

News Release

UMC wins big at MACHS competition

By Elizabeth Tollefson on Monday, March 20, 2006

Crookston, MN—Four students from the University of Minnesota, Crookston (UMC) attended the Mid-America Collegiate Horticulture Society (MACHS) 2006 meeting and competition March 15-18. Hosted by the University of Illinois-Urbana, the competition consisted of a written horticulture knowledge exam, judging of all types of horticulture crops, and identification of both herbaceous and woody plants.

Members of the team from UMC are Cayla Wieland, Minneapolis, MN, Luke Wittkop, Hugo, MN, Amber Werner, Big Lake, MN, and Aimee Grosam, Brownsdale, MN. They placed first overall followed by the team from Michigan State in second and Purdue University in third.

Individual team members placing in the competition include Luke Wittkop with a first place in woody plant identification, herbaceous plant identification, and first place overall. Second place in woody plant identification and second place overall went to Aimee Grosam.

Other colleges competing were University of Wisconsin, River Falls; University of Wisconsin, Madison; University of Nebraska; Lincoln, Michigan State; Colorado State; Kansas State University; Purdue; Western Illinois; NW Missouri State; and Joliet Junior College in Illinois.

The MACHS organization and contest provide a means of communication between horticulture clubs of participating schools. Sharing knowledge and ideas is an important part of the gathering. This year there was a workshop about how to do horticultural seminars as public service and to further horticultural interest on the college campus. The students enjoyed a presentation on environmentally friendly, native plant landscaping and how it can be implemented in today's landscapes. The group toured Ball Seed Company, parts of the Brookfield Zoo, and the Garfield Conservatory in Chicago. They also attended a dinner and Landscape Design Presentation by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association.

UMC is a four-year baccalaureate degree granting institution and a coordinate campus of the University of Minnesota. To learn more about UMC's horticulture program please visit www.UMCrookston.edu and click on Academic Programs.

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