ETHNIC STUDIES
Vang Xiong, Sang Yang, Mrudhisha Allen, Miho Chisaki, Malinda Dean and Sheena Sowell attended a diversity training workshop in March. The purpose of the training was to maximize children’s education.

PSYCHOLOGY
Jessica Appel, honors student, was awarded a competitive fellowship position in the Behavioral Research Advancements in Neuroscience (BRAIN) program.

SOCIAL STUDIES
Twelve social studies students spent a week in Mexico visiting historical sites in Mexico City and Guanajuato. The MSU students taught students at Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), Campus Irapuato and stayed with host families in Irapuato. The participating students were Dustin Antoine, Emily Arnold, Bill Boegeman, Brad Bosma, Jerica Gamber, James Halloran, Nathan Hawker, Jacob Langemo, Nicholas Machacek, Molly Penny, Mark Schroepfer, and Darrick Sellner. The study tour was led by Clark Johnson and Matt Loayza.

Michelle Leba (Murzyn) (’00), was named middle school teacher of the year by the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies (MCSS) at the 2009 annual conference of the MCSS. Leba teaches world geography at Washington Technology Magnet Middle School in St. Paul where she has taught for seven years.

SOCIAL WORK
Kimberly Maas was invited to wear a Global Scholar stole at her graduation and attend a ceremony to honor her. The Kearney International Center recognized her for founding the first Eastern European Student organization and serving as a Peer Mentor for two years in the International Student Orientation program.

WHO’S WHO
Who's Who Among Students is a highly regarded honors program. These individuals were nominated because of their contributions to community and school.

Amber Diekman (Social Work and Women’s Studies) works with individuals with developmental and physical disabilities, volunteers at the Roxanne House, Paws and Claws Humane Society, and the CADA House, and is involved in the Social Work club and Phi Alpha.

Brian Ficcadentia (Political Science/Law Enforcement) works for the North Mankato Police Department Reserve Unit, volunteers as a football coach, tutors in English, Biology, and Math, and reads to children in Mankato elementary schools.

Elizabeth Harders (Women’s Studies and Sociology) is skilled in applying social theory and has demonstrated breadth and skill when writing.

Ashley McCall (Geography) is a strait ‘A’ student, varsity athlete, member of the MSU Orchestra, and homecoming queen.

Deborah Meyer (Social Work) is an LPN for the State of Minnesota and volunteers for VINE, MNVAC, Coulee
Amber Reinhart (Sociology/Corrections) plans on participating in a new experiential learning opportunity at the Shakopee prison for women next semester.

Daniel Reller (Economics) recently served in the US Marine Corp. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Golden Key and volunteers for charitable organizations.

Amy Sanders (Social Work) is completing an internship at Jackson County Human Services in the child protection unit, while being a licensed foster parent. She also helps with First Call for Help and a truancy program for youth.

Samantha Smith (Social Work) completed an internship with LEEP and works as an assistant program coordinator while participating in MSU Cross Country and Track.

Bryan Taylor (Social Studies) has studied in Mexico, gaining understanding of the language and culture, and teaching at a local high school. This experience has helped prepare him to be a secondary social studies teacher.

Nicholas Thul (Political Science/Law Enforcement) is an Iraq Veteran as an Active Duty soldier with the 82nd airborne division at Ft. Bragg, NC. He has never missed class, writes well, and submits his work early.

Ty Warmka (Anthropology) will graduate with a double major in three years. He is a member of Golden Key and has been invited to join Phi Alpha Theta. He was asked to be an Anthropology class lab assistant and when he attends graduate school he will focus on the Ancient World.

Ashley Weaver (Psychology) is completing the Psychology Honors program. She is creative and detail oriented, completing requested tasks ahead of time.

### Faculty and Department Activities

#### ANTHROPOLOGY

Rhonda Dass’ article, “Avoiding the Peep Show: Talking from within the Tattoo Community,” is in the current issue of the online journal, Reconstruction: Studies in Contemporary Culture. (http://reconstruction.eserver.org/091/contents091.shtml)

#### HISTORY

The MSU History Department and Minnesota Historical Society presented History Day on March 19. This year’s theme was, “The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies.”

To celebrate Women's History Month, the Department of History hosted, “Global Perspectives on Women's and Gender History,” March 24. Susan Freeman (Women's Studies) chaired the presentation, with three History faculty members making presentations:

Christopher R. Corley, "The Ties that Bind: Gender, Extended Families and Guardianship in Preindustrial France."

Lori Ann Lahlum, "'Came to Mpls. From the Wild West yesterday': Mina Westbye, New (Norwegian Immigrant) Womanhood, and the Homestead Frontier."

Agnes A. Odinga, "'I just know when the baby is alright': Midwives and Midwifery in Colonial Kenya."

#### PSYCHOLOGY

Dawn Albertson’s MSU Brain Awareness Program concluded its efforts over spring break. Although neuroscience is the specified topic of interest for Brain Awareness Week, the brain is used in order to increase enthusiasm about science in schools, especially in rural areas. There were five MSU students who volunteered to help with the program. These students must pass rigorous hurdles in content knowledge and presentation skills in order to be involved in Brain Awareness Week. The program reached nearly 700 children throughout the southern Minnesota region.

Peter Linnerooth was one of three veterans on a March 23 panel that gave brief presentations at the opening of the 2009 Kessel Memorial Lecture March 24. Wright served for 13 years on active duty and 16 years in the Reserves. In 2003, just prior to the U.S. invasion of Iraq, she resigned in protest of what she considered an illegal war that lacked the sanction of the United Nations Security Council.

Ann Wright

Retired U.S. Army colonel and State Department diplomat Ann Wright presented the 2009 Kessel Memorial Lecture March 24. Wright served for 13 years on active duty and

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“Warrior to Citizen,” exhibit that was hosted by the Intercultural Student Center March 23-30. “Warrior to Citizen” (quoting MSUs website here) was a “multimedia exhibit – developed by volunteers – offer[ing] an opportunity for community members to hear first-hand accounts from Minnesota veterans on their return home, rather than hearing stories decades after the conflict.” Dr. Linnerooth was interviewed by Robb Murray for a March 25 Free Press article about the exhibit.


SOCIOLOGY & CORRECTIONS


Leah Rogne attended a national board meeting of the Gray Panthers in Las Vegas, March 13-15. Rogne is a national board member.

Leah Rogne appeared on KEYC-TV March 19 to discuss the Center on Aging’s upcoming Chesley Lecture on Aging.

Leah Rogne and her students appeared on KEYC-TV March 26 speaking at a high-risk drinking forum organized by the students in Applied Sociology and Blue Earth County’s Safe Communities Coalition.

The work of Leah Rogne’s Applied Sociology class on high-risk drinking was featured in an article in the Mankato Free Press March 25 and in the MSU Report on March 24.

URBAN & REGIONAL STUDIES

Janet Cherrington has been elected Chair of the City of Janesville’s Economic Development Authority.

Anthony Filipovitch was elected Chair of Mankato’s Historic Preservation Commission at its meeting in February.

Anthony Filipovitch was a presenter for the panel, “Real Life Civics Lessons: Bringing the Community into the Classroom,” at the MN Council for the Social Studies conference in March.

Anthony Filipovitch testified before the House Education Policy Committee on minimum site standards for schools for HF 898 in March.


WOMEN’S STUDIES

Jocelyn Stitt chaired the panel, “Postcolonial Parenting,” at the British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference in February. The panel included Juliana Nfah-Abbenyi, North Carolina State University, and Neil ten Kortenaar, University of Toronto. Professor Stitt also presented, “Second-Class Feminism? Mothering, Diaspora, and Agency in Monica Ali’s Brick Lane.”

SBS ADVISORY BOARD LECTURESHP SERIES

The 6th Annual Social and Behavioral Sciences Advisory Board Lectureship Series, Mankato and Beyond, was presented March 4, 2009. Professor Virgil Wiebe, University of St. Thomas School of Law, presented, “Banning cluster bombs and landmines: Pipe dream or realistic vision?” Professor Wiebe spoke about his participation in curbing the use of landmines and cluster munitions in armed conflicts. As a visiting Fellow at the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, he has attended United Nations conferences on landmines and conventional weapons, and has addressed diplomats on international humanitarian law matters. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Mines Advisory Group (MAG) America.

Professor Virgil Wiebe