



*GEOG 440/609 field excursion: Student lecture on volcanic hazards and the volcanic geomorphology of the San Francisco Volcanic Field (Arizona)
Photo credit: Dr. Phil Larson*

HSS HIGHLIGHTS

| COLLEGE-WIDE NEWS |

Florence Cobb, late Minnesota State University professor, honored with dance studio

Florence Cobb became the first Black female professor at Minnesota State University, Mankato in 1968 where she taught for 20 years and also founded the dance program. Nearly 30 years after her retirement, the college has named the former Highland Center North dance studio in her honor. A dedication ceremony was held on Dec. 3 with an intimate reception with family and friends.



Cobb's life and legacy were also celebrated during the Department of Theatre and Dance Fall Dance Concert in December. The concert honored Cobb by featuring a special piece of original choreography by Julie Kerr-Berry, professor and faculty chair in the Department of Theatre and Dance.



[Read More in the TODAY Magazine>>](#)

Florence Cobb in 1968, a new physical education instructor at the University.

Dr. Yalda Hamidi and Dr. Sherrise Truesdale Moore Named 2023 YWCA Mankato Women of Distinction



Dr. Yalda Hamidi and Dr. Sherrise Truesdale-Moore were honored at the 50th Annual Women of Distinction of Event on April 13, 2023, at The Capitol Room in St. Peter.

YWCA Mankato has honored and recognized the contributions of women in our community every year since 1973. This year marks the 50th annual celebration of the YWCA Mankato Women of Distinction, honoring women, organizations, and businesses for their leadership, community impact, and most importantly, dedication to the YWCA Mankato's mission.

[Read More >>](#)

Mapping Mankato Project

The [Mapping Mankato Project](#) aims to identify the history of structural racism in Mankato through the discovery of racially restrictive covenants in real estate deeds.

On Feb. 18, Dr. Angela Jill Cooley and history major Olivia Johnson gave a presentation at the Blue Earth County Historical Society on the Mapping Mankato project. [Read the full article from the Free Press >>](#)

On March 14, the project also hosted a panel discussion with representatives from mapping projects in Minneapolis, Rochester and Mankato.

[View a recording of the discussion>>](#).



Scholars Serving Time Program : Interview with Dr. Vicki Hunter



Dr. Vicki Hunter, a professor in the Department of Sociology, was featured in the Free Press talking about the [Minnesota State Mankato Scholars Serving Time Program](#), which offers an associate of the art program to incarcerated students.

[Read the Free Press article >>](#)

Scholars Serving Time Showcase

The Scholars Serving Time Showcase, held on April 11 highlighted current and former students in the program, readings from a published book of poetry written by students, and a curated art exhibit from current and recent students.

The Minnesota State Mankato Scholars Serving Time Program provides Associate of Arts Degrees to incarcerated people in Minnesota correctional facilities. The AA Degree Program is designed to provide an avenue for students to develop skills in written and spoken expression, analytic reasoning,

and the ability to quickly learn and apply new methods, techniques, and skill sets across a range of disciplines. This event was part of the Social Justice Lecture Series hosted by the Department of Sociology.



Minnesota Storytellers Present: Dessa



The College of Humanities and Social Sciences welcomed rapper, writer, and public speaker Dessa to the Minnesota Storyteller artist-in-residence and performance series April 6-7. She performed a public concert on April 6, with music industry graduate Jada LaFrance as the show's opener. La France is also the owner of UPSTAGE LLC, a Protégé Talent LLC team member and studio engineer at Wild Sound Studios in Minneapolis.

During her residency, Dessa also visited a number of classes on campus as the guest speaker and, along with LaFrance, participated in a panel discussion about women in the arts on April 7. The panel was moderated by Ann Fee, director of the St. Peter Arts Center. Additional panelist included Dana Sikila, director of the 410 Project, a volunteer-managed community art space, and Minnesota State Mankato adjunct art professor.





The Minnesota Storyteller series originated in the spring of 2019 and is supported by the Nadine B. Andreas Endowment fund. The series features Minnesota artists who are invited to campus for a multi-day residency which includes time in the University's various college classrooms and an intimate evening concert. Students get the opportunity to hear the artist's stories and experiences. Students can also ask questions and get feedback about various projects on which they are working.

Images courtesy of Khyron Winfield, Art Major



*Top: Dessa performing with the band
Bottom photos: Alum Jada LaFrance performing*

2023 HSS Advising Awards



Congratulations to the first recipients of the HSS Advising Excellence Awards, Dr. Gina Wenger, Department of Art & Design; and Dr. John Reed, Department of Criminal Justice. Students nominate advisors who have made a lasting impact on their academic journey. The winning nominees not only helped guide students to meet their academic goals but demonstrated an incredible level of care by actively supporting students through challenges during their time here.

Dr. Wenger's nominations spoke to her willingness to go above and beyond, her compassion, and ability to hear her advisees.

Dr. Reed's nominations spoke of his positivity, the gratitude students have for the support they received, and how he promotes integrity and initiative in his students.

[Read more about this year's honorees >>](#)

The Center for Economic Education Hosted the Southwest Regional Economics Challenge and Center Director, Dr. Michael Spencer, also Co-taught Teacher Workshops

The Center for Economic Education, under Center Director and Professor of Economics, Dr. Michael Spencer, hosted the 2023 Southwest Regional Economics Challenge at Minnesota State University, Mankato on April 5, 2023. 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.

In addition, as Center Director, Dr. Spencer has been engaged with planning and co-teaching various past and future workshops for high school economics teachers supported by MCEE. Some of the workshops and other activities are listed below:

- Dr. Spencer introduced the Minnesota State Mankato Center for Economic Education and served on a panel that discussed MCEE educational programming at the MCEE Board Retreat held on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota on September 17, 2022.
- Dr. Spencer co-taught, along with Dr. Kristine West of St. Catherine University, the 2022 Fall College in the Schools (CIS) Applied Economics Teacher Workshop on October 25, 2022. During the workshop, Dr. Spencer taught the oligopoly market models of kinked demand, cartel, and price leadership.
- Dr. Spencer attended the 2023 National Association of Economic Educators (NAEE) Spring Professional Development Conference hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis on March 1-3, 2023.
- Dr. Spencer co-taught, along with Dr. Kristine West, the 2023 Spring CIS Applied Economics Teacher Workshop, on April 25, 2023. During the workshop, Dr. Spencer discussed why market structure matters for environmental economics and policy.
- Dr. Spencer is scheduled to help teach the 2023 MCEE Summer Teacher Workshop on June 20-21, 2023. During the workshop, Dr. Spencer will be responsible for teaching various topics in environmental and natural resource economics.



Zachary Becker Awarded for His Work at the Advertising Federation of Minnesota



Senior design student Zachary Becker won two awards at the Advertising Federation of Minnesota (AdFed) on March 9 at the Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis. The event, “The Show 2023”, is part of the national American Advertising Awards (aka- ADDYs) process of recognizing the best of the advertising industry at the local chapter levels before proceeding to the national level. As many as 25,000 entries are submitted nationwide at these local levels.

Becker made history by being the first Department of Art & Design student from Minnesota State University, Mankato to enter and win not just one, but two ADDYS. He entered two works for the student “Website (Desktop or Mobile)” category. He received a gold ADDY for “Toronto Cupcake Website Design” and a silver ADDY for “Dan + Shay Music Website”.

[Read more about Becker’s work and award >>](#)

Creative Student Collaboration Helps Launch New Business Venture

Graphic design students from the AIGA Mankato Student Group were led through the process of working with a client to create a distinctive brand identity.

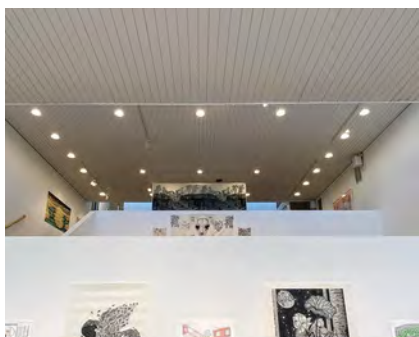
The graphic design team, led by senior, Sam Oas (BFA Graphic Design) and mentored by Professor Matthew Willemsen from the Department of Art and Design, worked with a team of Integrated Engineering students to create a meaningful identity for their new business venture — Louie Labs. A finalist in the 2023 Big Ideas Challenge, Louie Labs is a subscription box that contains STEM-based projects and activities tailored to individuals with visual impairments.

[Read More >>](#)



Picture: Subscription box featuring the brand identity of Louie Labs.

MSU Prints: Josh Winkler and Students Showcasing in the Schaefer Art Gallery



Minnesota State University, Mankato and Gustavus Adolphus College collaborated to create "MSU Prints: Josh Winkler and Students," a print exhibition. This exhibition was on display in the Schaefer Art Gallery from Feb. 27 to March 31, with an opening reception on Feb. 27.

Josh Winkler, Associate Professor of printmaking at Minnesota State University, Mankato joined Nicolas Darcourt, visual arts professor in the Gustavus Art and Art History Department, who was pivotal in orchestrating this collaboration and ensuring its success. This exhibition included works by both Winkler and his students. [Read More >>](#)

Students and Faculty Attend 18th National Student Show Conference in Dallas, Texas

Students and faculty from the Department of Art & Design attended NSSC 18, the 18th National Student Show Conference held in Dallas, Texas. NSSC is the nation's largest student creative conference and competition with more than \$20k in scholarships.

NSSC has unique opportunities to help students enhance their design education and prepare themselves for the professional world. This show includes studio tours, networking, portfolio 1 on 1 with design professionals, workshops, creative panels, and keynote speakers.



At the conference, Seiji Ikeda, Associate Professor of Graphic Design, won the Golden Apple Award for Outstanding Educator of the Year. AIGA Mankato nominated him for his role in impacting students at Minnesota State Mankato in such a short period of time (Prof. Ikeda joined the



department in the Fall of 2022). With his help, students were able to create a student community in the graphic design program, which helped students create belonging in the Minnesota State Mankato design community. In addition, his broad expertise as a visual communication designer and educator helped students to develop their design skills.

[Read More >>](#)

Minnesota State University, Mankato Students Cooperate to Update Exhibition at the Blue Earth County Historical Society's Museum



Thirteen students enrolled in a museum studies course held a public reception May 4 to celebrate a semester's worth of work on-site at the Blue Earth County Historical Society (BECHS). The reception marked the first cooperative effort between BECHS's museum and the Department of Art & Design. The central focus of the class has been to provide students with professional experiences in a museum setting. Students were asked to develop their dream plans for updating the exhibitions in the gallery.

The class has been documenting their journey and showcased the work undertaken at the public reception.

[Read More >>](#)



Art Faculty Highlights:

Prof. Josh Winkler

- This past fall, Prof. Winkler opened his studio to the community during the Inaugural St. Peter Art Stroll.
- He participated in the group show "Artists, Educators People, An Exhibition" at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, in Fall 2022 as well as the 2022 Mid America Print Council Juried Exhibition Oct. 11-Nov 17 at Kent State University, Ohio.
- He received Best in Show at the 2022 Full Court Press Juried Print Exhibition of the Americas in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- He launched Solo exhibitions at Ridgewater College (Willmar, M) Nov. 7- Dec. 9 and Ridgewater College – (Hutchinson, MN) Jan. 9 – Feb. 10.
- Prof. Winkler is featured on the [Atlas Obscura Podcast interview - The Discovery Tree](#), speaking about one of California's longest-running tourist attractions, a stump from a grove of trees known as "The Discovery Tree." More about the project here: joshkwinkler.com/bigtrees.
- Prof. Winkle will also complete a two-week residency at KALA Art Institute in Berkeley, California in June 2023, as well as a solo exhibition at ArtStart Rhinlander, WI in November 2023.



Dr. Alisa Eimen



- Dr. Eimen served as a consultant for Thames and Hudson on their new textbook, "*History of Art: A Global View.*" Served as reviewer for Islamic art chapters and also authored and reviewed student resource material.
- In partnership with the Blue Earth County Historical Society, Dr. Eimen is currently piloting a museum studies course providing hands-on work in a professional setting. Students are making meaningful changes to the museum's displays, graphics, and interpretive materials.

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Speech and Debate at the 25th Gorlock Gala

The Maverick Speech and Debate team competed at the 25th Gorlock Gala tournament at Webster University in St. Louis, MO. They competed against 27 other schools and had an absolute blast.

Here are the results:

- Tristan Xiong was Tournament Champion in Programmed Oral Interpretation!
- Alison McNamara was Tournament Champion in Persuasive Speaking
- Ellie Meier E placed 5th in Communication Analysis
- James Ziegeweid earned an Excellence Award in Impromptu Speaking (top 30%)!



Speech and Debate Hosts the Minnesota Collegiate Forensics Association State Tournament



On Feb. 17-18, the Maverick Speech and Debate team hosted the Minnesota Collegiate Forensics Association (MCFA) State tournament at Minnesota State University, Mankato. They competed against eight other teams from across the state, including the University of Minnesota, Concordia College, St. Cloud State University, and Southwest Minnesota State University.

Not only did the Mavericks earn second place in the state as a team, but they also qualified for two of the four persuasive speeches to the prestigious Interstate Oratorical Association (IOA) competition in April at the University of Texas at Austin!

[View complete results >>](#)

Maverick Speech and Debate gets National Tournament Success

The Maverick Speech and Debate team attended the National Forensics Association (NFA) national tournament hosted by Bradley University on April 13-17. They competed against 91 other teams and secured 6th place in the nation in the Presidents II Division (based on entry size) and the Top 20 spot in the nation in the overall team sweepstakes!

[The full results and their experience >>](#)



Dr. Dan Cronn-Mills joins the editorial Board

Dr. Dan Cronn-Mills, Department of Communication and Media, has accepted an invitation to join the editorial board of the Review of Communication. A national peer-reviewed journal of the National Communication Association.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Department of Criminal Justice Hosts Career and Internship Fair

On Feb. 28, the Department of Criminal Justice hosted its second Career & Internship Fair, which included more than 55 agencies across the criminal justice field who participated in the fair as well as breakout sessions. And a BIG thank you to the 33 alumni who participated with the agencies they represent and spent time with our current students sharing the variety of career opportunities in criminal justice.



GSEA Conference about Inclusive Resilience



On March 31, the Graduate Scholars in English Association (GSEA) hosted a conference with the theme of Inclusive Resilience. The GSEA conference, first offered in 2013, had been an annual event until the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Now — three years after the pandemic fundamentally shifted students’ work practices and means to build community — the GSEA officers wanted this year’s event to reflect the perseverance of the organization and the graduate student community and to demonstrate that resilience is strongest when we respect, honor, and collaborate. The team is proud and grateful to note that the 2023 conference had the most in-person and online participants to date, with sixty-seven people in attendance.



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 thesis and oral capstone presentations, poetry and fiction readings, and generative writing workshops by Composition, Creative Writing, Literature and English Studies, Film, English Education, and TESOL students. The program also featured a book launch and three plenary speakers.



[Read the full article >>](#)

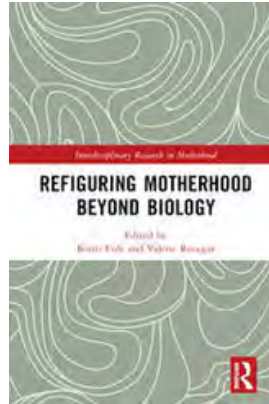
Congratulations to the Minnesota State Arts Board Grant Recipients!

Alumni and faculty (full-time and adjunct) received a Minnesota Board Grant for their recent works.

Faculty: Robin M. Becker, Rachael T. Hanel, Chris McCormick, Mairead Small Staid, Elizabeth Horneber (also an alum)

Alums: Starrla G. Cray, Nicole L. Helget, Natalie R. Martell: Ashley Richardson, Marisel Riquelme Colin S. Scharf

New and Upcoming Publications



Congratulations to Professor Kirsti Cole on the upcoming publication of her book "[Refiguring Motherhood Beyond Biology](#)."



Congratulations to Dr. Melissa Purdue! Her epilogue to Houseman's "[The Were-Wolf](#)" is now out with Perla Ediciones.

Literature Master's Student Presents at Conference

Congratulations to MA: Literature student Maggie McCabe who presented at her first conference this April!



Maggie delivered her paper, "Finding Strength in Numbers: Badass

Female Protagonists and Their Dead Sidekicks," at the Pippi To Ripley 6: Gender, Sexuality and Popular Culture conference in Ithaca, NY April 21-22.



Congratulations to Dr. Gwen Westerman! Her Book "[Follow The Blackbirds](#)" was selected for statewide book club read for April 2023 by One Book | One Minnesota. [Read more >>](#)

Minnesota Poetry Out Loud State Competition



Dr. Gwen Westerman, Minnesota Poet Laureate, gives welcoming remarks at the Minnesota Poetry Out Loud State Competition. Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition for high school students across the country.



TESOL Students Represented Minnesota State University, Mankato at AAAL and/or TESOL

Minnesota State Mankato and the Teaching English to Speakers of Others Languages (TESOL) was well represented at the American Association of Applied Linguistics Conference TESOL this year!

Current (MA, TESOL students):

- Nazanin Kamalisarvestani
- Emika Ozawa
- Mercedes Sempe
- Kalpana Shrestha

Alumni (MA, TESOL):

- Ryosuke Aoyama (Ph.D. candidate at the University of British Columbia)
- Saurabh Anand (Ph.D. candidate at the University of Georgia)
- Padam Chauhan (EdD from Minnesota State Mankato and teacher at Indiana Charter Schools)
- Madhukar K C (Ph.D. candidate at Arizona State University)
- Tirtha Karki (Ph.D. candidate at Purdue University)
- Kadidja Kone (professor at Ecole Normale d'Enseignement Technique et Professionnel and Visiting Scholar at Michigan State University)
- Nasiba Norova (Ph.D. candidate at the University of Massachusetts Boston)
- Laxmi Prasad Ojha (Ph.D. candidate at Michigan State University)
- Lal Rana (Ph.D. candidate at the University of North Texas)
- Jessica Selleck (Ph.D. candidate at University at Buffalo SUNY)



News from the MFA Program:

- Aaron Sholar's (Current MFA'er) essay "Measured in Men," published by The Broadkill Review, was nominated for a pushcart prize.
- Current MFA'er Jack Harris recently taught two loft classes this last month: both were 1-day classes on worldbuilding (Technically titled "The Alternative Universe: Creating Fictional Worlds") for teenagers at libraries around Minneapolis through the Bring the Loft to You program. If anyone is interested in teaching through the Loft, Jack says he's "always happy to answer questions or look at class proposals, etc." "You can reach Jack at: Jack.harris@mnsu.edu
- Emeritus professor Roger Sheffer's Story "Thirty-Eight Red Tires" was a finalist for the John Steinbeck award and will be Published in 2023 in Red Magazine.
- Prof. Michael Torres (faculty) has an interview published in Water~Stone Review.
- Minnesota State Mankato undergraduate-run journal [River Whale](#) recently published their Second Issue.
- The Good Thunder Reading Series, led by director Robin Becker, received a \$30,000 Creative Support for Organizations Grant for 2023-24.
- Current MFA'er Jack Harris recently had a flash fiction piece, "The Woman In the Woods," accepted for publication in the upcoming spring issue of Talking River Review.
- Aarron Sholar's (current MFA'er) essay "House Hunting," will be published in the Spring issue of *Tangled Locks Journal*. His prose poem "Her Love in a List," will be published in *God's Cruel Joke Literary's* next issue.
- Holly Dodge's (current MFA'er) "Mourners Field Guide of Grief-Inducing Natural Wonders" is forthcoming in the print edition of *Funicular Magazine* in Edmonton, Alberta.
- Prof. Chris McCormick (faculty) has a short story, "Giraffe," in the Winter issue of [The Southern Review](#), and an essay in a new anthology from University of Texas Press, [We Are All Armenian: Voices from the Diaspora](#). The essay has been reprinted in LitHub.
- Prof. Michael Torres (faculty) has a poem coming out in May for the Academy of American Poets Poem-a-Day series.
- Jean Prokott (alum) has been named Poet Laureate of Rochester.



RIVER WHALE
review



GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES

Woman Life Freedom Panel

Transnational Feminism, Solidarity, and Care for #WomanLifeFreedom organized by the Minnesota Humanities Center, Gender and Women's Studies Department, and Women's Center- Minnesota State University, Mankato. Panelists include Dr. Yalda Hamidi, professor in the Department of Gender & Women's Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato, Tahmina Sobat, women's human rights lawyer from Afghanistan and GWS alum, and Dr. Ibtesam Al Atiyat, Professor of Sociology, and the director of the Enduring Questions Program at St. Olaf College.



Dr. Maria Bevacqua as Keynote speaker in Bemidji



Dr. Maria Bevacqua delivered the Women's History Month keynote lecture at Bemidji State University.

[Read full article in the Bemidji Pioneer >>](#)

GEOGRAPHY

Professor Jose Javier Lopez presented research about the geography of missing persons

Dr. Jose Javier Lopez (Geography) and graduate student Ethan Smith (Geography) presented their research about the geography of missing persons in the U.S. at the 2022 11th International Conference on Sociality and Humanities (ICOSH 2022) remotely held (with Zoom presentations) in Plymouth, U.K. on December 15, 2022. The title of the presentation was "Regional Patterns of Missing Persons in the U.S."

Dr. Lopez and Smith also presented "The Use of Spatial Analysis Technology to Understand the Geography of Missing Persons" at the 11th International Conference on Social Science and Humanity (ICSSH 2023). The event was organized by the International Economics Development and Research Center and sponsored by the Institute of Industrial Applications Engineers, remotely held (with Zoom presentations) at the Nishinippon Institute of Technology, Fukuoka, Japan. March 19.



Experiential Learning at it's Finest

Our Earth Science, Geography, Geology, and Anthropology students in GEOG 440/609 braved the elements during a field excursion as part of this semester's course. Check out this high-impact adventure showcasing a hands-on approach to education by Dr. Ron Schirmer and Dr. Phil Larson.



Student lecture on Native American culture and history at Petrified Forest National Park



Delicate Arch, Arches National Park, Utah



Neon Canyon, Escalante National Monument, Utah



Delicate Arch, Arches National Park, Utah

GOVERNMENT

Kessel Lecture Brings Journalist George Packer to Campus

The Department of Government hosted the Kessel Memorial Lecture on March 28 in Ostrander Auditorium at Minnesota State University, Mankato campus. This year's speaker was George Packer, a renowned journalist and National Book Award-winning author specializing in international affairs and U.S. foreign policy.

In Packer's presentation, "The Transformation of American Foreign Policy Establishment: Historical Lessons and Contemporary Challenges," he addressed the legacy of the Cold War generation of diplomats and politicians who shaped the United States' relations with the world and impacted our foreign policy until the early 21st century. Drawing on his book "Our Man: Richard Holbrooke and the End of the American Century," Packer outlined major transformations of our foreign relations today as we face a dramatic shift in attitudes from international engagement to increasing nationalism and isolationism. His perspective is based on the analysis of key personalities and their decisive influence on decision-making under successive U.S. administrations.

Note: George Packer was originally scheduled to present in March 2020, but his lecture was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Dr. Steinar Bryn Speaks with Faculty and Students



On March 1, faculty and students attended a special presentation by Dr. Steinar Bryn, Senior Adviser at the Nansen Center for Peace and Dialogue, who also was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize 2009-2014. He shared his expertise on dialogue and peacebuilding in Ukraine.

[Read more in the Today Magazine >>](#)

Political Science Students participate in National Webinars

On Jan. 18, students from Dr. Tom Inglot's class - POL 434 and POL 534 - US Foreign Policy, participated in the webinar on "Global Ramifications of the War in Ukraine," with the speaker, Dr. Liana Fix, a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, Washington D.C. The seminar was organized by the Council on Foreign Relations. Two undergraduate students, political science major, Autumn Hauge, and international relations major, Hamza Siddiqui had their questions selected for discussion at the webinar, from among the large national audience of many colleges and universities.

Students in Dr. Inglot's U.S. Foreign Policy Class (POL 434/534) participated in the webinar organized by the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington DC. The speaker was Dr. Chris Li, director of research of the Asia-Pacific Initiative and fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University. He led the conversation on U.S. strategy in East Asia (China). Two students, Autumn Hauge (political science major) and Hamza Siddiqui (international relations major) were chosen to ask very good questions, representing Minnesota State University, Mankato in an excellent way in front of the national audience.

HISTORY

Students Travel to Washington D.C. to Visit Holocaust Museum

A group of students from Minnesota State University, Mankato went to the U.S. Holocaust Museum in late March. They met on campus at 3 a.m., flew to Washington, D.C., and returned to campus around 12:30 a.m. the next day. The group was able to learn more about what happened during the Holocaust, as well as build a relationship with the Jewish Community Relations Council. The Wilf family helped to financially sponsor this trip as well as another trip later this summer and has a vested interest in this program.

The family sent Karin Nelson, Chief Legal Officer for the Minnesota Vikings, as well as a former Maverick to attend. Vikings placekicker, Greg Joseph, whose grandparents escaped Nazi Germany, also joined our group and talked to everyone.



Dr. Matt Loayza Represents Minnesota State University, Mankato in Guadalajara, Mexico

Dr. Matt Loayza traveled to Guadalajara, Mexico from February 20-23 to represent Minnesota State University, Mankato at ITESO, Universidad Jesuita de Guadalajara's International Partnership Week. Dr. Loayza had an opportunity to deliver a brief presentation on Minnesota State Mankato to ITESO staff and representatives of other partnering universities, and he met with various faculty and staff from ITESO to discuss future opportunities to expand our collaborations on COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) projects and other initiatives related to the internationalization of the curriculum. He also had an opportunity to meet his colleague, Professor Enrique Aguirre Torres, with whom Dr. Loayza plans to co-teach this spring as part of ITESO's Summer International Program.



History Department Faculty Bring "Third Way Civics" to San Francisco

Dr. Matt Loayza and Dr. Angela Jill Cooley from the Department of History and Dr. Trygve Throntveit from the Minnesota Humanities Center shared their insights on Third Way Civics pedagogy at a conference in San Francisco. They also had an opportunity to explore the Haight-Ashbury district in San Francisco.

[Learn more about Third Way Civics >>](#)



INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Interdisciplinary Studies Major Ryuto Hashimoto Attends Research Congress in U.K.

Ryuto Hashimoto successfully presented “Intercultural Competence among Undergraduate Students” at World Congress on Undergraduate Research at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom. He is also co-authoring a paper titled "Impact of Two Courses on Intercultural Competence of Undergraduate Students" along with fellow student Lauren Lindmeier (College of Education) and faculty advisor Dr. Elizabeth Sandell (College of Education). Ryuto is an Interdisciplinary Studies major graduating this spring and also serves on the HSS Student Advisory Board.



MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRIES

Maverick Vocal Precision Competes at Acapocalypse Competition



The Minnesota State Mankato Maverick Vocal Precision a cappella group was selected to compete in the Acapocalypse vocal music competition/festival on March 17 in Port Washington, WI. The group competed against top college a cappella groups from the upper Midwest.

Following the competition there was an a cappella festival filled with clinics and a cappella performances.

Maverick Vocal Precision has performed in multiple cappella festivals and competitions regionally and nationally. Most notable is their recent winning performance at the SingStrong NY competition where they won a \$1000 prize. Following the competition, the vocal group took part in a recording session in Manhattan with award-winning vocalist/recording engineer Andrew Kim. Kim is a member of the New York City-based singing group Iris, winner of the 2018 International A Cappella Open Championship that took place at Carnegie Hall.

[More Information >>](#)

Maverick Machine Travels to Rome

This past December the Maverick Machine packed their bags and headed overseas to participate in the Rome Parade on New Year's Day. The band left Minnesota Dec. 27 and returned Jan. 4 and were able to take in the many sights Rome had to offer while they were there.

[Read more about their trip in the TODAY Magazine>>](#)



Maverick Machine members in Rome on New Year's Day. The Maverick Machine met its largest standing crowd ever in Rome, said director Michael Thursby.



The Maverick Machine is Back on the Road Again.

The Maverick Machine Athletic Band has been selected to perform in the 2023 Chicago Thanksgiving Parade! As they continue the celebrations of the 10th anniversary season (since its revival) the Machine is looking forward to hitting the road (again) and sharing our 'Home' energy with the massive crowd downtown Chicago.



Faculty Recognized as SIOP Fellow

Congratulations to Dr. Dan Sachau (School Psychology) for being recognized as a SIOP Fellow. Undoubtedly, Dan has made such a positive impact on Minnesota State Mankato's Industrial-Organizational Psychology program and the lives of so many students. Dr. Sachau was recognized at the annual conference this April in Boston.



Dr. Emily Stark Receives 2023 Walter Mink Outstanding Teacher Award



Congratulations to Dr. Emily Stark, who is the 2023 recipient of the Walter Mink Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher Award! Dr. Stark was nominated by her colleagues and students, and selected to receive this state-wide teaching honor by the Minnesota Psychological Association. The Mink Award recognizes outstanding performance as a classroom teacher, development of effective teaching methods, and demonstrated influence in interesting students in the field of psychology.

Professor Kevin Filter Acknowledged with 2 Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Kevin Filter (School Psychology) for receiving two prestigious awards! Over Spring Break, Dr. Filter earned the distinction of being one of three [Distinguished Faculty Scholars](#) named in 2023. This is a title that Dr. Filter will hold for the rest of his time at Minnesota State Mankato, and it is a recognition of his significant achievements in scholarship. He was also named to the 2023 cohort of RIISE Fellows.

RIISE stands for the *Research Institute for Implementation Science in Education*. RIISE is a collaborative, innovative effort led by the University of Washington to develop the research workforce in education and improve educational and related outcomes. Kevin is one of only 12 faculty selected as a fellow.

You can learn more about [RIISE >>](#)

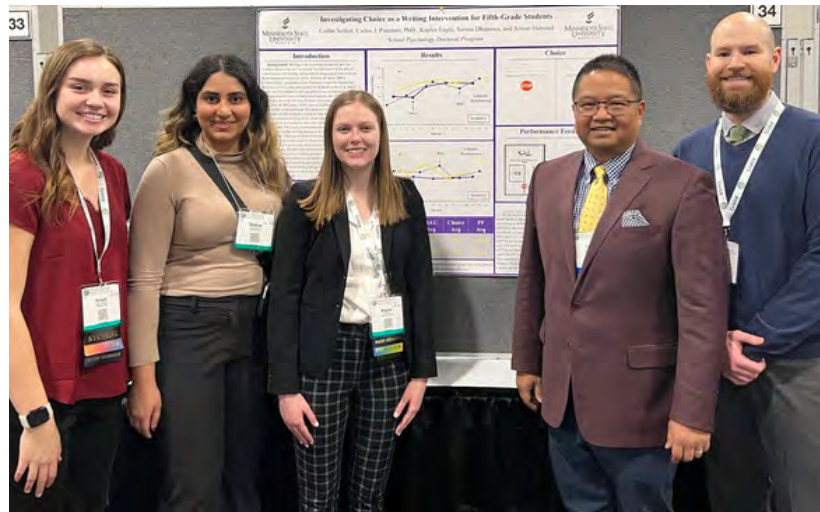


School Psychology in Denver

The school psychology doctoral program had a significant presence in Denver from Feb 7-10 for the annual convention of the National Association of School Psychologists. More than 30 program faculty, students, and graduates were in attendance and presenting. That included every single current student enrolled in the program and all four faculty. Disseminating science and best practice, staying up to date on science and best practices, and strengthening interpersonal bonds were all on the agenda.

There were nine papers and 10 posters, a total of 19 presentations provided by students and faculty affiliated with the School Psychology Doctoral Program from Minnesota State University Mankato.

[View all the papers and presentations >>](#)



Minnesota State Mankato Hosts 2023 Midwestern Conference for Professional Psychology

Minnesota State Mankato hosted the 2023 Midwestern Conference for Professional Psychology on March 23-24, coordinated by Dr. Angelica Aguirre from the Department of Psychology. The event included numerous speakers, psychology demos, student paper, and poster presentations, the Psi Chi Honor Society induction ceremony, and department awards.



Dr. Angelica Aguirre



Psychology students presented research posters and demonstrations of psych concepts Friday as part of the Midwestern Conference of Professional Psychology!

Students from the Mankato Psi Chi/Psychology Club

PHILOSOPHY

Professor Sun Kyeong Yu Travels to Korea



Sun Kyeong Yu, professor of philosophy, gave a lecture titled "Buddhism and Bioscience: Nothing can Come out of Nothing: Emergentism is Wrong" at Haeinsa Buddhist Monastic College in Korea on Jan. 4. Haeinsa is the home of the Tripitaka Koreana, the whole Buddhist scriptures carved on more than 80,000 wooden blocks, for more than 800 years, and Haeinsa Buddhist Monastic College is the most prominent Buddhist seminary in South Korea. Dr. Yu gave her lecture to 30 Buddhist monks and several laypeople.

Dr. Joshua Pries Talks the American Dream and Economics

Dr. Joshua Pries was a guest on the All Things Co-op Podcast, talking about the notion of the American Dream, notions of fair rates and just work, this American economic ideology and its relation to economic reality, Adam Smith and the framework of the "Well Ordered Society," the current Winner Take All economic



arrangement, the dire consequences of the winner take all dynamic, and some real structural changes that could bring about just work for all.

[Listen to the Just Work for All episode on YouTube>>](#)

SOCIOLOGY

Visiting Professor Afroza Anwary Writings and Lectures



Afroza Anwary is a visiting professor at the College of Law at Western Sydney University, Parramatta, Australia. She will deliver lectures on the Restricted definition of Genocide in the United Nations Genocide Convention; Sexual Violence as a Weapon of Genocide; the Intersection of Political, Physical, and Cultural Genocide of the Rohingya Population; and Challenges doing Field Research on Genocide. Afroza is also doing collaborative research on genocide with law professor Catherine Renshaw, the dean of the College of Law.

Her paper "Displacement of the Rohingyas of Myanmar, Land Grabbing, and Extractive Capital" has been accepted for publication in the special issue on Extractive Economy, Conflict, and Peacebuilding of Social Encounter.

Dr. Anwary's paper, "Reflection: Situation in Myanmar/Bangladesh," has also been accepted for publication in the book, "The International Criminal Court: Feminist Judgments" from the Cambridge University Press. The book chapter is co-authored by Catherine Renshaw of Western Sydney University, New South Wales.

At the Midwest Sociological Society annual meeting in Minneapolis, MN March 23-26, Dr. Anwary presented the paper "Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh: An Analysis of the Rohingya Refugee Problems and Environmental Sustainability," The paper was coauthored with Mohammad Mohiuddin, University of Ferrara, Italy. Mohiuddin was a visiting scholar at Minnesota State University this past year, working with Dr. Anwary.

Dr. Anwary's paper "Displacement of the Rohingyas of Myanmar, Land Grabbing, and Extractive Capital," was published in a special issue of Social Encounter on Extractive Economy, Conflict and Peacebuilding (Volume 7, issue 1: 26-48).

[Read Dr. Anwary's paper >>](#)

Other News in the Sociology Department

Sociology graduate student Justice Greene successfully defended her thesis titled, "From "The Loss of the Innocents" to "Crisis Actors": Media Portrayal of Rampage School Shootings From 1998-2021." Committee members were Dr. Sarah Epplen (chair), Dr. Pedro Thomas, and Dr. Rick Lybeck. Justice is headed to Virginia Tech University to continue her research on school shootings as she pursues a Ph.D. in Sociology.



Sociology graduate student Shayla Schumacher defended her thesis titled, "Graduate Student Awareness of Student Services." Committee members were Dr. Sarah Epplen (chair), Dr. Paul Prew, and Kellian Clink. Shayla is headed to Louisiana State University to serve as Coordinator for the Living Learning Programs.

Alumni from the M.A. Sociology: College Teaching Emphasis Program gathered with Dr. Sarah Epplen to lead a panel discussion on the value of learning to teach during graduate school at the Midwest Sociological Society annual conference in Minneapolis.

Photo: From L to R: Colin Larter (Iowa State Ph.D. student), Mercy Adams (Washington County Department of Corrections), Dr. Sarah Epplen (Assoc. Professor of Sociology), and Brooke Weinmann (University of Nevada at Las Vegas Ph.D. student).



THEATRE AND DANCE

Dancers at the North-Central Festival Closing Gala

The American College Dance Association North-Central Festival in March, Prof. Daniel Stark's "Love in the Time of Despair" was selected to perform at the closing gala. Congrats to Prof. Stark and the dancers!



Wounded Healers Production Receives Seven National Awards

Wounded Healers, presented at the 2023 Region 5 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) in January, received seven national awards in an announcement earlier today. KCACTF announced the national awards for productions showcased at regional festivals throughout the country in January-March, 2023.

Wounded Healers received awards for The Citizen Artist Award; Distinguished Achievement in the Facilitation of a Brave Rehearsal Space; Distinguished Achievement in Production Design; Distinguished Achievement in Lighting Design for Steven Smith's design; Distinguished Performance Ensemble for the work of Lyreshia Ghostlon-Green, Marquise Myles, Daniel Walker, and Joaquin Warren; Outstanding Production of a New Work; and Outstanding Director of a New Work for Timothy Berry's directing work.

[Read full release >>](#)



Theatre Alumni Curt Enderle

Curt Enderle (BS Theatre and Marketing '87) won an Art Directors Guild award for his work on Guillermo del Toro's "Pinocchio", the film won the best-animated feature.

[More information on the awards and the other films nominated >>](#)

Theatre and Dance collaborate with Maverick Machine

Earlier this year, the Department of Theatre and Dance collaborated with the Maverick Machine Marching Band on the production of Disney's High School Musical. The Creative and Producing Team received an Achievement in Community Outreach and Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration award from the KCACTF Region 5.



More photos from the 2022–2023 Theatre & Dance Season



Photo courtesy of Minnesota State Mankato Theatre & Dance Department. Photographers: Dan Norman (Dance) and Corrie Eggimann (Theatre)

A Farewell to Hustoles: Alumni and Friends Celebrate 35-Year Career of Emeritus Dr. Paul J. Hustoles



This April, the Department of Theatre & Dance celebrated the 35-year career of emeritus Dr. Paul J. Hustoles with an alumni and friends celebration and dinner before a performance of "Something Rotten!" directed by Dr. Hustoles as the Andreas Guest Artist. Dr. Hustoles retired in the summer of 2020 and didn't receive the flashy public send-off he deserves. "Something Rotten!" is a hilarious musical to celebrate Dr. Hustoles' legacy on campus and in the Department of Theatre & Dance. The production also featured the work of two professional guest choreographers as well as two student choreographers and nonstop dancing fun!



Top left Dr. Hustoles speaking at the alumni and friends celebration.

Top middle: Dr. Hustoles speaking with students during his time as department chair.

Top right: President Edward Inch speaking at Dr. Hustoles' retirement dinner.

Bottom : 2022-23 Mainstage Production of "Something Rotten!" directed by Dr. Hustoles (Images courtesy of IT Solutions Comm Video and Digital Media)



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

THANK YOU FOR READING!

Have an update to share for the next edition? Send your news items and updates to hss@mnsu.edu.



MINNESOTA STATE

Minnesota State University, Mankato,
A member of Minnesota State

A member of the Minnesota State system and an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity University. This document is available in alternative format to individuals with disabilities by calling the College of Humanities & Social Sciences at 507-389-1255 (V), 800-627-3529 or 711 (MRS/TTY).