



### Public Information Office

A NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY

## New center director arrives on Minot State campus



Beth Odahlen, director of the new Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning, is on Minot State University's campus, as part of a \$2 million Title III grant. The five-year grant, from the U.S. Department of Education, will assist Minot State in improving services for students and faculty and aid MSU in increasing retention and graduation rates.

"Odahlen's extensive background and experience in student-support services will be a great asset to Minot State as she directs our Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning," said Gary Rabe, vice president for academic affairs. "She knows the best practices and strategies that our campus must provide in support of the needs of first-year students."

As director of CETL, Odahlen will be adding to her professional experience gained from her most recent position at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City, as coordinator of student services and academic advisor within the College of Health. While there, she also taught a first-year-experience course designed to assist students in the transition from high school life to university life. Odahlen is a member of the National Academic Advising Association and graduated with honors from the University of North Dakota.

CETL will coordinate all the retention and engagement activities for MSU students and faculty. The new cornerstone project will also enable the university to expand its existing tutoring program into peer tutoring and mentoring for all students and organize a faculty-development program to enhance the first-year experience of students.

Title III grant money provides the funds for a full-time CETL director, as well as a tutoring/mentoring coordinator and an administrative assistant. The funds will also allow the hiring of two part-time associate directors. Aside from jobs created to run CETL, the grant money will also provide students with additional on-campus paid internships and 75 mini-grants to faculty and staff to support new engaged-learning opportunities for students.

With Odahlen as the new CETL director, renovation of office space is planned on the first floor of Old Main. To contact Odahlen, e-mail [beth.odahlen@minotstateu.edu](mailto:beth.odahlen@minotstateu.edu) or call 858-3177.

## MSU announces holiday schedule

The university will observe a holiday schedule for the dates of Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, according to Ron Dorn, vice president for administration and finance. The university will operate on those dates with minimal staffing that includes essential employees. Offices will be allowed to be closed on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, and on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31. Normal scheduling in accordance with the North Dakota University System calendar would have offices closing at noon on Dec. 24 and open the full day on Dec. 31. Employees with available annual leave are encouraged to take the days off (unless they are required by supervisors to work as essential employees). However, employees who elect not to take leave must report for work or make other arrangements with

Dec. 16, 2009

## PIO update

It feels good to be done with finals! Yes, I took an information-processing class this fall semester from the College of Business. Jan Repnow taught the class. I'm technically an older-than-average, non-degree-seeking student who is also an MSU staff member. So, I think that makes me an OTA NDS student ... that's not a very good acronym!

I enjoyed the class very much, and while it was a little earlier than I would have liked — 8 a.m., homework and tests have never been my forte — I did enjoy the opportunity to feel like a student again.

This also gave me a better perspective on the most important group at Minot State University, our students. Nothing earth shattering or mind boggling when it comes to insights into the average student's life ... more a reminder that there really is no such thing as an "average" student. They all need to be appreciated as the individuals that they are and, as such, deserve our respect and concern.

Now, as I look for an appropriate master's program of study, I can look back to this semester as another step in my educational journey.

— *Mark Lyman, director of public information*

## NEXT ISSUE

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Submissions Due: noon Jan. 6

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supervisors for working those days. If supervisors or employees have any questions about the holiday schedule, please contact the Office of Human Resources at 858-3352 or wes.matthews@minotstateu.edu.

## New staff for 2009-2010

Minot State University would like to welcome three new employees, Thomas Haider, Emily Rodacker and David Yeomans, and introduce them to the campus.

Haider is a custodian.

Rodacker, an alumna, is a project coordinator with the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities. She received her bachelor's degree in management from Minot State and her master's degree in business administration from the University of Mary. Previously, she worked for the Minot Daily News. She has a son, Jace, who is in kindergarten.

Yeomans is a custodian. Before joining MSU, he worked for Bob's Pizza in Missoula, Mont.



Haider



Rodacker



Yeomans

## MSU professor offers free textbooks to students

NYACK, N.Y. — While most college students are struggling once again to come up with hundreds of dollars to buy expensive textbooks, Minot State University students in Associate Professor of Business Administration and Business Information Technology John Girard's Organizational Behavior class have a choice. They can pay as little or as much as they like for a book by new open-textbook publisher Flat World Knowledge.

Founded in 2007 by textbook-publishing veterans, Flat World Knowledge aims to disrupt the traditional higher education textbook market by viewing students as consumers who deserve choices in how they want to access course material based upon their preferences and wallets. Students can access free online textbooks or buy a print-on-demand soft-cover version in black and white (\$30) or color (\$60). Books, even specific chapters, are available in PDF and audio formats, as well as study guides, flash cards and other supplemental material. The average student saves more than 80 percent off typical textbook costs. That is good news for Girard and his students.

"Many students talk to me about the high cost of textbooks and how this adds to their student debt," Girard said. "What I like about the Flat World model is that students have the choice



of selecting the textbook style that meets their needs: free online; low-cost, black-and-white hard copy; or even full-color hard copy. They can even mix and match by selecting certain chapters to purchase and continue to access the other chapters online at no cost."

Flat World Knowledge is a leading publisher of free, open textbooks for higher education. More than 30,000 students in nearly 500 universities and community colleges are learning with Flat World textbooks.

— Flat World Knowledge news release

## Summer 2010 study cruise planned to Italy and the Mediterranean

Andrea Donovan, assistant professor of art history and humanities, is leading a study cruise through Italy and the Mediterranean for three weeks in June 2010. Tour participants will sail along the Italian Riviera and Greek Isles to the Egyptian city of Alexandria, Ephesus in Turkey and the island country of Cyprus, among other destinations. Donovan will be instructing on ancient history, architecture and art at each stop along the tour, so it will be truly an educational experience.

The tour, which runs from June 5 to 20, will allow participants to explore the rich and diverse cultures while enjoying a variety of new and exciting experiences. This study-abroad opportunity is open to Minot State University students, faculty and staff and community members. The final application deadline is Feb. 26, based on cabin availability. An initial payment of \$500 guarantees a place on the tour.

For additional information, contact the Office of International Programs at 858-4155 or Donovan at 858-3819.

## Medora educator selected for prestigious N.D. Outstanding Geography Teacher Award

The North Dakota Geographic Alliance announced Maxine Trotter as the winner of the 2009 Warren Kress North Dakota Outstanding Geography Teacher Award, and she was honored Dec. 15 at a DeMores School program in Medora. Trotter, an alumna who teaches third and fourth grades at the school, is well known as an outstanding teacher, a leader in professional development and an active community member.



"Geographic literacy must be set into a process of lifelong learning. My wish is to create geographically informed students who understand geography as the study of people, places and environments," Trotter said. "I want them to love geography and be able to describe our earth, not in one way, but in various ways."

Trotter's 35-year teaching career includes public school instruction in Colorado and North Dakota. She has taught kindergarten through eighth grade, as well as a resource room

for remediation and enrichment. A Parshall native, Trotter received a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Mary and a master's degree in elementary education with a middle school endorsement from Minot State.

The NDGA is located on the campus of Minot State University. To learn more about NDGA, call 1-800-235-1948 or 701-858-3063 or go to [www.minotstateu.edu/ndga](http://www.minotstateu.edu/ndga).

## Borden-King awarded Ready Child Community-Based Award

Lisa Borden-King, associate professor of education, received the North Dakota Education Association's Ready Child Community-Based Award Dec. 8. Dakota Draper, NDEA president and Minot State University alumnus, presented the award to Borden-King.

Ready Child is an NDEA initiative. NDEA believes that North Dakota's adults must work together to meet the needs of North Dakota's children.

By meeting those needs, the "Ready Nine," NDEA believes the state's children will succeed. The "Ready Nine" are caring adults, early literacy, safe environments, good health, self-discipline, resilience, marketable skills, opportunities to give, and hope.

Borden-King received the award for her work with the MSU Reading Clinic. She has directed the clinic for 13 years, but Minot State has operated the clinic for 20 years.



## Auction raised record amount

The KMSU Auction had set yet another record year for its 11th annual auction. The broadcasting students raised more than \$15,000. The yearly auction benefits the broadcasting program in funding for Media Ink, the MSU broadcasting club, program equipment and MSU broadcasting scholarships for incoming freshmen. In addition, 10 percent of this year's proceeds goes to Lynne Rumney, Honors Program director, who is undergoing cancer treatments. Along with the auction proceeds, Thrivent Financial donated \$1,000 to help Rumney through her treatments.

"All of our students worked very hard. We all came together to make a successful night," said Jenn Thorgramson, auction coordinator. "Everyone had great attitudes and did their part."

The KMSU Auction is a live QVC-meets-eBay-style auction — people call in during the packages, and the high bid wins the package. People tuned in till late waiting in excitement for package number 81, the car. The 1995 Ford Contour, white in color, with grey interior and a brand new set of tires, went for \$1,200. Multiple packages dedicated to sports memorabilia



from teams including the Minnesota Vikings, Twins and Timberwolves also went for \$1,200.

The auction offers students the experience to run a live television event, as well as testing the waters in communicating with local businesses. The course instructors are Audra Myerchin, instructor of communication arts, and Neil Roberts, associate professor of communication arts.

Planning has already begun for the 12th annual KMSU Auction.

## Underwood High School wins at MSU Technology Day

Underwood High School, which received the most points for placements in all competitions, won the Sweepstakes Team Traveling Trophy during the Department of Business Information Technology's 12th annual Technology Day. Other participating high schools included Des Lacs Burlington, Kenmare, Max, Sawyer, Surrey and TGU Granville.

The high school students competed in accounting, business law, desktop publishing, document production, business principles, spreadsheet applications and Web page design. Every school was eligible to enter one student in each of the seven individual events. In addition, each school could participate as a group in the presentation-software event.

BIT faculty members, business teacher-education students and Phi Beta Lambda members supervised the competition.



*The Underwood High School team, left to right: Natalie Eslinger, Rebecca Lawson, Dillon Aldinger, Devon Auck, Alix Auck, Megan Hotten, Mark Johannes and Julie Driessen, their instructor.*

## Wellness works

What is a clinical trial? According to the National Cancer Institute, clinical trials are research studies in which people help doctors find ways to improve health and cancer care. Each study tries to answer scientific questions and to find better ways to prevent, diagnose or treat cancer. A clinical trial is one of the final stages of a long and careful cancer-research process. Studies are done with cancer patients to find out whether promising

approaches to cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment are safe and effective.

The National Cancer Institute describes the different types of clinical trials as:

- Treatment trials test new treatments like a new cancer drug, new approaches to surgery or radiation therapy, new combinations of treatment or new methods such as gene therapy.
- Prevention trials test new approaches, such as medicines, vitamins, minerals or other supplements that doctors believe may lower the risk of a certain type of cancer. These trials look for the best way to prevent cancer in people who have never had cancer or to prevent cancer from coming back or a new cancer occurring in people who have already had cancer.
- Screening trials test the best way to find cancer, especially in its early stages.
- Quality of life trials explore ways to improve comfort and quality of life for cancer patients.

As you think about taking part in a clinical trial, you will face the issue of how to cover the costs of care. Even if you have health insurance, your plan may not cover all of the costs related to receiving treatment in a clinical trial. This is because some health insurance companies define clinical trials as “experimental.”

According to the National Cancer Institute, there are two types of costs associated with a clinical trial — patient-care costs and research costs. Patient-care costs fall into routine-care costs and extra-care costs. Routine-care costs are those related to treating your cancer, whether you are in a trial or receiving standard therapy. These costs include doctor visits, hospital stays, lab tests, x-rays and scans. These costs are often covered by health insurance. Extra-care costs are those related to taking part in a clinical trial. These costs might include extra tests that you need as part of the trial but not as part of your routine care. These costs are not always covered by health insurance.

Research costs are those related to conducting the trial. Examples include research doctor and nurse time, analysis of results and clinical tests performed purely for research purposes. These costs are often covered by the organization sponsoring the trial.

According the North Dakota Cancer Coalition, anyone considering a clinical trial should feel free to ask their doctor any questions or bring up any issues concerning the trial at any time. When you talk to your doctor or member of the research team, consider taking a family member or friend along for support and help in asking questions or recording answers. Write down your questions in advance to make sure you remember to ask them all. Write down the answers, so that you can review them whenever you want. Do not ever hesitate to ask new questions you think of while you are at an appointment.

American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer-approved facilities in North Dakota include:

- Trinity Health — Minot, Community Hospital Cancer Program.
- Medcenter One — Bismarck, Community Hospital Cancer Program.
- St. Alexius Medical Center — Bismarck, Community Hospital Cancer Program.
- Innovis Health — Fargo, Community Hospital Cancer Program.
- MeritCare Health System — Fargo, Community Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Program.
- VA Medical Center — Fargo, Veterans Affairs Cancer Program.
- Altru Health System— Grand Forks, Community Hospital Comprehensive Cancer Program.

(Courtesy of the National Cancer Institute, North Dakota Cancer Coalition and American College of Surgeons.)

For questions, contact Caren Barnett, director of the Student Health Center, at 858-3371 or [caren.barnett@minotstateu.edu](mailto:caren.barnett@minotstateu.edu).

## Faculty, staff and student notes

**Becky Brodell**, assistant professor of nursing, has completed her doctoral studies through the University of North Dakota. Her dissertation topic was “Views of Student Nurses on Caring and Technology.”

## Announcements

### Staff Senate scholarship application posted online

The criteria and application forms for MSU Staff Senate Scholarships are available at [www.minotstateu.edu/stfsenat/endowment.shtml](http://www.minotstateu.edu/stfsenat/endowment.shtml).

The endowment fund’s purpose is to assist staff or their dependents in their educational pursuits at Minot State University. The deadline to submit applications to Merri Jo Connole in the Office of Financial Aid is Jan. 14.

— *MSU Staff Senate Scholarship Committee*

### H1N1 vaccine available

The Student Health Center has received another shipment of H1N1 flu vaccine. This vaccine is available to all Minot State University students, faculty and staff at no charge. No appointment is necessary. For questions, call 858-3371.

— *Caren Barnett, director of the Student Health Center*

### International student employment

International students may work on campus up to 40 hours per week during vacation periods. Minot State University’s workweek is considered Sunday through Saturday. Therefore, international students at MSU may begin working full-time



hours on Sunday (Dec. 20) until Jan.10. Please note that a student must stay within the 20-hours per week limit until Sunday (Dec. 20), even if their individual classes are already over for the semester. For questions, call 858-3978.

— *Libby Claerbout, director of international programs*

## MSU Walking Club holds Holiday Hop

Come join the MSU Walking Club members for a spirit-filled holiday walk at the Dome (third floor) Monday (Dec. 21) at 3 p.m. Bring a wrapped “white elephant” gift (optional) if you would like to participate in an exchange at the end of our walk.

If you have questions, please contact karen.humphreys@minotstateu.edu or 858-4490. Happy Holidays!

— *Karen Humphreys, Walking Club Coordinator and INBRE administrative assistant*

## College for Kids proposals wanted

It is that time of year again — time to start planning our 2010 College for Kids camps! As a faculty or staff member, you may submit camp proposals for this rewarding program. It is a chance to earn some money while giving back to the kids of our community. This year, we want to offer camps to all age groups; ages 6 to 18. I encourage everyone to be creative and think of an exciting and interesting camp to offer!

To become involved in another great summer of youth education, please submit a proposal form for each camp by Feb. 4. I look forward to working with you on this program! If you have any questions, contact 858-3989 or amy.woodbeck@minotstateu.edu.

— *Amy Woodbeck, professional development and community education coordinator*

## Community, place and diversity conference

Minot State University is sponsoring a multi-faceted conference on community, place and diversity Feb. 8-12. Vision 2013 involves creating a distinctive university mission focused on engagement and place. At the same time, the university commits itself to creating a diverse and multicultural climate. Explore how community, place and diversity interconnect and interact through the work of MSU faculty, staff, students and the Minot community at the Strength through Diversity: Community and Place Conference. The conference will include presentations, film screenings and lectures, musical events and an “Engagement Fair.”

Faculty and staff are invited to submit presentation topics/abstracts that explore the interconnection of community, place and diversity. Presentations should be approximately 50 minutes in length. We are especially interested in receiving submissions from faculty and staff interested in sharing their experiences with current projects that engage students and/or the public. In this way, we hope to expand the possibilities and inspire

others to undertake future projects that will foster engagement with the larger community.

Contact lisa.borden-king@minotstateu.edu or ruth.kihm@minotstateu.edu.

— *Lisa Borden-King, chair of the University Diversity Committee and associate professor of education*

## Campus Ministry thanks campus for support

Thank you to the Minot State community for the great response to the Angel Tree. Your generosity will make Christmas brighter for the families that we are helping. For questions, please contact 839-3949 or campusministry@srt.com.

— *Pastor Kari Williamson, Lutheran Campus Ministry*

## In the galleries

Dec. 16-24 — “Cartoodles,” by Bill Nybo, Library Gallery.

Dec. 16-29 — Photography by Jesse Kelly, Hartnett Hall Gallery.

Dec. 16-Jan. 9 — Senior art exhibit: “Picture Perfect Words” by Stacy Jaeger and Tami Goss, 62 Doors Gallery, Minot.

Jan. 7-Feb. 12 — Photographs by Best of Show, “Americas 2009 Paperworks,” Andrea Land, Springfield, Mo., Library Gallery.

Jan. 11-Feb. 24 — “Americas 2010 Paperworks,” juror Heidi Goldberg, Hartnett Hall Gallery.

## Calendar

### Dec. 16–Jan. 12

### December 2009

- 16-18 Final exams.
- 17 Women’s Basketball vs. University of Montana-Western, Dome, 7 p.m.
- 18 CONNECT: orientation and registration by invitation, call 858-3350, Nelson Hall, 8 a.m.
- 18 Graduate School: last day to submit five copies of thesis/project if graduating fall semester.
- 21 Weight Management Club, Jones Room, 8:30 a.m.
- 21 Grades must be entered by noon.
- 21 Walking Club, Dome, 3 p.m.
- 21 Lorie Line concert, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 24 Holiday, university closed at noon.
- 25 Holiday, university closed.
- 28-30 Men’s Basketball at Wesmen Classic, University of Winnipeg.

### January 2009

- 1 New Year’s Day, university closed.
- 1-2 Women’s Basketball at Montana State University-Northern Tournament.

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| 4 | Weight Management Club, Jones Room, 8:30 a.m.   | 11 | First 8-week classes begin.   |
| 8 | CONNECT: orientation and registration by invitation, call 858-3350, Nelson Hall, 8 a.m. | 11 | Classes begin after 4 p.m.  |
| 8 | Women's and Men's Basketball at Dakota State University, Madison, S.D.                  | 11 | Women's and Men's Basketball vs. Briercrest College, Dome, 6 and 8 p.m. |
| 9 | Women's and Men's Basketball at Mayville State University.                              | 12 | Minot Middle School concert, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.                     |

### Minot State University Mission

*Minot State University is first and foremost dedicated to the success of all students: their growth and development as educated citizens, their confidence, and their life-long devotion to the common good and the welfare of others.*

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