



## Three faculty sabbaticals announced at MSU

David Fuller, Minot State University president, recently announced three sabbatical projects. Laurie Geller, chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and associate professor of mathematics, and Ernst Pijning, professor of history, will receive sabbatical leave for fall semester 2012. John Girard, professor of business administration, will receive sabbatical leave for spring semester 2013.

“Improving science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education at all levels is critical to the educational and workforce needs of the state and the country,” Geller said. “During sabbatical leave, I will design, develop, and enact a strategic plan for the North Dakota Center for Graduate STEM Education, including a draft of its new STEM professional offerings, graduate certificates and a new master’s degree program in STEM education based on need and best practice as identified through national research.”

Girard will participate in the Institute for Shipboard Education’s spring 2013 voyage with Semester at Sea. He will join 600 students as they circumnavigate the globe onboard the MV Explorer. During the 106-day voyage, he will combine teaching, global comparative education and academic research while traveling to 14 countries. Semester at Sea is an innovator in global comparative education in which international study concentrates on the world’s people, patterns, traditions and cultures. Faculty members teach three three-credit-hour classes and lead six faculty-developed practicums.

“The voyage provides a unique opportunity for academic research. Building on the theme of global comparative education, I plan to conduct an analysis of leadership in Hong Kong, Singapore, India, South Africa and Ghana,” Girard said.

Pijning will finish his book manuscript for “Controlling Contraband: Economy, Mentality and Society in 18th Century Rio de Janeiro” and finalize its publication with Louisiana State University Press. The book is about smuggling of gold, diamonds and other products in Brazil, and how this phenomenon became part of Brazilian society.

“The book manuscript is based on my dissertation for which I did two years of archival research in Brazil, Portugal, France, Great Britain and the Netherlands,” Pijning said. “The dissertation is already widely used by Brazilian historians and in graduate classes, and historians have been asking for its publication.”

The objective of Minot State University’s sabbatical program is to support faculty, professional development and scholarly research. The sabbatical proposals were reviewed and evaluated with three criteria: demonstrated teaching excellence, advanced professional development within a faculty member’s discipline and contribution to Vision 2013.

For more information about the program, contact Lenore Koczon, vice president for academic affairs, at 858-3310.



Geller



Girard



Pijning

## Jan. 18, 2012

### PIO update

It is only mid-January, and already 2011 seems like, well, so *last year*. Unarguably, it was a difficult year for everyone, and no one went untouched by the events that forever altered Minot’s present and future.

In his book, “Stumbling on Happiness,” psychologist Daniel Gilbert describes how most people, when dealing with endings, focus solely on loss, not anticipating other events that could occur as a result of that loss. Gilbert suggests that in the midst or immediate aftermath of loss, is where the beginnings of new joy lie.

I know a woman who was devastated when her first marriage ended. Two decades into her second marriage, she lives a charmed life, full of travel, adventure and love.

A colleague, whose home was destroyed in the flood, gets almost giddy when describing the new kitchen cabinets and countertops that will replace her old, dated ones.

This happiness didn’t sprout overnight. It needs time to take root and flourish. But it is there, waiting for attention.

Nurture your happiness and make 2012 a Happy New Year.

— Susan Ness,  
public information director

### NEXT ISSUE

Publications Date: Wednesday, Feb. 8  
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## Thom adds international flair to overseas recruiting

Janan Thom, Minot State University international recruiter, has a background as diverse as her travel itinerary. Born in the former Yugoslavia (now Bosnia and Herzegovina), Thom is of Middle Eastern and Bosnian heritage. Because of the war, Thom emigrated with her family and spent her formative years in Germany. At 18, she married an Air Force service member and moved to the United States, where she has lived in five states in 14 years. Thom is fluent in Serbo-Croatian, German and English; lately she has brushed up on her Russian and is studying Arabic, all the better to promote MSU in foreign markets.



Thom

Thom has an undergraduate degree in political science from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and a master's degree in diplomacy with a concentration in terrorism from Norwich University in Vermont, Northfield. She obtained a post master's certificate in international business and contracting from Villanova University in Pennsylvania.

Thom knows the challenges moving to a new location and adapting to a new culture can bring.

"I can help international students feel comfortable coming to MSU," Thom explained. "My experiences help me relate to them on many levels."

Thom's goal is to assist in creating a diverse student population at MSU, as well as opening up a new world of opportunity for international students to come and explore the campus and community for themselves. Thom will attend recruiting fairs in select markets in 10 countries throughout February and March.

Also new to the international recruiting office is admissions specialist Meghan Stewart. In the past, Stewart worked in admissions for The Language Company-Minot and holds an undergraduate degree in elementary education from Family of Faith College in Oklahoma.

"We have chosen markets for which we believe MSU is a good match," said Kevin Harmon, assistant vice president for enrollment management. "Our new staff will continue to form partnerships with fellow universities around the world and promote all programs at MSU."

## Peruvian culture and European Enlightenment highlight lectures

Linda Olson, Division of Humanities chair and art professor, will present "Peru: History, Culture and Customs," Monday (Jan. 23) in Aleshire Theater at 7 p.m. as part of the Northwest Art Center lecture series.

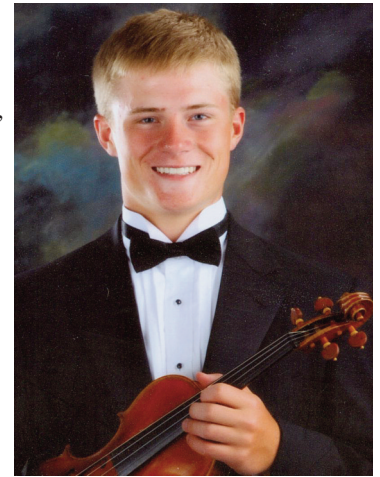
Olson, five Minot State University students and three Valley City State University students took part in a five-week study tour to Peru this summer. The tour was headed by former MSU Spanish instructor and Peru native Kemerly Moorhouse. The trip included Spanish language classes, cultural activities and living with host families for Spanish language-immersion.

Stewart Kelly, professor of philosophy, will present "God, Civil War and Heresy: England in the 17th Century" Feb 1 in Aleshire Theater at 7 p.m. Kelly traces the roots of the European Enlightenment in England with an overview of the religious, political and philosophical transformations that took place in that nation in the 1600s.

All lectures are free and open to the public. Refreshments are served afterward.

## MHS senior is soloist at MSO family concert

Maestro Dennis Simons, professor of music, will direct the Minot Symphony Orchestra in its family concert, "Fancy Free" Jan. 28 in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m. Jack Fagerland, the winner of the annual High School Concerto Competition, will be guest soloist. Fagerland is a senior at Minot High School, and his parents are Bert and Kecia Fagerland.



Fagerland

"I am so proud of him. He has excelled musically and academically," said Patricia Hinkle, a private certified violin instructor, who has taught Fagerland since he was four.

The remainder of "The Dance: Celebration of 10 Years!" includes "Spring Concert: Masquerade, March 3 and "Pops Concert: Can I Have This Dance?" April 21. All concerts are held in the Ann Nicole Nelson Hall, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Minot State University students, faculty and staff are admitted free with a current ID. Additional tickets for adults are \$20 per concert or \$65 for a season ticket. The price for senior citizens is \$15 single, \$50 season; students 12-18, \$10 single, \$30 season; children, ages under 12, \$5 single, \$15 season.

## MSU International Film Series resumes

The 2011-2012 Minot State University International Film Series continues with the theme of "Migrations: The Journeys Each of Us Takes."

A foreign language faculty member will introduce each film. All films, which will be followed by a discussion period, are at 7:30 p.m. and free to all. The dates, titles and locations of this semester's films are:

- Tuesday (Jan. 24) — "The Lemon Tree," Aleshire Theater
- Feb. 7 — "The Dinner Game," Memorial 114
- March 27 — "Women without Men," Aleshire Theater
- April 10 — "Kolua," Memorial 114
- May 1 — "Monsieur Ibrahim," Memorial 114

There will be a door prize drawing at each screening for a \$20 dinner gift certificate to an area international restaurant.

For questions, contact Scott Sigel, assistant Spanish professor and foreign languages coordinator, at 858-4265 or [scott.sigel@minotstateu.edu](mailto:scott.sigel@minotstateu.edu).





## Alumnus Paul Johnson returns from Bulgaria

Paul Johnson, president of the American College of Sofia in Sofia, Bulgaria, will visit Minot State University Feb. 7 as part of the Distinguished Alumni Series. Johnson will meet with President's Staff, guest lecture to education classes and speak at Minot Kiwanis Club. Community members are invited to a free reception, where Johnson will discuss his career, in the Gordon B. Olson Library media center at 4 p.m.

Johnson upheld a family tradition graduating from MSU in 1972. He was born in Minot while his parents, Art and Annabel, were Minot State College students. Four out of five Johnson siblings are MSU alumni. Three aunts and several cousins also attended the university.

One of those aunts, College of Business professor emeritus, Adelaide Johnson served as his mentor. Currently, Daniel Johnson (nephew), a junior, keeps the red-and-green tradition alive.

With a bachelor's degree in elementary education, Johnson began teaching at Edison Elementary. After working in rural North Dakota for several years, he returned to Minot as principal of Nedrose Elementary School from 1981 to 1987. Johnson earned a master's degree from North Dakota State University in 1989 and a doctorate from the University of North Dakota in 1994.

After nine years as Bismarck Public Schools superintendent, Johnson and his wife, Teresa, an alumna, sought employment opportunities overseas. In July 2010, Johnson became president of the American College of Sofia, considered one of the most prestigious secondary schools in Bulgaria and the Balkans.

Among Johnson's memorable experiences was teaching in a one-room rural school near White Earth and serving as a principal in South St. Paul, Minn., and a superintendent in Valley City and Bismarck. In 2008, the North Dakota Association of School Administrators named Johnson the North Dakota Superintendent of the Year.



*Johnson*

## Welcome new faculty and staff

Minot State University welcomes eight new employees, Lisa Dooley, Ann Haider-Bougard, Forrest Macy, Brandon Neiss, Tiara Sollin, Meghan Stewart, Bonnie Trueblood and Marilyn Undhjem.

Dooley is a research associate with the Rural Crime and Justice Center.

Haider-Bougard, administrative secretary for the Student Success Center, previously worked at Claire's in Dakota Square Mall. She and her husband, Keny Bougard, have a daughter and son, Asia and Nathan. Haider-Bougard enjoys reading, drawing, working puzzles and anything involving her children.

Macy is the regional recruiter for the Office of Enrollment Services. Before joining MSU, he was employed by Minot's Brown & Saenger. A recent graduate, he has a bachelor's degree in music from MSU. He and his wife, Naomi, were married Aug. 6, and they are involved with their church, Eagles Wings Community Fellowship.

Neiss, an alumnus, is a security guard with the Office of Facilities Management, and he holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from MSU. Previously, he worked for Chenega Integrated Systems on Minot Air Force Based. He and his wife, Lindsey, have a daughter, Ruby.

Sollin is a custodian in the Dome with facilities management. Previously, she was a cook at Minot's Buffalo Wings and Rings.

Stewart, international admissions specialist in enrollment services, previously worked at Minot's Sunnyside Elementary School. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education at the Family of Faith College, Shawnee, Okla. She and her husband, Zack, have a daughter, Zoey. Stewart enjoys reading and spending time with family.

Trueblood, administrative assistant to the vice president for advancement, comes to MSU from Wells Fargo Bank. She received an associate degree from Bismarck State College. She and her husband, Don, have two sons, Eric and Adam, and one grandson, Oakley.

Undhjem, administrative assistant for the Graduate School, previously worked for Dr. Alan Lim. She enjoys scrapbooking, stamping and growing flowers. She and her husband, Darcy, have three children and five grandchildren.



*Dooley*



*Haider-Bougard*



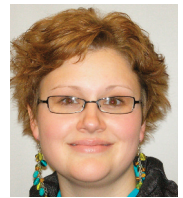
*Macy*



*Neiss*



*Sollin*



*Stewart*



*Trueblood*



*Undhjem*

## 'Vagina Monologues' helps DVCC and V-Day campaign

Minot State University Campus Players will present "Vagina Monologues" Feb. 2-4 in Aleshire Theater, 7:30 p.m. Ashley Nilsen, Riverdale, is the director, Penny Lipsey, Minot, is the event coordinator, and Aili Smith, assistant professor of communication arts, is the producer.

This project is in conjunction with the International V-Day celebration, [www.vday.org/home](http://www.vday.org/home), with 90 percent of the proceeds given to the Minot Domestic Violence Crisis Center and women and girls of conflict zones (the Congo). In the eight years that MSU has participated in the V-Day campaign, more than \$10,000 has been raised for the DVCC.

Admission is \$10 for all attendees.

## MSU Alumni Association seeking scholarship applications

The Minot State University Alumni Association is accepting applications for its annual scholarships through Feb. 15. The scholarship application form is available online at [www.minotstateu.edu/alumni/scholarship.shtml](http://www.minotstateu.edu/alumni/scholarship.shtml) or a paper copy can be requested from the alumni office at 858-3234.

"We are excited to offer this opportunity to students. Last year, the MSU Alumni Association awarded over \$20,000 in student scholarships, and we are committed to awarding close to the same amount this year," said Janna McKechnie, director of alumni relations and annual giving.

Students who received an MSU Alumni Association Scholarship in the past and are junior, senior or graduate students can also apply for the Peggy Wittliff Memorial Scholarship. This \$4,000 scholarship is paid over the full academic year.

For questions, contact McKechnie at 858-3234 or [janna.mckechnie@minotstateu.edu](mailto:janna.mckechnie@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 illustrate 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 completed advanced degrees and made 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](http://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](mailto:eric.furuseth@minotstateu.edu) or 858-3369; Mike Duffy at [michael.duffy@minotstateu.edu](mailto:michael.duffy@minotstateu.edu) or 858-3826; or Deb Jensen at

[deb.jensen@minotstateu.edu](mailto: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.

## Wellness works

### Medical Excuse Policy outlined

The Minot State University Student Health Center will no longer provide retroactive medical excuses for students who miss class or exams. SHC medical staff lack direct knowledge about illnesses or injuries that students have managed by self-care and are not in a position to write retroactive excuses. It is the purview of faculty to determine if a student is excused from class.

Students seen at SHC for an active illness may request proof of service or be given a letter of advice from the medical provider if concern for the student's health or the health of others exists.

Students with serious illnesses or significant disabilities can request that medical staff write letters detailing their conditions. The students are then free to present these letters to their instructors or employers.

It is important for students to learn self-management of minor illnesses and injuries. Legitimate reasons to stay home with viral illness include decreasing viral exposure to others in the university community and recuperation. Coping skills developed as an undergraduate will help students in graduate school and the work environment. Illness varies greatly among individuals. Conversations between students and faculty will identify how students can work around illnesses to best continue their academic efforts and achievements.

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

## Announcements

### Noteworthy

•Toni Schwartz has moved from the Department of Criminal Justice to the Department of Biology to be the INBRE administrative coordinator. She is in Moore 232, and her telephone number is 858-4490. Her email remains [toni.schwartz@minotstateu.edu](mailto:toni.schwartz@minotstateu.edu).

- March 6 — Spring 2012 Assessment Day
- April 27 — MSU Alumni Association Gala
- April 27-28 — Native American Spring Honor Dance and Powwow Celebration in the Dome
- May 11 — Commencement in the Dome, 10 a.m.

### Power Center and SSC sponsoring workshop

Power Center and Student Success Center are sponsoring workshops, which are open to faculty, staff and students:

•Self-defense — Thursday (Jan. 19), Swain Hall Pedagogy Lab, 6-7 p.m. Self-defense is a key survival skill in an emergency situation. Knowing a few simple principles and moves will allow you to handle yourself in moments of panic and stress. Be prepared! Athletic/tennis shoes and loose-fitting clothes rec-



ommended. Free pizzas provided afterward but bring your own beverage. Register by yourself or with a partner through the POWER Center at 858-4047. The workshop is taught by Richard Seklecki, associate professor of criminal justice. Student Government Association is a co-sponsor.

•Fitness for All Shapes and Sizes — Thursday and Friday (Jan. 19-20), Fisher Room, 1 p.m. Are you intimidated by people at the gym who are fitter than you? Want to learn how to use the machines and get in shape? Find your level of fitness and make a plan that works for you. Come to the introductory meeting, not even in the fitness center! Join a group that will support you in reaching your goals!

For questions, contact 858-4047 or [lynn.redden@minotstateu.edu](mailto:lynn.redden@minotstateu.edu).

— Lynn Redden, POWER Center program assistant

## Klassy to discuss 'Becoming a Veteran 'Helpful' Campus'

David Klassy, Veterans Center director, will present "Becoming a Veteran 'Helpful' Campus" as an advisor workshop Monday (Jan. 23) from 2 to 3 p.m. or Jan. 26 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. (lunch will be provided). Both sessions are in the Westlie Room.

Veteran students are becoming a larger part of the campus community, and faculty and staff have an opportunity to assist these students in their pursuit of a degree. The process of GI Bill educational benefits will be explained. Veterans are a unique subpopulation and have unique challenges. Klassy will discuss some of those challenges and how we can help students cope. Subjects will include Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Please contact [heather.martin@minotstateu.edu](mailto:heather.martin@minotstateu.edu) by Jan. 19 if you plan to attend. Information from the workshop will be posted on the advising website, [www.minotstateu.edu/advising/](http://www.minotstateu.edu/advising/), under Advisor Information.

— Heather Martin, Student Success Center advising coordinator

## In the galleries

Jan. 18-Feb. 22 — "Americans 2012: Paperworks," juried by Michael Barnes, DeKalb, Ill., Hartnett Gallery.

Jan. 18-Feb. 8 — Paintings and traditional crafts by Lauren "Good Day Woman" Giago, Library Gallery.

## Faculty and staff achievements

*The Office of Public Information proudly shares the many accomplishments of faculty and staff with the campus community in every issue.*

**Terry Eckmann**, professor of physical education, wrote "Exercise and the aging brain." The Journal on Active Aging included the article in its November/December 2011 issue.

"Auxin-induced leaf blade expansion in Arabidopsis requires both wounding and detachment" by **Christopher P. Keller, Morgan L. Grundstad, Michael A. Evanoff, Jeremy D. Keith, Derek S. Lentz, Samuel L. Wagner, Angela H. Culler and Jerry D. Cohen** appeared in the December issue of Plant Signaling & Behavior, where it was listed first among the "Issue Highlights," <http://www.landesbioscience.com/journals/psb/>. Plant Signaling & Behavior is a peer-reviewed journal available in print and online. Keller is chair and professor within the Department of Biology. Grundstad, Evanoff, Keith, Lentz and Wagner are all current and former Minot State students. The paper, available as a free download from the journal, describes a series of experiments that demonstrate that the plant hormone auxin controls leaf growth in the plant Arabidopsis (and probably other plants) through interaction with a second, unidentified hormone. It also shows that auxin-growth control is modulated by plant stress, especially wounding, which reverses the effect of the hormone.

**Deanna Klein**, associate professor of business information technology, was elected to the board of directors of The Information Technology Council of North Dakota. Her two-year term will run through Dec. 31, 2013.

**Teresa Loftesnes**, director of marketing, is serving as the 2012 president of the Minot Convention & Visitors Bureau board of directors.

**Audra Myerchin**, assistant professor of communication arts, was a National Communication Association presenter for a panel titled "To the Clouds! Apps and Tools to Engage Students" Nov. 17-20 in New Orleans. She also chaired the panel, "Assessing Quality in the Online Course."

**Susan Ness**, director of public information, received a certificate of completion for a basic public information officers' course held Dec. 3-5 in Bismarck. The course, sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services and FEMA, focuses on crisis communication.

**Linda Olson**, chair and art professor within the Division of Humanities, participated in a rock art documentation project Nov. 1-23 in Colorado and Texas. She also served as a panelist on the North Dakota Council on the Arts teacher incentive grant reviews.

**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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