Student Activities

SOCIAL WORK

Jihan Ali was one of two recipients selected for the 2009 NASW-MN Legacy Scholarship of $1,000. The scholarship, funded by the Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), recognizes the potential of new social workers to continue building a profession that is responsive to the needs of a diverse society. Annelies Hagemeister nominated Jihan and took part in presenting the award to her at the NASW-MN Chapter Conference on June 4 in St. Paul. Jihan is one of 26 students that graduated from the MSW program this summer.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Steve Kanavati is teaching high school social studies at I.T.E.S.M. in Irapuato, Mexico. Steve is the fifth graduate of the MSU Social Studies Program to teach at the school, which is part of the prestigious Tec de Monterrey system. The MSU Social Studies Program has maintained a collaborative relationship with the school for more than 13 years.

SOCIOLOGY AND CORRECTIONS

Heather Hawkins (’95 Corrections) has been selected as the Minnesota Department of Corrections 2009 Agent of the Year. She has supervised juvenile and adult misdemeanor offenders in Martin County since 2000.

Faculty and Department Activities

ANTHROPOLOGY

"X-ray Enhancement of Knifepoint Profiles" by Kathleen Blue and former Political Science/Law Enforcement professor Jim Bailey was published in July/August 2009 edition of Journal of Forensic Identification.

Kathleen Blue held her fifth annual, "Crime Scene Recovery Involving Human Skeletal Remains," August 13-14th. Course attendees included law enforcement personnel, high school science teachers, and students.

ECONOMICS

Richard Schiming spoke on the topic, “The Economy: Past, Present, and Future,” at the Minnesota Valley Federal Credit Union annual meeting, April 28, Mankato.

Richard Schiming published an article on the impact of taxes on job creation in the Mankato Free Press, May 17.


GEOGRAPHY

Donald Friend was a panelist in a Town Hall Special on weather and climate that aired June 30 for Austin, Minnesota’s PBS television affiliate, KSMQ. After the television special, Dr. Friend answered viewer questions on the web.
GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES

The department of Gender and Women’s Studies will be hosting the 28th Annual Women & Spirituality Conference on October 31 through November 1. Dr. Vandana Shiva will present the keynote address on Saturday, October 31, at 11 am. Dr. Shiva is a physicist, author, and international leader in multiple interdisciplin ary, environmental, and sustainability movements. Information about the conference and Dr. Shiva’s keynote address can be found at http://sbs.mnsu.edu/women/

This conference is open to the public.

New Faculty Member

Dawn Rae Davis joins MSU from the University of Iowa, where she was a visiting faculty member in the Department of Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies for three years. Before her time in Iowa, Dr. Davis was at the University of Minnesota, where she completed her PhD in Feminist Studies. Her research interests include feminist epistemology, feminist philosophy and theory, WS methodologies, intersections of gender, race, class, sexuality and nation, as well as whiteness studies.

GERONTOLOGY

New Faculty Member

Don Ebel is the new director of the Gerontology Program and the Center on Aging, and is serving this year as the Acting Director of Applied Sociology. Dr. Ebel received a PhD in Sociology at Duke University and a MA in Gerontology from the University of Southern California. His research interests focus on the intersection of age, work and retirement, and various topics within the sociology of religion. Prior to returning to academics, Don spent 13 years leading private non-profit and public social service organizations serving children, adults with developmental disabilities, and elders in Oregon.

POLITICAL SCIENCE/LAW ENFORCEMENT

Christian Dobratz was interviewed by the Pioneer Press about multijurisdictional task forces. The story was published on August 26.

Tom Inglot received a Fulbright Grant to lecture at the Institute of International Studies, University of Wroclaw, Poland in Spring 2010. Unfortunately, he had to decline this grant to accept another funding offer for his forthcoming sabbatical year.

Tom Inglot was awarded a major research grant from the National Council for Eurasian and East European Research (NCEEER). He will work in collaboration with several European scholars on the comparative study of “Family Policies in the New European Democracies.”

The findings of this research will be published and distributed to various federal agencies in Washington DC in 2011. Dr. Inglot also plans to develop this research into his second book project.


Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by KEYC TV on June 2 about Governor Tim Pawlenty’s announcement that he will not run for reelection.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by the Associated Press on June 3 about how Governor Pawlenty’s announcement on not seeking reelection is likely to change the political dynamics at the state capitol.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed by KEYC TV and the Mankato Free Press on June 30 about the State Supreme Court ruling that Al Franken had defeated Norm Coleman in the Senate race and Coleman’s concession.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed and took listener phone calls on July 6 as a guest on Kathleen Dunn’s “All Things Political” show at Wisconsin Public Radio.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed on July 7 by Minnesota Public Radio about former State House Minority Leader Marty Sieffert’s announcement that he is running for governor and on Republican prospects for retaining the governorship.

Mark Robbins was interviewed by FOX 9 News on May 4. The interview is available online at http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/dpp/news/investigative/Investigators_What_You_Cant_See_may_04_2009.

PSYCHOLOGY

Vinai Norasakkunkit will have his sabbatical research fully funded by the Japanese government. His research is on a treatment outcome study of a recent psychological phenomenon that has caused over five million Japanese youth to withdraw from participating in society in terms...
of employment, education, or training. He is looking at this phenomenon as a psychological consequence of globalization in Japan, so it is both a clinical phenomenon and a social psychological phenomenon.


Sarah Sifers’ textbook, Child Care Psychology was published by Kendall Hunt Publishing, July 2009.

Sarah Sifers will be conducting program evaluations for the YWCA’s Girls on the Run and Girls on Track programs and the YMCA’s Brother/Sister mentoring program.

New Faculty Member

Carlos “Chip” Panahon joins MSU from Gwynedd-Mercy College, where he has been an Assistant Professor in Special Education for the past 5 years. Chip graduated from Cornell University in 1997 with a BS in Human Development and Family Studies. He earned his Ph.D. in School Psychology from Syracuse University in 2005. Chip’s research interests include school consultation, academic interventions, and behavioral interventions for students at risk.

SOCIAL WORK

Robin Wingo has been appointed to the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE)’s Council on Field Education for a 4-year term effective July 1, 2009. CSWE is the national accrediting body for undergraduate and graduate social work programs in the U.S. As a Council of the Commission on Curriculum and Educational Innovation (COCEI), the Council on Field Education collaborates with the professional community to improve the quality of field programs.

Robin Wingo has been elected to serve a two-year term as President of the Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC) Board of Directors. MVAC is a not-for-profit community action agency that has served south central Minnesota since 1965. MVAC develops resources and opportunities for adults and children in 9 Southern Minnesota counties.

SOCIOLOGY AND CORRECTIONS

New Faculty Member

Don Ebel is the new director of the Gerontology Program and the Center on Aging, and is serving this year as the Acting Director of Applied Sociology. Dr. Ebel received a doctorate in Sociology at Duke University and a MA in Gerontology from the University of Southern California. His research interests focus on the intersection of age, work and retirement, and various topics within the sociology of religion. Prior to returning to academics, Don spent 13 years leading private non-profit and public social service organizations serving children, adults with developmental disabilities, and elders in Oregon.


URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES

Anthony Filipovich was the guest speaker for the Mankato Area Jaycees at their June 22 meeting. His topic was on “Leading in the Community.”

Anthony Filipovich published a review of Robert Wuthnow’s After the Baby Boomers: How Twenty-Somethings Are Shaping the Future of American Religion. The review can be found in the journal, NonProfit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly.

Miriam Porter returned to MSU this year after spending the last academic year in Ghana teaching urban management classes at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi Ghana. In addition to teaching, she developed a curriculum for an urban management program in developing nations.

Advising "U" is pleased to introduce our graduate assistants for this year: Katie Fairchild (Clinical Psychology), Connie Johnson (Ethnic Studies), Sherine Kurian (I/O Psychology), Jennifer Lenaghan (Counseling and Student Personnel), and Carolina Surla (Clinical Psychology). They will work with SBS students on academic probation, as well as advise students on general education, the diverse cultures requirement and general graduation requirements. They will be a source of information and assistance for SBS students and help with Career Day and other student programming in Advising "U".

Advising "U" participated in the university’s “Choose-a-Palooza” orientation day for new entering students on August 2. Many new students participated in this event.

SBS Faculty and Staff celebrated the start of the school year at the SBS Fall Picnic.

New students at “Choose-a-Palooza” orientation.

John Alessio (SBS Dean), Bill Anderson (Social Work), and Robin Wingo (Social Work) at the SBS Fall Picnic.