



A NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY

## ACHIEVEMENT EDITION OF INSIDE

### Vision 2013

*Minot State University will achieve national distinction as one of the premier public, regional universities in the "great" Great Plains.*

### Faculty, staff and student achievements

The Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning awarded several Minot State University faculty and staff with the distinction of being an Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate. Students, faculty or staff nominated the following individuals for their outstanding work with first-year students: **Andy Bertsch**, business; **Lisa Borden-King**, teacher education; **Jodi Connell**, special education; **Laurie Geller**, mathematics and computer science; **Christopher Keller**, biology; **Julie Keller**, CETL; **Paul Lepp**, biology; **Linda Olson**, humanities; **Dan Ringrose**, history; **Lynne Rumney**, honors; and **Jessica Smestad**, CETL.



Left to right, Lynne Rumney, Linda Olson, Julie Keller, Laurie Geller, Lisa Borden-King, Christopher Keller, Dan Ringrose and Jessica Smestad.

Aaron Jaeger

**Aaron Jaeger**, Washburn, received a Peer Mentor of the Year Award.

The Online Studies Committee and the Center for Extended Learning awarded the Exemplary Use of the LMS Award to **Andrea Donovan**, assistant professor of

## May 11, 2011

### MSU CORE VALUES AND PURPOSE

*MSU cares deeply about its students, their learning and their growth. The university is proud of its values and long-term commitment to teaching and learning with excellence, integrity and engagement; serving students and others respectfully and responsibly; following high ethical and moral principles; and supporting the values of community and place, where all community members are valued and respected for their work, contributions and freedom of expression. MSU helps people appreciate life and learning and contribute meaningfully to the lives of others.*

To highlight and recognize the many accomplishments and achievements of Minot State University students, faculty and staff, the Office of Public Information established a special, monthly edition of Minot State University Inside devoted to these achievements. This special, monthly edition includes professional or civic achievements or successes accomplished in recent months. MSU wants to highlight the many distinguished achievements realized by our campus.

### NEXT ISSUE

Publication Date: Wednesday, Sept. 14  
(The monthly achievement editions of Inside will resume in the fall.)

Submissions Due: noon Sept. 7

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humanities, for her design and management of ART 110: Introduction to Visual Arts, and **John Girard**, professor of business administration and business information technology, for his design and management of BIT 566: Knowledge Management, and BADM 489: Entrepreneurship and New Venture Creation. Each received a \$500 stipend and a plaque.

This award recognizes faculty, at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, who have achieved excellence in online course design and course management and demonstrated excellence in the use of LMS technology to supplement teaching in their face-to-face classes. Award winners also serve as vital resources, providing other faculty members with examples of online best practices, engagement, interaction and collaboration. To review the 2011 exemplary courses, go to the MSU Blackboard login page and utilize the username of exemplary and password of online course.

In April, MSU senior **Katie Ferguson**, Red Deer, Alberta, organized the Tunnel of Oppression. The event's mission was to increase awareness of how people are oppressed or have been oppressed in the past. A resident assistant in Dakota Hall, Ferguson gained the cooperation of several campus groups, including fellow residence life staff, to participate on topics that were of interest. Topics ranged from "lookism" (stereotyping based on how a person looks), racism, sexuality/gender issues, disabilities and eating disorders. The Tunnel of Oppression concluded with "Be the Change," which presented information on how people could stop oppressing those around them, whether by spreading awareness or stopping hurtful behaviors.

In April, **Lori Kalash**, associate director of community services for the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities, presented a webinar for Autism Awareness Month. Kalash's webinar, hosted by the National Autism Resource and Information Center, included information regarding the early signs of autism-spectrum disorders, guidelines and procedures for early screening, as well as the importance of referral and early intervention.

**Patti Kurtz**, associate professor of English, won third prize in the 2010 Abilene Writers Guild contest with her young adult novel manuscript, "Gateway," an urban fantasy. Kurtz's mystery novel, "Return of the Mirage," also for teens, won honorable mention in the same contest.

**Paul Lepp**, assistant professor of biology, co-authored a chapter in the new (second) edition of "Molecular Microbiology: Diagnostic Principles and Practices." The chapter, "Molecular Phylogenetic Analysis," by Les Dethlefsen, Paul W. Lepp and David Relman, describes how to use DNA sequence data to identify evolutionary relationships between different microbial organisms.

**Sharon Seidl**, CEL dual credit and ACT coordinator, and **Kris Warmoth**, CEL dean, spoke to the Rotary club April 4 about new educational opportunities for Minot citizens age 65 and over.

**Alexey Shipunov**, assistant professor of biology, recently published "Haptanthus Story: Rediscovery of enigmatic flowering plant from Honduras," a paper describing his recent rediscovery of *Haptanthus hazlettii*. This Central American tree was previously known from two old, ill-preserved specimens from which DNA extraction was impossible. The unusual floral structure of *Haptanthus hazlettii* and lack of molecular (DNA) data made understanding its relationship to other plants so difficult that it was placed in its own family, the only family of uncertain position within the flowering plants. Five earlier expeditions to recollect this plant in the wild failed, thus, suggesting this enigmatic plant was extinct. Shipunov's April 2010 expedition, with his co-author Ekaterina Shipunova and others, to northern Honduras, was successful in finding living samples of this clearly endangered plant. As this new publication reports, Shipunov has since conducted a thorough molecular genetic analysis of *Haptanthus hazlettii*. The analysis allowed him to unambiguously establish that, while its flowers are unusual, the tree is a member of the Buxaceae (Boxwood) family and should not remain classified in its own family.

**Chelsea Starr**, assistant professor of social science, had a paper, "The Role of Social Media in the Egyptian and Libyan Revolutions," accepted to the American Sociological Association's Collective Behavior and Social Movements section plenary panel. She will also present a paper, "Riot Grrrl: 15 years later, where are they now?" at the American Sociological Association annual meeting in August in Las Vegas.

Starr presented "Efficacy and Cultural Resonance in Femicide Protest Symbols" in the Faculty and Student Research Poster Session on April 29.

Starr and **Tiffany Ziegler**, assistant professor of history, received a CETL mini-grant for teaching their First Year Experience course combination using the computer game Warcraft to teach about social and historical issues.

The North Dakota Chapter of Hands and Voices recently elected **Wendy Thomas**, project director for NDCPD's North Dakota Early Hearing Detection and Intervention program, to its board of directors. Hands and Voices supports families with children who are deaf or hard of hearing without a bias towards communication modes or methodology. It is a parent-driven, non-profit organization providing families with the resources, networks and information they need to improve communication access and educational outcomes for their children.

**Mark Timbrook**, CEL, Office of Instructional Technology design specialist, adjunct history faculty member and author, has been nominated to the Preservation North Dakota board of directors. Incorporated in 1989, PND is a statewide, grassroots, nonprofit organization that provides resources for local preservationists and focuses on specific area of preservation. To find out more about PND visit, [www.prairieplaces.org/mission.cfm](http://www.prairieplaces.org/mission.cfm).

## Acknowledgements from University Cabinet

Members of the GEAH Committee, **Erik Anderson**, **Kristi Berg**, **Lisa Borden-King**, **Conrad Davidson**, **Alexandra Deufel**, **Andrea Donovan**, **Jane laPlante**, **Cheryl Nilsen**, **Beth Odahlen**, **Deb Olson**, **Dan Ringrose** and **Ryan Winburn**, developed and presented three potential models for the design and delivery of general education at Minot State University.

**Chris Beachy**, biology, **Sara Deutsch**, human performance, and **Linda Olson**, humanities, assisted with the visit of fifth graders from Bismarck's Myhre Elementary School in April.

MSU students **Courtney Burckhard**, **George Duenas**, **Aaron Jaeger** and **Brian Rohles**, and **Terry Eckmann** and **Beth Odahlen** participated in the Minot State booth at the North Dakota University System Showcase.

The following MSU employees helped with another successful energy impact symposium: **Bob Feller**, **Stacey Folstad-Magandy**, **Jessica Hudson**, **Aaron Jaeger**, **Jolina Miller**, **Sandy Nordstrom**, **Leon Perzinski**, **Sodexo (Stacy Pederson and Carlos Soza)**, **Chris Stroschein**, **Student Center custodians**, **Doreen Wald**, **Deb Wentz**, **George Withus** and **Amy Woodbeck**.

**Neil Fulton**, Information Technology Central, was appointed to State Technical Committee.

**Anton Huether**, ITC, **Jeff Meyer**, facilities management, and **Gary Ross**, business, collaborated on sandbagging efforts at faculty member Pat Lomire's home.

**Nancy Mickelson**, Student Health Center, assisted with sandbagging in Burlington.

**Roger Kluck** and his **facilities management staff**, through their snow-removal efforts this winter, ensured the campus could run properly.

Many MSU faculty, staff and students helped or volunteered at Marketplace for Kids.

**Tyson Snelling**, Canadian student assistant, diligently worked with Canadian activities and the information corner within the Office of International Programs.

**Heather Stroup-Smith**, residence life coordinator, coordinated the Pennies for Patients events.

**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.

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