Mind/Brain Myth-busters seminar is next week

Educators from the region have been invited Sept. 14-15 to examine popular myths and realities regarding “brain-based” teaching and learning. Consider whether the following are fact or fiction: Does the brain grow more neurons when we learn? Does exercise make you smarter? Are male and female brains different? The Mind/Brain Myth-busters seminar in the Student Union Conference Center will help those attending understand what is myth and what is real.

This seminar kicks off a new multidisciplinary mind/brain initiative at Minot State University. Eighteen faculty members attended the Learning and the Brain Conferences sponsored by the Harvard Mind, Brain and Education program and others during 2006-2007. MSU faculty members, along with P-12 educators and experts from the community will provide information and interactive discussion on topics such as perception, attention, memory, motivation, emotion, reading, math, substance use/abuse, gender differences, sleep, exercise, left/right, nature/nurture and the like.

If there is room not taken by paid registrants, MSU personnel or students may sit in, but meals are not included. If faculty have students who would like to sit in, please contact Judy Bacon in Teacher Education and Human Performance at 858-3028.

Center of Excellence forums scheduled

Campus members are invited by President David Fuller to attend one of two open forums about Minot State University’s Center of Excellence proposal. The forums are scheduled Sept. 11 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Metigoshe Room of the Student Union.

MSU’s proposal will establish the Great Plains Knowledge and Data Center and requests $3.4 million in COE funding from the state. The $14.6 million total project would support two key facilities – a production data center and a research and development center, which would be hosted by MSU.

Being developed with Info-Tech Minot Technology Center, SRT Communications and Minot Area Development Corporation, the Great Plains Knowledge and Data Center will promote the development and advancement of knowledge-based business in the region. The initial July proposal received positive reviews and a revised version was recently resubmitted.

Each forum will provide more in-depth information as well as the impact on MSU and the region. Principal project leaders Deanna Klein, Steve Hayton, Selmer Moen, Jerry Stai and others involved will be available to discuss the proposal and to answer any questions.

The president has asked campus members to attend one of the forums to obtain important information about this exciting and far-reaching technology program that will significantly and positively impact our students and community.
New faculty aboard for 2007-2008

Joe Alme, who for 23 years was the director of the International Music Camp, is Minot State University’s director of bands. He received his Bachelor of Science in Education from MSU and Master in Music Education from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colo.

William Archambault, chair of the criminal justice department, comes to MSU from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La. He has a professional interest in Native American crime, justice and corrections issues, and related prisoner rights. He received his Master of Arts degree from Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Ind., and his doctoral degree from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla.

Mark Boren joins the music division as a full-time faculty member, and he is the high brass instructor. He received his bachelor’s degree from Wichita State University and his master’s degree from Chicago’s DePaul University. Currently, he is working toward his Doctorate of Music Arts at the University of Kansas.

Christina Chung, a full-time faculty member in the College of Business, joins the business administration department. Previously, she taught at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. She has an interest in mass communication, marketing and tourism. Chung received her master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Andrea Donovan is a full-time faculty member in the humanities division. She was previously employed by Gilbert Public Schools in Gilbert, Ariz., Northern Arizona University and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Ariz. She completed her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Mich.

Amina Escalera, who is originally from Morocco, joins the foreign language department as a French instructor.

Carmen Fricke, a full-time adjunct mathematics instructor, previously taught at Minot Public Schools. She received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts in Teaching from Minot State.

Dieter Hermsmeier is a visiting professor in the chemistry department. He also is employed by North Dakota State University as a research specialist at the North Central Extension Center. He received his master’s and doctoral degrees from Philipps University of Marburg, Germany.

Ronald Jutila is a visiting professor in the physics department, from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, Pa. He received his Bachelor of Arts in physics and his Master of Science in medical physics from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wis. In addition, he completed a Master of Science degree and a doctoral degree from Georgetown University.

Prit Kar, assistant professor of criminal justice, comes to MSU from California State University in Sacramento where she did post-doctoral work. She received her Master of Arts, Master in Philosophy and doctoral degree from Panjab University in India.

Arnola Lebersome joins the music department. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in music and elementary education from Minot State, and she has taught piano for 45 years. She was an adjunct instructor at MSU from 1992 to 2002.
H. Michael Loy is a visiting professor in the communication arts department. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Concordia College in Moorhead, his Master of Fine Arts from Trinity University in Dallas, Texas, and his Master of Arts from NDSU.

Timothy Morris is on a special contract as an instructor in the Department of Math and Computer Science. He previously taught for the Mohall, Lansonford, and Sherwood School system. He received an associate degree from MSU-Bottineau and his bachelor's and master's degrees from Minot State.

Audra Myerchin is a full-time faculty member in communication arts after serving as an adjunct instructor last year. She earned a bachelor's degree and a Master of Arts in communication from the University of North Dakota. Her areas of interest include gender, speech communication, interpersonal communication, and popular film studies.

Jan Repnow, a full-time faculty member in the College of Business, joins the business information technology department. Since 1984, she taught at Wolford Public School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from MSU and her master's degree from UND.

Richard Seklecki, after teaching at Marion College of Fond du Lac, Wis., for a year, has returned to MSU’s criminal justice department as a full-time faculty member. He received his bachelor's degree from Buffalo State College, his Master of Arts degree from Amberton University in Garland, Texas, his Master of Science degree from the University of Texas in Arlington and his doctoral degree from Syracuse University.

Patrick Sheldon is on a special contract in the art department. Previously, he was employed as the art director at Lowe's Printing and lead Web designer for Fargo's Blue Monkey Media Inc. He received his Bachelor of Art degree from Minnesota State University in Moorhead.

Young Seob Son is a full-time faculty member in the College of Business accounting and finance department. He received his bachelor's degree from Dong-A University in Busan, Korea, his master's degree from Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, and his doctoral degree in economics from the University of Memphis.

Judy Spitzer joins MSU’s music division after teaching music at area elementary schools. She received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from MSU.

Mehdi Tehrani is a full-time faculty member in the College of Business information technology department. Previously, he taught at Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C. He received his Higher National Diploma from Teesside University in Middlesbrough, England, and his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Lund University in Lund, Sweden.

WPO presents ‘The Mikado’


The ninth and most popular of Gilbert and Sullivan’s 14 collaborations, the show opens in the Japanese town of Titipu where Nanki-Poo, son of “the great and virtuous Mikado,” has fled to avoid marrying an elderly woman named Katisha. Traveling under disguise, he falls in love with Yum-Yum, who is already engaged to her guardian, Ko-Ko, a tailor. Ko-Ko, it turns out, has been condemned to death for the capital crime of flirting, but through the twisted law and logic of “The Mikado’s” Japan, he is reprieved at the last moment and appointed Lord High Executioner.

Dallas tenor Drake Dantzler will play the role of Nanki-Poo, Julie Biggs, a Winnipeg mezzo-soprano, has been cast as Pitti-Sing, and playwright-director Gordan Portmann of Brandon, Manitoba will be stage director. Minot area people participating include David Bradley in the role of Pooh-Bah, Joann Martinson portraying Yum-Yum, John Scheeler as Ko-Ko, Cheryl Nilsen playing Katisha, and Eric Furuseth in the title role of the Mikado. Kenneth Bowles will conduct the orchestra and large chorus. Furuseth, Nilsen and Bowles are MSU faculty members.

Showtime is 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 14-15 and 3 p.m. on Sept. 16 in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall. Tickets may be obtained by calling 858-3185.

Homecoming 2007: ‘Beaver Boot Camp ... Can You Handle It?’

Homecoming at Minot State University this year centers on the theme “Beaver Boot Camp ... Can You Handle it?” Activities include:

- Sept. 16—Delta Epsilon Chi four-person golf scramble, Wildwood Golf Course, 1 p.m.
- Sept. 17—Paul Merklein, caricature artist, quad, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Sept. 17—Homecoming king and queen voting, quad, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Sept. 17—Casino night and karaoke, Beaver Dam, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 18—Paul Merklein, caricature artist, quad, 11 a.m-2 p.m.
- Sept. 18—Coronation with entertainment by Rob Paravonian, Nelson Hall, 7 p.m.
• Sept. 18—Homecoming dance with band “October Road,” Holiday Inn Riverside, 9 p.m.
• Sept. 19—Music featuring Jazmine Wolff at noon and “Alone in Cadence” at 1 p.m., quad.
• Sept. 19—Ryan McFarling, illusionist, Beaver Dam, 8 p.m.
• Sept. 20—Music featuring “Last Great Summer,” quad, noon.
• Sept. 20—Billiards tournament, Beaver Dam, 3 p.m.
• Sept. 20—Hypnotist Sailesh, Aleshire Theater, 9 p.m.
• Sept. 21—Music and free food for students while it lasts, quad, 11 a.m.
• Sept. 21—Greek reunion, Holiday Inn, 7 p.m.
• Sept. 21—Bonfire, Dome parking lot, 8:30 p.m.
• Sept. 21—Toga dance, Beaver Dam, 10 p.m.
• Sept. 22—Homecoming: parade, route from Minot Civic Auditorium through downtown to the Olson Library, 10:30 a.m.
• Sept. 22—Tailgating, east parking lot of Dome, 11 a.m.
• Sept. 22—Homecoming football game vs. Black Hills State U., introduction of Homecoming royalty and Athletics Hall of Fame inductees at halftime, Parker Stadium, 1:30 p.m.

Northwest Art Center Lecture Series slated

The Northwest Art Center Lecture Series debuts Sept. 17 with a presentation on “This is Your Brain Learning: Insights from Developmental Science, Cognitive Neuroscience, and Cognitive Psychology.” Minot State University faculty from the Collaborative for the Applied Study of Cognition and Learning Sciences (CASCLS) will explore the intersections of mind, brain, and education. Additional fall presentations include:

• Sept. 24—Greg Gagnon, from the University of North Dakota, will speak on “‘Funny, You Don’t Look Like An Indian’ and Other Misconceptions About Indians.”
• Nov. 1—Ursula Schirrko, biology, will speak about “Native Plants in Medicine: Small Input - Large Impact.”
• Dec. 11—D. Jerome Tweton, North Dakota Humanities Council speaker, lectures on “North Dakota’s Political Fences: Issues That Divided Us.”

All lectures are held in Aleshire Theater at 7 p.m. They are free and open to the public and refreshments are served afterward.

Campus master plan architects visit

The campus master planning architects from Clark Enerson visited campus Aug. 27-28. They met with campus representatives with a focus on signage and landscaping. They also met with city officials about the North Broadway project and with others regarding the cemetery, lighting on University Avenue, and the general master plan.

At an open forum on Aug. 28, they responded to questions about opening 11th Avenue and other features of the campus master plan. The updated plan can be viewed online at (www.minotstateu.edu/master_plan/).

Announcements

CONNECT after review scheduled for Sept. 13

Faculty and staff: Thanks to everyone who participated in this year’s very successful orientation and registration sessions. Personally, I was very impressed with the planning and implementation of the events. Equally, I was delighted with number of excellent reviews we received from students, parents, faculty and staff. It is clear those long hours many of you worked benefited a great number of students.

Clearly CONNECT was a great success. Planning is now underway for the spring version of CONNECT and we need your help. The time is right to review CONNECT, while it is fresh in our minds, and consider how we can improve future sessions.

Please consider participating in a CONNECT after-action review on Sept. 13 at 2:30 p.m. in the Conference Center. The review will consider four broad questions:
• What was supposed to happen?
• What actually happened?
• What is the difference between the two?
• What should we do to make up the difference?

Please note that this session is not designed to question the value of orientation or registration; we will leave that to others to consider. Our focus is how to make the next CONNECT even better. Please help us achieve that goal.

— John P. Girard, associate professor of business administration and business information technology and director of enrollment services

State employee recognition week social to be held Sept. 10

State Employee Recognition Week is Sept. 9-15. On Sept. 10 from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. we will have a social gathering in the Conference Center to mark the occasion. At 8:30 a.m., we will have a small program with remarks from President David Fuller. We will also be giving away a few door prizes, so please mark this on your calendar and plan on enjoying some refreshments and good company. See you there!

— Wes Matthews, director of human resources

Studies in community and environment program to be discussed in open forum

For the exchange of information and ideas, please attend an open forum concerning a new major program, studies in
community and environment on Sept. 12 at 3 p.m. in the Missouri Room.

As many of you heard on Convocation Day, planning for a new major program at Minot State University is underway—studies in community and environment. Some of you may be wondering just what such a program is, and why we need one at MSU. In brief, studies in community and environment will be a comprehensive Bachelor of Arts program that offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of human interactions with the environment. It seeks to examine the cultural, scientific, economic, historical, political, and social factors that influence local, national, international, and global environmental issues and policies. Investigating a wide range of perspectives, it includes a broad exposure to many factors confronting humans as they struggle with complex problems and possible solutions to environmental and community questions.

The relevance of such a program should be self-evident: we all live on one planet, and we must learn intelligent stewardship of that planet—but "learn" is perhaps the key word here. Community and environmental studies programs have been in existence in the US for nearly 50 years, and there are some 1,100 programs in colleges and universities across the nation. This is clearly and established discipline, and we are excited to be able to expose our students to it.

We already have Stage I approval for the program, and a committee has been formed (with representatives from humanities, social sciences, biology, science, math, and social work) to do the work of completing the Stage II approval process. This work cannot be done by a committee alone, however. We need your ideas and input. Many of you have questions, concerns, ideas, and suggestions—and we want to hear them all! So please mark your calendars and plan to attend this open forum. We look forward to seeing you there!

—ShaunAnne Tangney, associate professor of English

Marketing tip offered

As an Minot State University representative and as an employee assisting with MSU’s marketing efforts, I would like to ask you to review your e-mail signature block and consider noting the following elements as it will assist individuals with your complete contact information and important university information.

- Your name
- Building location
- Campus address
- Complete campus telephone number with 701 prefix
- Toll-free telephone number
- Your web address
- All white background

Thank you in advance for promoting Minot State University!

—Teresa Loftesnes, director of marketing

Writing Center is open

The MSU Writing Center is now open and will host its third annual open house on Sept. 27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.!!

The tutoring schedule is in a bit of flux, but you will be getting a schedule and other handouts in campus mail soon. We have new tutors who are being trained and when they are up to speed, we hope to expand our hours to be open just about every weekday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

We also have a new online appointment service, WC Online at (www.minotstateu.edu/writingcenter/), which allows students to make appointments online any time. I will be having bookmarks with information about this made up as well.

Please encourage your students to use the Writing Center often. Our tutors enjoy the sessions and learn a lot from them. Remember, we are located on the lower level of the Gordon B. Olson Library.

Hope to see all of your students there. And if you know students who might make good tutors, be sure to refer to them to me.

—Patti J. Kurtz, assistant professor of English

Casino dealers needed

During Homecoming, on the evening of Sept. 17, we are having a casino and karaoke night in the Beaver Dam. If there are any faculty or staff members who can and would like to serve as dealers for our casino games, please let me know. This will be a great way for students to be able to interact with you in a more relaxed environment, and I promise you will have a great time. Thanks for all you do for our MSU students.

—Ann Rivera, student activities coordinator

Fall graduation applications due Sept. 21

Faculty: Please inform your senior advisees that Friday (Sept. 7), fall graduation applications are to be turned into advisors. The fall graduation applications are due to the Office of the Registrar on Sept. 21. Thank you.

—Tania Balas, registrar

In the galleries

Aug. 28-Sept. 27—“Young Universe” by Maureen Crowe,
Gordon B. Olson Library Gallery
Calendar

September 5-Oct. 17, 2007

September
5  Golf at Jamestown.
5  SAC: movie, Aleshire Theater, 9 p.m.
6  Excess financial aid disbursement, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
6  Cross Country hosts Minot State Invite, Souris Valley Golf Course, women at 4:15 p.m., men at 5 p.m.
7  Undergraduates: fall semester applications for graduation due to advisers.
7  Graduate School: fall graduates admission to candidacy and application for graduation due in Graduate School Office.
7-8  Volleyball at U. of Great Falls Invite.
8  Alumni gathering in Boise, Idaho.
8  Football at Bemidji State U.
9-10  Golf at Dickinson.
10  State Employee Recognition Week Social, Conference Center, 8-9:30 a.m.
10  Student Association, Westlie Room, 7 p.m.
11  Open forum, Center of Excellence proposal, Conference Center, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
11  Voting for Homecoming royalty nominations, quad, 11 a.m.
11  Curriculum Committee, Jones Room, 12:30 p.m.
12  Open forum on the Studies in Community and Environment program, Conference Center, 3 p.m.
12  CONNECT after action review, Conference Center, 2:30 p.m.
13  Admission to teacher education seminar, Main 106, 3 p.m.
13  Cross Country at U. of North Dakota Ron Pynn Invite.
14  Volleyball vs. Jamestown College, Dome, 7 p.m.
14-15  The Mind/Brain Myth-busters seminar, Conference Center.
14-15  Theatre: “24-hour Play Festival,” Aleshire Theater, performance Saturday, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
14-16  Concert: Western Plains Opera, “Mikado,” Nelson Hall, Friday and Saturday 7:30 p.m., Sunday 3 p.m.
15  Prospective student tours, call for appointment, 858-3350.
15  Football at Jamestown College.
15  Volleyball vs. Dakota State U., Dome, 3 p.m.
16-17  Golf at Jamestown.
16-22  Homecoming 2007: “Beaver Boot Camp: Can You Handle It?”
16  Homecoming: Delta Epsilon Chi four-person golf scramble, Wildwood Golf Course, 1 p.m.
17  Homecoming: Paul Merklein, caricature artist, quad, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
17  Homecoming: king and queen voting, quad, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
17  Homecoming: casino and karaoke, Beaver Dam, 7 p.m.
17  NAC lecture: “This is Your Brain Learning: Insights from Developmental Science, Cognitive Neuroscience and Cognitive Psychology,” by MSU faculty, CASCLS, Aleshire Theater, 7 p.m.
18  8-week classes: last day to drop a first eight-week class.
18  Staff Senate, Jones Room, 9 a.m.
18  Homecoming: Paul Merklein, caricature artist, quad, 11 a.m-2 p.m.
18  Lyrical Lunch: Erik Anderson, cello, Olson Library, noon.
18  Clubs and Student Organizations meeting, Jones Room, 12:30 p.m.
18  Homecoming: coronation with entertainment by Rob Paravonian, Nelson Hall, 7 p.m.
18  Homecoming: dance with band “October Road,” Holiday Inn Riverside, 9 p.m.
19  University Cabinet, Westlie Room, 9 a.m.
19  Homecoming: music featuring Jazmine Wolff at noon and “Alone in Cadence” at 1 p.m., quad.
20  Brown Bag Book Talk: Margi Coxwell, education and Graduate School, on “1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus,” by Charles C. Mann, Olson Library lower level, noon.
20  Homecoming: Ryan McFarling, illusionist, Beaver Dam, 8 p.m.
20  State Board of Higher Education meeting, Conference Center.
20  Homecoming: music featuring “Last Great Summer,” quad, noon.
21  Homecoming: billiards tournament, Beaver Dam, 3 p.m.
21  Homecoming: hypnotist, Aleshire Theater, 9 p.m.
21  Cross Country at Dickinson State U. Invite.
21  Beaver Boosters luncheon, Grand International Inn, noon.
22  Fall semester applications for graduation due in Registrar’s Office.
22  Homecoming: parade, route from Minot Civic Auditorium through downtown to the Olson Library, 10:30 a.m.
22  Homecoming: tailgating, east parking lot of Dome, 11 a.m.
Homecoming: football vs. Black Hills State U.,
introduction of Homecoming royalty and Athletics
Hall of Fame inductees at halftime, Parker Stadium,
1:30 p.m.

Volleyball at Mayville State U.

Golf home, Sunday Souris Valley Golf Course, 1 p.m.,
and Monday Minot Country Club, 9 a.m.

NAC lecture: “Funny, You Don’t Look Like an Indian’
and Other Misconceptions About Indians,” by Greg
Gagnon, U. of North Dakota, Aleshire Theater, 7 p.m.

SAC: movie, Aleshire Theater, 9 p.m.

Seminar to student teach spring 2008, Conference
Center, 8 a.m.

Writing Center open house, lower level Olson Library,
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Alumni Association Golden Awards, Conference
Center, 6 p.m.

Theatre: original plays written and directed by MSU
student Al Fairey, Black Box, 7:30 p.m.

Seminar to student teach spring 2008, Conference
Center, 8 a.m.

Webinar: “How Faculty Can Respond to Students in
Distress,” Westlie Room, noon-2 p.m.

Volleyball vs. Black Hills State U., Dome, 7 p.m.

Football at South Dakota Mines.

Volleyball vs. South Dakota Mines, Dome, 3 p.m.

Cross Country at Roy Griak Invite, Minneapolis.

International Artist Series: Jeni Fleming Acoustic Trio,
Nelson Hall, 3 p.m.

October

1-31 NAC exhibit: “The Upward Spiral,” Patricia Marquard,
Olson Library Gallery.

Incomplete grades of “I” from spring and/or summer
semester roll to “F.”

2 Concert: Percussion Ensemble, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.

2 Beaver Boosters luncheon, Grand International Inn,
noon.

5 Cross Country at Jamestown College Invite.

5 Board of Regents, Conference Center.

5 Alumni Association Gala dinner and auction, Dome,
social 5:30 p.m., dinner 6:45 p.m.

6 Prospective student tours, call for appointment,
858-3350.

6 Football vs. Dickinson State U., Parker Stadium,
1:30 p.m.

6 Minot Symphony Orchestra, Knut Erik Jensen guest
pianist, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.

8 Information sessions for high school counselors.

8 NAC: public reception for Patricia Marquard and Neil
Jussila exhibits, Hartnett Hall Gallery, 6:30-8 p.m.

8 Student Association, Westlie Room, 7 p.m.