

# GOOD NEWS

## Student Activities

### HISTORY

*Tracey Hammell's* research, "Amelia Bowling and the One Thousand Acre Forest," was chosen to be honored as a President's Commission on the Status of Women, 2008 Graduate Student Project of the Year.

### POLITICAL SCIENCE/LAW ENFORCEMENT

Eleven students from **Tom Ingot's** classes "Russia and Neighboring States," and "U.S. Foreign Policy," took part in the special Call-In Conference with Professor Michael McFaul of Stanford University. The program, "Putin's Russia," was sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations.

*Justin Ludwigson* accompanied by **Kevin Parsneau** and **Fred Slocum** attended a lecture, "What the American Public Really Thinks About Global Climate Change: Evidence from 10 Years of National Surveys Illuminating the Psychology of Opinion Change," at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, March 7. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Jon Krosnick, Stanford University.

*Justin Newman* and *Ryan Wiesen*, accompanied by **Fred Slocum**, attended the Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference at Wartburg College, Waverly, IA, March 14-15. **Ryan Wiesen** presented his paper, "A Comparison of Pension Reform: Hungary and Russia."

### SOCIAL STUDIES

**Clark Johnson** co-presented with graduate students *Sara Buechmann*, *Mitch Hofer*, and *Morgan Winkworth*, at the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies Conference, Shakopee, March 7. The session title was, "Developing Good Judgment: An Examination of the Immigration Raids at the Swift Plant in Worthington, Minnesota, December 2006."

### SOCIOLOGY

Sociology students, *Ray Sin*, *Jessica Friton*, *Thad Shunkwiler*, and *Matt Lust* won first place in the Sociologists of Minnesota Problem Solving Contest and received certificates and prizes of \$50 each.



*Ray Sin, Jessica Friton, Leah Rogne (faculty sponsor), Thad Shunkwiler, and Matt Lust*

### WHO'S WHO

This year SBS faculty nominated 35 students to *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*, based on their academic excellence and potential for future achievements.



This month’s excerpts from the faculty nominations statements are below:

**Jason Nelson** (Economics) is an exceptional student and volunteers outside the classroom. Jason assisted with designing and executing a fund raiser for the Campus Kitchen program and volunteers as an intramural referee. He is also active in his church as a Sunday school teacher, usher, and reader.

**Katie Leonard** (Geography) enjoys constructive feedback and works hard to improve herself at every turn. Dedication, rising to challenges and achievement above the norm is her qualities. She is bright, articulate, and interested in environment with a strong desire to communicate with others through research and teaching.

**Meghan Turok** (History) has channeled her energy into achieving success. She is a recipient of two awards (the Undergraduate Research Conference and the President’s Commission on the Status of Women) used for her research

proposal on women in eighteenth-century Dijon, France.

**Matthew Johnston** (Political Science) is a good writer and an eager learner. Highly motivated Matthew is intellectually very curious. He gets excited by the exchange of ideas and is a frequent contributor to the class discussions.

**Shannon Finnegan** (Social Studies) is preparing to teach secondary social studies and is able to design effective strategies to teach young people. She has extensive experience working with young people as a director of plays and coach of “theater sports,” tutoring immigrant students, and years of volunteering at a self-esteem camp for youth.

**Rachel Cox** (Social Work) is a very serious student who goes beyond class expectations and aspires to graduate school. She has continuously been on the Dean’s List and is actively involved in volunteer activities in the communities, on campus, and in region.

**Jennifer Hartman** (Social Work) is a member of both the Social Work Club and Phi Alpha National Social Work Honor. She is a recipient of Minnesota Social Service Association Scholarship for 2007-2008 and has been on the Dean’s List since 2004. She participates in a variety of social improvement activities.

**Janice Kuehl** (Sociology) is a non-traditional student who has been attending college part-time and is a fine student always exceeding course expectations. She also has a history of ongoing community activism and volunteer service work.

**Laura Tenney** (Urban and Regional Studies) has earned and maintained a high GPA in the midst of a great deal of community service, including Campus Kitchens and service work through her sorority. She also serves as the president of SURSI (Students of the Urban and Regional Studies Institute).

## Faculty and Department Activities

### ECONOMICS

**Saleheen Khan’s** article, “Was China the First Domino? Revisiting the Asian Currency Crisis,” was published in *Economics Letters*, 39 (3): 275-281, March 2008.

**Saleheen Khan** presented, “Immigration, Wages, and Economic Growth: Evidence from US Data,” at the Midwest Economics Association Meeting, Chicago, March 2008.

**Saleheen Khan** presented, “Contagious Currency Crisis: How Important Is Trade Channel?” at the Midwest Economics Association Meeting, Chicago, March 2008.

**Saleheen Khan** discussed a paper, “Assessing the Impact of Development Cooperation: The Case of African Growth and Opportunity Act and U.S. Imports from Sub-Saharan Africa,” by Bichaka Fayissa, from Middle Tennessee State University, at the Midwest Economics Association Meeting, Chicago, March 2008.

### GEOGRAPHY

**Branko Colakovic** was honored with a profile in the *American Srbobran* (v.MMVIII, 16586, p.26), the flagship publication of the Serb National Federation. He was recognized as an outstanding “Serb American Writer.”

**Fei Yuan** is serving as the proof reader for Mandarin translations of all abstracts of articles published in the *Professional Geographer* (beginning with v.60 n.1) and in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* (beginning with v.98 n.1).

**Fei Yuan** received a MSU Summer Research Grant for her project, “Finding a Sustainable Way to Future Growth of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Using Remote Sensing and GIS.” The \$5,000 grants are funded by the College of Graduate Studies & Research.



## HISTORY

**Lori Ann Lahlum** received a MSU Summer Research Grant for her project, "Norwegian Women's Landscape and Agriculture on the Northern Prairies and Plains: 1850-1920." The \$5,000 grants are funded by the College of Graduate Studies & Research.

## POLITICAL SCIENCE/LAW ENFORCEMENT

**Tom Inglot** received a MSU Summer Research Grant for his project, "Welfare State Transformations and Adaptations in Central and Eastern Europe (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia)." The \$5,000 grants are funded by the College of Graduate Studies & Research.

**Joseph Kunkel** was interviewed March 20 by Pat Congdon, *Associated Press* about the U.S. Senate race from Minnesota, strategies, challenges and opportunities, particularly for Senator Norm Coleman.

**Fred Slocum** presented, "Authoritarian Predispositions, Militarism, Race and Religion: Explaining Republican Realignment in the South," at the Southern Political Science Association conference, New Orleans, January 10-12.

**Fred Slocum** has eight articles published in the nine-volume *International Encyclopedia of Social Sciences*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2008 (Farmington Hills, MI: Thomson Gale Publishing). Slocum's articles are, "Civil Rights," "Dealignment," "Public Opinion," "Polling," "The New Deal," "Law and Order," "The Southern Strategy," and "Southern Politics."

**Fred Slocum's** article, "Authoritarianism and Resistance to Diversity in the American South," was published in the

*Forum on Public Policy* online edition (spring 2007), <http://www.forumonpublicpolicy.com/archivespring07/slocum.pdf>.

**Fred Slocum** was interviewed on January 25 by *KEYC-TV*, for a February 5 story on cooperation between the DFL and Republican Parties to promote Minnesota's caucuses.

**Fred Slocum** was interviewed by the *MSU Reporter* for a February 14 story on the process of choosing the presidential nominees.

**Fred Slocum** presented, "The Constitution and the Impeachment Process," at the Kessel Peace Institute's teach-in on the Constitution, March 3.

**Fred Slocum** presented on "Southern Politics" to two College in the Schools (CIS) American Government classes at Belle Plaine High School, March 10.

## PSYCHOLOGY

**Dawn Albertson** completed a successful first year as creator and director of MSU's new Brain Awareness Program, whose purpose is to convey enthusiasm for science in elementary schools. They were able to reach out to nearly 40 classes in the southern Minnesota area and make contact with nearly 800 students.

**Kevin J. Filter** received a "Certificate of Commendation" from the Office of the Governor, State of Minnesota, given by Alice Seagren, Commissioner of Education on March 25. The commendation is in recognition of Dr. Filter's contribution as one of three trainers and state leadership team members for the Minnesota School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Initiative.

## SOCIAL WORK

**Robin R. Wingo's** presentation, "Developing a Continuum of Social Work Field Education Opportunities, Undergraduate – Graduate," was juried in and presented at the Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors, Conference, Destin, FL.

## SOCIOLOGY

**Emily Boyd** received a MSU Summer Research Grant for her project, "Transforming Masculinity and Femininity on Extreme Makeover." The \$5,000 grants are funded by the College of Graduate Studies & Research.

**James Burnett** and **Bill Wagner** presented, "The Critical Thinking Tool Box: A Method for Thinking the Unthinkable," at the Professional Development Conference sponsored by the Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning, Bloomington, MN, February 16.

## URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES

**Janet Cherrington** has been elected chair of the Planning Commission in the City of Janesville. She served as vice-chair in 2006 and 2007.

**Miriam Porter** presented the Public Achievement model at the AmeriCorps Youth Civic Engagement Workshop, Mankato, MN, March 17.

## WOMEN'S STUDIES

**Susan Freeman's** upcoming book, "Sex Goes to School," was chosen to be honored as a President's Commission on the Status of Women, 2008 Faculty Project of the Year and it is scheduled to be published by the *University of Illinois Press*.



## College and Joint Departmental Activities

The *College of Social Behavioral Sciences* hosted the first annual Emeriti, Faculty and Staff Donor Recognition Reception on March 19.



*Dr. Branko Colakovic, Geography and alumnus  
Dr. Aaron Doering, who serves on the SBS Advisory  
Board Fundraising Committee*



*Dr. John Alessio, Dean; and Susan Taylor, Development Director*

The *Kessel Peace Institute* and the *College of Social Behavioral Sciences* co-sponsored, “Creating Peace in our Communities, Work Places, and World,” by Lama Shenpen Drolma on March 27.



*Dr. Jackie Vieceli introduces Lama Shenpen Drolma*

The *Kessel Peace Institute*, the *Department of Women's Studies*, the Women's Center, and the Pakistan Student Association sponsored, “Remembering Benazir Bhutto: A Community speak-Out,” on March 26 to commemorate her life during Women’s History Month.