GEOGRAPHY

Jennifer Snyders, a Geography graduate student, used GPS/GIS technology to map the ancestral territory of the wild turkey in Minnesota. Her work, “Evidence of wild turkeys in Minnesota prior to European settlement,” was published on a DNR Web site.

POLITICAL SCIENCE / LAW ENFORCEMENT

Takehito Kamata attended the University Presidential Inaugural Conference and President Obama’s inauguration as a member of Golden Key International Honor Society. He earned Bachelor of Science degrees in Political Science and International Relations at MSU and will graduate with a Master of Science in Public Administration this May.

WHO’S WHO

Who's Who Among Students is a highly regarded honors program. These young adults were nominated because they enhance the positive image of American youth through their contributions to community and school. Throughout the spring, Good News will spotlight the 53 students who achieved this honor.

Alison Brown (Anthropology) holds executive positions in the Anthropology club and Students for Sustainability. She volunteers for project GEM, is program director of Harambee Cultural Center Inc., and participated in a summer educational tour to Ecuador.

Alyssa Chalin (Anthropology) volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, the Teresa House, and MSU Women’s Center. She organized archives and artifacts at VINE, raised money for women’s charities, and organized trainings to promote acceptance of the LGBT community.

Miwako Fujikata (nominated in both Anthropology and Psychology) is president of the Japanese Intercultural Organization and is active in international student organizations. While one of her professors was collecting data abroad, he relied on her to continue research.

Tyanne Gardner (Sociology and Corrections) is a thoughtful, creative, and articulate writer who has assisted an ESL student to write a class paper. She is also a respected group leader.

Garrick Grace (nominated in both Geography and Social Studies) stood out in a class of over 250 people by demonstrating selfless acts in a multitude of capacities while studying abroad.

Melissa Grece (Social Work) completed an internship at Partners for Affordable Housing as well as volunteering across the U.S. on a missions trip. In addition, she has worked with youth in a summer reading program, and helped at a food pantry.

Eric Hanson (Economics) is preparing a project for the undergraduate research conference, and volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, Rake the Town, Kids Against Hunger, and the Red Cross.

Laura Pinilla is a double major and is actively involved in the Women’s Studies Club and Triota Honor Society. She has also studied in Ecuador.
Daniel Regnier (Psychology) is an active member in the Psychology Club and Psi Chi. He is also a member of a research team and is interested in pursuing graduate education in Industrial/Organization Psychology.

Jack Rupert (History) completed a research paper on sixteenth-century theologians’ attitudes toward suicide. While working full-time and contributing as a parent and spouse, he was able to excel in his studies and offer insightful commentary to class discussions.

Jenna Schley (Psychology) works as a clinical social worker, and is completing a research project on resilience in children. She is completing a senior honors thesis on gender differences in internalizing and externalizing disorders.

Erin Trytten is a double major working with women with disabilities at the Harry Meyering Center. She also volunteers for the United Way and the Humane Society as well as being an active member of the Women’s Studies Club.

Ryan Wiesen (Political Science/Law Enforcement) has an outstanding GPA, and he served as the president for Phi Sigma Alpha for two consecutive years.

**Faculty and Department Activities**

**ECONOMICS**

Phillip Miller was interviewed by San Diego’s KUSI along with former Vikings coach Dennis Green, for a one-hour special on the San Diego Chargers which aired in San Diego, CA, in January, 2009.


The Department of Economics presented a lecture by Timothy Taylor on, “The Financial Crisis and the Recession: Causes and Policy Choices,” on January 21, MSU. Timothy Taylor has been the editor of the Journal of Economic Perspective since 1986.

**ETHNIC STUDIES**

Kebba Darboe and Hanh-Huy Phan participated in the panel discussion, "Celebration of the First African American President," on January 20, at MSU.

Hanh-Huy Phan represented the Asian American perspectives on a panel discussion, "How Minority Students Survive in a Predominantly White Campus," at MSU on January 30 to celebrate Black History Month.

**HISTORY**

POLITICAL SCIENCE/LAW ENFORCEMENT

Joe Kunkel was the moderator for a panel discussion titled, "The Economy: Where Do We Go From Here?" at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mankato, on January 22. The panelists were David Krause, CEO of Pioneer Banks, Pat Hentges Mankato City Manager, Amy Lennartson, Minnesota council of Nonprofits, State Representative Kathy Braenert and Ken Park, Professor in MSU's Economics Department.

The Force Science Research Center, in cooperation with Indiana University and the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, will launch a study to define the risk and identify the best tactics in dealing with a prone suspect who resists showing his hands when ordered to by an officer. This upcoming research was reported in the January 9 issue of PoliceOne.com, an online resource for law enforcement officers, administrators and educators.

SOCIAL WORK

Paul F.E. Mackie was recently accepted as a Consulting Editor by the Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work.

SOCIOPY & CORRECTIONS


URBAN & REGIONAL STUDIES

Janet Cherrington has been appointed to the City of Janesville’s Planning Commission for a term beginning in 2009 and running through 2012. She is also a current member of the city’s Economic Development Authority.

College and Related Activities

KESSEL PEACE INSTITUTE

The Kessel Peace Institute sponsored a brown bag discussion on the conflict in Gaza on January 28 at noon. The discussion was led by a panel of MSU faculty including Dr. Abdalla Battah, Dr. Tom Inglot, Dr. Jeff Bumgarner and Dr. Jackie Vieceli.

SBS RETIREMENT RECEPTION

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences honored the service and retirement of Joe Davis, Department of Sociology & Corrections, and Donald Renner, Department of Economics, on December 9.