is funded by $3.6M in grants from the U.S. Department of Commerce (Award #27-42-B10003) and a $741,000 match from the University of Minnesota and community partners. BAP is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

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U of M Regents meet Dec. 9-10, hear annual report on university research

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December 3, 2010

The University of Minnesota Board of Regents holds its monthly meetings Thursday and Friday, Dec. 9-10. Included on the agenda is the annual report by Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy on the year's progress on key research performance metrics and technology commercialization results, both of which continue a positive trajectory. The board will also receive the university's annual financial report from CFO Richard Pfutzenreuter.

Highlights of the meetings include:

Thursday, Dec. 9

9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Finance and Operations Committee, East Committee Room. State Economist Tom Stinson will provide an update on the State of Minnesota's economy.

9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Faculty, Staff and Student Affairs Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will act on the policy "Conflict Resolution Process for Employees" and will also hear a report on trends, issues and benchmarks in retirement programs from Vice President for Human Resources Carol Carrier. Associate Vice President for Equity and Diversity Kris Lockhart will give an update on the impact of the Office for Equity and Diversity.

1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Facilities Committee, West Committee Room. The committee will act on a 20-year lease of property in Willmar for the Mid-Central Research and Outreach Center. It will also review on amendments to the university's traffic regulation ordinances and board policies on "Campus Health and Safety" and "Campus and Facility Usage."

1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Educational Planning and Policy Committee, East Committee Room. The committee acts on board policy, "Commercialization of Intellectual Property Rights" and receives a report from Provost Tom Sullivan and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Robert McMaster on Fall 2010 enrollment.

3:45 - 4:45 p.m., Litigation Review Committee, W.R. Peterson Conference Room. The committee will consider a resolution to conduct a non-public meeting to discuss attorney-client privileged matters.

Friday, Dec. 10

9 - 11:30 a.m., Board meeting, boardroom. Mulcahy provides his annual report on the state of university research. Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and Dean of the Medical School Frank Cerra will be recognized by the board for his years of service. Pfutzenreuter presents the university's annual financial report. And, President Robert Bruininks will lead a review of the 2011 state capital budget request.

More information on the Board of Regents and live-streaming of the board meeting can be found at www.umn.edu/regents.

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Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs searches for new dean

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Dean J. Brian Atwood will take leave from the university beginning January 2011.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/07/2010) —Tom Sullivan, the University of Minnesota's senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, today appointed a committee to begin the search for a new dean for the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. In January 2011, current dean Brian Atwood will take leave from the university to become chair of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee in Paris. Professor Greg Lindsey was appointed on Nov. 23 as the interim dean of the Humphrey Institute.

Provost Sullivan has appointed David Wippman, dean of the university's Law School and William S. Pattee Professor of Law, to chair the search committee, whose members are:

- Ragui Assaad, professor, Humphrey Institute
- Barbara Crosby, professor, Humphrey Institute
- Frank Douma, research fellow, Humphrey Institute
- Gwendolyn Freed, vice president for marketing and communication, Gustavus Adolphus College, and president, Humphrey Alumni Board
- Edward Goetz, professor, Humphrey Institute
- Lawrence Jacobs, professor, Walter F. and Joan Mondale Chair for Political Studies, and director, Center for the Study of Politics and Governance, Humphrey Institute
- Aara Johnson, president, Humphrey Student Association
- Samuel Myers, Jr., Roy Wilkins Professor of Human Relations and Social Justice, Humphrey Institute
- Arthur Rolnick, senior fellow, Humphrey Institute
- Kate Rubin, vice president of social responsibility, United Health Group, and member, Humphrey Dean's Advisory Council
- Jodi Sandfort, associate professor, Humphrey Institute
- Kathryn Sikkink, Regents Professor, Political Science
- Deborah Swackhamer, co-director, Water Resources Center, and Charles M. Denny Chair of Science, Technology, and Public Policy, Humphrey Institute
- John Tunheim, judge, United States District Court, and chair, Humphrey Dean's Advisory Council

The committee will work with a search firm to identify a group of semi-finalists. The position will be advertised nationally and internationally. Finalists will be invited to meet with faculty, students, staff, the Humphrey Institute's Advisory Council, alumni and the Alumni Board, and the broader university community.

"Brian Atwood is leaving the Humphrey Institute with a deep and secure foundation of excellence and achievement" said Sullivan. "Having consulted with Humphrey faculty, senior fellows, staff, students, and the leadership of the external Advisory Council and Alumni Board, the institute is united in seeking a dean of outstanding stature and leadership ability. All are agreed that the new dean must continue to build on the Humphrey Institute's powerfully positive institutional momentum in its leading role in the world of public affairs. "

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International law permits abusive fathers custody of children, study finds

Hague Convention needs to factor in domestic violence in court decisions



A new study of court cases, co-authored by the U of M's Jeffery Edleson, shows that when battered women left their abusive partners and returned with their children to the United States, half of the time, U.S. courts sent the children back, usually to their fathers.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/08/2010) —A new study of court cases against battered women living abroad shows that when the women left their abusive partners and returned with their children to the United States, half of the time, U.S. courts sent the children back, usually to their fathers.

The study, co-authored by University of Minnesota researcher Jeffrey Edleson, also shows that almost a third of these estranged husbands filed criminal kidnapping charges against their wives. Released in conjunction with Human Rights Day, Friday, Dec. 10, the Hague Domestic Violence Survey is intended to help to establish domestic violence as a factor in whether courts send children back to their fathers. And the authors of the report hope their website serves as a resource for women and lawyers faced with Hague petitions.

The children's return is in accordance with an international treaty, the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, which affects thousands of children each year.

The Hague Convention does not explicitly factor in domestic violence in deciding whether to send children back to the country where they lived. But since the treaty was created 30 years ago, social science research has demonstrated that a child's exposure to domestic violence is just as harmful as direct abuse. Children who witness domestic violence are at higher risk for emotional problems, and later in life, they have a greater risk for violence in adult interpersonal relationships.

Now social scientists say that it's time for the law to catch up with science, especially as these cases are likely to dramatically increase as more binational families form and countries such as India and Japan consider adopting the treaty in the next few years.

"The social science literature is clear that child exposure to domestic violence against a parent represents a potentially grave risk to that child's physical and psychological well-being, " Edleson said.

"Judges and attorneys need to recognize this in Hague Convention proceedings. And social service professionals need to understand these dynamics and the international treaty to better serve battered women and children with whom they work."

The report is the first effort in the United States to interview battered mothers and attorneys about their experiences with the Hague Convention, in hopes of better preparing mothers and their lawyers for court proceedings in these cases.

The 404-page report, funded and published by the U.S. National Institute of Justice, includes analysis and excerpts of interviews with 22 mothers and 23 lawyers who represented mothers and fathers in Hague lawsuits and an analysis of court decisions on published Hague cases involving domestic violence.

The report is part of the Hague Domestic Violence Project on international child abduction and domestic violence, led by Lindhorst and Edleson, who is a professor in the U of M's College of Education and Human Development's School of Social Work and director of the Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse. On Human Rights Day, Dec. 10, the group will hold a free event in Minneapolis of actors reading the battered mothers' stories interspersed with commentary by law and social science experts. The event will also be available by webcast. For more information and to register, go to: http://www.haguedv.org.

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University of Minnesota to host Martin Luther King Jr. Concert, Jan. 23, 2011

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December 8, 2010

The University of Minnesota will host “Tapestry of Dreams,” the 30th anniversary production of its Martin Luther King Jr. Concert, from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 23, 2011, at the university’s Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 Fourth St. S., Minneapolis. Tapestry of Dreams will honor King and the late Reginald Buckner, founder of concert. The event will feature The Steeles, a family soul and gospel group based in the Twin Cities.

The program will also feature music by the a cappella group 4Given; a multi-media presentation, “Jazz Moods for Dreamers,” adapted from Langston Hughes' jazz poetry masterwork "Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz" and featuring John Wright, Morse-Amoco Distinguished Teaching Professor of Afro-American and African Studies and English at the University of Minnesota; community reflections on King; and a welcome from university President Robert Bruininks.

Jazz Moods for Dreamers is a two-mood excerpt [Mood 1, “Cultural Exchange,” and Mood 10, “Bird in Orbit,”] that includes specific allusions to King and which has been specially designed for the 2011 concert as a tribute also to Buckner, at whose memorial concert in 1989 they were originally performed.

Wright originated the Langston Hughes Project, a performance ensemble of professional scholars and musicians, in the early 1990s through the university's African American and African Studies and Jazz Studies programs, in collaboration with the Archie Givens Sr. Collection of African American Literature and Life. The project creates, for combined performance and educational workshop purposes, a multimedia concert production of Ask Your Mama: 12 Moods for Jazz, which Hughes wrote in the early 1960s but was unable to bring to the stage before his death in 1967. Ask Your Mama is a nearly 800-line homage in verse and music to the struggle for human freedom at home and abroad during the era of the Civil Rights and African Independence movements of the 1950s and 60s.

Hughes scored his kaleidoscopic praise poem to the freedom struggle with musical cues drawn from blues and Dixieland, gospel songs, boogie-woogie, bebop, progressive jazz, Latin cha-cha, Afro-Cuban mambo music, German lieder, Jewish liturgy, West Indian calypso and African drumming. The Langston Hughes Project has expanded Hughes’s original staging concept to include a third, visual dimension of digitized still and live action videographic images that revisit the poem’s people, places and events and at the same time incorporate the photography, painting, sculpture and graphic designs of African American visual artists – like Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence, Gordon Parks and Roy De Carava – with whom Hughes had collaborative or personal ties during the course of his long career.

When the university's Martin Luther King Jr. Concert began nearly 30 years ago, it was the only tribute of its kind in Minnesota. Buckner, a U of M School of Music professor and an accomplished performer and composer, founded the concert and began the tradition of celebrating the life and accomplishments of King through the performing arts. After professor Buckner’s death in 1989, the university continued to honor his memory and artistic genius by carrying on the inspiring legacy of this annual program. The concert is now a joint program of the university’s Office for Equity and Diversity and the School of Music.

The concert is free of charge and open to the public; no advance tickets or reservation is required. For more information about the program, or for disability accommodations, contact the Office for Equity and Diversity at oed@umn.edu or (612) 624-0594. Visit z.umn.edu/MLK2011 for more information.

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University of Minnesota first in the nation to begin using high-tech indoor solar simulator

Engineering researchers will study ways to turn concentrated sunlight into fuels



The new concentrating solar simulator will be used by researchers in a variety of experiments, including converting concentrated sunlight, carbon dioxide and water into synthetic hydrocarbon fuels.

Media Note: Interviews with researchers and a tour of the university's solar energy lab are available upon request by contacting Preston Smith at smith@umn.edu.

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Preston Smith, University News Service, smith@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/09/2010) —In a windowless solar energy lab in the Mechanical Engineering Building at the University of Minnesota, researchers are tapping the power of a new piece of high-tech equipment that can replicate the amount of sunlight equivalent to more than 3,000 suns.

The new concentrating solar simulator, the first of its kind in the nation, will be used by researchers in the university's College of Science and Engineering in a variety of experiments, including converting concentrated sunlight, carbon dioxide and water into synthetic hydrocarbon fuels. The indoor lab will provide consistent experimental conditions independent of weather and time of day.

Based on concepts of similar simulators in Europe, University of Minnesota researchers designed the $450,000 piece of equipment to provide concentrated light equivalent to that possible from modern solar optical systems. The investment is already paying off. The lead researchers at the university have secured nearly $1 million in research money from a new National Science Foundation Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation grant in collaboration with CalTech and UCLA. The University of Minnesota's Solar Energy Laboratory researchers also have received nearly $1.4 million in grants from the Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment within the university's Institute on the Environment.

"This is an exciting time for solar research at the University of Minnesota," said mechanical engineering professor Jane Davidson, one of the lead solar researchers. "This is the culmination of years of work and is the next step in our goal to develop thermochemical processes for producing fuels from sunlight. Combining solar thermal power and sustainable feedstocks like brackish water, CO_2 and cellulosic biomass promises a transformational path for carbon-neutral production of hydrocarbon fuels plus long-term storage of solar energy, our most abundant energy resource."

The new solar simulator includes seven mirrored lamps with 6,500-watt bulbs in each lamp. The bulbs are used by large movie theaters to illuminate an entire screen. Using special reflectors, the light from the seven lamps is concentrated into a single three-inch-diameter spot where specialized solar chemical reactors are tested. Temperatures in the reactor from the concentrated light can reach more than 3,600 degrees Fahrenheit (2,000 Celsius).

These high temperatures give researchers a unique opportunity to develop highly efficient ways to convert carbon dioxide and water to solar fuels. The transformational process reverses combustion by efficiently "reenergizing" carbon dioxide and water molecules back into hydrocarbon form using solar energy, much like natural photosynthesis except faster and more efficiently. Researchers say the fuel production process is sustainable because it uses recycled carbon dioxide and water. The only byproduct is oxygen, which is released to the environment during the splitting reactions and used again when the hydrocarbon fuels are burned.

Another process the researchers study uses high temperatures from sunlight to gasify biomass from plants to produce synthetic fuels.

If successful at a small scale in the lab, the processes could be scaled up and used in large-scale, outdoor solar concentrators across the globe.

"Some people ask us why we would be doing solar research in a cold, northern state like Minnesota," said mechanical engineering assistant professor Wojciech Lipinski, the other lead researcher in the project. "I usually respond that you don't need to design a car on the road, you design it in a lab. So why not develop solar technologies in cold climates where you have lots of experts and great equipment?"

The University of Minnesota has a long history of thermal science and solar energy expertise that dates back several decades. "Many of the world's leading solar researchers have ties to the University of Minnesota," Lipinski said.

Today, the solar fuels research team includes University of Minnesota faculty and students from mechanical engineering, chemistry and bioproducts and biosystems engineering.



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Noted arts patrons John and Sage Cowles to discuss evolution of Twin Cities cultural scene in University of Minnesota Witness to History event

From the Guthrie's arrival, to the Shubert's rebirth, the Cowles have been key members of the local arts scene for more than 50 years

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December 9, 2010

The University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education brings influential community leaders John and Sage Cowles to campus the evening of Thursday, Dec. 16, for a personal account of the significant moments that formed Minnesota's thriving arts community.

The couple has played a role in shaping the area's creative scene for more than half a century. The former president and CEO of the Minneapolis Tribune newspaper, John Cowles was influential in convincing Sir Tyrone Guthrie to build a new theater in Minneapolis, bringing the Guthrie Theatre to Minnesota. Sage Cowles has been a passionate champion for Twin Cities dance. The former Broadway dancer is the namesake of the "Sage Awards," which honor local dance, and has served on the boards of several dance organizations. The couple also helped establish the Barbara Barker Center for Dance at the University of Minnesota, and more recently, the re-opening of the Minnesota Shubert Center as The Cowles Center for Performing Arts & Dance.

The arts advocates will talk about the evolution of the local arts scene and their personal experiences along the way. Moderating the discussion with the Cowles will be Tom Fisher, dean of the U of M College of Design. A Q&A with audience members will follow.

The discussion is the third in a new series, the LearningLife Forum. During its first year, the forum will focus on the theme Witness to History, and will ask some of Minnesota's most legendary public figures to share their experiences creating and witnessing history.

The event takes place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 16 at the Continuing Education & Conference Center (1890 Buford Ave.), on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. Tickets are $15 and can be purchased by calling 612-624-4000 or by visiting cce.umn.edu/learninglife.

Tickets may be available for purchase at the door, however advanced registration for the event is encouraged as seating is limited.

Future Forum speakers include former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale (January 20); civil rights activist Josie Johnson (February 17); world-famous transplant surgeon Dr. John Najarian (March 17); and Minnesota's prominent milling family members George and Sally Pillsbury (April 21).

Media sponsorship for the LearningLife Forum is provided by Minnesota Public Radio and MinnPost.com.

The LearningLife Forum is a program of the University of Minnesota College of Continuing Education. Through the College of Continuing Education, motivated adults enrich their personal and professional lives through learning opportunities ranging from courses, workshops and retreats, to credit certificates and bachelor's and master's degrees. For more information about the college, call 612-624-4000 or visit www.cce.umn.edu.

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U of M Honors Program students tops in their class

Contacts: Daniel Wolter, University News Service, wolter@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/09/2010) —University of Minnesota Provost Tom Sullivan today reported that the Fall 2010 freshman class in the university's young campus-wide Honors Program was one of the best in the nation.

"Just a few years ago, when we launched our campus-wide Honors Program, it was our goal to be able to compete with the best colleges and universities in the country for the best and brightest students in Minnesota and from around the world," said Sullivan. "In just its third year, that goal is a reality. The profile of the 2010 freshman Honors class puts us at or near the top among our peers, which is wonderful news for the university and the state of Minnesota."

With an average ACT composite score of 31.6, the U of M's freshman honors class is at the top of a distinguished group of peer liberal arts institutions, which includes Carleton, Amherst, Williams, Grinnell, Vassar and Macalester. It also puts the U third among peer universities, behind Stanford and Northwestern Universities and ahead of Duke, Carnegie Mellon, the University of Chicago and Georgetown University.

Among peer STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) universities, the U of M's 33.5 average ACT composite tied with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), put it a half a point behind the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and ahead of Cornell, Carnegie Mellon and Georgia Tech.

"A top research university has many outstanding qualities. Among the most important is the ability to attract exceptional and talented students," Sullivan added. "The improvements and investments we've made in our Honors Program and to our overall undergraduate experience at the University of Minnesota is really paying off."

(The comparisons cited above are University of Minnesota Honors Program students compared to the incoming freshman classes of peer institutions.)

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University of Minnesota again posts significant gains in research performance metrics

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/10/2010) —The University of Minnesota has made significant gains in its research and development (R&D) expenditures, according to the National Science Foundation's (NSF) latest survey. Tim Mulcahy, U of M vice president for research, talked about the NSF survey and other metrics today as he gave his annual report on the state of the university's research enterprise to the Board of Regents. Highlights from the report include::

- The latest annual survey conducted by the National Science Foundation (NSF), covering research performance for 2009, shows that the university posted an 8.5 percent increase in research and development (R&D) expenditures to a total of $741 million.

  -Since 2004 the university has increased R&D expenditures by 41 percent, 1 1/2 times the average increase posted by the nation's top 20 universities.
  -The NSF survey ranked the university eighth among public research universities in the nation and 10th among all public and private research universities, an improvement of one position in both groups.

- Grants and contracts awarded to university researchers topped $823 million in fiscal year 2010, marking a 36 percent increase over the previous year's total. Even after excluding the contribution of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) awards, the fiscal year 2010 sponsored awards total increased 23 percent
- Faculty and staff have mounted strong responses to new funding opportunities associated with ARRA since it was announced in 2009, submitting 963 applications and securing 348 awards totaling more than $208 million
- Despite a decline in gross revenue to $75.2 million, the Office for Technology Commercialization reported increases in several key metrics that are used to track the performance of the university's technology transfer program. The revenue decline was anticipated and is due to patents expiring on Ziagen, the blockbuster AIDS treatment that has accounted for the majority of university commercialization revenue for a number of years.

"Fiscal year 2010 was clearly a great year for the University of Minnesota and its journey toward its goal to be one of the best public research universities in the world," said Mulcahy. "All the accomplishments outlined in this report to the Regents clearly show that the university has not only retained a position among the elite public research universities in the country, it has improved its standings among this esteemed cohort."

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U of M students present largest robot show in Twin Cities

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December 10, 2010



The robot walk-through show is the largest collection of robots assembled in one place in the Twin Cities

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. 13, 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 folding a T-shirt or automatically opening a can -- or exist solely to amuse and delight – like the miniature automated bowling lane or the robotic guitar.

For more information on this event and photos from previous years, visit www.me.umn.edu/robotshow.

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MCROC project: U of M approves twenty-year lease with City of Willmar

Lease is one of the last steps required for a $1.25 million grant from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Contacts: Kathy Yaeger, U of M System Academic Administration, yaeger@umn.edu, (612) 624-5841
Tim Miller, Development Partners, (320) 222-3066

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/10/2010) —The University of Minnesota Board of Regents today approved a twenty-year lease with the City of Willmar to occupy a building located on the MinnWest Technology Campus.

This is one of the last steps required for a $1.25 million grant from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to renovate an 18,000- square-foot building on the former state hospital grounds in Willmar for the University of Minnesota Mid-Central Research and Outreach Center (MCROC). Grant funds will be matched by a contribution from the MinnWest Technology Campus to build out and equip a laboratory for biotechnology research.

“The University is grateful to the State, the City of Willmar, and MinnWest Technology Campus for making this new center possible. We look forward to serving the community and the region,” said university President Robert Bruininks.

The MCROC will emphasize collaboration with business and industry, local government and civic organizations, and other higher education partners including St. Cloud State University. “By creating public/private partnerships and sharing ideas, resources and expertise the university can better meet the needs of the state and serve as a model for research and land-grant universities in the twenty-first century” said Senior Vice President Robert Jones, who is responsible for the MCROC and other statewide university programs and centers.

When the renovation is completed in May 2011, one of the first initiatives will be the establishment of the Center for Avian Gut Health, an interdisciplinary research collaborative headed by nationally-renowned turkey disease expert Dr. Carol Cardona. The center will benefit the entire regional turkey industry. University of Minnesota Extension will offer workshops and other services, and the Morris and Twin Cities campuses will coordinate undergraduate and graduate-level internships and post-graduate training; student research opportunities; continuing education training seminars for working professionals; renewable energy initiatives; and K-12 college preparation programs.

“This is a very good day for the City,” said Willmar City Administrator Michael Schmit. “Willmar is quickly becoming a central hub for business development and job growth. We are grateful to have MinnWest Technology Campus and the new businesses it attracts. The addition of a new program of the University of Minnesota will greatly benefit this community and enhance the good work already underway by the University in western Minnesota.”

Jim Sieben, President of MinnWest Technology Campus and General Manager of Nova-Tech Engineering said, “Almost five years ago we had a vision to develop a center for engineering, bioscience, and renewable energy research, development, and commercialization. We have grown to more than 250 employees and 20 companies on the campus. We consider this collaboration with the University of Minnesota to be a capstone in our vision. Minnesota needs well-paying technology jobs and I believe we are providing that on this campus. We look forward to working with the University of Minnesota toward our common goals for this region.”

A community open house for the completed MCROC will be held in summer 2011. Questions about the new facility or the existing internship programs can be directed to Tim Miller, (320) 222-3066.

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University of Minnesota statement regarding Vikings football

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The University of Minnesota is willing to work with the Minnesota Vikings to use TCF Bank Stadium as an alternative site for their Monday, Dec. 20 game should repairs to the recently-collapsed Metrodome not be completed in time.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/12/2010) —The following is a statement from the University of Minnesota in light of Sunday morning's Metrodome roof collapse:

“The University of Minnesota values its strong, positive relationship with the Minnesota Vikings. University officials have worked diligently today to assist the Vikings in finding solutions to the unforeseen and unfortunate circumstances resulting from the Metrodome collapse. Following the Golden Gophers last home game against Iowa, TCF Bank Stadium was winterized for the season and is not now immediately operational for football games. Enabling the Vikings to play at our stadium presents substantial logistical and operational challenges on such short notice. We'll continue to explore all feasible options to make it possible to accommodate the Vikings on campus to complete their season in the Twin Cities, should that be necessary.”

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Media availability, volunteer information for Vikings game at TCF Bank Stadium

Contacts: University News Service, unews@umn.edu, (612) 624-5551 - MEDIA CALLS ONLY PLEASE



Workers remove snow at TCF Bank Stadium Tuesday.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/15/2010) —The University of Minnesota will hold media availabilities at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday to update the media on the snow removal process and other preparations being made at TCF Bank Stadium for Monday night's Vikings-Bears game. Media interested in attending these availabilities may gather outside the Jackson County entrance to TCF Bank Stadium prior to 3 p.m.

Photographers and videographers will be allowed inside TCF Bank Stadium for 30 minutes following the availabilities.

UPDATE as of 10 a.m., Dec. 16, 2010:

Due to an overwhelming response from hundreds of great Minnesotans, the University of Minnesota is no longer accepting shovelers to help clear TCF Bank Stadium on Thursday, Dec. 16. Those interested in helping on Friday, Dec. 17 can check back in at the stadium at 8 a.m.

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U of M announces 2011 Imagine Fund Annual Award winners

151 faculty members receive more than $755,000 to support arts, humanities and design system-wide

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

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/16/2010) —University of Minnesota Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Tom Sullivan announced today the recipients of the 2011 Imagine Fund Annual Awards, available July 1, 2011. The Imagine Fund is a unique University of Minnesota system-wide program open to humanities, arts, and design faculty to support a range of projects and enhance the presence of these disciplines at the university. The 151 recipients of this year's awards have been granted a total of more than $755,000.

This marks the first year of the Imagine Fund's $5,000 awards, which is part of the provost's effort to recognize the value of supporting humanities, arts, and design at the university.

"The University of Minnesota has made, through the Imagine Fund, a sustained and serious commitment to supporting our finest scholars and creative artists precisely at a time when many other universities are curtailing such support" said Sullivan. "We created this competitive process to encourage a vibrant range of excellence in intellectual and artistic endeavor and the exceptional proposals and their outcomes testify to its resounding success."

Other aspects of the Imagine Fund program, supported by a generous grant from the McKnight Foundation, include the creation of two new endowed chairs to celebrate the arts, humanities and design; the appointment of a visiting scholar or scholars to serve as a distinguished arts and humanities chair; a special fund to support events that promote innovation, collaboration and greater public engagement; and the option for faculty to procure additional funds to secure course release and further advance their creative thinking and scholarship.

For more information on the Imagine Fund, including a complete and detailed listing of 2011's award-winners, visit http://www.artsandhumanities.umn.edu/info/annual-awards/2011-recipients.

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Minnesota students perform traditional Chinese songs, martial arts in China at Confucius Institute Conference

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/17/2010) —Three Minnesota students recently returned from a two-week trip to China after performing at the fifth annual Confucius Institute Directors Forum in Beijing, China. The Minnesota students -- Nick Klauda (Chanhassen High School), Nathan Tapp (graduate of Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis) and Thommy Tran (a Patrick Henry graduate and current University of Minnesota student) -- performed traditional Chinese songs and martial arts with students from around the world at the conference, which is hosted by the Chinese government and designed to bring Confucius Institute leadership from around the world together.

Each year, the University of Minnesota's Confucius Institute (which opened in 2008) and China Center annually host a China Day program for local area high school students who are studying Chinese. The 2009 program focused on Chinese music, and the local students were chosen to perform in Beijing based on their performances.

The entire performance will be shown on Chinese television this weekend, including a 9:30 a.m. showing Sunday, Dec. 19 on the Chinese television station CCTV-4. Students and staff from the trip will meet at the Mandarin Kitchen (8766 South Lyndale Avenue, Minneapolis) for dim sum breakfast. Please RSVP to Emily Hanson at hans0996@umn.edu.

Videos from the performance can also be seen at http://confucius.umn.edu/calendar/2010_student_performance.html.

The Confucius Institute Conference is hosted annually by the Hanban, a public institution affiliated with the Chinese Ministry of Education that provides Chinese language and cultural teaching resources and services worldwide. The conference is designed to bring Confucius Institute directors from around the world together with their institution's leadership to discuss the development and impact of Confucius Institutes. The conference also allows Confucius Institute directors and their leaders to interact with key personnel in China's education ministry and institutions.

The Minnesota delegation -- which also included U of M senior vice president for System Academic Administration Robert Jones, associate vice president and dean of International Programs Meredith McQuaid and Confucius Institute director Joan Brzezinski -- arrived in China on Dec. 1 and departed Dec. 14.

The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota (CIUMN) promotes the study of Chinese language and culture throughout Minnesota. It is a collaborative initiative between the University of Minnesota, the Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters, and Capital Normal University in Beijing. The Confucius Institute at the University of Minnesota is one of 67 in the United States and nearly 400 worldwide.

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University of Minnesota, Twin Cities to close from Dec. 24 through Jan. 2

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The winter closure is one of a number of cost-saving measures being used to address the significant reduction in state funding for the U of M for the biennium.

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/22/2010) —The University of Minnesota, Twins Cities campus will be closed between Dec. 24, 2010 and Jan. 2, 2011. During this winter closure, university services and business offices will be closed. Only essential services will be open.

The winter closure is one of a number of cost-saving measures being used to address the significant reduction in state funding for the U of M for the biennium. Utility savings will be realized by turning the heat down in most buildings and labor savings will be achieved during a time when university activities are already naturally reduced.

The university expects to save $160,000 on its power bill on the Twin Cities campus because of the shutdown. The University of Minnesota will save approximately $18 million in labor, which includes the three-day furlough for hourly employees and a temporary reduction in pay for faculty and staff, which began in July.

Only hospitals, some labs and a few residence halls will remain open, says University of Minnesota News Service Director Daniel Wolter.

University facilities that will be closed will be managed like they are on weekends -- by turning down the heat and turning off the lights. Just as most people turn their heat down in their home when they leave for vacation, the university will turn heat down in buildings, Wolter says.

The university's other campuses will also be closed. The Duluth campus will be closed from Dec. 23 through Jan. 3. The Morris and Crookston campuses will be closed from Dec. 23 through Jan. 2.

For more information about winter closure, see http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/faculty-staff/closure/index.htm .

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International conference at the University of Minnesota honors prize-winning Minneapolis-born mathematician



Minneapolis-born mathematician and 2010 Abel Prize winner John Torrence Tate, Jr., will return to his hometown to be honored at the First Abel Conference at the University of Minnesota

$1 million Abel Prize is equivalent to Nobel Prize for mathematics researchers

Media Note: To schedule an interview with John T. Tate, Jr., between Monday, Jan. 3 and Saturday, Jan. 8, contact Rhonda Zurn at rzurn@umn.edu.

Contacts: Rhonda Zurn, College of Science and Engineering, rzurn@umn.edu, (612) 626-7959
Preston Smith, University News Service, smith@umn.edu, (612) 625-0552

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/22/2010) —Minneapolis-born mathematician and 2010 Abel Prize winner John Torrence Tate, Jr., will return to his hometown to be honored at the First Abel Conference at the University of Minnesota Jan. 3-5. The University's Institute for Mathematics and its Applications is hosting the conference in collaboration with the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters with support from IBM Research.

Tate was awarded the $1 million Abel Prize, an international prize for outstanding scientific work in the field of mathematics first awarded in 2003. Tate received the award for his vast and lasting impact on the theory of numbers at a ceremony in Norway last May. He will receive special recognition from the University of Minnesota during the opening session of the First Abel Conference at 11 a.m., Monday, Jan. 3 in Room 3-180 of the University of Minnesota's Keller Hall, 200 Union St. S.E., Minneapolis.

Tate is the son of world-renown physicist and former University of Minnesota physics professor John T. Tate, Sr. The University of Minnesota's Tate Laboratory of Physics Building is named after Tate, Sr.

Tate, Jr. was born in Minneapolis in 1925 and grew up in Minneapolis while his father was a professor at the University of Minnesota. He graduated from St. Paul Academy in 1942. Tate received his bachelor's degree from Harvard in 1946 and his doctorate from Princeton in 1950.

After receiving his doctorate, he served as a research assistant and instructor at Princeton (1950–53) and a visiting professor at Columbia University (1953–54). In 1954, Tate returned to his alma mater, Harvard University, where he served as a professor for the next 36 years. In 1990, he accepted his last academic position as professor and Sid W. Richardson Chair in Mathematics at the University of Texas at Austin. He recently retired from this position.

Over the course of the last six decades, Tate has left his mark on modern mathematics. He has made fundamental contributions in algebraic number theory and in related areas of algebraic geometry. Because of his work, numerous mathematical concepts are named after him. In mathematics literature, there are references to the Tate module, Tate curve, Tate cycle, Hodge-Tate decompositions, Tate cohomology, Serre-Tate parameter, Lubin-Tate group, Tate trace, Shafarevich-Tate group, Néron-Tate height and more.

Tate has received several awards for his work including the Cole Prize and Steele Prize for Lifetime Achievement from the American Mathematical Society, the Wolf Prize in Mathematics, a Sloan Foundation Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Tate was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in 1969. He was named a foreign member of the French Academy of Sciences in 1992 and an honorary member of the London Mathematical Society in 1999.

For more information on the Abel Conference at the University of Minnesota, including a schedule of workshops, visit http://z.umn.edu/imaabelconference. For more information about the Abel Prize and to see a video interview with Tate about his early interests in math, visit http://www.abelprisen.no/en.

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News

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U of M researchers' discovery suggests a new way to prevent HIV from infecting human cells

Media Note: For a copy of the abstract and/or full article, contact Preston Smith or John Albin.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (12/22/2010) —Researchers at the University of Minnesota have discovered how HIV binds to and destroys a specific human antiviral protein called APOBEC3F. The results suggest that a simple chemical change can convert APOBEC3F to a more effective antiviral agent and that shielding of a common feature shared by related proteins may yield a similar outcome.

This discovery highlights the potential for a novel approach to combating HIV/AIDS that would seek to stabilize and harness the innate antiviral activity of certain human proteins, according to lead author John Albin, a researcher in the laboratory of Reuben Harris, associate professor of biochemistry, molecular biology and biophysics in the College of Biological Sciences.

The finding was published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry.

Human cells produce a family of antiviral proteins (called APOBECs) that have the unique and natural ability to destroy HIV. But HIV has evolved a way to overcome restriction using an accessory protein called Vif (virion infectivity factor) to degrade the APOBEC proteins and allow the virus to spread. Albin and colleagues learned where Vif interacts with one antiviral protein, APOBEC3F, and showed how the connection can be interrupted by a simple chemical change on the surface of APOBEC3F. They also noted that similar interaction sites are found on the same surface in other members of this antiviral protein family.

“This suggests that the interaction between Vif and these antiviral APOBEC proteins could be blocked with a drug that would shield the Vif interaction region,” Albin says. “Such an intervention has the potential to allow as many as seven natural antiviral drugs to spring into action and prevent HIV from spreading.”

The Harris lab is focuses on understanding every level of the vital interaction between these human cellular proteins and HIV Vif. They envision that future studies will involve a more refined mapping of the physical interactions between Vif and APOBEC3 proteins, investigation of the potential for HIV to resist stabilizing changes in APOBEC3 proteins, and screens for drug-like compounds that help the cellular APOBECs destroy HIV.

Albin, a student in the Combined MD-PhD Training Program at the University of Minnesota Medical School, and is completing a thesis under the guidance of his advisor, Harris, through the Microbiology, Immunology & Cancer Biology PhD program. His studies in the Harris lab focus on the potential of APOBEC proteins to impact HIV evolution and pathogenesis.

This latest finding builds on a body of research from Harris’s lab about the relationship between HIV and APOBEC proteins. In 2003 and 2004, Harris helped discover that the APOBEC proteins have the ability to counteract HIV infection.

Harris, who won a 2009 challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to explore ways to block HIV and APOBEC3 interaction, has been studying mechanisms of mutation for nearly 20 years, first as a doctoral student at the University of Alberta, then as a post-doctoral fellow at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge, England and for the past seven years as an NIH supported principal investigator at the University of Minnesota. His laboratory focuses on how mutations can be harnessed to destroy pathogens.

College of Biological Sciences faculty conduct research in all areas of biology, from molecules to ecosystems, supporting applications in medicine, renewable energy, agriculture and biotechnology. For more information, go to www.umn.edu/cbs.

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