Student Activities

POLITICAL SCIENCE/LAW ENFORCEMENT

Alyssa George, Justin Ludwigson, Justin Newman and Ryan Wiesen, with Fred Slocum, attended the Midwest Political Science Association conference, Chicago, April 3-6.

Nathan J. Madden, mentored by Tomasz Inglot, won the award for the best paper in Session 3: Business, Economics, Law Enforcement and Political Science, at the MSU Undergraduate Research Conference.

PSYCHOLOGY

Laura Grubbs, accompanied by Dawn Albertson, attended the National Undergraduate Research Conference, Salisbury, MD. Laura presented a talk on their work, “Individual Experiences and Subjective Effects of Salvia Divinorum among Recreational Users.”

Laura Grubbs (faculty mentor Dawn Albertson) presented a research poster titled, “Individual Experiences and Subjective Effects of Salvia Divinorum among Recreational Users,” at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference, Chicago, IL, May-3.

Erin Salonek (faculty mentors Dawn Albertson and Emily Stark) presented a research poster titled, “Understanding Attitudes Toward Drug Use,” at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference, Chicago, IL, May-3.

Kaley VanDenBerg and Laura Grubbs, research students of Emily Stark and Dawn Albertson, won "Best Presentation" awards at the MSU Undergraduate Research Conference.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Ann Litchfield (2005 alum) received a National History Day Teacher of Merit award and was selected to go to Washington DC for the National History Day Competition in June. The award is for, “commitment and teaching in the furthering of historical knowledge …through National History Day.”

Andy Welti (2003 alum) was named one of the 2008 MSU Distinguished Alumni Award winners for exceptional achievement and contributions to his professions and communities. Andy is the youngest member of the Minnesota House of Representatives as well as substitute teacher.

SOCIAL WORK

Paul F.E. Mackie & MacKenzie Collin, a senior social work student presented, “Teaching ICWA Online: Undergraduate child welfare student learning” at the National Indian Child Welfare Association Conference, Minneapolis, April 22.

SOCIOLOGY & CORRECTIONS

Jessica Friton was a panelist for, “Surviving Graduate School Panel II,” during student presentations at the Midwest Sociological Society meeting, March 27–30, St. Louis, MO. The panel was co-sponsored by the Student Issues Committee and co-organized by Megan Sieberg.
**Ashley Gutknecht** was a panelist for, “Surviving Graduate School Panel I,” during student presentations at the Midwest Sociological Society meeting, March 27–30, St. Louis, MO.

**Megan Sieberg** presented, “Students’ Grade Point Averages and Their Relationship to Extracurricular Participation,” during student presentations at the Midwest Sociological Society meeting, March 27–30, St. Louis, MO.

On April 19, the **JOLT Class** participated in the Million Trees for Mankato project. JOLT (Joint Opportunities to Learn and Thrive), jointly taught by Michele Schraeder, and Liz McCormick (probation officers with Blue Earth County Probation Office) and **Barbara Carson** is a course where Corrections majors mentor local youth on probation and are mentored by Blue Earth County probation officers. Tree planting volunteers included class members, mentored youth and faculty.

**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:

**Vanessa Nagel** (Economics) is an accomplished scholar who is willing to make the university and community a better place. She is an active participant in Junior Achievement, Habitat for Humanity, and the Campus Lutheran Chapel.

**Timothy Taggart** (Geography) is not only an exceptional student with excellent writing skills, but his talents also include music. Tim’s skills and pleasant personality make him an obvious candidate for this honor.

**Robbe Nessler** (History) has excelled in nearly all of his courses at MSU. In addition to carrying a full course load, Robbe works nearly full time as a project typesetter at Navitor Midwest.

**Melanie Garcia** (Social Studies) is able to draw upon a wide range of experience and apply it to teaching secondary social studies. She returned to college after serving overseas in the U.S. Navy and her confidence and professionalism stands out among her peers.

**Elisha Peterson** (Social Studies Teaching) quickly and thoroughly understands difficult concepts and complex historical circumstances. As a “coach” with Public Achievement, Elisha is particularly good at creating a strong community of learners.

**Jennifer Othoudt** (Social Work) is an excellent student, active in several student organizations. She held executive positions in many of these and helped plan and organize events. Professionally, she is developing a background which will help her work with diverse group of people.

**Jese Stam** (Social Work) has interned/volunteered for the Rice County Children’s Mental Health program, where she conducted skills groups and health education groups. She is also active in community education and integration programs for displaced Somali youth.

**Jenna Covey** (Sociology) is a fine, bright and articulate student who brings thoughtful and insightful comments in the classroom. She is a very hardworking and talented young scholar who goes beyond the expectations of the courses.

**Angela Losasso** (Women’s Studies) has made important contributions to the campus and Mankato communities. She completed a community internship as MSU representative for the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League to bring awareness to reproductive rights issues.

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

The Minnesota State Mankato 2008 Undergraduate Research Conference was held April 21-22. The following SBS students presented papers or poster sessions at the conference.

A Comparative Approach to Understanding the Determinants of Social Policy Retrenchment in the United Kingdom and Spain, **Justin Ludwigson** (Political Science), Tomasz Inglot, Faculty Mentor.

Trends and Volatility: Measuring the Housing Market Using the GARCH Model, **Jonathon Euerle** (Economics), Ken Park, Faculty Member

How do individuals make investment decisions? **Amin Abdul-Mohomed** (Economics), Kwang-Woo (Ken), Park Faculty Mentor. *Recipient of Undergraduate Research Conference Small Grant

Determinants of Traffic Fatalities in the U.S. **Hanna Stapleton** (Economics), Kwang Woo (Ken), Park Faculty Mentor. *Recipient of Minnesota State University, Mankato Foundation Grant

Institutional Arrangements Make the Difference: A Comparative Study of Health Care Policy and Provision in the Netherlands and France, **Nathan J. Madden** (Political Science), Tomasz Inglot, Faculty Mentor.
Winter Decomposition Rate of Submerged Bodies in Cold Weather Climates, Jason Hamond (Anthropology), Katherine Blue, Faculty Mentor.

Rates of slope erosion near the new Sears Dormitory on the campus of Minnesota State University, Mankato, Neil Gessner, Dan Krumwiede, and Dan O’Connor (Geography), Forrest Wilkerson and Ginger Schmid, Faculty Mentors. *Recipient of Undergraduate Research Conference Large Grant

Priming the Bicultural Mind, Miwako Fujikata (Psychology), Vinai Norasakkunkit, Faculty Mentor. *Recipient of Undergraduate Research Conference Small Grant

Self and emotional experience: A study of socially engaging and disengaging emotions and their relation to the self using explicit and implicit measures, Dan Ellis (Psychology), Vinai Norasakkunkit, Faculty Mentor.

Cross Cultural Adolescent Reinforcers, Kari Ek (Psychology), Daniel Houlihan, Faculty Mentor.

The Significance of Red Ochre Found on Skeletal Remains Excavated at the Helget Site (21BW82), Brown County, MN, Marcy Voelker (Anthropology), Kathleen Blue, Faculty Mentor.

Examining the Relationship between Perfection, Control and Anxiety, Katey Scheller (Psychology), Barry Ries, Faculty Mentor.

A cross-cultural study between Japan and the United States examining how culture influences what categories of Emotions are Valued, Julie Poyzer (Psychology), Vinai Norasakkunkit, Faculty Mentor.

Identifying Differences across Computer Users, Casey E. Painter (Psychology), Barry Ries, Faculty Mentor.

Coding of Emotions and Logic When Making Decisions, Cassie Nieman and Emily Jax (Psychology), Emily Stark, Faculty Mentor.

Effective Motivational Techniques That Successful Leaders Use in an Organization, Justin K. Spio (Psychology), Andrea Lassiter, Faculty Mentor.

Understanding Attitudes Toward Drug Use, Erin Salonek (Psychology), Emily Stark, Faculty Mentor.

College Students’ Attitudes, Thoughts, and Beliefs towards Marijuana Use, Kaley VanDenBerg (Psychology), Emily Stark, Faculty Mentor.

The Portrayal of Women in Contemporary Alcohol Advertisements, Gail Baker (Women’s Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

Getting Different Global Perspectives through Newspaper, Eva Guthrie (Women’s Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

Sexual Assault Services for People with Disabilities, Angela Losasso (Women’s Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

Deconstructing the Slut: Contemporary definitions of female sexuality amongst Midwestern college students, Stacy Huntington Scofield (Women’s Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

Fear of Independence Stereotypes of People with Intellectual Disabilities in Film, Amanda Wilcox (Women’s Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

Sex, Gender, and IT: The Lasting Effects of Gender Bias in Information Technology Customer Service, David Domask (Women's Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

Restroom Politics, Brad Freithofer (Women's Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

MSU Students' Attitudes and Beliefs towards Vaccinating Youth against Human Papillomavirus, Kathryn Kamerud (Women's Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

Self Defense Classes: Teaching Women to Submit, Jessica Soebbing (Women’s Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

Redefining the Victim: Domestic Violence Shelters for Different Genders, Erin Crabtree (Women’s Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

Here Comes the Bride: Analyzing Bridal Magazine Portrayals of American Brides, Erin Trytten (Women’s Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

Portrayals of Masculinity in Contemporary Romantic Vampire Literature, Amanda Miller, (Women’s Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

College Women’s Sexual Fantasies, Elizabeth Harders (Women’s Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

Betty Crocker and the Changing Role of the Homemaker, Britt Kautin (Women’s Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

Assessment of Women’s Presence in International Relations Discourse, Laura Pinilla (Women’s Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

Masculinity In Maxim Magazine, Nicole Smith (Women’s Studies, Mass Communications), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

College Binge Drinking Advertisements and the Perpetuation of Gender Stereotypes, Stephanie Wager (Women’s Studies), Cheryl Radeloff, Faculty Mentor.

Attitudes, Feelings, and Thoughts: Burning Questions About Nicotine Use Among College Populations, Jessica C. Appel (Psychology), Dawn N. Albertson, Faculty Mentor. Emily Stark, Faculty Mentor.

The Effect of On-line Training in Teams, Ariel B. Becker (Psychology), Andrea Lassiter, Faculty Mentor.

Emotional Context Between Certified Nurses Assistants and Residents with Dementia, Jaimie Elizabeth Bell (Psychology), Jeffrey Buchanan, Faculty Mentor.

Individual Experiences and Subjective Effects of Salvia Divinorum among Recreational Users, Laura E. Grubbs (Psychology), Dawn N. Albertson, Faculty Mentor *Recipient of Minnesota State University, Mankato Foundation Grant
Personality and attitude measures: The differences (and lack thereof), between marijuana users, psychedelic users and abstainers, Rachel D. Hanson (Psychology), Dawn N. Albertson, Faculty Mentor.

The Effects of Positive Peer Pressure Among Adolescent Girls: Academic Achievement Motivation and School Engagement, Megan Lynn Moran (Psychology), Sarah Sifers, Faculty Mentor.

Assessing the Campus Climate at Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU), Alicia Brush (Ethnic Studies), Kebba Darboe, Faculty Mentor. *Recipient of Undergraduate Research Conference Small Grant

Considering Democracy “An ‘ Unrealistic’ Alternative”: The Results Of The 1954 American Intervention In Guatemala, Mark Viskocil (Psychology), Matthew Loayza, Faculty Mentor.

Breaking Social Confinement: An Analysis of Eighteenth-Century Women in the French Economy, Meghan B. Turok (History), Christopher Corley, Faculty Mentor.

When I Grow Up to Be a Man: Masculinity and the Education of French Aristocratic Boys during the Early Modern Period, Amy Waller (History), Christopher Corley, Faculty Mentor.

Comparison of the Efficacy of Verbal and Pictorial Priming in the United States and Japan, Whitney Mone’t Schmidt, (Psychology), Vinai Norasakkunkit, Faculty Mentor. *Recipient of Undergraduate Research Conference Small Grant

Reconciling the Past in Minnesota: The Mankato Hanging Monument and the Duluth Clayton Jackson McGhie Memorial, Jay C. Busby (History), Melodie Andrews, Faculty Mentor. *Recipient of Minnesota State University, Mankato Foundation Grant

Cortical Evidence of Misperception, Samuel Hickman (Psychology), Jonathan Page, Faculty Mentor. *Recipient of Minnesota State University, Mankato Foundation Grant

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Does it Matter that Sleeping Beauty Waited for the Prince to Come? Virtues Highlighted in French Fairy Tales, Elisha I. Peterson (History), Christopher Corley, Faculty Mentor.
**Fred Slocum** gave a presentation on “The Politics of Global Climate Change” at the Recycling Association of Minnesota’s workshop, Mankato, April 14.

**Fred Slocum** was interviewed by Jeff Cagle, *Owatonna People’s Press* for an April 19 article on presidential candidates’ efforts to connect with voters via bowling and other activities.

**Jackie Vieceli** spoke at a Peace Conference on ‘Conflict Resolution and Global Impact,’ hosted by the Global Health and Peace Club at MSU, March 28. There were students speakers with personal testimonies about conflicts from Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Kenya, Pakistan and Serbia.

**Psychology**

Jeff Buchanan and Dawn Albertson received “Outstanding Professor” awards from the Mankato chapter of Psi Chi, the national honorary society in psychology.

Vinai Norasakkunkit received an external grant from Kyoto University for $12,000 to conduct research in Japan this summer on the mental health impact of globalization. He was also awarded the prestigious JSPS (the Japanese equivalent of the National Science Foundation) Fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

**Social Work**

Paul F.E. Mackie presented, "Professional burnout: Are social workers really as crispy as we think?" at the Minnesota Social Service Association Conference, Bloomington, MN, March 26.

Nancy Fitzsimons, Victoria Hanson, Adjunct and Missy Manderfeld, Office Administrator accompanied 17 students to Social Work Day at the Capitol. This is the sixth year that Fitzsimons has taken students to this event. The Department of Social Work received the National Association of Social Workers – MN Chapter Advocacy Award for the second year in a row.

**Sociology & Corrections**

Steve Buechler’s new book entitled “Critical Sociology” will be published by Paradigm Publishers in June.

Steve Buechler’s article, “Social Strain, Structural Breakdown, Political Opportunity, and Collective Action,” has been published in the British on-line journal *Sociology Compass* <doi:10.1111/j.1751-9020.2008.00109.x>

Steve Buechler’s article, “What’s Critical About Sociology?” will appear in the fall issue of *Teaching Sociology*.


Leah Rogne organized and chaired a session on Careers in Sociology at the Midwest Sociological Society meeting, St. Louis, MO, March 19.

MSU’s Center on Aging and MAGEC South presented the Third Annual Chesley Lecture, “Living Well in the Midst of Change and Loss,” was held April 7. The featured speakers were Dr. Tom Gillaspy and Dr. Pauline Boss.

**Women’s Studies**

Jocelyn Stitt presented papers on, “Jamaican Mary Seacole’s 1857 memoir of her work as a nurse during the Crimean War,” at the British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference, February, 2008 and on Caribbean and British women writers in the 1790s at the British Women Writers Conference, March, 2008, Indiana University.

Jocelyn Stitt is invited to be part of a roundtable discussion of race, colonialism and landscape at the American Literature Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, May, 2008.

Jocelyn Stitt’s book, Before Windrush: Recovering an Asian and Black Literary History within Britain, co-edited with Pallavi Rastogi, published by Cambridge Scholars Press, will be available this summer.
In recognition of their many contributions, the College of Social Behavioral Sciences hosted a retirement reception honoring Paul Brandon and Branko Colakovic on May 1.

The Kessel Peace Institute hosted an Art Auction and Lecture titled, “Iraq Today: Perception Versus Reality,” presented by Dr. Abbas Mehdi, Former Iraqi Cabinet Minister and professor at St. Cloud State University, on April 19. The silent auction was for over 100 art pieces from the Drs. Abbas and Ruth Miner Kessel collection.

Political Science/Law Enforcement and Ethnic Studies hosted a reception to say “goodbye” to Jim Bailey, Mike VanAelstyn, Dustin Tahmahkera, and Maricela DeMirjyn on April 30.

Ethnic Studies and Sociology and Corrections organized a showing of the film, “Hurricane on the Bayou,” on April 3. It was followed by a question and answer session with the blues artist Tab Benoit whose songs are featured in the film.

Dr. Paul Brandon and Dr. Branko Colakovic

The College of Social Behavioral Sciences Scholarship Dinner was held April 24 with over 150 scholarship donors and recipients, family members, advisory board members and faculty in attendance.

Tim Price, Scholarship Donor and SBS Advisory Board Vice Chairperson presented the keynote address