Message from the Dean

Interim Dean, William F. Wagner

As I looked out over our MSU graduates at the winter graduation I asked myself, "What is it that this group of students could not do?" The answer is pretty obvious that they could do almost anything. Watching SBS students grow and mature from first-year students to graduating seniors and then to see them as they take on positions of responsibility in the community is a real joy. The life of a college student is indeed transforming. I ran into a SBS alumnus at a professional training meeting. She graduated from MSU about three years ago. I inquired about how she was doing and added how nice it was to see her continuing her education through professional training. Well, as I sat down and looked through the agenda for the meeting I found that she developed the training and was the major presenter. WOW! I remember her, and she was always bright and competent, but where did she get the poise of leadership that she demonstrated that day. As I thought of her success I began to unpack the small steps she took while a student at MSU that contributed to her abilities.

Daniel Chambliss' research on excellence demonstrates that "superlative performance is really a confluence of dozens of small skills or activities, each one learned or stumbled upon, which have been carefully drilled into habit and then fitted together in a synthesized whole. There is nothing extraordinary or super-human in any of those actions." When I watch our faculty work with our students I see the development of the many small skills and activities that slowly come together in the kind of excellence I observed in our young alumnus at the training session.

The life at MSU engulfs students in developing skills, in becoming the whole persons that contribute so much to our communities, our families, and our work. Just the constant practice of attending classes, taking notes, analyzing information, and writing arguments and papers helps to form a pattern of excellence. The careful day-to-day responses and advising that students get from faculty in SBS cumulates to make a significant contribution. Working with other students and with faculty, running into agreement and disagreement, presenting arguments and asking questions, and watching others engage in discussion; it all adds up, just little things that happen each day at MSU, nothing "extraordinary or superhuman" just enough to produce excellence.

It is wonderful to be a part of it all.

Thank you

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences students learn both in and out of the classroom and they are often honored for their outstanding work. Below are examples of student success and activities in SBS.

**Anthropology**

Graduate student, Heidi Bauer-Clapp will present a poster session at the Central States Anthropological Society meeting in Oxford, Ohio. Her poster presents research conducted with Dr. Paul Brown on changes in obstetrical elements of the human skeleton during human evolution.

Elizabeth Kolbe, a junior anthropology major, was awarded a Freeman Asia Scholarship to study in Thailand this spring semester. She is attending Webster University’s Thailand Campus where she is studying Thai language and culture.

For the past nine months Jason Kroning has been helping CAR (Community Assistance for Refugees) develop a web site. Several anthropology students have assisted Jason with this project as a part of their service learning.

Graduate student, Kyoko Soga presented a poster session at the American Anthropological Association meeting in Atlanta, GA. Her poster presents an ethnographic evaluation of the adult English as a Second Language (ESL) program at the Lincoln Community Center. She is working with Dr. Susan Schalge on the project.

**Economics**

Dr. Richard Schiming led his Central Banking course (spring 04) in a simulation of a Federal Open Market committee. Students chose appropriate monetary policy after analyzing the health of the economy. Students took on roles of policy analysts, members of the board of governors, and the chair of the Federal Open Market.

**Ethnic Studies**

Ethnic Studies student, Timothy Gardner completed an internship among natives in Brazil where he learned about the practice of Shamanism.

Mohamed Sallam did an internship at C.A.I.R. (Council on American Islamic Relations), a non-profit organization in Washington DC, which was “a wonderful experience to say the least.” The organization advocates civil rights for Muslim Americans and tries to better the image of Islam in the American media.

Sandy Vue did an internship related to fundraising for the APCC (Asian Pacific Cultural Center) in the Twin Cities, where she learned the procedures of how to run a large non-profit organization project. She noted that it can take many years to implement plans.
Geography

Lisa Kukowski, a double major in Geography and Urban and Regional Studies, is also working towards obtaining her Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership. Throughout her four years at MSU, she has been involved both with the school and the community. She has been accepted into the Alpha Lambda Delta Freshman Honor Society, the Gamma Theta Upsilon Geography Honor Society, and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

Graduate student, Hamid Yunus was awarded an ESRI student assistantship for their conference in California. He received free accommodations, an ESRI student assistantship for their conference Geography Honor Society, and the Phi Kappa Phi Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Project, moderate sessions and assist in other tasks during this annual conference.

Melanie Schimek has a double major in Geography and Earth Science with a minor in Geology. During the summer of 2003, she participated in the Juneau (Alaska) Icefield Research Program (JIRP) for 8 weeks, learning hand about glaciologic processes. During the summer of 2004, she spent six weeks in the Svalbard (Norwegian Protectorate) Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Project, funded by the National Science Foundation through Mount Holyoke College.

Gerontology

Anne Nowatzki, a Gerontology graduate student, presented her paper titled, “Amazing Grace: Reminiscence with Elders with Dementia,” at a Sociologists of Minnesota session in Red Wing, Minn.

History

Jason Doerre, a spring 2004 bachelor’s degree recipient (German and History) was awarded a 2004-05 Fulbright Teaching Assistantship Grant by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, to teach and study in Austria. It is the first time in MSU history that MSU students or recent grads have received Fulbright grants. While in Austria Jason attends the University of Salzburg and is doing research on the German Democratic Republic, using the information to develop his master’s thesis. He will spend the following two years at the University of Bowling Green (Ohio), where he will teach beginning German and plans to complete his German and History master’s degrees. “I attribute my good fortune to the wonderful staff of the MSU History Department, especially Dr. Larry Withrell, and to the Department of Modern Languages, especially Dr. Erika Berroth,” he said. “These professors went above and beyond normal expectations. Without their guidance I would not have received the Fulbright, or the assistantship at Bowling Green” (from the July 2004 MSU President’s Campus Newsletter).

Political Science/Law Enforcement

Political Science students, Brooke Borkenhagen, Jessica McLaren, and Brendan McLaughlin completed internships in legislative or campaign politics during spring and summer of 2004. In addition, 2004 Political Science alumnus, Shain Bestick, is currently completing an internship in the United States Senate.

Diana Clawson, Kemlin Hart, Katie George, Heather Jergensen, Ryan Price, Merit Raff, Joe Ulvi, and Dr. Fred Slocum completed a telephone survey on student use of technology and their opinions concerning technology on campus. A report of their research will be completed in spring of 2005.

Students Rhys Gaffer and Merit Raff of Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honorary Society) submitted a Chapter Activity Grant proposal to the Pi Sigma Alpha national office to support a banquet/speaker project in the spring. The proposal was funded, which is their fifth award in the past six years.

Five Law Enforcement students traveled to Chicago to attend the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences National Meetings, March 15-19. These students are members of Alpha Phi Sigma (the National Criminal Justice Honor Society).

Vice President Scott Olson with Truman and Reta Wood Scholarship winners Nicholas Lyons and Nicole Meyer, October, 2004

Psychology

The Department of Psychology believes that involvement in research and other professionally-related activities is very important for the growth of their students. Psychology undergraduate students are working on research with faculty and through the Junior Scholars Project. Nine undergraduates presented their own research at the 2004 MSU Undergraduate Research Conference and two students have already received undergraduate research funding this year.

Psi Chi and Psychology Club, two student organizations, planned a successful trip to Chicago last May to attend the Midwest Psychological Association convention and are in the process of planning another trip for May of 2005.

The graduate students in the clinical and I/O
Retiring
SBS faculty
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Winifred Mitchell
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Sociology programs are actively engaged in research and conference attendance. In November, nearly all of the clinical graduate students attended the Association for Advancement of Behavior Therapy conference in New Orleans where five of them presented research.

The I/O graduate students are planning to attend the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology conference in April where three students will present research. A trip to Singapore for early next summer is also in the planning process.

Graduate student, Nikki Moore and faculty member Kim O’Farrell attended the International Association for Relationships Research conference in Madison, Wis. Dr. O’Farrell organized a symposium titled, “From Metaperception to Forgiveness: Understanding Relational Devaluation” and in that Symposium, Nikki Moore presented, “Cognitive and Affective Benefits of Forgiveness: Recovering from Perceptions of Relational Devaluation.”

Psychology graduate students, Tammy Grady, Lauren Henderson, Adam Massie, Nikki Moore, Ryan Riley, and Jessica Rye and faculty members, Lisa Perez, Kim O’Farrell, and Dan Sachau attended a training session on using a computer program to manage online surveys in Madison, WI.

Social Studies
Secondary students learn from MSU pre-service social studies teachers — When pre-service teachers work in school settings it is important that their secondary students learn. Students in “Methods of Teaching Social Studies,” complete a clinical experience in a secondary school classroom where they design and deliver a lesson that fits with the class curriculum and addresses national standards. An independent reviewer analyzed the work of five students who completed their clinical last year and in each of the five cases, the reviewer determined that the objectives of the lesson were achieved. This bodes very well for the clinical teachers and their students as MSU social studies students move on to student teaching and work as a professional in a secondary school.

Brian Boothe (social studies teaching) came up with the idea for a new radio show on KMSU that began airing in the fall. The show called, “Human Race Radio,” addresses issues related to diversity in south central Minnesota.

Ann Litchfield (major in social studies teaching) joined 26 teachers from throughout the United States in a two week study tour of Europe focusing on WWII and the Holocaust. The summer study tour was led by Cor Suijk, a survivor of Nazi concentration camps.

Andy Welti, a 2003 Social Studies alumnus, won the election to the Minnesota State House of Representatives from district 30B (Plainview).

Social Work
The Social Work Club has been very active in community projects such as the Winter Clothing Drive for school children on the Pine Ridge Reservation, which raised carloads of needed clothing plus a nice supply of stuffed animals. The Phi Alpha Honor Society also sponsored a toy drive for the children served by the Theresa House homeless shelter.

Sinikka Nykanen, an exchange student from Finland, spent Fall semester as a senior in the program taking classes and doing an internship at CADA House domestic violence shelter. Opportunities exist for Social Work students to study in Helsinki at Sinikka’s University.

Lauren Mcnelly and Jan Schulte attended a prestigious Policy Analysis training program for women sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

Forty students attended the regional Minnesota Social Services Association conference in September and the statewide conference in March in the Twin Cities.

Stacy Beil, Alison Grow, Cassie Melchior and Heidi Scheffler were recognized by the department as “Welfare Scholars” based on the exceptional papers they wrote in SOWK-190.

Social Work honored Alumna of the Year, Pat Kuehl, a 1976 graduate of the program who works at St. Peter Regional Treatment Center.

SBS hosted a ceremony and reception for fall semester graduates on December 18. Robin Wingo and Chris Black-Hughes congratulate two of their graduating seniors.

Sociology & Corrections
During Fall Semester 15 students from Leah Rogne’s Applied Sociology class worked with area agencies on several community projects. Jennifer Gibson, Amy Miller, Jamie Matecha, Tina Nelson, Kirsten Hill, and Daniel Beil implemented a survey and conducted a series of interviews with board members for the St. Peter Healthy Community Alliance. Kris Giese, Elizabeth Taurer, and Cara Bruss worked with Reggie Edwards, Executive Director of Region 9 Development Commission helping facilitate a focus group on community indicators with area mayors. Elicia Janning, Natasha Aldrich,
Zachary Pagel, Jerry Hargreaves, Eric Biers, and Nik Proehl worked with Edwards and Region 9 on projects on alternative energy, transportation, and telepharmacy.

A dozen Sociology majors attended the Sociologists of Minnesota annual conference in Red Wing, MN. Graduate students, Nik Proehl presented, “Tattooing As a Model of Changing Moral Boundaries,” and Eric Bonds presented, “The Structure of Social Movement Opportunity.”

Dr. Leah Rogne organized a Sociologists of Minnesota session, “It’s Everywhere, It’s Everywhere! Applying Sociology to Create a Better World.” This session featured research from Sociology graduate students, Eric Bonds, Kim DeCock, and Steve Sullivan.

JOLT (Joint Opportunities to Learn and Thrive) is an exciting program co-sponsored by the Department of Sociology & Corrections and Blue Earth County Community Corrections. The program is in its second year and has very positive reviews from both the corrections agency and the students who are participating in it. The goal of the program is for students to establish an applied learning experience, including a mentor relationship with juvenile offenders in the community. The program is a creative way for students who are majoring in Corrections to develop a working relationship with people who work in the “real world” of community corrections.

Corrections students and Dr. Phillips mirthful at a JOLT activity

The Corrections Club sponsored an annual, day-long informational seminar entitled “Day of Issues,” February 16. The seminar included a variety of interesting speakers, including the warden and a corrections officer from the prison at Faribault, a caseworker from the juvenile corrections facility at Red Wing, a representative from the Hennepin County Drug Court, a probation officer/mental health screening specialist, and a therapist from the hospital at St. Peter.

URSI

The students enrolled in the Fall Studio course conducted background research for the City of Mankato Strategic Plan. This study was conducted by graduate students, Ben Baker, Lisa Hughes, Namibia Little and Nick Koktary.

Graduate students, Ellen Pillsbury and Jeanne Zwart conducted a transit needs analysis for the Greater Mankato United Way.

Mike Strodman and Kristi Wibben, Urban Studies graduate students, presented their research findings at a joint meeting of two state-wide planning organizations: the Urban Land Institute-Minnesota Chapter and the Sensible Land Use Coalition. Each student presented two case studies that illustrate “Not in My Back Yard” reactions by residents to controversial development projects.

Urban Studies graduate student, Miyoshi Thompson and Dr. Tony Filipovitch presented their research report, “Open Door Health Center Health Insurance Study,” to the Open Door Health Center in August 2004.

Two URSI students, Celme Divino and Teresa Menne were featured on the front page of the Free Press for their research and presentation on the results of the ACT 2000 initiative. These students under the direction of Dr. Bill Bernhagen “wanted to find out whether citizen engagement works, whether people can come together and get things done.” These students learned a lot and did some teaching of their own with Mankato as the student.

Women’s Studies

Students in the Women’s Studies Department have been engaged in a host of energetic extracurricular and learning activities this year.

The Women’s Studies department started an MSU chapter of Iota Iota Iota (Triota), the national women’s studies honor society and has inducted 23 students so far. Undergraduate students are also reviving the Women’s Studies Club as a recognized student organization.

In Summer 2004, seven students and three faculty members attended the National Women’s Studies Association conference in Milwaukee, WI. In Fall 2004, graduate students in WOST 600, Collective Action, created a directory of woman-owned and woman-operated businesses in the greater Mankato area. This document will benefit the businesses themselves and anyone who wishes to support them.

Dr. Susan Freeman received a CETL mini-grant to support the student project “Coming of Age in Minnesota in the Twentieth Century,” which is a multimedia oral history project being undertaken by students in two sections of Women’s Studies 251, Coming of Age: Gender and Culture. Eleven women’s stories of growing up in Minnesota are featured on an educational web site at www.mnsu.edu/mngirls/
We would like to thank all of those who supported the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences with pledges and/or continuing contributions.

Graduate student, Hannah Miyamoto, presented, “Comprehending Transgenerational Discourses among American Feminists, and Reviving Radical Feminism in the New Century,” on a panel at the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender conference in South Bend, Ind. Miyamoto is also co-chair of the Third Wave Feminisms Interest Group of the National Women’s Studies Association.

WALTER

Josh Jans, an undergraduate student of storm-chasing fame, had several of his video clips requested by Towers Productions of Chicago — a production house which supplies CNN and The Weather Channel with much of their on-air video footage. He was also featured on the front page of the Toledo Times (Ohio), and the Free Press (Mankato) for his summer storm-chasing experiences.

Scott Winter, an undergraduate geography and aviation student, won an American Meteorological Society Travel Scholarship to attend the Aviation/Severe Storms Conference in Hyannis, MA.

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Mark and Barbara Traxler
Bart and Lynne Trench
Paul Tragen and Natalia Romanova
Brian Trusinsky
Mischele and Christopher Ulrich
Kevin Vacura
Allan and Linda Van Lear
Mitchell and Tracey Voehl
Bradley and Brenda Volden
Richard and Karen Wachal
Debra Anderson Waggoner
Amy Waibl
Robert Waibel and Rita Steffen
Rodney Walker
Lisa Walsh
Betty and Scott Walter
Don and Judith Webber
Lori Weber
Dianne and Larry Weide

Brenda and Phillip Weiler
James and Deanne Weisser
Maggie Weller
A Theodore and Kathleen Welte
Mark Welte
John Wettlaufer
Mark and Karen Wettlaufer
Garrison Whyte
Nancy Wick
Wayne Wicka
Sharlyn and Charlie Widmer
Peggy Wild
Charles and Maria Williams
John and Katherine Williams
Richard and Brenda Williams
Richard Willman
Mark Winter and Diane Oakley
Richard and Lois Wintersteen
Wayne and Joan Wittman
Bradley and Lorrie Wnuk
Michelle Wohlbrabe
Roland and Elizabeth Wold
Dean Wolf
Jay and Debbie Woodwick
Harold and Lorene Worke
Dennis and Sally Wrucek
Robert Wuornos
Ying and Choua Yang
Yi and Yuching You
John and Linda Zachow
Barbara Zahn
Robert and Sharon Zelenka
Gary and Mary Zellmer
Thomas and Mary Zins

**SBS Career Day**

Over 30 exhibitors and 14 panels participated in the 2005 Career Day. Thank you to Advising “U” for organizing this successful event.

*SBS Career Day was held February 2, 2005*
Scholarship Spotlight

Thinking of scholarships as just money for students is like thinking of an iceberg as just a source of ice cubes or a cathedral as just a place to sing hymns: You’re missing the big picture.

You see, a scholarship isn’t just cash, it’s transformation. In fact, it can be a Big Bang that pulses through a student’s entire life.

Let’s imagine a student with no scholarships. She has to take out loans to meet the rising tide of tuition, which will take years to pay off. To minimize those loans, she feels a grinding pressure to work 20, 30, even 40 hours a week in a part-time job.

That hurts performance in the classroom and can prolong the time it takes to earn a degree, which rolls up even more debt and delays her first full-time job and its paychecks. And so on.

Now let’s give a student a scholarship — financial support that comes with few or no strings attached. It reduces his loans, and because it doesn’t have to be paid off later, he focuses more on studies and obsesses less about part-time work. Not only that, it often speeds up the time it takes to graduate and enter the job market.

And here’s what might be the Biggest Bang of a scholarship: The student has more time to explore the intellectual excitement and employment possibilities of a course of study. In short, more time can mean more learning and more transformation — of a life.

Is that not a big bang for your scholarship buck?

SBS Scholarship Luncheon

SBS students, faculty, and SBS Advisory Board members attended a April 27, 2004, luncheon reception honoring scholarship donors. This year a dinner reception is scheduled April 28 at 5:00 p.m. in the CSU Ballroom.

SBS Students Committed to Service

Below is an e-mail I received from Dr. Dan Sachau about his I/O Psychology students.

Dr. Wagner

“...I do not think that I have ever been prouder of our students. Check this out: we are planning to go to Singapore in May. We will visit a variety of organizations that are involved in consulting and industrial psychology. I asked the students what they would like to do with their free weekend. They could have easily asked to go to one of the many tropical islands in the area. Instead, they came up with the idea of helping with the disaster relief in Thailand. We are now in contact with an aid agency and it looks like we may spend part of our time in the villages of Bang Tao and Kamala helping rebuild schools and homes. I will keep you updated as we learn more.”
Spring 2005 Events: SBS Conferences and Symposia

1st Annual Carol O. Perkin's Lecture
An Evening with Kathy Najimy
with introduction by Carol Perkins
Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 P.M., Ted Paul Theatre

SBS Advisory Board Lectureship: Mankato and Beyond Six Months Across the Arctic:
Delivering an Adventure Learning Program to Millions of Students from a Tent
presented by
Dr. Aaron Doering, Education Director
2004 Artic Transect Expedition
Wednesday, March 30, 11:00 A.M.
Ostrander Auditorium

26th Annual SBS Frontier Forum
Public Financing and Sports Franchise Values
presented by
Dr. Phillip Miller, Department of Economics
Thursday, March 24, 7:30 P.M.
CSU Ballroom

SBS Scholarship Dinner
Thursday, April 28, 5:00 P.M., CSU Ballroom

Department of History Symposium
France and the French
Friday, April 29

For current information about upcoming and past events in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, please visit our events web site at: www2.mnsu.edu/csocbeh/SBSNews&Events.htm