Student Activities

PSYCHOLOGY

Tera Brown, I/O Psychology, was selected to represent our college with her thesis at the university-level selection for the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award.

WALTER WEATHER LAB

Joshua Jans and Randy Hill were among storm chasers during an outbreak of tornadoes near Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This storm caused significant damage to several homes and farms. The team’s footage and photos can be found at www.mnchasers.org.

Joshua Jans and Scott Winter appeared on ALMANAC on TCP Channel 2, August 25 for their storm chasing during the tornadoes in south central Minnesota.

DEAN’S OFFICE

Elizabeth Lindstrom has been awarded the MSU Academic Affairs Division, Outstanding Student Employee Award for 2006. Congratulations Liz!

Faculty and Department Activities

ANTHROPOLOGY

New Anthropology Faculty

Sebastian (Bronco) LeBeau, a doctoral student at the University of Minnesota, is joining the anthropology department as a recipient of the Office of Institutional Diversity’s Pre-Doctoral Fellowship. Mr. LeBeau, a Lakota Native American from the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation, will be teaching ethnography courses as well as special courses on Lakota language and culture. As a 2005 graduate of MSU’s Masters program in Anthropology, he developed a revolutionary method of identifying and analyzing Lakota traditional cultural properties and sacred sites using a combination of traditional Lakota and scientific archaeological methods. Mr. LeBeau is a recognized spiritual leader and expert on Lakota culture and history.

ECONOMICS


Ken Park received a SBS Research Reassignment for his project titled, “Gasoline Price as a Leading Indicator of Mortgage Rate.”

GEOGRAPHY

Donald Friend was elected to the governing Council of the Association of American Geographers. The Geography department hosted a reception honoring this accomplishment on September 21.

Martin Mitchell received a SBS Research Reassignment for his project titled, “The Black Hills: Sketches of a Region.”
HISTORY


Larry Witherell was a joint winner of the Parliamentary History Essay Prize for his article, “Sir Henry Page Croft and the Conservative Backbench Campaign.”

New History Faculty

Tammy Byron is serving MSU as a new fixed term faculty member in the history department. Tammy is ABD from the University of Arkansas. She received her BA and MA from MSU, and she is very familiar with the university and area since she is originally from New Ulm. Tammy teaches survey course in U.S. History, in which she has a considerable amount of experience in.

POLITICAL SCIENCE/LAW ENFORCEMENT


Eiji Kawabata received a SBS Research Reassignment for his project titled, “Identity and Politics of Recognition in Southeast Asia.”

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by Conrad Defeubre of the Minneapolis Star Tribune about occupational backgrounds of Minnesota Legislative candidates, September 27, 2006.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by Mark Zdechlik of Minnesota Public Radio for a story on a MPR/St. Paul Pioneer Press poll on President Bush’s approval ratings, Sept. 25.


Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by Jim McCann of KEYC TV about primary election turnout, September 13, 2006.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by Kevin Diaz of the Washington Bureau and Minneapolis Star Tribune profiling Senate and congressional election contests, September 11, 2006.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by Laura McCollem of Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) about challengers and favorites in upcoming party primary elections, September 7, 2006.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by Dane Smith of the Minneapolis Star Tribune analyzing the first TV ad of DFL gubernatorial candidate, Mike Hatch.

PSYCHOLOGY

Kevin Filter received an award as an Early Career Scholar from the Society for the Study of School Psychology. The award includes and honorarium to attend the 2007 School Psychology Research Collaboration Conference in New York.

Vinai Norasakkunkit received a SBS Research Reassignment for his project titled, “Pictorial vs. Verbal Priming: Standardizing an Experimental Priming Procedure in the United States and Japan.”

Sarah Sifers received a SBS Research Grant for her project titled, “Protective Factors for Children Exposed to Stressful Life Events.”

SOCIOLOGY/CORRECTIONS

James Burnett received a SBS Research Grant for his project titled, “Community as Sacred Space.”

The department of Sociology and Corrections hosted a lecture by Dr. Dana Houck, Jungian Analyst, September 21, in the CSU Ostrander Auditorium. James Burnett, Sociology & Corrections organized this lecture.

SOCIAL WORK

Debra Gohagan and Paul Mackie are developing and piloting a new D2L-based course for BSW consortium Title IV-E Child Welfare Scholars. This Honors Reading course focuses on educating child welfare students about the importance of the Indian Child Welfare Act, including policy and practice implications as well as current interpretations of the law as it applies to child welfare social workers.

Paul Mackie was quoted by the Mankato Free Press concerning his ongoing work to organize a rezoning effort in the Washington Park neighborhood, September 26, 2006.

URSI


WOMEN’S STUDIES

Maria Bevacqua has been elected chair of Ethics, Equity, and Diversity for the National Women’s Studies Association. As EE&D chair, she is a member of the NWSA’s board of directors.

Maria Bevacqua organized the panel, “Queer Diversity in Context,” and delivered a paper titled, “Queering ‘Diversity’ on a University Campus,” at the National Women’s Studies Association meeting, June 15-18, 2006.

Susan Freeman was interviewed by a reporter for the New York Times about the label “slut” and the sexual double standard for young women. The article appeared, July 13, 2006.

New Women’s Studies Faculty

Christine Metzo earned her BA at Ripon College, MAs in Philosophy and Geography at the University of Kentucky and is ABD at the University of Kentucky. She comes to MSU via Gustavus Adolphus College where she has taught for the past two years. Her primary areas of interest are in philosophy of the body, feminist theory, motherhood and the maternal body, and masculinity. She expects to defend her dissertation, entitled “Bodily Being: Understanding Living Human Materiality through a Feminist Phenomenological Analysis of Pregnant Embodiment,” in the early spring.

College Activities

Advising “U” won the MSU office decorating competition for Homecoming. Special thanks to Melanie George, graduate assistant in Advising “U” who coordinated the effort. Thanks also to student staff in Advising “U” and the Dean’s Office who helped with the decorating. Please stop by Advising “U” to learn a little about MSU in decades gone by.

The Kessel Peace Institute sponsored the 9/11 Memorial with the intent to reflect on the meaning and impact of the tragedies. The memorial started with speeches from Dr. Jackie Vieceli, a Political Science/Law Enforcement professor and James Burnett, a Sociology and Corrections professor. Dr. Barbara Carson, Sociology & Corrections, who helped organize the memorial, also presented.

GA’s Decorating for Homecoming

James Burnett and Jackie Vieceli