Student Activities

ETHNIC STUDIES

HISTORY

SOCIAL WORK
The Social Work Club participated in a five mile walk for MS on May 7, 2006. The walkers and the club raised 880 dollars for the cause.

SOCIOLOGY AND CORRECTIONS
James Burnett (faculty member) and Tonya Phillips spoke at Leading into New Communities Inc. Wilmington, NC, August 2006. This non-profit organization offers services to individuals returning to the community after incarceration. They also offer an intensive after-school program for at-risk teens.

URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES
Afton Enger was named McNair Scholar of the Year in May, 2006.

WALTER WEATHER LAB
Joshua Jans and Scott Winter were in the heart of the storm that caused extensive damage in south central Minnesota on August 24, 2006. The storm chasers were able to track over half a dozen touch-downs and posted a video at http://www.mnsu.edu/weather/StormChase/mntornado.mov

Faculty and Department Activities

ECONOMICS

New Economics Faculty
William Brennan received his MS and his PhD in Economics from the University of Texas at Austin. He received his BS in Mathematics and Economics from University of Notre Dame. Dr. Brennan’s areas of interest include Industrial Organization and Game Theory. His PhD dissertation was on “Airline Pricing and Capacity Behav-
ior.” Dr. Brennan will teach courses in Macroeconomics and other areas as needs develop.

Kwang-II Choe received his PhD in Economics from Texas A & M University in 2003. For the next three years he taught in the Department of Economics and Finance at the University of Texas Pan America. Dr. Choe’s areas of interest include International Finance. Inter-temporal Risk Return Analysis and Financial Contagions. He will teach in the areas of Macroeconomics and other courses in Financial Economics as they are developed.

ETHNIC STUDIES

POLITICAL SCIENCE/LAW ENFORCEMENT


Joseph Kunkel was interviewed for a story about Congressman Gutknecht and the DM&E Railroad issue by Martiga Lohn, Associated Press, August 23, 2006.


Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by Kevin Diaz, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Washington Bureau, for a story about the Congressman Gil Gutknecht’s changing position on the Iraq war, August 9, 2006.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by Tom Scheck of Minnesota Public Radio for a story analyzing the new television ads for U.S. Senate candidates Mark Kennedy and Amy Klobuchar, July 25, 2006.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by Tom Scheck of Minnesota Public Radio for a story about the Stem Cell Research Issue and its possible impact on the Klobuchar-Kennedy Senate race, July 19, 2006.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by KEYC TV for a story about Matt Entenza dropping out of the Attorney General’s race and problems with the party endorsement, July 19, 2006.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by Brian Backs of the Associated Press, on the State Republican Convention and DFL state convention, May 30, 2006.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by Mitch Keegan of KEYC TV about the relationship between the legislature’s on-time adjournment and the approaching elections, May 22, 2006.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by Fred Frommer of the Associated Press for an article about Rep. Mark Kennedy’s attempts to associate Amy Klobuchar with incumbent Democratic Senator Mark Dayton, as another extreme liberal, in the U.S. Senate race, August 25, 2006.

Fred Slocum chaired the panel, “Racial Stereotypes and Feelings Toward Outgroups,” at the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago, IL, April 20-23, 2006.

Fred Slocum, completed the 2005-2006 Leadership Institute of Greater Mankato, May 17, 2006. Slocum was awarded an Institute scholarship from the MSU President’s Office.


New Political Science/Law Enforcement Faculty
Gary Zellmer who will be serving MSU as a fixed term faculty member in the political science program. Mr. Zellmer is replacing Avra Johnson who is on administrative leave as interim Assistant Vice President for Planning. Mr. Zellmer comes to MSU after a distinguished career in the private sector along with substantial experience in government. He holds a Master of Arts degree in public administration from MSU. He completed a career with the Taylor Corporation after some thirty years of service, retiring as the senior vice president of marketing. Professor Zellmer has held many government positions including service as a North Mankato City Council member and he is currently the Mayor of North Mankato. Mr. Zellmer will be working with political science and public administration students.

PSYCHOLOGY
Dawn Albertson was awarded a competitive Early Career Scholarship from the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology.


SOCIAL STUDIES

SOCIAL WORK
The Department of Social Work will offer the first Master of Social Work Degree in a MnSCU institution. The new program, to start in fall 2007, will prepare students for advanced generalist social work practice, providing clinical practice and administration, with an emphasis on practice in rural and small communities.

Annelies Hagemeister delivered the keynote address for the Anniversary Celebration of the Kami M. Talley Reading and Resource Center, Minneapolis, MN, May 10, 2006.
SOCIOTHERY AND CORRECTIONS


Afroza Anwary presented a paper titled “Girls for Sale in Bangladesh: Network of Global, Regional, and Local Human Rights Advocacy Groups and the Transformation of Trafficking Policies,” at the American Sociological Association meeting, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, August 10-14, 2006.


New Sociology & Corrections Faculty

James Burnett came to Minnesota State Mankato as a graduate student in 1996 with the intention of becoming an activist scholar. Ten years has passed and he is now working on completing his Ph.D. in Sociology from South Dakota State University concentrating in Cultural Ecology and Deviance. The department has been fortunate to have James teaching with us the past two years as a Pre-Doctoral Fellow. He brings a great deal of energy and enthusiasm to the department and will be teaching this year in the Corrections Program (Introduction to CJS, Criminology and Penology).

Paul Prew earned his BA at Wisconsin-LaCrosse, his MA at MSU, Mankato, and his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Oregon. His primary areas of specialization are developing areas and the environment from a Political Economy perspective. He is interested in learning how a society organizes the flow of natural resources through the society and the environmental destruction it causes. Paul recently returned from two weeks in Ecuador, where he spent time with the Sarayacu tribe, who are fighting against oil extraction in their territory. He hopes to return to get a better understanding of how they are attempting to manage their environmental resources as the pressure to defend themselves demands they adopt certain market strategies to raise revenue and provide resources for themselves.

New Gerontology Faculty

James Tift is the Director of Gerontology/Center on Aging for the coming year. Jim has a Bachelor's in psychology and a Master's in Gerontology (University of South Florida). Jim is a former staff member of the State Board on Aging and has taught as a Community Faculty Member in Human Services at Metro State University since 1979. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Inver Hills Community College. He did the 1984 Program Review for Minnesota State Mankato's Gerontology Program.

URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES


Tony Filipovich was appointed by the Mankato City Council to the City Center Renaissance Stakeholder Task Force. The Task Force is charged with reviewing and presenting to the Council a plan for renovating downtown Mankato and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Tony Filipovich facilitated a community planning session for the City of Waseca on Renewable Fuels on May 4, 2006.

Tony Filipovich was named McNair Mentor of the Year in May, 2006.


Miriam Porter presented “Manager as Civic Educator” at the Minnesota City and County Manager’s annual conference in Brainerd, MN, May 10-12, 2006.


Miriam Porter served as a Junior Editor for the International Journal of Humanities, 2005-2006.

New Urban and Regional Studies Faculty

Beth Wielde is joining URSI as an assistant professor in the areas of urban design and historic preservation. She holds an MA in Urban Studies from URSI and is a doctoral candidate at Hamline University in Public Administration. Her dissertation is on the representation of public managers in American film. Prior to this year, she has been a pre-doctoral fellow at MSUM and has worked for 5 years for the City of Eagan in Parks and Open Space Planning.
The College of Social & Behavioral Sciences held a picnic August 22, 2006, at Sibley Park.

**Years of Service Awards**

15 years
Melodie Andrews, History
Cynthia Miller, Geography

20 years
Clark Johnson, Social Studies

25 years
Paul Brown, Anthropology
Ashok Chowdhury, Economics

35 years
Branko Colakovic, Geography
Steve Vassar, Sociology & Corrections
Doug Wallen, Psychology

The college welcomed John Alessio, Dean to Minnesota State University, Mankato and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, July 17, 2006.

*SBS Faculty and staff attended the 2006 fall college meeting August 21. New college members were introduced and faculty and staff members were honored for years of service. (Kim Greer pictured congratulating Steve Vassar.)*