

Poll Time



Which historical figure would you most like to spend time with?

VOTE HERE

January Poll Results

Dean's Message



The last few weeks have seen several of our Library & Learning services making news headlines both here in Mankato and in Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. What do the news stories all have in common? They emphasize the service-minded nature of our colleagues, as well as the collaborative, real-world impact of their work that benefits our students and community. Our MavPASS program's recent recognition by the University of Missouri-Kansas City was covered on campus, locally in the *Free Press*, and by the *Star Tribune*. KEVC-TV promoted the Upward Bound blood drive, a desperately needed event that occurs quarterly in the CSU. Our Minilex library consortium recently emphasized the collaborative and timely Minnesota Shared Print Program, which includes Minnesota State Mankato alongside twenty-three other academic libraries in a joint effort to preserve scarcely available print materials while allowing each library to pursue efficiencies. Finally, our own campus *Reporter* offered a story on a new digital resource, *The New York Times*, now available in its modern format to the campus community. Much of this topics occur in digital form, and I'm proud that the work being recognized. Thanks to you all colleagues for sharing their hard-earned successes with the region and state.

Student Success

Minnesota State University Mankato Students Named Semi-Finalists for Prestigious Fulbright Scholarship



The Minnesota State Mankato Fellowships Office announces the success of three remarkable Fulbright applicants: Ayree McCabe (Biochemistry, '24), Allison Maschhoff (MFA, Creative Writing, '24), and Eleanor (Ellie) Fitzwilliams (Psychology and French '23). All three have been selected as semi-finalists for the esteemed Fulbright Scholarship, marking a significant achievement in their academic and personal journeys. The Fulbright Scholarship presents an opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the culture of host country while advancing their academic skills.

In a recent interview, two of the students expressed their excitement and gratitude towards being considered for the prestigious scholarship. McCabe and Maschhoff shared insights into their motivations, aspirations, and the support they received from the Fellowships Office during the rigorous application process.

"I've always really liked Spanish language. I really love Spain," shared Maschhoff, semi-finalist candidate for the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) to Spain. "Being a Fulbright ETA would let me get some teaching experience while also still getting that study abroad experience and strengthening my Spanish skills."

These students' academic achievements at Minnesota State University Mankato include commendable performances in their respective fields of study. Beyond academics, they are active in hobbies and extracurricular activities, fostering a well-rounded approach to their education. Maschhoff extended their appreciation to Erik Youngs from the University Fellowships Office and Dr. Enrique Turner from the Department of Philosophy, Languages, and Cultures for their guidance and support during the application process.

Reflecting on his application experience, McCabe emphasized the importance of relationship-building and mentorship. "I decided to apply for the Fulbright Scholarship after receiving encouragement from Erik Youngs, who himself had successfully pursued the opportunity," he confessed. The Fulbright scholarship Ayree applied for would facilitate his pursuit of a master's degree in Israel's renowned agricultural program, focusing on the response of trees to drought. Ayree's academic and personal goals intertwine as he aspires to gain valuable insights from Israel's educational environment while also immersing himself in its cultural and community practices related to ancient agriculture.

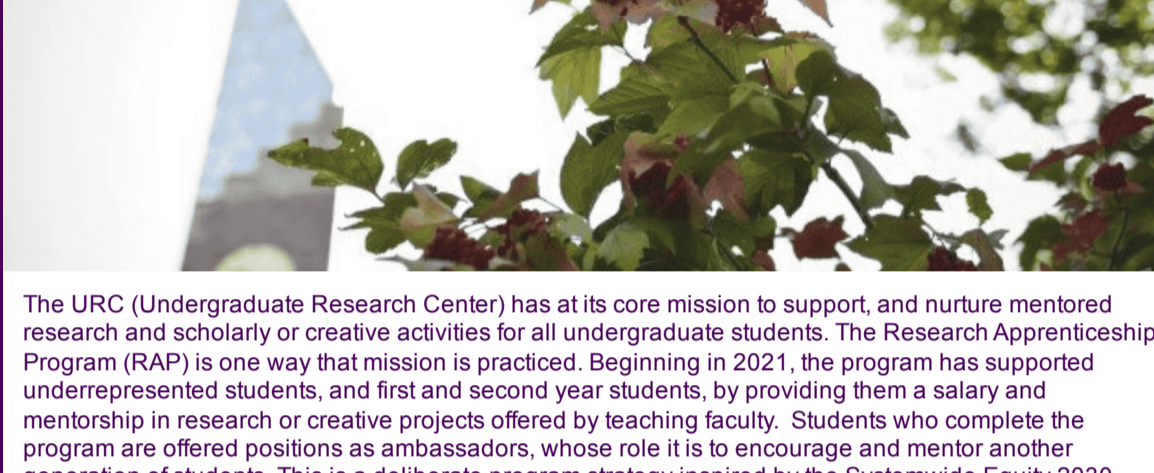
Fellowship Coordinator Erik Youngs reflected on the fulfillment derived from coaching these Fulbright applicants. "Having the opportunity to coach our Fulbright applicants to this level of accomplishment is very rewarding. As soon as they committed to the process, I met with each of them on a consistent basis to ensure their success. Our students have unlimited potential, and with a little bit of guidance that potential can be fully realized. Socrates described his mission in philosophy as helping along and bringing to fruition the knowledge that already resides in others. I see my relationship to our students in a similar way. Their adventure culminated in a delightful lunch at Sabrina's Cafe in St. Paul, creating cherished memories and fostering a deeper appreciation for history and community."

Final decisions for the Fulbright Scholarships will be released this spring.

Written by Raby Dieng

Program Highlight

Research Apprentice Program



The URC (Undergraduate Research Center) has at its core mission to support, and nurture mentored research and scholarly or creative activities for all undergraduate students. The Research Apprenticeship Program (RAP) is one way that mission is practiced. Beginning in 2021, the program has supported underrepresented students and first and second year students, by providing them a salary and mentorship in research or creative projects offered by teaching faculty. Students who complete the program are offered positions as ambassadors, whose role it is to encourage and mentor another generation of students. This is a deliberate program strategy inspired by the Systemwide Equity 2030 goals.

For this issue, we talked to our RAP ambassadors about the apprenticeship, what it offers, the benefits of taking part, and what to expect.

URC Graduate Assistant, Talon Sherbeaz (Data Science, '24), gave us some insight into the program. "What I do is recruit students who are in their first and second year, assuming they've not done research before, and don't have the experience. Once we have them hired (it's a paid position), my role is to guide them through the research journey." The students work primarily with a faculty mentor that they've matched with and work together with throughout the apprenticeship. The mentors are there to help, give tips and make the process smoother for the students.

Barkot Menkir (Nursing, '26) shared her journey as both an RAP student and ambassador. As an RAP student, Barkot continued to be engaged in a summer undergraduate research project focusing on enhancing communication and engagement among individuals living with dementia. As a RAP ambassador, Barkot continues to advocate for the program's benefits, where she explains to students how the experience might prepare them for future academic and professional endeavors.

Sachita Pokhrel (Psychology, Sociology, '24), another ambassador, is currently on her second research project. She applied for the opportunity via Handshake, but she wasn't sure what she wanted to research. The URC linked her to several professors, and she has been working with Dr. Aaron Hoy to this day.

Sachita presented her previous research project at the Sociologists of Minnesota conference last year. And today Sachita is doing a research project on microaggressions. The RAP has benefited Sachita in many ways, as she said, "I published my first paper when I was 19... Right now, I'm applying to graduate schools for a PhD program and the main thing they look for is publications, I'll have two by the time I'm 22 years old."

The RAP program has many benefits in helping new and underrepresented students gain experience in the field and gain hands-on experience.

Written by Nathanael Tilahun

Announcements

A New Podcasting Room at Memorial Library!



Library Services and IT Solutions are thrilled to announce the latest addition to the Memorial Library just in time for the spring semester. The Podcasting Room is designed exclusively for students and staff who are passionate about creating audio content and need a quiet and equipped area to do so.

Located on the third floor of the Memorial Library, this dedicated space is equipped with everything you need to meet your podcasting goals. From top-notch microphones and headphones to a cutting-edge soundboard, the room got you covered for a great recording experience.

To make access even easier, students can now check out the Podcasting Room using their MavCard for up to three hours at a time. Plus, for those who like to plan, reservations can be made through the following [link](#).

So, whether it is for a seasoned podcast, an assignment or you are just getting started on your audio journey, come and experience the new Podcasting Room at Memorial Library. Get ready to amplify your voice and share your stories.

Written by Raby Dieng

The Maverick Diversity Institute Student Track

As we work towards our shared goal of Equity 2030, our own learning is paramount to building a warm and welcoming campus community. Addressing our own biases and supporting our staff in their growth and development as equity champions only improves our campus.

This year, students are offered an opportunity to gather once a month, from February to April and each session is 90 minutes. Dinner is provided. Students can register via MavCentral: <https://c.glnj.me/2Ue/376263>.

Summer 2024 Open Education Publishing Institute: Collaborative Knowledge and Social Justice

The Graduate Center of the City University of New York is pleased to announce a call for participants for the Summer 2024 Open Education Publishing Institute: Collaborative Knowledge and Social Justice, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities grant program and hosted by GC Digital Initiatives and the GC Teaching and Learning Center. Fill out the [linked application](#) form by March 1, 2024.

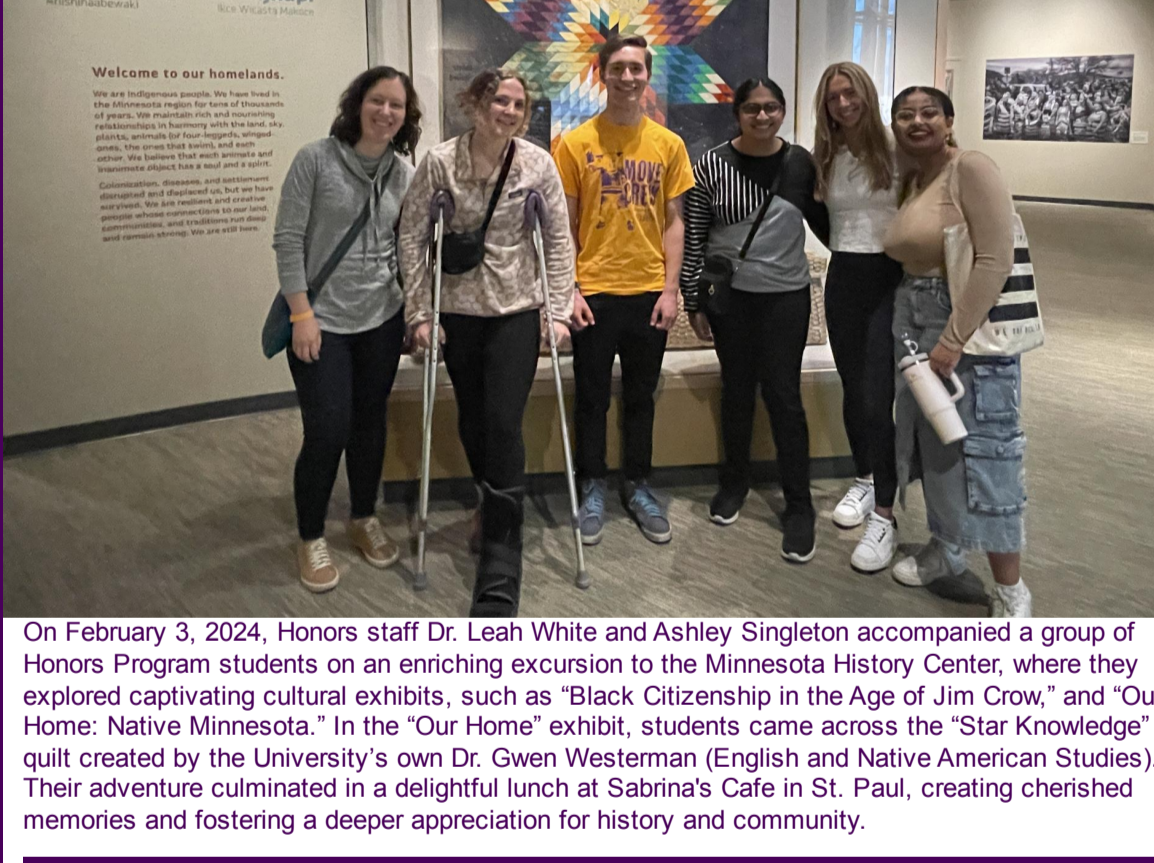
Student Government Survey: Diverse Perspectives on Disability: Exploring Cultural Perceptions, Stigmas, and Barriers Affecting College Students with Disabilities. (Please Share with your Students)

The survey is being conducted by Minnesota State University, Mankato's Student Government. The survey will focus on our resources that serve students: Accessibility Resources, the Counseling Center, Student Health Services, and TRIO (Student Support Services).

All responses to the survey will be anonymous. There is an opportunity to win a Target \$150 gift card in addition to a pool of available prizes! The survey will close on Feb 24, 2024. Use this [link](#) to complete the survey.

Events

Honors Program Students Visit the Minnesota History Center



On February 3, 2024, Honors staff Dr. Leah White and Ashley Singleton accompanied a group of Honors Program students on an enriching excursion to the Minnesota History Center, where they explored captivating cultural exhibits, such as "Black Citizenship in the Age of Jim Crow," and "Our Home: Native Minnesota." In the "Our Home" exhibit, students came across the "Star Knowledge" quilt created by the University's own Dr. Gwen Westerman (English and Native American Studies). Their adventure culminated in a delightful lunch at Sabrina's Cafe in St. Paul, creating cherished memories and fostering a deeper appreciation for history and community.

Upcoming Events

Library Services Author Talks

To allow our community to engage with local authors, Library Services is sponsoring several Local Author Talks this semester. The next event will be held in the **first-floor Southwest Corner** and features **James Paul Mackey**, author of several juvenile/young adults' books, including most recently *Jacob and Strange Bounces Back* (Autumn Night Publishing, 2023). **Wednesday, March 20, 7:00 pm**

Minnesota State Open Education Week February 26 – March 1, 2024

Join colleagues in a series of webinars to learn about the latest initiatives in Open Education across Minnesota State colleges and universities. [View the Flyer.](#)

Schedule of Topics

From 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. each day during Minnesota State Open Education Week there will be a new topic to explore:

Monday, February 26: An Ever-changing Process - Developing High Quality Open Educational Resources

Tuesday, February 27: MyOpenMath Textbook Companion

Wednesday, February 28: Lowering the activation energy with OpenStax D2L Course Shells

Thursday, February 29: Making English Classes Affordable using Open and Library Resources

Friday, March 1: The Z-Degree Initiative - Towards providing a no-cost textbook pathway

Contact
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Minnesota State
[Learn More](#)

In The News

Tough college classes weed out students, but a Mankato helps more succeed ([starttribune.com](#)) [Read More](#)

Upward Bound to sponsor blood drive at MSU ([keyc.com](#)) [Read More](#)

MSU Tutor Program tops ([mankatoexpress.com](#)) [Read More](#)

MavPASS helps students academically succeed ([msureporter.com](#)) [Read More](#)

Library brings New York Times to students ([msureporter.com](#)) [Read More](#)

Minnesota libraries cooperate to preserve 500,000 books for future generations | [Mintex](#) ([umn.edu](#)) [Read More](#)

Got a lead? Submit here.

