Message from the Dean

Happy New Year to alumni and friends of Social and Behavioral Sciences. We hope that 2003 finds each of you healthy and looking forward to the future. At the start of a new year we are pleased to send you this edition of our newsletter, focused on our graduate programs. While undergraduate education occupies the majority of our time as educators at MSU, graduate education is also an important part of our mission.

Currently we have 16 master's degree programs in the college, not including those linked to education programs, with approximately 230 full- and part-time students enrolled each semester. These students come primarily from Minnesota and the upper Midwest, though a sizeable proportion comes from across the nation and around the world. They are attracted to our programs for a variety of reasons: accessibility, affordability, size, and reputation. Several programs have national reputations, and others are recognized as the strongest in the state. All are known for the personal attention they give to their students.

Most of our programs have an applied (professional) emphasis, although some are designed to prepare students for Ph.D. programs; many of the programs do both.

Applied programs include many opportunities for students to be involved in internships, learn-by-doing experiences, research teams, simulations, and/or professional workshops and conferences in preparation for particular careers. An exciting new opportunity for some is the dual degree option that has been started with William Mitchell College of Law. As you might guess, the vast majority of our students stay in Minnesota upon graduation and contribute successfully to the state's economic, social, and cultural development.

Graduate students pay for their educations in a variety of ways, including state-funded graduate assistantships, federal work study, external grant funding, scholarships, and/or jobs off campus. Unfortunately, our programs themselves have very few state-funded graduate assistantships, although faculty members have sometimes been successful in raising funding for graduate students through external grants and/or applications for other funding. At this time there are only 12 full assistantships and 10 small scholarships regularly available to help our graduate students meet the costs of school, room and board, and other living expenses. Therefore, one of the fund-raising priorities of the college is to increase funding available for our graduate students.

Also in this newsletter is a call for nominations for Advisory Board awards. We hope that you will help us to recognize and celebrate the success of our former students, current students, and current faculty by nominating them for an award. Details are found on pages 5-6. Nominations are due by March 1, 2003.

As we start the new year, I thank you for your on-going support of our students and our programs. Best wishes for a healthy and happy new year.

Susan Coultrap-McQuin
SBS Graduate Studies

Anthropology

Anthropology has a new master’s program in applied anthropology that was created out of its earlier degree offering in multidisciplinary studies. The program emphasizes the ways in which anthropological methods can be used in government, business, and other fields, though many graduates will go on to work in museums, cultural resource agencies, forensics laboratories, and archeological settings. The program is unique in the upper Midwest in preparing students in applied anthropology. The program builds on an emerging emphasis in the discipline.

Economics

Currently MSU does not have a free-standing Economics graduate program, but students may use economics courses as electives or as part of a Multidisciplinary Studies Program. The department is currently exploring other options for students at the graduate level. Graduates of our undergraduate program have been successful in law school, graduate school in business, and a variety of career paths.

Ethnic Studies

In Fall 2003 MSU will begin a new Master’s program, Ethnic and Multicultural Studies, the first ethnic studies graduate program in the upper Midwest. The EMCS emphasizes an applied approach to ethnic studies that can be used for political advocacy and professional practice. Students will gain factual knowledge of ethnic groups, discrimination, immigration, stereotypes, and other diversity issues. They will also learn to understand and appreciate the values and beliefs in diverse ethnic groups. Students will gain interdisciplinary skills in research, writing, computer and statistical analysis, human resources management, leadership, counseling, and diversity management.

Geography

The Department of Geography offers both traditional and professionally-oriented graduate programs. Students study with faculty who have expertise in GIS; cartography; natural resources; biogeography; quantitative and field methods; geomorphology; economic, political, urban and historical geography; and earth and atmospheric sciences. The Department boasts state-of-the-art GIS and cartography labs with the most current software used in the field, GPS units for field mapping, and a cutting-edge weather and climate laboratory (see Scholarship Spotlight, p. 7). The

department is also a repository for digital and paper Minnesota topographic data, giving students a unique opportunity for research and learning.

Geography student, John Helfrich, demonstrates GPS/IPAQ technology.

Gerontology

The study and practice of gerontology holds exciting job opportunities for those who want to work with elders. One of the greatest strengths of MSU’s graduate program is that it provides well-
rounded multidisciplinary training in gerontology. The program also offers a graduate Certificate of Study that can be career-enhancing when combined with degrees in other fields. Gerontology students come from a variety of backgrounds and interests and they go on to a range of careers. The market is so good that many students receive job offers before graduation. A recent graduate is coordinator of the Center on Aging at the University of Minnesota and another works on aging initiatives at the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

History
Graduate study in History at MSU prepares individuals for various positions by encouraging them to think critically and confidently and to draw logical, well-grounded conclusions. Because they are trained in the analysis of information, historians are particularly well equipped to write, teach, and present their points of view. After completing graduate degrees in History, students have gone on to such diverse fields as law, journalism, public history, library and information sciences, public and private administrative positions, community service and the non-profit sector, and teaching in secondary and higher education.

Political Science/Law Enforcement
Political Science offers two graduate programs for students interested in public policy and political issues: MA's in Political Science and in Public Administration (MAPA). A dual degree option with William Mitchell College of Law is available also. MAPA course schedules are prepared for both part-time and full-time students; classes are scheduled to permit completion in two years. In addition to the on-campus program, the MAPA degree is also offered in the Twin Cities through MSU's Extended Campus program. Graduates of both programs are successfully pursuing challenging careers with federal, state, and local governments. Others who have gone on to receive doctorates are teaching at colleges and universities, consulting, or doing policy analysis with large businesses and organizations.

Clinical Psychology
The MSU Clinical Psychology M.A. is nationally recognized as an outstanding program. Clinical Psychology students engage in collaborative research with faculty and assume substantial responsibility in all aspects of research projects. Students are also encouraged to participate in departmental, community, and other professional activities. Graduates of the program have been extremely successful in gaining admission to clinical psychology doctoral programs.

I/O Psychology
The goal of the industrial/organizational psychology master’s program is to prepare individuals as human resource professionals. All students complete an internship and a thesis, program courses that emphasize empirical research, and challenging projects that simulate work related settings. Graduates of the program typically work in management consulting, human resource management and market research. Recent graduates have taken jobs with Accenture, Mercer Management Consulting, Ascendant Solutions, Data Recognition Corp., Gantz Wiley Research, Harley Davidson, ACNielsen, HRED Army Research Labs, United Airlines, and American Express.

Social Studies
In the last decade, the MSU social studies program has graduated several students each year who have returned to the university to become a secondary social studies teacher after another career. Such...
students may take one of three routes towards certification. One is to earn another Bachelor's of Science degree in teaching. Another is to complete a Master of Arts degree in teaching. A third route is to complete the Rapid Response Program designed to help working people prepare for teaching at a relatively fast pace working with a cohort of students taking their classes on weekends while working towards a masters degree. Whatever their route, these individuals offer their students a wealth of experience that combines well with their university preparation to become a professional secondary social studies teacher.

Social Work

Although the Department of Social Work does not have an MSW program at this time, the undergraduate degree is excellent preparation for professional employment or graduate school. Even though MSW admissions are quite competitive, alumnus of the program have been very successful at getting admitted to programs throughout the country. The extensive fieldwork requirements of the BSW program assure that graduates have a résumé that appeals to graduate programs and gives students some advanced standing in MSW programs.

Sociology & Corrections

MSU offers graduate degrees with emphases in Sociology, Corrections, and Human Services Planning and Administration. Building on a social core, students receive solid academic training and real-world experiences through participation in professional meetings, research projects, internships, and service learning. Connections between the classroom and the larger world are reinforced by graduate assistantships, an extended campus program in the metro area, an active sociology club, and strong ties to the Sociologists of Minnesota, the Midwest Sociological Society, and the Minnesota Corrections Association. Graduates are successfully placed in Ph.D. programs, teaching positions, and professional positions in the corrections and human services fields.

Urban and Regional Studies

The two graduate programs in Urban & Regional Studies focus on preparing students for professional careers in community development, in both the public and nonprofit sectors. The programs make extensive use of internships, community-based problem solving, and regular contact with practicing professionals. Each year students in the Planning Studio study a project proposed by a local government and present their recommendations to the government at a public meeting. Typically, our students go on to careers in local government planning or management or serve as program officers for organizations such as the United Way, the Wilder Foundation, Search Institute, and the Initiative Fund. Ninety percent of the cities in Minnesota with more than 10,000 population have at least one of our alumni on their staff.

Women's Studies

The Master of Science in Women's Studies attracts students from throughout the U.S. and abroad. The graduate program includes internships, cross-disciplinary seminars, and individual and cooperative research projects. This feminist program is oriented toward training activists who wish to promote social change. Women's Studies graduate students combine interests in counseling, public policy, research, community action, cultural work, or teaching with feminist theory, methodology, and knowledge. Women's Studies graduates often begin careers in non-profit and public sector organizations serving women and families. Others have gone on to work in business, attend law school, and pursue other professional training. A new dual degree program with William Mitchell College of Law is now an option.

A group gathered for an official signing of the William Mitchell agreements with Women's Studies and with Health Sciences.
Advisory Board Awards Announced

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences is pleased to call for nominations for the third annual Advisory Board Awards: The Distinguished Alumni Award, the Distinguished Professor Award, and the Student Leader Award. Each award is designed to recognize extraordinary achievement. Below you will find a full description of each award. On the reverse side of this page you will find a nomination form.

Nominations

Nominations for all awards may be submitted by current or former members of the college, except the nominee. They must be submitted along with the cover sheet on the reverse of this page. Additional forms are available in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Dean’s Office or on our Web site at www2.mnmsu.edu/csocbeh/AdvisoryBoardAwards.htm. The nomination forms and supporting documentation can either be faxed to the College at the fax number given below or mailed to the college at the address given below.

The deadline for receiving nominations is March 1, 2003.

Nomination Statement

In two pages, please explain the nominee’s qualifications for this award. Please include in your statement details on the nominee’s achievements, so that the Advisory Board can clearly understand them. The completed form, your statement, and any other supporting information should be submitted to the SBS Advisory Board Award Committee, Minnesota State University, Mankato, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, 111 Armstrong Hall, Mankato, MN 56001. Please do not send photographs, scrapbooks, or original newspaper clippings. Materials cannot be returned.

The SBS Advisory Board will make the final selection of the award recipient(s). Recipients and nominators will be notified by decisions by June 1, 2003. The award will be presented at a special reception to be held in fall 2003.

Each nominee shall be maintained in a carry-over file for three years, during which time they will be re-considered for an award.

SBS Distinguished Alumni Award

Purpose

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Advisory Board Distinguished Alumni Award will be presented to an alum who has demonstrated extraordinary achievement. The achievement should be demonstrated not only in the realm of their careers but also in humanitarian and in community service endeavors. The Award will recognize those individuals who have made a significant difference in their careers and in service to their communities.

Eligibility

In selecting an award recipient, consideration will be given to nominees who graduated from a department in the college. Current members of the Advisory Board may not be considered for the award.

SBS Student Leader Award

Purpose

The Student Leader Award will be presented to a College of Social and Behavioral Sciences student who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership while being a student at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The Award aims to recognize those individuals who have made a significant difference by their service to the university and/or to the college, while being a strong student in the classroom.

Eligibility

In selecting an award recipient, consideration will be given to all nominees who at the time of their nomination are enrolled in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

SBS Distinguished Professor Award

Purpose

The Distinguished Professor Award will be presented to a College of Social and Behavioral Sciences professor who has demonstrated extraordinary devotion to teaching and learning at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The Award aims to recognize those individuals who have made a significant difference as teaching scholars in the education and the lives of our students.

Eligibility

In selecting an award recipient, all current continuing and retired College of Social and Behavioral Sciences faculty members will be given consideration.

Please consider making a nomination for one or more of these awards. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Thompson, Assistant to the Dean, Social and Behavioral Sciences. Fax: 507-389-5569 Voice: 507-389-5699 E-mail: denise.thompson@mnsu.edu

SBS Advisory Board Members

2002-2003

David Andrews
76 Sociology; Anthropology

Duane Arens
84 Business Administration

Cynthia Beminis Abrams
86 International Relations & German

Richard Bliss (Rick)
70 Political Science

Kim Breckman
(Advisory Board Vice Chair)
71 Psychology

Betty Chiesley
33 Secondary Education

Mark Davy
68 Speech Communication

Joseph Dotson
70 Urban & Regional Studies

Patrick O’Neil
69 Sociology, Political Science,
72 Social Studies; Sociology

Catherine J. Peterson
74 & 78 Urban & Regional Studies

Mark Piepho
95 Public Administration

Timothy Price, JD
71 Political Science

Jack Ryan (John M.)
(Advisory Board Chair)
70 Political Science

Nithy Sevanthiathan
02 Multidisciplinary Studies; Ethnic Studies

Mehr “Jay” Shahidi
74 Economics, Political Science

Leo Vaske
64 Economics

Dennis (Denny) Wahlstrom
74 Social Studies; Political Science

Lexy Wood
70 Sociology & Corrections

Dr. Truman Wood
54 Political Science

Ambassadors
Patricia Johnson
71 Political Science

Douglas Babb
74 Political Science

Winter 2002-03
Nomination Cover Sheet
Minnesota State University, Mankato
College of Social And Behavioral Sciences
Advisory Board Awards

☐ Distinguished Alumni  ☐ Student Leader  ☐ Distinguished Professor

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Signature of nominator

**Feel free to photocopy this nomination cover page as needed.**

Return cover page and nomination statement to:
Minnesota State University, Mankato, College of Social and Behavioral Science,
111 Armstrong Hall, Mankato, MN 56001
By March 1, 2003
Scholarship Spotlight

Funding for Graduate Students: Invest in the Future

To understand the impact of SBS Graduate Assistants, just review the merits of Dave Christensen, one of three graduate students receiving assistantship or scholarship support in MSU’s Weather Analysis Laboratory for Teaching and Educational Resources (WALTER). As a graduate assistant, Dave receives tuition benefits and wages for 20 hours per week. His duties include serving as Student Manager of the weather lab and monitoring incoming data from the weather station on the roof of Armstrong Hall, the SkyCam camera, and satellite receivers. He troubleshoots technical problems, analyzes data, and is currently involved in the implementation of a new weather station behind Gage Hall. Dave is responsible for oversight of WALTER’s Web site and maintains remote displays that provide weather information for campus visitors. Each week, Dave serves as a weather expert on the KMSU radio show “Weather Talk” as well as a resource for campus security and KMSU during extreme weather situations. Dave also attends and occasionally teaches classes.

Dave has traveled the world with faculty member Dr. Cecil Keen, to train U.S. Air Force personnel on software for 3-D visualization of weather data. Dave is in the Minnesota Air National Guard, and has provided weather support to unmanned aerial vehicles in Bosnia, and for F16s on patrol over the Twin Cities. This year, he was Minnesota’s NCO Honor Airman of the Year for the 133rd Airlift Wing. In spring, Dave will present two papers at the American Meteorological Society conference, and one at the American Wind Energy Association conference.

Dave believes that his graduate assistantship gives him the opportunity to do work that is meaningful to his education and career, and allows him to develop professional skills that will make him more valuable to potential employers. The tuition benefit allows him to spend more time on his education and less time on unrelated jobs.

As tuition costs increase and state funding decreases, it becomes more critical to provide private support for students who will be our leaders of tomorrow. Students such as Dave have opportunities to attend graduate school because of assistantships and scholarships. Your support is needed to help us continue to provide such opportunities for talented and deserving students.

To support SBS graduate education, please make a gift payable to the MSU Foundation, 121 Alumni Foundation Center, Mankato, MN 56001, or go online to www.mnsu.edu, and click on “Give to MSU.” Indicate your gift is to support graduate assistants in the Weather Lab or another of our fine programs. Help us invest in the future.
Upcoming Events to Watch for:

March 4, 2003
24th Annual Frontier Form
Registration of Sex Offenders: Are We Safe?

April 8, 2003
7th Annual Pathways to Peace Conference
Why don't You Know: The Politics of Information

Sign up now to receive MSU event details:
Log into MSUgrads.com
on the MSU Alumni page:
www.mnsu.edu/supersite/alumni.html

We would love to hear about the success of our graduates!

Please contact us, or your department, with the news you would like to share (include your degree, major and the year you graduated).

Contact:
Denise Thompson
Assistant to the Dean
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Minnesota State University, Mankato
111 Armstrong Hall
Mankato, MN 56001
or e-mail: denise.thompson@mnsu.edu