



Minot State
UNIVERSITY

INSIDE

Public Information Office

A NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY



Dec. 7, 2011

PIO update

This is the last Inside newsletter of 2011. It seems hard to imagine that another year has passed, and many of us, me included, wonder where the time went.

Pulitzer Prize winner and American author Carl Sandburg wrote “Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you.”

And he was right.

This season, amidst all the worry and hurry, allow some time to nurture your soul and put aside resentment, anger, bitterness, anxiety, sorrow or other negative feelings that interrupt appreciating today with all its adventure and opportunity.

True, easier said than done, but soon enough another year will have passed, and we may sadly realize too late we are running out of change.

— Susan Ness,
public information director

Campus Players present ‘A Christmas Carol’

The Minot State University Campus Players will retell Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” Saturday (Dec. 10) in Aleshire Theater at 7:30 p.m. This classic, directed by Daniel Johnson of Ray, follows miser Ebenezer Scrooge on his journey to find the true meaning of Christmas and life.

Annually, MSU Campus Players produces a holiday production intended for elementary school students. Unfortunately, Minot Public Schools suspended field trips for the 2011-12 school year because of the flood. To serve its audience, MSU Campus Players created a touring version that will visit three area schools, Trinity Nursing Home and The View, a senior living center. The Saturday performance is the final showing for this production.

Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$5 for students, children and senior citizens. MSU IDs will not be accepted for admission, as this production is a fundraiser for Campus Players. Reservations can be made by calling 858-3172.

DCM Scholars reach out to the community

Music professors Erik Anderson and Jon Rumney developed the Dakota Chamber Music Scholars project to expand Dakota Chamber Music’s impact. Funded by the Great Plains Center for Community Research and Service, one Minot State University student string quartet received training in performance and presentation. These Dakota



Left to right: Erik Anderson, Dianna Anderson and Jon Rumney

NEXT ISSUE

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Administration, second floor
Voice: 858-3298 • Fax: 858-4481
linda.benson@minotstateu.edu
www.minotstateu.edu/inside

Chamber Scholars will travel and share their love of chamber music in an “informance” format: an informative, outreach performance for young musicians in area schools.

The Dakota Chamber Music Scholars have performed for music classes in Devils Lake and in Minot at the Ramstad Middle School orchestra class. DCM Scholars will travel to high schools and middle schools with string programs and guide younger musicians toward a deeper understanding of chamber music. The MSU students will perform excerpts and lead discussions to expand public school students’ musical experience. If schools with music programs want DCM Scholars to visit, they should call Rumney at 858-3304 for more information.

For further information, contact Anderson at 858-3576 or erik.anderson@minotstateu.edu or visit www.minotstateu.edu/dcm.

Technology Day showcased high school students and MSU business teacher-education students

On Nov. 30 high school students competed at Minot State University Department of Business Technology’s 14th annual Technology Day.

“Technology Day is an excellent event to showcase area high school students in their business and technology skills,” said Jan Repnow, business information technology instructor. “This event



also showcases our business teacher-education students as they plan, organize and manage all aspects of this competition in preparation for their upcoming teaching careers.”

High schools selected students for competition in accounting, business law, desktop publishing, document production, business principles, spreadsheet applications, Web page design and business presentations. Every school was eligible to enter one student in each of the seven individual events. Each school’s students also formed a team to compete in the business presentation event.

Perennial champion Underwood High School won the sweepstakes trophy for the 14th year. Other participating high schools were Berthold, Des Lacs-Burlington, Kenmare, Max, Sawyer, Surrey, Powers Lake, TGU Granville and Westhope. BIT faculty members and business teacher-education students supervised the competition. Technology Day concluded with a lunch and awards ceremony.

Technology Day corporate sponsors included SRT Communications, Grand International Inn, Microsoft Corporation, CompuTech, Town and Country Credit Union and United Community Bank.

For questions, contact Repnow at 858-3325 or jan.repnow@minotstateu.edu.

MSU history class presents on challenges of education pioneers

“Controversy, Challenges and Changes: the Enduring Promise of Education” is a First Year Experience class requiring students to research the difficulties early education pioneers overcame in what some leaders considered an “immoral” community (Minot). This Thursday (Dec. 8), Minot State University students will present their findings in an informal poster session from 1 to 3 p.m. on the second floor west wing of Old Main. Mark Timbrook, Office of Instructional Technology design specialist, adjunct history faculty and author, teaches the class.

The FYE learning community examined the American education system, in concert with a sweeping look at the American experience and understanding of liberty. Timbrook’s history class gave students a hands-on approach to handling and examining historic photographs and choosing a local topic of research that tied into American education during the early 20th century.

“The combination of classes allowed students to examine the controversies, challenges and evolutionary changes of education in our nation,” Timbrook said. “We researched the history of MSU because it supports the education foundations class, and the school was established during the early 20th century.”

Topics presented at Thursday’s poster session include MSU founders, early sports, the evolution of Old Main, early student organizations and remembering those who sacrificed.

For questions, contact Timbrook at 858-3832 or mark.timbrook@minotstateu.edu.

Academic Hall of Fame nominations sought

The Minot State University Academic Hall of Fame Committee seeks nominations for spring 2012 inductees. Induction into the Academic Hall of Fame honors meritorious service in an academic discipline and highlights the accomplishments of MSU’s most distinguished alumni. Nominees model for students and the public that great careers begin at MSU.

Nominations may be made by any individual or organization, either within MSU or from the community. Nominees must be MSU alumni who completed a significant portion of their education at MSU, and who went on to complete advanced degrees and make substantial contributions to the advancement of their fields of study. Nominations must include a letter for support from the nominee’s academic division or department at MSU. The deadline for nominee submissions is March 1. Details of nominee qualifications and the nomination process may be viewed online at www.minotstateu.edu/ahof/index.shtml.

Members of the AHF Committee, who may be contacted for additional information, include Eric Furuseth at eric.furuseth@minotstateu.edu or 858-3369; Mike Duffy at michael.duffy@minotstateu.edu or 858-3826; or Deb Jensen at deb.jensen@minotstateu.edu or 858-3043. The AHF Committee will receive nomination packets at: Academic Hall of Fame Committee; Attn: Eric Furuseth, Division of Humanities, Minot State University, 500 University Avenue West, Minot, N.D., 58707.



MSU students combine a cemetery, archaeology and service

Mark Timbrook, Minot State University Office of Instructional Technology design specialist, adjunct history faculty and author, was notified by the State Historical Society of North Dakota that it had accepted MSU's study and cultural resource survey update for the First Lutheran Church Cemetery of Minot (32WD1622). The university's "History and Preservation of American Cemeteries" class completed the CRS over a two-year period.



"The history of the site has been officially updated. These students made a difference in the cemetery's preservation and in correcting the site's poorly documented past," said Mark Timbrook, the project's primary investigator and historian. "Previous surveys noted the cemetery's creation in 1908 and reported it was of no significance to the history of the community."

"The class discovered the cemetery was originally sited in 1886 in present day Roosevelt Park. In 1892, Erik Ramstad placed land in trust with the First Lutheran Church and created a new cemetery at the current site," Mark Timbrook said. "The property was deeded to the church in 1900. In 1908, the cemetery was surveyed a second time with significant changes made in landscape and orientation due to community growth and road changes."

Besides Erik Ramstad, other prominent Minot area pioneers buried in the cemetery include Julius Fauchard, Honorable John J. Lee, Peter Ramstad, George and Gunder Reishus and Ole and Gunhild Sundre and long-time Minot legislator Brynhild Haugland.

A copy of the report is also available in the Gordon B. Olson Library's special collections area.

For questions, contact Mark Timbrook at 858-3832 or mark.timbrook@minotstateu.edu.

'Beavers Rebuild' as part of KMSU Auction fundraiser

The 13th annual KMSU Auction, "Beavers Rebuild" fundraiser, broadcast live Dec. 6 on Channel 19. All funds raised will go to aid Kathy Larson, Sandra Larson, Ashley Leigh and Diana Olson, Ward County flood survivors, who submitted videos telling their stories. The submissions were put through a rubric, and funds were distributed based on need. The recipients of the Beavers Rebuild Fundraiser were announced the night of the auction.



"We are excited to have the opportunity to help the community at a difficult time. To have such a big impact, coming from Minot State University, is important to us as a class," said Janna McKechnie, KMSU Auction coordinator.

Minot Chrysler Center, the corporate sponsor of the Beavers Rebuild fundraiser, matched donations up to \$10,000. The communications class gathered over \$42,000 in donations.

For questions, contact McKechnie at 858-3373 or jannalynn51@yahoo.com or Audra Myerchin, KMSU Auction advisor, at 858-4238 or audra.myerchin@minotstateu.edu.

GPCCRS awarded REAP contract

The Great Plains Center for Community Research and Service at Minot State University was recently awarded a \$69,000 contract from the Rural Economic Area Partnership Investment Fund, Inc. to complete a project to enhance the economic development network across the state.

GPCCRS, along with subgrantees Cavalier County Job Development Authority and SJB Consulting in Dickinson, will work on a yearlong project to provide economic developers with access to several new tools and a central location for information and education.

The effort is based on feedback from the economic-developer community, collected through an assessment completed by REAP. It includes activities such as creating training videos, supporting mentorship opportunities and promoting best practices. GPCCRS successfully proposed a web-based delivery system, where both community volunteers and professional developers would have access to training, best practices, networking, educational videos and mentoring opportunities.

The GPCCRS began in 2010 to strengthen the quality of life in rural communities through community and university research and service partnerships that identify, research and take steps toward addressing rural community quality of life issues. To learn more about GPCCRS, visit www.minotstateu.edu/gpcrcs/index.shtml.

For more information about GPCCRS and the REAP contact, contact Scharpe at 858-3596 or neil.scharpe@minotstateu.edu.

MSU hosted open house for working adults

With a 3.5 percent unemployment rate and high demand for workers in North Dakota, it is becoming more common for students to work before going to college. To meet the demands of working adults, MSU coordinated an open house for working adults Nov. 29. University advisors were available to review transcripts and provide information on how to complete or continue a degree via campus courses, online courses, courses at Minot Air Force Base or graduate degrees. Other assistance included applying for admission and financial aid, transfer questions and degree planning.

“Of the 3,600 plus students at MSU, 25 percent are 25 years of age or older,” said Kevin Harmon, assistant vice president for enrollment management. “As our student population changes, so do their needs and demands. To remain attractive, MSU must be flexible.”

Currently, over 32 percent of MSU students take at least one online course, and 15 percent of students are exclusively online learners.

To accommodate student schedules and lifestyles, MSU offers 125 courses after 3 p.m. It also offers online undergraduate degrees in nine different programs, graduate degrees in four areas and certificates in four specialties.

For more information, contact Harmon at kevin.harmon@minotstateu.edu or 701-858-3140.

Welcome new faculty and staff

Minot State University welcomes two new employees, Amy Lisner and Steven Merck.

Lisner, an alumna, is a project coordinator with the Great Plains Center for Community Research and Service. Before returning to MSU, she worked for Minot Public Schools at North Plains Elementary



Lisner



Merkel

School. She holds an associate degree in general studies from Black Hills State University, Spearfish, S.D., and a bachelor's degree in history from MSU.

Merkel is an admissions coordinator in the Office of Enrollment Services.

Wellness works

Hand washing: Everyone's first line of defense against germs

Hand washing seems like an effortless hygienic routine, but many people tend to forget this very important practice. Washing one's hands with warm soapy water for at least 15 seconds prevents various forms of contamination.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, if individuals do not wash their hands frequently, they can pick up germs from other sources and then infect themselves. Individuals are at risk every time they touch their eyes, nose or mouth. In fact, one of the most common ways people catch colds is by rubbing their noses or their eyes after the cold virus has

gotten on their hands.

If people do not wash their hands frequently, especially when they are sick, they can spread germs directly to other people or onto surfaces that others touch. And before long, everyone is coming down with something!

By frequently washing their hands the right way, people will wash away germs — such as bacteria and viruses — that they picked up from other people, through contaminated water and food, from tainted surfaces or from animals and animal waste.

Everyone should wash their hands:

- After using the bathroom.
- After blowing their nose or coughing.
- Before eating, serving or preparing food.
- After touching pets or other animals.
- After outdoor activities.
- Before and after visiting anyone who is sick.
- When their hands are dirty.
- After changing a diaper.

For questions, contact Caren Barnett, Student Health Center director, at 858-3371 or caren.barnett@minotstateu.edu.

Announcements

Paycheck changes after Jan. 1, 2012

There are changes coming, effective Jan. 1, 2012, that will affect most Minot State University campus paychecks. The actual affect will depend upon individual circumstances.

First, the deduction for Social Security (seen as “Fed OASDI/EE” on a pay statement under “Taxes”) will increase. This deduction is normally 6.2 percent of gross pay, but for calendar year 2011, it was temporarily reduced to 4.2 percent. On Jan. 1, 2011, the deduction returns to its normal rate of 6.2 percent. This will result in a decrease to current net pay.

Second, there will be an increase in the retirement contribution of 1 percent of gross pay. For NDPERS participants this contribution had been 0 percent, so this will be a new deduction. For TIAA-CREF participants the deduction under “Before-Tax Deductions” will increase. This will result in a decrease to net pay; though as a pre-tax deduction, there will be a corresponding reduction to the income tax withholding.

Third, individuals may have made changes in flexcomp participation or added/deleted benefits during open enrollment.

These changes combine for adjusted net pay amounts for paychecks delivered after Jan. 1, 2012. Please pay close attention to your pay statements. Employees may view their pay statements via self-service. If anyone experiences trouble logging in, contact 866-457-6387. In self-service, a W-4 can be adjusted to change tax withholding status and update contact information. For questions, contact 858-3352 or wes.matthews@minotstateu.edu.

— Wes Matthews, human resources director

Get your flu shot now!

The Student Health Center is taking appointments for flu shots. The cost is \$20 for faculty and staff and \$10 for students. Participants will receive an insurance form to submit to Blue Cross/Blue Shield for reimbursement. Call Student Health at 858-3371 to schedule an appointment.

— Caren Barnett, Student Health Center director

Angel Tree needs your support

Lutheran Campus Ministry, working with the Minot Domestic Violence Crisis Center, will provide gifts for those in need. An angel tree is outside the Minot State University Bookstore through Friday (Dec. 9). Each angel suggests what to purchase. Bring unwrapped gifts and the angel tag to the bookstore by Friday (Dec. 9). Stop by and pick up an angel and provide a gift for someone in need this holiday season!

For questions, comments or suggestions for future Spiritual Wellness series initiatives, contact 833-2221 or kari.williamson@minotstateu.edu.

— *Kari Williamson, campus pastor*

Deadline for CETL Internship Program nears

The Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning Internship Program deadline for spring 2012 is soon approaching. All application materials are due to CETL no later than 3 p.m. on Dec. 16. Students wishing to apply must work with a Minot State University faculty or staff member and internship duties must directly relate to the student's major or concentration. All internships will be part-time, up to 25 hours. Please visit the CETL Internship Program for required forms and internship program information, www.minotstateu.edu/cetl/internships.shtml.

For more information, contact beth.odahlen@minotstateu.edu.

— *Beth Odahlen, CETL director*

N.D. Council of Navy League chartered

The North Dakota Council of Navy League organization received its charter Oct. 16 to join 286 similar councils around the world. The North Dakota Council has 97 members throughout the state. While the mission of the Council of the Navy League is public education about all things naval, the North Dakota chapter has an additional responsibility — public education, support and promotion of USS NORTH DAKOTA (SSN-784) throughout its expected 33 years of active service, as well as having a major role to play in the commissioning of the new ship in 2014.

USS NORTH DAKOTA (SSN-784) is the first of a new group of Virginia Class submarines with expanded missile capabilities and is slated for launch in 2014. It is the second ship in U.S. naval history to be named USS NORTH DAKOTA.

Membership is open to anyone who supports the league's mission with no prior service required. Members can join online at www.navyleague.org by clicking on the membership tab. Interested individuals can also contact Bob Wefald, North Dakota Council of Navy League president, at 223-8975 or bobwefald@msn.com or Paul Markel, psychology professor, at 858-4296 or paul.markel@minotstateu.edu.

— *Paul Markel, professor of psychology*

Spring Assessment Day

Spring 2012 Assessment Day will be March 6, 2012. For questions, contact 858-3310 or celeste.simmons@minotstateu.edu.

— *Celeste Simmons, administrative assistant to the vice president for academic affairs*

In the galleries

Dec. 7-30 — "Synesthesia," photographs by MSU student Briana Schwan, Library Gallery. Gallery reception is Wednesday (Dec. 7) from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Dec. 7-30 — Photography by L.A. Huffman, Hartnett Hall Gallery.

Faculty and staff achievements

The Inside editorial staff decided to publish faculty and staff achievements semimonthly, beginning with this issue. The Office of Public Information will proudly share the many accomplishments with the campus community in every issue.

The Minot State University Administrative Council, through the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, awarded \$36,000 in grants for advanced coursework in the 2011-12 academic year. Faculty and staff recipients are **Nathan Anderson**, College of Education and Health Sciences; **Jodi Connell**, special education; **Chad Fenner**, North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities; **Cari Olson**, institutional research; **Orlene Schroeder**, communication disorders; **Patrick Sheldon**, art; and **Dionne Spooner**, social work.

The Department of Nursing was awarded a \$3,000 training ground grant from the Compact Service Corps AmeriCorps Program through Colorado Campus Compact. **Heidi Benavides**, nursing instructor, is the principal investigator for the project.

Kristi Berg, assistant professor of business information technology, presented "Workforce Training and Development: Findings from a Study of Training Needs and Technological Change Based on Demographics of Rural Businesses" at the Academy of Business Research International Winter 2011 conference in Las Vegas in November. **Carla Cabarle**, assistant professor of accounting, presented "Hire Me: A Cross-Disciplinary Exercise in Job Preparation and Employee Selection."

Kelly Buettner-Schmidt, Healthy Communities International executive director and assistant professor of nursing, had her article "Social Justice: A Concept Analysis" published by the Journal of Advanced Nursing.

Communication disorders faculty gave several presentations at the annual American Speech-Language-Hearing Association convention in San Diego, Nov. 15-17. **Cheryl Gerard**, **Leisa Harmon** and **Lisa Roteliuk** conducted a seminar titled "Developing Excellent Clinicians." It highlighted successful practices MSU use to gain international recognition in producing top-notch speech-language pathologists. Faculty mentors Gerard and Schroeder helped several students present.

Deanna Klein, associate professor of business information technology, passed the exam to become a certified associate in project management. The Project Management Institute, a professional organization, grants this certification.

Jeff Morsfield, facilities management, will retire with more than 21 years of service, and **Keith Witwer**, business administration, will retire with more than 29 years of service.

Communication arts instructor **Nancy Pearson's** paper, "Walk About and Talk About: Instant Audience Analysis," received a "Top Ten" award Nov. 18 at the National Communication Association annual conference in New Orleans. Chosen from 225 submissions, it will be one of 60 for presenta-

tion in the Great Ideas for Teaching Students session.

Tom Seymour, professor of business information technology, served as a one-person Higher Learning Commission team to evaluate the new University of Phoenix–El Paso, Texas, campus.

Jessica Smestad, Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning mentoring and tutoring coordinator, presented “Using Peer Mentors to Promote Student Success in the First-Year,” Nov. 11 at the national College Reading and Learning Association conference in San Diego. She was also instrumental in CETL’s Peer Tutoring Center obtaining Level 1 certification.

Chelsea Starr, assistant professor of sociology, had a paper, “Methodological Innovation: Twitter Participant Observation and the Libyan Revolution,” accepted to the Midwestern Sociological Association annual meeting. The North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People gave Starr a \$2,000 grant to assist her “Sociology Research Methods” class gather data as part of a statewide effort to impact North Dakota housing policy in reaction to flooding and the energy economy. She also gave a guest lecture, “SlutWalk: Reclaiming or Reinscribing Stereotypes?” to Honors Program students.

Acknowledgements from University Cabinet

Kate Marshall, Janna McKechnie and Renae Yale, advancement; **Rick Heit and Teresa Loftesnes**, marketing; and **Linda Benson, Karen Holmen, Susan Ness and Cassie Neuharth**, public information; made the Walter Piehl reception and documentary screening a welcoming and successful event.

Roger Kluck, Brian Otto, Eugene Paulson, Chris Stroschein and Terry Wald, facilities management; **Lilah Diederich, Bob Feller, Neil Fulton, Lisa Haman, Cathy Horvath, Anton Huether, Darren Olson and George Withus**, Information Technology Central; **Kate Marshall, Marv Semrau and Renae Yale**, advancement; **Teresa Loftesnes**, marketing; **Carlos Soza** and Sodexo staff; **Doreen Wald**, publication and design services; **Linda Benson and Susan Ness**, public information; **Tony Critz**, and **Jerry Stai**, College of Business; collaborated to create a pleasant ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house for the Slaaten Learning Center.

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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