**Student Activities**

**GEOGRAPHY**

Jacqueline Karsten, a Geography senior is one of 11 students worldwide to be accepted as an intern in the Education and Children's Division of the National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. She will be designing maps, graphics and curricular materials for use in publications and electronic media for children and K-12 educators.

**POLITICAL SCIENCE/LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Vegard Aaland’s master’s thesis, *Exceptionalism in United States Foreign Policy Behavior*, was selected by the Graduate Sub Meet and Confer as the Minnesota State University, Mankato nominee for the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS). Jackie Vieceli was the thesis advisor and Abdalla Battah and Wayne Allen were the committee members. Results of the MAGS competition will be announced spring 2008.

Political Science and Law Enforcement students participated in a study abroad trip returning January 12 after approximately two weeks traveling through Munich, Vienna and Amsterdam. The tour constitutes a portion of Colleen Clarke’s and Tami Wilkins’ courses on comparative policing and international terrorism.

**PSYCHOLOGY**

Laura Grubbs is one of two students chosen to represent MSU at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Maryland in April, 2008.

**SOCIAL WORK**

*Phi Alpha, the social work honors society* collected 126 gift items, $82 in cash, and a $50 gift certificate from a local retailer for children currently staying in local homeless shelters. They will use the money to purchase and donate additional gifts.

**CAREER DAY EVENT**

Advising U organized SBS Career Day on January 30. This event constituted 30 vendors from law enforcement, corrections and non-profit organizations, and 16 departmental panels to help students recognize resources for jobs and internships. Thank you to Judy Olson-Passer for leading this very successful event!

*January 30 SBS Career Day exhibit*
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:

**Laura Lundquist-Peskorz** (Anthropology) reaches high academic achievement by volunteering at Riverside Hospital and the Center for Asian and Pacific Islanders in Minneapolis and the Center for Assisting Refugees in Mankato. She is one of the first foreign college students to study for a semester at Akita International University.

**Andrew Sturm** (Economics) is one of the strongest students in the Economics department. As a Presidential Scholar at MSU, Andrew has had the opportunity to participate in a number of public service activities on campus and in the community.

**Alicia Brush** (Ethnic Studies) is an exceptionally outstanding student with a 4.0 GPA who has spent time in Mexico and Spain, acquiring linguistic and cultural competency. She is exceptionally motivated, professionally competent, and very personable.

**Brian Combs** (Geography) is among the most talented students in the Geography program. Academic rigor and discipline are the characteristics that describe Mr. Combs’s personality.

**Jonathan DeGreeff** (History) has several leadership positions with ROTC at MSU, and will become an officer in the U.S. Army upon graduation. He is a model student who hones his body and mind in the service of our country.

**Karen Rubbert** (Political Science) is an exceptionally bright student with excellent interpersonal skills. She is active in the university community through the “Impact Team” as well as in the larger public world, by volunteering on political campaigns.

**Megan Moran** (Psychology) is an outstanding student. Her academic performance and communication skills shine in her ability to apply course materials to solve complex problems affecting youth.

**Nicole Stuhrk** (Social Work) has been on the MSU Dean’s list since 2003. She has also been an active Intern for Welcome Inn/Partners. She worked as a paraprofessional at Oak Grove Elementary Bloomington, MN with children who had developmental and physical disabilities.

**Linda Brown** (Women’s Studies) is a member of the Women’s Studies honor society (Triota) and is active with the United Fund for McPherson Township as the organization’s treasurer. Linda eventually wants to continue her graduate education within a master’s program that focuses on rural Gerontology.

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**Faculty and Department Activities**

**ANTHROPOLOGY**

Kate Blue was awarded a Summer 2008 Teaching Scholar Fellowship for her project, "Childhood Health in Anglo-Saxon Britain."

**GEOGRAPHY**

The department of Geography hosted a reception for Professor Emeritus Dr. James F. Goff on Tuesday, December 4, 2007. Professor Emerita Betty Goff, wife of late Prof. Goff has created a $100,000 geography endowment to fund the Geography graduate student research fellowships.

**POLITICAL SCIENCE/LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed November 29 by Paul Farhi, *Washington Post* about Norm Coleman, Al Franken, Mike Ceresi and other candidates in the U.S. Senate race.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed December 3 by Kevin Diaz, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* for comments on U.S. Senate race: Coleman campaigns posting negative ad on the website directed against Al Franken.

Joseph Kunkel was interviewed January 3 by Rosemary Schulz, *KEYC TV Mankato* regarding the Iowa caucuses.
**College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Good News**

*Joseph Kunkel* was interviewed January 4 by Ed Felker, *Washington Bureau, Rochester Post Bulletin* about the results of Iowa caucuses.

*Joseph Kunkel* was interviewed January 4 by Sarah Kirshcner, *Albert Lea Tribune* about the results of Iowa caucuses.

*Joseph Kunkel* was interviewed January 9 by Erin Connelly, *KEYC TV* about the impact of New Hampshire Primary on Minnesota precinct caucuses.

*Joseph Kunkel* was interviewed January 28 by Mark Fiscenich, *Mankato Free Press* about February 5 Super Tuesday contests and processes, Minnesota Precinct Caucuses, Democratic and Republican presidential candidates.

*Joseph Kunkel* was interviewed January 29 by Dan Haugen of 4000.com about February 5 primaries, Minnesota caucuses and the presidential candidates.


**SOCILOGY**


**PSYCHOLOGY**

*Andrea Lassiter* was interviewed for a recent article, “Weathering the Storm,” in *Minnesota Technology Magazine,* Winter 2007. The article emphasizes the changes affecting the states’ workplaces.


**SOCIOLOGY**

*Alumnus Bryan Venberg* presented a keynote lecture for Career Day


*Vicki Hunter* was awarded a Summer 2008 Teaching Scholar Fellowship for her project, “Identity Work in Women’s Re-Entry Experiences.”

**URBAN AND REGIONAL STUDIES**

*Janet Cherrington* has been selected to arbitrate the papers for the *Journal of the World Universities Forum* to be held in Switzerland. She will be credited as an Associate Editor for the volume(s) to which she has contributed.

*Janet Cherrington* has been appointed to the City of Janesville’s Economic Development Authority. She will serve a term ending in 2010.


**PRESENTATIONS**

The SBS *Diversity Teaching and Learning circle* organized the event, "Salsa, Soul, And Spirit: Leadership for a Multicultural Age" presented by Juana Bordas on January 17. The discussion was based upon the eight core leadership principles common to Latino, African-American and American Indian cultures.

**COMMENCEMENT**

Dean John C. Alessio and the faculty of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences invited Fall 2007 graduates and their family members to a college reception and recognition ceremony on December 15, 2007.