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## The Advocate, December 7, 2006

Minnesota State University Moorhead

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# The ADVOCATE

An award-winning newspaper published weekly for the Minnesota State University Moorhead community

## Library examines redesign

By **LEE MORRIS**  
Editor

The Livingston Lord Library may undergo design changes pending state funding.

Brittney Goodman, director of instructional resources, is in charge of the project. She has created a committee of employees from departments in the library as well as a student advisory board to gather input for the redesign.

The committee discussed specific changes in a Nov.



HEATHER GRUENHAGEN / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

The library's design may change if it gets state funding in 2008.

21 meeting, possibilities like moving the Write Site to the building, adding a coffee shop or creating an entrance closer

to the CMU or Kise.

All changes depend on if the Legislature approves the project in the next state bonding

bill, which is slated for 2008.

Although the library's design could shift drastically, Goodman said the design project is in its most early stages and nothing is concrete. The concept is making more of a "one-stop shop atmosphere," she said.

"We're seeing the need for more computers, more collaborative spaces on campus, and we think the library could handle that very well."

**PLANS, BACK PAGE**



### Writing a career

Longtime professor Marv Bossart retires, Web site has pictures of his second career

**FEATURES, PAGE 3**

## Winter break shortens

### Advocate staff reports

Due to a late fall start and an extra fall breather day, the winter break is shorter this year than last.

For the 2005-2006 year, winter break was 25 days, but this year it is 20.

The academic calendar has students finishing finals on Wednesday, Dec. 20 with a Dec. 22 commencement, two days before Christmas Eve.

The reason for the five-day reduction is the fall semester began on Aug. 24, which landed on a late-in-the-week Thursday. A second fall breather day was added in October.

"During spring semester there is a weeklong break. Students and faculty also wanted time in the middle of fall semester, so we built that in with the extra fall breather," said Jayne Washburn, university registrar and chair of the calendar committee.

Next year, the break will be 20 days as well, as a uniform start date is being implemented by all Minnesota State Colleges and Universities on Monday, Aug. 27.

A misprint on the university's "Deadline and dates to remember" calendar has a deadline for faculty grades at 3 p.m. Dec. 26, when they are actually due Dec. 27.

Students return from this year's break for Orientation on Monday, Jan. 8, which is when night classes begin. Regular classes start Jan. 9.

Students are in class 73 days a semester, excluding five for finals. MnSCU requires students be in school for 15 weeks a semester. The faculty must be here 168 days a year.

Washburn said for the 2008-2009 year, the school should return to a longer break between semesters.

## Wooded wonderland



HEATHER GRUENHAGEN / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

A student walks on the mall Tuesday, caught in falling snow. After a mostly dry November, a cloak of flakes has blanketed campus in this month's early days.

## The descendant's hymn

### Alumna has ties to composer of 'Silent Night'

By **GLENN TORNELL**  
Special to The Advocate

Gruber sang bass, Mohr sang tenor, and the sound they made that night in a small Austrian village church on Dec. 24, 1818, still echoes across the world during the Christmas season.

"Yes, that was my great, great, great, great-grandfather Franz Xavier Gruber, who composed the music for 'Silent Night,'" said Lisa (nee Gruber) Leabo, a 1993 MSUM elementary education graduate who's been teaching at Jefferson Elementary School in Fargo for the past 12 years. "I still get chills when I hear the song performed at church every Christmas Eve."

And while the tradition of singing "Silent Night" has been muted in many public arenas under the veil of political correctness, the Gruber clan still gets together each Christmas season to sing one of the most lyrical and hopeful carols ever written.

"It's very special for us, considering our heritage," Leabo said. "My grandfather Leo, now 89, and my father James are both fluent in German and they both inherited the talent for playing music and singing. Leo plays accordion, my dad plays accordion, guitar and piano, and I play the piano a little. So when we all get together during the holidays, singing 'Silent Night'—in English and German—is part



FRANZ XAVIER GRUBER

of the celebration."

It's a large gathering, she said. Grandpa Leo, who oddly enough was born on Christmas Day, has seven daughters, two sons, 28 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

**CAROL, BACK PAGE**



### A few clicks away

Staff asks readers to take online survey so we may improve our work

**OPINION, PAGE 4**



### Looking up

Student art exhibit gives ideas for community reform till Dec. 21

**A&E, PAGE 6**



### Take a deep breath

Swimming takes first place finishes, next home matchup in January

**SPORTS, PAGE 8**

## Security Report

11.29 — 12.05

- 11.29 Fire alarm in Physical Plant/ Maintenance
- 11.30 Noise complaint in Grantham
- 11.30 Elevator emergency in Nelson
- 11.30 Minor in consumption in Nelson
- 11.30 Reckless driving on the mall
- 12.1 Found bicycle in Lot A
- 12.1 Leaving the scene of an accident in Lot A
- 12.1 Hit and run vehicle accident in Lot A-2
- 12.1 Fire alarm in Neumaier
- 12.1 Alcohol offenses on 12th Street South
- 12.2 Minor in possession in Holmquist
- 12.2 Found item at Campus Security Building
- 12.2 Found item in MacLean
- 12.2 Door open in Owens
- 12.2 Medical response/ ambulance to Nemzek
- 12.2 Exterior check in MacLean
- 12.3 Call for service in Neumaier
- 12.3 Theft in South Snarr
- 12.3 911 hang-up in Annex Building
- 12.4 Bicycle theft outside Neumaier
- 12.4 Prank phone call at Campus Security Building
- 12.4 Fire Alarm at the Center for the Arts
- 12.5 911 hang-up in Owens
- 12.5 Vandalism in Lot E

## The ADVOCATE

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The Advocate is published weekly during the academic year, except during final examination and vacation periods. Opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

The Advocate encourages letters to the editor and your turn submissions. They should be typed and must include the writer's name, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due Monday at 5 p.m. and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off at The Advocate office in CMU Room 110 or e-mailed to us at: [advocate@mnstate.edu](mailto:advocate@mnstate.edu). The Advocate reserves the right to edit letters and refuse publication of letters omitting requested information. It does not guarantee the publication of any letter.

"Adjuncts freak me out."

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The Advocate is always looking for talented writers, photographers, columnists and illustrators. Meetings are held every Monday at 4:30 p.m. in CMU 110.

Contact the editor for more information or come to the staff meetings.

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### Correction

In an ad on page 2 of the Nov. 30 issue of The Advocate, the correct date should have been Thursday, not Wednesday, Dec. 14 for a Finals Pancake Feed from 10 p.m. to midnight at the Newman Center.

### Department hosts farewell for Nordick

The paralegal department invites you to a social gathering as they say farewell to associate professor Larry Nordick. Please join them from 4 to 6 p.m. on Monday in the Center for Business atrium for cake and coffee.

### Economic center gets new director

The Minnesota Council of Economic Education has appointed Gregory Stutes as director of MSUM's Center for Economic Education, a program aimed at improving the region's economic literacy. He's replacing Vernon Dobis, who's been the director of the center since its inception at MSUM in 1999.

The center is on the third floor economics department in MacLean.

### Honors lecture explores viewpoints

Dr. Chang-Seong Hong, philosophy, delivered a lecture titled "A Western Approach to the Buddhist Thesis of No-Self" on Nov. 30. The lecture drew more than 120 students, faculty and community members to Science Lab 118.

The lecture explored the concept of the soul from Western and Buddhist perspectives and generated several questions from the audience.

The Honors Lecture Series engages exemplary academics across campus, providing students with models of excellence in scholarship, leadership and service. The lecture series showcases faculty expertise in research and teaching.

Faculty interested in presenting a lecture should contact Stephen Hamrick, honors program director.

### Student leader of month named

The Student Organization Advisory Committee is pleased to present Ben Johnson with the Student Leader of the Month Award for December/January. Johnson was nominated by chemistry club.

Johnson is the president of chemistry club. He has helped increase membership in the club by 20 members this year and is striving to keep them actively involved.

If you would like to nominate someone you know, please stop by the Office of Student Activities, CMU 229, to pick up a nomination form or visit online at [www.mnstate.edu/osa](http://www.mnstate.edu/osa) under Programs and Services/Leadership.

### AA meets at noon on Wednesdays

A relatively new Alcoholics Anonymous group is starting on campus.

Meetings are at noon Wednesdays in Hendrix.

### Nominate your outstanding adviser

Students, do you have an outstanding academic adviser? Faculty and staff, do you know a colleague who deserves a nomination?

We would like to recognize those advisers and their exceptional efforts. Nomination forms are available at the advising support center, Frick 153. You can also submit a form online at [www.mnstate.edu/advising/nomination\\_form.htm](http://www.mnstate.edu/advising/nomination_form.htm).

If you have any questions, contact Sara Leigh at [leighsa@mnstate.edu](mailto:leighsa@mnstate.edu) or Jenessa Kuznia at [kuzniaje@mnstate.edu](mailto:kuzniaje@mnstate.edu). The submission deadline is Jan. 26.

### Student proposals due Jan. 29

The College of Social and Natural Sciences invites proposals for funding to support student research. Members of the student advisory board will review applications and make the final determination of grant recipients.

Up to \$3,000 will be available to applicants. Proposals not funded in the fall 2006 review can be revised and submitted again for this call. The deadline for this round of proposals is Jan. 29 2007.

Information about the application process is available from departments in the college or from the dean's office.

### Book drive set for finals buyback

During the finals week buyback, Alpha Lambda Delta and student senate are sponsoring a book drive for underprivileged people.

A bin will be placed next to buyback tables in MacLean, where students who wish to donate books they cannot resell can place them.

The books will be sent to Africa.

### MSUM will graduate 450 on Dec. 22

MSUM will award degrees to more than 450 graduates during its winter commencement program at 2 p.m. Dec. 22 in Nemzek.

Commencement speaker is David K. Martin, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Fargo-Moorhead.

A native of Pelican Rapids, Martin holds a bachelor's degree from MSUM, a master's degree from Colorado State University and a post-master's degree from NDSU.

A reception for graduates, faculty, parents and guests will follow the recessional.

### PRSSA members attend conference

Ten members of the Public Relations Student Society of America spent Nov. 10 to 14 in Salt Lake City at the national PRSSA conference.

Participating members included Elizabeth Ruen, Sabrina Whiting, Brittany Moen, Miho Torii, Crystal Johnson, Matt Sommerfeld, Paul Marquardt, Cassie Meyer, Katie Lillejord and Kendra Grubb.

PRSSA meets at 3:30 p.m. every other Wednesday in Frick 259 and offers speakers, community projects and social events. Students from all majors are encouraged to attend. E-mail [prssa@mnstate.edu](mailto:prssa@mnstate.edu) for more information.

### Student senator of month named

Congratulations to Jennifer Costley, who is the student senator of the month for December. "She is always in the senate office when I need her," said one of her fellow senators. When asked to explain the candidate, Jen Keney described her as being extremely helpful and willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done.

Also nominated this month were Matt Pierce, Scott Haugen, Stephanie Morse and Chad Johannesson.

### Persuasion class sends messages

Students in Jason Anderson's persuasion class have been working with community organizations this semester to create persuasive messages for target audiences. Students in the communication studies class are working with the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center, MeritCare Volunteer Services, March of Dimes and Lake Agassiz Regional Library in Moorhead.

### Take online Advo survey

Do you have an opinion about The Advocate?

Please take our online survey at <http://appserv.mnstate.edu/insttrtech/surveys/advocate.asp>. It will take less than five minutes to complete. You may send additional feedback to [advocate@mnstate.edu](mailto:advocate@mnstate.edu).

### Construction teams place at conference

From Oct. 26 to 28, the North Central Associated Schools of Construction-Region IV met at the Lied Lodge in Nebraska City, Neb., for its midyear meeting and construction management student competition.

MSUM sent three teams to the construction management student competition, one each in the design-build, residential and heavy/civil divisions. All three teams placed third in their respective divisions.

The students put in a great deal of work in addition to their regular class load and their effort was rewarded. This is the first time that three MSUM teams that competed have all placed in the competition. Congratulations to all the team members.

### Student org of month named

Ten Percent Society has been chosen as the December/January student organization of the month.

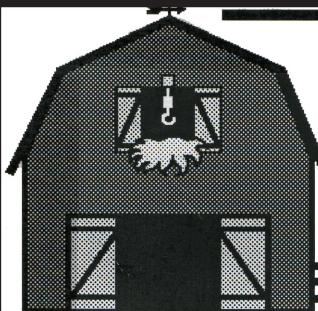
This organization has shown a lot of hard work and leadership throughout its events and activities. Its most recent activity was its annual Drag Show, which proved to be an event that had good attendance and raised a significant amount of money.

The group also was busy this fall with National Coming Out Week. In the spring, they will be putting a lot of time into their annual Queer Prom and Campus Pride Week.

Ten Percent Society is an organization that provides social activities, support and education to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender students, faculty and staff and straight allies on the campuses of MSUM and NDSU and in the Fargo-Moorhead community.

Interested in getting involved? Visit [www.fmtps.com](http://www.fmtps.com) for meeting updates and upcoming events. Congratulations Ten Percent Society and keep up the amazing work!

**Advocate meetings  
4:30 p.m. Mondays  
in CMU 110.**



## Johnson Barn Dances

**Dec. 8  
Avalanche**

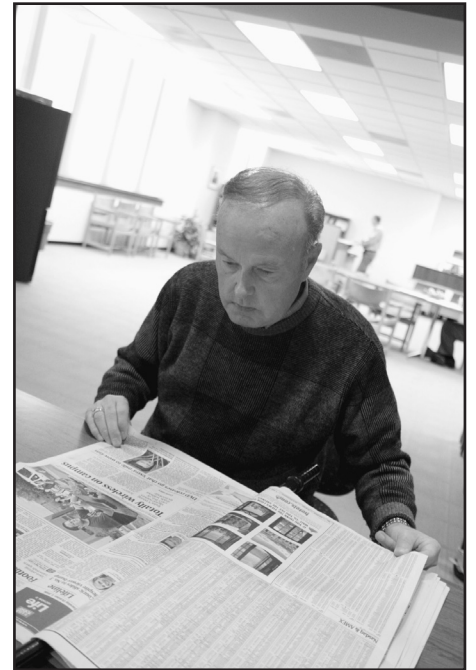
2 miles North of Arthur, ND - Hwy 18  
9 p.m. - 1 a.m. • (701) 967-8912

## Leaving a mark

After 37 years, professor Marv Bossart is retiring from teaching. In that time, students going into journalism, advertising and public relations have passed through his classes, getting a full dose of his dry humor and his belief in the importance of writing well.

Bossart also spent 42 years at WDAY in Fargo before retiring in 2000. The site [www.mnstate.edu/bossart](http://www.mnstate.edu/bossart) has been created in his honor, as has a scholarship. A slideshow on the site features some of Bossart's insights.

"It's hard for me to give (teaching) up. I know when I leave here, I'm gonna be pretty sad, but it's been a wonderful experience."



"I've been blessed to have two—two, not one—two wonderful careers," Bossart said on a slideshow the mass communications department made in his honor. Bossart started teaching a broadcast writing course but eventually picked up intro to mass communications as well. Working with the department's managerial guru Deb Hval, reading the newspaper and teaching have made up his daily routine.



PHOTOS BY SARAH VOEGELE / THE ADVOCATE

When he started teaching here, mass communications professor Marv Bossart did not know he would have a second career. "I never thought about teaching," Bossart said on the slideshow. He graduated from Northwestern University in Chicago and had a successful career in broadcast journalism.

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THURS: Ladies Night, ladies get in for free  
and drink for free with Dragon ID

FRI: Free Cover w/Dragon ID  
8-10pm \$2 16oz. draws

SAT: Free Cover w/Dragon ID  
6-8:30pm \$7 buckets of beer (4 bottles)  
\$9 buckets of beer (5 bottles)

123 21st S. Moorhead, MN 218. 233. 4010

## Advocate editorial board

Lee Morris  
Editor

Brittany Knudson  
Opinion Editor

### Survey can help give feedback, campus urged to participate

The Advocate is conducting an online survey to gauge what readers think of our paper and what we can improve. We have nine questions, all general queries aimed at finding our readers' opinions, we would like everyone to answer.

Fill it out at <http://appserv.mnstate.edu/instrtech/surveys/advocate.asp>.

We will use this input to shape The Advocate into a periodical that accurately represents and informs our readers, which is our goal. Our ultimate goal is to provide the community with the most current, relevant and sometimes entertaining news, interesting features, sports and accurate editorials.

The five sections of our paper: News, Features, Arts & Entertainment, Opinion and Sports, are meant to focus on issues that pertain directly to students, faculty and staff, or at least spark their interest. We will take any and all criticism seriously and will work to better focus our subject matter in the future.

Without feedback from the MSUM community, however, our paper has a harder time publishing the types of articles our readers wish to read. Please take our survey and/or e-mail your thoughts and suggestions to us at [advocate@mnstate.edu](mailto:advocate@mnstate.edu). After all, this is your paper.

The Advocate is funded partially by student fees, and we try to make it a direct reflection of its community members. Even though the paper is put together by a staff of fewer than a dozen students, it is representative of the entire campus.

It is easy to glance at The Advocate each week and not take the time to read it in depth or write a letter to the editor, but without strong reader participation our paper will become stagnant. We want to get people excited about campus events and the news that is going on right here at MSUM. We want to write articles that our readers want to read.

Last week's article "Student apathy apparent at campus events" addressed the problem of student apathy in regard to campus participation. This apathy may also translate to this paper. Few students show a strong interest in The Advocate's content, and even fewer write letters to the editor to address their concerns.

This spring semester, we encourage students from all majors to attend The Advocate meetings at 4:30 p.m. Mondays in CMU 110. Writers and photographers are always welcome. Please feel free to stop by our meetings, write letters to the editor and e-mail us. Take action and help us improve The Advocate by voicing your opinion.

## We're waiting.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Von Pinnon deserves it

As I write this letter I am looking at The Advocate, Oct. 21, 1993, Matthew Von Pinnon, editor. I am amazed at the quality of the student newspaper in front of me.

I am amazed at the stories that are covered. "Easy as one, two, three: Freshmen say the first quarter 'almost a blow-off,'" proclaims one headline. "Mistic and Turbulent Times" says another, a bit of past journalistic history.

This same Matthew Von Pinnon, now the editor of The

Fargo Forum, announced this past weekend.

This is an amazing thing because we (at least those of us in the English department) knew Matthew and had him in our classes. We knew what a fine student he was and what a good student editor.

So, from one former editor of the Moorhead State newspaper to another, congratulations Matt.

We're proud of your achievement. You're an inspiration to all student newspaper edi-

tors.

I look forward to seeing your vision for The Forum. Best of luck, you deserve it!

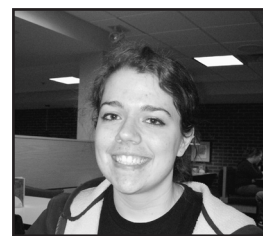
Sincerely,  
Ken Bennett  
English department

### Did you get the classes you wanted?



Dave Binkard,  
Sophomore

"(I got) all the ones I wanted. I had to get an override for one."



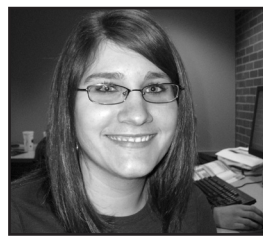
Nichole Gemar,  
Junior

"One was full, the other was a liberal studies one, but only available for art majors."



Jered Weber,  
Senior

"Yes, and I registered late. I still got all the classes I wanted."



Larissa Sneider,  
Senior

"Yeah, I'm a fifth year senior, so I had a lot of credits."



Miroj Joshi,  
Sophomore

"Yeah."



Cari VanOverbeke,  
Junior

"Yes and no. I did, but I didn't have the credit amount I needed to get into all of them. But I'm satisfied."

The opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body. The Advocate encourages Letters to the Editor and Your Turn submissions. They should be typed and **must include the writer's name**, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due by 5 p.m. Monday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off in The Advocate office or e-mailed to [advocate@mnstate.edu](mailto:advocate@mnstate.edu).

## Group projects only add to high stress

With the semester winding down and Christmas break soon approaching, three things top the majority of the students' minds: finals, spending cash on presents and group projects. I could spend an entire page talking about the first two, but that is not the point of today's lesson. Toward the end of the semester, some professors attempt to gain a touch of the holiday spirit and assign group projects. In their mind it means a large assignment that can weigh heavily on the students' grade and help bring up the average of a student who has been struggling. WRONG!

Group projects translate to a ton (and I literally mean the form of measurement) of extra stress, effort and complications during an already traumatic time frame. With the assistance of a friend of mine, I have devised a mathematical formula to aid those of you watching from home in order



**Robyn Rohde**  
*Sports Editor*

to demonstrate my point. Realistically, it was more him than I, but he said I was able to pass on his knowledge to those less knowledgeable.

In algebra,  $x$  equals a variable. Lets say  $x$  equals the number of members in your group. In a group project you will do  $x$  times the amount of work and gain  $1/x$  the amount of knowledge. Plus, when has there EVER been an interesting, or dare I say fun, group project?

Now don't get me wrong, group projects are a good idea in theory, but not in practice. If any of you have ever read something I have written this year, or even met me for about five seconds, you know I am a tad preoccupied. So of course

when I get off work at 2 a.m., the first thing I want to do with my three-hour time frame to sleep for the week is meet up with my group to discuss our project.

I literally go from event, job, class, etc. to the next time commitment a majority of the time, so trying to squeeze in time in the first place is like trying to fit Richard Simmons into an eyedropper. Let alone having to coordinate three or more people to be at the same place, at the same time, with (and this is a big one) a mindset on WORKING. Yeah, I'm pretty sure that you're more likely to win the lottery, find the cure for cancer and solve world hunger all in the same minute than working on a group project together.

Disclaimer: I do not intend to attack anyone I have ever worked on a group project within the remainder of this article, but I feel it is important

to explain certain situations that I am sure many people have encountered. Do not assume anything because we all know what happens when you do that.

If you are one of the lucky ones who does have an abundance of time to work on a group project, you have only begun to ride with training wheels. I, inevitably, will get either the person who has forgotten the location of the classroom or the person who has forgotten the location of his or her brain.

The problem with group projects also goes way beyond the group members. I assume it is because of the ideology that a group of people would have different ideas, but most of my projects have vague instructions. So instead of spending a weekend or possibly a day writing a ten-page paper, I will spend a week finding out what the topic of the paper is before starting the 25-page design at midnight the night

before it is due.

Now the idea of a group project is nice. It gives a little variance to what turns out to be very often a droning class by the end. Also, being able to play well with others is always a good skill to have and college is designed to teach you things that will help you throughout life, but abstract thought is not always the best approach.

Not everyone is going to have a bad group of partners. Sometimes the project idea is unique and could be creative. Even if you fall into a category of unluckiness, it can sometimes turn out really well for you because the project, though hard, challenged you to create an impressive product. So deal with the pressure, the deadlines, the work, the sleepless nights, the bottomless cups of coffee and whatever else comes along with the finals time. The bounty of semester break is near.

E-mail Rhode at [rohdero@mnstate.edu](mailto:rohdero@mnstate.edu).

## Sodexho's reputation should bring change

Every time I eat at Kise, I feel sick to my stomach. It doesn't even matter what I eat; nearly everything there leaves me sick and never really quite full. I'm not just whining because the food there isn't as good as what my mom made at home, or whatever; I'm not a picky eater and I don't expect much from a college cafeteria. However, I would really like to not feel as though my stomach is rotting away every time I eat.

It's not just me, either. Everyone I have ever talked to about it has said the same thing (people call it "Queasy Kise" for a reason). It's a fact



**Ben Sailer**  
*Columnist*

the food at Kise is both cheap and unhealthy, and we're paying for it with our health and well-being.

MSUM's food service provider, Sodexho, has a history of consumer complaints for poor food quality. According to Corporate Watch, 500 parents signed a petition in Pennsylvania for their school district to end their contract with Sodhexho due to expired

food and poor management. In Cape Cod, Mass., an automatic slicer cut off part of a woman's thumb that ended up in a student's sandwich. In El Paso, a dietician and former

Sodexho employee claimed the company forged her signature to approve the nutritional value of their food five years after she had quit. A full description of Sodexho's questionable past can be found at <http://www.corporatewatch.org.uk>.

Not only that, but Sodexho was featured in the movie "Supersize Me." Not exactly a

reassuring thought.

MSUM has an interest in making sure the food it provides its students isn't going to make them ill, so what gives? Students are paying way too much money for meal plans to be short changed on quality and nutrition. It's a pretty well-known fact that students here think the food at Kise is terrible. With Kise being renovated this year, why did they choose to renew their contract with Sodexho for six more years instead of picking a different food service provider? No matter how much work they put into improving the cosmetics of the building, it really doesn't matter if

the food itself is slowly killing students from the inside out. Academic performance is likely to be affected by this decision as well, because seriously, how are we supposed to study when we have no energy because the food we eat is absolute garbage? Beyond that, how are we supposed to live our lives when no matter what we choose to eat, we're damned to feel sick?

The only option we're really left with is to stop eating on campus, and maybe that's exactly what we should do.

Do you miss mom's cooking? E-mail Sailer at [Sailerbe@mnstate.edu](mailto:Sailerbe@mnstate.edu).



## Art as reform in the community

Students use annual BFA exhibit to suggest world, community reform

### Advocate staff reports

An MSUM student art exhibition is on display now through Dec. 21 in the Center for the Arts gallery.

A public reception will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. today (Thursday). This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Students exhibiting work are: Melissa Davidson, Liz Gee, Trevor Hirst, Richard Jaenisch, Christopher Larson, Kerri Larson, Stephanie Skulstad, Dan Swenson, Jenni Thury and Jenni Van Hoecke.

With the exception of Hirst, who will be showing "The Nature of Nature," a series of drawings/paintings, all the

students are graphic designers who have worked on special projects involving the community.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday; and 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday.



Christopher Larson used CD Packaging screenprint on kraftboard to display his work.



PHOTOS BY HEATHER GRUENHAGEN / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

Crystal Aakre helps Jenni Thury hang her BFA project.

## Professor writes new book of poetry

By **BILL ROHLA**  
Staff Writer

He opened his mouth and words came flowing out as he described the lake of his youth.

The stories, the moments, seemed more powerful stemming forth from the poet's lips. The world he has painted with his pen becomes real again and the entire room is filled with visions of years long past.

He closes the book, looks up and cracks a slight smile.

Yahya Frederickson was reading from "Lake Map," just one of the many collections in his new book of poetry titled "Returning to Water." In it, Frederickson focuses mostly on his summers spent as a boy with his family at his grandparents' cabin deep in the woods of northern Minnesota.

"The book is based on all those memory pieces from my past," Frederickson said. "It's about being by myself, I guess, and interacting with the world around me and the people around me."

Yahya Frederickson is having an opening reading for "Returning to Winter" at 4 p.m. today (Thursday) in CMU 101.

Frederickson was born in Moorhead, Minn., and graduated from Moorhead High School in 1981.

Afterwards, he graduated

from then-Moorhead State University in 1985 and graduated in 1989 with an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Montana.

After graduate school he joined the Peace Corps and traveled to Yemen. It was there he became immersed in the Middle Eastern culture and made the commitment to become a follower of the Islamic faith.

He served with the Peace Corps in Yemen from 1989 to 1992 and stayed until 1996 because he enjoyed it.

"I was a spiritual person but didn't find a language to express myself until I found Islam," he said. After he returned to the States, he received his Ph.D. in English from the University of North Dakota in 1999 and took a teaching job at MSUM the same year.

Frederickson wasn't always interested in writing. It wasn't until his final year at MSU that he really started to consider writing after English professor Mark Vinz encouraged him to pursue poetry and even published his first chapbook in 1986 with two other poets.

Though, he did have his first taste of writing when he began crafting lyrics for a friend's punk rock band in high school.

"I could play guitar but not as well as they could, but I thought you know, I bet I



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Professor Yahya Frederickson will give a reading in celebration of his new release, "Returning to Water," at 4 p.m. today (Thursday) in CMU 101.

could write songs, so I started writing lyrics."

In "Returning to Water" Frederickson often writes about the importance of the geography and water in his childhood.

"The title 'Returning to Water' points you to the importance of water in this part of the world, the country and the state."

When compiling his collection of work for his book, he kept noticing that all his poems focused around bodies of water.

"I always wanted to get back to that place again. I want to

get back to that time in my childhood, back to that beach, that lakeshore, that riverside, so it seemed like an appropriate title."

Frederickson recalls stories of feeling isolated as well as introspective as he spent most of his time alone with his grandparents at their cabin.

"I think anytime you got a kid who's hanging out in a place faraway from town with a couple of old grandparents, he's going to be looking around at the world around him and the landscape of the place that he's in," he said.

"Returning to Water"

reads like a novel at times as Frederickson describes different family stories, particularly those involving his Grandpa Louie and his Grandma Inie, which are ones that he particularly holds dear.

Frederickson is quick to point out, however, that asking a writer to choose his favorite poem is like asking a parent to choose his or her favorite child.

He recalls going fishing with his grandpa, sometimes upwards of three times a day, though they would rarely catch anything.

"The fishing wasn't too good, whether we were just wasting our time, I don't know, but it was also time spent with somebody, a relative, and he (Grandpa Louie) was a storyteller." The poems for "Returning to Water" have been about 15 years in the making and were well worth the wait.

Frederickson's first book came out in 1986. It can be hoped that it won't be another 20 years until his next one.

Rohla can be reached at [rohlawi@mnstate.edu](mailto:rohlawi@mnstate.edu).

## Wolf ears headband makes freshman stand out

By **KATIE WALKER**

Staff Writer

Freshman Ashlee Plath graduated from St. James high school, where she began wearing the "cat ears."

"They're technically wolf ears," said Plath, regarding many students' wrong assumptions of her being "the girl who wears cat ears."

In high school, Plath had the nickname "Wolf Paw," which means free spirit. It started as a signature for her writing.

"I write fantasy and poetry," Plath said. "It's just a hobby, it



ASHLEE PLATH

helps me relax."

According to Plath, you have to sit back from a situation and look at it from a different perspective, and that's where

the free spirit comes in.

Plath went through many different names before finally keeping Wolf Paw, which is also the name of a character in a story she has written.

"I used the name Captain Wolf Paw for a while. It was the pirate captain's name in a story," Plath said. "I stayed with CWP for a while, then finally to Wolf Paw."

Plath decided to start wearing the ears in 11th grade, while she and a friend were shopping. Plath's friends thought they really matched Wolf Paw.

"My friend bet that I couldn't go a week wearing the wolf ears," Plath said. "I said I could, and I think I won that bet."

Plath won the bet; she still wears the ears two years later. She does realize that one day she'll have to stop wearing the ears.

"For right now, the ears stay," she said.

One reason Plath likes to wear the ears is because people recognize her and when she's not wearing them, some

people can't find her.

"They actually look for my ears. That's something funny," Plath said.

Plath hasn't heard any criticism regarding the ears; she usually hears positive comments from other MSUM students.

"I wear them to make people smile because it makes me feel good," Plath said.

Walker can be reached at [walkekat@mnstate.edu](mailto:walkekat@mnstate.edu).

## Play good, but bad accents

By **RYAN JACOBS**

Staff Writer

If you think no one's family is crazier than yours, Theatre B's "Wintertime" is for you. It runs at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays until Dec. 23 at the Main Avenue Theatre in Fargo.

Charles Mee's "Wintertime" is a comedy about soon-to-be-married couple Jonathan and Ariel, who journey to a cozy cabin for a romantic getaway. Unfortunately, it's also the ideal destination for his parents and a few more sur-

prising guests.

A memorable scene is when Francisco, played by Francisco L. Cabello, burns the fond memories he had of Maria in a garbage can. It shows one of the many ways a person can show their love for people.

One problem, however, was the accents that some of the characters portrayed.

The play's description of the play did not tell the reader which country the play took place in. At first, one would think France, only because Francisco pulls off a French accent perfectly.

The same cannot be said of Maria though, played by Janet Haak Aarness. She seemed to try to play a "French woman," but her Midwest accent kept creeping through.

The themes this play contained were about love, relationships, the duality of man and the ways people can come closer although they might not see eye to eye.

Either way, the play is a good buy at \$10 for students. To reserve tickets, call (701) 729-8880.

Jacobs can be reached at [jacobsry@mnstate.edu](mailto:jacobsry@mnstate.edu).

## Former art chair displays work

By **RACHEL JACOBS**

Staff Writer

Creating art since age four, Richard Szeitz, former chair of the art department, is not fazed to have an exhibit of his work now through Jan. 28 at the Plains Art Museum in Fargo.

The exhibit is called "By Whose Strips Are We Healed" and highlights the art of Richard and his wife Karen Patek-Szeitz.

In the exhibit, a subject overlapping is evident as both artists, each in their own way, address issues surrounding

global differences.

"My art is a way of communicating to the viewer my concern with the psychological and spiritual implications of living in the world," Patek-Szeitz said.

Married for 20 years, Szeitz and Patek-Szeitz met while working at MSUM. Now, the couple shares a studio where they create their works.

Patek-Szeitz is known for her two-dimensional art showing a wide range of figures, while Szeitz is well known for his sculptures and liturgical art.

Both artists have merged to create a five-panel Renaissance

altar piece portraying many aspects of a particular event.

"I consider my art as visual communication, a way to make comments, remind, cause the viewer to reflect, to think. As I was reading a weekly news magazine, I had an idea to visually record my reactions and invite the viewer into a conversation relating to the subject at hand," Szeitz said.

"My art is a way of communicating to the viewer my concern with the psychological and spiritual implications of living in the world," Patek-Szeitz said.

Jacobs can be reached at [jacobsrm@mnstate.edu](mailto:jacobsrm@mnstate.edu).



ANGELA SCHNEIDER / THE ADVOCATE

Mary (Jacky Arness) and Laura (Maya Rowe) spy on Pa (Bryan Shinn) in the Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre's production of "Little House Christmas at Plum Creek." Based off of Laura Ingalls Wilder's famous series, the play runs at 7:30 p.m. through Dec. 17.

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## SWIMMING AND DIVING

## Wading for winnings at Invitational

By KATIE DIIRO  
Staff Writer

First-place finishes were the name of the game for the Dragon swimming and diving team this past weekend as MSUM hosted the Dragon-Cobber Invitational. The meet was a two-day event that brought an incredible 18 first-place finishes.

The first event Friday was the 200-medley relay comprised of Barbie Brooks, Ann Gusewelle, Jenna Nace and Kristine Loge. Their time of 1:52.83 broke school and pool records and set the pace for the rest of the meet. Team captain Brooks collected three individual first-place finishes and 78 points for the Dragons. Teammate Lauren Baalman also achieved three top finishes and 100 points.

First-year Dragon swim-

mer Amy Roness captured first place finishes in the 50 and 100-yard freestyle. The breaststroke events were dominated by Gusewelle, who handily beat her opponents in the 100 and 200. Head coach Todd Peters was extremely impressed with his team: "They all did a fantastic job improving from prelims to finals. The hearts of these swimmers is certainly a credit to their winning ways."

The heart of diver Samantha Jipson was certainly in the right place as she tucked, twisted, and somersaulted her way to victory on the one meter and three meter boards despite being ill. With this past weekend's results, Jipson is a mere 35 points away from qualifying for nationals. Fellow diver Sarah Wilker is well on her way to achieving this status as well despite the fact that she

has been diving for less than one year.

Depth is what makes a winning team and it is clear the Dragon swimmers and divers certainly have that. Sprinter Crysta Johnson said, "The finals on Saturday were amazing because a lot of the time we had three, four or even five girls in the final heat."

This means that inter-team competition was present. Some of the top competitions between Dragon swimmers involved Brooks, who out-touched two of her teammates by less than a second. Brooks said of these races, "There is competition among teammates, but it isn't vicious, it is pushing each other to do better and to swim faster."

There is no doubt the Dragons used motivation from one another to blow the other teams out of the water.



LIZZIE CHINANDER / THE ADVOCATE

Freshman Jalaigh Mathis placed second in the 200-yard butterfly to aid in the Dragons victory at the Dragon-Cobber Invite.

MSUM finished nearly 600 points ahead of second place St. Benedict's with an impressive 1,824 total.

The Dragons resume competition next semester after a

training trip to Fort Myers, Fla. The next home meet is Jan. 13.

Diuro can be reached at [katediuro@yahoo.com](mailto:katediuro@yahoo.com).

## Three strikes but Nelson may not be out

By LUKE HAGEN  
Staff Writer

Kyle Nelson's basketball career was going ever so smoothly. During high school, his entire life revolved around basketball. When Nelson came to MSUM to play, three separate knee injuries have slowed and possibly ended his basketball career.



NELSON

Nelson grew up in Buxton, N.D., a small town about 60 miles north of Moorhead. He helped his high school basketball team, the Mayville-Portland-Clifford-Galesburg Patriots, to back to back North Dakota State Class B Championships in 2002 and 2003. He was a first team North Dakota All-State selection, an all-district choice and a finalist for the North Dakota Mr. Basketball award as a senior.

He was an injury-free basketball player throughout high school.

It was Nelson's true freshman year when the first injury occurred. The Dragons were at UND and it was the fifth game of the regular season.

It wasn't too far of a drive

from Buxton, so Nelson's parents, Wayne and Shirley, decided to watch their son play.

"It was just before the half was over. I went up to block a shot on a fast break. I came down on it bad... and that was the first time I tore it," Nelson said of the knee injury.

Nelson collided with the player who was going up for the lay up on the fast break. Nelson explained he definitely saw and heard his knee pop when the injury occurred.

"My parents were probably in as much pain as I was in. They said it was so hard to just sit there and watch me lie there. The worst part for them was hearing me scream when it initially tore," he said.

Nelson went into the training room and found out that he tore both his ACL and MCL. Consequentially, he lost stabilization of his knee.

The ACL tear is the most common knee injury. When it's torn, surgery is mandatory for healing. The MCL tear is less serious. It can heal on its own.

It's a six month rehab process to regain strength in the knee from Nelson's injury. Before the surgery, Nelson had to build up the strength in his knee.

"The surgery is the worst part of the entire thing. You just wake up and feel horrible.

You get to the doctor's office at about six in the morning. Then you don't even get home until two or three in the afternoon," Nelson said.

After the surgery Nelson said he spent at least a week in bed doing nothing but sleeping and lying in bed. The next step is to try to lift his leg. After numerous days of physical therapy and weight training, Nelson began to run again.

"The doctors told me that it would take roughly one year of playing time to get back to full form. It really was a true statement because there were things up to that full year I was hesitant to do."

Because of the injury, Nelson was granted a medical red shirt for his true freshman season.

During Nelson's sophomore year, head coach Stu Engen and the rest of the team were at an open gym looking at recruits.

"We were almost done with the open gym. I went up for a rebound and came down. I don't really remember what happened after that, but it just popped out again," Nelson said.

Engen called Nelson's parents while he was lying in the training room. When Nelson got home that night, he called his parents.

"I told them, 'Wow, I can't believe that this could happen

again. I have to go through this entire six month rehab all over again'."

During the rehab, Nelson never got too frustrated to quit playing basketball.

"I always took an optimistic view on things. I really thought I could come back. At that point I never even thought about not playing any more. Basketball was my entire life up to that point. I was just really ready to get the rehab behind me again and get back on the floor," Nelson said.

Nelson went through the entire rehab and surgery all over again. Since the accident at the open gym occurred towards the end of school, Nelson got to play that season later in November. He started all 28 games and averaged almost seven points and four rebounds.

"My knee felt great. Probably as strong as ever," Nelson said about his knee at the beginning of the current season.

During the second day of official practice the team was doing five-on-five drills when the third and possible final injury occurred.

"Craig Williams was driving to the basket and Lee (Isaacson) was guarding me. Lee went up to stop Williams, which left me wide open. Williams dumped the ball off to me and those two collided in mid air. When Lee came

down, he landed on my knee wrong," Nelson said.

Nelson recently talked to the doctor about his injured knee and found out some amazing news.

The doctor had initially thought Nelson had torn both his ACL and MCL for a third time. When Nelson talked to the doctor he said the MCL was gone, but the ACL may not be torn. Surgery would probably not be necessary.

"There's a possibility of me playing next year. All this is new information to me. I'm just going to go through the rehab right now, doing the leg squats and learning what my knee can handle. Whether or not I'm ever going to play again is still up in the air. I want to play and I'd love to play, but we'll just have to see where things are."

The Dragons, this season, lack the veteran post presence that Nelson would have brought to the team. He says watching the team this season is probably the hardest thing he's ever had to do.

"Just knowing if I wasn't hurt I could be out there helping them. Of all of the years I've been out, this year is the hardest to watch," Nelson said.

Hagen can be reached at [luke\\_hagen@hotmail.com](mailto:luke_hagen@hotmail.com).

## KICK OFF

**Today:**  
Wrestling at Concordia College  
7 p.m.

**Friday:**  
MBB at Minnesota-Crookston  
8 p.m.  
WBB at Minnesota-Crookston  
6 p.m.

**Saturday:**  
MBB at Bemidji State  
8 p.m.  
WBB at Bemidji State  
6 p.m.

**Dec. 12:**  
MBB at Minnesota-Duluth  
8 p.m.

**Dec. 16:**  
WBB vs. St. Cloud State  
6 p.m.

**Dec. 17:**  
MBB at South Dakota  
3 p.m.

**Dec. 19:**  
WBB at Hoop N Surf Classic  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**Dec. 20:**  
WBB at Hoop N Surf Classic  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**Jan. 2:**  
Wrestling at Limestone Duals  
10 a.m.

**Jan. 5:**  
MBB vs. Northern State  
8 p.m.

**WBB vs. Northern State**  
6 p.m.

**Jan. 6:**  
MBB vs. University of Mary  
8 p.m.  
WBB vs. University of Mary  
6 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*Home games in **BOLD**

WRESTLING

## Home open totes half of roster wins, more placement

By CHRIS FLYNN  
Staff Writer

The Dragon Open was Saturday. More than half the Dragon wrestlers participating made it to the placement rounds.

Senior Kyle Trout won the 165 weight class red division title by defeating Brandon Klukow of Augsburg 6-4. Sophomore Casey Dschaak took second-place in the 125 weight class of the white division.

Due to time constraints, because of a basketball game at Nemzek, the tournament had to be done before 6 p.m. The weight brackets were divided into the red and white division. The red division was for the team's top wrestlers, and the white division for the younger guys. Separating the weight brackets eliminated two rounds.

Dschaak, returning after an injury, saw his first action in almost a month. On his way to the finals, Dschaak won his first two matches 13-4, 9-4 and with a pin in the semi-finals. As Dschaak was behind, at the end of the title match, he tried some risky moves. He almost pulled one off, but just missed finishing it, losing 5-4.

Sophomore Joe Werner finished fourth in the red division at 125. After a 4-2 loss in the first round to Jamie Rocha of Augsburg, Werner won

three straight matches. In one of the matches, he pinned his opponent in 25 seconds. For third place, he had to wrestle Rocha again, losing another close match.

Freshman Derek Bomstad finished sixth in the 133 red division. Bomstad, along with Trout and senior Joe Facchini, are the only Dragons to place in three straight tournaments.

However, head coach Keenan Spiess said: "We don't have some of our top guys wrestling right now because of injuries. After the Christmas break we will get back (Nathan) Baker, (Shane) Walton and Josiah Bush."

Baker, a senior, and Walton, a junior, both wrestled in the national tournament last year. Bush wrestles in the 197 weight class and is a sophomore.

After sitting out the Cobber Open, senior Skip Toops reached the semi-finals in the 174 red division. Toops faced Robbie Gotreau of Augsburg. Gotreau wrestled at 174, but according to the Addidas-Brute National Wrestling Association Coaches' poll, he is ranked third in the country in Division III at 184.

Toops was on the defensive for most of the match, but Gotreau could not break him down and only won 3-1. This was the same score of a match last year at the Dragon Open between Toops and Gotreau.



JON LAMBERT / THE ADVOCATE

Senior Skip Troops reached the semi-finals in the 174 red division during the Dragon Open.

Toops followed up the loss with a 5-4 and 10-7 decision for third-place in the red division.

Facchini, in the 285 red division, made his way to the placing rounds in the wrestle backs, where he wrestled teammate, freshman Tim Richards again. Facchini has wrestled 18 matches in the last three tournaments compiling an 11-7 record. After losing in the second round to Andrew Neuman of Augsburg College, ranked sixth in the country in Division III, Facchini had to face him again for third-place.

Facchini wrestled a better match the second time, but lost 2-0.

One of the two longest matches of the tournament was the 174 white division, third-place match between teammates, senior Eric Roseen, and freshman Chris Lundberg. The bout ended regulation and went into a one-minute overtime to tie 3-3. It wouldn't be until the third period of sudden victory that Lundberg pulled ahead for a 6-3 win.

Trout, in the 165 title match, got two points with two seconds left in the match to win

6-4. In the last three tournaments, Trout has finished fourth, third and first while wrestling at the 165 weight class.

The tournament ended open action for the Dragons, who will get ready for duals. They start at Concordia College at 7 p.m. today. Assistant coach Desmond Radunz said: "People should come out. It should be a lot of fun. It gets real loud in there."

Flynn can be reached at [flynnch@mnstate.edu](mailto:flynnch@mnstate.edu).

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## NSIC loss doubleheader

By LUKE HAGEN  
Staff Writer

Saturday night was a tough night to be an MSUM basketball fan.

The men's and women's teams both took the floor against Concordia-St. Paul for the Dragons first Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference matchup of the season. The Dragons dropped both games to the Golden Bears.

The women's team continued a trend of having a slow first half. The Dragons shot 29.7 percent from the field and an ice cold 0-7 from behind the three-point line. MSUM was down 29-41 at the half.

Head coach Karla Nelson used words such as "awful," "terrible" and "uninspiring basketball" to describe her team's efforts in the first half.

The Dragons showed, as in recent games, that they can be a second-half team. After trailing by 12, MSUM started to play better team basketball.

A steal and a fast break by Jessica Trautwein helped pull the Dragons within two just five minutes into the half. Then back-to-back threes by sophomore guard Katie Walden

and senior guard Lindsey Anderson gave the Dragons the lead with six minutes left in the game.

The Dragons couldn't hold on to the lead for long. With 12 seconds remaining, the Dragons were down by two. Walden drove to the basket and tied the game with only three seconds remaining.

Concordia-St. Paul went for the win. Walden killed those hopes and stole an inbound pass to put up a last second shot. The ball rattled around the rim, but never fell. The Dragons lost the game in overtime, 70-69.

"I thought we should have won the game in regulation," Nelson said. "The play to tie the game up was a well executed play. Then when she made the steal, I thought that ball was going to go in."

Walden led MSUM with 13 points, and Jessica Fesenmaier had a double-double with 12 points and 13 rebounds.

The second game of the night was the men's team against the Golden Bears. This game was a complete opposite of the women's game.

The Dragons came out on fire shooting almost 50 per-

cent at half and holding the lead, 40-27.

Head coach Stu Engen said he felt the team defended, rebounded, shot the ball and played very well.

Engen knew that his team was in a tough position with such a comfortable lead at half.

"We don't play well with the lead. We got too comfortable with the lead, we soften up way too much," Engen said.

The Dragons did just that. Within four minutes in the second half, the Dragons found themselves down by nine. At one point in the game, there was a 26-2 run that the Golden Bears put on the Dragons.

The Dragons couldn't get a shot to fall and Concordia St. Paul dropped everything. The Dragons lost the game 83-74.

The Dragons are now 4-2 and 0-1 in the NSIC.

Hagen can be reached at [luke\\_hagen@hotmail.com](mailto:luke_hagen@hotmail.com).

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## CAROL, FROM FRONT

One of the most popular Christmas carols ever, "Silent Night" has been translated into more than 300 languages, recorded literally thousands of times and still resonates throughout the globe during the Christmas season, from remote Third World villages to the Vatican in Rome.

As the story goes, Leabo said, it was a cold Christmas Eve at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria, about 11 miles north of Salzburg, when a young assistant pastor, Joseph Mohr, discovered that mice had damaged the church organ by chewing on the bellows. Another version hints that a flood might have caused the damage.

That meant no music for the Christmas Eve Mass. But the young vicar had another plan, Leabo said. He'd written a poem that could be crafted into a decent carol, and he could play guitar. But the words still needed a melody. So he trekked three miles in the snow to the neighboring town of Arnsdorf, where a schoolteacher named Franz Gruber lived. He was also the church organist and choirmaster.

Within a couple hours, legend has it, Gruber wrote the melody and the two spent a few hours practicing with the choir before that famous Christmas Mass where Gruber sang bass and Mohr sang tenor and played guitar, for the first public performance of "Silent Night." On each of the original six verses, the choir repeated the last two lines in four-part harmony.

In time, though, Mohr and



GLENN TORNELL / SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

**Lisa Leabo, a 1993 graduate, is the descendant of one of the original composers of the Christmas classic "Silent Night."**

Gruber were nearly forgotten, even in Oberndorf although Gruber later wrote orchestra, French horn and organ accompaniments for "Silent Night."

Except that an organ builder named Karl Mauracher who came to fix the St. Nicholas instrument somehow heard the song and brought it back to his native village in the Tyrol Mountains near Innsbruck, home to several popular traveling singing groups, forerunners to the Von

Trapps of "Sound of Music" fame. Among them were the Rainers, who sang "Silent Night" to Austria's Emperor Francis I and Russia's Czar Alexander I, and the Strasser Sisters, who brought the song to Leipzig and sang it at the Royal Saxon Court Chapel in Pliessenburg Castle.

In 1839, the Rainers performed "Stille Nacht" for the first time in America at the Alexander Hamilton Monument outside Trinity

Church in New York City.

Leabo said the melody was often mistakenly attributed at times to the more famous Austrian composers Haydn and Mozart. In 1854 the origin of "Silent Night" was documented by Gruber on a request by the Royal Prussian Court Orchestra in Berlin.

But the controversy was conclusively resolved in 1995 when a long-lost arrangement of "Stille Nacht" in the hand of Joseph Mohr was authenticated by handwriting experts and historians. In the upper right hand corner of the document Mohr wrote: "Melodie von Fr. Xav. Gruber."

Mohr died penniless in 1848 after a career as a parish priest, giving all his earnings to youth and elderly programs. Gruber died in 1863, spending much of his life teaching, directing and composing music. Both are memorialized with museums created at their various homes and birthplaces in Austria.

Leabo said her great, great-grandfather Stephen Gruber Sr. was the first member of the Gruber family to arrive in the United States. It was 1881 then and he was 24 years old. He finally settled and farmed near Lake Henry, Minn., because of the German Catholic population in that area.

"In 1987," Leabo said, "Werner Gruber, my grandfather Leo's first cousin, traveled to Austria and researched the family heritage and verified that Leo was in fact a direct descendent of Franz Gruber."

Leabo, who also earned master's degrees at NDSU

and UND, spends some time each year teaching her kindergarten through fifth grade English-language learners at Jefferson Elementary about the history of the song. She currently teaches 31 refugee and immigrant students from a variety of countries.

One of the most significant events in the history of the song, she said, happened at the beginning of World War I, on Christmas Eve 1914 in Flanders Field. Both British and German soldiers called a spontaneous truce, the Germans singing "Stille Nacht" and the British "Silent Night," then climbed out of their trenches and met briefly in no-man's land before resuming hostilities.

One of her goals is to someday visit, with her husband Brent and their two-year-old daughter Lauren, the Silent Night Museum in Salzburg, the Silent Night Chapel in Oberndorf—the original St. Nicholas Church was destroyed by floods, but a new one was erected near the site—and the Franz Gruber museums at his former homes in Arnsdorf and Hallein.

Meanwhile, Leabo is looking forward to this year's Gruber family Christmas, which will be held on New Year's Eve. "The number of descendents of the 'Silent Night' composer is growing and spreading out every year, so we rotate the location and date of our celebration to accommodate everyone," she said. "My father bought a new accordion for the occasion."

## PLANS, FROM FRONT

Goodman also brought up the possibility of making the library's first floor a student-centered commons, an area of many computers and spaces for students to work together.

"The future of the library, in general, it's going to be more shared resources. You'll be working with other libraries to share services. Your library itself will be more about learning, collaboration," Goodman said. "I would call it a student-centered library."

The library does want to keep books and space for reading.

The student advisory board met Nov. 30 to discuss their likes and dislikes about the

structure.

Six students, board members, mentioned they like the first-floor computers, study rooms and that some areas are secluded. They like the computer labs' 24-hour schedule and even suggested making a portion of the library the same way.

The library was built in 1961. Changes were made to it in 1971 and again in the late 1980s.

Goodman said if the library does not receive funds in 2008, it would try again with the following state bonding bill in 2010. Funds for Lommen renovations and money for the

Higher Education Center precede the library on the state bonding list. The requested amount for 2008 is unknown.

The library will do more focus groups with students, faculty and its other patrons this spring.

Morris can be reached at [morrisle@mnstate.edu](mailto:morrisle@mnstate.edu).

**Congrats, graduating Advocaters: Rachel Jacobs, Kelsey Beckstrom, Melissa Masar, Carrie Snyder and Jeff Dix.**

**We wish you the best of luck.**

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