



MSU alumna wins prestigious Milken award



Rhonda Grindy '88 (far right), received the national Milken Educator Award Nov. 6. Offering congratulations from Minot State University are (l. to r.): Marv Semrau, advancement, Tawnya Bernsdorf, alumni, Kate Neuhalfen, donor relations, and Teresa Loftesnes, marketing.

Rhonda Grindy, a math teacher at Minot's Jim Hill Middle School, received the Milken National Educator Award Nov. 6. Grindy was surprised with the news in front of a gymnasium full of loudly cheering students, fellow teachers and administrators at the school.

"I'm speechless," Grindy told the crowd. She added that speechlessness doesn't happen to her very often.

The award provides public recognition and an unrestricted financial award of \$25,000 to teachers, principals and specialists who are furthering excellence in education. Grindy was chosen without her knowledge by a blue-ribbon panel appointed by the state department of education. Criteria include potential for professional and policy leadership, educational accomplishments, teaching talent and student performance, and ability to motivate students, fellow teachers and the community.

Grindy was the Minot Education Association's teacher of the year in 2005-2006 and has received other awards throughout her career for her math teaching. She graduated from Minot State University in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and computer science.

Nov. 14, 2007

Symphony celebrates the seasons with fall concert Saturday evening

The Minot Symphony Orchestra will present "The Seasons (Fall Concert)" Saturday. By popular request, Dennis Simons again takes up his violin and, as director and violin soloist, will perform the "Four Seasons." A set of four violin concertos, the "Four Seasons" is Antonio Vivaldi's best-known work, and it is the perfect start to the holiday season.

MSU faculty, staff and students are admitted free with a current ID. Additional tickets for adults are \$15 per concert or \$50 for a season ticket. The price for senior citizens is \$13 single, \$45 season; students 12-18, \$8 single, \$24 season; children, ages under 12, \$4 single, \$12 season. All concerts are held in the Ann Nicole Nelson Hall, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The remainder of "Seasons" include: "Winter Bonfire (Family Concert)," Jan. 26; "Winter Daydreams (Spring Concert)," March 1; "Pops Concert," Apr. 12.

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The math teacher told her students that they are the people who make her want to go to work each day and do such a good job, so they are the reason she won the award.

Grindy is one of 80 teachers nationwide who received the 2007 Milken National Educator Award, but she's the only one from North Dakota this year. There have been 50 recipients in North Dakota since its inception in 1987, including Jim Hill principal Les Anderson, who won the award back in 1993. The awards are presented by the Milken Family Foundation of Santa Monica, Calif. Currently more than 2,300 educators have been selected and over \$58 million has been awarded.

Grindy has been invited to attend the Milken National Education Conference in Los Angeles this spring. At the gala awards ceremony, dubbed by Teacher magazine as "the Oscars of teaching," she will receive the award and a \$25,000 check.

MSU athletes going to the mall

Nov. 17

MSU at the Mall II is being called "Meet the Beavers." This Dakota Square Mall outreach event is scheduled for Saturday (Nov. 17) near Scheels Court, from noon to 2 p.m. As a Saturday event, it provides a great opportunity for Minot State University to feature its student athletes and athletic programs.

The Minot community will be able to meet student athletes from these programs: football, men's basketball, women's basketball, volleyball, men's cross country, women's cross country, men's track and field, women's track and field, men's golf, women's golf, baseball, softball and the MSU Cheer and Dance Teams.

Featured events and activities include watching "still," live mannequins, getting autographs from and playing games with your favorite MSU players, winning prizes, watching Coach Paul Rudolph's football play-calling computer demonstration, and registering to win two season athletic passes and two MSU football jerseys. Please direct any questions to Teresa Loftesnes at 858-3062 or (teresa.loftesnes@minotstateu.edu).

SSWO is 'Freezin' for a Reason' today

The Minot State University Student Social Work Organization is sponsoring "Freezin' for a Reason" at the Town and Country Shopping Center parking lot today from 1 to 11 p.m. "Freezin' for a Reason" is an annual event to raise awareness of homelessness in the community and gather food items for local food pantries. The participants stand in the cold and "freeze" to receive a firsthand experience of what homelessness is like. You can be a part of the effort by dropping off food or monetary contributions at the parking lot or by "freezin'" with the SSWO members. The Minot Area Homeless Coalition and SSWO are holding the event as part of the National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, Nov. 11-17.

MSU Percussion Ensemble to premier new compositions

The Minot State University Percussion Ensemble will present the world premier performance of "Spanish Point," a new composition for percussion ensemble by Ben Wahlund, a native of Valley City, at their Winter Concert in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall, Sunday, 3 p.m. The MSU group commissioned Wahlund to write the piece especially for their ensemble.

"Wahlund is a rising young talent in the field of percussion composition," said Avis Veikley, percussion instructor at MSU and director of the ensemble. "He already has a number of works published, and we are excited that he was willing to write for us."

Veikley said the ensemble performed one of Wahlund's published works at their spring concert last year, liked his style of writing and decided to approach him about the possibility of a commissioned work.

"'Spanish Point' is a musical introspection of my relationship with the beautiful state of North Dakota," Wahlund writes in his program notes. "As a young man I resonated with the pioneer spirit that has made this such a dynamic collection of individuals. As I'm growing older, however, my heart is drawn toward the beauty and powerful qualities of prairie life."

The title of the piece comes from a hilltop near his grandfather's farm. The farm was flooded, and his grandfather relocated, as a result of the construction of the Garrison Dam.

"We've helped bring into existence a new musical composition--written by a North Dakota composer, based on North Dakota themes, premiered by a North Dakota ensemble," said Veikley. "We hope 'Spanish Point' will prove to be a lasting contribution to the percussion literature."

Traditionally, the commissioner of a work is credited on published music, said Veikley. Consequently, if "Spanish Point" is accepted for publication, the MSU Percussion Ensemble will be recognized.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Pow-wow honors Nathan Goodiron

Nathan Goodiron, a Minot State University student from Mandaree, was killed in action in Afghanistan on Thanksgiving Day 2006. During Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 23-25, 2007, the Three Affiliated Tribes, the 4 Bears Casino & Lodge, and Goodiron's family and friends are sponsoring a memorial pow-wow in his honor.

Goodiron, 25, was a junior majoring in finance. He was an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation from Mandaree and had been involved in our Native American Cultural Awareness Club.

The pow-wow will be held in the Event Center of the 4 Bears Casino & Lodge, west of New Town. Grand entries will be Friday, Nov. 23 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 24 at 1 and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 25 at noon.

Honor guards for the pow-wow will be the Myron B. Johnson/Nathan J. Goodiron Post 271, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9061 and other veteran posts and auxiliaries. Announcers will be Charlie Moran, Danny Seaboy Sr. and Lawrence Baker.

The event will be a traditional pow-wow, and all registered dancers will be paid. Special events sponsored by a number of families will be held each day.

For information, contact Janis Smith at (701)421-0092, Lori O'Berry at (701)873-2601, or Paul and Harriet Goodiron at (701)759-3363.

Tweton talks about N.D. political fences

The last fall presentation in the Northwest Art Center lecture series will be "North Dakota's Political Fences: Issues That Divided Us" by D. Jerome Tweton, North Dakota Humanities Council speaker, Dec. 11. The fence has been a political symbol for a long time. This program discusses fences in North Dakota politics, emphasizing those eras when the fences were highest—the Nonpartisan League years before World War I and the William Langer years of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The lecture is at 7 p.m. in Aleshire Theater. Admission is free and open to the public and refreshments are served afterward.

One more step in the Campus Master Plan

Clark Enersen Partners, the architects overseeing the Minot State University campus master plan, were on campus Nov. 7 for a series of open forums to present their recommendations for the landscape design. JoAnne Kissel, principal architect, and Dennis Scheer, landscape architect, unveiled much more detail in the plan since their last visit in late summer.

Those attending saw a plan that truly supports MSU's strategic plan, Vision 2013. In addition to creating a distinctive, beautifully aesthetic campus, many of the features being proposed support the university's strategy to relate to its place. In particular, many design features reflect the creation of the area by glaciers. Examples include pavement patterns that suggest ice drag or ice scour and the shape of receding glacial lakes. Natural land features that could be incorporated include coulees, gently rolling contours and prairie potholes. Many of these elements can be designed as learning opportunities.

Scheer also proposed trees and plants that are native and representative species to more naturally tie the grounds and buildings together. He said, most importantly, the design will give pedestrians and people driving by a better look at the campus, particularly the architecture of Old Main. Scheer said the landscape architecture plan should be able to both provide room for shade trees and a more open look to the campus.

The streetscape prepared in support of opening 11th Avenue Northwest contained features designed to calm traffic and make the street pedestrian friendly. Highlights included narrowed driving lanes, entry gates, parking along both sides and cross walks. Other possibilities include stop signs and the use of a surface other than asphalt to force drivers slow down and yield for pedestrians. Opening the avenue and removing the plaza also eases the concern about traffic in the turnarounds that currently exist.

The plan also increases green space and contains more plazas, seating areas and gathering places for campus personnel, students and visitors throughout the campus.

Kissel said that the project plan will be submitted to the university by the end of the year.

OIP and USPS host passport drive today

Apply for your passport today on the MSU campus! The Office of International Programs and the Minot office of the United States Postal Services are sponsoring a passport drive in the Multicultural Center, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. For more detailed information about the passport drive, visit the OIP Web site (www.minotstateu.edu/international).

On Thursday, Johnny Coomansingh, associate professor of geography, will present "Trinidad and Tobago: a Rainbow Culture," in the Multicultural Center, 1:30 p.m. This talk is to commemorate International Education Week, a nation-wide effort to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn and exchange experiences in the United States.

The Office of International Programs continues to hold informational sessions about studying abroad. These meetings will be held in the space in front of the OIP as follows:

- Today, 10-11 a.m.
- Nov. 28, 2-3 p.m.
- Dec. 6, 6-7 p.m.
- Jan. 9, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Last mentor workshop helps relieve stress

"Stress Relief" is the last mentor workshop for fall semester. It will be held Nov. 28 in Cook Hall, 6-8 p.m.

The mentor workshops, with some of the same topics and some new topics, will be offered next semester also. Faculty and staff are encouraged to recommend the workshops sponsored by Career Services to all Minot State University students. While the workshops are a product of the MSU Mentor Program, all students are welcome to attend.

A description of this last workshop is available at www.minotstateu.edu/mentoring and questions may be directed to Debra Chandler, student services advisor at 858-3144 or debra.chandler@minotstateu.edu. Registration is requested.

Heritage Singers, Voices of Note, MSU Concert Choir and others unite for 'Messiah'

The Heritage Singers men's chorus, the Voices of Note women's chorus, area high school students and MSU Concert Choir will combine to present Handel's "Messiah" Dec. 2 at 4 p.m. in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall. They will be directed by Mark Schnabel. Admission is by free-will offering and proceeds of the event are directed to the John Strohm Music Scholarship Fund.

One Brown Bag Book Talk remains

One Brown Bag Book Talk remains for fall semester. On Dec. 6, Bill Harbort, art, will talk about "Weirdo Deluxe: The Wild World of Pop Surrealism" by Matt Duke Jordan.

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.

Campus Players present 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'

The MSU Campus Players production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" will run Dec. 6-8 at 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 9 at 2 p.m., in Aleshire Theater.

Based on a book written by Barbara Robinson, "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" focuses on the poorly-behaved children of the Herdman family. The children discover the true meaning of Christmas through participation in a church play.

Campus Players is also sponsoring a food drive for Community Action Opportunities. Individuals attending this play, if they wish, can donate nonperishable, canned goods.

Tickets are \$6. Reservations are strongly recommended and can be made by calling 858-3172.

Announcements

Enrollment services seeks campus input

Please consider joining us for an update and knowledge-sharing session about enrollment services in the Conference Center on Nov. 19 at 10 a.m. or at 2 p.m. All students, faculty and staff are invited.

Enrollment services will talk about the initial findings from our data analysis, our current projects and goals, and our proposal to develop a strategic enrollment management plan. Above all, your ideas and feedback are sought.

— *John Girard, director of enrollment services*

Seasonal quilts to be displayed in library

For the first time, Gordon B. Olson Library is cooperating with the Minot Prairie Quilters Guild in presenting a display of seasonal quilts. We expect quilts in all sizes with a winter or holiday theme. The display will be hung the evening of Nov. 26 and remain until Dec. 8.

The display will begin in the library atrium, with quilts hung from the second level railing. Quilts will also be hung in the media center, periodicals, computer lab and instruction room.

We have no idea how many quilts we will have or what size. It's going to be fun!!

— *Mary Williams, serials librarian*

Staff Senate sponsors holiday decorating contest

Minot State University staff is invited to join in celebrating the holiday season by participating in the Staff Senate Holiday Decorating Contest. Judging will take place on Dec. 7 between 10 a.m. and noon.

Staff Senate will again sponsor the competition with awards to be given in two areas: best staff office door decoration and best staff office decoration. A certificate will be awarded to the best staff office door decoration and a plaque will be given to the best staff office decoration.

If you would like to be a part of the fun, please sign up by e-mailing your office's name and campus address to (staffsenate@minotstateu.edu) by 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 4.

— *Staff Senate Holiday Decorating Contest Committee*

MSU Bookstore offers great deals

In the Minot State University Bookstore, Champion brand hoodies and sweatpants will be 25 percent off Nov. 13-25. The clearance rack also holds fantastic bargains, and new apparel arrives daily.

Hyatt becomes grant and accounting analyst

I am pleased to announce that Laurel Hyatt has accepted the position of grants and accounting analyst. Hyatt will continue to process accounts payable until her replacement is hired. She replaces Teresa Hynson who accepted a job with M&S Concessions.

— *Jonelle Watson, controller*

Telephone oversight and support moves to ITC

As the lines between voice and data services become more negligible and with the departure of Jared Edwards, I have decided to move oversight for our telephone system to Information Technology Central (network services).

I believe this move will allow the university to explore new and exciting technologies regarding voice and data services for our campus. Jerry Smith, who has been in charge of our telephone system, in addition to other duties, will now report to Cathy Horvath in ITC instead of physical plant. All support calls for phone services now need to go to the IT Central Helpdesk at 858-4444 or (helpdesk@minotstateu.edu).

— Ron Dorn, vice president for administration and finance

Follow up on Assessment Day and CLA

Faculty: A number of questions were asked repeatedly by faculty members who completed the Assessment Day evaluation for Richard Harsh and the Collegiate Learning Assessment project. I would like to give you some answers and invite further discussion. If you are interested in having a public discussion, please go to the Academic Assessment Committee list serve at the following address: MISU Academic Assessment Committee (MISU-ACC@LISTSERVE.NODAK.EDU).

After visiting the list serve, please contact your senators to express your views, questions and concerns. The discussion will be continued at the Faculty Senate meeting tomorrow (Nov. 15).

— Rita M. Curl-Langager, professor of psychology

Flu shots available to MSU faculty and staff

The Student Health Center has flu vaccine available for faculty, staff and students with a current ID. The administration fee is \$15 for students and \$25 for faculty and staff. Please call 858-3371 for an appointment.

— Caren Barnett, director of the Student Health Center

In the galleries

Nov. 14-Dec. 3—“Pow-Wow Portraits,” Linda Whitney, Hartnett Hall Gallery.

Nov. 14-Dec. 7—“Southern Narrative,” Marilyn Lee, Olson Library Gallery.

Dec. 12-31 —“Visions of Blackness,” Breon Waters II, Library Gallery.

The public reception for the Breon Waters II exhibit is Dec. 12, Library Gallery, 6:30-8 p.m.

Calendar

Nov. 14-Dec. 9, 2007

November

- 14 High School Counselors workshop, Conference Center, 8:30 a.m. - noon.
- 14 Winter wellness: “QUIT and WIN!” by Rebecca Luck of First District Health Unit, Conference Center, 9 a.m.

- 14 Winter wellness: “Healthy Holiday Eating” by Jane Hirst, LRD, Conference Center, 10 a.m.
- 14 Study abroad information session, second floor Student Center, 10 a.m.
- 14 International Education Week: Passport Drive, Multicultural Center, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 14 Winter wellness: “Oh, My Aching Back” by Lindsey White, DC, Conference Center, noon.
- 14 Winter wellness: “Be Safe in Winter Weather” by J.D. Black, KMOT-TV, Conference Center, 1 p.m.
- 14 Concert: String Ensemble, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Men’s Basketball at North Dakota State U.
- 15 Admission to teacher education seminar, Main 106, 12:30 p.m.
- 15 International Education Week: “Trinidad and Tobago: A Rainbow Culture” by Johnny Coomansingh, geography, Multicultural Center, 1:30 p.m.
- 15 Faculty Senate, Westlie Room, 3:30 p.m.
- 16 Lecture: N.D. Supreme Court Justice Daniel J. Crothers, Old Main 106, 11 a.m.
- 16 SAC: Open Mic/Art Market/Idea Trade, Beaver Dam, 7 p.m.
- 17 Meet the Beavers, Dakota Square Mall, noon-2 p.m.
- 17 Super Saturday open house for high school students, 1 p.m.
- 17 Cross Country NAIA National Championships.
- 17 Women’s Basketball vs. Rocky Mountain College, Dome, 6 p.m.
- 17 Minot Symphony Orchestra, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 17 Men’s Club Hockey vs. North Dakota State U., All Seasons Arena, 7:30 p.m.
- 18 Men’s Club Hockey vs. North Dakota State U., All Seasons Arena, 2 p.m.
- 18 Concert: Percussion Ensemble, Nelson Hall, 3 p.m.
- 18 Concert: Cello and Bass Ensembles, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Enrollment Services: campus update, Conference Center, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- 19 SAC: movie, Beaver Dam 3 p.m., Aleshire Theater, 9 p.m.
- 19 Women’s Basketball at Brandon University.
- 19 Student Government Association, Westlie Room, 7 p.m.
- 19 Senior student recital: Kristen Allan, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- 20 Last day to drop a second eight-week class.
- 20 Staff Senate, Jones Room, 9 a.m.
- 20 Wellness hour and blood pressure clinic, second floor Student Center, 2-3 p.m.
- 21 Men’s Basketball vs. U. of Montana-Western, Dome, 7 p.m.
- 22 Holiday, Thanksgiving, university closed.
- 23 University open, no classes.
- 26 Senior recital: Julie Reiten, Nelson Hall, 7:30 p.m.