

Public Information Office

A NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES AND FRIENDS OF MINOT STATE UNIVERSITY

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Minot State spring enrollment numbers up

Official spring 2015 enrollment numbers at Minot State University show a 2 percent increase compared to last year's official spring numbers. Final student headcount after the fourth week of the spring 2015 semester is 3,320 students, an increase of 66 students over last year.

"Given that we had a slight decrease in fall enrollment, and to now be showing a spring enrollment increase is a strong testimony highlighting the outstanding efforts of our faculty and staff in working with current and new students alike. We implemented several new initiatives this fall, and it is exciting to see these initial results," said Steven Shirley, MSU president. "Minot State University is a wonderful environment for higher education, and we look forward to growing the campus as we continue attracting, retaining and educating the best and brightest students from throughout the region."



Spring 2015 enrollment numbers show gains in a variety of student categories, with increases in new freshmen, new transfer students, new graduate students and students enrolled at the Minot Air Force Base.

Enrollment numbers at MSU become official after the fourth full week of classes, when they are reported to the North Dakota University System.

Science Open House will captivate audiences of all ages

The Cyril Moore Science Center and AUGITE, the geology student club, are hosting an open house Tuesday (Feb. 24), for students in grades 3-6, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Minot State University faculty and students will explain and demonstrate current science research projects and perform chemistry "magic shows" on each hour, starting at 9 a.m.

As a special treat for the public, the Division of Science will host a chemistry magic show at 3 p.m. in Hoffman Auditorium. Faculty and students will perform experiments developed by MSU classes that include things parents warned their children to never do — play with dangerous chemicals, fire and explosions.

"When we perform these demonstrations, we generally warn people these are not safe," said Guy Hanley, assistant professor of science and curator of collections.



The public chemistry magic show starts promptly at 3 p.m. and lasts 40 minutes. Everyone is welcome.

Pictured is Guy Hanley conducting a demonstration during a chemistry magic show.

Democracy Cafes highlight pertinent issues

At the Thursday (Feb. 19) Democracy Cafe, Windie Lazenko, National Survivor Network executive director, will lead discussion on "Incomprehensible: Human Trafficking in North Dakota." Then on March 3, Dave Thompson, Prairie Public news director, will present "North Dakota Legislative 'Flip Days': Mid-session Recap." Both events are in the Beaver Brew Cafe from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

Democracy Cafe hits the road for its March 12 installment. Minot State University students and legislative members will discuss "Legislative Experience" in the Capital Cafe of the State Capital at noon.

Democracy Cafe fosters nonpartisan discussion on important civic issues. It generally meets every three weeks. Funded by the College of Arts and Sciences, the event is free and open to the public. For questions, contact Jynette Larshus, Sociology Club advisor, at 858-4324 or Jynette.larshus@minostateu.edu.

Ceramics students help The Taube

The Taube Museum of Art in Minot will host its eighth annual Soup It Up! fundraiser on Saturday (Feb. 21) at the State Fair Center Atrium. Soup will be served by local restaurants from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., but artisans and crafters will sell and promote their wares from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Minot State University ceramics students have been creating bowls, all original works of art, for this event.



Rachel Alfaro, a senior in a ceramics class, related it has been fun.

"So far I've made more than 10 bowls," Alfaro said. "It has been fun, and I'm getting better and faster at making them as I go along. It's messy and a lot of work, but I know it is for a good cause."

Linda Olson, chair of the Division of Humanities and head of the ceramics department, spearheads Minot State's participation in the Taube fundraiser.

"Not only is it fun, but it provides important awareness for students that there is a need for volunteers," she said.

Besides donating bowls, they will volunteer their time at the Soup It Up event this weekend, working and manning tables.

'A Piece of My Heart' explores Vietnam War experience

Minot State University's Program of Theatre Arts presents Shirley Lauro's "A Piece of My Heart" Feb. 24-28 in Aleshire Theater at 7:30 p.m. Carlen Gilseth, assistant professor of communication arts, will direct the play. Doors open at 7 p.m.

"A Piece of My Heart" tells the real-life experiences of six nurses before, during and after their tour of duty in Vietnam. The women struggle to make sense of a war that irrevocably changed them and a nation that shunned them.

"I have a talented group of women, and an ensemble to match, who will bring the true stories of Vietnam to life before the audience members' eyes," Gilseth said. "Come and enjoy the stories these young thespians have to tell from celebrated author Shirley Lauro. This is a powerful piece of theatre that has been given over 2,000 performances around the globe."



For tickets, contact the MSU theater box office at 858-3172. Tickets are \$6 for adults; \$5 for seniors and students under 18. MSU students, faculty and staff are admitted free with current MSU ID. Some material may not be appropriate for all ages. Discretion is advised. Reservations are strongly encouraged.

Building diverse relationships

On Feb. 26, the North Dakota Center for Persons with Disabilities and Minot State University's University Diversity Committee will host Kostas Voutsas, motivational speaker and Dickinson State University business assistant professor. Voutsas will present his seminar, "North Dakota Cookbook: Building Diverse Relationships One Pot at a Time," www.diversitykeynote.com.

"NDCPD and the MSU Diversity Committee are proud to sponsor this event," said Rebecca Daigneault, NDCPD research associate. "MSU and Minot are diverse communities and events like this support our shared mission of helping to build a multicultural and culturally competent university climate."



Voutsas will offer simple solutions to manage regional, cultural and generational differences and increase communication in North Dakota's workforce. He will explore strategies to make cultural diversity work. Two sessions will be offered in the Conference Center (Student Center, third floor):

- 10 a.m.-noon with one-on-one visits and brown bag discussion to follow
- 1:30-3:30 p.m. with one-on-one visits and brown bag discussion to follow

For questions, contact Daigneault at Rebecca.daigneault@minotstateu.edu or 858-3469.

Emma Tufte chosen as new SBHE staff adviser

Emma Tufte, administrative and assessment assistant in Valley City State University's School of Education and Graduate Studies, was elected staff adviser to the State Board of Higher Education. Her term begins July 1.



Currently, Tufte is president of the North Dakota State Staff Senate, which represents all staff employees in the North Dakota University System. The State Staff Senate identifies staff interests and issues, acts as a forum for the discussion of staff-related matters, and facilitates communication on behalf of staff members with the NDUS chancellor and SBHE.

The Edgeley native earned a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Jamestown. She began working at VCSU in 2010 and completed a master's degree in education from VCSU in 2014.

In the galleries

Feb. 18-26 — "Americas 2015: Paperworks" juried by James Ehlers, Emporia State University, Kan., Hartnett Gallery.

Feb. 18-March 12 — "Souls of Silver" by Shane Balkowitsch of Bismarck, Gordon B. Olson Library Gallery.

A public closing reception for "Souls of Silver" will be March 12 in the Library Gallery, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. .

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.

Holly Pedersen, assistant professor of special education, and Cory Maclver, Minot parent, co-wrote "My Daddy Sleeps Loud," an exploration of the role of fathers in families of children with disabilities. Hearing Health Foundation's blog featured the article at www.hearinghealthfoundation.org/blog.

ShaunAnne Tangney, professor of English, presented a paper titled "Tough Company: Oakies, Beats, and Tom Russell Wrestle with the Outsider Complex" in November at the Western Literature Association conference in Victoria, British Columbia. She will present another paper, "The Wild That Attracts Us — in the World and on the Page," at the Robinson Jeffers Association conference in Carmel, Calif., Saturday (Feb. 21).

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.