Minot State University making Scandinavian connections

Minot State University President David Fuller and other academic officers visited Scandinavia, June 1-9, to explore and establish partnerships for international study. MSU’s efforts were in support of a visit by a Minot delegation to its sister city of Skien in Norway. On June 1, 17 ambassadors from the Minot area departed for the beautiful Telemark region.

Joining Fuller and his wife, Nancy, in representing MSU were Gary Rabe, vice president for academic affairs, JoAnn Linrud, dean of the College of Business, Neil Nordquist, dean of the College of Education and Health Sciences, Linda Cresap, dean of the Graduate School, and Libby Claerbout, director of international programs.

The entire Minot group was present for a signing ceremony on June 5 with Telemark University College at its Posgrunn campus. A memorandum of agreement was signed by Dag Bjerketvedt, rector of TUC, and Fuller. Among other representatives of Telemark were Knut Duesund, vice rector, and Nils Røttingen, university college director.

Telemark University College is the fifth largest of the 25 state university colleges in Norway and has four campuses with about 4,500 full-time students. TUC offers a number of programs taught in English that MSU undergraduate students could take including Scandinavian studies, sport and outdoor life, Alpine ecology-environmental management, physical education, human technology design, Norwegian folk music, culture and dialogue, and care for the aging. It also has two full master’s programs in engineering and inland water quality assessment.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited the second Telemark campus located in the city of Bø. Fuller said the parallels between the Bø campus and MSU-Bottineau were striking. The Bø campus has about 500 students and is situated in a rural area with rolling hills.

“I think some great things are going to come out of the partnership with Telemark,” said Fuller. “Skien officials are very interested in helping us because of its proximity to Posgrunn and Bø.”

An interesting coincidence is that Telemark University College has a 2013 goal to become a full university. MSU’s new strategic plan “Vision 2013” includes a number of initiatives to be completed by 2013, the year of Minot State’s centennial. Other goals of Telemark include increasing the number of students to 5,000 and the number of incoming and outgoing exchange students to 150 per year. Telemark’s other two campuses are located in Notodden and Rauland in Norway.
Other similarities between MSU and Telemark include small campuses, comparable student numbers, friendly and helpful faculty and staff, modern facilities, and locations in communities of comfortable size that don’t overwhelm students.

Afterward the Fullers and the rest of the MSU contingent traveled separately. The Fullers headed to Denmark, while the remainder visited two colleges in Norway – American College of Norway in Moss and Ostvold University in Halden. They wrapped up their higher education outreach in Sweden at Kristianstad University. Minot State University already has an agreement in place with Kristianstad. It was established earlier in the year through the efforts of Linrud. Two students from KU will be studying business at Minot State beginning spring term in January 2008, and they had the opportunity to meet those visiting from MSU.

Kristianstad University has about 10,000 students and is located in a town center with about 28,000 residents and another 47,000 residing in the surrounding area. Every department at KU offers some classes in English and all business courses are offered in English. The business department hosts about 35 to 40 international students each semester. Other possible areas of collaboration include teacher education and nursing.

In Denmark, the Fullers visited Aalborg University (AAU) which held great interest for Fuller. AAU has positioned itself as a leader in following new paths within research and education. As a result, it uses innovative ways of cooperating with the surrounding world at a local as well as national and international level.

“They have a program in place where faculty and students work together to solve problems, similar to service learning,” Fuller said. “It’s very much like what our strategic plan is looking at doing. Aalborg assigns interdisciplinary groups of three to 10 people to study issues that have been identified as important.”

AAU offers more than 60 academic programs and numbers about 14,000 students. Fuller anticipates that an agreement with Aalborg University will be finalized soon.

The president said that the Scandinavian trip was very positive overall. MSU officials were able to meet with and identify a number of institutions interested in academic collaborations and exchange of faculty and students.

“This has such potential if we do it right,” said Fuller of the higher education partnerships. “For a perspective faculty member or student who has not had an international experience, the Scandinavian countries would provide a level of comfort that would allay any concerns they may have.”

As an example he said most Scandinavians are fluent in English, having started training in the third grade, and are very friendly, helpful and courteous. As well as being located within spectacular surroundings and scenery, Fuller said the Scandinavian countries are immaculate.

Minot State University currently also has partnerships with SIAS International University in China and Kadir Has University in Istanbul, Turkey.

The MSU president said that one of his goals is to give students significant places to experience other cultures.

“It’s not that we’re trying to collect partnerships,” he said. “We’re really trying to target some key areas in the world that students can explore.”

The two MSU groups rejoined the remaining sister-city delegates in Copenhagen, Denmark, on June 8 and returned to Minot the following day.

**MSU and United Tribes Technical College sign partnership agreement**

David M. Gipp, president of United Tribes Technical College, and David G. Fuller, president of Minot State University, signed a three-year partnership agreement on June 12. The signing ceremony took place in the Healing Room of the Lewis Goodhouse Wellness Center on the UTTC campus.

““This is a new model for collaboration between United Tribes Technical College and a higher education institution in the North Dakota University System,” said Gipp. “It’s an opportunity to grow a relationship between the two institutions that will lead to benefits for the community and students.”

Under the memorandum of understanding, the two institutions agree to work toward a “two-plus-two” collaboration model, which means courses students complete at UTTC will be accepted by Minot State University and will apply toward a four-year degree at MSU.

United Tribes Technical College was founded in 1969 by an intertribal organization, the United Tribes of North Dakota Development Corporation. It is a nonprofit corporation chartered by the State of North Dakota and operated by the five tribes wholly or in part in North Dakota. Those tribes are the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation, the Spirit Lake Tribe, the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. The college is governed by a ten-member board of directors made up of the chairperson and one delegate selected from each of the tribes.
“One of the primary strategies of our new strategic plan is to build a multicultural campus,” said Fuller. “We want to increase diversity and strengthening our relationships with the tribal colleges is an important part of that. We are honored to have United Tribes Technical College choose to partner with us.”

Additional initiatives in the agreement include exploration of other academic program collaboration; sharing of existing facilities and resources as host institutions; sharing of information and invitation to relevant projects, programs and activities; promotion of service learning and civic engagement; joint seeking of external resources and enhancement of Native American studies programs.

The MOU also agrees to equal status and full autonomy for each institution.

Fuller and Gipp said that making both institutions stronger is a key reason for making the agreement.

“The agreement addresses the transfer of credits. More of our graduates will be able to make a smooth transition to Minot State,” said Gipp. “It also could enhance diversity at MSU. This agreement can lead to collaborations with American Indian educators, and more accurate and meaningful learning about Native people and topics. I believe that a closer relationship with tribal people and organizations in the state will enrich the MSU Native American studies program.”

Fuller agreed, saying, "Agreements like this form the groundwork to make faculty exchanges, student exchanges, curriculum development and program development easier. But most importantly, they make the learning environment more supportive and richer for our students.”

Under Fuller’s leadership, MSU has also entered memorandums of understanding with Fort Berthold and Turtle Mountain community colleges.

MSU mourns Knutson

Anita Knutson, an 18-year-old Minot State University student from Butte, N.D., was found murdered in her apartment in north Minot on June 4. She had completed her first year at MSU and was majoring in elementary education. The police continue their investigation.

The entire MSU community is extremely saddened by the loss of one of our students and extends its deepest condolences to Knutson's family.

MSU teacher education program receives positive review

Minot State University’s teacher education program has received a positive review from the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, said Neil Nordquist, dean of the College of Education and Health Sciences.

MSU’s teacher education program met four of six required standards during the last NCATE visit in March, 2004. It was found lacking in two areas: its method of student assessment and a lack of diversity education in graduate-level courses.

Nordquist said both areas were addressed before NCATE evaluators returned for a focused visit earlier this spring.

“We did a better job of explaining what we do,” said Nordquist.

Nordquist said students are assessed in several different ways throughout the program. Faculty assess students on the standards they are required to meet in different teacher education courses, students take exams and give feedback throughout their college careers and after they have done their student teaching and after they have graduated. Nordquist said a few adjustments were made to the assessment process, but the major requirement was to do a better job of showing the accreditation team exactly how students in the teacher education program are assessed.

During their 2004 visit, the NCATE team found no problems with diversity education at the undergraduate level, said Nordquist, but found it lacking at the graduate level. MSU had focused more on teaching graduate students subject matter and were not as concerned about diversity education, said Nordquist. They assumed teachers had already been educated in how to teach students with special needs, those who speak a foreign language, or those with different cultural backgrounds when the teachers were undergraduate students. Diversity education was added as a component of the graduate-level courses during the past few years, said Nordquist.

All state colleges and universities are required to be accredited by NCATE. MSU has been accredited by NCATE since the early 1950s. Nordquist said the next full NCATE visit will be in 2010 or 2011.

— partially excerpted from Minot Daily News

Board of Regents meets July 19

The Minot State University Board of Regents will meet in the Student Union Conference Center on July 19, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The regents will receive reports from the president and the campus representatives for students, faculty and staff. Regent members will be updated concerning strategic planning and the campus master plan, as well as have the opportunity to tour the campus. Emeritus awards will also be presented to past regents.

During the evening prior to the meeting, members are invited to a dinner in the Beaver Dam with grills outside on the patio.

Financial aid garners additional $2,500 in scholarships

The MSU Office of Financial Aid was awarded $2,500 for scholarships for MSU students by Student Loans of North Dakota on May 18. In June of 2006, SLND invited all universities to attend a student loan default prevention symposium. At the symposium, SLND challenged all attending
schools to develop and implement a default prevention program at their institution and to then submit a copy of their plan to SLND for competition. The Minot State action plan, prepared by Laurie Weber, won the top honor and $2,500 prize. SLND is administered by Bank of North Dakota and offers a variety of loan programs to help students and parents finance a college education.

Msu arts and sciences dean accepts ohio position

Yueh-Ting (Y.T.) Lee, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, is leaving Minot State University this summer. He has accepted the position of dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Toledo in Ohio, effective August 5. Lee started at Minot State University in July 2005.

“I’m sorry to see Dr. Lee go,” said Gary Rabe, vice president for academic affairs, in accepting Lee’s resignation. “He has completed a lot of initiatives that have helped move the College of Arts and Sciences and MSU forward.”

Rabe said Lee was instrumental in developing MSU relationships with the tribal schools in North Dakota and in helping establish international partner schools in China that hold tremendous potential for faculty and student exchanges.

“Dr. Lee has tremendous integrity and was a very strong advocate for the College of Arts and Sciences,” Rabe said. “It is always difficult to lose good people, but I am happy for him and the professional opportunities that his new appointment will bring.”

Lee called the decision to accept the Toledo position “bittersweet” and said he will miss his MSU colleagues and community friends.

He said that his decision to move on was two-fold. First, because the University of Toledo is a doctoral research institution, it matches his desire to work for a large university and affords him the opportunity to return to research in social and cross-cultural psychology. Second, his family also wishes to live in a larger community.

Lee came to MSU from Minnesota State University-Mankato, where he had been the chair and a faculty member in the Department of Ethnic Studies, College of Social and Behavioral Studies since 2000.

He was educated in China, earning his baccalaureate degree in English language and American literature from Southern University and his master’s degree in industrial and organizational psychology from Beijing Normal University. Lee completed his doctoral degree in personality-social psychology at State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Rabe said he is currently reviewing candidates to serve as interim dean for the 2007-08 academic year.

Rising costs are a concern

Bruce Christianson, an outgoing State Board of Higher Education member from Minot, said at its June 21 meeting that rising costs may lead to a time when only “the elite and rich” can afford to attend college.

“That may be overstating it … but it’s time to get our arms around this,” Christianson said.

Christianson is leaving the board after serving for six years. In that time, he said the average debt on student loans has gone from about $12,000 to $20,000. Tuition and fees have risen more than 130 percent in the last decade for some students at the state’s two largest universities.

John Q. Paulsen, SBHE president, concurred that it is a terrible problem. “The brick wall that I run up against is how to do anything about it.”

— partially excerpted from Bismarck Tribune

Lake region president to retire

Sharon Etemad, president of Lake Region State College, announced May 30 that she will retire in January, ending her 25-year career at the school. She has been president of the two-year college since 1987.

“I feel like the school is in wonderful condition right now, and I wanted to leave when I felt things were good,” Etemad said.

Besides founding a career center for agriculture during her tenure, Etemad spearheaded improvements to the school’s auditorium, library, residence halls, parking lots and roadways. She also helped create the College Technical Education Council, which was formed in 1993 to assist in job training for the state’s two-year colleges.

“She not only brought leadership to events, she also brought vision and passion,” said Eddie Dunn, university system chancellor.

— partially excerpted from Bismarck Tribune
Faculty, staff and student notes

Ronnie Walker, international programs, and faculty members Yueh-Ting Lee, Margaret Sherve and Bin Wang led a very successful study tour to China, May 14-28. Other participants in the tour included 10 MSU students and 23 members from Minot and the surrounding area.

Robert Kibler, English, was recently elected chairman of the Board of Directors for the Mid-Dakota Chapter of the American Red Cross, and he attended chair’s training at the national headquarters of the Red Cross in May 2007. He becomes chairman November 2007. Kibler will also travel to Santa Ana, Calif., September 11-15, to attend instructor training in international humanitarian law and its relationship to Red Cross operations, the Geneva Convention, and the three convention protocols.

David Iversen, Gordon B. Olson Library, had a paper “Quest and Place in Carl Hansen and Hans Christian Andersen” he presented at a conference published as part of the conference proceedings. The conference was “Danish Culture, Past and Present: The Last Two Hundred Years: An International Conference Sponsored by the Danish American Heritage Society,” which took place Oct. 13-16, 2005 in Des Moines, Iowa. The proceedings have now been published in The Bridge: The Journal of the Danish American Heritage Society, Volume 29, Number 2, 2006, pp. 320-336.

Teresa Loftesnes, marketing, attended the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Integrated Marketing Institute in Boston, May 20-23. The institute focused on creating an integrated marketing plan, collecting and organizing data, evaluating enrollment management structures, and keeping up with the Internet and its role in institutional marketing.

Sandra Nordstrom, publications and design services, attended the InDesign Conference in New York City, June 4-8. Adobe InDesign is the page layout software used daily by the publications and design services office. Nationally known experts presented sessions during the week-long conference.

College of Business shares faculty initiatives


• Andy Bertsch will present research on a cultural comparison of North Dakota and the United States in Madison, Wisc., in September.


• Julie Eklund and Sharon Reynolds made presentations at the National Business Education Association in New York City in April.

• Sharon Reynolds is providing workshops through MSU’s Center for Extended Learning. In May, she presented the seminar “Written Communication” to Choice Hotels. She will be providing instruction during the Summer Auditor’s Institute for N.D. State Auditors on campus this month.

• Gary Ross, Sharon Reynolds, Lori Willoughby, Julie Eklund, Deanna Klein and Jay Wahlund attended the IACBE Annual Conference “Celebrating Excellence in Business Education” in Kansas City, Missouri, April 11-13; Ross, Klein and Wahlund co-presented “Development of an Operational Effectiveness Outcomes Assessment Plan” at the conference.

• Lori Willoughby has been selected to make two presentations in October. The first will be to the International Association of Computer Information Systems in Vancouver, Washington. The second will provide specific training on MS Dynamics and customer resource management at “MS Dynamics” on a Disney Cruise Ship.

• Frank Moseley will attend the International Association of Energy Economist’s Conference in Houston, Sept. 16-18. The conference includes seminars about energy policy, energy economics and finance.

• Karen Walz attended the 2007 N.D. Society of CPAs Management Conference in Fargo in May.

• Jim Ondracek attended “Global Business Connections,” March 22-23 in Bismarck. He also participated in the MSU China study tour, May 14-18.


• Lead author Girard and a second author have had “Information Anxiety: Fact, Fable, or Fallacy?” accepted for presentation at the International Conference on Intellectual Capital, Knowledge Management and Organisational Learning in Cape Town, South Africa, in October. Girard also presented “Using Video and Voice to Engage Students” at the Middle East Forum on Learning Technology in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, via live Web link on April 11.

• Lead author Girard and co-authors Kristi Berg and Lori Willoughby have had “Online information systems education: Enhancing interaction” accepted for presentation at the International Association of Computer Information Systems 2007 Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia in October. (Lead author will not be attending; however, the paper will be presented.)
Announcements

MSU-Bottineau shares news
• Since April 2, the college has raised over $200,000 to use as seed money to begin football and fast pitch softball programs. Football will begin in the fall of 2008 and softball in the spring of 2009. Plans are to play in the Minnesota Community College Conference—North Division.
• MSU-Bottineau will begin a Practical Nurse nursing program at the Burdick Job Corps Center in the fall. The Minot center will promote the nursing curriculum to other Job Corps throughout the country and anticipates it will bring in a significant number of students for the program.
• MSU-Bottineau will pilot a program with Trinity Hospital whereby currently employed PNs at Trinity will enroll in MSU-B’s two-year RN program and study while they work. This effort will also begin in the fall.
• The college is placing its water technology program on inactive status for 2007-2008. The intent is to determine if the program can be reconfigured so that it is more attractive to prospective students. Consideration will be given to placing the program online.

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

Enrollment services updates campus

The first CONNECT session, May 31-June 1, of the year was very well received. Enrollment services hosted more than 215 people, including 100 freshmen, 27 transfer students, and at least 88 parents. Special thanks to Debra Chandler, career services, and Rebecca Porter, enrollment services, for a super-fantastic job! Their attention to detail (and occasional badgering) certainly paid off. Many parents commented on the high quality of the two-day event. One particular comment caught my attention; a parent suggested that the event was much better than she expected from Minot State. I suppose some would see this as a negative comment; however, I think it is great that we can pleasantly surprise folks.

We had good media coverage on Friday. Both KMOT and KXMC covered the event and highlighted Andrea Haser, Enrollment Services, and our Student Ambassadors doing the Beaver Call — it was quite a show. For the next session we are encouraging the media to attend the Thursday evening dinner. The dinner includes a murder mystery coordinated by Ann Rivera and starring the Ambassadors—they did a brilliant job. Following dinner, Leon Perzinski was the host for the MSU Amazing Race in which groups of students literally ran across campus collecting clues. What a fun way to end the day! (Editor’s note: The second session of CONNECT took place June 20-21.)

—John Girard, enrollment services

There is still golf left

There are still stops left in the second annual “Minot State University Friend-raising Golf Tour” sponsored by the MSU Alumni Association, Beaver Boosters, marketing and enrollment services. Today, golf will be played in Hazen. New Town follows on July 11; Garrison is July 18; Ray is July 25; and Kenmare is Aug. 2. Registration begins at 4:30 p.m., with action starting at about 5. The format will be a four-person, 9-hole scramble. A social will follow immediately at about 7 p.m., and non-golfers are welcome to attend. Optional meal and refreshments will be provided by the golf course. You are also responsible for your own green fees and cart rentals. There will be a couple of vans traveling to and from each location. Call the Office of Advancement at 858-3890 a minimum of one week prior to each scramble to reserve a meal and transportation. There will be lots of prizes including a $200 MSU scholarship. Thus far, there has been great attendance and enthusiasm at each outing. Hope to see you there!

—Tawnya Bernsdorf, director of alumni and annual giving

Students dropped for nonpayment

Instructors: students have been cancelled for nonpayment of fees for the summer term. Please run off your class rosters, identify those students in your class that are not on your rosters, and send them to the Business Office to pay the $50 reinstatement fee if they wish to finish your class and receive a grade. Thanks.

—Tania Balas, registrar

MSU to be in State Fair Parade

Hello Everyone! I hope you are all having a great summer so far. The North Dakota State Fair is coming up in July, and Minot State University is planning on having a float in the parade on July 21. The theme for the parade this year is “Parade of Honor,” which coincides perfectly with the theme for this year’s homecoming which is “The Few, The Proud, The Beavers.” I would like to invite any suggestions or ideas for the parade and to ask that anyone who is interested in joining us would be welcomed to walk with us in the parade. I do not know all of the details yet so if anyone interested could let me know by sending an email or giving me a call, I would really appreciate it. Please let me know by Thursday (June 28), and thanks in advance for your help. Let’s show the community some Red and Green school spirit!

—Tawnya Bernsdorf, director of alumni and annual giving
In the galleries

June 27-July 9 — “Nice Jam,” by MSU photography students, Olson Library Gallery.
June 27-July 12 — Janet Wentz memorial exhibition, Hartnett Hall Gallery.
July 19-Aug. 17 — Senior exhibit by Cindi Finley Mintie, Hartnett Hall Gallery.
The public reception for the Olson exhibit is July 15 and July 26 for the Finley Mintie exhibit, 6:30-8 p.m.

Calendar

June 27-Aug. 8, 2007

June
27-30  Summer Theatre: “Moon Over Buffalo,” Amphitheater, 8:30 p.m.
27  Golf tour, Hazen.
28-29  Western Plains Children's Choirs summer musical, Graving Theater, Minot High School, 7:30 p.m.

July
4  Independence Day holiday, university closed.
5  Last day to drop an eight-week class.
10-14  Summer Theatre: “Clue: The Musical,” Amphitheater, 8:30 p.m.
11  Golf tour, New Town.
11-12  NDUS Chancellor’s Cabinet retreat.

August
2  Golf tour, Kenmare.
2-3  State Board of Higher Education retreat, Bismarck.
14  MSU at the Zoo, Roosevelt Park Zoo, 5-9 p.m.
15  President's Convocation.