

---

**DANIEL KIRK NAMED NEW VP FOR FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATION**

Daniel Kirk will fill the position of vice president for Facilities and Administration at MSU Moorhead. Since 2000, Kirk has held dual positions as associate vice president for Administration and Operations at Metropolitan State University and associate vice president at Minneapolis Community and Technical College.



Kirk succeeds David Crockett, who will remain as the dean of the College of Business and Industry. During his 12 years as vice president, Crockett supervised numerous capital projects, including the construction of the new Science Laboratory Building and John J. Neumaier Hall and the renovation of Hagen Hall, the Center for the Arts, Nemzek Hall, Kise Commons and MacLean Hall, as well as scores of remodeling and infrastructure improvement projects.

In his new position at MSUM, Kirk will assume administrative support of the University's mission and strategic plan and leadership in the University's plans for all buildings, grounds and related operations. He will oversee the completion of the new campus Wellness Center.

Kirk is experienced in the administration of capital project development from pre-design through project completion within the Minnesota State system. During the past seven years, he has participated in the successful completion of more than \$55 million in capital projects for the two Twin Cities institutions, where projects totaling \$23 million are currently underway.

Kirk holds an undergraduate degree in psychology from Dakota Wesleyan University, and a master's degree in personnel services and counseling from the University of South Dakota. He is currently an MBA candidate at Metropolitan State University.

Kirk's wife, Pamela, is a member of the nursing faculty at MCTC. They have two adult children.

Kirk will begin his appointment at MSUM by early September.

---

**DILWORTH NATIVE MICHAEL PARKS NAMED MSUM'S NEW CAMPUS SECURITY DIRECTOR**

Michael Parks, former coordinator of the Law Enforcement Academy at Minnesota West Community College in Worthington, Minn., has been named the new director of Campus Security at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

He will oversee a staff of more than 20 full- and part-time Campus Security employees, the majority of them student workers.

Originally from Dilworth, Parks attended MSUM for one year before earning an associate degree in Law Enforcement at Alexandria Technical College. He later earned a bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement at Metropolitan State University and a master's degree in Leadership at Concordia University in St. Paul.



Parks started his career as a patrol officer in his hometown of Dilworth and then served 11 years as a patrol officer and narcotics detective for the Lakeville (Minn.) Police Department.

For the past four years Parks was coordinator and a member of the faculty at Minnesota West's Law Enforcement Academy.

He and his wife Cathy, an R.N. originally from Moorhead, have two young daughters.

**MSUM'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS PROGRAM GETS \$1.35 MILLION DOE GRANT**

Minnesota State University Moorhead's new Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) program has received a five-year, \$1.35 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

It was awarded by the DOE through its National Professional Development Program, aimed at improving the abilities of all teachers to work with English language learners.

The grant, according to Linda Houts-Smith, coordinator of the MSUM program, will support three campus programs:

\* To revise the university's entire teacher education program, including training of all pre-service teachers in English language learner issues and professional

development for all teacher education faculty.

\* To support a regional conference on issues relating to teaching English language learners. The conference will bring together university faculty, K-12 teachers and pre-service teachers throughout the region.

\* To create an initiative to encourage secondary school teachers who work in partner school districts (including Moorhead Public Schools, West Fargo Public Schools and all the districts of the South East Education Cooperative of North Dakota) to enroll in MSUM graduate courses in TESL. Teachers involved in this project will receive stipends to complete both individual courses and the entire TESL certificate program. Other school districts may become partners in the future.

Houts-Smith said that Moorhead Public Schools, for example, identified 29 different languages spoken in the homes of students in elementary and secondary schools in Moorhead.

MSUM currently offers an undergraduate minor in TESL and a graduate certificate.

**RightNow on the Web....**

**HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT CAMPUS?  
IT'S AT YOUR FINGERTIPS WITH  
NEW 'ASK MSUM' SOFTWARE**

If you have any kind of question to ask the university—like “How do I get a copy of my transcript?”; “How do I get financial aid?”; or something as arcane as “What’s MSUM’s federal school code?”—the answers are now right at your finger tips.

This summer MSUM incorporated the RightNow Technologies “smart” software system on its Web page, [www.mnstate.edu](http://www.mnstate.edu). Just click on the “Ask MSUM”

logo and either ask a question, go to the frequently asked questions section, or use the drop-down menu to narrow your field of inquiry.



The system is knowledge-based, meaning it learns and grows from the questions and answers entered into the program.

The MnSCU system contracted with RightNow Technologies in 2005 to purchase licenses at a reduced price for schools and offices within the system. MnSCU is made up of 25 two-year colleges and seven state universities (including MSUM), which comprise 53 campuses in 46 communities.

Approximately 1,800 corporations and government agencies worldwide depend on RightNow to achieve their strategic objectives and better meet the needs of those they serve. The company is headquartered in Bozeman, Montana.

With the growth in MnSCU’s enrollment, including its distance learning classes, students expect consistent and accurate answers to questions outside the confines of typical office hours.

MnSCU schools currently using RightNow Technologies experienced a 10 to 30 percent phone call reduction; 50 to 70 percent e-mail reduction; and efficiencies in streamlining internal business processes by providing a varied approach to helping students, parents, faculty, staff and the community.

**MSUM professor’s new book:  
LISTENING TO POPULAR MUSIC:  
OR, HOW I LEARNED TO STOP  
WORRYING & LOVE LED ZEPPELIN**

Feel guilty about listening to Madonna rather than Mozart?

Don’t worry. Pop music—from rock and country to hip-hop and jazz—provides its



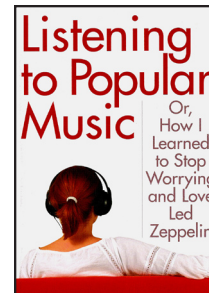
own aesthetic rewards, according to Theodore Gracyk, a philosophy professor at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

In “Listening to Popular Music: Or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Led Zeppelin,” Gracyk argues that ordinary people can value pop music for

legitimate aesthetic reasons.

The 245-page paperback was just released by the University of Michigan Press, the inaugural title in its new Tracking Pop series.

With references ranging from Aristotle to Britney Spears, from Friedrich Nietzsche to Willie Nelson, Gracyk points out that popular music is very capable of “taking us out of ourselves, suspending time, or transforming our relationship to the world around us.”



In other words, it contributes to the quality of life.

But it’s not all about aesthetics. Music today is so ubiquitous, and serves so many purposes in our daily lives, he said, that it’s easy to ignore its potential aesthetic values.

Merging insights from aesthetic theory, cognitive science, psychology, identity theory and cultural studies, Gracyk challenges the elite perspective that continues to dismiss popular culture and its music as an aesthetic wasteland.

Why Led Zeppelin in the title? One of the book’s central arguments against this elitist dismissal of popular music involves an extended discussion of the musical intelligence displayed by two of British band’s best known songs, “D’Yer Mak’Er” and “Black Dog.”

The bottom line: “Given the extent to which aesthetic value contributes to the quality of human life,” Gracyk said, “the aesthetic value of popular music deserves more attention than it receives.”

In his first book focusing on the complexity of popular music, "Rhythm and Noise: An Aesthetics of Rock," released in 1996 by Duke University Press, Gracyk argued that rock music is different from other music in a number of overlooked ways. As a result, rock is often over-simplified and misunderstood.

His second book, "I Wanna Be Me," published by Temple University Press in 2001, looked at rock as a mass art, drawing people together in communities of listeners who respond viscerally to its sound and intellectually to its message. It was selected as a co-winner of the 2002 Woody Guthrie Award (the book award of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music-U.S.).

Gracyk, a specialist in 18<sup>th</sup>-century philosophy and the philosophy of art, writes books about pop and rock music for a simple reason, he said. "I was a teenager before I became an academic. Rock music helped me mold my own personal and political identity."

### **JIM KAPLAN ONE OF 14 SCHOLARS NAMED TO NDHC SPEAKERS BUREAU**

Jim Kaplan, Languages and Cultures, is one of 14 scholars who've been named to the Speakers Bureau of the North Dakota Humanities Council's "Between Fences" Project.

This program will send an exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution to selected communities in the state and offer speakers who will lead discussions related to the subject of the exhibit.

Kaplan's program is entitled "Walls and People: The Rise and Fall of Totalitarianism in the Twentieth Century." This period was marked by the rise of totalitarian regimes based on extreme ideologies, with Nazism and Stalinism being the two "greatest" examples.

The building of the wall around the Warsaw Ghetto and the Berlin Wall are emblematic of this historical movement. Kaplan will explore the rise and fall of these walls through two literary works: "The Wall" by John Hersey and "Too Far Afield" by Nobel Prize-winning author Gunter Grass. His presentation reveals how literature helps us understand history by making it meaningful to us in our own lives.

### **SCHOLARSHIP & FINANCIAL AID OFFICE EXTENDS HOURS**

The Scholarship and Financial Aid office will extend office hours to 5 p.m. on the following dates:

Aug. 20-23: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Aug. 27-30: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sept. 4-6: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### **FALL SEMESTER DESIRE2LEARN TRAINING**

MSUM's Instructional Technology Services is providing several training opportunities for fall semester for faculty using Desire2Learn (D2L) in their online and hybrid courses. Each workshop is approximately 50 minutes. Register online at: [http://appserv.mnstate.edu/instrtech/ITRegistrations/Aug\\_Sep07wkshp.asp](http://appserv.mnstate.edu/instrtech/ITRegistrations/Aug_Sep07wkshp.asp)

### **D2L Overview:**

September 10: 9 a.m. Center for Business 200

September 10: 1 p.m. Library 222

This session will address how to get started with MSUM's instructional management system D2L, including:

- Requesting a permanent course and the purpose for a development course
- Process for requesting an "active" course shell for each new semester
- Utilizing the most frequently used tools within D2L (content, discussion board, gradebook, dropbox, quizzes) in appropriate and creative ways for class activities and assessments.

NOTE: Other workshops will address these tools in much greater detail

### **Adding Content to D2L:**

September 11: 9 a.m. Center for Business 200

September 11: 1 p.m. Library 222

This session will address the strategies for Content Organization and the process of adding course content including Syllabus, PowerPoint presentations, handouts, assignments, etc., to your course and which file formats work best in an online environment.

### **D2L Quizzes and Surveys:**

September 12: 9 a.m. Center for Business 200

September 12: 1 p.m. Library 222. This session will address creating online quizzes, surveys, and exams in D2L. We'll discuss how to

- create questions within D2L
- use questions you've already typed into a Word document
- importing publisher's test banks into your D2L course

We'll also discuss features within the D2L testing environment that allow for such settings as randomization of questions and/or answer order, time restrictions, automatic grading, and regrading quizzes if the key was wrong.

### **D2L Gradebook and Dropbox**

September 13: 9 a.m. Center for Business 200

September 13: 1 p.m. Library 222

This session introduces you to the process of setting up your D2L Gradebook and the homework Dropbox, methods for downloading student work and strategies for grading work and providing feedback to the students.

The skills covered include:

- Creating a dropbox
- Linking to a grade item
- Strategies for adding feedback comments to Office Documents

- Using the html editor in D2L to create dropbox descriptions

### **D2L Discussion Forums and Groups**

September 14: 9 a.m. Center for Business 200

September 14: 1 p.m. Library 222

This session introduces you to the strategies and techniques for setting up and administrating large group and small group discussions in your D2L courses.

Topics covered include:

- Samples of discussion descriptions, instructions and grading rubrics
- Creating discussion forums
- Time and date restrictions
- Creating discussion groups in the classlist tool
- Restricting topics to specific groups
- Viewing and sorting discussion messages

### **MSUM OFFERING FALL DALE CARNEGIE COURSE**

MSUM will offer 'The Dale Carnegie Course' beginning Wednesday, Sept. 5, a 12-week series of classes that offers personal and professional growth in: self-confidence, communication skills, interpersonal skills, leadership skills, and reducing stress and worry.

Facilitated by Eide Bailly, LLP, the local franchisee for Dale Carnegie Training, and MSUM Customized Education and Training, the course will be held Wednesdays from 1:30-5:00 p.m. through November 21.

The course is now being offered for academic credit at MSUM. For more information visit [www.mnstate.edu/continue](http://www.mnstate.edu/continue) or contact Kathleen Paulson, Customized Training Program Coordinator at 477.5051.

### **FULBRIGHT SENIOR SPECIALISTS NEEDED**

The Fulbright Senior Specialists Program is seeking qualified individuals, with an interest in strengthening global understanding through higher education initiatives, to apply to its roster of Senior Specialists.

The Fulbright Senior Specialists Program awards grants to qualified U.S. faculty and professionals for a period of two to six weeks. Eligible applicants, in selected disciplines, apply for admission to the Specialists roster. Applicants recommended by independent peer review committees and approved by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board become candidates for Fulbright Senior Specialists awards and remain on the roster for five years. Roster candidates may then be matched with approved projects developed by academic institutions overseas.

Specialists may use these grants to collaborate with existing contacts abroad and build institutional linkages. Grant activities may include presenting lectures; conducting needs assessments; developing and/or assessing curricula or educational materials; assisting in institutional planning; and participating in

lead seminars, conferences or specialized academic programs as it relates to the institution's needs.

The Senior Specialists Program follows an online application process. If interested in applying to the program, please visit the FSSP Web page ([www.cies.org/specialists](http://www.cies.org/specialists)) for program details, grantee experiences and the online application form.

### **MISCELLANEA**

\* **Paul Harris**, History, presented a paper entitled "The Abolitionist Legacy in Methodist Missions to Africa" at this July's meeting in New Haven, Conn., of the Yale-Edinburgh Group on the History of the Missionary Movement and Non-Western Christianity. On the same trip, he spent two weeks researching the Methodist's mission to Liberia at the Methodist archive in Madison, N.J.

\* **Shelton Gunaratne**, Mass Communications, presented a paper, titled "Let Many Journalisms Bloom: Cosmology, Orientalism, and Freedom," to the International Communication Section of the International Association for Media and Communication Research at its 50th anniversary meeting held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris on July 24. A revised version of the paper will appear in a special issue of the China Media Research to be edited by Yoshitaka Miike and Guo-Ming Chen.

\* **Benjamin Smith**, Languages and Cultures, attended the 89th annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese from August 3-5 in San Diego. While there, Smith presented a paper entitled, "Using Contemporary Oral Histories to Teach the History of the Spanish Language." The presentation touched on elements of service learning, collaborative research with undergraduate students and the use of new technologies to teach historical linguistics. Also taking place at the meeting was the triennial conference of the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, Sigma Delta Pi, in which Smith participated as vice president of the Mid-West.

*(Submit Miscellanea items to [tornell@mnstate.edu](mailto:tornell@mnstate.edu))*

### **CLASSIFIEDS**

\* Spacious 3-bedroom upper level duplex, new carpet, new paint, garage, \$800 month; 3019 18th St S Fargo 238-8020 or 730-4422 It is available now.

\* Unique 5 bdrm(possibly 6th) with 3 full baths. Built in 1947. Beautiful hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen, clean and straight basement. Fantastic corner lot, huge trees, large cedar deck, and almost completely fenced. Only a 15 minute walk from MSUM. Call 218-236-6293 for more information.

### **DRAGON FIRE MEETS NOON WED., AUG. 29**

Dragon Fire will host the initial 2007-2008 Dragon Fire Luncheon at noon on Wednesday August 29th outdoors at Alex Nemzek Stadium. There will be a picnic style lunch (cost of \$10.00) and the program will include a preview of the Power Bowl football game from Dragon head coach Damon Tomeo. Anyone interested in Dragon athletics is invited to attend. In the event of inclement weather the luncheon will be moved indoors at Nenzek Hall. For further information contact Bruce Hanson at 4641.