

TEACHING AMERICAN STUDIES IN GERMANY TOPIC OF GLOBAL STUDIES BROWN BAG THURSDAY

Maureen Reed, American Studies/History, and Patrick Walsh, Corrick Center for Multidisciplinary Studies, will talk about "A Fulbright Year: Teaching American Studies in Germany" from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23 in MacLean Hall 277.



Reed and Walsh

The two spent the 2004-05 academic year as Fulbright Lecturers at the University of Regensburg and the University of Passau in Bavaria, Germany. At this brown bag presentation and slideshow, they will discuss their experiences working in the German university environment and living in Regensburg with their young son.

This Global Studies Brown Bag Seminar, free and open to the public, is an activity of the MSUM Global Studies Committee. Anyone with questions about the presentation can contact Reed at 477-5054.

CELEBRITY ON STAGE 'AS BEES IN HONEY DROWN' FEB. 22-25

"As Bees in Honey Drown," a witty indictment of our culture's eternal obsession with fame, celebrity and the good life, is on stage at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, Feb. 22-25 in MSUM's Roland Dille Center for the Arts Gaede Theatre. The comedy is directed by MSUM Prof. David Wheeler.

Feb. 20, 2006: Produced by the Publications Office. Phone 2204. tornell@mnstate.edu. Copy deadline is Friday noon.

For tickets, call the MSUM box office at 477-2271. (Faculty and staff are entitled to two tickets at \$10 each.)

Written by Douglas Carter Beane, the play focuses on a young New York writer savoring the success of his debut novel who happens to run into a mystery woman whose religion happens to be "celebrity."

TUESDAY BROWN BAG ON CUTTING-EDGE EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

The College of Education and Human Services will host a brown bag session called "In the Know" at 12:15 on Tuesday, Feb. 21 in CMU 208. Kevin Anderson, Lynn Mahlum and Harry Weisenberger will each make presentations on how they are creatively using cutting-edge technology in education.

LOCAL NEPAL STUDENTS HOST CULTURE NIGHT SUNDAY TO HELP VILLAGE GET SOLAR PANELS

The MSUM student organization Support International and local university students from Nepal are putting on a Nepali Night: Culture, Cuisine, and a Silent Art Auction from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26 in the Comstock Memorial Union Ballroom on campus.

The Nepali Night will consist of cultural dances, singing, music, skits, Nepali food, a silent art auction with some pieces from Nepal.

The event is free, but a 6 p.m. dinner will cost \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. Proceeds will go toward installing solar panels in Pina, a rural village in Nepal.

For more information about the event, check the organization's Web site at www.mnstate.edu/sprintnl.

CAMPUS LEGISLATIVE OPEN FORUM FEB. 22

MSUM's annual legislative open forum hosted by the Office of the President, will run from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, in the CMU Ballroom. The entire campus community is invited

to join this discussion with our district 9 legislators: Senator Keith Langseth, Representative Paul Marquart, and Representative Morrie Lanning.

A reception (heavy hors d'oeuvres) follows the event.

Questions may be directed to Susanne Williams: susannew@mnstate.edu or 477-2090.

ACADEMIC SERVICE LEARNING AWARDS

Each year, the Academic Service Learning Advisory Board honors those on campus and in the Fargo-Moorhead community who make exemplary use of Academic Service Learning.

The board is currently seeking nominations for this year's honorees. It is looking for nominations of community partner organizations, campus departments, faculty members and students. Award categories include: Outstanding Departmental Involvement; Outstanding Community Organization; Outstanding Student Contribution; Outstanding Faculty Contribution. Send nominations (name of person/department/agency nominated and why the award is deserved) to Amy Phillips at ap@mnstate.edu or Lommen 83 by Friday, March 3.

POSTPONED POKER WALK FOR FITNESS & FOOD DRIVE SET THIS THURSDAY

MSUM Winter Poker Walk For Fitness will be held on Thursday, Feb. 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. It was postponed last week because of the weather.

The objective is to walk to each of the seven MSUM departments listed below, draw a card at each, and try to acquire the best poker hand. The best 5 out of 7 cards can be used. Jokers are wild. Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 hands.

A prize will also be awarded to the individual who has drawn the most hearts in his/her hand.

In conjunction with the Poker Walk, Human Resources will be collecting items for the YWCA of Fargo-Moorhead. The Emergency Shelter needs: microwave dishes, sugar, sweetened koolaid, coffee, cereal, peanut butter, lunch items, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, large bottle of lotion, kleenex, zip lock bags, tin foil, plastic wrap, paper plates and cups; other items needed: tooth brushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, new cosmetics, snack foods, canned foods, ready to eat breakfast foods and other non-perishable items are also accepted – A needs list is available in HR and can be emailed, if requested. Red barrels will be situated at HR to collect your

donations. Those who donate to this worthy cause will be eligible to draw another card at the HR site; therefore, increasing the chance to attain the winning hand.

Participating Departments:

- **Counseling & Personal Growth Center Bridges 260**
- **English Department – Weld 216**
- **Art & Design – Center for Arts 161**
- **Corrick Center - Murray Commons 206**
- **Bookstore - MacLean Hall**
- **Alumni Foundation – Owens 202**
- **Human Resources, Owens 210**

A beverage will be served in HR at the end of your walk.

Draw a card at each department—your name and card will be recorded. Keep your card and proceed to the other departments. You do not have to walk to all seven departments at one time; walk on your breaks or lunch hour. Human Resources MUST be the last department you walk to before 4 p.m. You will draw your last card, and submit your best hand. You can also throw your name into the hat for a grand prize drawing to be held in April, after the 3rd MSUM Poker Walk For Fitness is held.

This is a great opportunity to familiarize yourself with the MSUM campus and get some exercise to boot!

Contact Deb Lewis (2158) for more information.

UPCOMING MSUM MUSIC

MSUM Jazz Combos will present a concert at 8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 23 in the university's Weld Hall Glasrud Auditorium.

The MSUM Symphonic Band will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26 in Weld Hall Glasrud Auditorium.

ARTISTS' RECEPTION ON THURSDAY

A reception for the artists who are displaying their work in the Roland Dille Center for the Arts gallery will be held 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23 in the gallery. It's free and open to the public.

Exhibit hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and 1-3 p.m. Saturday.

FLAKOLL APPOINTED TRI-COLLEGE UNIVERSITY PROVOST

Tri-College University (TCU) announces the appointment of Tim Flakoll as TCU Provost. Flakoll will serve in the position vacated by Nathan Davis

who recently left to serve as Executive Director at the Perpich Center for Arts Education. Davis served as Provost for five years.

After earning his B.S. and masters degree at North Dakota State University, Tim Flakoll served on the NDSU staff/faculty. Flakoll's past employment also includes General Manager of the Fargo Moorhead RedHawks minor league baseball team and Marketing Manager for R.L. Engebretson.

Flakoll has extensive experience with education issues through his service as a North Dakota State Senator on various K-12 and Higher Education committees and commissions. He has served on the North Dakota Senate Education Committee since 1998 and the Midwest Higher Education Compact since 1999, and the Round Table for Higher Education. He also has authored or coauthored numerous publications.



Flakoll

Flakoll is a recognized community leader who has served the region in many capacities. He has served as a member of the Fargo Planning Commission, the Foundation Board for the Anne Carlsen Center for Children, the Fargo Jaycees, the Vocational Training Center Board and Special Olympics.

Flakoll has received many awards, including the NDSU Preferred Professor award and Outstanding Organization Advisor award, the Children's Champion award from the North Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children and five Outstanding Young North Dakotans Awards.

The mission of Tri-College University is to assist Concordia College, Minnesota State University Moorhead, and North Dakota State University by promoting cooperative efforts that will enrich the academic environment for the benefit of students, faculty, and the community.

2006 CAMPUS CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

The 2006 Campus Campaign is well underway and volunteers are wrapping up packet delivery. When you receive your packet, take a few minutes to review the materials and consider participating.

Remember, the Campus Campaign supports the students. Your gift impacts current and future students at MSUM. This is your chance to help make a quality education a little more affordable.

Campaign reporting will begin this week. Watch for updates through Dragonews and goal charts around campus. Goal charts will be located outside the Alumni Foundation – Owens 202, outside the Post Office, in Nemzek, and in the CMU. Goal charts will be updated each week.

Be sure to return your pledge card soon. The remaining incentive prize drawing will be held Feb. 24, March 3 and 10. All returned pledge cards will be entered into the drawings.

If you have any questions about the 2006 Campus Campaign contact Tara Wilkens in the Alumni Foundation by e-mail (wilkens@mnstate.edu) or phone (477-2423).

FACULTY SERVICE AWARDS BRUNCH FEB. 23 IN BALLROOM

The following faculty and staff will be honored at the Faculty Service Awards Celebration Brunch on **Thursday, Feb. 23 at 8:30 a.m.** in the Comstock Memorial Union Ballroom.

Faculty and staff who have reached 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 45 years of service will be recognized.

Recognition will also be given to faculty for Excellence in Advising: **Andrew Conteh, Wayne Gudmundson, Barry Halm, and Lana Leishman**; and CASE Professor of the Year 2005 nominees: **Steve Grineski and Wade Swenson**.

In addition, our retiring faculty, administrators, and staff will be honored: Beth Anderson, Marv Bossart, Jenny Lin, Don Mattson, Marie Tarsitano, and Mary Worner (and any other retirees unannounced at this time).

Retirees and award recipients will be guests of President Barden.

2006 Faculty Service Awards
45 years of service- Class of 1961
Kenneth Smemo

30 years of service- Class of 1976
George Sanderson
John Tesch

25 years of service- Class of 1981
Vernon Dobis
Sidney Drouilhet
Virginia Gregg
Martin Grindeland
Henry Gwiazda
Ronald Jeppson
Yvonne Johnson

Aziz Kian
Marilyn Labrensz
Dennis Rhoads
Carol Sibley
William Violet
Ariyaratna Wijetunga
Kathryn Wise

20 years of service- Class of 1986

Mary Bader
John Early
Theodore Gracyk
Paul Harris
Donna Heald
Dennis Jacobs
Helen Klassen
Rupa Mitra
Michael Ruth
Terry Shoptaugh
David Wheeler
Vernon Wolff
Mary Worner

15 years of service- Class of 1991

Magdalene Chalikia
Konrad Czynski
Shawn Dunkirk
Colan Hanson
Daniel Lind
Coleen Roller

10 years of service- Class of 1996

Kevin Anderson
Layne Anderson
Tim Borchers
Constance Cleveland
Timothy Cruff
Shawn Ginther
Timothy Harms
Lila Hauge-Stoffel
Barbara Headrick
Shirley Johnson
Veronica Michael
Elizabeth Severn
Kenneth Tangen
Stacy Voeller
Teri Walseth

Recipients, please RSVP to Janet Haak Aarness in Academic Affairs (aarness@mnstate.edu). All other family members, faculty and staff who would like to attend can send \$6.50 to Owens 206 to reserve a seat- make checks out to MSUM Convocations. Please RSVP or send payment by Monday, February 20.

APAC MEETS TUESDAY

The Academic Policy Advisory Committee is

scheduled to meet on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. in the Comstock Room, CMU 101.

AGENDA

1. Approval of the 2/14/06 APAC Minutes*

**2. Minor Changes:
English Department***

Change in Prerequisites for the following courses:
Engl 211: Major British Writers I (4 crs)
Engl 212: Major British Writers II (4 crs)
Engl 314: Topics in Shakespeare (3 crs)
Engl 314t: Shakespeare: Theory (1 cr)
Engl 371: Survey of American Literature I (4 crs)
Engl 372: Survey of American Literature II (4 crs)

School of Business

Change in Course Title and Description:
Mktg 419: Distribution Management (3 crs) to
Mktg 419: Supply Chain Management (3 crs)

Temporary Liberal Studies Designation for Existing Courses

(The Liberal Studies Committee has approved the following courses in the indicated competency areas)

Competency #5: History and the Social Sciences

Communication Studies, Film Studies, and Theatre Arts Department*

CMST 110: Introduction to Communication Studies (3 crs)

Corrick Center for General Education*

MDS 126: Athletics in the US (3 crs)
MDS 175: The Fabulous 50s (3 crs)

Competency #6: The Humanities

Art and Design Department*

ART 170: Art Appreciation (3 crs)

Corrick Center for General Education*

MDS 162: Introduction to Dramatic Art (3 crs)
MDS 176: Voyage of the Hero (3 crs)

Music Department*

Mus 111: Art of Listening (3 crs)

3. New Course Proposals

Biosciences Department*

Bio 490/590: Topics in Biology (1-3 crs)

Corrick Center for General Education*

(The Liberal Studies Committee has approved temporary Liberal Studies designation for this course in Competency Area #1b: Written Communication)

MDS 111: Expository Writing (3 crs)
Remove the following course from the curriculum effective Fall 2006:
MDS 111: Expository Writing (4 crs)

Foundations of Education Department*

Ed 411/511: Technology for Teachers (1 cr)

Music Department*

(The Liberal Studies Committee has approved this course in Competency #2: Critical Thinking – Critical & Multicultural Thinking Inner Core Course)
Mus 140: Thinking Musically: Critical Thinking in Multi-musical America (3 crs)

4. Program Change

School of Business

CSIS 104: Spreadsheet and Database Applications (3 crs) will replace CSIS 103: Computer Concepts and Applications (3 crs) for all majors.
Required credits will increase from 15 to 18 and restricted electives will decrease from 9 credits to 6 credits in the following majors:
Finance
Management
Marketing

APAC MINUTES

(Feb. 7, 2006)

Members present: Midgarden, chairperson, Blunson, Brisch, Cagle, Conteh, Enz Finken, Frederick, Gess, Goodman, Gunaratne, Haak Aarness, Hammerschmidt, Hill, Jeppson, Parsons, Sanderson, Wheeler.

Absent: Crockett, McGillivray, Schmit, Strong.

1. Approval of the 1/24/06 APAC Minutes

Gunaratne moved. Conteh seconded to approve the 1/24/06 APAC minutes.
Motion carried unanimously.

2. New Course Proposal - Computer Science and Information Systems Department

Dan Brekke and Andrew Chen were present to answer questions.
Cagle moved. Sanderson seconded to approve the new course:
CSIS 316/Phil 316: Ethics in the Information Age (3 cr)
Motion carried unanimously.

3. Minor Changes:

Paralegal Department

Deb Kukowski was present to answer questions.
Change in Course Level:
PARA 370: Government Benefits (3 crs) to PARA 470: Government Benefits (3 crs)
There were no concerns; approved as announced.

Communication Studies, Film Studies, and Theatre Arts Department

Change in Course Level:
CMST 211: Argumentation and Debate (3 crs) to CMST

111: Argumentation and Debate (3 crs)
DEFERRED to the February 14, 2006 APAC meeting.

Economics Department

Oscar Flores was present to answer questions.
Brisch moved. Gess seconded to approve the following:
Change course title of Econ 497: Individual Study in Economics (1-3 crs) to Econ 497: Undergraduate Research in Economics (1-3 crs)
Change course number of Econ 497: Individual Studies in Economics (1-3 crs) to Econ 492: Individual Studies in Economics (1-3 crs)
Motion carried unanimously.

English Department – New Course Proposal

Sheila Coghill, Mike McCord, and SuEllen Shaw were present to answer questions.
Cagle moved. Hill seconded to approve the following new course:
English 101: English Composition I (3 crs)
Discussion:
Some committee members were concerned that two English 101: English Composition I courses would be on the books, one being a 3 credit course and the other a 4 credit course. This would create confusion for students and advisors.
The 4 credit course must remain available to students for summer session, but will be eliminated effective Fall 2006.
The English Department is working on a placement system to make sure students are placed in English courses at the appropriate level of competency when admitted to the University. Developmental courses will be available, either here or through MSCTC, for students who need the basics of writing mechanics.
No course syllabi were included with this proposal. The English Department will come back later this spring with syllabi and course assignment materials.
The English Department is also discussing how to make all the sections of English 101 standardized enough so all students taking the course will have similar experiences while still allowing instructors to build on their particular strengths. Assessment will be used to demonstrate consistency.
Motion carried unanimously with the understanding that the course proposers will come back later this spring with course materials.

Temporary designation in Competency #1b: Written Communication
Engl 101: English Composition I (3 crs)
There were no concerns; approved as announced.

Gess moved. Sanderson seconded to remove the following course from the curriculum effective Fall 2006:
Engl 101: English Composition I (4 crs)
Discussion:
The English Department will have to think about how to handle situations where students received a D or F in the 4 credit English 101 and want to retake the course when the 4 credit course is no longer available.
Motion carried unanimously.

Temporary Liberal Studies Designation for Existing Courses

(The Liberal Studies Committee has approved the following courses in the indicated competency areas)
Competency #4: Natural Sciences

Chemistry Department

Chem 102: Survey of Basic Principles of Chemistry (3 crs)

Physics and Astronomy Department

Ast 102: Solar System Astronomy (3 crs)

Ast 104: Stellar Astronomy (3 crs)

Competency #5: History and the Social Sciences

Political Science Department

Pol 105: Making Sense of Politics (3 crs)

There were no concerns; approved as announced.

Pol 120: American National Government and Politics (3 crs)

DEFERRED to the February 14, 2006 APAC meeting because revised course description was not provided to APAC members prior to the meeting.

Competency #2: Critical Thinking

Communication Studies, Film Studies, and Theatre Arts Department

CMST 111: Argumentation and Debate (3 crs)

DEFERRED to the February 14, 2006 APAC meeting.

4. New Course Proposals

Elementary and Early Childhood Education Department

Michael Parsons was present to answer questions. Gess moved. Sanderson seconded to approve the following new course:

EECE 548: Reading Study Skills in the Content Areas (3 crs)

Motion carried unanimously.

English Department

Sheila Coghill was present to answer questions.

(The Liberal Studies Committee has approved the following course in Competency #2 – Critical Thinking)

Hill moved. Brisch seconded to approve the following new course:

Engl 163: Who is a Hero? (3 crs)

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Program Change

Health and Physical Education Department - Proposal for a Minor in Health Services Administration

Administration

Barry Halm was present to answer questions.

Cagle moved. Hill seconded to approve the minor in Health Services Administration.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Liberal Studies

Competency #8 – Global Perspective

Peter Geib and Andrew Conteh were present to answer questions.

Brisch moved. Cagle seconded to remove the Competency #8 - Global Perspectives proposal from the table.

Motion carried unanimously.

Cagle moved. Brisch seconded to amend the

Competency #8 - Global Perspectives proposal to be the revised Competency #8 – Global Perspectives prepared by the Liberal Studies Task Force.

Motion carried unanimously.

Gess moved. Wheeler seconded to amend the Competency #8 – Global Perspectives proposal as follows:

In the Goal statement, add “artistic,” between cultural, and environmental.

In the fourth bullet, add “arts,” between cultures, and ideologies.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion:

Some committee members did not feel formal language instruction courses would be able to meet the required student competencies in this area, or any other area.

Borchers is working with the Languages Department to fit language culture courses into the Human Diversity competency. He feels language instruction courses could fit there as well.

In the Goal statement, some committee members felt the word “all” when referring to nations would be too ambitious.

Wheeler moved. Frederick seconded to amend the Goal statement to read “the world’s nations” instead of “all nations”.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve the Global Perspectives competency as amended passed - 11 ayes, 1 opposed

Writing-Intensive Course Definition and Guidelines

SuEllen Shaw was present to answer questions.

Frederick moved. Brisch seconded to remove the Writing-Intensive Course Definition and Guidelines proposal from the table.

Motion carried unanimously.

Frederick moved. Brisch seconded to amend the Writing-Intensive Course Definition and Guidelines proposal as revised by the Liberal Studies Task Force.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion:

Some committee members would like to see the length of the writing requirement based on the number of words instead of pages. The committee members agreed to add “(4800 to 5000 words)” after 16 pages.

Motion to approve the Writing-Intensive Course Definition and Guidelines as amended carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Jo Berg

WRITING SERIOUSLY ABOUT SEX FOCUS OF MSUM’S ANNUAL GLASRUD LECTURE

Author Elizabeth Searle, who’s received national attention for co-writing “Tonya and Nancy: The Opera” about Nancy Kerrigan/Tonya Harding flap, will discuss “Writing Seriously, About Sex” as a feature of this year’s Clarence “Soc” Glasrud lecture series at 4 p.m. Thursday, March 2 in the MSUM Library Porch.

Searle—who's taught fiction writing at Brown, Oberlin and Emerson College—is the author of three books of fiction. She will also read from her work at 8 p.m. that same day, also in the Library Porch.

The lecture series honors Clarence "Soc" Glasrud, a Detroit Lakes native who taught in a country school before enrolling at MSU in 1930 and graduating in 1934. Following a stint in the Army Air Corps during World War II, Glasrud earned both a master's degree and doctorate at Harvard University. He returned to his alma mater in 1947 to teach, eventually serving 23 years as chair of MSU's English department. He retired in 1977.



Searle

Glasrud has since written two comprehensive histories of the university: "The Moorhead Normal School" and "Moorhead State Teachers College." He's now working on the final chapter of the university's history.

Searle is the author of "Celebrities in Disgrace," a novella and story collection that was a finalist for the Paterson Fiction Prize, a book The New York Times called "a miniature masterpiece"; "A Four-sided Bed," a novel nominated for an American Library Association Book Award; and "My Body to You," a story collection that won the Iowa Short Fiction Prize.

Serle is also vice chair of PEN/New England and runs the annual Erotic PEN readings. This year the American Repertory Theatre will preview and Tufts University will premiere the highly publicized opera for which she wrote the libretto: "Tonya and Nancy: The Opera," based on the notorious attack on Nancy Kerrigan by an ally of Tonya Harding during the 1994 US Figure Skating Championships.

Both events are free and open to the public.

**Great Plains poet Ted Kooser...
U.S. POET LAUREATE HONORS 20TH
YEAR OF MSUM MCGRATH WRITING
SERIES WITH READING MARCH 6**

U.S. Poet Laureate and 2005 Pulitzer prize-winning poet Ted Kooser presents a reading from his work at 8 p.m. Monday, March 6 in the Roland Dille Center for the Arts Hansen Auditorium as a feature of the Tom McGrath Visiting Writing Series, this year celebrating its 20th anniversary.

A professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he is the author of 11 full-length collections of poetry, including the 2005 Pulitzer Prize winning "Delights and Shadows" as well as two books of prose, "The Poetry Home Repair Manual" and "Local Wonders:



Kooser

Seasons in the Bohemian Alps," winner of the Nebraska Book Award for Nonfiction and cited as the Best Book Written by a Midwesterner for 2002 by Friends of American Writing.

Retired as vice president of Lincoln Benefit Life, where he worked as an insurance representative for many years, he now lives on acreage near Garland, Neb.

Kooser often draws from his native Great Plains to depict the sweeping spaces and small-town life of rural America. His verse, which is famous for its simple, straightforward style, has garnered him multiple awards, including two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships and the Pushcart Prize.

The poet laureate's job carries with it few specific duties, to allow writers to work on their own projects. The post includes an office at the Library of Congress, a \$35,000 salary and an obligation to deliver and organize readings. Previous poets laureate include Robert Frost, Gwendolyn Brooks and Rita Dove.

MISCELLANEA

* **Allen Sheets** and **Kelli Sinner**, Art and Design, attended a career day at Fargo South. They gave three presentations on careers in graphic design.

* The January/February issue of the American Society on Aging's newsletter Aging Today, includes an article titled "Creating Art Inspires Wellness Among North Dakota Elders."

The article, a summary of one printed in the newsletter of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, spotlights the two-year project, "Art for Life," which was co-directed by **Lila Hauge-Stoffel** and **Mary Seim**. Data collected from the project identified that interacting with the arts and artists expanded the concentration and renewed the sense of dignity of the elderly participants. The project was funded by the North Dakota Council on the Arts with Challenge

America Funds. Hauge-Stoffel will present this project at the annual conference of the Minnesota Creative Arts and Aging Network.

* **Sue Severson**, Special Education, along with Jon Enderle, a teacher with the Moorhead Public Schools, gave two invited presentations at the Wisconsin State Transition Conference on Feb. 9 in Wisconsin Dells, Wis. The presentations were titled "Transition Assessment and Planning: Using the Enderle-Severson Transition Rating Scales" and "Transition Planning and the IEP: Helping Students Prepare for the Future."

* **Jim Kaplan**, Languages and Cultures, will chair a session at MnSCU's Realizing Student Potential Conference in Minneapolis at Metro State University on Feb 24. The topic is "Applying for a Grant From a Private Foundation." Taking part in the session are Karen Starr, Senior Program Officer of the Otto Bremer Foundation, Chuck Peterson, Vice President of the Minnesota Council on Foundations and Brooke Barsness and Carrie Brimhall from MSCTC, Fergus Falls.

VACANCIES

* **Assistant Director, Continuing Studies And Customized Education & Training**

<http://www.mnstate.edu/vacancy/unclassified/Continuing%20Studies-0624P-1.pdf>

* **Assistant Professor Of Philosophy**

<http://www.mnstate.edu/vacancy/Philosophy-0625F.pdf>

INCOME INEQUALITY IN MINNESOTA 2000
(From Minnesota Budget Bites, January/February 2006, submitted to Continews by President Barden.)

The Long-Term Trend in Minnesota: Increasing Income Inequality

An analysis of recent Census Bureau data shows that the financial rewards from strong economic growth since the early 1980s were not broadly shared. The incomes of the poorest fifth and middle fifth of Minnesota families grew about half as much as the wealthiest fifth since the early 1980s. This resulted in growing income inequality over the same time period. In the early 1980s, the richest fifth of Minnesotans had incomes that were four and a half times as large as the bottom fifth. But by the early 2000s, the richest fifth of Minnesotans had incomes that were nearly six times as large as the bottom fifth.

Since the early 1980s:

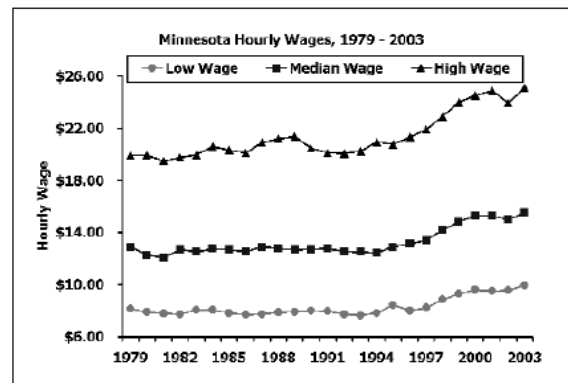
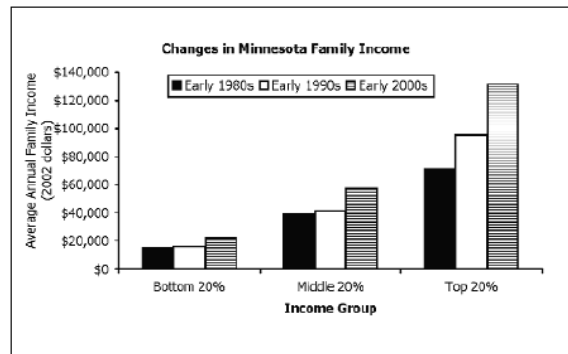
- The average incomes of the poorest fifth of

Minnesota families grew 47%, or \$7,171, after adjusting for inflation.

- The average income of the middle fifth of Minnesota families grew 49%, or \$18,847.

- The average income of the richest fifth of Minnesota families grew 85%, or \$60,449.

• Tight labor markets at the end of the 1990s meant that Minnesota's low-, middle-, and high-income families saw their income increase at about the same rate between the early 1990s and early 2000s. However, national data suggests that income inequality is now once again on the rise.



Wage Inequality is the Primary Cause of Income Inequality

For most Minnesota families, the primary source of income is their work (rather than investments). Therefore it is not surprising that trends in income inequality mirror wage trends in the labor market.

- Wage inequality in Minnesota increased during the 1980s, as the wages of high-wage workers grew while the wages of other workers fell. In fact, after adjusting for inflation, hourly wages for low-wage workers were 3.2% lower at the end of the decade than at the beginning, and hourly wages for median-wage workers were 1.6% lower. Only by increasing the number of hours worked could these

Minnesota families get ahead.

- In contrast, during the 1990s, wages for all Minnesota workers rose, particularly during the latter part of the decade when a tight labor market meant that more of the benefits of economic growth were shared.

- Wage growth since 2000 has slowed dramatically compared to the increases in wages seen at the end of the 1990s. Stagnant wages for middle- and low-wage workers since 2000 appears to confirm that inequality in wages is again on the rise.

- As a result of these wage trends, the gap between low-wage workers and high-wage workers was larger in the early 2000s than it was at the beginning of the 1980s

Economic growth does not guarantee rising living standards for all - the key is ensuring that the benefits of growth are shared. Wages have been relatively stagnant in recent years because the benefits of economic growth are not accruing to the workers who helped create it.

In the current economic recovery, a much greater share of economic growth has gone to corporate profits than in previous recoveries, and a smaller share has gone to workers.

- In the past eight business cycles, the share of corporate income growth going to corporate profits averaged 21%, while an average of 79% of corporate income growth went to worker compensation.

- This pattern is reversed in the current business cycle; 85% of corporate income growth has gone to corporate profits and only 15% to workers.

Higher profits mean higher stock prices, but most of these gains go to upper-income Americans. Most families own no more than a few thousand dollars worth of stocks. In fact, the bottom 80% of Americans own less than 11% of all stocks. The majority of workers rely on wages, not stock prices, to determine family income.

Income Inequality Impacts a Family's Quality of Life

Income inequality due to stagnant wage growth is exacerbated by other factors that determine a family's quality of life. The decreasing availability and value of employer-sponsored benefits - especially health insurance and retirement - increases costs for working Minnesotans. Reduced access to employer-sponsored benefits and

increased costs force workers to pay the costs of health care and retirement savings out of their own pockets or face economic risk by going without benefits altogether.

The lowest-wage workers have the fewest options. In 2003, only 45% of private sector workers nationally earning less than \$15 per hour had access to employer-provided retirement benefits and 51% had access to health benefits. In contrast, among workers earning more than \$15 per hour, 76% had access to employer-provided retirement benefits and 74% had access to health care benefits.

Income inequality and reduced job quality means that working families struggle to make ends meet. In its most recent *Cost of Living in Minnesota* research, the JOBS NOW Coalition finds that the annual cost of meeting basic needs for a two-parent family of three in the Twin Cities metro area with one parent earning wages is nearly \$32,000. To cover these costs, a worker must earn an hourly wage of about \$15.25 an hour. Forty-five percent of all jobs in the Twin Cities metro area pay less than this hourly wage.

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