



## INSIDE

*A Newsletter for Employees & Friends of Minot State University*

April 24, 2013



*SVUW, The Welcome Table and MSU representatives collaborate to create the “Backpack Buddies” program.*

### ‘Backpack Buddies’ launched

April 23, the Souris Valley United Way gave The Welcome Table, a multi-denominational nonprofit organization, \$10,000 to start the “Backpack Buddies” program. “Backpack Buddies,” the brainchild of MSU Leadership Group, will ensure needy children receive nutritious, non-perishable food items each weekend during the 2013-14 school year. At Sunnyside Elementary School, the program’s pilot school, 49 percent of the students qualify for free lunches, and 10 percent are eligible for reduced lunches.

### Honor Dance: accomplishments and reconnecting

Friday (April 26), Minot State University’s Dome will come alive with tradition, color and movement. Native American dancers and drum groups from throughout North Dakota and neighboring states and provinces will compete during the 24th annual Native American Spring Honor Dance and Powwow Celebration April 26-27. The event includes the acknowledgement of achievements, competitive dancing, vendor and information booths and food. The powwow is one of the largest student activities on campus.



This event, sponsored by the Native American Cultural Awareness Club and the university, will honor all 2013 graduates. Thirteen Native American students will graduate from MSU this year.

Kevin Locke, “Tokeya Inajin” in Lakota or “The First to Arise,” a hoop dancer, indigenous flute player and traditional storyteller from the Standing



Rock Sioux Tribe, will perform Friday (April 26) at 8 p.m. Locke is globally known for “The Hope of Life,” his hoop dance involving 28 hoops in a complex and acrobatic pattern. In 1990, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded Locke a National Heritage Fellowship.

Both Friday and Saturday feature performances, dance competitions and the sale of Native American arts, crafts and food. Activities start at 11 a.m. each day. Two "Grand Entries," the time when all of the dancers enter the arena, are scheduled for 1 and 7 p.m. each day. The "Honor Parade," in which all 2013 MSU graduates are invited to participate, follows the 7 p.m. Grand Entry on Saturday (April 27).

To further honor the graduates and their families, a buffalo meal will be served Friday (April 26) in the Student Center at 5 p.m. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe donated the buffalo.

Admission to the Spring Honor Dance and Powwow Celebration is \$2 for ages 12-55; it is free to children under 12, senior citizens and MSU students, faculty and staff.

In addition to MSU and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, the Three Affiliated Tribes' business council, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and Visit Minot provided support for the event.

For more information, contact Annette Mennem, Native American Center director, at 858-3365 or [annette.mennem@minotstateu.edu](mailto:annette.mennem@minotstateu.edu). To read the full news release, visit [www.minotstateu.edu/news/000662.shtml](http://www.minotstateu.edu/news/000662.shtml).

## MSU chemistry graduate presents research

Braden “Brady” Burckhard was one of 60 students chosen nationally to travel to Capitol Hill April 24, as part of 2013 Posters on the Hill, and present his research to U.S. Congress members. The event, hosted by the Council on Undergraduate Research, recognized student achievements in undergraduate research.



The 2012 Minot State University graduate presented “Addressing the hazards of post-flood mold to public health.” Burckhard began research his sophomore year with Mikhail Bobylev, associate chemistry professor. The goal was to design and synthesize compounds with antifungal or other medicinal properties for industry use.

The 2011 Souris River Flood gave Burckhard additional opportunities. Mold is a hardy substance for fungicide research, and the flood left an abundance of mold. So Bobylev, Burckhard and another student painstakingly collected mold samples from different colonies in two flooded properties. They sent the samples to an outside lab for identification, and their research provided important information about potential health threats and methods of treatment to health professionals.

To read the full news release, go to [www.minotstateu.edu/news/000663.shtml](http://www.minotstateu.edu/news/000663.shtml).

## Alumni Association plans premier Gala

For decades, it has been a perennial favorite: the annual Gala Dinner and Auction Friday at Minot's Grand International. The social and auction preview begin at 5:30 p.m. and dinner is served at 6:45 p.m.



Net proceeds help fund scholarships and programs sponsored by the Alumni Association. Over 30 years, the Minot State University Alumni Association has raised over \$745,000 through its Galas. For the 2012-2013 academic year, the Alumni Association received 87 applications and awarded 17 scholarships.

"We receive applications from so many deserving students; financial need is always greater than supply. I wish we could award scholarships to everyone," said Janna McKechnie, director of alumni relations and annual giving. "Through the generosity of our Gala attendees, we are able to assist MSU students with tuition costs."

Successful bidders in the silent auction may win an Irish dinner for eight and artwork by Floyd Fairweather, professor emeritus. Other signature items include Disney World passes, a one-of-a-kind, hand-painted chair, sports memorabilia and furniture.

The \$50 ticket includes a gourmet dinner, music and elegant atmosphere. Attire for this event is semi-formal. For tickets, call 858-3234, as this event has sold out in the past.

## 'Miss Representation' challenges media

"Miss Representation," a 2011 American documentary film written, directed and produced by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, will be shown Monday (April 29) in Minot State University's Aleshire Theater at 7 p.m. The film's motto, "You can't be what you can't see," stresses that young women need and want positive role models, and thus far, the media has ignored its responsibility to provide them. The film premiered in the documentary competition at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival.

According to its website ([www.missrepresentation.org/the-film](http://www.missrepresentation.org/the-film)) the video "challenges the media's limited and often disparaging portrayals of women and girls, which make it difficult for women to achieve leadership positions and for the average woman to feel powerful herself." To view an eight-minute trailer of the film, visit <http://vimeo.com/28066212>.

Several MSU faculty and DVCC staff will lead a question-and-answer discussion period after the film. This event, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by the MSU student organizations KMSU, Public Relations Student Society of America and Media Ink. Freewill offerings will be accepted and donated to Minot's Domestic Violence Crisis Center as well as any toiletries, paper goods, canned goods or cleaning supplies.

## Recognition and Retirement Event May 8

Minot State University faculty and staff are invited to the annual Minot State University Employee Recognition and Retirement Event May 8. A social will be in McFarland Gallery at 2 p.m., and a program will follow in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall at 2:30 p.m. Please join the MSU Employee Appreciation Committee to honor:

- 2012-13 faculty and staff retirees



- Recipients of continuous years-of-service awards
- Recipients of MSU Board of Regents Faculty and Staff Achievement Awards.



## MSU captivated Dakota Square

Nearly 40 Minot State University groups participated in the seventh annual MSU at the Mall, which allowed MSU to showcase its students, academic programs, services, student organizations and other university entities to the community. Highlights included the potter’s wheel, face painting and nursing students giving free blood-pressure checks.

## WPCC to present ‘Musical Movie Mash-Up’

May 5, the Western Plains Children’s Choirs will present their Spring Tea, “Musical Movie Mash-Up,” in Minot State University’s Ann Nicole Nelson Hall at 3 p.m. Seventy-eight singers from grades 3-10 will perform numbers from current and past movies, “Annie,” “The Newsies,” “Les Miserables,” “Gypsy” and “Hairspray,” with flair and a flourish.

“Mark your calendars for May 5 to see the Western Plain’s Children’s Choir, Western Plains Youth Ensemble and Western Plain’s Junior Choir’s season finale. This concert will not disappoint,” said Rebecca Petrik, MSU instructor of music.

WPCC, maintaining a tradition of choral excellence since 1991, is the

region’s premier children’s choirs. Presently, they thrive under the direction of Petrik and Laurel Livingston, the choreography of Cherie Collins and the assistant directorship of Jonathan Clark. The choirs are accompanied by Laurie Verbitsky, Elisabeth Derby and Kate Dalbey.

This event is WPCC’s only fundraiser. The proceeds from the Spring Tea support the singers in their biennial spring tour. The concert fundraiser includes a silent auction and concessions. The silent auction will open before the concert at 2:30 p.m.

Admission is \$5 at the door.

For questions, contact Petrik at [rebecca.petrick@minotstateu.edu](mailto:rebecca.petrick@minotstateu.edu) or 858-3837.

## New staff aboard

Minot State University welcomes three new employees, Paul Brenno, Christine Brigden and Shamlee Kankam.

Brenno, a custodian in the Dome, attended MSU for two years. He then transferred to Montana State University to complete a bachelor’s degree in film and video production.



*Brenno*

Brigden, a North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities research associate, previously worked at the North Central Human Service Center. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Work from MSU.



*Brigden*

Kankam, Business Office accounting and purchasing coordinator, was last employed by the City of Round Rock, Texas. She completed a master’s degree in business administration at Osmania University, India. She and her husband have a 2-year-old child.



*Kankam*



## NDAGA received Governor's Award

The North Dakota Council of the Arts presented the North Dakota Art Gallery Association a "2013 North Dakota Governor's Award for the Arts" March 28. Linda Olson, Division of Humanities chair, accepted the award on NDAGA's behalf.

NDAGA, a nonprofit corporation organized in 1975, provides professional training, while coordinating common information and services for gallery personnel and association members. It recognizes outstanding contemporary, folk and traditional visual artists. NDAGA is headquartered in Minot State University's Art Department. To learn more about NDAGA, go to [www.ndaga.org/index.cfm?page=about](http://www.ndaga.org/index.cfm?page=about).

## In the galleries

April 24-May 2 — MSU Juried Student Art Show with juror LaRock, Hartnett Gallery.

May 6-30 — "Lives of Bones," senior capstone exhibit by Nichole Bennett and Cassandra Anderson, 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.*

Faculty members **Bethany**

**Andreasen, Andrea Donavon, Carlen Gilseth and Jacob Sowers** represented MSU at the national FYE conference in Orlando, Fla., Feb. 23-26. MSU was the only North Dakota institution in attendance.

The Engagement Honor Roll Committee has worked diligently over the past seven months to establish Engagement Honor Roll criteria. Committee members are **Andreasen, Heidi Benavides, Kristi Berg, Lisa Borden-King, Tiffany Fylling, Laurie Geller, Jaimie McMullen, Heather Martin, Cheryl Nilsen, Linda Olson, Dan Ringrose, Jessica Smestad, Heidi Super and Ryan Winburn. Anton Huether**, webmaster, developed the online Engagement Honor Roll submission form.

**Audra Myerchin**, assistant communication arts professor, chaired panels, "COMMunity Relations: Exploring Possibilities of Academia and Community" and "State of North Dakota Showcase: Incivility in the Classroom and What We Can Do About It" at the Central States Communication Association convention in Kansas City, Mo., April 3-7. **Nancy Pearson**, assistant communication arts professor, served as a panelist for both. **Myerchin** was also a panelist for "Babies, Boobs, and Bias: An Exploration of Academic Mothers' Breastfeeding Experiences."

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## Receive Inside electronically

If individuals or entities that receive hard copies of Inside would like to receive it electronically, call 858-3298 or email [linda.benson@minotstateu.edu](mailto:linda.benson@minotstateu.edu).

## Next issue

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## 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.