



Karen Lybeck Ph.D., and her ENG 100 class participating in the Mankato Community Collage. Photo Credit: Joshn Madson

HSS HIGHLIGHTS

COLLEGE-WIDE NEWS

2024 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Recipients

Congratulations to two 2024 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award recipients from the College of Humanities & Social Science, Afroza Anwary, Ph.D. (Department of Sociology and Leadership Studies) and Laura Harrison, Ph.D. (Department of History and Gender Studies). Three outstanding tenured professors are chosen each year as Distinguished Faculty Scholars by a university committee. These prestigious awards recognize exceptional research and teaching careers. The 2024 honorees were recognized during a Research Month event on April 22.

① [Learn more about the awards >>](#)



Afroza Anwary, Ph.D.

Laura Harrison, Ph.D.



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ANTHROPOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY

Earth Science Program Professor Interviewed by KTTC in Rochester

Minnesota State University's Earth Science Program and EARTH Systems Laboratory were represented on the news when KTTC in Rochester interviewed Phil Larson Ph.D., about the recent volcanic eruptions in Iceland.

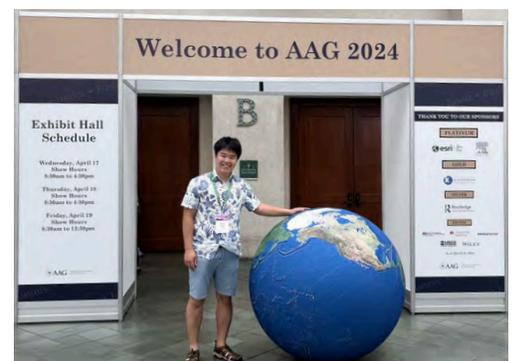
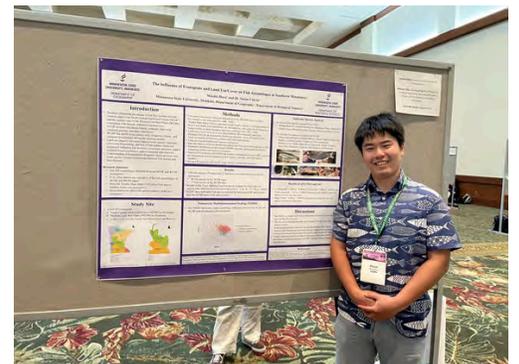
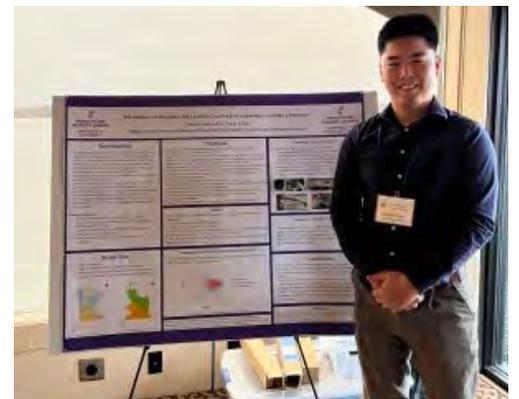


② [Learn more about the interview>>](#)

Graduate Student Makes Large Impact Through His Academic Work

Masaki Hara, a master's degree candidate in Geography, has done a lot for the field and this university throughout his academic career with this last semester being no exception. Here are a few highlights from his work this semester:

- Hara received a travel grant from the American Association of Geographers-Gamma Theta Upsilon (AAG-GTU) to present his master's thesis research at the Annual Meeting of AAG in April in Honolulu, Hawaii. Hara is one of only 14 students nationwide to receive this honor.
- Hara presented his thesis research titled "The Influence of Ecoregions and Land Use and Land Cover on Fish Assemblages in Southern Minnesota" at the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, held Feb. 26- 28.
- Hara was named "Outstanding Collegian" at the 20th Annual Student Leadership Award Ceremony held April 14.
- Hara presented his thesis research at Minnesota State Mankato's inaugural Biological Sciences Research Symposium on April 26. His research is entitled, "The Influence of Ecoregions and Land Use/Land Cover on Fish Assemblages in Southern Minnesota."
- Hara has been admitted to the Ph.D. program in Earth and Ecosystem Science at Central Michigan University. He has accepted their offer of research assistant funding and will commence fieldwork for his doctoral program this coming June.



Earth Science Program Professor Featured in Environmental Documentary

Phil Larson, Ph.D. of the Earth Science Program was contacted by an author, environmentalist, and documentarian, David Ellingson, who paddled the whole of the Mississippi River and then later the headwaters to participate in the film, "Headwaters: Kayaking Through Climate Change." The film features clips of their in-depth conversation about regional rivers and environmental issues. Dr. Larson attributed this opportunity in part to the hard work faculty and students are doing within the EARTH Systems Laboratory, in our Earth Science and Geography programs. The documentary has also been showcased at several film festivals and gatherings across the country, including the Farm to Film Fest in Washington, IA.



③ [Watch the documentary on YouTube>>](#)

A Successful 10 day Field Trip to Hawaii

The Department of Anthropology and Geography went on a field study trip to Hawaii! Professors Ron Schirmer, Ph.D. and Phillip Larson, Ph.D. led a group of Geography, Earth Science, Anthropology, and Geology students (enrolled in Geog 440 and Geog 610) on a 10-day learning experience from Feb. 23 - March 4. These courses are the curricular culmination of the EARTH Systems Lab idea for our students.

The group visited the "Big Island"- Hawaii Island - during their classes. These courses are critical, applied, experiential-learning-focused offerings that challenge students to apply concepts and theory learned in classes in their programs to new, spectacular, and challenging settings that help them build a more robust and holistic understanding of physical and cultural landscapes (both in the present and past).

④ [Read more about the trip>>](#)



COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

Speech and Debate Team Season

The Speech and Debate Team had a great season traveling and competing in different competitions throughout the semester. The team competed at:

- Gorlok Gala at Webster University in Webster Grove, MO
- The Icebox Classic at St. Cloud State in St. Cloud, MN
- MCFA State Tournament at Concordia College in Moorehead, MN
- Wisconsin Lovefest Swing at University of Wisconsin in Eau Claire, WI
- Pi Kappa Delta National Biennial Tournament and Convention at Glendale Community College in Glendale/Phoenix, AZ



CREATIVE ARTS

Creative Writing Professor Chris McCormick Receives National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship



The National Endowment for the Arts awarded Chris McCormick, M.F.A., in the creative writing program, was one of 35 writers selected to receive the highly competitive FY 2024 Creative Writing Fellowship of \$25,000. This year's fellowships are in fiction and creative nonfiction and enable the recipients to set aside time for writing, research, travel, and general career development. Fellows are selected through an anonymous review process and are judged based on the artistic excellence of the work sample they provided.

⑤ [Read more about the fellowship>>](#)

Art Alumni Reunite 45 Years After their Senior Exhibition

Minnesota State Mankato art alum, Charlie Putnam, Mark McLaughlin and Jeffrey Flagg Johnson, reunited at the Arts Center of Saint Peter 45 years after their senior exhibition. Their work consisted of ceramics, paints and sculpture, during an era aligned with growth and experimentation. The three artists have remained friends over the years despite differing career paths. Putnam entered the field of teaching, Johnson designed/constructed homes for the J.F. Johnson Construction firm (which he founded), and McLaughlin focused on affordable housing efforts by working with state agencies.



⑥ [Read the full story>>](#)

Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference in Kansas City



Creative Writing M.F.A. students and faculty gather for a photo after a few days of panels, readings, and hanging out at this year's Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Conference in Kansas City.

Art Education Reunion

Our Art Education students and faculty had a fantastic time at the Art Educators of Minnesota National Convention and connecting with nearly 50 alumni and friends who were able to attend the reunion reception.



Writers Bloc: Spring 2024

Check out these photos from the various Writers Bloc events that happened during the spring 2024 semester!



Good Thunder Reading Series

The Good Thunder Reading Series offers people ways through reading and writing literature to engage with the visiting writers. The series offers workshops, craft talks and readings to all attendees.

Throughout this semester, there were four different visiting writers who shared their experiences and crafts during the Good Thunder Reading Series: Allen Eskens, Eduardo C. Corral, Ngozi Ukazu and Melissa Febos.

The series is pleased to announce the 2024-2025 line up, which includes: Kevin Brockmeier (Sept. 19), Saymoukda Vongsay (Oct. 24), Willie Perdomo (Feb. 6), Carson Faust (March 20) and Claire Dederer (April 17).



Allen Eskens

[⑦ Learn more about The Good Thunder Reading Series >>](#)



Eduardo C. Corral with Robin Becker



Ngozi Ukazu



Melissa Febos



Robert C. Wright Award
Winner Annie Lindenberg

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Criminal Justice Advisor Celebrates Black History Month with Artwork Display



Criminal Justice academic advisor Jonathan Moore celebrated Black History Month with his incredible artwork. The powerful pieces of artwork were displayed on the first floor of Morris Hall in February.

Criminal Justice Alumni Complete Police Training Officer Program

Former Minnesota State University students, officers Dylan McCarville, Emily Susa, and Bohdan Sokolov completed their training in the Mankato Police Training Officer (PTO) Program. The PTO is a four-month program that prepares new police officers for the complexities of current and future policing efforts. By completing their training, they are now certified for solo patrol, which will take place within a neighborhood assigned to them. They will have the chance to learn about the people and places within their neighborhood.



Department of Criminal Justice Hosts Career and Internship Fair

On March 26, the Department of Criminal Justice hosted its Career & Internship Fair, which included 67 agencies across the criminal justice field who participated in the fair as well as breakout sessions. And a BIG thank you to the alumni who participated with the agencies they represent and spent time with our current students sharing the variety of career opportunities in criminal justice.



ECONOMICS, ETHNIC STUDIES, AND GOVERNMENT

Economics Hosts Regional Competition

The Center for Economic Education, under Center Director and Professor of Economics, Dr. Michael Spencer, and with support from Economics faculty and staff, hosted the 2024 Southwest Regional Economics Challenge at Minnesota State University, Mankato on April 5.

During the event, teams of high school students demonstrate their knowledge of economics in three rounds of testing, after which the two highest-scoring teams/schools from each division advance to a Quiz Bowl round, the winner of which advances to the State Economics Challenge. In collaboration with the Minnesota Council on Economic Education (MCEE), cash prizes, certificates, and plaques were given out during the fun event.



ENGLISH

English Students Inducted into Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society

The Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society inducted the following undergraduate students:

- Nicole Anderson
- Yashaswi Bastakoti
- Laura Boles
- Anastasia Brauer
- Evan Byrkeland
- Elizabeth Cooper
- Ruth Ebertowski
- Matthew Evenstad,
- Tabitha Finch
- Isaiah Flolo
- Sheridan Follis
- Destyni Gessner
- Alexa Johnson
- Emma Johnson
- Tiffany Kleeberger
- Rebecca Littlefield
- Oliva Mack
- Amber McFadden
- Eleanor Meschke
- Maddox Mosser
- Gale Stiek



Graduate Scholars of English Association (GSEA) Hosted a Conference Themed “Collage: Difference and Alliance”

On March 29, the Department of English for sponsored a conference the Graduate Scholars of English Association (GSEA) hosted with the theme “Collage: Difference and Alliance,” to promote individual recognition of valuable differences, as well as opportunities for collaborative alliance.



Twenty-six students, both undergraduate and graduate, shared their creative and academic work with fellow students, faculty members, and even family members. The program included manuscript and oral capstone presentations, research papers, and project papers.

The morning plenary speaker Danielle Haque Ph.D., associate professor of English and program coordinator of the Middle Eastern Studies and the Islamic World Program at Minnesota State Mankato inaugurated the program with remarks on the diversities of students. During the lunch keynote session, the photographer Josh Madson who was chosen for his valuable skills in creative and artistic works, gave a talk about his work titled “Mankato Community Collage.” He left students with the message of societal unity: people’s focus should shift from differences between individuals to similarities.

⑧ [For more information about GSEA>>](#)

English Professors Chosen as Recipients of Teaching Award

Two English professors were chosen as recipients of teaching awards Academic Year 2023-2024. Connie Odenthal, M.F.A. was chosen as the Excellence in Contingent Teaching Award recipient. Danielle Haque, Ph.D. was chosen as the recipient of the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award. Their contribution to teaching and learning is shown through their immense dedication to the success of their students and commitment to racial and social justice.



Connie Odenthal, M.F.A.



Danielle Haque, Ph.D.

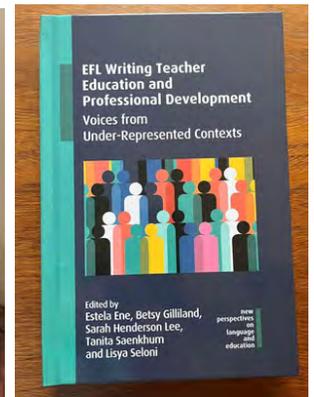
Masters Student's Book Chosen as a Quarter Finalist

Literature student Kristen Rohloff's first book in her YA trilogy, “Finding Fae,” was chosen as a Quarter Finalist in the BookLife Prize Fiction Contest for its category. The BookLife Prize is a contest offered for indie-published books through Publisher's Weekly. (Her pen name is El Holly.)



Dr. Henderson Lee Publishes Book

New book, "EFL Writing Teacher Education and Professional Development: Voices from Under-Represented Contexts," edited by Sarah Henderson Lee, Ph.D. was published in 2023. This book explores how EFL writing teacher education is theoretically, pedagogically, methodologically and sociopolitically shaped, given teachers' unique local contexts and circumstances



HISTORY AND GENDER STUDIES

Public Safety Award

Graduate student, Michael Werner, received a Medical Intervention Award from Mankato Public Safety. Werner is a paid-on-call firefighter who was part of a team of first responders that responded to a cardiac arrest incident back in March. The team was able to revive the patient via resuscitation efforts. Werner's actions were nominated by his Captain to the MDPS Awards Committee. The award ceremony was held on March 19 where Werner was joined by other awardees, his supervisors, peers, the city manager, and City council members. We are so proud of the amazing work our students do both in and out of the classroom. Congrats Michael!



Social Studies Student Accepted to Sit on the Minnesota Personal Finance Working Group

Nicole Bazinet, a Social Studies major with an Economics emphasis, has been accepted to sit on the Minnesota Personal Finance Working Group, which is under the Minnesota Department of Education. The Minnesota Personal Finance Working Group brings in teachers and experts from across the state to help develop resources for, and new ways of teaching, personal finance in the K-12 setting. The State recently passed legislation mandating the teaching of Personal Finance in the schools and this committee is at the forefront of this. According to our records, Nicole is the only university student invited to sit on this prestigious committee. Nicole says her goal in this working group is to highlight the perspectives of people my age from all over the state. She aims to close the gap between "Why didn't I learn this in high school?" and "Oh, I remember this!"



Nicole invites you to reach out: Please send any messages to nicole.bazinet@mnsu.edu or provide feedback on [9 Nicole's online survey](#).



Dr. Yalda Hamidi Receives \$10,000 Z-Degree Grant

Yalda Hamidi, Ph.D., professor of Gender & Women's Studies, has been awarded a \$10,000 Z-Degree Exploration Grant to support three distinct projects, including creating D2L shells for MinnState's digital archive for open educational resources called Opendora, designing an open pedagogy certificate for faculty, and redesigning the open pedagogy certificate for students pursuing teaching careers. By combining these projects, Dr. Hamidi aims to contribute significantly to the broader Z-Degree initiative and advance the adoption of open educational resources within our academic community.



The Z-Degree project, with funding from the State of Minnesota, supports the development of a complete associate or bachelor's degree program that exclusively uses course resources that no cost to students. These resources include open educational resources, open textbooks, library-curated materials, and other resources provided at no cost to the student.



L-R: Cami Kottke, Isaiah Janz (History), Abigail Raper (Interdisciplinary Studies), Elizabeth Peterson (Accounting), and Tyler Steffen (Accounting)

Students Visit Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

On April 16, four students along with history alumae and library services staff member Cami Kottke visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. The students, represented diverse academic backgrounds including History, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Accounting majors.

GWS Alum Shares Story of Resilience



Alum Maimuna Zahra joined Halima Hamud as a guest in Voices Unveiled as a part of the Circle of Excellence podcast. Hear Zahra's resilient story as she shares her journey through immigration, education, and future career.

⑩ [Listen here>>](#)

PERFORMING ARTS

Performing Arts Spring 2024 Shows

The Department of Performing Arts featured six performances this semester:



Seminar (Jan 31- Feb 3)



Clue (Feb 15-25)



Men on Boats (March 13-17)



Anastasia (April 4-14)



Round Trip Ticket (April 17-20)



Photo credit: Dan Norman

Carmina Burana (April 25-27)

Minnesota State University, Mankato Theatre & Dance represents at the Region V Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival

Thirty-two students from the Department of Performing Arts participated in the 56th annual Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, Region V, held in Des Moines, IA, from Jan. 16-21. The festival, the largest of its kind in the country, showcased productions from the 2023 calendar year, recognizing noteworthy accomplishments in the performing arts performed in the 2023 calendar year. Region V represents Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri.



11 [Check out the results>>](#)

The American College Dance Association (ACDA) North-Central Regional Conference

The Dance Program participated in the American College Dance Association (ACDA) North-Central regional conference at St. Olaf College March 23-26. Twenty students, from Dance, Theatre and Music, performed, danced in classes, and attended performances at the conference, which highlights the best work being done in college dance. The students again showed their excellence and leadership as part of one of the region's top dance programs. The best of the best performances are selected by adjudicators to perform in the Gala Concert at the end of the conference, the highest award given out, and Prof. Sato's dance was selected, demonstrating our Dance Program as one of the strongest in the region!

Also of note, two graduate students, Joseph Svihel and Parisha Rajbhandari, taught classes to share their research and movement practice at the ACDA, which demonstrated the strength of the one and only master's program in Dance in Minnesota. Yukina also taught a class which was well received and enjoyed by the participants.



⑫ [To find out more>>](#)

Choral travels to South Dakota

The choral students traveled west and spent a week in South Dakota. The students had the opportunity to perform, learn, and take in some amazing sites while growing the choir community!



38th Annual Theatre & Dance Workshop

In February, 250 high school students visited campus for the 38th annual Theatre & Dance workshop. It was great to have so many awesome, talented and enthusiastic students!



Two Senior BFA Musical Theatre Candidate Break Top 15 of Musical Theater Competition

Two Minnesota State University, Mankato senior BFA Musical Theatre candidates competed in the “Next on Stage” musical theatre competition. Competing against thousands of other entries, Jacob Haen and Hunter Conrad broke through to the top 15. Minnesota State University, Mankato is the only school in the country to have TWO students break through to this level.



Jacob Haen



Hunter Conrad

PHILOSOPHY, LANGUAGES, AND CULTURES



Adriana Gordillo Ph.D., director of the Spanish program, received a \$100,000 MinnState “Z-Degree” Implementation Grant that will allow Minnesota State University, Mankato students to complete a Spanish major with no additional course resource or textbook fees.

Thanks to this award, Spanish faculty will work on the development of an Open Educational Resource (OER) for Spanish 201 and 202, which has the potential to serve up to 35 Community Colleges and five universities listed in Transfer Pathways, as well as up to nine Concurrent Enrollment partners with more than 20 sections teaching Intermediate Spanish I and II.

This is an exciting project that will showcase the diverse cultures of the Upper-Midwest while developing Spanish language proficiency. This is also a collaborative effort that includes Spanish faculty from Minnesota State Mankato, Winona State University, and Century College, as well as IT Solution instructional designer Dr. Carrie Miller and graduate and undergraduate students from our university.

The Z-Degree project, with funding from the State of Minnesota, supports the development of a complete associate or bachelor’s degree program that exclusively uses course resources that are no cost to students. These resources include open educational resources, open textbooks, library-curated materials, and other resources provided at no cost to the student.

Special thanks to the Dean Chris Corley and Library Services for their ongoing support, as well as the collaborate efforts of the World Languages & Cultures Alliance (WLCA).

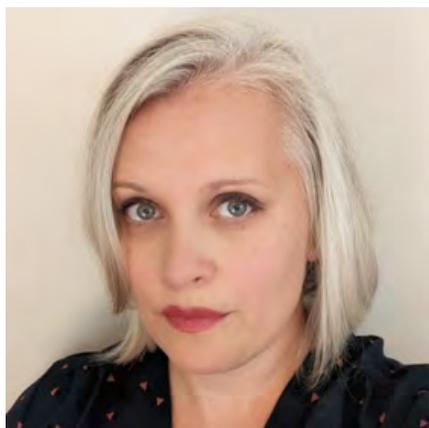
Philosophy, Languages & Cultures Professor Receives Certification



Enrique Torner Ph.D. received his certification as an ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) OPIc (Computerized Oral Proficiency Interview) Rater in Spanish. The high demand for these tests and the urgent need for more raters led ACTFL to create an online course to train potential raters. As a current OPI tester and AAPPL (ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages) rater for Language Testing International, with whom Dr. Torner has been associated for 25 years, he was invited and encouraged by LTI to add this certification to help with this need. He completed the three-week course and successfully passed the required tests to earn the certification.

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology Professor Selected by President Inch for Prestigious Award



Kristie Campana, Ph.D., Industrial-Organizational Psychology, was selected by President Inch and the Board of Trustees as an Outstanding Educator in the 2024 Board of Trustees Award for Excellence in Teaching program. Being selected as an Outstanding Educator underscores the exceptional commitment that Dr. Campana has to teaching, continuous professional development, and service to her students, college, profession, and the Minnesota State system. Several of her current and former students wrote letters of support to provide testimony of the broad impact her teaching has had on their success. Her dedication to student learning, adherence to the highest academic standards, and continued achievement are also reflected in this honor.

Brain Awareness Week

Adam Steiner Ph.D., a neuroscientist and associate professor in psychology, and two psychology students (Haley Zinnel and MacKenzie Berg) visited the Children's House on campus as part of Brain Awareness Week. They had preschoolers build piper cleaner neurons and then led them through a tour of the brain zoo – a dozen different animal brain replicas. As part of this outreach, they read a book emphasizing the role of plasticity in learning, learning from one's mistakes, and how resiliency can make learning about oneself (and the brain) fun! This event was made possible in part by a generous grant from the Dana Foundation and the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO).



I-O Psychology 2024 SIOP National Consulting Challenge Case Competition



John Deere (Deere & Co.) and the OERG at Minnesota State Mankato hosted the 2024 SIOP National Consulting Challenge Case Competition. Forty-Two students representing 25 colleges and universities participated in the five-day event. Student teams responded to a hypothetical call for proposals (RFP) to provide consulting services to Deere. Judges evaluated each team's written proposal and verbal presentation. The judges included leaders from Deere and consultants from a variety of organizations.

Trinity Callis from Minnesota State University, Mankato's I-O Psychology Program took first place with her team! She was on a team with students from George Mason University, Meredith College, and Auburn University.

School Psychology Program Receives Grant Award

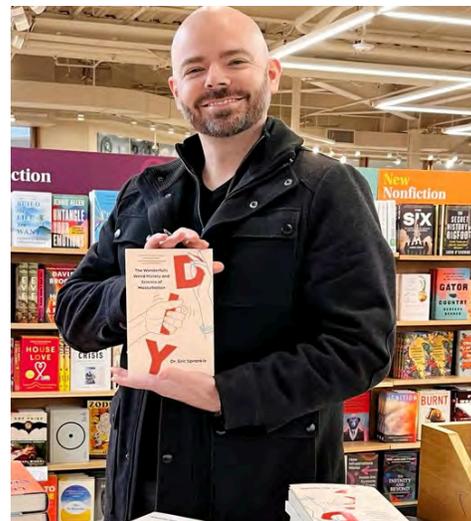


The School Psychology Doctoral Program received a \$384,000 grant to support their work training future school psychologists! The grant, awarded by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), is aimed at growing the number of student support personnel (such as school psychologists, school social workers, and school counselors) in Minnesota. The grant has particular emphasis on supporting those who are People of Color and/or Indigenous in becoming student support personnel. The program looks forward to the opportunity to use these resources to support their students and expand the program's capacity to train future school psychologists who are prepared to support students in Minnesota schools!

Psychology Professor Publishes First Book

Congratulations to Psychology Professor, Eric Sprankle Ph.D., who published his first book, "DIY: The Wonderfully Weird History and Science of Masturbation." In DIY, Dr. Sprankle takes a humorous deep dive into the untold story of masturbation, featuring a mix of advocates and opponents, from doctors and wellness influencers to pastors and sex educators.

13 [Find out more on drsprankle.com](https://www.drsprankle.com)>>



Psychology Professor Chosen as Recipient of the Summer 2024 Teaching Scholar Fellowship

Emily Stark Ph.D. from the Psychology Department was chosen as a Summer 2024 Teaching Scholar Fellowship recipient.



SOCIOLOGY & LEADERSHIP STUDIES

A New View on Caretaking: Kristi Rendahl Blogging for Psychology Today

Kristi Rendahl, Ph.D., director of the Nonprofit Leadership Program at Minnesota State Mankato knows well the stress, pressure and range of emotions that are part of caring for aging parents. She spent three years taking care of both of her declining parents, who died within seven months of each other in 2022.

While on sabbatical, she is using her own experience as the inspiration for her new blog on caretaking for Psychology Today, the magazine on human thought and behavior that's been published since 1969.



Dr. Kristi Rendahl with her parents

In straightforward but sensitive writing, Dr. Rendahl's blog covers the details and jobs the average person wouldn't automatically think of until they find themselves in a caretaking situation.

⑭ [Read more in the TODAY magazine>>](#)

⑮ [Check out "The Family Caregiver" blog >>](#)

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Publications

Creative Arts

- **Rachael Hanel, Ph.D.**, recently published her essay, "Patty Hearst's kidnapping, the SLA and January 6: Why I study 'ordinary' women drawn to extremism" in Salon. [Read the essay>>](#)
- Alum **Natalie Martell, M.F.A.** recently signed with Marin Takikawa from the Friedrich Agency to represent her young adult novel "An Impossible Blooming."
- **Michael Torres M.F.A.** has poems forthcoming in Hayden's Ferry Review and Ecotone Magazine.
- Current **M.F.A. student, Jacob Butlett**, had a poem accepted in Crab Orchard Review.
- Alum **Nathan Wardinski M.F.A.**, will be publishing his first book titled "Dissecting Cannibal Holocaust" through Lexington Books, examining the 1980 horror film directed by Ruggero Deodato.

English

- **Edward Avila, Ph.D.** recently had an article published in MELUS titled, "He Hopes They Have Disappeared': Necro-elasticity and the Tyranny of the Present in Helena María Viramontes's 'The Cariboo Cafe.'" [View the publication >>](#)
- **Avila, Edward.** "He Hopes They Have Disappeared': Necro-elasticity and the Tyranny of the Present in Helena María Viramontes's 'The Cariboo Cafe'" in MELUS, Jan. 2024.
- **Henderson Lee, Sarah.** New book: EFL Writing Teacher Education and Professional Development: Voices from Under-Represented Contexts, 2023.
- **Purdue, Melissa.** "Embowered in a mass of vegetation': Confinement and Predatory Plants in Fin de Siecle Fiction." Victoriographies, vol. 13, no. 1, March 2023, pp. 42-59.
- **Rollag Yoon, Stephanie.** "Building Community Online: Moving toward Humanization Through Relationship-Focused Technology Use," Online Learning, 27(3), 133-154.
- **Moreland, Kelly A.** "Preparing Reflective Practitioners: The Feedback Analysis Assignment for Writing Pedagogy Education." Austin, Sara, and Kelly A. Moreland. "Learning to Teach, Teaching to Learn." Graduate Students at Work: Exploited Scholars of Neoliberal Higher Ed, edited by Tessa Brown, UP of Kansas, 2023, pp. 141-166.
- **Moreland, Kelly A., Sarah Henderson Lee, and Kirsti Cole.** "(E)merging Expertise: Multivocal, Multimodal Preparation and Development of Graduate Teaching Assistants in Writing Programs." Professionalizing Multimodal Composition, edited by Santosh Khadka and Shyam B. Pandey, Utah State UP, 2023, pp. 43-60.
- **Moreland, Kelly A.** "Writing Assignment Knowledge Table." Dynamic Activities for First-Year Composition, edited by Michal Reznizki and David T. Coad, National Council of Teachers of English, 2023, pp. 77-79.
- **Moreland, Kelly A.** "Writing Studies Synthesis Venn Diagrams." Dynamic Activities for First-Year Composition, edited by Michal Reznizki and David T. Coad, National Council of Teachers of English, 2023, pp. 198-201.
- **Moreland, Kelly A.** "Preparing Reflective Practitioners: The Feedback Analysis Assignment for Writing Pedagogy Education." Prompt: A Journal of Academic Writing Assignments, vol. 7, no. 2, 2023, pp. 93-101. <https://thepromptjournal.com/index.php/prompt/article/view/137/339>
Prompt: A Journal of Academic Writing Assignments, vol. 7, no. 2, 2023, pp. 93-101. <https://thepromptjournal.com/index.php/prompt/article>



Rachael Hanel, Ph.D.



Natalie Martell, M.F.A.



Michael Torres, M.F.A.



Jacob Butlett, M.F.A.



Nathan Wardinski M.F.A.



Edward Avila, Ph.D.



Melissa Purdue, Ph.D.



Stephanie Rollag Yoon, Ph.D.



Kelly Moreland, Ph.D.



Kirsti Cole, Ph.D.



Sarah Henderson Lee, Ph.D.

- **Haque, Danielle.** "Religion and Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States," A Companion to the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States. Edited by Gary Totten. Wiley-Blackwell Press, 2023.
- **Haque, Danielle.** "Arab Performers in the Wild West." Near East to Far West: Fantasies of French and American Colonialism. Edited by Jennifer R. Henneman. Denver Art Museum and Yale University Press, 2023.
- Graduate literature student, **Kristen Rohloff's** (her pen name is **El Holly**) first book in her YA trilogy, Finding Fae, was chosen as a Quarter Finalist in the BookLife Prize Fiction Contest for its category. The BookLife Prize is a contest offered for indie-published books through Publisher's Weekly.



Danielle Haque, Ph.D.



Tomasz Ingłot Ph.D.

Economics, Ethnic Studies, Government

- **Tomasz Ingłot Ph.D.**, published an article titled "Comparative-historical research on welfare states in Central and Eastern Europe: lessons and future opportunities." [Read the article >>](#)

Communication and Media

- **Farah Azhar, Ph.D.**'s published a chapter titled "FemTech and Taboo Topics: Raaji as a Tool for Educating Women in Pakistan in "FemTech, Intersectional Interventions in Women's Digital Health".



Farah Azhar, Ph.D.

Psychology

- **Eric Sprankle, Ph.D.**, published his first book titled "DIY: The Wonderfully Weird History and Science of Masturbation."
- **Keagan McPherson, M.S.** in clinical psychology, had part of his thesis data published in the article "Prospective association of psychological distress and sexual health among hematopoietic stem cell transplant survivors" in the Journal of Clinical Psychology in Medical Settings. Psychology professors **Eric Sprankle, Ph.D.** and **Kristie Campana, Ph.D.** were co-authors.
- **Samuel Danielson, M.S.** in clinical psychology, had his thesis, "Satanists' sexual self-concept" published in the Journal of Sexual and Relationship Therapy. Psychology professor Eric Sprankle, Ph.D. was his advisor and co-author.



Eric Sprankle, Ph.D.

Sociology

- **Aaron Hoy Ph.D.**'s article, "'I would like to, but my world wouldn't end if I didn't': Marital aspirations among sexual minority young adults," was just published in the Journal of Family Issues. [Read the article >>](#)
- **Sachita Pokhrel**, a sociology-psychology double major, and **Aaron Hoy, Ph.D.** co-authored an article titled, "When to marry, if at all? A qualitative exploration of how sexual minority young adults in the US think about marital timing" that was just published in The Qualitative Report.
- [Read the article >>](#)



Kristie Campana, Ph.D.

Faculty Emeriti

- **Professor Emeritus Richard Robbins** (English/Creative Writing) published poems recently in The Meadow, Front Range Review, South Dakota Review, The Lake (UK), Lost Pilots, and I-70 Review.
- **Professor Emeritus Richard Robbins** (English/Creative Writing) published an essay in Salt. Since February he has given about two dozen readings from his new book, "The Oratory of All Souls", in the West and Midwest.



Aaron Hoy, Ph.D.



Richard Robbins, M.F.A.



Sachita Pokhrel

Presentations

Anthropology and Geography

- **Masaki Hara**, master's degree candidate in Geography, presented his thesis research at the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, held February 26-28, 2024. His work is entitled, "The Influence of Ecoregions and Land Use and Land Cover on Fish Assemblages in Southern Minnesota."
- Professor of Geography **Jose Javier Lopez, Ph.D.** was the keynote speaker at the 2024 International Symposium on Education, Psychology and Society held in the city of Kyoto, Japan, on March 28. The conference theme for this year was "Smart City and Green Life," which explored the intersection between technology, urbanization, and sustainability. His presentation is titled "Geospatial Technologies for the Sustainability of Public Safety Planning in Developing Countries: The Case of Northern Namibia."



Masaki Hara



Jose Javier Lopez, Ph.D.



Sun Kyeong Ph.D.

Philosophy, Languages, and Cultures

- **Sun Kyeong Ph.D.**'s two talks titled "The Buddhist Teaching of Dependent Arising and Impermanence in Darwin's Theory of Evolution" and "How Bioscience Meets Buddhism" were uploaded to Bulkwang Media and HelloBuddha TV via YouTube for the public. They are available in English subtitles on YouTube.

Sociology

- **Afroza Anwary, Ph.D.** presented her paper, "Political, Physical, and Cultural Techniques of Genocide against the Rohingyas of Myanmar: Bringing Raphael Lemkin's idea of Genocide Back in the United Nations Genocide Convention," on Feb. 15 at the Nationalist Approaches to Minorities in Myanmar and the Migration of Rohingyas to Bangladesh organized by the Innovative PhD Program in Environmental Sustainability and Wellbeing, University of Ferrara, Italy.
- **Sachita Pokhrel** and **Dr. Aaron Hoy** will be presenting their paper at the upcoming Midwest Sociological Society (MSS) meeting in Des Moines, IA, April 4-7.
- **Sarah Epplen, Ph.D.** and graduate students Jenna Askevold, Yakubu Ali, Ryuto Hashimoto, and Chris Lienemann were accepted to present at the upcoming Midwest Sociological Society (MSS) meeting in Des Moines, IA, April 4-7.



Afroza Anwary, Ph.D.



Aaron Hoy, Ph.D.



Sachita Pokhrel



Sarah Epplen, Ph.D.



Pat Nelson, Ph.D.

Quirky QUERIES

Before you go . . . let's have a little fun! In every edition, we throw a curveball at our HSS faculty and staff with an off-the-wall question.

What's the best piece of advice you gave a student this semester?



“ Jonathan Moore, Criminal Justice Advisor

. . . a closed mouth does not get fed! Meaning that if you do not understand an assignment or you may have a question - talk, speak - please don't just sit there if you're unclear. Most instructors, professors, and teachers want to make sure that everyone understands their assignment.



“

Dr. Gina Wenger, Chair, Department of Creative Arts

"Do what you love." When a student says "I don't think I can do that for the rest of my life." I say - "Can you do it for 5 years?" My reason is that each day is a lesson in learning what you want to become.

I don't really know anyone who has done one job for their entire lives. Typically, we begin a job/career and we learn what we are good at and what keeps us either coming back or tells us to leave. You can enjoy something for several years and then realize you need a change or that you want to become better at something completely new. Life is learning and the most successful people are those who take chances and follow their passion.

If your life and work are tied together - the key is doing what you love.

”



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COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

THANK YOU FOR READING!

Have an update to share for the next edition?

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