



Minot State  
UNIVERSITY

INSIDE

Public Information Office

A NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY



## Congratulations graduates!

Minot State University is proud of the Class of 2012. More than 790 undergraduate and graduate students were eligible to walk through commencement exercises May 11. Commencement speakers addressed Vision 2013, Strategy 6: Creating a Commitment to Civic Engagement, Service and the Common Good.



## MSU names Vision 2013 Merit Award recipients

Minot State University announced Vision 2013 Award recipients. Award winners, who are faculty and staff members, demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing the university toward its Vision 2013 goals and specific objectives.

The recipients are **Lynda Bertsch**, Student Success Center; **Jancy Brisson**, POWER Center; **Lisa Eriksmoen**, student life; **Dean Frantsvog** and **Jay Wahlund**, accounting and finance; **Rick Heit**, marketing; **Cathy Horvath** and **Anton Huether**, Information Technology Central; **Roger Kluck**, facilities management; **Kate Marshall** and **Renae Yale**, advancement; **Wes Matthews**, human resources; **Beth Odahlen**, Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning; **Rick Seklecki**, criminal justice; **Jason Spain**, athletics; **Connie Teets**, teacher education; **Vicki Troftgruben**, North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities; **Kris Warmoth**, Center for Extended Learning; **Deb Wentz**, Office of the President; and **Tiffany Ziegler**, social science.

The selection committee, made up of four vice presidents and the athletic director, reviewed more than 30 nominations. Supervisors nominated employees based on criteria directly related to MSU's Vision 2013.

## May 16, 2012

### PIO update

Last Friday (May 11) was an important date for Minot State graduates. Faculty, staff, students and graduates' families and friends celebrated a milestone moment. For many graduates, getting through the years of classes, homework and other difficulties would not have been possible without immense support. Having these support groups come together in a show of love, celebration and appreciation was truly the crown jewel of what is a wonderful event – commencement at Minot State University.

But, just because it is summer, the campus is not closed. There are many unique opportunities for students and the community to experience MSU. Summer school and youth athletic camps begin May 29. The Western Plains Opera Company will present "I Pagliacci" and "Gianni Schicchi" May 31 and June 2. College for Kids begins June 4 with the Dakota Chamber Music following June 11-17. The Northern Plains Writing Project runs July 16-Aug. 2.

Minot State remains vibrant and active.

— Linda Benson,  
public information specialist

### NEXT ISSUE

Publications Date: Wednesday, June 13  
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*Roger Kluck congratulates Jeff Morsfield on his retirement from facilities management.*

## Minot State honored retirees

On May 9, Minot State University recognized individuals who recently retired or will retire at the end of this semester. This year's retirees include **Jeff Morsfield** and **Tom Thorson**, facilities management; **Cheryl Rystedt**, North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities; **Mike Duffy**, **Betty Vang** and **Keith Witwer**, College of Business; **Joe Alme**, **Pat Lomire** and **Dennis Simons**, College of Arts and Sciences; and **Joe Ferrara** and **Elaine Larson**, College of Education and Health Sciences; and **Ann Lemer**, MSU food services.



*Lemer*

## Dimler donates insect collection

Laurel Dimler, assistant professor of nursing, recently donated to Minot State University a scientifically important insect collection of her late father, Carl Christopherson, long-time biology teacher at Stanley High School. The modest collection consists primarily of butterflies from the North Dakota Badlands, northwestern North Dakota and the North American Arctic, where Christopherson often traveled with MSU science professor Ron Royer.

Several hundred specimens, many representing rarely encountered Arctic species, will be integrated into the university's insect collection under the guidance of Guy Hanley, science instructor and Cyril Moore Science Center collections curator.

"Although some specimens are damaged or of common, local species, most are valuable additions to the Cyril Moore Science Center Museum," Hanley said.

Royer emphasized the scientific importance of Christopherson's specimens, which will provide not only a physical record of species distributions, but the possibility of acquiring genetic material for taxonomic research.

## Troftgruben heads Staff Senate

**Vicki Troftgruben**, North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities' Money Follows the Person Housing project director, was re-elected Minot State University Staff Senate president. Other officers are **Darla Weigel**, administrative assistant to the vice president for student affairs, vice president, and **Sherri Giessinger**, administrative assistant to the vice president for administration and finance, secretary/treasurer. **Linda Benson**, public information specialist, remains in the position of past president. Staff Senate elected this executive committee May 15.

MSU Staff Senate conducted elections electronically. Listed below, according to their constituencies, are the newly elected representatives, along with their areas of employment:

- Athletics, enrollment services, financial aid, President's Office — **Lindsey Benson**, financial aid, and Derek Van Dyke, enrollment services.
- Vice President for Advancement, marketing, publications and design services, public information office — **Linda Benson**, public information.
- College of Arts and Sciences — **Linda Seklecki**, criminal justice.
- College of Education and Health Sciences — **Diane Pierson**, communication disorders.
- Center for Extended Learning — **Carla Davis**, IVN.
- Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning, College of Business, Great Plains Center for Community Research and Service, Graduate School, institutional research, international programs, library — **Beth Odahlen**, CETL, **Amy Lisner**, GPCCRS, and **Megan Federer**, library.
- North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities — **Suzanne Blessum** and **Vicki Troftgruben**.
- Vice President for Academic Affairs, Rural Crime and Justice Center, Registrar's Office — **Celeste Simmons**, academic affairs.
- Vice President for Administration and Finance, human resources, Business Office — **Sheri Giessinger**, administration and finance, and **Mindy Rudnick**, Business Office.
- Facilities management-maintenance and security — **John Johnson**, maintenance, and **Brandon Niess**, security.
- Facilities Management-custodians — **Bill Klimpel**, **Scott Peterson** and **Charlene Radke**.
- Information Technology Central — **Tyler Schmaltz**.
- Vice President for Student Affairs, MSU food services, Native American Center, Student Center, student publications, housing — **Darla Weigel**, student affairs.
- Student Success Center, POWER Center, Veterans Center — **David Klassy**, Veterans Center.
- Student Health, Student Development — **Catherine Anderson**, student health.

Staff Senate is a representative body of MSU's broad-band employees. The senate strives to promote communication between the president, other administrators, faculty and students and broad-band staff. It also serves the needs of broad-band employees and acts as a source of information concerning those needs and other issues.



## Beta Theta returns to Minot State

After more than a 25-year absence, the Beta Theta Sorority has made a comeback at Minot State University. Twenty-one women completed the initiation process to become active members April 29. They are Emily Anderson, Jennifer Gravos, MacKenzie Nagel, Amanda Paulsen and Tess Thorp Foley, Minot; Kaylin Salwei, Bismarck; Kelsey Busch, Columbus; Rachel Pfenning, Velva; Rebecca Ryan, Williston; Sidney Bockoven, Elk Grove, Calif.; Arianna Norte, Livermore, Calif.; Kelsey Ramos, Tehachapi, Calif.; Brooke Domonoske, Plentywood, Mont.; Shelby Bowlds and Codi Thomas, Sidney, Mont.; Rachelle Brown, Reynoldsburg, Ohio; Rachael Kelly, Renton, Wash.; Alyson Parrill, Lander, Wyo.; Kelsey MacNaughton, Brandon, Manitoba; Brittnee Annetts, Carievale, Saskatchewan; and Marley Kotylak, Montmartre, Saskatchewan. Beta Theta alumnae from the '30s through the '80s attended the initiation ceremony.

The new members elected Ramos as president, Foley as vice president, Norte as secretary, MacNaughton as treasurer, Kotylak as executive at large and Thomas as pledge captain.

"In the past, Greek life was the spirit of Minot State," Ramos said. "By reviving our sorority, we are helping to bring the spirit back to MSU, as well as instilling leadership skills among our members."

The organization's revitalization is a direct result of a Beta Theta Sorority reunion during Homecoming 2011, where Beta Theta alumnae decided to revive the sorority. This spring, they held an informational meeting and decided to act immediately due to overwhelming student interest.

The Beta Theta alumnae searched old pledge manuals and their memories to recreate a pledge program. Nancy Fuller, wife of MSU President David Fuller, joined the sorority as an honorary patroness.

As a service project during pledging, the new Betas sold 653 roses to raise money for the YWCA's flood recovery.

Extra roses were donated to Trinity Home residents.

The Beta Theta Sorority originally organized January 13, 1928, as the third sorority on campus. Through the years, the Betas chose to remain a local sorority, believing this feature best serves the sorority, its members and the school.

The sorority joins the Mu Sigma Tau Fraternity as the first Greek entities to return to the MSU campus.

For additional information, contact Linda Benson, MSU public information specialist and Beta Theta alumna, at 858-3199 or [linda.benson@minotstateu.edu](mailto:linda.benson@minotstateu.edu).

## Salary decisions made

Salary administration decisions for Fiscal Year 2013 are made. All staff members who completed probation and returning faculty members will receive a 3 percent salary increase if they received a satisfactory annual evaluation.

Promoted faculty members will receive salary increases of \$1,500 (to assistant professor); \$3,000 (to associate professor) and \$4,500 (to professor).

Salary increases for equity purposes are also provided when the salary would otherwise fall below the minimum salary-to-market ratios established as Minot State University's standard. The minimum ratios are: Faculty and non broad-banded staff, 85 percent of market rate; broad-banded staff, 80 percent of market rate; custodians, 90 percent of market rate; and recruiters, 94 percent of market rate.

In total, base salaries are increasing by approximately \$740,000 (from all sources) for a 3.2 percent increase.

The FY13 budget is now being prepared. It is estimated new letters of appointment and contracts will be available by mid-June. Faculty members who will not be available in late June or early July should leave their contact information with their dean to facilitate the timely return of the contracts.

## Summer Theatre prepares for another great season

"Lucky Stiff," a murder mystery, is the first of four plays Minot State University Summer Theatre will perform. It will run from June 12 to 17. The other scheduled productions include "Love, Sex and the IRS," a comedy farce, June 23-27; "Breaking Up is Hard to Do," a musical, July 7-11; and the musical "Crazy for You" will round off the season July 19-24.

Summer Theatre is celebrating 47 years in the Minot community. The company comprises a variety of people including community members, MSU students, faculty and staff. Approximately 10,000 theatergoers attend the productions every summer.

All shows are in the MSU Amphitheater at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for senior citizens and children over 12, \$5 for children 12 and under, and \$3 for MSU personnel and summer students with current MSU ID. Reservations may be made by calling the Summer Theatre box office at 858-3228, starting June 1.

## Golf clinics for people with physical challenges offered June 6 and 27

Golf clinics for people with physical challenges will be offered June 6 and June 27 at Minot's Souris Valley Golf Course, 4:30-6 p.m. The clinics are for new golfers who want to try the sport but have found it too difficult due to a physical disability and experienced golfers who gave up the game because of a life-changing event such as stroke or amputation.



Reed Argent, a Minot physical therapist, had the idea to develop golf clinics for people with disabilities after he attended a National Amputee Golf Association's First Swing clinic. The First Swing program teaches therapists and golf pros how to use golf as therapy and teach people with disabilities to learn or relearn to play golf.

"The physical-therapy profession, golf and family are my three passions," Argent said. "If I became paralyzed, I would want to regain the ability to play golf as soon as possible."

When approached by Argent, Steve Kottsick, golf pro at Souris Valley Golf Course and John Hoeven Wee Links course, was also on board with the idea of making golf accessible for people with limited mobility.

Argent and Kottsick teamed up with Minot State University's North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities staff to address ways to make the game of golf accessible to everyone in the Minot community. Kari Schmidt, director of NDCPD's North Dakota Disability Health Project, knew it was a perfect collaboration and that an adaptive golf cart would be needed.

"Our project's goal is to promote health and wellness for people with disabilities. The idea of an adaptive golf cart was appealing in many ways, it makes the sport inclusive of everyone and being active outdoors is a boost for physical and emotional health," Schmidt said.

A SoloRider, an accessible golf cart, was purchased with funding from a Quality of Life grant awarded from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation. The SoloRider will be housed at the Souris Valley golf course.

Adults, age 18 and older, are welcome to attend one or both sessions. Physical therapists and golf professionals will be on hand to provide instruction for each person to learn how to accommodate their golf style to allow for maximum potential on the golf course. There is no charge to attend, and equipment will be provided for those who do not have their own. The SoloRider golf cart will be on hand for use at the clinics.

The clinics are sponsored by NDCPD, First Choice Physical Therapy, Souris Valley Golf Course and Jack Hoeven Wee Links Golf course. To register or for more information, contact Argent at 721-3344, Kottsick at 240-0593 or Schmidt at 858-3048.

## New staff aboard

Minot State University would like to welcome two new employees, Patricia Davidson and Steven Swenson.

Davidson is a scheduling clerk with the Office of Facilities Management. Previously, she worked for Minot's Rehab Services Inc. and has an associate degree in business from the University of Mary. She and her husband, Lyle, have been married for 30 years and have a son and a daughter and two granddaughters.

Swenson is the new assistant athletic director for compliance and student life. The native of Raymond, Minn., earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn., and will receive his juris doctor degree from Marquette University Law School, Milwaukee, Saturday (May 19).



Davidson



Swenson

## WPO presents 'I Pagliacci' and 'Gianni Schicchi'

Opera returns to Minot State University's Ann Nicole Nelson Hall May 31 and June 2 with Western Plains Opera Company's production of Leoncavallo's "I Pagliacci" and Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi." Returning artists Vickie Miller, Sam Savage, Jeffrey Madison and MSU graduate Chad Armstrong lead the cast. The operas will be conducted by Neil Casey and directed by Joseph Levitt.

"I am so eager to get these productions on stage and in front of our local audience. It seems like we have been planning them for ages!" said WPO executive director Ken Bowles. This double bill was originally planned for September 2011, but rescheduled due to the Souris River flooding.

"I Pagliacci," set in the southern Italian village of Montalto, tells of the lives of Canio and Nedda, members of a troupe of strolling players. Their portrayal becomes real when a love triangle is uncovered, leading to a passionate and fatal conclusion to the evening's performance.

The comedy "Gianni Schicchi" sets the stage for post-mortem trickery as the shocked relatives of wealthy Buoso Donati learn he has died and left his estate to charity. A clever deception is planned, but things go comically awry when Donati's impersonator, Gianni Schicchi, rebequeathes the riches to himself.

"I Pagliacci" will be presented in Italian and "Gianni Schicchi" in English, both with English subtitles. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$25 depending on seat selection. The audience is encouraged to arrive early and browse a collection of opera-related silent auction items in the lobby before the performance.

## DCM marks 16th season

The Dakota Chamber Music will celebrate its 16th season June 11-17. The institute brings professional artists together with talented and motivated students and adults for intensive performance and study. Minot State University's resident trio, Luminus, forms the core of the 2012 DCM faculty. Erik Anderson, Jon Rumney and Dianna Anderson comprise the trio.

"This institute demonstrates the enduring relationship chamber music has with musicians, as performers of all ages gather to share and experience great music and friendships," said Erik Anderson, associate professor of music.



*Dianna Anderson, Jon Rumney and Erik Anderson*

Generally, chamber music includes any music performed by a small number of performers with one performer to a part. The word "chamber" signifies that the music can be performed in a small room, often in a private salon with an intimate atmosphere. However, by definition, it usually does not include solo instrument performances.

Guest faculty include Tim Nelson, Sean Neukom and Andrew Smith.

Nelson is currently the orchestra teacher at South High School in Fargo, principal violist with the Fargo Moorhead Symphony, violist with the FM Symphony's 8th Street Quartet and an adjunct viola instructor at Minnesota State University, Moorhead.

Neukom, an MSU alumnus, is a musician and composer. His live performances and compositions work to educate about the significance of classical music in today's society and the importance of music programs in school systems. Currently, Neukom resides in Pittsburgh, where he works closely with the string quartet Freya to present a concert series aimed at non-conventional venues.

Smith, associate professor of music at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, returned to DCM, where he taught 2000-2003. At UNLV, he performs regularly as a cellist of The Cerberus Trio. He is a member of the Camerata Deiá, a group founded in 2001 to be the resident ensemble with The Festival Internacional de Deiá, a summer festival in Mallorca, Spain. He is also a founding member of The Adriatic Chamber Music Festival, a summer music program in southern Italy, where he has taught and performed since its inception in 1998. In the fall of 2008, he joined the Las Vegas Philharmonic as principal cellist.

Each year, DCM draws 40-50 musicians, high school through adult, from around the region to study and perform chamber music. It is by audition only and is coordinated by the MSU Division of Music. MSU faculty Lynne and Jon Rumney started DCM, and Erik Anderson is the current administrator.

For further information, contact Erik Anderson at 858-3576 or [erik.anderson@minotstateu.edu](mailto:erik.anderson@minotstateu.edu) or visit [www.minotstateu.edu/dcm](http://www.minotstateu.edu/dcm).

## College for Kids coming soon

College for Kids begins June 4. Visit <http://www.minotstateu.edu/cel/CollegeforKids.shtml> for more information about the camps. For questions, contact Amy Woodbeck, professional and community education coordinator, at 858-3989 or [amy.woodbeck@minotstateu.edu](mailto:amy.woodbeck@minotstateu.edu).

## Athletic camps build skills

Children's summer athletic camps are scheduled at Minot State University. Children of MSU employees receive a \$10 discount for each camp except football, boys post camp, boys shooting camp and Mini-Camp K-2. Visit [www.msubeavers.com](http://www.msubeavers.com) to register.

## Wellness works

### Diet soda: Is it bad?

If someone drinks a reasonable amount of diet soda daily, such as a can or two, diet soda is not likely to hurt them. The artificial sweeteners and other chemicals currently used in diet soda are safe for most people, and there is no credible evidence that these ingredients cause cancer. Some types of diet soda are even fortified with vitamins and minerals. But diet soda is not a health drink or a "silver bullet" for weight loss. Although switching from regular soda to diet soda may save calories, some studies suggest that drinking more than one soda a day — regular or diet — increases the risk of obesity and related health problems such as type 2 diabetes.

Healthier choices abound. A wiser choice is starting the day with a small glass of 100 percent fruit juice, drinking skim milk with meals and sipping water throughout the day. For variety, individuals can try sparkling water or add a squirt of lemon or cranberry juice to their water. They should save diet soda for an occasional treat.

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

## Announcements

### MSU participates in Apple Recycling Program

Minot State University will again participate in the Apple Recycling Program. In preparation for the August deadline, Information Technology Central and facilities management staff are available to pick up unusable electronic equipment, such as computers, monitors, televisions and printers. All e-waste items must have a completed "Change of Inventory" form attached and be MSU-owned. No personal e-waste is allowed under this free program. The recycling process, which includes palletizing and shrink-wrapping all scrap items, will continue through the spring and summer months.

Contact the Help Desk at 858-4444 to request a pickup. Thank you for your continued support and participation.

— *Cathy Horvath, information technology director*

## Library discontinuing ERes

The Gordon B. Olson Library will no longer use the reserve product known as ERes after June 30. Faculty members have until June 29 to remove their documents from this service. All documents will be lost after this date. If individuals need assistance removing documents, contact Sarah Henderson, access services librarian, at sarah.henderson@minotstateu.edu or 858-3094.

— *Stephen Banister, Gordon B. Olson Library director*

## In the galleries

May 16-25 — "Unspoken Narratives of the Human Mind," video exhibit by MSU senior Joshua Collins, Library Gallery.

May 16-31 — "Pioneer Pixels," senior exhibit by art student Eric Benz, Hartnett Gallery.

June 1-27 — "Pillars," senior exhibit by art students Kelsey Mehrer and Alicia Brandt, Library Gallery.

The opening reception for "Pillars" is June 3, Library Gallery, 6:30-8 p.m.

## 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.*

**Kristi Berg**, assistant business information technology professor, accompanied Minot State University DECA students Ben Berg, McKenna Larson and Jennifer Lock to the Collegiate DECA National Competition in Salt Lake City, April 20-24. Berg also served as facilitator and judge and represented North Dakota at the conference.

**Jan Reppow**, business information technology instructor, coordinated written testing at the North Dakota Future Business Leaders of America conference in Bismarck, April 1-3. Reppow presented at the National Business Education Association convention in Boston, April 3-7.

**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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