

**Public Information Office**

**A NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**Steven W. Shirley fills the MSU president post**

A North Dakota native with deep family ties to Minot, Steven W. Shirley is excited about his new role as Minot State University's 11th president.

"There is so much pride in Minot State University," said Shirley. "When meeting with folks on campus, in the community and the region, there is a true sense of how committed people are to this campus. The dedication is genuine and apparent and comes through quickly when talking with students, faculty, staff, alumni and supporters."

Prior to joining MSU, Shirley served as Valley City State University president from 2008 to 2014. Earlier, he was vice president and dean for student affairs at Dakota State University in Madison, S.D., and an assistant professor of business and director of study abroad at the University of Minnesota, Crookston.



"There's still a lot to learn about Minot State and the community, but having served as a president in the North Dakota University System for six years eliminates some of the learning curve and gives me time to focus on MSU," Shirley said. "We have a wonderful higher education system in this state. The 11 campuses work well together, and I think we need to look for more partnering opportunities and for how MSU can sustain and build effective relationships. I am excited to be in Minot and have the opportunity to continue serving our students and the constituents of North Dakota."

Shirley possesses a strong commitment to enriching community, university and system relationships. He is a strong advocate for international education and study abroad, the focus of his doctorate dissertation research. Additionally, distance education is of great importance to Shirley. He believes a balance of educational opportunities and delivery methods at both the undergraduate and graduate levels is necessary for student and institutional success.

Shirley has a true, open style of leadership, stressing the importance of constant communication between those on campus and in the community.

"Minot State is fortunate to have such a strong, supportive community, and likewise, the community is fortunate to have a strong, four-year university in its backyard. It truly is a win-win for the university and the community. For me that's so exciting."

Shirley and his wife, Jennifer, have one three-year-old daughter, Anna. They look forward to attending many Minot State activities and events in the months and years ahead. To read the full article, visit [www.minotstateu.edu/profiles/profile\\_193.shtml](http://www.minotstateu.edu/profiles/profile_193.shtml).

### **POWER Center plans precollege experience**

The POWER Center, a TRiO-Student Support Services program, will offer a precollege enhancement course Aug. 19-22. The course, financed by the Bank of North's College Planning Center, is designed to prepare first-year students for their university experiences.

Approximately 25 POWER-eligible students will be invited to move into their residence halls and spend three nights and four days on the Minot State University campus immediately prior to the start of fall semester. Through this course, participants will learn about all the resources MSU and Minot offer. They will also connect with peers and become equipped with the tools and essential university knowledge that will lead to personal and academic success during their higher education endeavors. Presentations will discuss financial planning and include mock lectures.

"This experience, which is referred to as POWER Week, will promote engagement with the campus and community," said Tiffany Fylling, POWER Center advising coordinator. "It will diminish students' fears and anxieties that accompany their first weeks of university life."

POWER Week students will have all expenses covered. They will also receive a backpack full of school supplies to help make their first semester successful. For questions about POWER Week, contact the POWER Center at 858-4047.

The POWER Center is funded by a TRiO-SSS grant from the U.S. Department of Education. To learn more about the POWER Center, visit [www.minotstateu.edu/power/](http://www.minotstateu.edu/power/).

### **Convocation starts new year**

Aug. 20 in the Conference Center, Minot State University convocation launches a new academic year. If student assistance is not available for coverage during the general session, President Steven Shirley asks employees to close their offices and attend. Breakfast items will be served beginning at 8 a.m.

At 8:30 a.m., Lenore Koczon, vice president for academic affairs, will provide welcoming comments. After comments from the presidents of Faculty and Staff Senates and Student Government Association, Wes Matthews, human resources director, will introduce new staff members, and Koczon will introduce new faculty members.

At 9:15 a.m., President Shirley will update the campus.

Meetings of the three colleges will follow in the afternoon, starting at 1 p.m. Arts and sciences will meet in Aleshire Theatre, business will meet in Main 316 and education and health sciences will meet in Memorial 114.

### **MSU Fall Kickoff Celebration gathers campus community**

The MSU Fall Kickoff Celebration, coordinated by Staff Senate, is Aug. 20, the evening after convocation. Join your counterparts from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Student Center Quad for food, entertainment, live music and fun. Food service be served from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

The event is free to MSU faculty, staff and student workers and their immediate families. For questions about the MSU Fall Kickoff Celebration, contact Steve Swenson, Staff Senate president, at [staffsenate@minotstateu.edu](mailto:staffsenate@minotstateu.edu) or 858-3040.



### **Minisessions scheduled for Aug. 21**

Convocation activities continue Aug. 21 at 9 a.m., with informative minisessions. Presenters include:

- Warren Gamas, University Program Prioritization Committee-Academic Programs chair — "Academic Prioritization (UPPC)"
- Devin McCall, UPPC-Non-academic Programs chair — "Non-Academic Prioritization (UPPC)"
- Lori Willoughby, College of Business, and Heather Martin, Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning — "Discussion on Advising"
- Rebecca Porter, registrar — "Academic Requirements Report and Planner"
- Sherie Saltveit and Mark Timbrook, Office of Instructional Technology — "Blackboard to Support Your Campus Course"
- Andrea Donovan, General Education Ad Hoc Committee chair — "Gen Ed Updates"
- Laurie Weber, financial aid director — "Financial Aid Updates"
- Kris Warmoth, Center for Extended Learning dean — "Blackboard Update: What's Coming this Fall?"
- Sheila Lathman, Business Office — "Grants"
- Lisa Dooley, Rural Crime and Justice Center, and Melissa Spelchen, criminal justice — "Keep U Safe Campaign"
- Beth Odahlen, CETL, and Terry Eckmann and Ashley Guy, teacher education and human performance — "Flipping: It's Easier than you Think"

- Stacey Anderson, North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities — “Universal Design for Learning”
- Donna Marquart, administration and finance, and Celeste Simmons, academic affairs — “Contract Updates”

A complete schedule grid was sent to all employees via campus mail. Employees are encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible.

**History students to give Digital Minot presentations**

Digital Minot Project student interns from Minot, Emily Anderson, Zachary DeMers and Jordan Peterson, will present their research Aug. 23 at the Taube Museum at 11 a.m. Their presentations on MSU Summer Theatre, the Heritage Singers and pioneer female teachers are free and open to the public and will be part of the Downtown Minot Association’s Festival on Main.

The three students researched their topics this summer as part of Digital Minot Project, which is sponsored by the Department of History at Minot State University. This project provides an opportunity for student interns to investigate local history topics, and then use that research to give public presentations and create online exhibits which remain available for public viewing and response long after the students have completed their work.

Anderson, a senior at Minot State University, studied the history of the Heritage Singers, the well-known male chorus, which is celebrating its 40th year. She will graduate in December with a bachelor’s degree in history.

DeMers explored the history of Summer Theatre, which just completed its 49th season. He will graduate in May 2015 with bachelor’s degrees in broadcasting and history.

Peterson, a junior, examined the history of women pioneer school teachers in the northern plains during the early 20th century, with an emphasis on North Dakota.

Bethany Andreasen, professor of history, created “Digital Minot: An On-line Museum of Local History” in 2012. To engage student research more wholly with MSU’s surrounding communities, Andreasen proposed that student historical projects and materials should be digitized and made accessible to the public. Digital Minot students collaborate with local agencies and take Minot’s history out of closets, storage rooms and boxes, uploading materials and records spanning more than a century to display the region’s vibrant past on the Web. Through Digital Minot, the public has access to historical photos, postcards, newspaper articles, advertisements, scholarly journals, legal documents, oral histories and biographies.

“As part of the Digital Minot Project, university students engage in professional practice of their historical research and writing skills through an interactive project with individuals from the region in which they live, thus increasing their awareness and understanding of the distinctiveness and development of the region,” Andreasen said.

The Digital Minot website can be found at <http://digitalminot.minotstateu.edu/omeka>.

**Educators attend Northern Plains Writing Project Institutes**

The Northern Plains Writing Project Institutes at Minot State University started July 7 and culminated July 31 after teachers presented their writing lessons at the North Dakota Council of Teachers of English annual conference in Mandan.

“We had 11 teachers this year,” said Ron Fischer, English associate professor and NPWP director. “One came from Indiana to be a full-time graduate student in the Master of Education program. Others were from Surrey, Garrison, Mohall, Ray and Williston. It was a nice mix too. We had high school, middle school and elementary school teachers, which meant things got really fun. We had some really creative teachers this



*The Heritage Singers rehearse in 1980.*



*The Summer Theatre cast performed “Stop the Wold, I Want to Get Off” in 1971.*



year. I loved learning from them.”

Fischer has facilitated the Summer Institute since 2006 and became NPWP director in 2009.

“KiMar Gartman, who just graduated with a Master of Education from MSU co-facilitated with me,” Fischer said. “She attended the NPWP Institutes for the last two summers. She really did a wonderful thesis that looked at the needs of international students who have come to Minot. Now, here she is facilitating the Advanced Institute!”

Those who attended NPWP have a chance to travel to Washington D.C. in November to attend the National Council of Teachers of English Convention. NPWP’s purpose is to help strengthen what the state’s K-12 teachers do in their classrooms.

“NPWP really can change how someone teaches, but the national conferences really give them a sense of how wonderful this profession is.”

### **New staff aboard**

Minot State University welcomes new employees, Karen Elliott, and Cole Krueger.

Elliott, who is the secretary for teacher advisement and field placement, is also enrolled at Minot State University and working toward completing a bachelor’s degree in English. She previously worked for Kalix. Her son, Kenton, is in the United States Air Force and has two sons.



*Elliott*



*Krueger*

Krueger is an admissions counselor in the Office of Enrollment Services. He earned a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from MSU and was last employed by Minot’s CACI International. He and his wife, Lacey, enjoy playing pinochle.

### **In the galleries**

Aug. 13-15 — “Fragile Walls: Fallacy by Design,” an exhibit of paintings and ceramics that explore the lies and fallacies of the human persona by Minot State University senior art students Amanda Fimreite and Elizabeth Stockman, Library Gallery.

### **Faculty and staff achievements**

*The Office of Public Information proudly shares the many accomplishments of faculty and staff with the campus community in every issue.*

**Brent Askvig** and **Lori Garnes**, North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities, conducted grant-development training at the Center for Disabilities in Cincinnati, July 23-24. Their training focused on the NDCPD process for developing a team-oriented, responsive method for designing competitive national proposals. The 12 training recipients were staff and administrators from the Cincinnati center, which is housed at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, University of Cincinnati. Their staff will now take the training materials and develop a similar process for their grant-development activities. The training was sponsored by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities in Washington, D.C., through a grant from the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

**Cheryl Nilsen**, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science chair, was a member of the team of university faculty and high school mathematics teachers tasked with revising program standards for mathematics education programs offered at institutions of higher education in North Dakota. Under the auspices of the N.D. Education Standards and Practices Board, the team conducted its work at the Capitol Building July 30. Nilsen will also take part in the revision of the middle school mathematics program standards on Aug. 13.

**Tom Seymour**, business information technology professor, led two roundtable sessions titled “Apps for Your Classroom” Aug. 12 at the North Dakota Career and Technical Education Professional Development Conference in Bismarck. To learn more, go to [www.nd.gov/cte/pdc/docs/2014\\_PDC\\_Program.pdf](http://www.nd.gov/cte/pdc/docs/2014_PDC_Program.pdf).

**Mark Timbrook**, Office of Instructional Technology design specialist, history adjunct and author, and his wife, Eunice, conducted a hands-on training session on the cleaning and repairing historical grave markers at the Manfred Lutheran Cemetery for the Manfred Historical and Preservation Association on July 26. Standards and procedures for the session followed those used by the National Center for Preservation Training and Technology, National Park System, Department of the Interior.



Caretakers from 12 regional cemeteries and a representative of the State Historical Society of North Dakota attended the session and participated in three separate repair/restoration projects.



Eleven faculty completed the 20-hour 2014 Summer Faculty Institute for Online Teaching and Learning: Best Practices and Effective Content. They are **Evan Borisinkoff, Linda Haider, Stephen Hayton, Mary Mercer, Audra Myerchin, Heidi Peterson, Linda Pettersen, Linda Schaefer, Kimberly Schwinler, Tom Seymour and Judy Swanson. Steven Shirley**, MSU president, **Kris Warmoth**, Center for Extended Learning dean, and **Andy Bertsch**, management professor, were guest speakers. The institute was presented by **Sherie Saltveit** and **Mark Timbrook** of CEL's Office of Instructional Technology.



#### **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.*

**Be seen. Be heard.**