

Students install a wheatpaste mural with visiting artist Kill Joy at the sculpture courtyard (Nelson Hall). Professor of printmaking Josh Winkler facilitated.

# HSS HIGHLIGHTS

## COLLEGE-WIDE NEWS

### Minnesota State Mankato Names Dr. Christopher Brown Founding Dean of College of Humanities and Social Sciences as of July 1, 2022

Minnesota State University, Mankato President Edward Inch announced on July 1, 2022 that Dr. Christopher Brown will serve as the founding dean of the University's newly formed College of Humanities & Social Sciences.

After a yearlong planning process, the Colleges of Arts & Humanities and Behavioral & Social Sciences officially combined July 1 as the College of Humanities and Social Sciences to provide students with more interdisciplinary programs and experiential learning opportunities. President Inch said all the academic programs and employees in the colleges of Arts and Humanities and Social and Behavioral Sciences will transition to be part of the new college.



[Read full release >>](#)

## Dr. Chip Panahon Named Interim Associate Dean



Following an internal search, with an excellent pool of nominees and applicants, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Chip Panahon as Interim Associate Dean of the College of Humanities & Social Sciences.

Dr. Panahon is a professor in the Department of Psychology. He joined the faculty in 2009 and has served as the department chairperson and program director of the School Psychology Doctoral Program. Dr. Panahon earned his Ph.D. in School Psychology from Syracuse University.

## The HSS Dean's Office and HSS Advising Office Homecoming Celebration

The College of Humanities & Social Sciences and the HSS Advising Center participated in the Homecoming 2022 Office Decorating Contest. This year's theme was "Maverick's Go to Hollywood."



## Exploring Helping Careers Learning Community Fall Activities

The Exploring Helping Careers Learning Community have had a busy fall semester, including a lip sync competition, a Halloween cookie decoration party, and a community coloring event. Most recently, the Learning Community volunteered setting up at Kiwanis Lights opening Thanksgiving weekend.



## AMERICAN INDIGENOUS STUDIES

### AIS Students and Alumni Attend 50th Annual Mahkato Wacipi

This Fall, Dr. Chelsea Mead and students from her First Year Experience Class, along with students from American Indigenous Studies (AIS) 212 Native History and Ojibwe Language courses, and other AIS alumni attended the 50th Annual Mahkato Wacipi at The Land of Memories Park in Mankato.

The Mahkato Wacipi powwow is a gathering of nations to celebrate and honor traditions and ancestors, and to reconcile and build bridges between all nations through education, storytelling, and sharing Dakota Indian culture. The Mahkato Wacipi memorializes the Dakota 38 massacre that occurred 160 years ago, the largest mass execution in United States history.



## ANTHROPOLOGY

### Dr. Kathleen Blue Interviewed for New York Times

Dr. Kathleen Blue was asked to comment in the article, "[Human Skull About 8,000 Years Old Is Found in Minnesota River](#)," by Eduardo Medina in the New York Times.



### Dr. Chelsea Mead Continues Pencil Cake Tradition, Celebrates 10 Year Teaching Anniversary



At the beginning of this semester, Dr. Chelsea Mead, Associate Professor of Anthropology and American Indigenous Studies, continued her tradition of bringing "pencil cake" to commemorate the first day of class, marking the start of her 10th year teaching at Minnesota State Mankato. The Pencil Cake tradition started when Dr. Mead started kindergarten and she has continued the tradition through K-12, undergrad, graduate school and as a professor.

## APPLIED LEADERSHIP

### Senior Applied Leadership Student Jenny Arndt Accepted into the Juvenile Justice and Special Education Workgroup

Jenny Arndt, a senior Applied Leadership student at Minnesota State University, Mankato, has been accepted into the Juvenile Justice and Special Education Workgroup for the Olmstead Implementation Office. The Olmstead Implementation Office is a team of people who track the state's progress on the Minnesota Olmstead Plan goals and report to the Olmstead Subcabinet.

Jenny's workgroup will provide influential recommendations to the subcabinet on positive change in reforming current plan goals and shaping policy on future goals for individuals with disabilities to live, learn, work, and enjoy life alongside everyone else in the community.

Jenny Arndt has been incredibly active in working with our youth and is a great model for going out and making a difference in her community. Through her new journey with the Olmstead Implementation Office, she looks forward to continuing to influence positive and equitable change across Minnesota for individuals with disabilities.



## ART & DESIGN

### Art Department's Pizza Party in the Sculpture Courtyard

On Oct. 27, the Art Department hosted a Pizza Party with free screen-printing on any fabric materials. All were welcomed to join the fun and enjoy the pizza, drinks, outdoor movies, and great company.





## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### Department of Criminal Justice Hosts Career and Internship Fair

On Oct. 6, 2022, the Department of Criminal Justice hosted an on-campus Career and Internship Fair with more than 30 agencies across the criminal justice field. Students were able to meet directly with multiple agency representatives and participate in multiple breakout sessions.



### Dr. Pat Nelson Hosts Nicollet County Sherriff Candidate Open Forum

Dr. Pat Nelson, Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, hosted the Nicollet County Sheriff Candidate Open Forum on Oct. 24 at South Central College. The forum allowed the two candidates, incumbent Sheriff Dave Lange and Detective Marc Chadderdon, to share their ideas and opinions to the public about the future of the Nicollet County Sheriff's Office.



### '80, '93 Alum Carol M. Sletner Named 2022 Volunteer of the Year

Alum Carol Sletner was named Volunteer of the Year by Minnesota State University, Mankato. Carol earned degrees in law enforcement, corrections, and public administration from Minnesota State University, Mankato and went on to spend 27 years with the Roseville Police Department, becoming the first female officer to be hired and the first female chief in 2002. Carol regularly speaks to MNSU classes on the importance of preparing for job interviews and promotional exams.



[View Carol's Award Video >>](#)

## ECONOMICS

### Economics Student Receives Research Grant

Congratulations to economics student Samuel Nubern, who was awarded a \$750 Undergraduate Research Grant and will participate in the Undergraduate Research Symposium this spring.



## ENGLISH

### Dr. Sarah Henderson Lee Selected by U.S. Department of State for Prestigious English Language Specialist Project



Congratulations to Dr. Sarah Henderson Lee who was selected by the U.S. Department of State for an [11-week English Language Specialist project](#) focusing on current trends in English academic and research writing in Russia. Dr. Henderson Lee is part of a select group, as her project is one of approximately 240 that the English Language Specialist Program supports each year.

[Read full release >>](#)

### Dr. Rachael Hanel's Forthcoming Book to be Published in December

Dr. Rachael Hanel, Associate Professor of Creative Writing, will have her new book, "*Not the Camilla We Knew: One Woman's Life from Small-town America to the Symbionese Liberation Army*," published on December 13 by the University of Minnesota Press.

[Read more >>](#)



### Dr. Gwen Westerman Receives \$50,000 Award for Public Poetry Programs

Dr. Gwen Westerman, Professor of English Literature & English Studies and Technical Communication, was one of 22 national recipients of \$50,000 awards from the Academy of American Poets.

[Read more >>](#)





## MFA Alum Tyler Barton Kicks Off 2022–2023 Good Thunder Reading Series

Tyler Barton, MFA Alum and author of the story collection *Eternal Night at the Nature Museum*, was the first visiting author for this year's Good Thunder Reading Series. The Good Thunder Events included a workshop, craft talk, and an evening reading.

[Read more about the series here >>](#)



## MFA Writer Aarron Scholar's Recent Published Essays

Current MFA Student Aarron Sholar's essay, "Our Obit" was recently published in the latest issue of [Sunspot Literary Journal](#). Also, his flash essay, "The Him Sim" is forthcoming in Thin Air Magazine as an online feature.

## Maverick Writers First Public Reading



The Minnesota State University, Mankato's undergraduate creative writing club, Maverick Writers, held their first public reading of the semester this October at the Wine Cafe in Mankato.

## GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES

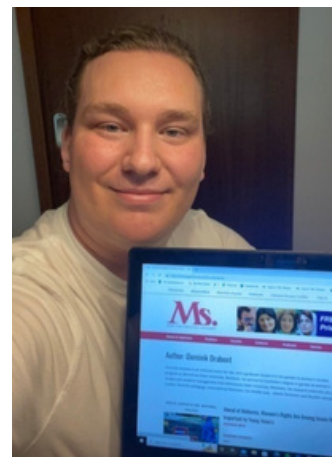
### Dominik Drabent's Busy Summer: Ms. Magazine and Turin, Italy

Graduate student Dominik Drabent spent the summer as an editorial intern for Ms. Magazine. Dominik's work included editing other authors' works, fact checking, and writing and publishing his own pieces.

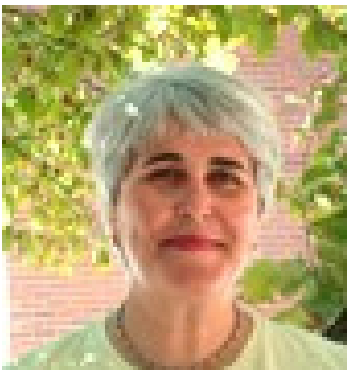
[Read Dominik's work >>](#)

Additionally, Dominik was accepted and attended a cohort for a summer school of the Università degli studi di Torino in Turin, Italy, with this cohort's topic being "Understanding the Middle East: The Politics of Gender in the Middle East and North Africa." Dominik also had two submissions accepted to the National Women's Studies Association annual conference.

Finally, Dominik also wrote about the Minnesota State University, Mankato's Gender & Women's Studies and Sociology Master's Program's Collective Action class project for Students United. [Read "Fighting For Period Equity For Minnesota Students."](#)



### Dr. Bevacqua and Dr. Harrison's Roe v. Wade KEYC Interview



Dr. Maria Bevacqua (left) and Dr. Laura Harrison (right), professors of Gender and Women's Studies, were interviewed by KEYC about the overturn of Roe v. Wade. [Read their interview >>](#)

### Dr. Harrison's Washington Post Article

Dr. Harrison also published an article, ["The myth of 'pure' breast milk further threatens women's autonomy,"](#) in the Washington Post.

### Four Grad Students' Book Reviews Published in Feminist Pedagogy

Four graduate students had book reviews published in Feminist Pedagogy: Vol. 2: Iss. 4.

- Drabent, Dominik (2022) "A Review of Black Appetite. White Food.: Issues of Race, Voice, and Justice Within and Beyond the Classroom," Feminist Pedagogy: Vol. 2: Iss. 4, Article 9.
- Jordan, TL (2022) "Rand, Sarah. The small book of hip checks: On queer gender, race, and writing.," Feminist Pedagogy: Vol. 2: Iss. 4, Article 10.
- Wenzel, Maya (2022) "A Review of Women Don't Owe You Pretty," Feminist Pedagogy: Vol. 2: Iss. 4, Article 8.
- Yoshizaki, Mio (2022) "Stop Telling Women To Smile: Stories of Street Harassment And How We're Taking Back Our Power," Feminist Pedagogy: Vol. 2: Iss. 4, Article 7.



# GWS and Sociology Faculty and Students Attend National Women's Studies Association in Minneapolis

On Nov. 10-13, Gender & Women's Studies faculty Dr. Yalda Hamidi, Dr. Laura Harrison, and Dr. Maria Bevacqua, Sociology professor Dr. Vicki Hunter, and multiple GWS students and alumni, along with other faculty and staff from Minnesota State University, Mankato attended the National Women's Studies Association's annual conference.

Dr. Hamidi and her students presented works from last year's GWS 540 "Feminist Teaching and Learning" and GWS 630 "Transnational Feminism" courses and attended a Feminist Teacher Workshop, multiple receptions, and other community events.

Drs. Harrison, Bevacqua and Hunter, along with Speech, Hearing & Rehabilitation Services faculty Dr. R. Danielle Scott presented "Feminist Pedagogy in the Carceral Classroom."

## Student/Alumni Presentations included:

- Dominik Drabent, a GWS graduate student, presented "Queer Somalis in Minnesota -- Neither Fully Queer Nor Somali"
- Maimuna Zahra Fariha, a GWS graduate student, presented "The Impact of COVID-19 On the Social, Economic, and Psychosocial Wellbeing of Sex-Workers in Bangladesh."
- Maya Wenzel, a GWS graduate student, presented "The Ace Citizen: A Transnational Feminist Analysis of Asexuality and Sexual Citizenship Discourses."
- Tahmina Sobat, a GWS alumni, presented "The Role of Grassroots Feminism in Demilitarization and Peace-Building in Afghanistan."
- Graduate Students Dominik Drabent, Maya Wenzel, and TL Jordan also discussed their syllabi and addressed how they included "others" in the pedagogical manner.



From left: Drs. Harrison, Bevacqua, Hunter and Scott.



From left: Liz Steinborn-Gourley, Dominik Drabent, Maya Wenzel, Dr. Hamidi, Dr. Scott



GWS professor, Dr. Yalda Hamidi also joined Ms. Magazine's On The Issues Podcast, Episode 68: Women, Life, Freedom: The Iranian Feminist Revolution

### Dr. Phillip Larson Among 9 Lead Scientists from 5 Universities Awarded \$2.8 Million NSF Grant



Dr. Phil Larson, Director of the Minnesota State Mankato's Earth Science Programs, in collaboration with the University of Minnesota, the University of Wisconsin-Superior, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Harvard University, submitted and were rewarded a National Science Foundation Frontier Research in Earth Sciences (NSF FRES) proposal. The award total is \$2.8 million, with Minnesota State Mankato's portion at ~\$705k.

This work includes funds to support (to varying degrees) three graduate students working in the EARTH Systems Laboratory, EARTH Systems Lab Geospatial Research Data Manager Andy Brown, and extensive field data collection and laboratory analysis necessary to complete the work proposed. This project will focus on many different Earth Science questions related to glacial history, glacial ice-flow dynamics on fresh water, glacial isostatic rebound over a geologic rift, lake level fluctuations controlling bedrock river incision and drainage basin development (base level), and much more. The geographic focus of the work is focused on Lake Superior and the rivers and landscapes surrounding it.

### Graduate Student Alumni Kenzie Shandonay's Processes and Landforms Publication

Former M.S. student Kenzie Shandonay, who is now a Ph.D. student at Arizona State University, published an article on her thesis work in the prestigious journal *Processes and Landforms* entitled, ["Morphology and stratigraphy of Aeolian sand stringers in southeast Minnesota and western Wisconsin, USA."](#) The paper also includes faculty members Dr. Mark Bowen and Dr. Larson, as well as Richard Mataitis, another former M.S. student, as co-authors.

### Land-use and Climate Impacts on Minnesota's Whitewater River Grant

Dr. Larson, alongside a colleague from the University of Minnesota, also had a recent grant proposal entitled, "Land-use and climate impacts on Minnesota's Whitewater River," to Minnesota's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund approved for funding and signed off on by Governor Tim Walz. This will fund the work to be conducted, partially fund the EARTH Systems Lab's Geospatial Data Manager Andy Brown, and undergraduate students in Earth Science for the next two years.

### Dr. Larson Featured in Climate Change Documentary

Dr. Larson was also featured in the recent documentary by David Ellingson, ["Headwaters: Kayaking Through Climate Change"](#), created on the upper Mississippi River.



## EARTH Systems Lab Receives “Tree Cookie” Donation

A “tree cookie,” or slice of a tree, was recently donated to Minnesota State University, Mankato and will be used in the EARTH Systems Laboratory to teach students about climate and dendrochronology. [The story was published](#) in *The Free Press* and features Professor Dr. Don Friend.

*Photo: Dr. Phil Larson and Dr. Ron Schirmer explain features of the tree cookie to a student in the EARTH System Lab.*



## Minnesota GIS/LIS Conference: Namidu Vishwanath De Silva Wins First Place in Graduate GIS Student Competition, Carter Hayes Receives Honorable Mention for Undergraduates

The Minnesota State University, Mankato’s Dr. Mary T. Dooley Map Library and the Department of Geography co-sponsored a booth at the 32nd Annual Minnesota Graphic Information System/Land Information System (GIS/LIS) Consortium Conference on October 12-14 in Bemidji, Minnesota.

This conference brings together GIS/LIS students and industry leaders and practitioners to learn more about the geospatial technology community and the newest innovations in the industry. Minnesota State University, Minnesota was proudly represented by multiple faculty, students, and alumni throughout the conference



Namidu Vishwanath De Silva (left), a Graduate Student in Geographic information Science at Minnesota State University, Mankato, won first place in the Graduate GIS Student Competition for his project, “Developing a Standardized GIS Model Capable of Identifying Areas to Implement Wind Power Generation Infrastructure.” Undergraduate student Carter Hayes (right) received honorable mention in the undergraduate GIS Student Competition on “Watershed and Impact Analysis of Proposed Twin Metals Mine – BWCA.”

## Dr. Donald Friend’s Publications



Dr. Donald Friend, along with co-authors Thomas Fickert, Bruce Molnia, Friederike Grüniger, and Michael Richter, published “[Vegetation Ecology of Debris-Covered Glaciers \(DCGs\) – Site Conditions, Vegetation Patterns and Implications for DCGs Serving as Quaternary Cold- and Warm-Stage Plant Refugia](#)” in *Diversity*. This paper was selected as the cover story, [Diversity](#), v.14(2).

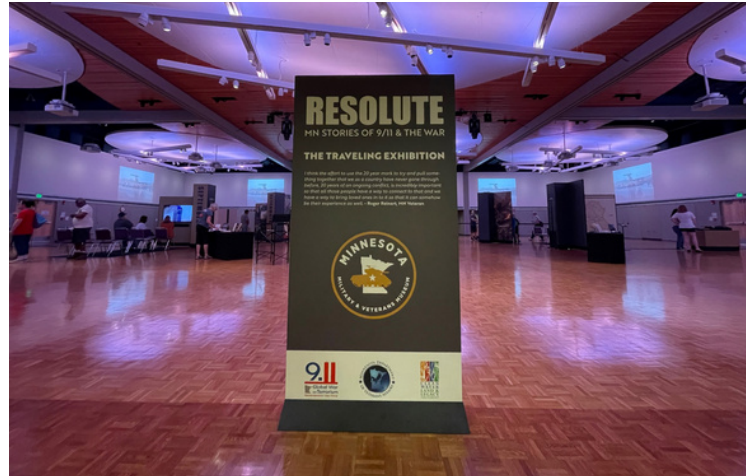
Dr. Friend also published, alongside Matthew Kupchik, “USAID Asia Bureau Mission to Tajikistan (M2T) to Determine Water Usage and High Alpine Water Resources.” 42pp.

## HISTORY

### 9/11 Anniversary Events Hosted Across Campus

Minnesota State University, Mankato hosted multiple events in September in honor of the anniversary of 9/11, including a traveling exhibit, “Resolute: MN Stories of 9/11 & The War,” a professional teaching development workshop hosted by the 9/11 Memorial & Museum, a moderated panel discussion titled, “The Legacy of 9/11: Four Perspectives,” and two film screenings.

[Read more about the 9/11 Memorial events here >>](#)



### Dr. Lori Ann Lahlum Elected to Western History Association Governing Council



Distinguished Faculty Scholar Dr. Lori Ann Lahlum, Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator for the Department of History, has been elected to the governing council of the Western History Association. Dr. Lahlum is one of seven on the council elected by WHA and will serve a three-year term.

### Dr. Matt Loayza Participates in Roundtable Review



Dr. Matt Loayza, Professor of History, reviewed Paul S. Hirsch, *Pulp Empire, The Secret History of Comic Book Imperialism* as part of a roundtable in *Passport: The Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Review* 53:1 (April 2022) 10-12.



## MUSIC

### Dr. Stephanie Thorpe, Four Music Students Attend Minnesota National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Chapter Students Auditions

Dr Stephanie Thorpe, Assistant Professor of Music and current Minnesota NATS Chapter President, took four students to the Minnesota NATS Chapter Student Auditions on Nov. 4-5 at Concordia University, St. Paul. This is a state-wide competition with vocalists from private studios and educational institutions throughout the state and students from North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota as well.

Abigail Shogren (left), a Senior Vocal Music Education major, received 2nd place in the Upper Level Musical Theatre Division Finals.

Billy Krager (right), a Junior Vocal Music Education major, received 2nd place in the Advanced Singers Division.

Elias Pohren-Everett (left), a Senior Vocal Performance major, received great comments in the classical division, as did Isabella Baldwin (right), a sophomore Vocal Performance major.



## PHILOSOPHY

### Dr. Joshua Preiss Podcast Appearance

Dr. Joshua Preiss, Professor of Philosophy, recently appeared on the Rhodes Center for International Economics and Finance podcast, hosted by Dr. Mark Blyth of Brown University. On the podcast, Dr. Preiss discusses the changing ideas about what we call the 'The American Dream' and his recent book, *Just Work For All: The American Dream in the 21st Century*.

[Listen to the podcast here >>](#)



## POLITICAL SCIENCE

### Dr. Tom Inglot's Keynote Address, Roundtable Panel, and Aceprensa Interview

Dr. Tom Inglot, Department of Government, was the keynote speaker at the 4th Hermann Weber Conference on "Social Policy and the Cold War" organized by the University of Bremen and the Federal Foundation for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in East Germany, in Berlin, Germany on June 9-10, 2022.

In addition, Dr. Inglot organized the roundtable panel and had a presentation on "Family Policy in Poland, Hungary and Romania" at the 28th Annual Conference of Europeanists (Council for European Studies) in Lisbon, Portugal, June 29-July 1, 2022.

Dr. Inglot was also interviewed by the Spanish language journal/magazine *Aceprensa*. The article, "[Buenas políticas familiares?, mayor natalidad? \(Good family policies? Higher birthrate?\)](#)" by Louis Luque, was published on July 28, 2022.



### Students Attend the Council on Foreign Relations' "Russia's Global Influence" Webinar

On Oct. 12, 16 undergraduate and graduate students from Dr. Tom's Inglot class, POL 441 and 541: "Russia and Neighboring States" attended a live webinar on "Russia's Global Influence," organized by the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington DC. The speaker was Dr. Mary Elise Sarotte, Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis distinguished professor of historical studies at the Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. One undergraduate student, Zachary Hammerschmidt (senior in political science and minor in history), was able to ask an excellent question during the discussion period on the continuation of the Cold War with Russia in the global environment and during the war in Ukraine today.



## PSYCHOLOGY

### I/O Psychology Graduate Students Present at DevLearn 2022

On Oct. 26-28, eight graduate students presented innovative training solutions at the DevLearn 2022 Conference, a learning technologies conference in Las Vegas. The following students were selected to present at Demofest, which is a showcase of e-learning projects:

- Ruby Brattain & Julia Webber "Gamified DEI Mobile eLearning Course"
- Laila Rahman "Employee Productivity Issues Diagnosis Chatbot"
- Madison Smiley & Katie Kirchner "Meaningful Discussions with Asynchronous AI-Supported Discussion Technology"
- Elena Damo & Sam Loerts "Manager Conflict Resolution Skills Course"
- Derek Rowe "Disability Fundamentals Training Course"



### U.S. Dept. of Education Awards \$1.2 Million to Project PASS-IT

Project PASS-IT (Promoting Academic Success of Students with high-intensity needs through Interdisciplinary Training) is a 5-year, \$1.2 million grant funded by the US Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The Project is led by Principal Investigator, [Dr. Dana Wagner](#) (Special Education) along with Co-Principal Investigators [Dr. Shawna Petersen-Brown](#) (Psychology) and [Dr. Alexandra Hilt-Panahon](#) (Special Education).

Project PASS-IT will provide interdisciplinary training to future special education teachers and school psychologists.

[Read the full release](#) or [visit the Project PASS-IT website for more information](#).



## Dr. Elyse Farnsworth and Doctoral Candidates Maddie Cordle and Ariana Groen's Publications



Dr. Elyse Farnsworth, professor of psychology, along with Maddie Cordle, a doctor candidate in the psychology program, published an article, "[Protecting the Educational Rights of Students in Foster Care: Legal Considerations for Educational Professionals](#)" in *ScienceDirect*.

In addition, Dr. Farnsworth, along with co-authors Maddie Cordle and Ariana Groen, published a chapter, "[Hope and Student Engagement: Keys to School Success](#)" in the *Handbook of Research on Student Engagement* on SpringerLink.

## SOCIOLOGY

### Fio Selwyn Published in Sociology Compass

Graduate student Fio Selwyn Haire published an article, "Born again: Narrating the mental health journeys of religious exiters" in *Sociology Compass*.



### Sociology Students and Faculty Attend "Last Summer at Bluefish Cove" and Participate in Post-Performance Talk Back



Sociology students, faculty and emeriti attended a production of "Last Summer at Blue Fish Cove," from the Minnesota State University, Mankato Department of Theatre & Dance. Following the performance, the directors, cast, and undergraduate coordinator Dr. Sarah Eppelen led students and other guests in a "talk back" to discuss themes of the play and its connections to sociology. Before the event, sociology students and faculty gathered for dinner in the University Dining Center.



# Sociology Students Present Research Findings on Transportation and Food Insecurity at Minnesota State Mankato

As part of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, students in Sociology 490/590 along with Dr. Carol Glasser hosted a public presentation of their research findings on transportation and food insecurity at Minnesota State University, Mankato. In a student-selected research project, students in the course examined the relationship between transportation and students' abilities to obtain affordable food and basic necessities. After presenting the findings of their study, they offered potential solutions for consideration by campus administration and student government. They were invited to present their findings and potential solutions to an upcoming student government session.



**MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO**  
**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**THANK YOU FOR READING!**

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