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Profile

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Winter 2009

Profile: On stage, on screen--personal and professional rewards

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Profile

For Alumni, Parents, and Friends of the University of Minnesota, Morris

Volume XIII, Edition 2, Winter 2009

On stage, on screen—
personal and
professional rewards



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In this issue...

| | |
|--|----|
| Chancellor's message | 1 |
| Associate vice chancellor for external relations' greeting | 2 |
| Branding initiative update | 3 |
| Campus news | 4 |
| Features: | |
| Theatre internship affirms theatre arts for Ally Roberts | 9 |
| Actress Ann Michels: receiving the gift of encouragement | 10 |
| Goodmanson: Emmy-winning art director for daytime drama | 11 |
| Brendan Brandt: challenges and accomplishments in LA | 12 |
| Kristy Goebel's life at sea—training, travel, theatre | 13 |
| Media Services creativity and technology supports campus mission | 14 |
| Joy Bashara Ingram explores theatre in the Terezin Ghetto | 16 |
| Morris Alumni Association news | 17 |
| Class Notes | 21 |
| Cougar athletic news | 26 |

Mission Statement

The mission of UMM as an undergraduate, residential, liberal arts college is distinctive within the University of Minnesota. The Morris campus shares the University's statewide mission of teaching, research, and outreach, yet it is a small college where students can shape their own education. The campus serves undergraduate students primarily from Minnesota and its neighboring states, and it is an educational resource and cultural center for citizens of west central Minnesota. Through its instructional excellence, its commitment to research, its numerous extracurricular programs and services, and its strong sense of community, UMM endeavors to achieve its place among the best liberal arts colleges in the nation.

Cover photo: Ann Michels '93 as Mrs. Fred (right) with Kathleen Humphrey as Jane and Elizabeth Stahlmann as Ella in the 2008 Guthrie Theater production of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, adapted by Barbara Field and directed by Gary Gisselman

Cover photo credit: Michal Daniel

All the world's a stage...

—a message from Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson

This issue of *Profile* focuses on the many talents of Morris students, both past and present, with special consideration given to representatives of those whose journey has taken them into the world of dramatic production: theatre, film, and television.

In *As You Like It*, one of Shakespeare's characters observes:

All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts...

These words seem a fitting opening for this issue. Morris students and Morris alumni are actors, and they are active—on the stage and under the lights. Read on and learn more about their extraordinary accomplishments.

If you are fortunate enough to live in the region, I hope you will take time to attend the productions of Morris's theatre department. The dramatic selections are challenging; the costume and scenery designs are impressive creative expressions; and the sophistication of the student performers continues to amaze me. Theatre and the arts are alive and well on the Morris campus, serving the purpose of the liberal arts and liberal learning, whether you participate, as I do, as a spectator, or, as many of our students do—as actors, designers, and technical crew members.



And there's more: the UMMys are almost here, providing an opportunity for practiced and novice filmmakers to try their hand at video production and to win campus acclaim in the process. Our digital media area of concentration in our newly revamped communication, media, and rhetoric major program is also flourishing, with student producers using their talents to serve the community—preparing a historic documentary for the local Kiwanis, for example; creating an informational piece on the campus's green initiatives. And our Media Services department provides opportunities for students to participate in the creation of television productions like "Prairie Yard and Garden" and documentaries that air on public television.

Not only are Morris students and Morris alumni actors, directors, and producers in the classic sense, they are also active and engaged members of their communities. In fact, this action-orientation is one of the defining characteristics of students here, past and present. Morris students are restless with learning that is not confined to the classroom. They take their ideas and their ideals far afield. Just ask the students who returned a few weeks ago from the second annual Clinton Global Initiative University: four young people who were invited, along with hundreds of others from the United States and around the world, to make action-commitments related to climate change, poverty, education, and health, and who learned strategies and techniques designed to help them keep those commitments.

Or ask the students who attended the presidential inauguration in January 2009: they witnessed first hand an unparalleled moment in American history, one that they had helped to create.

As Shakespeare observed, each of us is called upon to play many parts—in some cases, parts that we haven't played before. Today, we are also called upon to make sense out of challenges that we haven't faced before. A robust liberal learning environment promotes intellectual flexibility, creativity, and collective imagination—capacities and dispositions that are in demand now more than ever, as we rethink the educational environment, business practices, ways of relating, and organizational structures. At Morris, we seek to provide a stage for learning that develops those capacities and dispositions by discovering and then nurturing the special talents that are found within each student. A measure of our success is found in those students who are acting, directing, and creating—on stage and off, in the classroom and in the community.

Giving to UMM

In partnership with the University of Minnesota Foundation, 100 percent of all gifts designated to Morris are received by and invested in the Morris campus. The Foundation serves as the legal, charitable entity for the University system.

The Morris campus welcomes all forms of financial gifts in any amount in support of its mission and in pursuit of strategic goals. There are many ways to give, and we are happy to assist you in determining the best way based on your individual situation. Read "Ways to Give" at morris.umn.edu/givetomorris, then contact a development team member for a personal consultation.

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Planned Giving Team

The Foundation offers a broad range of gift planning services to alumni, donors, and friends of the University and their advisers. The Foundation planned giving team works closely with the Morris team to carry out donor wishes. If you are interested in learning more about tax advantaged gift planning, income-producing gifts, or future gifts, contact Maddy Maxeiner or Susan Schmidgall on the Morris campus, or Frank Robertson, director of planned giving, at the Foundation. Meet the Foundation planned giving team at giving.umn.edu/futuregifts.

Visit Fund Development online.
morris.umn.edu/givetomorris

A message from Maddy Maxeiner, associate vice chancellor for external relations



If you are reading *Profile*, you have a stake in the University of Minnesota, Morris. Whether your perspective is that of an alumnus, current student, parent, friend, benefactor, campus partner, faculty, or staff member, you have a stake in the campus's future. And as a stakeholder, you deserve to hear how, even in troubling times, Morris remains committed to educating the leaders of tomorrow.

It's probably safe to say that we are all facing some tough challenges right now. Unprecedented economic times have impacted our plans and our budgets. Institutions, businesses, and individuals alike are navigating troubled waters, hoping for

some kind of resolution to these tumultuous conditions. Not surprisingly, the University of Minnesota, Morris is impacted, too. Tough decisions will be made; budgets will be reduced. But good work continues on the Morris campus. Students continue to explore their potential, transform their thinking, and realize their dreams.

In this unprecedented economy, it might be easy to lose sight of exciting and promising happenings—but not here on the Morris campus! Good things here serve as a positive affirmation of your stake in the future.

- Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson and four students were invited to the Clinton Global Initiative at the University of Texas at Austin.
- Two hundred prospective students visited campus for the Community of Scholars to compete for Morris's most prestigious scholarships.
- Morris was one of only twelve campuses selected nationally for a site visit by the Rocky Mountain Institute, an important center for sustainability and renewable energy thinking.
- The Institute of International Education nationally ranks Morris third among colleges that award bachelor's degrees in the percentage of students who participate in a study abroad experience during their college careers.
- Morris is again among the top 100 colleges in the 2009 Kiplinger Best Values in Public Colleges national ranking.
- Renovation is underway on the West Central School of Agriculture (WCSA) Engineering Building, now known as Community Services, to convert this historic treasure into a gateway facility opening the campus's doors in new, welcoming ways to prospective students, alumni, friends, donors, and community partners. With so many visitors interested in Morris's green initiatives, the timing is perfect! The center is slated to open next fall, just in time for—
- A 50th anniversary party! September 26, 2010, marks the 50th anniversary of the University of Minnesota, Morris's opening. Plus, 2010 is also the 100th anniversary of WCSA's founding. And 2010 is the year we realize the campus goal of carbon neutrality. A very big year indeed. See page six for more information, and stay tuned for details!

Together, we will continue to invest in this very special learning community with a history and a destiny unlike any other college campus. As stakeholders, we can build a model community for the future that reflects our roots in the prairie of west central Minnesota—first as an American Indian boarding school and later as the West Central School of Agriculture. Even amidst uncertainty, we are true to ourselves, and as stakeholders, true to the University of Minnesota, Morris.

New visual identity tells the campus story and conveys campus characteristics

—an update from Christine Mahoney, director of communications

Take a look at the back cover of *Profile*, and you will notice something new—Morris's newly adopted visual identity, a.k.a. logo or symbol. The new identity was developed as part of the campus's institutional branding initiative, which began in earnest in summer 2007.

Through this process, which included primary research, we discovered that the University of Minnesota, Morris community—students, alumni, faculty, staff, donors, parents, community friends, and partners—is energized by the belief that knowledge is a renewable, sustainable resource. The new visual identity represents this belief through a refined wordmark and unique symbol that communicates key campus characteristics:

- The formal workmark element reflects the Morris campus's relationship to the world-renowned University of Minnesota, its 150-year history, its land-grant mission, and its commitment to academic excellence.
- The monogrammed M stands for Morris and for Minnesota and is constructed of graceful lines that arc outward, conveying the openness and expressiveness of the Morris campus.
- Uncontained and unconstrained, the M is centered within three overlapping circles. The space around the two lower circles forms the infinity sign, illustrating a sense of limitlessness and perpetual motion reflecting Morris's renewable, sustainable education.
- Maroon and gold represent Morris's relationship to the University of Minnesota. Green represents Morris's relationship to its rural setting and its commitment to sustainable energy and eco-conscious living.
- Three shapes acknowledge the three institutions that have made their home on the Morris campus: an American Indian boarding school; the University of Minnesota West Central School of Agriculture; and the University of Minnesota, Morris. Also, Morris was the third campus founded in the University of Minnesota system.



Another exciting product of this initiative is a redesigned campus Web site. Because it is being redesigned in phases, we encourage you to visit morris.umn.edu frequently to witness the changes and mark progress.

Other related projects that have been completed to date are: a redesigned suite of admissions publications; an integrated marketing plan for the campus; a Morris campus brand identity system and usage guidelines. Enhancements to *Profile* will be coming in the next months.

The Morris campus has a unique, genuine, and compelling story to tell. The ability to articulate this story is directly related

to our success in the areas of student recruitment, student retention, and institutional advancement—all key components of the campus strategic plan.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this initiative. Indeed, this was a community effort. Your feedback and insights were and will continue to be instrumental in advancing the Morris brand. Please watch for more updates on this initiative in upcoming issues of *Profile* and *E-Express*. If you have questions or would like more information about this initiative, please contact me, Christine Mahoney, at mahoneyc@morris.umn.edu or 320-589-6398.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MORRIS

**Download Morris logo
desktop wallpaper at
morris.umn.edu/about/symbol.**

**Request
new admissions materials for
prospective students at
admissions@morris.umn.edu or
888-866-3382.**

**View the newly redesigned
Web pages at
morris.umn.edu.**

**Send feedback to
urel@morris.umn.edu.**

New logo receives silver award in design competition

The new University of Minnesota, Morris logo received a silver award in the logo design category in the 24th Annual Admissions Advertising Awards competition sponsored by the Higher Education Admissions Marketing Report.

Lipman Hearne, Morris's consultant, a leader in marketing and communications for nonprofits, submitted the logo to the competition. Entries for awards competition were received from more than 1,000 colleges, universities, and secondary schools from throughout the United States. Admissions marketers, advertising and creative directors, marketing and advertising professionals, and the Admissions Marketing Report editorial board served as the judging panel.

Retirement to be “new experiment” for Van Alstine

Jim Van Alstine, Morse-Alumni Distinguished Professor of Geology, believes geologists view the world a bit differently because of the time frame their field of study requires. Unlike experimental scientists, geologists have results in hand and investigate how those results came to be. “In geology,” he says, “we work backwards. It’s pretty hard to recreate in the laboratory the conditions that led to major events in Earth history.” On the occasion of his upcoming retirement, in geologist’s style, we can do the same looking back on the major events of Van Alstine’s 35-year history at the University of Minnesota, Morris.

Creating a major

Today, the geology major holds a solid position in Morris’s academic programs, but when Van Alstine first arrived in 1974, students earned a geology degree as an “option two” or a designed major. He and the late Clemens “Johnny” Brauer, professor of geology, developed the curriculum that led to the implementation of the official major.

Field camp

Today, field camp is a requirement for the major and a vivid memory for geology graduates. Van Alstine developed the hands-on learning opportunity in the 1980s in cooperation with the South Dakota School of Mines. States Van Alstine: “Students receive a real taste of geology in field camp. Our students successfully competed with students from Duke and UCLA, and colleges around the country because of their Midwestern work ethic, common sense, a sense of responsibility, a good UMM education, and because they are excellent students.”

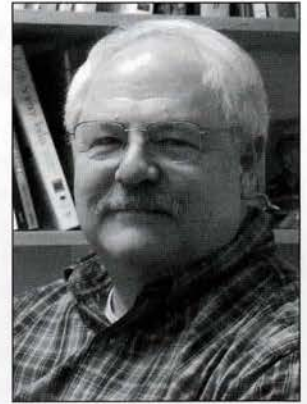
Geology classrooms and labs

Today, geology students—majors and nonmajors—study in a facility especially designed for the field. That wasn’t always the case. Van Alstine is proud of the current facilities, although stories from earlier years always bring a smile: “Geology never

had real facilities until the science building renovation. The new major used facilities ‘borrowed’ from other disciplines. We received lots of complaints when we dropped rocks on the third floor. And our rock cutting room was located in the old P.E. Annex dressing room.”

Alumni success

Whether studying in make-shift or state-of-the art facilities, Van Alstine notes that geology alumni serve as an indicator of the program’s outcomes: “Our geology graduates have been very successful,” he states. “Most of our graduates have gone on to earn master’s degrees and a large number have earned doctorates. We have Morris grads employed in every major industry in the country, and in state and federal agencies as well.”



Van Alstine

A new type of experimentation

At the end of the academic year, Van Alstine will move into a new area of experimentation. Unlike geology in which results are known, the effect of not teaching in classrooms, in labs, and in the field is still unrealized. But, Van Alstine has a few hypotheses: He’ll have more time to hunt and fish with wife Sharon; more time to spend with four grandkids, all boys, two old enough to take fishing; more time to spend at his business, West Central Environmental Consultants, Inc.; and he will be forever grateful for his University of Minnesota, Morris career and for the community in which the college makes its home.

“Morris has been a great place to both work and to live,” Van Alstine reflects. “There’s not a better place to raise a family and to start a business. This college and this town have given me and my family everything we need.”

JVA Retirement Party

Pomme de Terre Park
Saturday, May 23, 2009
3 p.m. until dark

Join fellow alumni and friends for the annual hog roast to be celebrated this year in honor of the retirement of Jim Van Alstine, professor of geology. Although not necessary to attend, an RSVP is helpful in planning for this special occasion.

320-589-6066, alumni@morris.umn.edu
morris.umn.edu/alumni/vanalstine

If you would like to make a gift to the scholarship that will be established in JVA’s honor, please use the enclosed envelope, and mark “James Van Alstine Geology and Environmental Sciences Scholarship.”





Jazz Fest celebrates Carlson's legacy and Alumni Jazzers' silver anniversary

Since 1979, a blaze of springtime color on the prairie coincides with an explosion of wailing instruments and syncopated rhythms in Edson Auditorium. Scheduled for April 2–4, this year's annual Jazz Fest honors the professor who orchestrated this campus tradition and defining Morris characteristic—Jim “Doc” Carlson '65, Morse-Alumni Distinguished Professor of Music.

Doc and Kay Carlson '65, music teaching specialist, will retire at the end of the academic year. A pre-Jazz Fest concert reception will be held to wish them well at 5 p.m. in Turtle Mountain Cafe on Saturday, April 4. All are invited.

In honor of Doc Carlson's upcoming retirement, gifts in his honor will be accepted for the newly created Jim “Doc” Carlson Jazz Fund. As an endowed fund, gifts will be invested and part of the interest will support Morris jazz. The remaining interest will be added to the principal to ensure growth and, as a perpetual legacy, to honor Carlson. If you would like to make a gift, please use the enclosed envelope.

Alumni Jazzers 25th anniversary

The 31st annual Jazz Fest will also celebrate the talented alumni who “rock the house” each year at Jazz Fest. The Alumni Jazzers, established by Carlson, will celebrate 25 years of Jazz Fest alumni participation. Buddy DeGier '86 coordinates this group of jazz musicians each year.

Thirty-one years after its debut, Jazz Fest continues to uphold the purposes for which it was created—to teach, to learn, to play, to entertain, and be entertained as Carlson envisioned. This year's guest artists are trombonist Robin Eubanks, saxophonist Kenni Holmen, and guitarist Adam Rogers. They will teach workshops for high school and college musicians and perform each evening. Morris student jazz ensembles, the West Central All-Stars, and the Alumni Jazzers will also perform.

If you are unable to secure a ticket for the often-sold-out Jazz Fest, overflow viewing in Turtle Mountain Cafe will be available on Friday and Saturday evenings. Online streaming arrangements are also being made. Visit morris.umn.edu/alumni/carlson, call 320-589-6066, or e-mail alumni@morris.umn.edu.

Photo above: Doc Carlson directing rehearsal

“Doc is one of the hardest working individuals I have ever met and tops that with his obvious love for teaching and performing. I can't think of anyone more deserving of a restful retirement than Jim Carlson. Have fun on the links, Doc!”

Howie Hecht '92

“Doc and Kay are two of my favorite people. They treat everyone they meet with dignity, kindness, and respect, with a wonderful touch of humor. Doc and Kay are a great team as they have shared their lives and love of music with UMM students. They are a rare example of how to live right while humbly sharing what they know with whomever they meet. As a UMM alumnus I am proud to be a member of their musical family. Their positive impact will continue to touch the lives of many students through their contribution in education. I wish everyone could be one of Doc and Kay's kids. They are wonderful leaders in education, and their legacy will be carried on as I and others continue to strive to bring their example into our classrooms.”

Lorelei Livingston '89

“Doc Carlson is, and always will be, the first thing I think of when somebody says Morris. Whether wearing a baseball bat costume to a jazz dance or running for more golf balls from his trunk after Aaron, Joel, and I all sliced one into the woods on the first hole, he was always smiling! Doc, it truly is people like you that make this place called Morris so special. A heartfelt thank you for all that you have done for me, both personally and professionally. There is one thing I know for sure. Morris will never be the same without you. You will be dearly missed! With that, you're out of time...you're out of tunes. See you on the golf course!”

Mike Vandenberg '03

Briefs

National Intercollegiate Honor Band musicians

Three Morris Symphonic Winds members were selected to play with the 2009 College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) National Intercollegiate Honor Band: Jessica Henry '09, Roseville, French horn; James Jarvie '09, Cokato, trumpet; and Brian Kotila '09, Cokato, euphonium. The Honor Band performs at the CBDNA National Conference in Austin, Texas on March 28, 2009.

Financial aid resource

The Office of Financial Aid staff is an important resource for students and parents during uncertain economic times. "We know that families are concerned about finances," says James Morales, associate vice chancellor for enrollment. "Sending your children to college is an important long-term investment that no one should back away from. Families should make sure that they are doing all they can to tap every available resource to finance their children's education." E-mail finaid@morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.

2009 Symposium on Small Towns

Communities 2050: Building a Livable, Renewable and Responsible Future! is the theme of the Seventh Annual Symposium on Small Towns, June 2-3, 2009, at the University of Minnesota, Morris. For information and to register, contact the Center for Small Towns at 320-589-6451 or morris.umn.edu/services/cst.

Professor receives recognition for acting role

Ray Schultz, associate professor of theatre, earned a 2008 Wilde Award nomination for his performance as Father Flynn in *Doubt* at the Detroit Repertory Theatre.



Blue Cross and Blue Shield funding supports healthy campus eating

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) chose the Morris campus as one of eight organizations to receive funding through its Prevention Minnesota Community Funding initiative,

Healthy Eating Minnesota.

The Office of Student Affairs leads the effort to expand the availability of healthy foods on campus, in greater Morris, and in Stevens County. A Morris Healthy Eating college health coalition has been created and includes: the Pomme de Terre Food Co-op; Sodexo Campus Services, managers of campus dining services; Pride of the Prairie Local Foods Initiative; and Stevens Community Medical Center.

"In a recent study, we learned that only 15 percent of college students at Morris and in Minnesota eat the five servings of fruits and vegetables recommended daily," states Sandy Olson-Loy, vice chancellor for student affairs. "We want to make healthy eating a regular part of campus and community life. We're concerned—for our students and for the state—given the links between unhealthy eating, obesity, and the risk of heart disease, cancer, and other chronic diseases."

Shares Marc Manley, M.D., Blue Cross vice president and medical director of population health, "We look forward to working with the University of Minnesota, Morris. Together, I'm confident we can make real progress."

Blue Cross will fund the eight initiatives with approximately \$650,000 from tobacco settlement proceeds.

Resource: 2007 University of Minnesota College Student Health Survey of 14 Minnesota universities.

Planning for anniversary celebrations



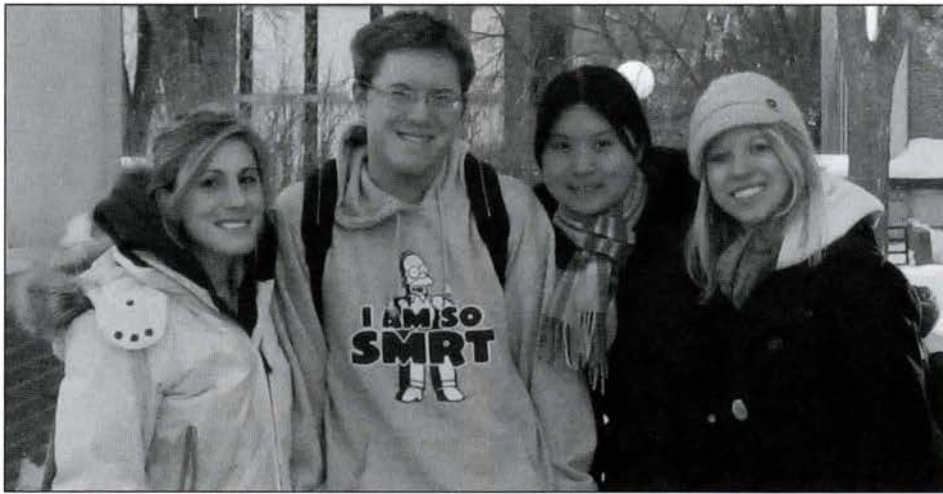
Planning is underway to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the University of Minnesota, Morris and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the West Central School of Agriculture and Experiment Station in 2010.

The committee is researching different ways to celebrate: a Garrison Keillor show and barn dance; a "green scholar" on campus; a documentary of campus history; a 1910 garden for Horticulture Night at the West Central Research and Outreach Center (formerly the Experiment Station); Stevens County Fair exhibits; special DVDs, a Web site, dedication of buildings, a special art exhibit...and the possibilities go on and on!

Dian and Andy Lopez, professors emeriti of computer science, are serving as co-chairs for the planning committee.

Send your answer to "How has the University of Minnesota, Morris and/or the West Central School of Agriculture impacted your life—as a student, parent, staff, faculty, or member of the Morris community?" and your thoughts will be incorporated into campus history, online and/or in print. Send your essay (It doesn't have to be long.) to weberm@morris.umn.edu or to Melissa Weber, 11 Education, 600 East Fourth Street, Morris, MN 56267 by June 1, 2009. Please also let us know if you would like to received periodic e-mail updates on celebration plans.

Photo: Freshmen beanies were an orientation tradition in Morris's early years.



Morris well-represented at Clinton Global Initiative University

By former President Bill Clinton's invitation, Kate Grabosky '09, New Prague, Joseph Hartmann '12, Roseville, Qinglu Shao '09, Shanghai, China, and Rachel Olm '09, Minneapolis, attended the Clinton Global Initiative University in February 2009 at the University of Texas at Austin. Chancellor Jacquie Johnson also attended and served as a panelist on "The University as Laboratory: Towards Carbon Neutral Communities."

"This event is a think-tank for college students," states Grabosky. "Attending helped me learn about important global issues and share ideas. It enhanced my UMM experience because I am constantly given opportunities to learn and spread my ideas. Our campus is very eco-friendly, and that adds to my passion to share sustainable living with children. They are who will be making a difference...."

Photo: Kate Grabosky, Joseph Hartmann, Qinglu (Chris) Shao and Rachel Olm

Irish scholar addresses issues of sustainability as inaugural Jooinn Lee lecturer

When Jooinn Lee, professor emeritus of political science and former Division of the Social Sciences chair, retired in 2007, colleagues, family, and friends established the Jooinn Lee Political Science Lecture Series in his honor. As the inaugural lecturer, Irish scholar John Barry will speak on "Vulnerability, Resilience, Justice, and the Inevitable Transition to Sustainability" on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 7 p.m. in the Humanities Fine Arts Recital Hall. A reception follows.

A reader in the School of Politics and International Studies and Philosophy, Barry is also associate director of the Institute for a Sustainable World at Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. His title, reader, recognizes research and scholarship.

Barry teaches courses that include Politics and Policy of Sustainable Development; Environmental Politics and Environmental Movements; Green Moral and Political Theory; and Environmental Ethics. His research interest, he states, is "the relationship between moral/political theory and the environment, with particular focus on ecofeminism, the implications of green theory for thinking about justice, and theories of political economy in relation to the environment."

A prolific author, Barry's *Rethinking Green Politics: Nature, Virtue, Progress* won the 1999 United Kingdom Political Studies Association's WJM Mackenzie Prize for best book published in political science. He is currently working on a monograph on Sustainability, Vulnerability, and Dependency: Towards a Green Republicanism.

Photo: The namesake of the new lecture series, Jooinn Lee, professor emeritus of political science



Next Generation Energy Grant awarded to Partners CFANS and Morris

Statewide, eight projects received Next Generation Energy Grant funding, including the University of Minnesota, Morris. In partnership with the College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS), Morris will use the \$50,000 grant to study the economics of businesses that store and supply biomass to energy facilities like the Morris biomass gasification facility.

Championed by Governor Tim Pawlenty, the grants are a component of Minnesota's Next Generation Act of 2007 and are aimed at accelerating the development of renewable energy projects and advanced biofuels.

States Pawlenty: "Emerging technologies are dramatically changing the way we produce and use energy. These grants are part of our broader effort to Americanize and improve our energy sources and position Minnesota for economic growth."

Institute of International Education ranks Morris third in nation

Morris was noted in the Institute of International Education's "Open Doors Report 2008" as one of eighteen smaller colleges in the United States of which 80 percent of graduates study abroad during their undergraduate careers.

The report ranks Morris third among undergraduate institutions in the percentage of students who participate in a study abroad experience during college. Other Minnesota colleges named in the same category are St. Olaf College 10th; Concordia College, Moorhead 18th; Carleton College 21st; and Macalester 25th.

Open Doors is a comprehensive information resource about international students and United States students who study abroad as part of their academic experience. It includes extensive graphics to highlight key facts and trends.



Students and faculty contribute to success of mental health crises training films

Charged with delivering cutting-edge, career-specific information to mental health crisis practitioners, Craig Gagnon, crisis response manager with Region IV South Mental Health Initiative and Liberty Sleiter, program supervisor for Stevens County Social Services, found a way to do so using ingenuity and creativity...and local talent. They enlisted Morris theatre students and faculty to portray mental health workers and people struggling with mental health crises in training films.

A collaboration between Region IV's Adult Mental Health Initiative,

funded through the Department of Human Services (DHS), and Stevens County Social Services, which received a DHS grant for children's mental health, the training films present new crises intervention skills and techniques. Both programs, for adults and children, support mental health professionals and practitioners in developing community-based mental healthcare delivery systems to meet specific needs of area communities.

States Gagnon: "Very little new crises training has been developed since the 70s

and 80s, and no training materials were designed for rural Minnesota. The new videos provide a consistent example of new techniques to every viewer. They have been very successful."

Gagnon and Slieter, program manager for the children's crises team, wrote the scripts that the actors received during the recording sessions. In one vignette, Rodney Fair '09, Chicago, played the role of crisis worker while Michael Spaulding '12, Nerstrand, played a young person under duress.

Fair states: "The most challenging part was to memorize lines right on set. If I messed up, I had to cover while on camera. Hopefully, this experience will help me get acting jobs after graduation. Emotionally, the experience brought on a lot of pressure. Even though I was acting, my character, the counselor, was solely responsible for helping the person in his time of crisis."

Ten vignettes resulted in two training videos. States Gagnon: "We had high expectations and the students did an excellent job with minimal coaching on my part. They were extremely professional and adaptable. As faculty consultant, Siobhan Bremer, assistant professor of theatre, did a great job of directing. She was essential to the production."

Bremer, too, was pleased: "The students memorized quickly and did a fabulous job acting. I was proud." Actors who participated in the project were Fair, Spaulding, Anthony Albright '11, Browns Valley; Lizza Sunde '12, Merrill, Wisconsin; Hayley Saccoman '10, Buffalo; Nick James Parker '08, Louisville, Kentucky; Tim Schmidt '10, Buffalo, and Bremer.

The Region IV South Mental Health Initiative is one of fifteen statewide projects involved in redesigning and implementing improved systems for delivering mental health services. It serves Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, and Traverse counties. While the films were created primarily for these counties, they are available to other programs. Most recently, a North Dakota community "creating a crises program from scratch" requested copies of the films.

Confidence inspiring service-learning drama

Ray Schultz, associate professor of theatre, hopes his Creative Drama with Children students learn that drama is fun. The course is not so much about performing as it is about but being loose, comfortable, and creative. In partnership with Morris's Service-Learning program, it is also a way for students to serve others.

Students in the course, often representing a variety of majors, develop children's stories and poems into dramas and perform for area elementary school children. Then, they assist the children in writing their own poems and play improvisational games.

Shares Rachel Braegelmann '11, New Ulm, elementary education: "It was so fun to get [the children] involved because they were so unpredictable. They would shout out anything at any time, which we didn't mind. It was supposed to be an interactive experience for them."

Shares Schultz: "The children who come to watch and participate get a chance to find themselves, learn how to express themselves in different ways, and become more confident and assertive in public."

About 25 service-learning courses are offered at Morris with more than 30 partnering agencies. The Service-Learning program supports faculty, students, and community partners in creating community-based learning opportunities that meet community needs and student learning goals.

—Sarah Deutl '11, Anoka

Photo: Rodney Fair '09, Chicago, and Michael Spaulding '12, Nerstrand, in a scene from the training film

CLIMB Theatre internship affirms theatre arts for Ally Roberts '10



Ally Roberts '10, a self-described extrovert, clearly remembers her first acting role—an evil stepsister in an elementary school production of *Cinderella*. The “wonderful energy” that materialized when she first stepped onto the stage as a child continues to sustain her and to inform career plans for the future. Last fall, an internship with CLIMB Theatre, a nationally recognized nonprofit that provides educational programming to elementary schools through drama, affirmed academic and professional goals.

Like many Morris students, Roberts, a native of Willmar, explored theatre in high school, participating in musicals, one-act plays, and directing. She was also involved in speech; one of her two majors at Morris is communication, media, and rhetoric.

Several experiences at Morris confirmed for Roberts that she should also major in theatre arts. She shares: “First, I am able to use my sewing skills through a costume shop job that adds to my classroom and stage experiences. Second, with every show I do at Morris, I learn new things—analysis of text, expression of emotions, development of characters—and none of it gets old! Third, participating in children’s theatre at Morris reinforces my passion for working with children. Theatre is the best way for me to relate and connect with children.”

Roberts will appear as Cow in the spring children’s

production *Jack and the Beanstalk*. She has also appeared as Chick Boyle in *Crimes of the Heart*; Mole in *Wind in the Willows*; Sally in *A Lie of the Mind*; and as a Bird Girl in *Seussical the Musical*. Roberts is also a member of Meiningens, the student theatre organization.

Internship reaffirms theatre arts major

Roberts learned about the internship opportunity when a CLIMB Theatre troupe gave an on-campus presentation to theatre students. Soon after, Siobhan Bremer, assistant professor of theatre, and James Rone, CLIMB Theatre producer, began encouraging her to audition for an internship. Bremer, whose professional history includes CLIMB Theatre, mentored Roberts through the process. From application to audition to internship, Roberts reports a wonderful experience: “My internship gave me a taste of what I can do with my degree and provided a skill set that I can use anywhere.”

As a member of a CLIMB Theatre troupe, Roberts taught classes through drama on topics such as acceptance of differences, cliques, prejudice, bullying, conflict resolution, the environment, higher education, respect, self-control, substance abuse prevention, responsibility, choices, and refusal skills. She shares: “We used skits and games

to engage students in conversations about these issues, and we gave them the chance to use their ideas in a safe environment.”

Roberts’s troupe taught in classrooms from Chicago and throughout Illinois to the Twin Cities and throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Rehearsal, props, scheduling, budgets

In addition to memorizing lines and rehearsing, Roberts’s responsibilities included contacting media, managing music and props, and booking hotel rooms—“on a budget.” But her favorite task was teaching through performance.

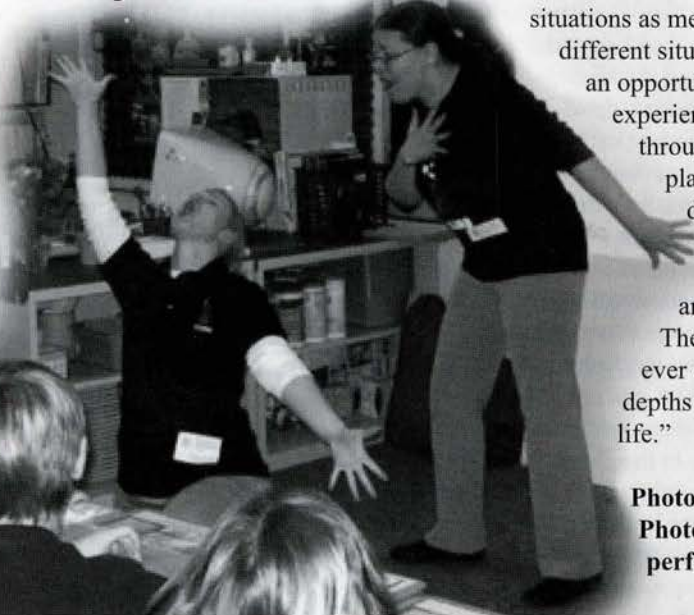
“I really enjoyed doing the characters for the kindergarten through second grade classes because they were so exaggerated and energy consuming. At first, when working with the older students, it was hard to ‘find’ the bully character. I needed to be sensitive and not to actually bully the children but put them in a role, too. We performed these types of characters to give the students a chance to use ideas we suggested or test out their own ideas.”

Roberts clearly understands why she is drawn to theatre: “Growing up in foster care, I enjoyed the escape from reality that theatre provided. Since then, I have learned, with the help of CLIMB Theatre, to channel that energy into helping students, whether they come from similar situations as me, or from completely

different situations. I wish to provide an opportunity for students to experience something new, through a character or a play, or just by thinking differently. I am drawn to theatre because of its ability to portray real and idealized characters.

Theatre is ever changing and ever evolving, adding new depths and dimensions to my life.”

Photo above: Ally Roberts '10
Photo at left: Roberts (center) performs in the classroom.



Actress Ann Michels: receiving the gift of encouragement

When Ann Michels '93 arrived at Morris as a first-year student, "making a living" as a performer was far from her mind. She flourished in Faribault High School's music and drama programs, but she also grew up in a household in which "there was a time for play and a time for work." At that point in her life, performing fell on the "play" side of the equation. Yet, she could not deny her passion. Long before the Twin Cities actress and singer embraced life's calling, friends and faculty recognized gifts and encouraged promise.

Michels gravitated towards students studying theatre and music. Those friendships "loosed some pretty strong desires inside of me," she remembers. She spent many hours on the stage rehearsing for and performing in *The Learned Ladies* directed by Ray Lammers, now professor emeritus of theatre; *Talking With* directed by Anne Ellis '90, and *House of Blue Leaves* directed by Jennifer Sayre Bohmbach '92; and *Noises Off* directed by George "Doc" Fosgate, now professor emeritus of theatre.

And, Michels spent many hours on the "other end" of Humanities Fine Arts—in music. "I hung out near the practice rooms listening to Mozart, Chopin, Debussy, and drank it all in. I attended almost every recital, and I loved it. I sang with the Concert Choir, the madrigal group, and earned a private voice lessons scholarship. I took Opera Workshop which incorporated singing in a theatrical setting."

The turtle's path to a performing career

Michels's method, she says, was "slow and steady wins the race." After graduating in theatre arts and English with secondary education, she accepted a seventh grade English position at Morris Area Public Schools. She also continued voice lessons in the Twin Cities. Two years later, her instructor convinced Michels to give the performing life a shot.

"I had no idea where to start other than to get to the Twin Cities," she remembers. "The first summer, I sold men's sportswear at Bloomingdales (awful), but I started navigating the theatre scene. I found a customer service job with the help of Carmin Pluntz '92 and roomed with Jennifer Main '92. I filled my résumé with roles in small, reputable theatres for little or no pay. Natalie Diem '95 introduced me to Joel Sass, a respected director, who cast me as the leading lady in *The Gods are Thirsty*. But my career's turning point was playing Yitzhak in *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* at the Jungle Theater in 2002."

Soon after, Michels began performing regularly on major stages in the Twin Cities. Recently, she appeared as the Ghost of Christmas Past and Mrs. Fred in the Guthrie Theater's *A Christmas Carol*. Currently, she appears as a dancing bride in *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* at

Chanhassen Dinner Theaters and serves as understudy for the lead.

"The musical is a blast and also physically demanding," reports Michels. "The dance is difficult and rather dangerous. I have to be at the top of my game, so I lead a pretty boring life. I get eight hours of sleep, eat well, go to the gym, and, frankly, don't get out much. We do eight or nine shows per week for four months, so it's imperative that I stay healthy. We perform through injuries and illness. Right now, my shin and ankle are swollen, bruised, and gashed from a scene-change injury. I wrap it up and go!"

A litany of thanks

Michels recognizes a common theme between her love for theatre, music, and English literature and language—"the artful yet truthful telling of tales that uplift the human spirit." She says, "Because I've been encouraged along the way, I know that I can help tell those stories with a certain amount of success." And she credits Morris for that realization.

"My liberal arts education added new colors to my palette, and my professors taught me to paint," she reflects.

"Barb Larson, my first Morris voice teacher, gave me a strong technique base. Jean Richards trusted me to sing an amazing song cycle he wrote for synthesizer, computer, and voice. Carol Concerts with Ken Hodgson were magical. Clyde Johnson sacrificed summer golfing hours to teach me music theory, a comical undertaking. I still don't understand the circle of fifths! Kay Carlson tried to teach me piano. I was hopeless. She was patient and kept her amazing sense of humor.

"And, I will be eternally grateful for Doc Carlson asking, 'Have you ever sung jazz?' When I answered, 'No,' he put me in a practice room with a record player and Jamey Aebersold records. Soon, I was singing with Jazz I big band, terrified, and loving every minute of it. Doc gave me two invaluable experiences—singing at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland and Carnegie Hall. I've not stopped singing jazz since. Jeff Engholm '95 and I have been members of The George Maurer Group for 10 years, performing jazz concerts, recording albums, and entertaining in clubs."

Michels's litany of gratitude closes with a heartfelt thank you to her longtime Morris voice teacher. "Janet Ahern set the bar high for me—as a singer and as a human. She made me feel like I had something beautiful to give—that's an enormous gift that I won't ever forget."



Photo: Ann Michels '93
Photo credit: Tom Sandelands

Goodmanson '86: Emmy-winning art director for daytime drama

New York draws thousands of skilled technicians to its stages and studios to vie for a limited number of professional positions. Relatively few “make it” in the business. Tim Goodmanson '86 remembers Tap Payne, professor of theatre, forewarning his students in “tough love style” of just that fact. Payne’s words of caution and encouragement armed Goodmanson with a practical mind set. A well-rounded Morris education, hands-on theatre experience, as well as a collaborative spirit and a Midwestern work ethic equipped Goodmanson to give the Big Apple a try. Today, he is an award-winning art director for the daytime drama “As the World Turns.”

An appreciation for the whole project

At Morris, Goodmanson performed, directed, and designed. “That’s the benefit of a small program,” the Canby native states.

“I give my theatre professors credit for the grounding I received at Morris. Ray Lammers took me under his wing and gave me all kinds of opportunities. Tap was an amazing design influence, and I had three fantastic summer theatre productions with George ‘Doc’ Fosgate. Because of these experiences, I have an appreciation for and an understanding of the whole project in my work.”

Art classes with the late Lois Hodgell and Jenny Nellis, professors of studio art, cultivated Goodmanson’s “artistic side” and influenced his sense of craft. He notes that a studio art minor “caught people’s attention” on his graduate school applications.

After earning a master of fine arts in scenic design at Rutgers in New Jersey, Goodmanson taught as an adjunct professor at Baruch College and designed sets for summer stock and New York City productions. He also worked as an assistant designer on Broadway and Off-Broadway productions.

After eight years as an assistant—just as he was ready to “hang it up” and start over in Los Angeles—the production designer at “Another World” offered him an art director position. When that show was cancelled, he accepted a position with the studio’s “As the World Turns.” Five Daytime Emmy Awards and nine nominations for outstanding achievement in art direction/set decoration/scenic design for a drama series later, Goodmanson continues to love the creative environment in which he works—the rush of a deadline, the pressure of “making it come together.”

Creativity and technical skills

Goodmanson and his colleagues begin planning sets by reading scripts three to four weeks in advance of taping. If the required set for a scene has been used before, Goodmanson contacts the crews who store and move sets from the off-site warehouse or from the studio basement. If a new set is needed for



one-time use—a seedy hotel or a dramatic explosion—less time and materials are invested in design and construction.

Designing and constructing a new set that will be used repeatedly, like a character’s apartment or office, may take four to six weeks. Cues in the script direct the design of “every inch of the set.” Then, Goodmanson oversees “from scratch” construction in the scene shop. Finally, each component of the set is numbered and cataloged.

On Mondays, Goodmanson meets with directors to review the following week’s taping schedule, to finalize designs, and plan set up and tear down. While most of the set design work is done long before actors arrive, occasionally Goodmanson is required to be on set for taping special events like an elaborate wedding.

Creativity and technical skills are necessities in Goodmanson’s line of work, but he admits that “obsessive compulsive characteristics” are helpful, too. “A big part of my job is keeping track of stuff and organizing. It is not my favorite part of the job, but it is critical. I need to know where everything is at, down to the minutia, every single detail.”

The ability to keep secrets is an important attribute, too. As storyline suspense builds, Goodmanson in his role as art director is among the first to learn how the script resolves conflict or controversy—sometimes even before actors learn of the demise of their characters. Hopefully, they, too, had “tough love” professors who coached on the realities of screen and stage.

Top photo: Goodmanson (far right) accepts 2008 Daytime Emmy Award with fellow recipients. Middle photo: An elaborate wedding set Goodmanson designed for “As The World Turns”

Photo credit: Tess Casey

Brendan Brandt: challenges and accomplishments in LA

Law school or acting. Siobhan Bremer, assistant professor of theatre, remembers Brendan Brandt's "turmoil" as he struggled with that decision back in 2005. With LSAT scores in hand, the political science and philosophy graduate made his choice—he had to give acting a try. Four years later, Brandt "makes a living as an actor." That's no small accomplishment in the competitive world of Los Angeles television and film.

A card-carrying member of the Screen Actors Guild, the Mankato native makes his home—a 450 square foot studio apartment—a few blocks from Grauman's Chinese Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard. Like many aspiring actors, his first step in LA was to find a job...as a waiter. "Out here," he shares, "applying to be a server is like an audition. I even had to submit a headshot."

Brandt maintains a position at the restaurant, but television, movie, and online acting roles fuel his passion—and commercials pay the bills.

While not his lifelong acting dream, commercials are, Brandt explains, appreciated and "a bit like Christmas." In addition to payment for acting in Ford, Domino's Pizza, the National Football League, and Eggbeaters commercials, he receives residuals each time they air. "Some days," he shares, "there's an

unexpected gift—a big check—in the mailbox."

Brandt currently appears with Tom Arnold, Allison Munn, and Suanne Spoke in the Web serial comedy *Overkill: A Love Story*. Movie and television credits include *Cars*, *Some Sunny Day*, "Close to Home," and "The Click Five Music Video 'Just The Girl.'" While his favorite role has been Macbeth in an Artist's Shakespeare Company production, he dryly comments: "LA does not respect theatre."

But LA does love Midwesterners, and Minnesota roots are an advantage. "They make assumptions that we are trustworthy, harmless, responsible, affable, and genuine." And while Brandt actually fits those descriptors, he overlooks the stereotyping if it helps secure a role.

In between acting jobs, Brandt and fellow actor Charles Hayes found a way to "stay sane," make a little money, and inject a bit of humor into their sometimes difficult lives. They wrote, *Waiting Tables*, *Dodging Bullets: An Actor's Guide to Surviving Los Angeles*.

Shares Brandt: "To be an actor here you need self discipline...and extremely thick skin. You have to like being rejected: 'Yeah, give me more.' You've got to be motivated; study hard in acting class; work at the restaurant; search for casting calls;



go to auditions. And no jealousy and no anger when you don't get a part."

During leaner times in his acting career, Brandt takes pleasure in reflecting on performances, college and professional, of which he has been a part, including his role as the narrator in his still all-time favorite *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* performed on the Proscenium Stage in Humanities Fine Arts.

Brandt remembers: "A full house every night. A full orchestra. We even added an extra show. An environment like Morris just provides so many opportunities. You don't get that experience ever again. Cherish it."

Photo above: Brendan Brandt '05

Campus visit encourages, enlightens students

Last fall, Brandt returned to campus to share his story with aspiring actors and to provide practical tips and professional encouragement.

In addition to sharing advice about finding an agent and surviving rejection, he facilitated a role-playing exercise that introduced students to the art of television/commercial auditioning. With Brandt as casting director and the camera rolling, each student "tried out" for a role, reading from a script. Following the audition, Brandt broke from character and provided a critique, encouraging the student actors to "use their eyes...find ways to transition...build character through levels...the more levels, the more colorful, the more memorable."

Student actor Hayley Saccoman '10, Buffalo, auditioned in the campus television studio as Brandt played the role of casting director.



Kristy Goebel's life at sea—training, travel, theatre

Literally, Kristy Goebel's work takes her all over the world. As a stage-manager-in-training for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, the 2005 theatre arts graduate is living her life's dream—working in theatre and traveling the globe. From Athens to Rome, from St. Thomas to Aruba, Goebel is learning the newest technology in the field, "making fabulous contacts" networking with other professionals, and building a strong résumé that may have taken years to compile on land.

Challenges and rewards of a career at sea

Just in case anyone might think her position is too easy or too glamorous, Goebel quickly notes a few drawbacks. She doesn't hesitate a moment to identify the hardest part of life at sea—privacy and the lack thereof.

"I currently share a seven by seven cabin with another woman," she shares. "I haven't had any roommate issues—knock on wood—but when you constantly work with the same people, socialize with the same people, with no real separation from each other, well, at times that becomes extremely stressful. Ship life is a tough life, but if you are up for it, it can be extremely rewarding."

Although six wonderful weeks of vacation follow, the six-month ship assignment can get long. Goebel works seven days per week between four to fourteen hours per day. As a member of the technical stage staff, Goebel averages between 50 and 60 hours per week moving, maintaining, and setting up stage equipment and bands for all the ship's entertainment—on deck during the day and on stage in the evening.

"If I'm assigned to the main stage, I'm backstage working with dancers, moving scenery, running the hydraulic systems. I might run the spotlight, or change the set for the next show, or help with the ice show—yes, we have an ice rink on board," shares Goebel.

Although she is only halfway through stage manager training, Goebel already has had opportunities to "run a show" in that capacity.

A collaboration of talent

Goebel credits Morris theatre for introducing her to "all realms of a production." She reflects: "On the ship, you have to be versatile in what you know and what you do—sound equipment, changing light bulbs in theatre lighting, working with staging, knowing the lingo. One of the main things I learned early on in Morris's great, small theatre department was that I love working with all the aspects of a production, and that theatre was truly a collaboration of talent. That's probably why I chose stage management over other things—I get to do it all."

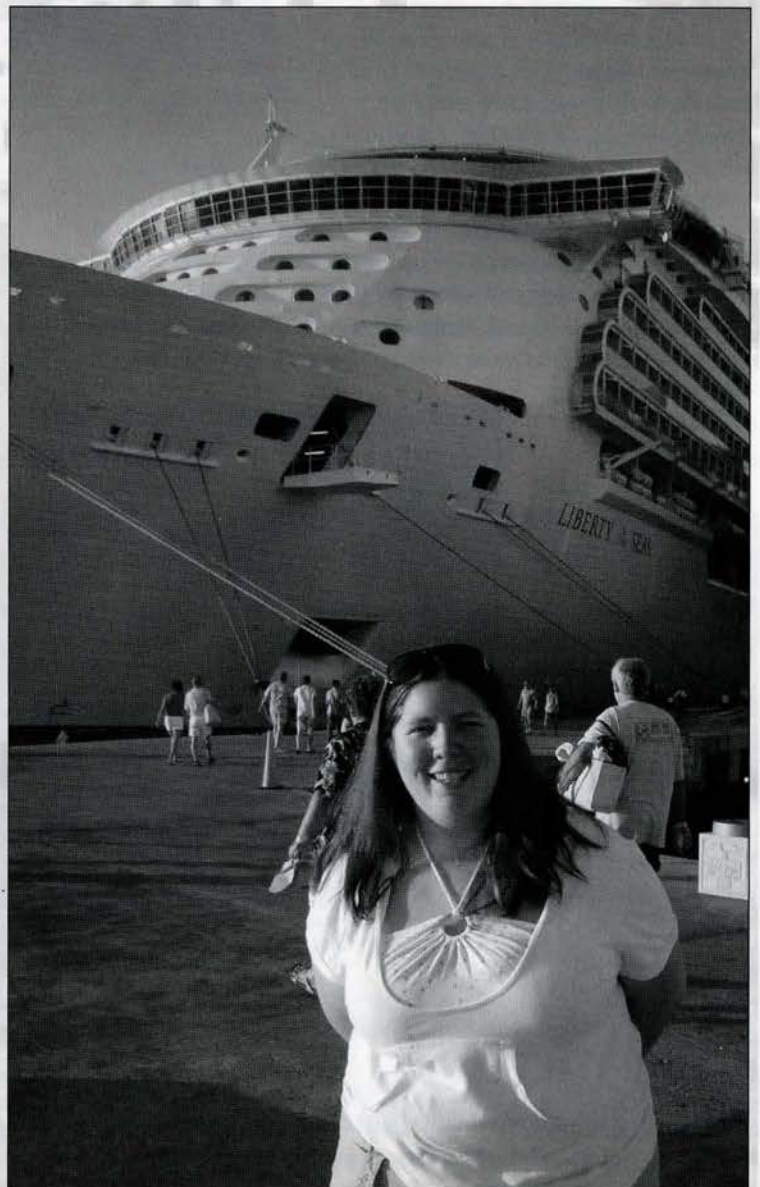
As an undergraduate, Goebel remembers, "I had my hand in pretty much everything—dramaturg, sound designer, light designer, stage manager, actor, understudy, director, and producer." She was co-chair for Meiningens, the student theatre organization, and directed *Pirates of Penzance* for

a local community theatre. She was also honored to serve as Associate Professor of Theatre Ray Schultz's stage manager and sound designer for his 2004 independent production of *Santaland Diaries*.

Next assignment—the Caribbean

Having recently enjoyed a between-ships vacation in her hometown of Maple Grove, Goebel set sail on March 1, 2009, for six months on sparkling Caribbean waters. Back on the ship, she is moving heavy equipment, organizing, planning, scheduling, staging, checking sound and lights. And, the hard work is all worth it—for the learning of new skills, for the exotic and historic destinations, and for the life experiences.

Goebel soon will be stopping in one of her favorite ports in the world: "That would have to be Cozumel," she shares, "for the food and for the little places the crew goes that guests don't know about—and that will stay my secret!"



Media Services creativity and technology supports campus mission

Roger Boleman '83, director of media services, reports that first-time visitors to the Media Services department always react with the same animated response: "Wow!" Two fully equipped television studios and a high-tech master control room in the lower level of Humanities Fine Arts surprise and delight campus visitors and new members of the campus community. Soon, curiosity replaces disbelief. How are these resources utilized? The short answer: Media Services shares and supports the campus mission of teaching, research, and outreach. The facilities and equipment allow Media Services to creatively do so—on air, on film, and online.

Academic services and support

Media Services's Studio A is reserved for use as a faculty and student television laboratory. It is used extensively for communication, media, and rhetoric courses and for student special projects, both for majors and nonmajors.

For example, during fall 2008, three students in the Social Uses of the Media course developed a three-minute video on green energy at Morris. Matthew Privratsky '11, Walker, Greta Simons '10, St. Paul, and Rachael Tripp '11, Becker, submitted their video to the Go Green Tube competition on YouTube.

View *UMM Energy Diversity* online at gogreentube.com

"The assistance and support I receive from Media Services is essential to my courses in TV Broadcasting, Social Uses of the Media, and Digital Media Production," states Barbara Burke, associate professor of communication, media, and rhetoric. "The staff provides us with the equipment for the television studio and control room, and for field production assignments. They also run the digital media lab we use for post-production editing. I count on their technical knowledge to assist me in keeping updated in the use of new equipment and software. They are always willing to help students to learn what is necessary to complete their class assignments, independent projects, and creative works. We really couldn't do our work



From left: Bob Hartkopf, student Shalon Wilber, Melrose, Chris Butler, and Michael Cihak conduct an interview for *Echoes of Cry of the Marsh* during 2007 filming.

at Morris without the help of the people and resources in Media Services."

Students, faculty, and staff, have access to a media lab designed for audio, video, and photo editing. Sam Krump-Johnson '11, Maple Grove, communication, media, and rhetoric major, serves as the media lab intern: "This internship complements my coursework. I learn a lot 'between the lines' thanks to Media Services staff and through this opportunity."

The UMMys

Each March, Media Services plays an important role in a major campus tradition—the UMMys. Morris students, individually or as a team, create short films, 10 to 30 minutes, that are judged by a panel of faculty, staff, and students. As can be imagined, Media Services facilities, equipment, and expertise are in demand!

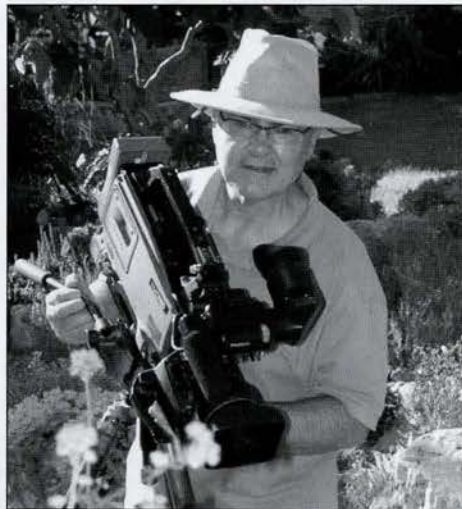
In April, a "red carpet affair" is held in Edson Auditorium for screenings and an awards ceremony that celebrates creativity and recognizes best actor, best actress, best director, and best script. The 2009 UMMY Awards will be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 24.

"Prairie Yard and Garden"

Morris is the only University of Minnesota campus regularly producing for broadcast and the only Minnesota college partnering with public television, since 1981 with Pioneer Public Television (PPTV) of the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

The PPTV "Prairie Yard and Garden" partnership began in 1987. Today, the horticulture series reaches 350,000 households. More than 300 programs have been produced, 13 episodes each year. That translates to 9,000 hours of research, in-the-field taping, and editing.

Shares Mike Cihak, Media Services assistant director of marketing communication and design: "A complex 28-minute



Boleman

program like "Prairie Yard and Garden" requires more than 30 hours of preparation, filming, and editing."

Adds Boleman: "And we can't pull off "Prairie Yard and Garden," filmed entirely in the field, or major Studio B projects, like "Academic Challenge" or the new "On the Table" interview program, without the help of student interns. They help with filming and photo shoots, cataloging photographs, and organizing prep work. In return, they receive valuable experience, and they also enjoy seeing their names when the credits roll."

Minnesota Rivers and Fields

Boleman states that the long-running "Prairie Yard and Garden" affirms Media Services's conviction that wonderful "in-our-own-backyard" stories are waiting to be told. In 2000, that proved true as they produced their first major documentary: *Minnesota Rivers and Fields*.

In partnership with PPTV, Media Services created a 13-part series examining more than 10,000 years of Minnesota River Basin geological, sociological, and agricultural history. Boleman and Gordon McIntosh, professor of physics, co-produced the series. Hosted by Bob Bergland, former secretary of agriculture during the Carter administration, it aired on public television throughout Minnesota and North Dakota. It continues to be in demand as a teaching resource for colleges and secondary schools.

The project served as an invaluable learning experience that continues to inform and support current projects. "During production," shares Cihak, "we captured 46 hours of footage and 1,000 photos. Philip Drown '00, who served as the project intern, created a valuable photo database from that work that we continue to use today."

***Echoes of Cry of the Marsh* earns regional Emmy nomination**

In 2007, Media Services was invited to create a sequel of sorts to an award-winning film produced by Bob Hartkopf that aired on Earth Day 1970. His work, *Cry of the Marsh*, portrays the consequences of draining wetlands. *Echoes of Cry of the Marsh*, produced by Media Services, examines wetlands restoration.

A collaboration with the Upper Minnesota Watershed District, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Clean Up the River Environment (CURE), *Echoes of Cry of the Marsh* received an Upper Midwest Emmy Award nomination in fall 2008. The production "goes national" on Earth Day 2009 as a PBS satellite uplink.

***To Boeing and Back* chosen for film festival screening**

In 2008, Media Services assisted internationally known producer Ken Burns by filming regional interviews for *The War*, a World War II documentary produced by Burns and Lynn Novick for PBS. Media Services and PPTV received a grant to create short documentaries that complement and support themes examined in *The War*. Media Services produced *To Boeing and Back*, the

story of Marion Johnson, Evansville, who during World War II at the age of 18 traveled to Seattle to work at the Boeing aircraft factory. Johnson faced numerous challenges but felt compelled to contribute to the war effort.

Last fall, the film was chosen for screening during the 2008 Minnesota's Greatest Generation Moving Pictures Film Festival, sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society.

States Cihak: "This was a great topic, great writing by Chris Butler, English lecturer, and very rewarding. Not many entities in west central Minnesota are doing the type of work we do. Eventually, voices like Marion's will become silent. It is very rewarding to tell these stories."

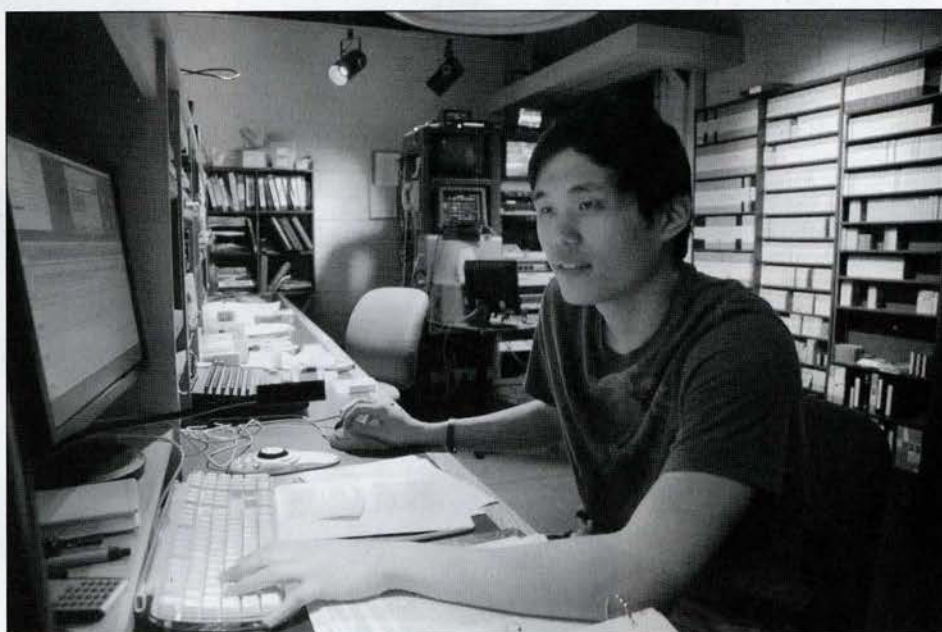
Streaming, uplinking, ITV

Media Services produces online streaming of campus events, like commencement, and athletic competitions through Cougar Sports Network. Friends and relatives unable to travel to Morris watch from afar as loved ones score touchdowns, shoot three-pointers, and walk across the stage to accept their diplomas.

The department facilitates interactive television services (ITV) for academic programming and long distance meetings. They can connect to locations around the world.

"Recently," shares Boleman, "we facilitated a live interview of Cyrus Bina, professor of economics and management, an expert in the area of political economy, by a reporter from an Arabian television station."

Media Services designs, installs, and maintains all "smart classrooms systems" on campus, KUMM 89.7 FM, and sound systems in the Science and Edson Auditoriums. The staff includes Boleman, Cihak, Ron Rosen, senior electronics technician, Tim Ray '91, electronic technician, and Ron Kubik '00, assistant communications technician.



Moon Lee '09, Arden Hills, communications, media, rhetoric major and Media Services intern, in the Master Control room

Joy Bashara Ingram '73 explores theatre in Terezín Ghetto

Exceedingly personal. Deeply communal. Both attributes inspire Joy Bashara Ingram's passion for drama and its capacity to teach, to inspire, to challenge, to entertain. As a Fulbright scholar in the Czech Republic, Bashara collaborated with American scholars and Czech students to create a play examining theatre's import to Jewish prisoners during World War II. The experience illustrates and affirms Bashara's belief in theatre's purpose and promise.

A high school theatre teacher, Bashara '73 met fellow Fulbright scholar Lisa Peschel, a University of Minnesota theatre history doctorate student, by chance at a Fulbright gathering in Prague. Peschel's research, an investigation of theatre in the Terezín Ghetto, intrigued and inspired Bashara.

Terezín: a "model ghetto"

Terezín was a Nazi collection point for Jewish prisoners from Czechoslovakia, Germany, and Austria. It became a Nazi propaganda tool, a "model ghetto" for touring relief organizations. Because of its unique purpose, life for prisoners at Terezín was very different from those at Auschwitz or Treblinka. Living conditions were harsh, but prisoners were allowed small measures of normalcy—including theatre. They performed for each other—cabarets, comedies, children's musicals, and religious plays.

Peschel interviewed survivors and obtained scripts performed at Terezín. She collected dairies and writings that recorded the impact of theatre on prisoners' lives. The next step of her research involved actors. Bashara invited Peschel to join her in Pacov where she taught high school English. With the permission of school officials, a collaboration emerged: two Fulbright scholars, seven Czech high student actors, and Allan Sikes and Derek Barton, theatre scholars partnering with Peschel on aspects of the research.

The project began with a question and answer

exchange. The Americans wanted to know how much the Czech students knew about the Holocaust, in particular, about Terezín. They learned that all had studied the Holocaust. Four studied the history of Terezín and even published a small booklet with their findings. But, beyond that, they were "blank slates," shares Bashara. "The Czechs suffered, too, under Russian occupation after World War II. There's a sense of shame, of anger, and frustration among the people here. When we started this project, the students knew about the Holocaust, but they didn't talk about it with their families and had never considered human implications."

The exchange and the students' reactions to survivor interviews, diaries, and writings were integral to the creative process.

Multiple voices, multiple roles

"The script we developed, *Ester in Terezín*," shares Bashara, "was sobering, exciting, and stimulating." Between scenes from the original *Queen Ester* script performed at Terezín, the group interspersed children's poetry, German language poetry, facts and figures from the booklet produced by the students, question and answer segments, and vignettes inspired by diaries, writings, and survivor interviews. At various times during the play, the actors played themselves, played survivors, or played the roles prisoners played in the Terezín production. A narrator interacted with the audience, asking questions too difficult to answer.

Bashara directed the production and added action and blocking to make the writings and interviews "come to life." She also performed, playing herself. At one point, she answers the student-posed question: Why are Americans interested in the Holocaust? "I believe," she says, "there are people who are evil, people with no sense of right and wrong. I've seen it with students, with other people, and the only thing to do is to be constantly vigilant."

Juxtaposed with the story of Queen Ester, a Hebrew Bible character who saves the Jews from death, multiple voices profoundly impacted the audience and Bashara: "Theatre touches a person's soul affecting laughter, crying, remembering, forgetting. It remains humanity's greatest communal experience."

Ester at Terezín was created and performed in 2005. Bashara returned to the Czech Republic in 2006 to collaborate with Peschel on a second script, *Can't Cry for Laughing*, which was later produced by Czech educational television. Peschel's book, *Divadelní texty z terezínského ghetta 1941-1945*, was released in fall 2008 in German and Czech. An English translation is planned.

In addition to the Czech Republic, Bashara has taught in Superior, Wisconsin; St. Andrews, Scotland, through a Fulbright exchange; Kemerovo, Russia, through Partners in Economic Reform; and on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation. She earned a master of arts in English from the University of Minnesota in 1976 and a master of theatre arts from the University of Wisconsin in 1978. She has directed more than 120 high school and community plays.

Resource: "Risking Representation: Performing the Terezín Ghetto in the Czech Republic" by Lisa Peschel and Alan Sikes, *Project Muse*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, September 2008

Photo: Bashara (second from the right) and cast of *Ester at Terezín*



A greeting from Carla Riley, director of alumni relations and annual giving



You are likely familiar with *Profile* and know that alumni with a particular expertise are periodically featured. In the spotlight and at center stage of this issue, if you forgive the puns, are alumni who successfully earn their keep in the world of stage and screen. To them I have but one thing to say: "Bravo! You make us proud!"

Dedicated faculty and staff can't help but take pride in the success of these alumni, and many more, because they had a hand in shaping them. Successful alumni are a reflection of the excellent liberal arts education they enjoyed. Morris continues to offer current students a renewable, sustainable education, but it is not exempt from the economic upheaval of today's world. Legislative support has been a critical piece of the higher education budget puzzle, and that has never been truer than it is today. If you are interested in lending your voice to support the Morris campus, I invite you to join the University of Minnesota Legislative Network. You will receive updates about the University's legislative issues as well as e-mail action alerts inviting you to contact your local leaders on vital issues. Join online today at supporttheu.umn.edu.

We all agree that the University of Minnesota, Morris is a unique place. Considerable efforts have gone into finding the best way to communicate all that Morris is and what Morris represents. We hope you agree that our new logo captures the essence of this place. The Morris Web site has also undergone significant changes, and I invite you to visit us at morris.umn.edu. While the mission has not changed, the manner of conveying who and what the Morris campus is all about has been updated and improved.

Please mark your calendars now to attend Homecoming 2009. Fun-filled activities are being planned for the October 9–11 weekend. Check the alumni Web site and watch your mail this summer for a postcard detailing Homecoming events and activities. The alumni Web site is an excellent source of information about alumni activities and programs such as the On the Road Program, the Young Alumni Program, and the Senior Legacy Program.

Visiting the alumni Web site is the quickest and most energy efficient way to stay abreast of alumni association plans and programs, but you can always contact me directly with questions, concerns, or just to say hello! I always enjoy hearing from alumni and can be reached by e-mail at rileycj@morris.umn.edu or call 320-589-6394.



Guthrie Theater Gathering

The 2008 production of *A Christmas Carol* at the Guthrie Theater did not disappoint. Seventy students, alumni, friends, and staff gathered in December 2008 for a welcoming reception in the Guthrie Theater's Target Lounge. After enjoying each other's company—not to mention splendid desserts—guests were treated to Dicken's classic tale of the man who learned to "keep Christmas well." Adding to the festive occasion was the stellar performance of Ann Michels '93 as the Ghost of Christmas Past.

Photo from left: Mike Whalen, Kim Whalen '93, Andrew Cook '92, Jessica Pavlak '92



Midwinter Gathering at historic W Hotel

More than 100 alumni gathered at the W Hotel, located in the historic Foshey Tower in downtown Minneapolis, for the annual Midwinter Gathering in February 2009.

Shares Naomi Rettke '96: "What a hoot! I had a great time. While it was a challenge to head out on a weeknight, it was sure worth the effort. I laughed and gabbed with old UMM friends and met a few new ones, too. It was like being back in college, except now my bank account is (slightly) healthier, and I don't have to worry about finals. I definitely plan to attend again next year, and I hope more alums from the mid-90s come, too. It's fun to catch up, and this event makes it easy to reconnect!"

Photo from left: Amy Powers '96 and Naomi Rettke '96

Save the dates for upcoming alumni events!

Pre-Tinman Triathlon Alumni Spaghetti Feed
Friday, April 24, 2009, LaFave House, Morris, 5 p.m.

Young Alumni Summit Brewery Company Tour
Saturday, June 6, 2009, 910 Montreal Circle, St. Paul, 1 p.m.

St. Paul Saints Game Gathering
Wednesday, July 29, 2009, Midway Stadium, St. Paul, 4 p.m.

Homecoming 2009
Friday through Sunday, October 9–11, 2009



Young alumni Morris area gathering warms up a cold winter evening

Young alumni from the Morris area gathered at Bello Cucina Italian restaurant in Morris for a dinner gathering in January 2009. While these alumni haven't settled far from their alma mater, they appreciated the opportunity to hear about campus happenings and to socialize with fellow alumni who also make their homes in the Morris area.

Shares Ashley Hill Christianson '07: "It was a great evening filled with lots of laughter, good conversation, and good food. This was my first alumni event, and I was very impressed! It was a great opportunity to see some old faces and meet some new ones as well. Thanks to Erin and the Young Alumni Committee for putting on this fun event."

If you'd like to become involved in young alumni activities, for graduates from the last decade or so, contact Erin Schellin Christensen, program associate, at schellin@morris.umn.edu or 320-589-6067. Young alumni programming is sponsored by the University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association.

Photo from left: Guests at the young alumni gathering in Morris included Ashley Hill Christianson '07, Chad Christianson '07, Jason Gullickson, and Amber Uecker Gullickson '07



UMMAA sponsors third annual Senior Banquet for soon-to-be alumni

The University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association (UMMAA) honored fall graduates and the Class of 2009 at the third annual Senior Banquet in December 2008.

Following dinner and jazz music, Jacquie Johnson, chancellor, and Carla Riley, director of alumni relations and annual giving, recognized the Class of 2009's accomplishments.

The evening concluded with Patrick Chester '09, Cass Lake, MCSA and Senior Legacy Committee president, inviting seniors to participate in the 2009 Senior Legacy project. The soon-to-be-graduates decided to leave their mark at Morris by planting trees on campus.

Shares Chester: "The idea of planting trees was brought to us by a member of our senior class, and then we voted on the idea. We wanted to leave a legacy that was representative of our entire class and time spent at UMM, and we felt as though planting trees was in line with our campus's sustainable culture."

The Class of 2009 Senior Legacy Committee—back row: Tou Pha '09, St. Paul; Nathan Giles '09, St. Paul; Patrick Chester '09, Cass Lake; Christina Osthus '09, Eagan; Rebecca Hendrickson '09, Hewitt; Front row: Kau Chee Vang '09, St. Paul; Shauna Rosen '09, Plymouth

Would Morris be a perfect fit for the great high school students you know?

As an alumnus, you can provide
high school students with

application fee waivers

It is a nice perk to share with
your family, friends, and neighbors.

Download at morris.umn.edu/alumni or contact the Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving for assistance at alumni@morris.umn.edu or 320-589-6066.



Studio Art Alumni Exhibit celebrates gifts, inspiration, and shared experience

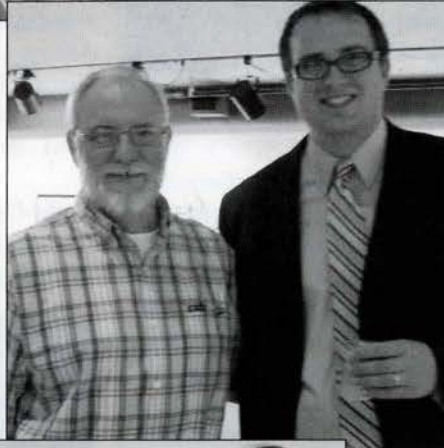
Last fall, the Humanities Fine Arts (HFA) Gallery presented an exhibition of studio art alumni work to celebrate and honor those who have continued creative work in the visual arts. The exhibit, sponsored by the Division of the Humanities, the studio art discipline, and the alumni association, provided a venue for several activities during Homecoming weekend.

Seven alumni returned to campus on Friday afternoon to participate on a Career Development Panel. In a question and answer format, alumni shared valuable personal experiences and graduate school and career advice with students.

On Saturday evening, a reception was held in honor of contributing alumni artists, many of whom attended. During the gathering, Ron Kubick '00 was thanked for a gift to the permanent art collection—a watercolor by his longtime friend, the late Lois Hodgell, professor emeritus of studio art.

States Michael Eble, associate professor of studio art and gallery curator: “I was extremely pleased with the outcome of the exhibit and the career development panel. It was great for my colleagues and myself to reconnect and meet alumni and also have them share their life experiences with our current undergraduates. I look forward to cultivating this event in the future.”

Photos left to right from top: Hodgell painting; Kubick '00 and Eble; Lorlee Bartos '69, exhibit artist; Kirk Sklar '93, Mark Knierim '87, Emily Lyman '06, Tina Didreckson '03, and Sam Johnson '96, panelists



Studio Art Alumni Exhibit participants

Christopher R. Anderson '05
 Neal B. Anderson '89
 Anne H. Barber '94
 Lorlee C. Bartos '69
 Angela D. Behrends '95
 Erica Belkholm '08
 Kate M. Borman '08
 Dana L. Brackenbury '84
 Lonnie Broden '68
 Michael A. Carlson '99*
 Timothy Cleary '92
 Tara A. Connolly '08
 Tina M. Didreckson '03*
 Judith V. Collins Flicker '74
 Sherry K. Gorse '92
 Ronald G. Hains '67
 James P. Holmes '68
 Jason E. Jaglo '92
 Kevin C. Johnson '78
 Samuel D. Johnson '96*
 Mark A. Knierim '87*
 Carsten P. Knoche '07
 Eric W. Knoche '01
 Gloria J. Koehl '68
 Lori Borowski Kurpiers '03
 Jessica E. Larson '92
 Fritz T. Lehmberg '71
 Emily A. Lyman '06*
 Sarah M. Maki '98
 Christina M. Meyer '06
 Anne E. Meyer '04
 Janie M. Mork '02
 Gina S. Nordstrom '02*
 Theresa A. Peper '93
 Matthew J. Peters '02
 Kristin Maiji Peterson '84
 Carol A. Powers '88
 Sarah J. Runholt '01
 Lorie A. Schackmann '81
 Catherine L. Scharmer '04
 Stacy M. Schuett Holtberg '04*
 Kirk A. Sklar '93*
 Paige M. Tighe '04
 Gary D. Wahl '93
 Jonathan J. Walburg '03
 Kristen H. Wendlandt '08
 Keefe A. Whight '03

* panelists

View the exhibit at
flickr.com/photos/hfagallery



A message from Brian Ulrich '98 UMMAA president

Having recently undergone a life altering personal experience involving the medium of television, the focus of this *Profile* issue is timely and appropriate. On a cold and dreary morning, January 23, 2009, I set out on the 5:30 a.m. train from Long Island's calm, secure surroundings to Manhattan's hustle and bustle. Exiting the train, I entered a strange, fast-paced new world. I stole a few seconds to let the day's importance sink in—my big break into national television.



I took a deep breath and hailed a cab for Rockefeller Center, where dreams are made as fast as they are crushed. I was ready for anything the "industry" had in store—no obstacle too big, no security guard too armed. Springing out of the cab onto the concrete, I headed without haste to a strategic position to await my destiny.

Two hours and a cup of terrible eight-dollars-per-cup coffee later, my big break came. And before I realized what had happened, it was over. But forevermore I will be a part of the great American past time—television—etched in celluloid for all time (more likely digitally recorded but I'm going for effect here). After I regained my composure, I reflected. Perhaps my television debut didn't have worldly importance, but donning a UMM stocking hat as a freezing member of the "Today Show" audience fenced-off outside of NBC studios makes for an OK story... maybe.

A year of action

Lights, camera, action. This year, the board of directors is focusing on "action," taking a step back to inventory and re-evaluate which direction we see the alumni association taking, as well as how we can improve interaction with the UMM community. I will keep you posted as this project moves along. I'd also like to pose a question to you as an alumnus. How or what would you like to see come from this effort? Is there a particular opportunity you see as a natural fit for what we should be doing and we aren't now? How can we improve? E-mail your thoughts to alumni@morris.umn.edu. All input is welcomed.

Whether your interest in UMMAA is high or if you are a casual *Profile* reader checking for friends' Class Notes updates, I'd like to ask you, if you are able, to make a donation to the Morris campus. Alumni giving make a great difference—whether for scholarships, special projects, or to get cutting-edge concepts such as the biomass plant off the ground. Every gift, big or not-so-big, is appreciated. If your situation warrants, please consider making a donation in the near future. Like getting on a train and standing in the cold waiting for a moment of fame, it is a small effort with lasting impact.

UMMAA Board of Directors members introduced

Three members were elected to the University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association Board of Directors during Homecoming 2008 weekend. The Board of Directors also elected officers for 2009.

Suzanne Basiago '87

While a Morris student, Suzanne Basiago '87, economics, was involved with student politics and served as treasurer of the Morris Campus Student Association. She and her husband own several Twin Cities area companies including the Basiago Law Office. Basiago served on the UMMAA Board of Directors from 1988 until 1991.

Todd Hyde '89, biology

Following an eight-year stint at TAP Pharmaceuticals after graduation, Todd Hyde '89, biology, was a member of the Celgene Corporation team until his retirement in spring 2008. During that time, his responsibilities included sales management, director of sales, vice president of marketing, and vice president phase IV drug development. He served as lead contact with the United States National Cancer Institute, the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program, the Multiple Myeloma Research Consortium, and was a board member for The Billy Hyde Foundation, a nonprofit melanoma advocacy and awareness foundation.

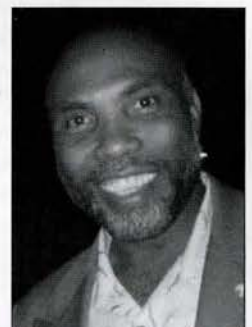


Hyde

Hyde and his family relocated back to the Twin Cities, and he has become active in the commercial real estate investment market, as a small business owner, and is enjoying well-earned time at home.

Anthony Williamson '87, business, economics

Anthony Williamson '87, business, economics, is the co-founder and CEO for Ajasa Technologies, Inc. He helped develop the company's vision, mission, and pursuit of customer hospitality excellence. He has worked in developing and expanding existing clientele in the Minnesota, Arizona, Connecticut, California, and New York markets. Williamson and his family make their home in Golden Valley.



Williamson

Newly elected UMMAA officers

New UMMAA officers were also elected during Homecoming weekend: Brian Ulrich '98, management, president; James Mahoney '85, business, economics, second vice president; and Chris Wenner '99, business, economics, first vice president.

Class Notes

compiled by Adam Thurber '09, St. Paul

Class of '64

David Graffunder retired after 30 years with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Research Labs of Archaeology.

Class of '65

Kay Gjerdingen writes: "Last June, I retired from teaching elementary music in the Palm Springs Unified School District in California. It feels great to not look at the clock and not have a daily agenda or deadlines. I'm keeping my singing going and am co-chair for student outreach for the Palm Springs Community Concert series. I'm traveling more, especially during the summer! After teaching 18 years in public schools and 20 years in universities, it feels great to explore all that life offers."

Class of '68

Rich Iverson writes: "While only spending my first two years at UMM, it remains a special memory. I graduated from the University of South Dakota, spent 33 years with 3M, and retired in 2001. I served American Orthodontics as president and retired in March of this year. Now, after 10 relocations, wife Cammy of 40-plus years and I are establishing a vineyard near the Twin Cities, plus trying to keep up with four grand children."

Dennis Winter, Hoffman, passed away in August 2008.

Class of '69

Paul Coleman retired after 17 years as a radiologist at Methodist Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska.

Emily Elliot loves being a longtime volunteer for the Literacy Committee.

Class of '72

Della Lawson Conroy, Hancock, and **Phyllis Joos**, Hancock, were featured in the Lake Region Arts Council's Juried Exhibit of Abstract Art in Fergus Falls in October 2008.

Class of '73

Brian Speese is pursuing a master of public administration at North Carolina Central University. He hopes that all of his UMM friends are doing well. "I would like it if any old friends from PMD, or any other campus-related organization, would contact me to update me on current events at brianspeese@nc.rr.com."

Class of '74

Ray Strand passed away in December 2008 in Morris from complications resulting from multiple system atrophy.

Class of '75

Chuck Grussing and fellow members of the Morris Kiwanis Quartet recently released a CD.

Class of '76

Bob Hendrickson, Hancock, was a 2008 inductee into the Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame.

Claire Dingley Strand was appointed registrar in May 2008 and now serves as Office of the Registrar director for the Morris campus.

Mark "Cy" Palmquist is manager of Geologic and Mine Services for Texas Industries in Dallas, Texas. Wife **Nancy Driscoll Palmquist '75** and daughter Kaitlyn, a high school junior, continue to reside in Fairfield, Texas, until a move can be made. Son Ryan is a law student at the South Texas College of Law in Houston. Daughter Kerry is a senior at the University of Texas at Tyler. Contact Cy or Nancy at: mpalmquist@txi.com or nanmark@valornet.com.

Class of '77

Susan Raasch, illustrator, showcased her first children's book at the Stevens County Historical Society Holiday Open House.

Class of '78

Omar Metaweh, charter member of the UMM Contemporary Jazz Ensemble, was nominated for an enny award. He performed live "in concert" at the Sugden Theatre in Old Napes in August 2008.



Sharon Drange Rowan '82, Bruce Rowan '82, Pat Fosgate, Bob Flynn '70, Dennis Gimmestad '73, George Fosgate, professor emeritus of theatre, Tom Bollman '68, and Jim Garberick '82 met in Minneapolis for an informal Meinings gathering. Meinings and theatre alumni are invited to join this group on "Alte Meininger" on Facebook.

Class of '79

Rhoda Christensen Smith is vice president of student affairs at Northern State University, Aberdeen, South Dakota. She and her husband purchased a second home in Aberdeen but continue to reside in rural Donnelly.

Class of '83

Mark "Krunch" Kroontje has stayed the course since 1989. He is still the Campbell County States Attorney in South Dakota. He has four daughters, two of whom are now graduated. He would like to hear from his old college floor members and other college friends. Contact him by e-mail at: kroontje@valleytel.net.

Class of '85

Colleen Butler Nelson writes: "I went through a battle with ovarian cancer this summer but am now doing great!"

Class of '86

Lori Meyer Conde passed away in August 2008.

Class of '87

Mark and Lori Halverson-Wente '88 celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. They have two children, Naomi (17) and Jordan (15). Jordan is an American Field Student (AFS) in Argentina. Naomi, they are proud to say, will attend Morris next year. Lori is a tenured instructor in communication at Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC). Mark teaches political science, primarily online. They developed a travel/study abroad program through RCTC, taking 15 or so students each December/January for an intercultural communication service learning study abroad experience in Cambodia.

Class of '88

Doug Wedman writes: "Lisa Condon Wedman and I have been blessed since our years in Morris. After school and the wedding, it was on to University of Colorado grad school. Just over four years later, we moved to Los Alamos, New Mexico, where I was recruited to a job as a post doctorate chemist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. We have two lovely girls, Katie (15) and Kelsey (12). Lisa stays home with Kelsey, whom we home school, while Katie attends the local high school. Both our girls love to sing and are involved in choirs. As for me, having worked my way through various positions as a scientist and manager, I am now in my third year as the quality manager with responsibility over all weapon production activities."

Class of '89

Tim Drake published his fourth book, *Behind Bella: The Amazing Stories of Bella and the Lives It's Changed*. The coffee table book tells the stories behind the making of the 2007 Hollywood motion picture *Bella*. Tim and wife **Mary Hennen Drake** reside in St. Joseph with their five children.



Todd Hyde '89 and Abby Johnson '05 attended the **Cougars Dome Day** reception.

Reba Zebroski Olsen is an instructor of mathematics at Dickinson State University in North Dakota.

Class of '91

Cherie Boegeman Robinson, Austin, Texas, writes: "I have been married for 13 years to a wonder man from Panama—Moises Robinson! We have four beautiful children, Karina (12), Vanessa (10), Latham (8), and Christian (6). I have been a stay-at-home mom for 12 years and am delighted to say that I have started working again. I teach elementary music for pre-K through fourth grade at my children's school, St. Theresa Catholic School."

Mark Shelstad is head of archives and special collections at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Paul Snyder moved to Dubuque, Iowa. He will be attending the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary pursuing a master of divinity. Contact him at: p_snyder100@yahoo.com.

Class of '91

Tim Ray and **Kathy Ray** performed "Scenes and Songs of Minnesota" for the Stevens County Elder Care Coalition's presentation of The Celebration of Minnesota's Sesquicentennial.

Class of '92

Clarence Nolan Carson, Coralville, Iowa, sold his dental practice in 2006 to pursue a residency at the University of Iowa in prosthodontics, which he began in 2007. He and wife Kris have two children, McKenzie (6), and Marcus (4). He plans to return to South Dakota in 2010 to start a specialty practice.

Howard Hecht '92, Chris Heuer '05, and Kris Nelson '97 conducted on-campus Morris student interviews for jobs and internships for West Thomson-Reuters.

Kirk Lingenfelter and his wife welcomed their third child, Madeline Claire.

Patti Wulf Wente is manager of the Pomme de Terre Food Co-op in Morris.

Class of '93

Meredith McGrath was ordained as a pastor in May 2008, moved to La Crosse, Wisconsin, and began a call as an associate pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. She's already bumped into a UMM graduate who lives in the area, which has her wondering how many others there may be.

Karen Wienke Schmitz, Brooklyn Park, and husband **Mason** welcomed their first child, Kendall Rose, in August 2008. They love being parents and can't imagine their lives without her. In October, Karen returned to her position as middle school counselor in White Bear Lake Area Schools.

Robbie Thompson is vice president/general counsel of the Members Cooperative Credit Union in northern Minnesota.

Class of '94

Dana Mages Norris and son Sullivan (5) moved to Littleton, Colorado, in November 2007. They love the mountains and the fun outdoor activities.

Kelly Quick is assistant professor of fitness studies at Lakeland College, Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

Class of '95

Cade Bodley and **Jennifer Koel Bodley** welcomed baby Jillian Mae in April 2008. She joins sister Meredith Belle. Cade works at Amazon.com. Jennifer continues to work as a stay-at-home mom. They'd love to hear from other UMMers in the Pacific Northwest.

Jamie Ebnet, Plymouth, married wife Mai in Hawaii in August 2008. He is a financial underwriter for United Healthcare.

Andrew Jopling writes: "I've been with partner Anna Bowlds-Perkins for 12 years. She has four daughters and eleven grandkids, whose lives we are very active in. We live in Robbinsdale. My disability has been very tiring on myself and wife, but she's stuck through it all and now we are finding life much more enjoyable. Love to hear from anyone who was at Morris when I attended."

Class of '96

Eric Crabtree accepted a job in Brainerd and will move back to Minnesota in 2009. He is an anesthesiologist in Florida with the Air Force.

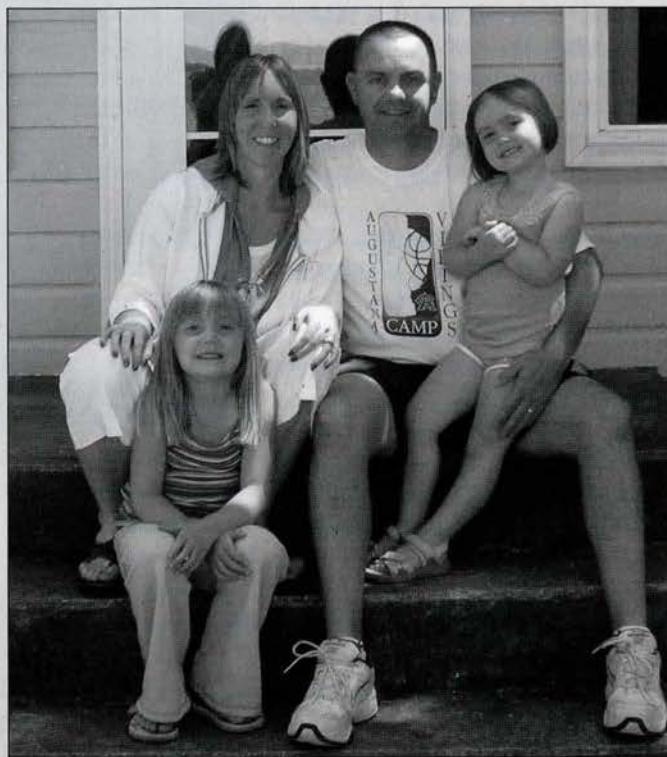
Mark Schuller earned a doctorate in anthropology, global studies, and women's studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara and is an assistant professor at York College City University of New York. He co-edited *Capitalizing on Catastrophe: Neoliberal Strategies in Disaster Reconstruction* (2008, Alta Mira Press) and is completing a documentary film titled *Poto Mitán: Haitian Women, Pillars of the Global Economy* (www.potomitan.net). As a New Yorker, he misses Minnesota and would love to talk with other expat Midwesterners.

Class of '97

Julia Conroy is executive director of the Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance.

Cathy Davidson Witte and **Matt Witte '98** welcomed daughter Cate in July 2008. Cate is being well taken care of by big brothers Josh (5) and Lucas (3).

Jen Hauck lives outside Washington, D.C., with partner Nina and works for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum's systematics laboratory.



Legacy alumna Jennifer Smith Heath '95 hopes Morris will be match for daughters

Jennifer Smith Heath '95 is the youngest member of a legacy family at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The only daughter of Jim and Darlene Smith, she was their sixth child to graduate from Morris. Graduation day, when her brother and sister-law hosted a "wonderful celebration" to commemorate another Smith graduate, is one of her fondest memories. Not only are her five brothers all alumni, but her three sister-in-laws attended Morris as well.

"UMM was a comfortable and familiar place to me. I had grown up from the age of five visiting my brothers on campus," shares Smith. "I chose UMM because of the quality of education it provided and notoriety as one of the best public liberal arts colleges in the Midwest. I wanted to earn my degree in elementary education and knew UMM had an excellent education program."

Smith is the K-12 special education director at Tiospa Zina Tribal School in Agency Village, South Dakota. She has continued her education, earning a master of curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in special education at the University of South Dakota in 2002. Husband Eric is the guidance counselor and athletic director at Tiospa Zina. They have two children, Courtney (8) and Kelsey (5).

The Smith family legacy won't end with Heath's generation. She shares: "Our family highly values education and the opportunities a college education provides. My hope is that UMM will be a good match for future Smith children, just as it was for us."

—Natalie Johnson '11, Wichita, Kansas

Class of '98

Rebecca Jo Malmstrom's line of stuffed animals, made from recycled sweaters, is taking off! You can find "Duckie Uglings" at several locations in the Twin Cities. She also works as a freelance costume and web designer and installed a recycled material mosaic mural this spring at the Dunn Brothers location in Stadium Village across from the University's McNamara Alumni Center.

Angela Mulder Romero writes: "Husband Andy and I moved back north! After spending 10 years in El Paso, we decided it was time to be closer to family. We had our second daughter, Elizabeth, in June 2008. She who joins older sister Katherine (3). I'm an elementary school librarian in Sioux Falls. Andy teaches at a high school in Sioux Falls."

Class of '99

Erika Bailey-Johnson is Bemidji State University's (BSU) first sustainability coordinator. She has served as an adjunct BSU instructor since 2006, teaching People and the Environment.

Julie Brotzler Fisk, St. Cloud, and husband Aaron welcomed Elizabeth Grace to their family in April 2008. Julie would love to hear from old friends! Contact her at: brotzler@yahoo.com.

Kandee Normandin writes: "Just wanted to say hello. I was looking back over the old college photos, and I hope everyone is well. Still out in Colorado living it up. Hoping for some snow here soon!"

Breanna Olson Valverde, Rockford, married Noe Valverde in June 2008. They are working with Youth With a Mission. They are preparing to be overseas missionaries next year. Contact Breanna at brennabuffalo@gmail.com, or find her on Facebook.

Lindsay Jordan Wurst and **Joshua Wurst '00**, North St. Paul, have a son, Miles (2). All is well with them, and they want to say hello to all their friends, and they hope they are doing well.

Class of '00

Beth Haugland Brandt, Crystal, married Ben Brandt in July 2008. Beth teaches elementary music in the Edina School District.

Casey Duevel and **Guy Budinger '97** married in September 2008.

Sarah Stein Howes performed at the Glenwood Central Square and Civic Center in July 2008.

Jana Bunjer Koehler won the Pomme de Terre Women's Golf League Championship.

Alison Lentsch White, Savage, and husband Monty welcomed twins John Douglas and Nicholas James in June 2008. Alison is senior compensation analyst on the Best Buy account for Accenture.

Class of '01

David George and **Jennifer Anderson George** write: "We have two beautiful children: Annabelle (2 ½) and Michiah (8 mos.).

Jenn was offered a job as a Career Resource Educator in the Grand Forks Public School District last summer, so we sold our house in Fargo and moved to Grand Forks. David teaches two landscape architecture courses at North Dakota State University and is pastoring a small church in Grand Forks."

Rachel Hedlin joined the Alexandria Veterinary Clinic's staff of veterinarians.

Josh Kurpiers and **Lori Borowski Kurpiers '03** married in August 2008.

Class of '02

Nathan LaCoursiere is an associate attorney with Hanft Fride.

Tanya Fischer is in her fifth year of teaching at Herman Norcross.



Firing of the outdoor kiln

Several alumni returned to campus last fall to help Kevin Flicker '74, ceramics teaching specialist, and his students with the firing of the 75-cubic-foot single-chamber woodkiln. From left: Michael Deragon '09, Hutchinson; Anne Meyer '04, St. Joseph; Back from left: Daron Zych '09, Graceville; Tristen Zych, Daron's cousin; Keefe Whight '03, Duluth; Sarah Runholt '02, Duluth; Kate Raymond '08, Morris; and Bekah Ackerman '09, Andover; not pictured—Meredith Lorig '08, Edina

Matt Peters earned a master of science in ecological planning from the University of Vermont. When not foraging for wild mushrooms from the woods with partner Sacha, Matt makes wood-fired pottery, a longtime passion resumed. Contact him at peters.matt@yahoo.com.

Class of '03

Lauren Gaugert is the band director at West Junior High School.

Amy Millard teaches fourth grade for the Morris Area School District.

Class of '04

Christine Johnson Banta writes: "After graduating from UMM in 2004, I continued my education and became a licensed alcohol and drug counselor. I reside in Morris with husband Andy, who is currently serving in Iraq as a member of the 353rd transportation company. I wish all the best to UMM alumni."

Kathleen Ellis and Patrick Smith

married in September 2007 and bought a house in Minneapolis. Kathleen works for a nonprofit group dealing with renewable energy. Patrick scouts sites for wind energy.

Stash Hempeck published his first poetry chapbook in June 2004. Three of his poems were included in the anthology *County Lines*, produced by the League of Minnesota Poets in celebration of the Minnesota's sesquicentennial. He is an adjunct English professor at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Carrie Ryan Schneider, South Elgin, Illinois, earned a master of science in sports administration in December 2005 at the University of Wisconsin, Lacrosse, where she met her husband. She moved to Illinois in May 2006 and worked for a parks and recreation department in a northern Chicago suburb. She was married Charles Schneider of Carpentersville, Illinois, in July 2008. She is a lifestyle director for By Edgewater by Del Webb.

Class of '05

Tim Phillips, San Francisco, California, graduated from the University of California, Hastings College of Law, and passed the California Bar Exam. Contact him at veganism@hotmail.com.

Class of '06

David Drexler is COUNTRY Financial agent.

Class of '07

Patrick Lienemann is deployed to Iraq. His mailing address is Sgt. Lienemann, MTT 0713 DET B, Unit 42748, FPO AP 96426-2748.

Anna Jeanne Schliep worked at Eastern Maine Medical Center as a radiation physics intern last summer. She is still in Maine pursuing graduate studies and conducting research in the area of environmental radiation.



Josh Mattson '04 and Emily Bakker Mattson '04 attended the 2009 Midwinter Gathering at the W Hotel in Minneapolis.

Class of '08

Ashley Johnson no longer works for Wal-Mart. She finished a Minnesota Children's Museum internship in August 2008. She now works at the Taylor's Falls Elementary School in Taylor's Falls, Wisconsin. She will be working there for a year and enjoys the nice people. The kids are cute and a lot of fun.

Emily Varney Peterson and Tim Peterson married in June 2008. They were friends in high school and romance sparked when they met for dinner to catch up on each other's lives after years of only an occasional e-mail or online conversation. They live happily in New Hope. Emily

studies for a master of education and teaching license at the University of St. Thomas School of Education.

Julia Schmitt Smith, Excelsior, spent most of the summer planning her wedding with fiancé, now husband, **Colin Smith**. They have two playful cats and are discovering that they are already outgrowing their apartment.

Faculty and staff

Mary Ruth Cox, a former Morris campus assistant dean of academics, passed away in December 2008.

Wesley Gray, passed away in June 2008. He was a West Central School of Agriculture and Experiment Station faculty member and horticulture researcher.

Joseph Jesseph, a Morris campus counselor in the 1970s, passed away in October 2008.

Margaret Wirtjes, retired Morris campus food services employee, passed away in August 2008.

Send us your Class Notes!

Your friends are waiting to hear from you!

Office of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving
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alumni@morris.umn.edu
morris.umn.edu/alumni/classnote

Next Class Notes deadline: **June 1, 2009**

Athletics update

—Mark Fohl, director of intercollegiate athletics



Student-focused goals

Even though it appears that, for a period of time, a difficult economic situation may be ahead of us, Morris continues the work of always improving and enhancing Cougar athletic programs. The number of athletes participating in the 19 sports offered has increased, and the coaching staff continues to recruit students who will prosper at Morris both academically and athletically. We have

made significant improvements to facilities, and continued improvements are planned for the future.

Cougar athletic programs are now eligible for National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III post-season competition, and our goal is to provide our athletes the tools they need to take advantage of that opportunity.

Campus loses friend and colleague

After battling cancer for 18 months, Brian Curtis Brummond passed away in January 2009. Brian served as the sports information director (SID) since 2000. He continued working up to the week before he died.

Everyone who knew Brian liked him. He will be fondly remembered by hundreds of athletes who attended Morris during the past nine years. Brian had the reputation of being a hard-working SID who was known for the friendly and helpful manner with which he greeted coaches, athletes, and members of the media who came to athletic competitions. Brian also served as the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) sports information director until resigning a year ago because of his health.

The Student Athlete Advisory Committee plans to plant a memorial tree in Brian's name on the athletic grounds. They will conduct an annual fundraiser in his name to benefit cancer research.

Dave Molesworth, swimming and diving coach, has assumed additional duties in sports information for the remainder of the year. A search is planned for this spring to fill the position of sports information director.

Friends of Cougar Football Golf Outing

Don't forget to register for the 2009 Golf Outing. It will be held on Friday, June 26, 2009, at the Minnewaska Golf Club. Contact Coach Todd Hickman for all the details at hickmant@morris.umn.edu or 320-589-6431.



Fall 2008 Cougar all-conference

Football—First team: Theo Powell '10, Oshkosh, Wis.; Robert Koranda '12, Becker; Nate Copeland '09, Minneapolis; Andrew Shay '09, Minneapolis; Second Team: Matt Fragodt '09, Becker; Mike Burrows '09, Oakdale; Mitch Zimmer '12, Little Falls; Blair Elliott '09, Forest Lake; Nate Lund '10, Cyrus; Honorable mention: Wyatt Nolan '11, Prior Lake; Brandon Lorenz '09, White Bear Lake; Corey Hemphill '10, Chicago, Ill.; Shane Fickes '10, Herman

Volleyball—Honorable Mention: Briana Czer '09, New Ulm; Alison Pippo '09, Annandale

Volleyball Academic—Casey Stott '11, Onamia; Briana Czer '09, New Ulm; Sam Pfannenstien '11, St. Cloud

Men's Soccer—First team: Brent Diggs, '10, Champlin; Kelsey Duer, '10, Spring Lake Park; Patrick O'Connor '10, Ham Lake; Tyler Simpson '11, Broomfield, Colo.; Honorable Mention: Greg Borchers '12, Westminster, Colo.; Justin O'Connor '10, Ham Lake

Women's Soccer—First Team: Maddy Gerber '10, Mahtomedi; Nina Jarnot '10, Sartell; Honorable Mention: Emily Jacob '11, Minneapolis

Women's Soccer Academic—Maddy Gerber '10, Mahtomedi; Emily Croaston '09, Minneapolis; Amber O'Connor '11, Ham Lake; Sarah Ranney '12, Groton, Mass.; Emily Jacob '11, Minneapolis; Leah Parker '12, Minnetonka; Diana Kmecik '12, Proctor

Men's Cross Country—Luke Toso '11, Falcon Heights

Men's Cross Country Academic—Tony Krueger '09, Brooklyn Park; David Sampers '12, Burnsville; Dugan Flanders '11, Paynesville; Matt Ellison '12, Cloquet

Women's Cross Country—Katie Schneiderman '10, Magnolia

Women's Cross Country Academic—Allison Betsch '09, New Ulm; Melissa Kloek '11, Stillwater; Sonja Smidt '12, Apple Valley; Gemma Militch '12, Cohasset; Mallory King '11, Albert Lea; Katie Saddison '12, White Pigeon; Katie Schneiderman '11, Magnolia

Women's Golf—Emma Schlosser '09, Nelson



Brummond

Women's soccer receives national academic award

The National Soccer Coaches Association of America awarded the 2008-09 women's team the College Team Academic Award. The honor marks the 10th time that Morris women's soccer has received this award.

Hard work in the classroom earned the 2008-09 team the third highest grade point average (GPA) in the nation among more than 400 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division III schools. Morris earned ninth among all Division I, II, and III women's soccer teams. The Morris team earned a collective 3.56 GPA.

"Given the rigor of the coursework here at Morris, this is a tremendous accomplishment," states Dan Magner, head coach. "The young women on our team are curious seekers of knowledge who epitomize what a student/athlete is all about. As diligent and attentive as they are to their studies, they maintain a wonderful balance of mental, physical, and social health in their lives. Each of these young women contributes to the vibrancy and positive energy here at UMM. It is an honor and joy to work with them."

Emily Croaston, Minneapolis, a December 2008 elementary education and Spanish graduate, shares: "I had a



First row: Janelle Brunner '12, Mahtomedi; Breanna Cross '12, Brooklyn Park; Michelle Hentges '12, Andover; Andrea Dexter '09, Aurora, Colo.; Ally Clare '12, Villard; Second row: Laura Hanson '11, Minnetonka; Crystal Zastro '12, Carlos; Cree Foster '12, Minneapolis; Emily Jacob '11, Minneapolis; Leah Parker '12, Minnetonka; Maddy Gerber '10, Mahtomedi; Sarah Ranney '12, Groton, Mass.; Third row: Scott Turnball, assistant coach; Amy Murray, student coach; Rachel Harstad '11, Hampton; Maddy Haisley '10, Albuquerque, N.M.; Amber O'Connor '12, Ham Lake; Emily Croaston '08, Minneapolis; Nina Jarnot '10, Sartell; Liz Vold '11, Broomfield, Colo.; Dan Magner, head coach; Rich Hardy, trainer

Photo by Danter's Photography, Morris

wonderful experience playing soccer with these academically and athletically talented women. When traveling or during down time, it easy to be disciplined about studying because I was surrounded by

people doing the same. The coaches also provided consistent support. There was no question that we were students first and athletes second—never pressure to neglect academics because of soccer demands."

Zavadil gift to Cougars provides new scoreboard

The University of Minnesota, Morris gratefully acknowledges Larry and Diane Zavadil, and American Solutions for Business for a gift to Cougar Athletics. Their donation made possible the installation of a new scoreboard in the P.E. Center gymnasium. Longtime donors, the Zavadils are avid athletic enthusiasts and loyal Cougar supporters.

At right: Basketball coaches and team captains in front of the new P.E. Center scoreboard. Front row from left: Tynell Kocer '09, Pierre, South Dakota; Coresa Leighty '09, New Ulm; Jamie Rainey '09, Maple Grove; Back row from left: Paul Grove, head men's coach; Eric Dalbey '10, Mora; Kendall Proell '10, Oaskis; Tim Grove, head women's coach

Photo credit: Alex McGreavey '11, Maple Grove





The annual Tinman Triathlon is scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2009.

The event offers a course suitable for triathlon beginners as well as veterans. The 1 K swim takes place in the P.E. Center olympic-sized competition pool. The 30K bike course features blacktop surfaces, gently rolling hills, and plenty of flat terrain. The 10K run utilizes the Pomme de Terre Park bike path. Individuals and teams are encouraged to compete with awards for various age groups, male/female, and team categories.

The Tinman begins at the Regional Fitness Center and ends near the Student Center, both Morris campus locations. Learn more by calling 320-589-6167 or at morris.umn.edu/recreation/tinman.

On Friday, April 24, 2009, the University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association will host a Pre-Tinman Triathlon Alumni Spaghetti Feed at LaFave House, 305 College Avenue, at 5 p.m. Alumni Triathlon participants and guests are invited to attend. Please RSVP at morris.umn.edu/alumni/Triathlon, e-mail alumni@morris.umn.edu, or call 320-589-6066.

Second Annual Friends of Cougar Football Rainy River Fishing Outing

April 3-5, 2009, Baudette

Fishing, Social and Dinner
Cougar Update

Reserve your spot by March 27, 2009.

Contact Coach Todd Hickman for details.

320-589-6431

hickmant@morris.umn.edu
morris.umn.edu/athletics



Men's soccer wins post-season title

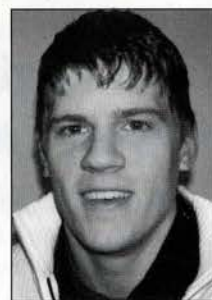
The Cougar men's soccer team defeated the regular season champion, the St. Scholastic Saints, to win the post-season tournament title. The team has won two Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) post-season championships in a row in just three years of existence.

For the season, Morris garnered 18 wins, a new record. They also set the single season record for goals with 59 tallied.

Christian DeVries, head coach, says: "I am proud of how the guys finished the season. First by beating Presentation College in three straight games over a six-day period and then winning our second straight UMAC Tournament Championship in Duluth. They really played team soccer the last weeks of the season!" DeVries received UMAC Coach of the Year honors for the 2008-09 season.

Four Morris players were named to the 12-member All-Tournament team: Greg Borchers '12, Westminster, Colo.; Brent Diggs '10, Champlin; Kelsey Duerr '10, Spring Lake Park; and Patrick O'Connor '10, Ham Lake. O'Connor received All-Tournament most valuable player honors.

"The season seemed somewhat of a disappointment since we didn't win the regular season title," shares O'Connor. "However, we wanted to end the year on a good note and really show people how well we play. The post-season win summed up all the hard work we put in and also showed our ability to rise to the occasion. As for my teammates, I couldn't ask for anything more. I get to play the game I love with some of my best friends! And, since we all are so close, there's a healthy rivalry between us as to who can do things the best. This makes for intense practices. I can't wait for next fall!"



O'Connor

Of Mice and Men, the University of Minnesota, Morris
theatre discipline's winter 2009 production



From left: John Eisenrich '09, Wayzata, as Lennie
and Peter Ray '09, Barrett, as George

Photo credit: Alex Clark '09, Woodbury



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Our Town, the University of Minnesota, Morris theatre discipline's fall 2008 production
Mark your calendars for *Jack and the Beanstalk* on April 24 and 25, 2009.



From left: Aaron Jensen '12, Askov; Erin Denman '09, Minneapolis; Jenna Reiser '10, Bismarck, North Dakota; Margaret Payne; Peter Ray '09, Barrett; Ray Schultz, associate professor of theatre

Photo credit: Alex Clark '09, Woodbury