June 18, 2009

PIO update

Some 30 victim advocates, social workers, police officers and prosecuting attorneys all had one thing in common the second week of June. They all learned how to better serve crime victims during the Victim Assistance Academy of North Dakota, a first-time statewide training held at Minot State University.

I, and others in the state, had an opportunity to support and train this group of under-recognized professionals. With experts speaking on subjects like child victimization, domestic violence, financial assistance for crime victims and the mental health needs of victims and helping professionals, well, I think it’s obvious that this group of specialists is truly special.

The public often never sees the work they do. This is even more reason to thank them for a job well done. They serve us in more ways than we can ever imagine.

We are often proud of the fact that we live in a relatively safe, crime-free state. The professionals in town this past week and the many others across the state deserve our respect and our appreciation for helping make this possible.

— Mark Lyman, director of public information

MSU students blog experiences on study-abroad trip to Peru

On May 30, six Minot State University students and one faculty member embarked on an adventure as they study abroad in Peru. Members of the trip include students Kristina Mader, Regina, Saskatchewan; Alex Lyman, Provo, Utah; Jessica Revelee, Minot Air Force Base; Brandon Smith, Minot; MacKenzie Mack, Scranton; and Whitney Loftesnes, Norwich; and Spanish Instructor Kemerly Moorhouse.

“I am very happy that Minot State is sending students to Peru for the first time,” said Moorhouse. “This 30-day trip is going to be a great and unforgettable experience for the students. They are not only visiting Peru but are also being immersed in the Peruvian culture itself.”

With this study-abroad trip, Minot State launched a new study-abroad blogging site. On the blog, the community can view and track what the students are doing weekly. MSU hopes that this will add more excitement for students, especially when they can see what their peers are doing first hand. To view the blog, visit the MSU home page, www.minotstateu.edu. Loftesnes and Mack are the blog’s authors.

While in Peru, the students stay with host families, who are eager to get to know the Americans and learn more about their culture. A typical day includes intensive Spanish language classes during the morning and Latin American cultural lessons during the afternoon. The students also visit sites, such as Lima (capital of Peru), Paracas, Nazca and Ica, Cusco and Machu Picchu, and Puno.

For more information on studying abroad or the blog, contact the Office of International Programs at 858-3978 or visit their Web site at www.minotstateu.edu/international.

Front row, left to right: Kristin Mader, Brandon Smith, Whitney Loftesnes.
Middle row, left to right: Jessica Revelee and MacKenzie Mack. Back row: Kemerly Moorhouse.
Swain Hall renovation bid awarded to Minot company

After a competitive bid process, Minot State University has awarded the multimillion-dollar renovation of Swain Hall to Mattson Construction, of Minot. As the lowest bidder able to complete the project by early fall 2010, Mattson Construction bid just over $9.25 million for the final phase of the project.

“We are very pleased that a local company will be able to finish the Swain Hall renovation project,” said Roger Kluck, director of facilities. “With Mattson Construction’s experience and excellent track record, we know they will be able to complete the project on time.”

The renovation of Swain Hall will begin as soon as possible. Due to the construction, 11th Avenue, from 7th Street east to the Dome, will be closed for safety and security concerns.

New staff for 2008-2009

Minot State University would like to welcome two new employees, James Brandenburger and Charles Frank Papenfuss, and introduce them to the campus. Brandenburger is a custodian. Previously, he worked for Trinity Health, and his hobbies include playing golf and traveling. Papenfuss is an athletic facilities worker, who previously worked at Tires Plus. He has two grown children and two grandchildren.

Minot State second university in nation to earn high-health commitment standard

Minot State University was accredited with the CEO Cancer Gold Standard™ certification recently. This recognition shows the university’s commitment to the health of Minot State employees and family members, by certifying MSU’s efforts to meet an exceptionally high standard of cancer prevention, screening and care guidelines.

William C. Weldon, chief executive officer of Johnson & Johnson, chairs the CEO Roundtable on Cancer. The CEO Roundtable on Cancer is a nonprofit organization of cancer-fighting CEOs who created the CEO Cancer Gold Standard™ in collaboration with the American Cancer Society, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and leading health professionals.

“Our Gold Standard certification acknowledges that the commitment of President David Fuller and Minot State University to educating tomorrow’s leaders includes a commitment to supporting their health and well-being as well,” Weldon said.

MSU is the second institute of higher learning in the country to achieve Gold Standard Accreditation. MSU joins the University of North Dakota, which achieved Gold Standard accreditation last year.

To earn the CEO Cancer Gold Standard™, Minot State needed to evaluate university benefits and culture and take extensive, concrete actions in five key areas of health and wellness to fight cancer in the workplace. In earning the Gold Standard accreditation, MSU established programs to reduce cancer risk by discouraging tobacco use and encouraging physical activity, healthy diet and nutrition; to detect cancer at its earliest stages; and to provide access to quality care, including the availability of clinical trials.

The CEO Roundtable on Cancer was founded in 2001, when former President George H.W. Bush challenged a group of executives to “do something bold and venturesome about cancer within your own corporate families.” The CEOs responded with the CEO Cancer Gold Standard encouraging its widespread adoption in workplaces across the country.

‘Summer Friend-Raising Golf Tour’ continues

There are still stops left on the fourth annual “Summer Friend-Raising Golf Tour,” which is sponsored by Minot State University and Dacotah Bank. Today (June 18), golf will be played in Rugby. Stanley follows on June 24; Bottineau is July 7; Hazen is July 15; Washburn is July 21; and Kenmare is Aug. 6. These dates are subject to change.

Registration will begin at 4:30 p.m., with a shotgun start at 5 p.m. The format for each tour stop will be a four-person, 9-hole scramble. A social will immediately follow completion of golf at about 7 p.m. Anyone, golfer or non-golfer, is welcome to attend.

Prizes, including a $500 scholarship from the MSU Alumni Association, will be awarded at each event.

Optional meals and refreshments will be provided by the course. Golfers are also responsible for their own green fees and cart rentals. Transportation from Minot State University to each course will be available at no charge. Reservations for transportation and meals are requested one week before the date of each outing. It is recommended that golfers interested in carts make reservations as soon as possible because the number of carts available is limited.

Call the MSU Office of Advancement with questions or to register at 858-3890 or 701-800-777-0750, ext. 3890, or visit the Web site, www.minotstateu.edu/alumni.
North Dakota Developmental Disabilities Network to host Recreation and Disability Summit

The North Dakota Developmental Disabilities Network, which is a unique partnership serving North Dakotans with developmental disabilities who believe the American Dream belongs to everyone, is hosting a Recreation and Disability Summit on June 25. The summit will be held in the Norse Room of Minot’s Grand International Inn. Registration for the summit begins at 8:30 a.m.

NDDDNN consists of three collaborative entities, the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities on Minot State University’s campus, the North Dakota State Council on Developmental Disabilities and the North Dakota Protection and Advocacy Project. Together, they form a network striving to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to culturally competent community services, individualized supports and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.

Brent Askvig, NDCPD’s executive director, noted that national data suggests that people with disabilities are likely to lead lives that are more sedentary and engage in far fewer community recreation and wellness activities than the general population.

“We know the positive benefits of recreation programs, both formal and informal, for all citizens,” Askvig said. “This summit will allow recreation providers, parents, family members, individuals with disabilities and others to discuss the current situation for recreation access and participation for people with disabilities. In addition we will have an opportunity to discuss possible activities to improve recreation programming for the future.”

The keynote speaker for the summit will be Cyndi Collins, a disability rights advocate with Fargo’s Freedom Resource Center and a fitness consultant for the North Dakota Disability Health Project through NDCPD. She will discuss accessibility and barriers in fitness centers, the Americans with Disabilities Act, disability versus living well, aerobics and adaptive aerobics.

The afternoon session will include a panel discussion on the issues of recreation and disability from the agencies in attendance. The panel members scheduled to take part are...
Stephanie Tornatore, client services representative for the North Dakota Association for the Disabled, Inc. in Minot; Cathy Haarstad, project director for North Dakota FamNet at NDCPD; Mark Coppin, director of assistive technology at Anne Carlsen Center for Children; and Michael Freeman, information specialist at Independence, Inc.

This Recreation and Disability Summit is the fourth in a series of monthly, multifaceted summits designed to:

- provide a venue where persons with recreation and disability issues can come together to discuss those issues and provide valued input on the challenges surrounding them.
- create a list of actionable tasks to provide direction to future projects for the NDDDN.
- gather insight on how members of NDDDN can feasibly address these issues.

The Recreation and Disability Summit will conclude at approximately 3 p.m. The public is welcome to attend, and there is no fee.

For more information, contact Chad DeCoteau, summit organizer, at 1-800-233-1737 or 1-701-858-3405 or by e-mail chad.decoteau@minotstateu.edu.

Johnson and Olson on team chosen to attend national accessible community transportation institute

Easter Seals Project ACTION selected a four-member team from Minot to participate in the 2009 Mobility Planning Services Accessible Community Transportation Institute. Minot team members include Dawn Olson and Lisa Johnson from the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities, Darrell Francis, executive director of Souris Basin Transportation, and Marlin Newman, transportation supervisor for the city of Minot. The institute runs from July 12 to 15, in Washington, D.C.

“I’m excited,” Olson said. “I use public transportation on a daily basis and continue to seek ways to improve access in my community.”

Funded through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation-Federal Transit Administration, the Easter Seals Project ACTION promotes cooperation between the transportation industry and the disability community to increase mobility for people with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Easter Seals Project ACTION offers numerous resources, as well as training and technical assistance, in an effort to make the ADA work for everyone.

In preparation for the competitive application process, the team reviewed prior regional transportation studies, assessed current needs and discussed future trends in public transportation to identify priorities for discussion at the institute. The team proposed organizing a Transportation Awareness Day, not only in Minot but throughout the Souris Basin Transportation region.

“We hope to raise public awareness about the availability, flexibility and affordability of public transit,” Francis said.

Story selected for Stennis Center Program for Congressional Interns

Ken Story, North Dakota Student Association president and a congressional intern in Senator Kent Conrad’s Washington, D.C. office, was recently accepted into the six-week Stennis Center Program for Congressional Interns. Story, from the Minot Air Force Base, is a broadcasting-public relations major and past MSU Student Government Association president. He is currently researching graduate programs.

“I am very honored to have been nominated by Senator Conrad’s office and now selected for the Stennis Congressional Internship Program. It will build onto the already amazing experience that I am having out here in Washington, D.C.,” Story said. “I am starting to see doors open and opportunities come forth from all the hard work I have put in and support and opportunities I have been given. I feel privileged, and I am very excited to see where it all takes me.”

The Stennis Center Program for Congressional Interns is a competitive, bipartisan, bicameral program designed to provide congressional summer interns with a unique opportunity to gain a better understanding of the operation of the Congress and an appreciation for the institutional role it plays in our democracy. Participants will meet with senior congressional staff and other interns in a series of weekly discussion sessions that explore various aspects of the Congress’ workings and how it interacts with other institutions in Washington. The program, which was established in honor of Senator John C. Stennis of Mississippi, began June 15.

Participants must be nominated by their employing office and have completed at least two years of college. Other selection criterion includes the participant’s academic record, involvement in campus and community activities and desire to explore a public service career.

For additional information, contact Story at kenneth.story@my.minotstateu.edu.

Gamas appointed interim chair of TEHP

Warren Gamas, associate professor of education, was recently named interim chair of the Department of Teacher Education and Human Performance at Minot State University, according
to Neil Nordquist, dean of the College of Education and Health Sciences. Gamas’ one-year appointment as interim chair will allow Deb Jensen, the previous department chair, time to devote to the establishment of the Center for the Applied Study of Cognition and Learning Sciences, where she serves as center director.

Gamas has been a faculty member within the teacher education and human performance department since 1995. He earned a doctoral degree from Arizona State University, Tempe, a master’s degree in education from Eastern Montana College, Billings, and a bachelor’s degree from Montana State University, Bozeman.

Gamas will begin his new appointment July 1.

**MSU announces 2009 Hall of Fame inductees**

The Minot State University Athletic Department announces the 2009 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. Mark Guy (tennis, 1978-1981), Tracy Arams (volleyball, 1994 and 1995), Jeremy Auck (football, 1997-2000) and Bruce Bremer (baseball, 1969-1972 and basketball, 1968-70) will be inducted into the Minot State Athletic Hall of Fame on Sept. 26 at halftime of the MSU Homecoming game. Following the game, a banquet will be held in their honor at the Holiday Inn.

**Fuller participated in AAC&U Presidents’ Trust**

Minot State University President David Fuller recently received an invitation to join and participate in the Presidents’ Trust of the Association of American Colleges and Universities. The AAC&U is the leading national association concerned with the quality, vitality and public standing of undergraduate liberal education.

“I am honored to be invited to join the Association of American College and Universities’ Presidents’ Trust and to participate in this national conversation about the quality of student learning and its impact on our world,” Fuller said.

The Presidents’ Trust consists of people who believe in liberal education as an American asset, who are reinvigorating liberal education on their own campuses and who are willing to use their influence to shape public opinion and priorities for liberal education in their respective spheres of influence.

They are striving to revive liberal education — to make it more engaged, more public spirited, more integrative and more applied. Together, they articulate the vision, values and practices that connect liberal education with the needs of a dynamic and interdependent world.

Presidents’ Trust leaders set priorities for common work in periodic leadership meetings. On June 11, Fuller attended a Presidents’ Trust for Liberal Education and American Promise summer working meeting in Washington D.C. LEAP is an initiative that champions the value of a liberal education for individual students and for a nation dependent on economic creativity and democratic vitality. The initiative focuses campus practice on fostering essential learning outcomes for all students, whatever their chosen field of study.

Founded in 1915, AAC&U now comprises 1,200 member institutions. The member institutions include accredited public and private colleges and universities of every type and size.

**VAAND graduates first class**

Minot State University and the Rural Crime and Justice Center hosted the first Victim Assistance Academy of North Dakota from June 7 to 12. The VAAND provided victim-service professionals with important updates on victims’ rights and victim services, as well as new developments in the victim-assistance field.

**Four from MSU elected Alpha Omicron state officers**

Four Minot State University faculty members are Alpha Omicron state officers in Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. At the Alpha Omicron State Convention held in Mandan from June 11 to 13, Karen Walz, assistant professor of accounting, was elected state president, Rebecca Anhorn, assistant professor of education, was elected first vice president, Jan Repnow, instructor of business information technology, was elected second vice president, and Elaine Larson, assistant professor of education, was appointed state treasurer.

Kristi Berg, assistant professor of business information technology, was awarded the Hazel B. Nielson Scholarship and the Adeline Stevenson Nurse Scholarship to further her graduate studies.

Attending the convention from Minot’s Gamma chapter were Doris Slaabten, Adelaide Johnson, Walz and Larson. Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is a professional honor society of woman educators. The society promotes professional and personal growth of its members and excellence in education.

**MSU representatives visit Telemark University College**

Neil Nordquist, dean of the College of Education and Health Sciences, Bill Harbort, associate professor of graphic arts, and Mary Ann Smith, assistant professor of nursing, visited Telemark University College, June 4-7.
Nordquist, Harbort and Smith met with Anne Glenna, TUC chair of teacher education, Jostein Sandven, assistant professor of art and design education, and Kathrine Cappelen, chair of nursing and social work studies, and Karin Berntsen, associate professor of nursing, to learn more about the TUC nursing program.

MSU and TUC signed a partnership agreement in 2007. The two institutions hope to work together through professor, staff and student exchanges and shared degree programs.

**OIT sponsored the Northern Great Plains Technology Institute**

On June 4-5, the Northern Great Plains Technology Institute gave participants a hands-on experience with classroom and online technologies. Minot State University’s Office of Instructional Technology coordinated this technology institute.

**Alumni Association’s 26th annual Gala was a success**

The 26th annual Gala Dinner and Auction was described as “sensational” by many. The May 9 event, which was held at Minot’s Grand International, began with a social, an auction preview and a silent auction. A gourmet dinner and a live auction followed.

Auction items included a traditional Irish dinner, a MSU Summer Theatre season pass and original paintings by Floyd Fairweather. Other handcrafts included an accent chair hand painted in Minnesota Twins’ colors of red, white and blue and a beaver carved from wood. Special to the Gala and attracting high interest for a number of years, were items incorporating salvaged fabric from McFarland Auditorium contributed by alumni Chuck and Jan Repnow and their daughter, Lydia, of Rugby.

Net proceeds of $45,000 help fund scholarships and programs sponsored by the Alumni Association.

**INBRE research student presents research at 2009 Posters on the Hill**

On May 4-5, Steven Lewis, an IDeA Networks for Biomedical Research Excellence research student, and Mikhail Bobylev, associate professor of chemistry, participated in the 2009 Posters on the Hill conference, organized by the Council on Undergraduate Research, in Washington D.C. The conference’s major event was the Poster Session at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.

The Council on Undergraduate Research selected Lewis’s research project, titled “Application of the Accelerated Leuckart Reaction to Substituted Benzaldehydes,” from over 400 applications, the most in the history of Posters on the Hill. Lewis, who is a senior from Burlington, was the only student representing the entire state of North Dakota at the conference.

**Faculty, staff and student notes**

The 101st annual meeting of the North Dakota Academy of Science was held April 30 at North Dakota State University, Fargo. Oral presentations were given by faculty and undergraduate and graduate students in a daylong research symposia. Two Minot State University students, **Jeremy Horrell** and **Zane Young**, earned awards in the Roger Dennison Undergraduate Communications Competition, where approximately 25 presentations were made. Horrell worked with Heidi Super, associate professor of biology.

Horrell, from Newark, Del., was awarded second place among undergraduates for his presentation of research focusing on genetic abnormalities in human leukemia. Specifically, he discussed his study of a limited region of a gene known as MLL,
which is frequently a target for chromosome breaks associated with leukemia.

Young, from Minot, was awarded third place among undergraduates for his presentation on rapid synthesis of piperonylformamide. Specifically, he developed a new method of synthesis of an important natural product that could be used for the preparation of safe natural painkillers and other medicines. Young completed his work in the lab of Mikhail Bobylev, associate professor of chemistry.

Announcements

Travel-mileage rate policy

Effective July 1, the travel-mileage rate for Minot State University is 50¢ for mileage and 55¢ when a state fleet vehicle is not available. The 55¢ per mile will only be paid with notification from Office of Plant Services fleet management that a state fleet vehicle is not available for use. Lodging will increase to $63 per night for in-state rate.

For questions, contact Lori Braasch, accounts payable coordinator, 858-3320 or lori.braasch@minotstateu.edu.

— Ron Dorn, vice president for administration and finance

MSU Writing Center open for summer session

The MSU Writing Center is open this summer for your students’ benefit. We offer face-to-face and e-mail tutoring Monday through Thursday during the eight-week summer session.

To see our schedule, please go to www.minotstateu.edu/writingcenter/

and click on “About Us” and then on the link “WC Online.” Students will need to create an account to use WC Online, unless they have used it before. Once they do so, they can make appointments and submit their papers via our e-tutoring service.

We look forward to helping your students this summer. For more information, e-mail patti.kurtz@minotstateu.edu.

— Patti Kurtz, associate professor of English and director of the Writing Center

International student employment on campus

In regards to international student employment regulations, the summer term has begun. So, a reminder for departments employing Canadian and international students that special federal regulations apply:

• Canadian and international students may only work up to 20-hours each week during the summer if they are enrolled in on-campus classes. Any week when classes are in session is considered part of the regular academic year, and the 20-hour per week limit applies.

• The 20-hour limit is not an average, but a strict limit. Students may not work 15 hours one week and then 25 hours the following week.

• The 20-hour per week limit on employment applies to all types of on-campus employment. For example, if a student works 15 hours a week as a resident assistant, that student can only work an additional five hours during that week at another on-campus job.

• A workweek is defined as Sunday through Saturday.

• Canadian and international students are not eligible for MSU “work-study” positions, only institutional “hard-cash” positions.

If you have any questions regarding Canadian or international student employment, please contact the Office of International Programs at 858-3978.

— Libby Claerbout, director of international programs

MSU Beaver license plates

Minot State personnel and students who purchased MSU license plates, please call the MSU parking office at 858-3318 to update your license plate number on file.

— Tawnya Berndorf, director of alumni relations and annual giving

In the galleries


The public reception for “Prairie,” photographs by Linda Olson is June 25, Library Gallery, 6:30–8 p.m.

Calendar

June 18-July 22, 2009

June

18  Friend-Raising Golf Tour, Rugby, N.D., 4:30 p.m.
18-21 Summer Theatre: “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” Amphitheater, 8:30 p.m.
18-19 Volleyball team camp, Dome.
20  MSU participating in Bottineau City and County Centennial Parade, Bottineau, N.D., 10:30 a.m.
21-25 Boys basketball individual camps, Dome.
22  Student speech and hearing clinic, Memorial Hall 138, 9–11 a.m.
22-26 College for Kids: “You’re on the Air.”
22-26 College for Kids: “Inner Kids … Inner Peace.”
24  Friend-Raising Golf Tour, Stanley, N.D., 4:30 p.m.
25  NAC gallery reception for “Prairie,” photographs by Linda Olson, Library Gallery, 6:30–8 p.m.
Minot State University Mission

Minot State University is first and foremost dedicated to the success of all students: their growth and development as educated citizens, their confidence, and their life-long devotion to the common good and the welfare of others.