MSU hosts Business After Hours

Minot State University hosted a very successful Business After Hours March 15. This event, sponsored by the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce, is an evening business mixer held on a monthly basis. MSU invited community members to see the new Beaver Dam and they came! The center was crowded with visitors who enjoyed a great spread prepared by Chartwells.

Faculty, staff and students set up an impressive 22 tables and displays to highlight university achievements and initiatives. Thank you to all who took part in this effort. We can also be proud of the large number of MSU personnel attending the event.

Comments from visitors included: “Nicest Business After Hours I’ve been to for a long time.” “First time I’ve been on the campus in 18 years.” “I’ve often been puzzled by the relationship between town and gown. This is a great way to break the ice.” And from a staff member, “Something we should have done a long time ago.”

The official count from the Chamber was 175 paid admissions at the door, considered a very good average by the Chamber. We estimate that about 100 MSU folks were in attendance. Again, thanks to all!

March 21, 2007
Employee appreciation event is Thursday

All Minot State University faculty and staff members have been invited and are encouraged to attend the annual Employee Appreciation Banquet Thursday, noon-2 p.m. in the Dome. President David Fuller has advised supervisors to close offices where feasible to ensure the fullest attendance possible. Join your colleagues as we recognize those who are marking five-year increments of service and present Faculty and Staff Achievement awards.

NEXT ISSUE
Publication Date: Wednesday, April 4
Submissions Due: noon March 28
Student Union 309
Voice: 858-3298 • Fax: 858-4481
linda.benson@minotstateu.edu
www.minotstateu.edu/inside/
Minot State sponsoring service learning conference March 23-24

“Great Plains Connections: Linking Education & Community Through Service,” a regional service learning conference is being held Friday and Saturday at Minot State University. The goal of the two-day meeting in the MSU Conference Center is to advance the planning, integration, and support for service learning locally, regionally, and globally.

Speakers highlighting the event include Robert G. Bringle, Ph.D., director of the Center for Service and Learning at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis, Valerian Three Irons, director of the Service Learning Program in Brookings, S.D., and Tracey Wyman, director of service learning and global education, Century College, White Bear Lake, Minn.

The three will be featured presenters during the opening panel “New Models of Engagement for the 21st Century,” Friday from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m.

The conference features a collaboration of regional experts, paper and panel presentations, and interactive workshops. Schedules have been distributed via campus mail to the individual departments. All MSU faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend. Materials and refreshments may be limited to those who pre-registered.

Service learning underpins MSU’s new strategic plan, vision and strategies. Service learning encourages educational institutions to partner with community organizations to structure a learning process that benefits both students and the community. Strategically designed and organized educational activities meet community needs while insuring that students gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the relevant discipline, and an enhanced sense of personal values and civic responsibility. Hands-on experience, combined with critical reflection, contributes to the students’ deeper understanding of the connections between education and community.

Assessment Day is April 3

Spring Assessment Day is April 3 at the Grand International Inn. The schedule and a survey regarding the General Education Program and academic assessment were distributed to faculty members via e-mail March 9. Rita Curl-Langager, chairperson of the Academic Assessment Committee, asks that surveys be returned via e-mail or campus mail by March 29. The Assessment Day schedule and RSVP form are available on the MSU home page. The survey will contribute to the 10:30-11:45 a.m discussion about general education.

Minot State makes pitch to Senate Appropriations Committee

Minot State University and the other 10 NDUS campuses made presentations to the Senate Appropriations Committee at the end of February. MSU’s Feb. 28 hearing included a published booklet and an oral report from President David Fuller.

MSU presented enrollment trends over the past ten years and projections for the future in a variety of graphs and reports. Enrollments have dipped slightly but have remained relatively stable over the ten-year period. It was emphasized that enrollment will continue to be a challenge for the university and that new recruitment efforts have been undertaken.

The presentation highlighted selected accomplishments including the new mission, strategic plan, institutional vision and strategies, the economic impact study that showed MSU having an impact of $136 million on the community and region, the Roundtable and Cornerstone projects, and Roundtable accountability measures indicating high licensure test rates, high student and alumni satisfaction levels, increased satisfaction by employees, and satisfaction above the mean by employers.

Budget schedules were discussed for the prospect of a 4 percent or a 5 percent salary increase, with a cap on tuition at 5 percent, and a projected 2 percent enrollment decrease. Escalating costs, especially high utility expenses, continue to be a concern. Increased base funding and support for salary increases were emphasized. The Swain Hall renovation and the Dome floor project were discussed and questions were answered.

In response to the committee’s request, MSU described four critical priorities for the future. Those were the need for increased base funding, increased funding for faculty and staff salaries, keeping tuition increases low, and addressing the serious needs of the ConnectND system.

Minot State University appreciates the support from Gov. John Hoeven and the North Dakota Legislature and requests continued support. Electronic copies of the presentation are available from either the Office of the President or Barb Johnson, administrative assistant to Ron Dorn, vice president for administration and finance.

Admissions and recruitment leadership position refocused

The committee searching for the assistant vice president for enrollment services and admissions recommended that the search be concluded as failed. Administration has since decided to reconfigure the position and seek a director of admissions and recruitment. The conclusion was that, as originally configured, the position could not be filled at this late time in the year, but that a restructured position with a focus exclusively on recruitment and admissions would attract candidates and allow the university to move ahead on this important component.
of our enrollment. The revised position profile was developed and advertised. The committee is currently reviewing the applications.

**MSU is financially sound, some NDUS institutions struggle**

Minot State University is in a sound financial situation according to a financial review of the North Dakota University System. The NDUS report was presented to the State Board of Higher Education March 15.

Long-term solutions are needed at two of the university system’s smallest campuses to restore their financial conditions. The financial positions of Minot State University-Bottineau and Williston State College have progressively declined since 2003. The report also cautioned six campuses – including North Dakota State University and the University of North Dakota – to carefully consider the impact of additional debt.

Board President John Q. Paulsen said it reinforces the importance of the NDUS $63 million budget request to the Legislature. The House Appropriations Committee amended the bill to include among other reductions a $6.7 million base funding reduction.

"Several of the smaller institutions have financial stresses which I fear absent the restoration of the base funding amounts could create very serious issues for some of those campuses, even within the next biennium," said Paulsen.

Minot State-Bottineau is developing a plan to explore ways to increase enrollment and budget more efficiently, Dean Ken Grosz said. The plan is to be in place by the end of June.

Loss of enrollment is driving the financial challenges at the school, which has a head count of 619 students but is losing full-time students, Grosz said. Full-time equivalent enrollment declined 16 percent from 2003 to 2006, the largest decrease in the university system.

“We’re pretty spare and pretty lean, but that doesn’t prevent us from taking another look and getting even slimmer,” Grosz said.

The college is not deficit spending but has had to dip into reserves, the report said.

Williston State showed an 8 percent drop in full-time equivalent enrollment from 2003 to 2006, the second-largest decline in the system. Campus leaders have taken steps to improve the financial condition but continuing efforts are needed, the report said.

Laura Glatt, the system’s vice chancellor for administrative affairs, said loss of enrollment is the largest threat to financial conditions of the campuses, including the larger campuses.

“Significant changes or losses in enrollment could quickly change their financial position,” Glatt said at a recent meeting of the board’s budget and finance committee.

Full-time equivalent enrollment declined 1 percent for NDUS schools from 2003 to 2006, according to the report. All but three campuses – NDSU, Dickinson State University and Lake Region State College – reported declines of full-time students in that time period, the report said.

— partially excerpted from the Associated Press

**Hooven appoints Espegard to State Board of Higher Education**

Gov. John Hoeven named Duaine Espegard of Grand Forks to serve on the Board of Higher Education on March 16. Espegard currently lives in Grand Forks, but he has lived and worked in Minot.

“As a businessman and a legislator, Duaine has always recognized the important relationship between higher education and economic development,” said Hoeven. “His strong support for Centers of Excellence and his extensive background in finance reflect a real appreciation for the role our campuses play in creating jobs and building our state’s future. He will serve the board and the people of North Dakota well.”

Espegard is a retired bank administrator. From 1969 to 2003, he worked for Bremer Financial as a bank director, chief executive officer and regional resident. Espegard was elected to the North Dakota Senate in 2000 and served until 2006. He was appointed to the Industry, Business and Labor Committee.

He currently serves on the North Dakota Department of Commerce Community Foundation, the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation, and the Norsk Hostfest Board. He has also served on the Commerce Department’s Development Fund Board, and numerous other boards and commissions.

Espegard is a graduate of Aakers Business College, where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1963. He also attended the University of North Dakota and the University of Wisconsin’s Graduate School of Banking.

Espegard’s nomination will be reviewed by the North Dakota Senate. If the appointment is confirmed, he will serve out the four-year term of Charles Murphy. Murphy resigned in January after less than seven months on the board. Espegard’s term would last until June 2010.

— partially excerpted from Office of the Governor news release

**Women’s heritage month activities continue**

To recognize women’s contributions in history, March is Women’s Heritage Month. Remaining events include:

Michelle Sauer, associate professor of English, will discuss “Premodern Lesbians and the Lesbian Premodern: Woman-Woman Eroticism before 1700 CE,” March 29 in the Aleshire Theater, 7 p.m.

A women’s heritage poster session by Minot State University faculty and staff will be held April 2 in the Student Union atrium, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Admission to these events is free and open to the public.
Binsfeld wins second national title

Genevieve Binsfeld, a Minot State University senior, became a 2006-2007 dual national champion by winning the indoor track and field 3,000-meter race in Johnson City, Tenn. on March 10. She won with a time of 9:57.96 over second place at 9:59.39. In the process, Binsfeld broke her two year-old school record by three seconds.

The women's team finished tied for 19th place, with 10 points based on Binsfeld’s win. Binsfeld became just the second female Beaver to win an indoor title. The first was Donelle Carter in 1999. She joins Carter in another distinction — that of having earned multiple national championships.

The Beavers got another strong performance from senior Zach Burdick in the men's 3,000-meter run with his seventh-place finish. Burdick’s time of 8:33.53 was a personal best by almost six seconds and his highest finish at a national championship.

Beachy gives NAC lecture Thursday evening

Chris Beachy, biology, discusses “A Naturalist in the Age of Genomics” Thursday. This is a part of the 2006-2007 Northwest Art Center Lecture Series.

The last NAC lecture for spring semester is “Ho Chi Minh’s Rhetorical Strategies for Toppling the French Colonial Enterprise in Vietnam, circa 1920,” by Robert Kibler, English, on April 12. These talks take place in Aleshire Theater at 7 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public; refreshments are served afterward.

Be in the Know sessions can enhance knowledge of MSU

Be in the Know sessions can empower the entire campus community to become better Minot State University marketers. This unique learning environment will provide relevant facts about MSU and its degree programs and student services. Sessions are held each Wednesday in Aleshire Theater, 2-2:30 p.m. The remainder of the spring schedule follows:

- Today—math and computer science, financial aid, Rural Crime and Justice Center.
- March 28—biology, graduate school and research and sponsored programs, accounting and finance.
- April 4—Chartwells, Information Technology Central, residence life, science.
- April 11—NDCPD, career services, student development, criminal justice.
- April 18—humanities, advancement and alumni, Center for Extended Learning.
- April 25—social science, MSU Bookstore, Business Office, athletics.
- May 2—Registrar’s Office, student services, addiction studies and psychology.

One Brown Bag Book Talk remains


You need not read the featured book ahead of time and are encouraged to bring a sack lunch; dessert will be provided. The book talks, sponsored by the Gordon B. Olson Library, begin at noon and conclude in time for 1 p.m. classes. All are held in the lower level of the library in Group Study Room 2.

2007 MSU Summer Theatre auditions scheduled

Auditions and interviews for 2007 MSU Summer Theatre will be held in Aleshire Theater on March 30, 4-7 p.m. Auditions should be prepared and no longer than four minutes, showing both an individual’s musical and acting talents. A current resume must accompany the audition.

Call ahead to reserve audition times. Special times can be set up for those unable to attend March 30. Audio/video tapes can be substituted for audition.

Those interested in becoming part of the MSU Summer Theatre company should send a letter expressing their interest to Conrad Davidson or Kevin Neuharth by March 23. For more information, contact Davidson at 858-3171 or Neuharth at 858-3878.
Announcements

MSU-Bottineau gives an update

Activities being undertaken by Minot State University-Bottineau include:

• MSU-Bottineau is exporting its water technology certificate program to Bismarck next fall. The instructor, Craig Dolbeare, will travel to Bismarck every Friday to conduct labs, do advising, and any tutoring that might need to be done.

• A group is working on a paragraph or narrative that defines the focus or theme MSU-Bottineau has chosen, i.e., Nature, Technology, and Beyond. Campus Dean Ken Grosz asked the group to write it as a response to questions they will get about what this focus means for the campus. They will print the final product of their work in all promotional materials and also use it with the broadcast media. The next step will be to incorporate it into our mission. It is hoped that these projects will be completed by the end of the term.

• MSU-Bottineau will officially begin its campaign to raise seed money for football and women's softball on March 21.

—Russ Gagnon, MSU-Bottineau programs director at MSU campus

MSU goes to the mall

Minot State University at Dakota Square Mall is scheduled for April 28, from noon to 4 p.m. This Saturday event provides a great opportunity for MSU to feature its programs, services, employees, and students. Commitments, as of today, include a pottery sale by the art department, speech and hearing tests, musical performances and academic showcases. Be creative with your activities—make them interactive to draw the public to your booth. Displays, tables and activities will be located throughout the mall. Departments, divisions, student service areas, and student organizations have been invited to participate. Please respond to Teresa Loftesnes, interim director of marketing, at (teresa.loftesnes@minotstateu.edu) by March 28. E-mail group name, a short description of your activity, the number of tables needed, and whether or not you need electricity. You don't want to miss this opportunity to have young and old learn more about Minot State University! A student group from the campaigns and strategies communications class will be assisting with this project. Thank you in advance for your participation!

—Teresa Loftesnes, interim director of marketing, and the marketing committee

One Chamber of Commerce legislative forum remains

The last Saturday Legislative Forum hosted by the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce is on March 24. It will be held from 9-11 a.m. at the Minot Auditorium, Room 108.

Sponsored by the chamber's Governmental Affairs Committee, the Saturday Legislative Forums give those attending a chance to meet with Minot legislators and ask questions.

To learn where a bill will be heard, the Web site (http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/60-2007/login/index.html) is available.

The Writing Center announces revised schedule

The Writing Center recently distributed an updated schedule. The center, located in the lower level of the Olson Library, will be open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., with the following exceptions:

Closed Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:30 to noon; closed Thursday from 10 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 3 p.m.; open an extended half-hour Friday from 4 to 4:30 p.m.

Other times are available by appointment. To make an appointment, call 858-3060 or e-mail (writing@minotstateu.edu).

Please let your students know about this useful resource. Our tutors are eager, friendly, trained and ready to help students with any paper, in any subject. Our service is free to all Minot State University students, staff and faculty.

Students need to be present for the session and bring their paper or their assignment handout. We are not a “drop off and pick it up later” editing service. We try to work with students to make them better writers.

We also offer e-mail tutoring. See our Web site (http://www.minotstateu.edu/writingcenter/) for more details.

—Patti Kurtz, assistant professor of English

Flu shots are still available

The Student Health Center still has flu vaccine available for faculty, staff and students with a current ID. We are open from 8 a.m.—noon and 1-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You can stop by the Student Health Center in the lower level of Lura Manor during these hours and receive your flu shot. The administration fee is $15 for students and $25 for faculty and staff. We look forward to seeing you.

—Caren Barnett, director of the Student Health Center

In the galleries

March 6-28—“Make Love Not War” by Cynthia Madansky, Brooklyn, N.Y., Hartnett Hall Gallery.

March 6-28—“Women in the Picture,” a multimedia invitational show by regional women artists, Gordon B. Olson Library Gallery.

April 3-24—Juried MSU Student Art Exhibition, Hartnett Hall Gallery.

April 3-24—“New Encaustics” by Linda Whitney, Valley City, Gordon B. Olson Library Gallery.

The public reception for the April 2-24 exhibitions is April 3, Hartnett Hall Gallery, 6:30-8 p.m.
Calendar

March 21-April 30, 2007

March

21  IVN high-definition videoconferencing equipment demonstration, Conference Center, 9-11 a.m.
21  University Cabinet, Westlie Room, 9 a.m.
21  Be in the Know: math and computer science, financial aid, Rural Crime and Justice Center, Aleshire Theater, 2-2:30 p.m.
22  Last day to add a second eight-week class.
22  MSU Employee Appreciation Banquet, Dome, noon.
22  SAC: movie, Beaver Dam 3 p.m., Aleshire Theater 9 p.m.
22  NAC lecture: “A Naturalist in the Age of Genomics,” Chris Beachy, biology, Aleshire Theater, 7 p.m.
24  Prospective student tours, call for appointment, 858-3350.
24  Senior student recital: Nicole Pincombe, voice, Nelson Hall, 3 p.m.
25  Faculty recital: “Big Daddy Dakotah,” Rick Watson and friends, Nelson Hall, 3 p.m.
26  Nursing Student Association, Memorial 304, 12:15 p.m.
26  Job Corps Executive Management Program graduation, Washington, D.C.
26  International Artists Series: “Quattrocelli,” Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.
27  Concert: MSU Concert Band featuring student conductors, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.
28  Wellness Fair, Student Union Atrium, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
28  MSU Job Fair, Dome, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
28  Gnawed Log kiosk open house, Olson Library, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
28  Be in the Know: biology, graduate school and research and sponsored programs, accounting and finance, Aleshire Theater, 2-2:30 p.m.
28  Baseball at Dickinson State U.
29  NAC lecture: “Premodern Lesbians and the Lesbian Premodern: Woman-Woman Eroticism before 1700 CE,” Michelle Sauer, English, Aleshire Theater, 7 p.m.
29  Noon deadline for graduate students to file permit to take written comprehensive examination in the Graduate School Office.
30  Summer Theatre auditions, Aleshire Theater, 4-7 p.m.
31  Baseball and Softball at Valley City State U.
31  Region 8 Large Ensembles Festival, Nelson Hall, all day.
31-April 1  Boys Youth Basketball Tournament, Dome and Swain Hall.

April

1  Baseball vs. Valley City State U., Corbett Field, 1 p.m.
1  Softball vs. Valley City State U., South Hill Complex, 1 p.m.
1  Junior student recital: Ashley Liebel and Joshua Moen, voice, Nelson Hall, 3 p.m.
2  Women’s heritage poster session by MSU faculty and students, Student Union Atrium, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
2  Student Association, Westlie Room, 6 p.m.
3  Marketplace for Kids, Dome and campus.
3  Science open house, Moore Science Center, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
3  Assessment Day.
3  NAC reception for art gallery exhibits, Hartnett Hall Gallery, 6:30-8 p.m.
3-24  NAC exhibit: Juried MSU student art, Hartnett Hall Gallery.
4  Who’s Who recognition luncheon, Conference Center, noon.
4  Math Track Meet: grades 11-12, Dome, 12:30 p.m.
4  Be in the Know: Chartwells, Information Technology Central, residence life, science, Aleshire Theater, 2-2:30 p.m.
4  Beaver Booster Spring Party, Grand International Inn, 6 p.m.
5  Faculty Senate, Westlie Room, 3:30 p.m.
5  Outdoor Track & Field at North Dakota State U.
6  Baseball vs. Jamestown College, Corbett Field, 1 p.m.
6  Softball vs. Jamestown College, South Hill Complex, 1 p.m.
7  Easter vacation, university closed Good Friday.
7  Baseball vs. Jamestown College, Corbett Field, 1 p.m.
7  Softball vs. Jamestown College, South Hill Complex, 1 p.m.
9  Registration for summer and fall 2007 semesters by currently enrolled students.
10-20  Baseball vs. Dickinson State U., Corbett Field, 1 p.m.
11  Math Track Meet: grades 9-10, Dome, 12:30 p.m.
11  Be in the Know: NDCPD, career services, student development, criminal justice, Aleshire Theater, 2-2:30 p.m.
11  Baseball and Softball at Dickinson State U.
12 Admission to teacher education seminar, Main 106, 12:30-1:30 p.m.
13 Written comprehensive examinations for graduate students.
13 MSU Brass Festival, Nelson Hall, all day.
13 Outdoor Track & Field at Dickinson State U.
14 Speech Meet: Region 8 Class B meet, on campus.
14 Baseball vs. Dakota State U., Corbett Field, 1 p.m.
14 Softball vs. Dakota State U., South Hill Complex, 1 p.m.
14 Prospective student tours, call for appointment, 858-3350.
14 Minot Symphony Orchestra: “Pops!” Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.
14-15 Girls Youth Basketball Tournament, Dome and Swain Hall.
15 Baseball vs. Dakota State U., Corbett Field, 1 p.m.
15 Softball vs. Dakota State U., South Hill Complex, 1 p.m.
15 Faculty recital: Dianna and Erik Anderson, piano/cello, Nelson Hall, 3 p.m.
15 Concert: Brass Band of Minot, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.
15-16 Golf at South Dakota Mines invite.
16 Student Association, Westlie Room, 6 p.m.
17 Staff Senate, Jones Room, 9 a.m.
17 Curriculum Committee, Westlie Room, 12:30 p.m.
18 Last day to drop a second eight-week class.
18 Math Track Meet: grades 7-8, Dome, 12:30 p.m.
18 Be in the Know: humanities, advancement and alumni, Center for Extended Learning, Aleshire Theater, 2-2:30 p.m.
18 Baseball at North Dakota State U.
18 SAC: movie, Beaver Dam 3 p.m., Aleshire Theater 9 p.m.
19 SAC: Superhero presentation, Nelson Hall, 8 p.m.
20 Concert: Western Plains Children’s Choir, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.
21 Region 8 Solo and Ensemble Festival, Nelson Hall, all day.
21 Outdoor Track & Field at North Dakota State U.
21-22 Baseball and Softball at Mayville State U.
22 Senior student recital: Melissa Chilson, piano, Nelson Hall, 3 p.m.
22-23 Outdoor Track & Field DAC Multi-events Championship, Jamestown.
22-23 Golf at Black Hills State U. invite.
23 Nursing Student Association, Memorial 304, 12:15 p.m.
23-27 SAC: Spring Celebration Week.
25 Senior Celebration and Student Appreciation Event, Old Main, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
25 Be in the Know: social science, MSU Bookstore, Business Office, athletics, Aleshire Theater, 2-2:30 p.m.
25 Baseball vs. Dickinson State U., Corbett Field, 2 p.m.
25 Softball vs. Dickinson State U., South Hill Complex, 3 p.m.
26 Peace Awareness Day.
26 SAC: free food, Beaver Dam, noon-2 p.m.
26 Concert: MSU String Ensemble, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.
26 SAC: Comedian Daniel Kino, Beaver Dam, 8 p.m.
26-29 Theatre: “The Glass Menagerie,” Aleshire Theater, Thursday-Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m.
28 MSU at Dakota Square Mall, noon-4 p.m.
28 International Artists Series: “Time for Three,” Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.
28 Outdoor Track & Field at Jamestown College.
28-29 MSU 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, Dome and Swain Hall.
29 Softball at Black Hills State U.
29 Senior student recital: Alicia Preskey, voice, Nelson Hall, 3 p.m.
29 Student Association, Westlie Room, 6 p.m.
30 Concert: MSU Concert Band, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.