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Finding love at MSUM

Former Dragons built life long connections while attending school

Let's be honest, the majority of people spend a fair amount time searching for that special someone. Whether it's through work, school, the gym or a mutual friend, we just want to love and be loved in return.

Even though we never know when cupid's arrow will strike, some are fortunate enough to find "the one" while attending college. There are a multitude of suitors in a single class, let alone throughout the entire campus. Although there are probably several couples that had their journeys start at MSUM, here are three special couples whose stories all began during their college careers.

Ashley Berg and Xavier Reed

It was Ashley Berg's freshman year. As a member of the Dragon track and field team, she attended the student athlete kick-off get together; that's when she first saw Xavier Reed.

"When I first saw him I was like 'oh he looks serious and he looks like he's been here for awhile.' I just thought he was really handsome and looks like he liked to have fun. He looked like my type of person," Berg said.

However, Reed had just gotten out of another relationship and didn't share the same feelings as Berg.

"I liked him and he didn't like me right away," Berg said. "So we just were friends and kind of hung out."

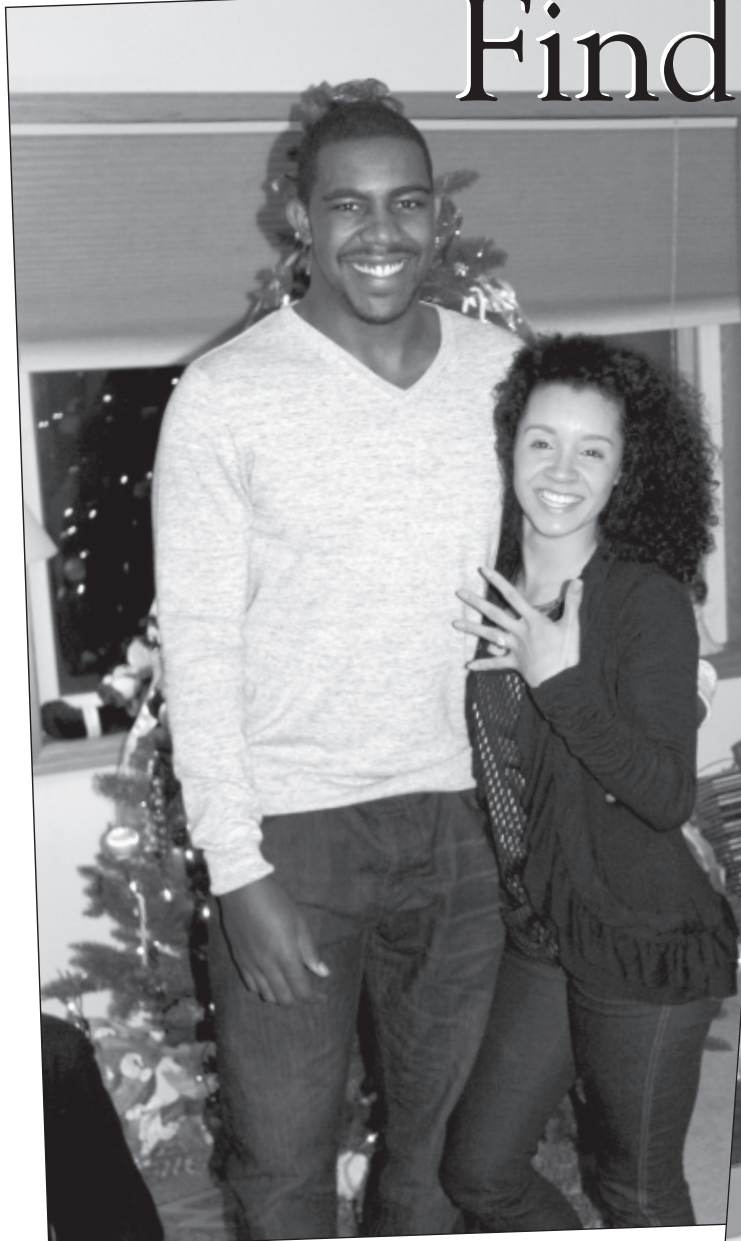
Reed, a sophomore forward for the Dragon men's basketball team at the time, agrees.

"Ya, I didn't really like her that much as first, but she grew on me," Reed said. "She was always somebody I could go to and talk to. She had a good personality and we are really alike in a lot of ways, but also opposites attract, and I think there are things that we do differently that kind of attract us together too. It was just a mix of knowing that she's somebody I can trust and will always be there for me."

Reed jokes that their first date was at Kise, but Berg clarified that their first date was at Xavier's house.

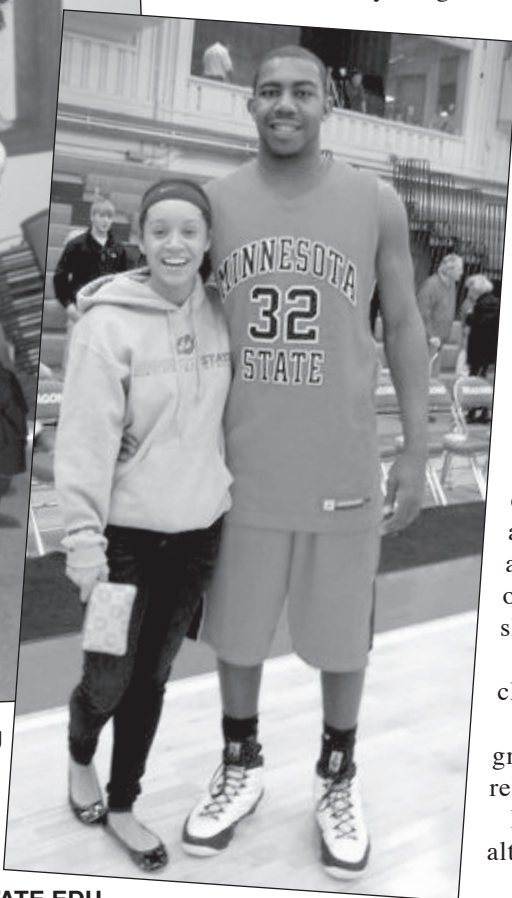
"He just invited me over for a movie and we talked about growing up," Berg said. "We played video games and just relaxed. We were just trying to get to know each other."

Berg and Reed became an official couple June 1, 2010, although, they had been dating for a couple months prior.



Photos submitted by Ashley Berg

Left: Xavier Reed proposed to Ashley Berg during Christmas 2012. Right: Berg and Reed pose for a photograph after one of Xavier's basketball games in March 2011.



STORY BY MEREDITH WATHNE • WATHNEME@MNSTATE.EDU

LOVE, PAGE 4

Task force works to finalize realignment

BY JASMINE MAKI
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With the new colleges now determined, the academic realignment task force is finalizing the reorganization of individual academic departments.

After nearly a year of meeting and discussing its options, the task force has finally settled on the names of the five new colleges:

- College of Art and Media
- College of Education and Human Services
- College of Science, Health and Environment
- College of Public and Global Affairs
- College of Business and Innovation

Now, the task force is hammering out the last details before President Edna Szymanski approves the final plan.

"The president will announce where each of the departments are going at the end of February, and then the transition will begin," said Provost Anne Blackhurst.

The transition, which won't be complete until the 2013-2014 academic year, will involve changing the website to fit the new colleges, along with updating and reprinting all program materials and publications.

"There will actually be a minimum disruption for students because we're not changing our academic majors," Blackhurst said. "It'll be a seamless transition from

your perspective."

Realignment focuses on the students

The goal of the realignment is to better prepare students for life after college.

"If we don't figure out a way to prepare you so you can have that flexibility of thought across disciplines and projects, then we haven't served you," Szymanski said. "It'll take us awhile to evolve and get it right, but it really is about trying to prepare you better."

Blackhurst said some faculty members have expressed concerns about the realignment, but she believes the majority of the students don't care which college they

REALIGNMENT,
BACK PAGE

Pulitzer Prize-winning author lectures at MSUM

BY MEREDITH WATHNE
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Pulitzer Prize-winning author T.J. Stiles visited MSUM on Feb. 6 to lecture about his award winning book, "The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt."

In his lecture, titled "One Man's Empire in Every Man's Republic: How Cornelius Vanderbilt Helped create Big Business and Start an Argument We're Still Having Today," Stiles touched on the marvelous business mind of Vanderbilt. He discussed how Vanderbilt made money by playing the stock market, how he single handedly bankrupted the railroad and shut down New York City and then



T.J. Stiles

bought the railroad and made it successful.

"Vanderbilt, like the modern corporate economy itself, is a conundrum," Stiles said. "He can't

AUTHOR, BACK PAGE

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Student tries her hand at puppeteering, page 3



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Briefs

Campus Calendar 2.12-2.16

2.12	7 - 9 a.m. Chi Alpha morning prayer, CMU 205
	8 - 10 p.m. Dragon Glee Club meeting and practice, CMU 227
2.13	8:15 - 9:30 p.m. ASL Club meeting, CMU 214
2.14	All day Rose sale in the Etcetera Shop
	4 - 5 p.m. Math Club meeting, MA 272
2.15	9 a.m. - 6 p.m. SOC interviews, CMU 208
	1 - 4:30 p.m. Safe Zone training, CMU 101
	5 p.m. Founder's Gala, CMU ballroom
2.16	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Children's motor development clinic, Nemzek 208



Story idea?
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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. 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. Friday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off at The Advocate office in CMU Room 110 or emailed to us at 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.

"For a moment I was like, "That little douche bag!" Then I was like, "Wait, that's a child."

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The Advocate is always looking for talented writers, photographers, columnists and illustrators. Meetings are held at 12 p.m. every Friday in The Advocate office, CMU 110. Contact the editor for more information or come to the staff meetings.

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Bryce Haugen, copy editor
Andrew Thomason, ad manager
Dang Pham, business manager
Andrew Thomason, distribution manager



World News

Northeast gets buried by record blizzard

Don't let all the Instagram photos of children sledding fool you. As the region began assessing the damage from the storm, officials blamed nine deaths on the blizzard that struck the Northeastern U.S. and Canada on Friday and Saturday.

Two people were killed in Boston, including a 14-year-old boy, and another two were injured from carbon monoxide poisoning. Roads in some areas remained impassable over the weekend. On Saturday, Boston lifted its historic travel ban, the first of its kind imposed since the historic blizzard of 1978.

State of the Union address scheduled for tonight

Get those bets ready for what President Obama's grand ambition will be in tonight's State of the Union address.

Sources said the president will focus the speech—his first State of the Union of his second term—on the economy as the unemployment rate ticked up last month—as well the need for public investment in infrastructure, education and research. The president is also expected to propose ways to make college more affordable.

At a policy retreat in Virginia on Thursday, the president said that the priority of his second term "starts with an economy that works for everybody."

Millennial generation most afflicted

A new study by the American Psychological Association finds that the millennial generation, people from 18 to 33 years old, are more stressed than any other age group. More than 50 percent of millennials reported having their sleep disrupted by "overwhelming worries" in the past month.

"Many of these young people have come out of college or graduate school with horrendous student debt into a job market where there are not very many jobs," the psychological group's executive director said. "This has put their life plans, probably, on hiatus."

Hollywood rallies behind Melissa McCarthy

Living well is the best revenge. Hollywood rallied in support for comedian Melissa McCarthy after Observer critic Rex Reed called her "tractor-sized" and a "female hippo."

"Turns out Rex Reed didn't die sad and alone 10 years ago," tweeted Modern Family star Eric Stonestreet.

But McCarthy may have gotten the last laugh: despite mixed reviews, her new film "Identity Thief" brought in \$11.2 million on its opening night, Friday despite the blizzards in the northeast.

World news from dailybeast.com



MSUM Briefs

City, school make effort to improve communication

The city of Moorhead and MSUM are working together to better inform and serve students during the next snow emergency.

City council members Mark Altenburg and Heidi Durand invited students, faculty and staff to share their concerns about parking during an open forum on Thursday, hoping to determine the problems and find solutions.

"The city made an error assuming that all the students were going to have adequate, necessary, accurate information, and that's what I want fixed," Durand said. "I want to make sure that the next time we get dumped on with snow, that students are going to get an alert somehow the night before or two nights before."

Becky Boyle Jones, assistant director of campus activities and Greek life, said the school is already taking action to inform students.

A banner has been posted on our website's homepage asking students to sign up for the snow removal alerts, she said. MSUM has also recently agreed to open parking lots, waiving all fines and fees during snow removal.

To keep informed about snow removal, sign up for text, email and Twitter alerts at www.cityofmoorhead.com/snowdistrict/.

Sign up for defense class

All MSUM women are invited to participate in a small group and structured self-defense program.

Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) is a nationally recognized self-defense program that teaches women to recognize, avoid and defend themselves from being physically attacked. RAD is a combination of simple, effective physical techniques specifically designed for females along with mental and emotional awareness and preparation.

The MSUM Department of Public Safety is paying all of the related costs of this program as our commitment to the university community. This program is open only to our female faculty, staff and students. Attendees do not have to bring any special skills or ability to the training, and are only required to bring a positive attitude, a willingness to learn and a commitment to defense.

All sessions are from 7 to 9 p.m. on the following dates: Feb. 25, March 4, March 18, March 25, April 8 and April 22.

The training will be at MSUM. There are currently openings for 15 participants. Email Sgt. Marc Baetsch at baetsch@mnstate.edu to confirm attendance or for any questions or concerns before committing to the program.

Security Update

Director of Public Safety

Greg Lemke

2.01
Noise Complaint in Ballard, contact made- no referral.

Harassment report taken in the CMU, resulted in one male being trespassed from all residence halls on campus.

9-1-1 call from South Snarr Lounge, false- misdial.

2.02
Suspicious odor in Bridges, referred to maintenance department.

Marijuana odor complaint in Holmquist, unable to locate source.

2.04
Property Damage in Hagen bathroom.

Motor vehicle crash in parking lot G-7, Moorhead Police Department responded. Two referred to campus judicial for alcohol violation.

Marijuana odor complaint in South Snarr, unfounded.

2.05
Noise complaint in West Snarr, one referred to campus judicial for noise violation.

2.06
Criminal Damage to Property in Nelson. One male trespassed from MSUM campus.

Safety Tip of the Week

e2Campus Emergency Notification System

MSUM's emergency notification system e2campus allows the campus community a choice to receive emergency text alerts (cell phone), emails and telephone calls to communicate emergency information quickly, regardless of your location. During an emergency, university officials will send an emergency communication to registered community members with the location, specific emergency and recommended safety measures. The message will be brief and to the point. You must register to receive alerts. Registration is voluntary but highly encouraged. The e2campus emergency notification system is designed as an "opt-in" program. You can find a link to the registration on the Public Safety page www.mnstate.edu/publicsafety/.

To report a problem contact Public Safety at 218.477.2449

Have a question about Public Safety?
Submit your questions to
Greg Lemke at greg.lemke@mnstate.edu

Music professor makes worldwide trek

Kenyon Williams of the music department recently returned from two weeks abroad in Trinidad as a part of his spring sabbatical. While in Trinidad, he performed in a historic ensemble, the 2013 Birdsong Steel Orchestra as a part of the island's annual Panorama competition. Panorama, known by steelpan lovers as the "Superbowl" of pan, is an island-wide competition involving hundreds of steel bands, thousands of performers, and live radio and television broadcasts across the nation.

The Birdsong Steel Orchestra took the unprecedented step of inviting not only an American arranger to write for and direct the group, but also inviting more than 40 non-Trinidadians, including Professor Williams, to participate in the 120 piece ensemble.

Members came from the US, France, Switzerland, Taiwan, Japan, England and Martinique flew down to perform. This band will be the feature of not one, but two separate documentaries about the evolving status of steel pan music around the world.

A video capturing the ensemble in rehearsal is available on Youtube.

Famous alum to visit campus

Faculty, staff, students and alumni are invited to a question and answer with Kevin Sorbo at 11 a.m on Feb. 15. in the Gaede Theatre. Sorbo is an actor, author and motivational speaker. He's also an MSUM alum, attending from 1977 to 1981. This event is free.

Sorbo will be at Barnes and Noble in Fargo signing his memoir, "True Strength—My Journey from Hercules to Mere Mortal—and How Nearly Dying Saved My Life" Feb. 16 at 11 a.m.

Sorbo is the guest speaker at the 5th annual Founders Scholarship Gala Feb. 15. The Gala is one of MSUM's largest scholarship fundraisers.

In addition to the book signing, MSUM will host a Book Fair Feb. 16 at Barnes and Noble with story time at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. with an appearance by Scorch. There is also a bookmark craft event at 11:30 a.m. with free balloons and dragon tattoos.

Mention MSUM when making a Barnes and Noble purchase that day and 10 percent of all sales will support Founders Scholarships for the School of Teaching and Learning.

MSUM briefs from Dragon Digest and submitted to advocate@mnstate.edu

A & E

'Prepare for puppet nudity'

Senior theater major pulls strings in 'Avenue Q'

BY BRIAN ASHBURN
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Carolyn Schmitz

From seductive songstress to perky puppet, she can do it all.

Carolyn Schmitz has had a significant role on the MSUM stage during her four years as a theater major. With a voice that can soothe any musical theater patron, Schmitz turns to music as a way to inspire and entertain.

Schmitz sat down to discuss her experiences, dreams and her puppet pal in the upcoming musical "Avenue Q."

What has your involvement been with MSUM theater?

I have been a part of seven main stage productions, performing. And then if I wasn't cast or decided not to be on stage, I was building sets or in the costume shop sewing.

Is theater something you knew you always wanted to do?

No, it wasn't. I've always been a singer, performing in talent shows and at church when I was a little girl. I didn't really decide to do a theater major until when

eight-hour workshop just learning how to manipulate the puppets. It was a lot more challenging than I thought. During that workshop, we were doing puppets for twenty minutes and my arm was numb. I've been toning my arms more.

What should the audience anticipate when they come see "Avenue Q" at MSUM?

They will get a ton of laughs, and they should be ready for some scandalous action as well. Prepare for full frontal puppet nudity.

"Avenue Q" runs Feb. 27 through March 2. Shows start at 7:30 p.m., house opens at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online, at the box office in the CA, or by calling 218.477.2271.

For Carolyn's full interview and a link to reserve tickets for "Avenue Q" check out msumadvocate.com

Oscar predictions and preferences

Actress in leading and supporting role

BRIAN ASHBURN • ashburnbr@mnstate.edu

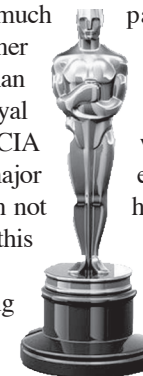
Actress in a leading role

This category breaks historical precedent this year, with the youngest (Quvenzhané Wallis, age 9) and oldest (Emmanuelle Riva, age 85) nominees to ever be recognized. While both are fantastic in their roles, neither have much of a chance against frontrunner Jessica Chastain. Other than the SAGs, Chastain's portrayal of a Bin Laden hunting CIA agent has clinched all the major awards; it's more likely than not the Academy will join in this trend and honor her.

However, I am rooting for Jennifer Lawrence as a neurotic widow in "Silver Linings Playbook." Her performance is unbelievably real and emotionally captivating. Since she won the SAG award, there is hope, so keep your fingers crossed.

Actress in a supporting role

It is no surprise that Anne Hathaway has been sweeping the supporting actress category, winning all the major awards this year; if you saw "Les Misérables," you felt the raw pain of her torturous life as Fantine. I have no doubt the dream she dreamed will come reality and she will take home the Oscar, especially since she's the hands down favorite.

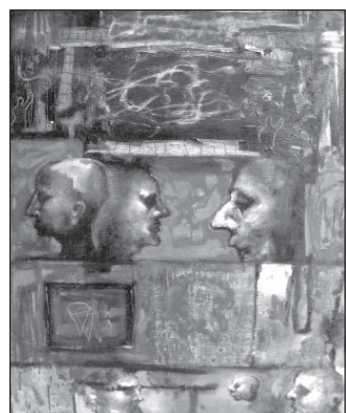


Her only threat might be Sally Field as Mary Todd Lincoln, but Hathaway's performance and success are indisputable.

Who do you think will win? Prepare your predictions for an Oscar contest in the Feb. 19 issue of the Advocate

Art professor stirs emotion in Fargo gallery

BY APRIL KNUTSON
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"The Wall" Andrew Stark painting

Art and design professor Andrew Stark's latest exhibit strives to provoke a meditative moment in the viewing public.

Stark's exhibit "Breathe In, Breathe Out" opened at the Ecce Gallery On Feb. 1 in downtown Fargo. During the reception on Friday night, more than 110 people came to the exhibit, which includes 21 paintings influenced by landscapes and abstract expressionists.

"Over the last 10 years, my work has been gravitating between figurative and abstract work. My primary focus is trying to establish an ethereal and meditative space in the work."

Since his last show at Ecce in August, Stark has been working on paintings for this exhibit.

"I think the work is certainly influenced by all my previous work but dealing with things like memory and nostalgia," Stark said.

He said he enjoys creating pieces that contain figurative motifs.

"The things I enjoy doing: painting, creating, drawing and reading are all meditative to me. It provides a creative outlet while taking on an intellectual exercise in the problems of design."

The title of the exhibit sprung from Stark's creative process.

"The title is related to meditative process in the work, all of the pieces are remnants of the work."

He also drew inspiration from his home life.

"My wife is having a baby in two months so the "breathe in and breathe out" is the title related to a time of great stress and hopefulness, and to remind me to

breathe."

As an artist, Stark understands the importance of displaying his artwork regularly,

"As artists we strive to produce and to express ourselves. When we show our work to the public, it can create a great mirror, one that didn't exist in the studio. The public will provide that new view point, that the artist didn't necessarily see before"

"Breathe In, Breathe Out" provides an outlet for reflection.

"I hope that this exhibit stirs emotions. I want to provide some kind of meditative viewing space that takes people out momentary of the business of the day."

The Ecce gallery is open from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday at 216 Broadway Drive, Fargo. It's a vital resource and culture opportunity for the community.

"Galleries can challenge notion of artwork and what it can be. There's a lot of wonderful people doing wonderful work, so it is important to take a minute to discover what is out there."

Besides taking time to attend galleries in the Fargo-Moorhead area, Stark said, "Do what you love and study like crazy. Set your goals high."

JADE PRESENTS

KEEPING MUSIC LIVE!

**JON WAYNE & THE PAIN/
ZACH DEPUTY**

Friday, Feb. 15
House Of Rock @ The Hub
8pm Doors • Ages 21+

**THE PRICE IS
RIGHT LIVE**

Come On Down & Win Big!

Friday, Feb. 22
Fargo Civic Center
7:30pm Show • All Ages

IN FLAMES

w/ Demon Hunter, All Shall Perish, & Battlecross

Sunday, Feb. 24
The Venue @ The Hub
6pm Doors • All Ages

SOULFLY

w/ Incite & Lady Kong

Wednesday, Feb. 27
House Of Rock @ The Hub
7pm Doors • Ages 21+

AESOP ROCK

w/ Rob Sonic, DJ Big Wiz & Busdriver

Saturday, Mar. 2
The Aquarium
9pm Doors • Ages 21+

HAIRBALL

w/ Sweet Siren

Friday, Mar. 15
The Venue @ The Hub
8:30pm Doors • Ages 21+

**HOLLYWOOD
UNDEAD**

Saturday, Mar. 16
The Venue @ The Hub
6:30pm Show • All Ages

EASTON CORBIN

Sings hit song "Lovin' You Is Fun"

Thursday, Mar. 21
The Venue @ The Hub
6pm Doors • All Ages

UPCOMING SHOWS

TRACY MORGAN • Saturday, Mar. 23 • Mature Audiences • Fargo Theatre
 THE WONDER YEARS • Monday, Mar. 18 • All Ages • The Aquarium • EARLY SHOW!
 SUM 41 • Friday, Mar. 29 • All Ages • The Venue @ The Hub
 SHINEDOWN/3 DAYS GRACE/P.O.D. • Wednesday, Mar. 30 • All Ages • FARGODOME
 TWIZTID • Tuesday, Apr. 2 • All Ages • The Venue @ The Hub
 SLEEPING WITH SIRENS • Sunday, Apr. 7 • All Ages • The Aquarium • EARLY SHOW!
 AWOLNATION • Wednesday, Apr. 10 • All Ages • The Venue @ The Hub
 THAT ONE GUY • Saturday, Apr. 13 • Ages 21+ • The Aquarium
 RODNEY ATKINS • Tuesday, Apr. 16 • All Ages • The Venue @ The Hub
 MARIA BAMFORD • Friday, Apr. 19 • Mature Audiences • Fargo Theatre
 ROSTER MCCABE • Saturday, Apr. 20 • Ages 21+ • House Of Rock @ The Hub
 CHICAGO • Friday, Apr. 26 • All Ages • FARGODOME
 THE 4ONTHEFLOOR • Saturday, Apr. 27 • Ages 21+ • House Of Rock @ The Hub
 PENTATONIX • Tuesday, Apr. 30 • All Ages • The Venue @ The Hub
 TRAMPLED BY TURTLES • Friday, May 10 • All Ages • Bluestem Ampitheatre / Moorhead
 OPETH • Tuesday, May 14 • All Ages • The Venue @ The Hub

Tickets for all shows are available at **TICKETS300** (located at 300 Broadway; open Monday-Friday 12-6PM), by phone (866) 300-8300 & online at:

JADEPRESENTS.COM

Features

LOVE, FROM FRONT

Reed's best memory with Berg from their time at MSUM is being able to go and support each other at sporting events. Berg would always go to his basketball games and Reed would watch her run at her track meets.

"I know we both really cared about our sports a lot when we were in them, it's something I think we will remember about each other forever," Reed said.

This past Christmas, Reed planned to get both of their families to get together for the holidays so he could propose; however Berg had no idea. She thought it was a bit weird that she and her family would be spending Christmas with Reed's family, because they never spend the holiday away from home, but she brushed it off.

On Christmas, after they had finished eating dinner, Reed was antsy for the group to start opening presents, Berg said. After everyone else had opened their presents, it was finally time for Berg to open hers from Reed. It was a giant box, which she was extremely excited for.

"I was like 'oh my gosh, what am I getting, it's something good; it's huge'."

Inside the giant box was a smaller box. Inside the smaller box was yet another smaller box. After five boxes there were three small ring size boxes. In the first box was an owl shaped toothbrush holder and in the second a snowman snap bracelet.

"I was like kind of mad," Berg said. "When I got to the third box I was like choking up because I was like 'Oh my god, this has to be it, this is it,'" and Reed got down on one knee and it was in a ring box, and inside was four dice and Xavier said I thought you and your friends might want to play craps."

Even though Berg thought it was funny and was laughing, she was still kind of upset about the gag gifts. Even the rest of the family in the room was frustrated at Reed, and yelled "are you

serious?" at him. But after everyone had a good laugh about the gifts, Reed got up, went and grabbed a different box and said "enough with the jokes," and he opened the box and there was the ring, Berg said.

"It was really funny and a lot like Xavier, but it was really cute," Berg said. "It was nice that my family and his family were all together for it; my dad actually got it on tape."

Reed knew he wanted to marry Berg when they moved in together in July of 2011.

"I had seen how serious she was starting to get about life and her school and knowing that there were more important things than having fun all the time because that's how I am," Reed said. "I like to have fun with my friends but I take school and my profession seriously. It was good to know that somebody else that I loved saw things the same way."

Reed and Berg can't wait to spend the rest of their lives together. Their wedding is planned for Aug. 23, 2014 in Minneapolis.

Brenda and Corey Elmer

The year was 1989, Brenda (Piotter) Elmer and Corey Elmer were freshmen at Moorhead State University at the first student organization meeting of the year. As a sign-in sheet was

being passed around the table, Corey Elmer, who had spotted Brenda, wrote down her name and address when the sheet got to him.

"I thought she was lovely and intelligent, and I thought, 'I want to meet this girl,'" Corey said.

Corey asked Brenda out for ice cream following the meeting, but she turned him down because she was still seeing someone in her hometown of Sisseton, S.D.

There was a Dahl-Ballard picnic in Gooseberry Park following Corey and Brenda's first date, which they attended. After the picnic, Corey called Brenda's friend and roommate and she let Corey into their dorm room so he could leave a rose on Brenda's pillow.

Soon after Brenda and Corey spent almost all their time together. Whether it was hanging out in the dorms doing homework, participating in student organizations or heading to Kise for lunch or dinner, the two soon became an item.

"We both had an interest in current events, student government and politics and that sparked out interest at first," Brenda said. "We ended up being on Student Senate together."

Both Brenda and Corey graduated from Moorhead State University in 1994. After college, Brenda was job searching while Corey attended graduate school in New Zealand, which was a difficult time in the relationship for both.

"It was a trying year, I think the distance really made it certain that distance does make the heart grow fonder," Brenda said. "I went to visit him towards the end of his time there for a three-week trip and that's when we said that we he (Corey) got back at the

end of the year we would get engaged."

When he returned, Corey proposed to Brenda at the front gates of MSUM at the stroke of midnight, in the falling snow, on New Year's Eve of 1995. The two were married 10 months later on Oct. 5, 1996.

After their wedding, Corey and Brenda moved to St. Paul, Minn., where Corey was a lobbyist at the state capitol and Brenda was a policy analyst in the House of Representatives. The couple had their first child, Christian, in May of 2001.

In January of 2003, Corey and Brenda decided to move back to Moorhead with their son Christian. Even though they both loved their jobs, they wanted to be closer to family, and the city life style, along with busy jobs, was too hectic for raising a young family.

Brenda and Corey now reside in Moorhead and have three boys: Christian, 11; Jack, 9, and Blake 5, along with a puppy, Molly, and a cat.

"We just enjoy the time we spend together as a family or just us," Corey said. "Whether it be coffee sometime or going to a movie."

Brenda is currently a Moorhead City Council Woman in Ward 3. Corey is an attorney and shareholder at the Vogel Law Firm in Moorhead where he works in business transactions and corporate law. He also is the board president of the Alumni Foundation at MSUM.

Brenda and Corey both said they owe everything to MSUM, from their marriage, kids and where they live, they love to give back to the school and the community.

"Looking back it is so much fun to have enjoyed college with my best friend," Corey said. "I mean to go through all that and look back now and think we went through it together, it's so much fun, it's been a treat everyday."



Top: Corey and Brenda Elmer at Euro-Spring in 1992. Bottom: Corey and Brenda Elmer with their three sons Christian, Jack and Blake on vacation.

In October, Corey had the courage to ask Brenda out again and they went to the movie "The Abyss," at The Safari Theater.

"On our first date I thought she was very pretty, very smart girl," Corey said. "I remember I let her drive my car around town."



How to: Stay active in cold weather

BY SARAH TYRE
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Finding the time and energy to exercise is difficult even when the sun is shining. Dark mornings and short days make it even harder to get out of bed. Winter months can mean a slump, but they don't have to. There are many indoor and outdoor options available December through March.

Outdoor enthusiasts might like to try a cycling class at the Wellness Center. The instructors do their best to make it feel like an outdoor adventure. Taking the class also provides simulated hills that the Fargo-Moorhead landscape can't offer. One song will be mountains and the next song will be sprints on a flat road.

"So you miss cycling outside. We play a DVD of a rode and you go to different destinations," said Ashley Myhra, senior mass communications student and cycling instructor.

Myhra has noticed an increase in class attendance since winter began. She said she thinks the workout classes are so effective

because of the motivation that comes from working out in a group.

"If you're not used to coming, group classes are great. The workout is already laid out and the group members are there to motivate you," Myhra said.

Although Myhra is a runner, she doesn't run outside in the winter months.

"Once it gets icy, I don't know how they do it. It actually blows my mind," Myhra said. "I don't mind the cold, but it's the ice and the snow."

Taking a turbo-kick class might satisfy the cardio-hungry. It is considered a level 10 workout, meaning it is meant to maximize the heart rate.

"We warm them up and go through some punches and kicks just to get moving, then we put it all together with some burpees and jump squats to reach the level 10 intensity," said Kyle Czech, sophomore biology student and turbo kick instructor.

Zumba and cardio toning are two other good cardio options. The Wellness Center also has plenty of treadmills and

stationary bikes.

For the hard core runners out there, a treadmill might not suffice. When running outside is a must, there are some precautions to keep in mind.

"Layering correctly is important. You can always take clothes off," Jake Olson Beyond Running employee said.

Start with a base layer that keeps moisture away from your body, Then a middle layer made of similar material. An outer layer like a wind breaker, or heavy jacket will help keep the bite of the wind down.

The same goes for the lower body. When it is bitter cold outside, wearing tights or Under Armor under pants will help keep the chill away.

"If there's one fabric to stay away from it's cotton. Cotton will absorb moisture and make you colder," Olson said.

Ice can be even more threatening than the cold. Traction spikes for the bottoms of shoes are a must for safety. They can be simply attached to any regular running shoe.

And finally, remember to take

into account the most menacing of elements, the wind. Distance runners have tricks that are especially important during the winter months.

When running against the wind don't stand straight up and down. Keep the head down and the body small without crouching. When running with the wind, stand up tall and stride with the wind. This will help conserve energy.

"Knowing how to work with the wind is important especially in the winter months," Olson said.

For Olson, any day with a temperature lower than minus 10 is too cold. If there is a wind chill, it's lower than that. Some Beyond Running customers are even tougher than Olson.

"We have people come in that go out in minus 40 wind chill," Olson said.

If negative temperatures don't sound appealing, joining an intramural is a good option. When the weather is too frightening, they don't meet.

"Intramurals are another good idea because you meet a ton of people, get your exercise

and have a lot of fun," Myhra said.

Whatever the method, exercise is still important in the winter. It's easier to make excuses this time of year. Getting out and being active will help keep away the winter blues.

"When it is crappy out a lot of people fall into depression. Exercise is a good way to get out of that," Myhra said.



SARAH TYRE • tyresa@mnstate.edu

Traction spikes can be added to the bottoms of shoes for added safety.

Features

Singles celebrate Valentine's Day



Submitted photo
Dempsey's is hosting a non-traditional Valentine's metal show.

BY SARAH TLYE
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Overflowing with flowers, chocolates and cards, Feb. 14 is a day punctuated with gushy, sentimental adornings. For singles, Valentine's Day can be just another day, or it can be an excuse to celebrate the freedom of being independent. Fargo-Moorhead offers many different opportunities to indulge in a little self-love.

For the Bro-mance

Guys, there's nothing wrong with taking a buddy out this holiday. A good place to start is the movie theater. Walk right past all the cooing couples and into A Good Day to Die, which comes out on the 14th.

What screams not tied down more than a metal show? Dempsey's is hosting a three-band rock-and-roll bash featuring Fargo's own Gorgatron, Enabler and Egypt.

For your Galentines

Ladies, Valentine's Day is a great way to show your unattached friends that you appreciate them. Hosting a Galentine's day party is the perfect way to do that. Make an anti-love song playlist and start celebrating. A scary movie marathon will keep the anti-goopy theme strong.

For the single and looking

Divas and Rockstars is hosting a karaoke night with a twist. All the singles in the bar will be given a puzzle piece. Each puzzle piece has a partner piece that it connects to. The goal is for people, with matching puzzle pieces to find each other.

Hanging out in a coffee shop is a great place to meet cool people and it isn't messy like the bar.

For the busy

Thursday is not the easiest day to plan a celebration. Singles who can't find time this Valentine's Day, should look into treating themselves. Stop by a favorite bakery and pick up some cookies. Waste a little time in a bookstore. Don't forget about the most important love of your life, yourself.

Most importantly, Valentine's Day is about spending time with loved ones and making them feel appreciated. Sending Mom a card or calling a long distance friend will go a long way. Take time this holiday to spread a little love, and to love yourself.

Sweet Haven serves sweet, heavenly treats

BY MEGAN HAVIG
havigme@mnstate.edu

Adv Eats

Advocate staff critiques local restaurants

On AdvoEats hiatus since last fall, it is once again time to empty my pocket and fill my stomach with treats from Fargo-Moorhead's latest eatery. This article is a special one to me, as it pertains to my favorite food group: baked goods.

Hidden behind the Holiday Gas Station at 101 University Drive stands Fargo's newest bakery. Opened on Feb. 1, it's a skeleton of things to come, filled out and fattened each day by the fresh product stocked in the display and the swells of newcomers walking through the door.

On its Facebook page, which is actively used, the Sweet Haven boasts of home-style baking made from fresh produce, special ordering and a gluten-free option daily.

The bakery itself began eight years ago in the imagination of Tami Dowers. Dreaming of a place where young people could hangout, the 26-year-old Thief

River Falls native wanted to combine her passion for baking and community in a one-stop shop.

"Except for bars, there weren't many places for young people to go," Dowers said about her hometown. "This would be not a safe haven, but a sweet haven."

Christmas tradition at the Dowers household is a baking affair. Dowers said she has been baking cakes since she was 16 years old; it was in her family's kitchen that her passion was born.

Now, the young baker makes up the ambience of her start-up business. With just three tables and a couch, it is a meek beginning for a hangout location. However, the baker's gregarious personality, free Wi-Fi and tranquil space make the haven a hidden gem for the studios who know where to find it.

Such was the case for me; I slowly circled three blocks to



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A great place to stop for breakfast, Sweet Haven offers cinnamon rolls and muffins.

find the store. My friend and I walked into a small and bare seating area. The supply was low, as it was the end of the day on a Friday. Dowers explained that business had been exceptionally good all week and promised us a treat the following morning.

"I'll make whatever you want," she said.

This is a promise to any customer who wants something special. All one has to do is call or Facebook the day before, and the baker will have it ready. I took up the offer, ordering a cinnamon roll that Dower highly recommended.

The next morning I found out that recommendation was an understatement.

I bit into the soft and pillowy dough as hints of almond in the powdered sugar-based icing kissed the swirls of cinnamon in the bread. I shared the large roll with my roommates, and as we licked the plate clean, I felt the price of \$1.50 was a steal.

I also tried two muffins, small tokens of grandma's kitchen. The blueberries, blackberries, raspberries and strawberries in my blueberry and mixed-berry muffins were fresh. The muffins themselves were small, but for \$.75, would be a great to-go snack on the way to class.

Both my visits to the bakery were marked by good conversation with Dowers. Her personable way will be a sure pillar for the Sweet Haven. The passionate baker and businesswoman will make you feel at home.

Check out the Sweet Haven on Facebook and see the online article for a full store menu.



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Opinion

Advocate Editorial Board

Students should make an effort to be informed

Last week, several forums were held at MSUM to discuss important issues affecting students.

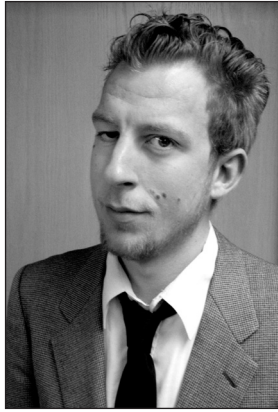
On Thursday, city officials and MSUM held a meeting to discuss the three-hour parking restriction on city streets surrounding campus. An Advocate staff member who attended this meeting was disappointed to see few students there. We expected a larger turnout after the sizable reaction to the three-hour rule and the towings that occurred during the snow removal on Jan. 30-31.

Likewise, students were few in number during the town hall meetings discussing the upcoming realignment of the academic departments at MSUM. We would expect more students to be involved in this integral change at the university, especially since it would affect each of the students' path to graduation.

There are numerous ways to stay informed on campus including signing up for the text and email alerts from the university, checking the local newspaper and of course, The Advocate, for updates. Take the few minutes to read through information to sent you. It is the university's job to make a thorough attempt to inform its students, but it is our job to read and understand this message.

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 any 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. Friday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off in The Advocate office or emailed to advocate@mnstate.edu.

Romance today, hook-ups conquer



BY JOHN GOERKE
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Those people who purposefully see no meaning in coincidence are a sorry lot indeed. Too often I hear a fantastic tale of interweaving incidents, all supposedly unrelated but bearing a remarkable similarity to each other, be ruined by the story teller's insistence that it was "just a weird coincidence." It is far better to see coincidence as providence for the simple fact that we love a good mystery, we love to think that we don't know exactly what is going on. For that reason, I am writing this three-part piece on romance with a sense of divine inspiration. In a matter of days, I have come across several articles and lectures about the decline of dating among collegians, a friend of mine went on a tirade against the rigid rules of the "bro code," several of my classmates (and our professor) viciously slandered North Dakota's abstinence-only sexual education and most recently, I asked a female friend out for a cup of coffee and instead began an extended discussion about all that is intended and inferred by a "coffee date." To not write about romance would, at this point, be tantamount to denying my vocation.

With Saint Valentine's Day around the corner, and the joy of Christmas waning as Lent draws near, now is the time to take the pulse of romance. Sadly, romance seems to be on its deathbed. Hanna Rosin recently came out with a book called "The End of Men," as to its total content, I am ignorant, but a chapter of it was published by The Atlantic titled "Boys on the Side." The essay (as they are called in the world of long form journalism) sets out to counter the supposedly widespread belief that the hookup culture is detrimental to women. Rosin's argument is simple: women like the hook-up culture because they are able to put their career first and satisfy their sexual desires without all the fuss of a committed

relationship. Hence, they can have all that is good in life; an important job, a steady fat paycheck, prestige and success while keeping their "boys on the side".

From the first few paragraphs of her piece, I knew it was something I would have to at least satisfactorily refute to myself. Rosin begins with an account of a bar scene at which a pornographic photo is passed around the co-ed group. She concludes that the scene must be viewed from the angle of what has been achieved outside the bar, namely their successful careers. But Rosin's position is self-refuting, since she claims this hook-up culture has brought more freedom (particularly to women), yet by the end of her piece it is clear that she has actually constrained herself into a tight moral code, more stringent than any religious morality.

This is so because a cultivated hook-up culture is not something pursued for its own sake. Remember that this streamlined sexuality acts as a substitute for more permanent relationships made impossible by the demands of a twenty-first century career. That career, in MSUM terms, may be a full course load with a couple of extra-curricular's thrown in.

As Leah Libresco at First Things pointed out, we have a word for people who forgo intimacy and deep friendships in service of a higher calling, that word is monks. A priest once told me a story about a woman who approached him and a younger priest at a restaurant. She bemoaned the younger priest's condition because he was so young and had "given up his entire life" to serve

"...now is the time to take the pulse of romance.

Sadly, romance seems to be on its deathbed."

a god who didn't exist. Theological distinctions aside, the same could be said of the women

Rosin holds in such high esteem. There is nothing vocational in the 80-hour workweeks she mistakes for "success." In the pithy statement of a former executive of General Electric, he was "earning a living, but forgetting to live."

What, then, does the hook-up culture of the east coast have to with the state of romance here in Moorhead? I was inclined to think the two had nothing in common, until a friend posted a study published by Elite Daily, which showed that the women of Generation Y find it more creepy than charming when a man pays for dinner or holds the door. Beyond that, another girl commented that it isn't creepy so much as insulting. For her, every act of chivalry is really an act of disguised misogyny. She suspects that men hold doors because we secretly believe women are incapable of doing so for themselves.

Next week's article will examine if this is true and if the hook-up culture conquers romance ideals.

Are hook-ups damaging romance today? Tweet @MSUMadvocate #hookupsvsromance

Misconceptions about the female psyche



BY APRIL KNUTSON
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"April, why are all women crazy?"

This question I have heard numerous times from several of my male friends. Being a lady myself, you would assume I would quickly retort with a harsh and loud sigh.

"Are you kidding me? It's men who are the problem." Add a hair-flip for emphasis.

Silly readers, you're mistaken.

"Sorry, man. We are crazy, just deal with it, ok."

Now before the female readers crucify me, I will be the first to claim my own slice of insanity. For

example, I giggle a lot, and no, not like, "oh she giggles at things, how cute and endearing." No, more like, "umm, was that really funny? Should she be laughing that much? It's slightly annoying."

Come on girls, you know you are guilty of it too. We are prone to little less than rational behavior sometimes, especially when it comes to matters of the heart. But it seems that all of our irrationalities have perfectly logical answers.

For example, I giggle to cover up my awkward

energy that emotes, sometimes without my control, especially when I find a smile particularly dazzling. You'd be surprised how many situations a laugh and smile can get you through.

Now, men, don't think I missed any of your quirks. Like this conversation I overheard in the library.

"So who's the girl you're trying to bed?"

"I'll tell you later, I don't want to jinx it."

Like if you talk about it, your lady-friend will magically know, because the cardinal rule is, of course; Do not kiss and tell. A rule that men (and women) break whenever they have a second to discuss the latest and greatest attraction.

Just a note to the men out there: numerous things affects where a woman chooses to lay her affection, but none are related to horoscopes or any other sorts of voodoo.

Though as humans, we are prone to believe in luck and superstitions. I know men and women who have a particularly "lucky" shirt for one reason or another, some have a special perfume or cologne, a pre-date ritual including a pep talk from your mom or best friend.

Despite any special make-up or attire, that strange little anxiety will pump throughout the limbs, as you fidget, building up confidence to approach the subject of your affections. Those silly little butterflies will flutter up your stomach as it catches the scent of a love-stricken heart.

It's positively reasonable to find yourself acting a bit batty, because it is not about being crazy, it's about accepting that everyone is a little crazy no matter his or her sex.

What's your slice of insanity? Tweet @MSUMadvocate #weareallcrazy

Sports & Health

Impactful weekend for Dragon's basketball programs

'Power of Pink' unites students in breast cancer awareness

BY MADALYN LASKE
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In the background of the women's and men's basketball teams defeating Augustana College (S.D.) on Friday, Dragon fans worked to defeat breast cancer.

The sixth annual "Go Pink" event, sponsored by Sanford Health and the Dragon women's basketball team, raised money at the event, with the money being split between the Sanford Health Roger Maris Cancer Center and MSUM Go Pink scholarships.

MSUM's event evolved from the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's desire to raise awareness of breast cancer, according to women's head coach Karla Nelson.

"It kind of just evolved and has turned into probably the biggest event we put on during the school year," Nelson said.

More than 1,700 fans sat inside Nemzek Fieldhouse while a Go Pink silent auction, sponsored

by the women's team, was held during the doubleheader.

The auction, with its table set up near the entrance of the fieldhouse, included jewelry and blankets, as well as gift baskets and a signed basketball from the women's team.

"The event would not have been possible without Gloria Riopelle, assistant athletic director for external relations," Nelson said. "Basketball is the vehicle that allows us to educate people on breast cancer awareness and raise money to find a cure. You have to have someone driving the vehicle, and Gloria has been driving the vehicle."

This year, Riopelle and Go Pink raised enough money to award two \$250 spring scholarships to Lacey Guck and Alexandra Gebeke during halftime of the men's game.

"(Go Pink) is an opportunity to give back to our community and raise awareness of the importance of screening breast cancer and

other cancers," Riopelle said.

According to the American Cancer Society, 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer.

"Chances are sometime through our lifetime, we will be affected by cancer," Nelson said. "To be a part of something special like this to try to find a cure for cancer and to give back to the community is really a big thing."

Fans in attendance to support the "Power of Pink" watched the Dragon men seal a 79-62 victory over Augustana. Senior forward Alex Novak recorded three blocked shots and a double-double, scoring 19 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. Senior guard Anthony Tucker put up 22 points. The Dragons' effort ended a six-game win streak for the Vikings.

The women's team defeated the Vikings in a 69-60 upset, with Morgan Zabel's 24 points and Megan Strese's double-double (12 points, 15 rebounds), paving the path toward victory.

It's a slam dunk, don't drive drunk brings awareness



JESSICA FLEMING • flemingjes@mnstate.edu

Anthony Tucker drives to the basket against Augustana on Friday.

BY BREANN LENZMEIER
lenzmeiebr@mnstate.edu

The Dragons finished their weekend homestand against Wayne State (Neb.) on Saturday with the 'It's a Slam Dunk, Don't Drive Drunk' event held at MSUM and around the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.

The event took place after Southwest Minnesota State University's head basketball coach, Brad Bigler, lost his five-month old son Drake to a drunk driving accident in July 2012.

MSUM, along with the other teams in the NSIC, held events this weekend to raise awareness about drunk driving.

Each team in the NSIC made videos about not driving after drinking. MSUM held a pledge drive where students signed up to pledge they wouldn't drive drunk. Each student who signed up received a blue bracelet from the Student Athlete Advisory Committee with the NSIC logo 'It's a Slam Dunk, Don't Drive Drunk,' as well as NCAA logo.

"We try and be involved as we can," said Jon Wepking, assistant athletic director for marketing and production. "It's (the NSIC league) a community that cares about each other very much."

The women's team continued their winning streak, beating Wayne State 67-62. The Dragons were led by Morgan Zabel and improved their overall record to 14-8 and 11-7 in NSIC action.

The men's team suffered a tough loss to Wayne State, losing 70-73. The Dragons at one time had a 22-point lead, but saw that lead diminish in the last seven minutes of the game. The loss dropped the Dragons to 16-8 overall and 10-8 in NSIC action.

Next up for the Dragons is a road trip to St. Cloud State University (Minn.) and the University of Minnesota, Duluth before returning home for the final two home games of the regular season against University of Mary (N.D.) and Minot State University (N.D.).



JESSICA FLEMING • flemingjes@mnstate.edu

Morgan Zabel goes for the shot against Wayne State on Saturday.

National Signing Day a success for football program

BY BREANN LENZMEIER
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With more than two feet of snow on the ground, it's hard to imagine playing football, but on Feb. 6, the MSUM Dragon football program took a step in that direction with National Signing Day.

The Dragons had 19 players sign national letters of intent to play at MSUM. The team signed 12 players on the offensive side of the ball. The remaining seven will play on the defensive side.

"That was a big area for us, signing the offensive linemen," said head football coach Steve Laqua. "It creates some competition in the program. The more competition, the better for everyone involved partly because we've created a positive and respectful culture that brings out the best in them."

Laqua said there could be as many as three or four starters on both sides of the ball out of this recruiting class.

Laqua credits the MSUM coaching staff that works day in and day out to create positive interactions with coaches and

schools that has allowed for building a lot of credibility for the program.

"We feel the past two classes have been tremendous," Laqua said. "There have been a lot of leaders in last years class, and I think this class fits just like the last with the culture we wanted to create in our program."

Laqua said he believes if people do the things that winners are doing, then they will end up winning. If the team recruits players who do the things winners do, the team will end up on the path to winning.

"We felt we could be aggressive in recruiting because we had such a young team," Laqua said. "We were able to take two steps forward instead of just one ... I believe people will see we are able to offer more than just a football experience, it's about preparing guys for the game of life."

Laqua said the ultimate goal is to compete on a national level, and to be that, a

program needs to be consistent year after year.

"We choose to build the program from the bottom up and we feel we've gotten two solid classes in the process," Laqua said. "It takes about five good years to build and we've been here for two, we want to do things around here better than they have been done before."

This year's signing day also marked the first time the event was broadcast live with Dragon athletics.

"We have a plan here," he said, "and we are following the plan and the plan is leading us to successful future."



CAMERON AAKRE • aakreca@mnstate.edu

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News

Students voice parking concerns



JESSICA FLEMING • flemingjes@mnstate.edu

Students, faculty, staff and community members attend an open-forum meeting with city council members Mark Altenburg and Heidi Durand to express concerns about parking and snow removal procedures. Altenburg and Durand agreed to pass on concerns to other city council members and to do their best to better inform and serve students during the next emergency snow removal.

AUTHOR, FROM FRONT

be reduced to a hero or a villain. He's a man who showed the possibility of big business; that showed the productive power of the modern cooperation. He actually restructures the geography of the United States in many ways."

Stiles chose to research and write

about Vanderbilt because of the important, colorful and dramatic figure he was, he said. Stiles spent years digging and researching before the book was complete.

"He (Vanderbilt) perpetuated and helped create this whole gilded age of aristocracy," he said.

Stiles has not always been a biographer, however. After graduate school at Columbia University in New York City and his dissertation, he went into publishing. He began writing while he was still working full time in publishing, but in 1999 he received a contract to write his first book "Jesse James: Last Rebel of the Civil War."

"That's when I quit my job and started writing full time," Stiles said. "So I've been writing full time since 1999."

Stiles was

awarded the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Biography and the 2009 National Book Award for Nonfiction for "The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt." It was a New York Times Notable Book and one of the best books of the year in multiple major newspapers across the country. Stiles' first book, "Jesse James: Last Rebel of the Civil War," won the Ambassador Book Award and the Peter Seaborg Award for Civil War Scholarship.

"The Pulitzer Prize goes to books that I modeled mine after," Stiles said. "It is books that speaks to something important about who we are as a nation, a modern culture, a modern society, but it also has a compelling narrative in a literary form."

Although Stiles modeled his books after prizewinners, the Pulitzer was unexpected.

"It truly is humbling when you look around after having received the prize and then realizing how many good books could have gotten it, and nobody would have been upset if my book didn't get the prize," he said.

Winning the Pulitzer Prize was life changing for the Foley, Minn., native.

"Just receiving an email from

someone that enjoyed my book is a wonderful experience," Stiles said. "Receiving a major prize is saying people heard what you have to say."

As an accomplished biographer, Stiles has solid advice for young aspiring writers.

"Read a lot, read outside of your default genre, as a nonfiction writer I benefit greatly from reading

fiction," he said. "Keep writing and seek feedback, and realize it's a long haul."

Currently, Stiles is working on his third biography about army officer, George Armstrong Custer. He is roughly a quarter through the manuscript and hopes to have the book completed within the next couple years.



JESSICA FLEMING • flemingjes@mnstate.edu

Pulitzer-Prize winning author T.J. Stiles lectures in the science lab auditorium on Feb. 6.

REALIGNMENT, FROM FRONT

graduate from.

"There are some faculty (members) who are excited and ready to go, and then there are others that are honestly perplexed, deeply concerned, irritable," she said. "With due respect for that, we feel the university isn't necessarily to make faculty feel comfortable, it's to serve students and do

things in a way that makes our students prepared for life after college."

Brooke Koslowski, an elementary inclusive education junior, who attended the Town Hall Meeting last Thursday to learn more about the realignment, said she's ready for the change.

"Coming in here freshman year and being here now as a junior,

I've seen the university change for the better 100 percent," Koslowski said. "It's cool to see it transform, and it's cool to be a part of that transformation."

Szymanski's office will be open from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. today for students to express their concerns about the realignment and any other campus related issues.



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