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CAPTAIN AMERICA
REVIEW, PAGE 3



NEW RIVERS PRESS
RECEIVES GRANT, PAGE 5

MSUM ALUM'S
VOCALS
FEATURED ON
HBO, PAGE 5



THE ADVOCATE

online at msumadvocate.com

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

MSUM's weekly student newspaper

Moorhead, Minn.

Vol. 43 Issue 22

Cultures unite at Celebration of Nations



BEN GUMERINGER • gumeringbe@mnstate.edu

Quinne Goodwin-Chaffee danced at the Celebration of Nations event representing the White Earth Band of Ojibwe in the CMU ballroom on Saturday. Visit msumadvocate.com to see an online gallery of the event.

New learning outcomes defined

BY MEREDITH WATHNE
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MSUM is working to establish university-wide student learning outcomes as part of the improvement project leading up to the Higher Learning Commission reaffirmation visit in 2017.

Every 10 years the HLC visits campus to ensure that the university is doing a good job of preparing students for life after graduation. In the four years leading up to the visit, universities work on an improvement project to be presented when the HLC comes.

During the last visit in 2017, MSUM presented a 10-year snapshot report, along with collateral materials branded with the MSUM logo. The HLC changed the process for the next visit to avoid the flashy, promotional-heavy magnets and frisbees. Tim Borchers, dean of the College of Arts, Communication and Media said the HLC made the change because tactics used in previous rounds is not

ASSESSMENT, BACK PAGE

Forums held for presidential candidates

BY ALISON SMITH
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Last week members of the campus and surrounding community were introduced to the three MSUM presidential candidates, marking a decisive time in the search for the next leader to represent the university.

Forums allowed administrators, staff, faculty, students and the public to hear what each candidate would bring to the position as well as address any questions or concerns one may have.

Candidates include Anne Blackhurst, MSUM, and Sam Minner, Radford (Va.) University, both currently serving as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, and Carlos Vargas-Aburto, Kutztown (Pa.) University, currently serving as provost and vice president for academic and student affairs.

Both Blackhurst and Minner noted their connection to MSUM through their own experiences in higher education.

"I witnessed firsthand, in my family, the difference that a college education can make within the span of a single generation," Blackhurst

said of being a second-generation college graduate.

Minner said the "Moorhead story" of education was similar to his own experience of being a first-generation college student with neither of his parents receiving a high school education. He admits to not being highly motivated in high school which left him ill prepared for college.

"I really stand before you today because of folks like that who I sense are very similar to people you interact with here," he said. "I'm a living, breathing embodiment of the power of public higher education."

Students presented a number of issues during the forum regarding current budget deficiency, athletics, campus sustainability, student leadership and the overall atmosphere and culture of the university.

"I would do everything I could to make sure we had quality athletic teams," said Blackhurst, an already strong supporter of MSUM athletics. "People make attributions about the quality of the university based on the quality of the athletic teams."

Minner also recognized the

FORUM, BACK PAGE

MSUM travels to 'Your Neighborhood'

BY MARIE VEILLETTE
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The final event of the first ever "Fulfilling Our Promise in Your Neighborhood" series came to culmination March 27 in the CMU Ballroom.

These events, created as part of the Fall 2014 Strategic Enrollment Action Plan (SEAP), took place to attract incoming freshman and transfer students from area high schools and community colleges.

Yvette Underdue Murph, vice president of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, created SEAP with the goal of increasing enrollment both in the short and long run. The events were just a small part of her plan in action.

Underdue Murph wanted to showcase the best that the university has to offer. She sent out teams of MSUM faculty and staff to eight different cities that were identified to have had a high number of applicants in the past. Faculty and staff from offices such as housing and residential life, scholarship and financial aid, first year programs, diversity and inclusion, honors program, international student services, learning communities, disability services and the bookstore joined together to show prospective students why MSUM is a good choice for them.

Apart from the one hosted on campus, other events took place in hotels across both Minnesota and North Dakota and offered everything prospective students and

their parents would need to know.

Each event began with a short talk from admissions counselors who explained why MSUM is a good choice. Citing everything from the tri-college program to the opportunities to research with faculty in a particular area of study, the counselors explained that the Fargo-Moorhead area is a great place to further an education. A representative from housing and residential life explained some of the advantages of living on campus. The option to join a learning community was also explained.

An informational booth was set up for each of the listed offices, and students and parents were encouraged to walk around. The booths offered many opportunities from purchasing dragon gear to signing up to be a part of a learning community.

After the admission counselors' short presentation, the attendees and their parents were split into groups and sent to another room for an academic engagement session, or mock classroom experience, with an MSUM professor. Underdue Murph said this part of the event was especially successful. Many of the professors lectured to standing room only audiences.

There were different professors who attended different events, but two "regulars", Margaret Sankey and Elizabeth Nawrot, were very popular with students and their parents. In total, about 15 different faculty members participated in the events. Professors were

SEAP, BACK PAGE

Briefs

Campus Calendar

4.8	7 - 9 p.m. College Cooking, Langseth 104
4.9	All day Dragon Days begin, CMU Ballroom
4.10	3:15 - 4:15 p.m. Student Organization Advisory Committee, CMU 216
	6 p.m. Student Senate Meeting, CMU 205
	7:30 p.m. Orchestra concert, CA
4.12	7:30 p.m. Vocal Jazz concert, Weld



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.

"Oh sorry. I guess I didn't feel like finishing that sentence."

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The Advocate is always looking for talented writers, photographers, columnists and illustrators. Contact the editor for more information or attend staff meetings on Sunday evenings.

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World News

Chinese vessel may have found Malaysian airline plane

On Saturday, a Chinese vessel searching for the Boeing 777 that went down in the Indian Ocean in March detected a pulse that could be coming from the plane's "black box." Now, another Chinese ship and an Australian one, have also reported pings. The search for the plane's "black box" will continue before its batteries expire, which could be any day.

CIA ends drone program in Yemen

The Pentagon has ended its drone program in Yemen after that country's government became fed up with American drones killing civilians and refused to allow an overt military presence. However, the CIA's drone war continues, not just in Yemen, but in Pakistan, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

The ongoing drone operations are a sign that despite CIA director John Brennan's announcement, the agency would shift focus, actual change is coming slowly.

"The CIA should not be doing traditional military activities," Brennan said.

Political roadblocks have kept that from happening, including interference from lawmakers in both parties who have resisted the shift of the drone operations to the Pentagon.

Chinese Christians protest government

Thousands of Christians have formed a human shield around a church in eastern China in an effort to protect it from demolition by the Communist Party. The officially-secular Chinese government has declared the church, an "illegal construct." Churchgoers have been camping inside and in front of the church since earlier this week.

World news from dailybeast.com



MSUM Briefs

Library is reopened

After an extensive two-year renovation, the Livingston Lord Library is set to be completely reopened. This is called a "soft opening," as a grand opening and celebration is being planned for Fall 2014. The next few weeks will see the moving of offices, furniture and collections of materials. Things will continue to be a little unsettled for the remainder of the semester.

Dragon Days held this week in CMU

Dragon Day activities will take place this week, mainly in the CMU. Students and faculty are asked to please be aware that there will be up to an extra 360 people per Dragon Day on campus starting tomorrow.

Green Dragons seek new logo ideas

The Green Dragons, MSUM's environmentally focused student group, is seeking help. They are looking for a unique "green dragon" to serve as their logo. Their mission is to keep MSUM and the surrounding community engaged with ways to make the local area a cleaner, greener and more sustainable place.

Any MSUM student can participate. Logos must be emailed to either Joe Herbst (joe.herbst@mnstate.edu) or Robyn Oster (osterro@mnstate.edu) by Tuesday, April 15.

Images will be posted on The Green Dragons Facebook page for one week. The entry with the most likes will win a \$100 gift card to the MSUM Bookstore. The winner will be announced on Earth Day Tuesday, April 22.

MSUM news taken from dragon digest and submitted at advocate@mnstate.edu

Safety Tip of the week

Kitchen Cooking Safety Tips

When cooking in a residence hall kitchen, make sure you know where the closest fire extinguisher is located. Prevent burns by using potholders to remove hot pans from the stovetop and oven, and turn pot handles away from the front of stove. Never cook in loose clothes, and keep long hair tied back. You don't want anything accidentally catching fire, not to mention hair ending up in the food.

Professional Carpet Cleaning

Professional Carpet Cleaning: Affordable VNK offers professional carpet cleaning in West Fargo and the surrounding areas. Their prices: one bedroom—\$70 two bedroom—\$80 and three bedrooms—\$90. They ask that appointments be made one week in advance. Visit their website: affordablevnk.com for more information or call them at 701-491-0652 or 701-478-6173 to set up an appointment.

House for Rent

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Security Update

Director of Public Safety

Greg Lemke

3.15	Noise complaint in Holmquist, unfounded	Hit and run in G-1 Lot, Moorhead PD contacted
3.16	Assist personnel at CMU	3.26 Suspicious person in Lommen, unable to locate
	Suspicious odor in Grantham, unable to locate source	Vehicle unlock request in R-4 Lot, Moorhead PD contacted
3.17	Requested welfare check in South Snarr, contact made - subject okay	3.27 Auto boot placed on vehicle in G-1, M-2, G-7 and M-5 Lots for outstanding citations
	Fire alarm in Nelson, false - burnt food	3.28 Smoking violation between Lommen and Weld, one referred to Campus Judicial
	Blue light phone activation Center for Business, false - misdial	Suspicious activity in John Neumaier, contact made
3.18	Damage to property between Ballard and Library	Alcohol violation in John Neumaier, Moorhead PD responded, five referred to Campus Judicial
	911 hang up in Lommen, false - misdial	3.29 Suspicious person in East Snarr, contact made
3.19	Suspicious person at bus stop on 14th Street, Moorhead PD responded and provided an escort	Alcohol violation north side of Holmquist, Moorhead PD cited one non-student for minor consuming
	Parking complaint in fire lane of G-6 Lot, contact made w/ occupant - vehicle moved	3.30 Marijuana odor in Holmquist, Moorhead PD responded, unable to locate source
	Resident Hall fire drills completed	Alcohol violation in Grantham, Moorhead PD cited two for minor consuming, one referred to Campus Judicial, one transported by FM Ambulance
	Fire alarm in East Snarr, false - burnt food	Alcohol violation in South Snarr, Moorhead PD cited four for minor consuming, five referred to Campus Judicial
3.20	Dog at large, Moorhead PD responded	Alcohol violation in East Snarr, Moorhead PD cited one for minor consuming, referred to Campus Judicial
3.22	Fire alarm in Nelson, false - burnt food	3.31 Noise complaint in East Snarr, contact made
	Elevator emergency in Nelson, female stuck - maintenance contacted	Marijuana odor in Holmquist, Moorhead PD cited one for possession of small amount of marijuana, referred to Campus Judicial
	Requested welfare check in East Snarr, FM Ambulance responded - subject refused transport	4.1 Suspicious activity on Nemzek roof, three referred to Campus Judicial for trespassing
	Suspicious juveniles skateboarding near Wellness Center, Moorhead PD responded	3.25 Harassment in D-1 Lot
3.24	Panic alarm activation in Owens, false - mechanical	4.2 Assist Moorhead PD with requested welfare check in Holmquist, one transported by FM Ambulance
	Drug/narcotics offense in Dahl, one cited by Moorhead Police Department for possession of drug paraphernalia	4.3 Two thefts reported at Wellness
	3.25 Lost property reported on campus, delayed report	
	911 hang up in CMU, false - misdial	
	Suspicious activity on 14th Street near Wellness Center, unable to locate	

To report a problem contact Public Safety at 218.477.2449

The Avengers story continues; ‘Captain America: The Winter Soldier’ holds its own

BY ELLEN ROSSOW
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As far as American cinema is concerned, superhero flicks are a blockbuster goldmine. Specifically for Marvel studios, these action and humor packed films draw in the big bucks. These movies attract everyone from the once-mocked comic book enthusiast to hormonal girls looking for an eye-full of beefy men in spandex suits.

While, to some, the idea of another Captain America and Avengers themed film may seem like simply another effort on Marvel’s behalf to milk the franchise for all it is worth, this reviewer gives Marvel props for “Captain America: The Winter Soldier.”

Unlike the “Saw,” “Rocky” or “The Fast and the Furious” films, which gave birth to seemingly endless, pointless and unentertaining sequels, “Captain America: The Winter Soldier” holds its own as an action and drama film, while obviously nodding to past and future Avengers sequels.

In this latest installment of the Avengers story, viewers are taken on a ride with Captain America and his fellow Avenger, Natasha Romanoff, also known as Black Widow, as they uncover unsettling secrets about S.H.I.E.L.D.

Not only does the film feature Marvel’s signature action sequences and comedic one liners, viewers are also introduced to relatively new relationships and characters, such as Falcon and The Winter Soldier.

The film also brought up some very interesting and deep ideas that have potential to hit home with viewers. The idea of the artificial security offered by large organizations’ overwhelming use of surveillance and its negative effects on citizens was a reoccurring theme throughout the movie.

At one point Captain America himself points out this idea when he says: “This isn’t freedom. This is fear.”

As the film’s protagonist deals with being submerged in today’s culture after being frozen for 70 years, he struggles with accepting the differences in American society over the last century.

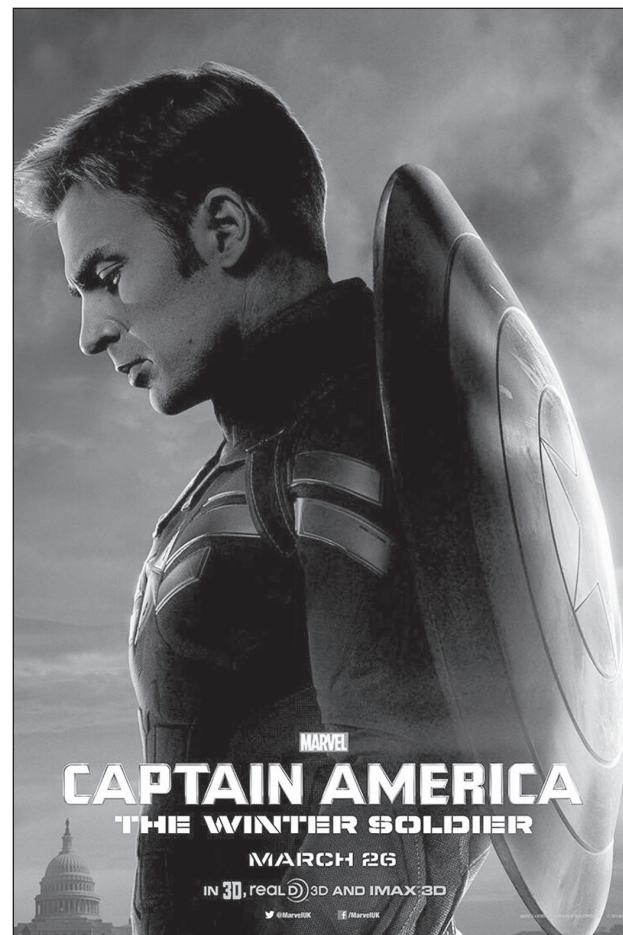
For much of the film, this theme is often the punchline of jokes about Captain America’s lack of knowledge of pop culture icons, such as his list of things to learn, which includes Nirvana, “Star Wars,” Thai food and “I Love Lucy.” But the Captain’s ignorance also allows him to provide a unique view of the issues of his world, such as the difference between war now and then.

“Captain America: The Winter Soldier” is different from other superhero films because of his unique background in living in the early 1900s, and also because of the Captain’s background in the military. Because he defines himself as a soldier first and citizen second, his desire, not only to do what is right, but to follow orders sets him apart from other Avengers.

In previous films of the franchise, Captain America’s fellow heroes often do what they think is right by whatever means necessary. In the popular Iron Man films, Tony Stark’s do-what-I-want personality gives him an attractive tough guy appearance.

In a way, Captain America’s lack of desire to be like Iron Man helps affirm just how different society is now from the 1940s. The popularity of Iron Man, even as a narcissistic, alcoholic vigilante, is the perfect superhero to represent present day society, which helps prove Captain America’s point.

Overall, while “Captain America: The Winter Soldier” is more than just another superhero film, the sequel did its duty to bring in the dough for Marvel studios, making \$96.2 million in box office sales in its opening weekend.



courtesy of dealflicks.org

The newest installment of the “Avengers” franchise, “Captain America: The Winter Soldier,” is in theatres now.

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Gallery exhibition showcases variety of student works

BY MICHELLE REISTAD
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The arts are a big part of MSUM. Last week’s reception for the student juried exhibition proves that, as the various works of art displayed show off different artists’ innovation, dedication and passion while portraying the individual artists’ unique expression.

Kristen Perala, who will be graduating this May with a BFA in studio art with an emphasis in both photography and graphic design, is a great example of how experience at MSUM can shape an artist.

“My work definitely reflects my growth here at MSUM,” Perala says. “I am continually looking for different ways to produce my work and incorporate my different areas of emphasis.”

Perala’s ambition shows in her piece entitled “Co. Hwy. 137,” which was crafted using intaglio, a printmaking method involving copperplate, an acid resistant and hatching lines. The final product is an abandoned house with a claw-like tree next to it.

“The inspiration for this piece came from a reoccurring dream I have had since I was a little girl,” Perala explained. “I’m always frantically running to an abandoned house in an open field with a creepy tree alongside.”

Perala’s ability to transform her nightmares into beautiful works of art is encouraging for other aspiring artists.

“I was rather pleased with the outcome of

the final piece since this type of subject matter is something that I don’t normally do,” Perala said. “Abandoned homes have been a reoccurring theme in my work, but nothing like this. It pushed me out of my comfort zone and for that I am glad.”

Along with Perala, many other students have their artwork displayed in the gallery. The mediums range from photography to ceramic sculpture. The wide variety of art forms showcase the individuality and passion for art that makes MSUM unique.

The gallery displayed many beautiful sculptures as well, including Christopher Alvashere’s “Weathering” and Erika Mathison’s oil on canvas piece, “But You’re Married...?” Mathison’s piece portrays a female with various arms covering her mouth and surrounding her face.

Cara Allbee’s monotype, “Memories of Rage” showcases her artistic ability along with a fantastical side to art. The wolf depicted in the piece evokes an element of imagination and nudges the viewer to perceive things in a different light.

Overall, the works of art displayed in the gallery were received by a generally impressed audience. Much of the artwork shows how truly far the creators have come not only as artists, but also as individuals. The emotions and personalities brought to life in the art reflect the masterminds behind it as well as their personal growth.

The exhibition is on display now in the CA Gallery and will be open through Thursday.

Features

Hendrix Health Center targets proper disposal of cigarette butts Flypaper to launch clever campaign

BY JESSICA JASPERSON
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As the warm weather finally makes its way to Moorhead, melting snow reveals not only grass, but also the litter from the past cold months.

Scattered around campus, especially near bus stops and designated smoking areas, are the remains of cigarettes. Although it may seem easier to toss that cigarette butt on the ground rather than disposing of it properly, wellness educators ask smokers to consider the impact of butts on our environment.

Carol Grimm, director of health and wellness at Hendrix Health Center, hired Flypaper Creative Services, a student-run ad agency at MSUM, to help spread the message of disposing butts in the provided bins. Sean Ferrian, advertising senior, is the account manager in charge of his team of four. They were assigned the project at the beginning of the semester and finished just before spring break.

"She (Grimm) didn't want us to make smokers feel uncomfortable," Ferrian said. "She just wants them to be aware to pick up their cigarette butts and not just throw them on the ground. That's how we came up with the squirrel idea."

"She (Grimm) didn't want us to make smokers feel uncomfortable. She just wants them to be aware to pick up their cigarette butts and not just throw them on the ground. That's how we came up with the squirrel idea"

-Sean Ferrian, account manager

Students, faculty and staff frequently see squirrels foraging and frolicking in the mall, around trash cans and near bus stops. Littered butts can be a problem for these squirrels and other small animals that mistake the litter for food.

Ferrian said his group made it fun while still spreading awareness about the issue. The posters show squirrels holding picket signs reading "Nuts not Butts!" and "No more butts!"

Not only do animals suffer from cigarette remains, but also the environment as a whole. It takes between 18 months to 10 years for a filter to degrade depending on the brand. If butts are not disposed of properly, they get into storm drains and eventually to streams and rivers.

The posters give smokers a friendly reminder of how tossing butts on the ground affects other things in the environment, which ultimately was a goal of the team. Jordan Reinertson designed the posters. Shellby Zelmer dealt with public

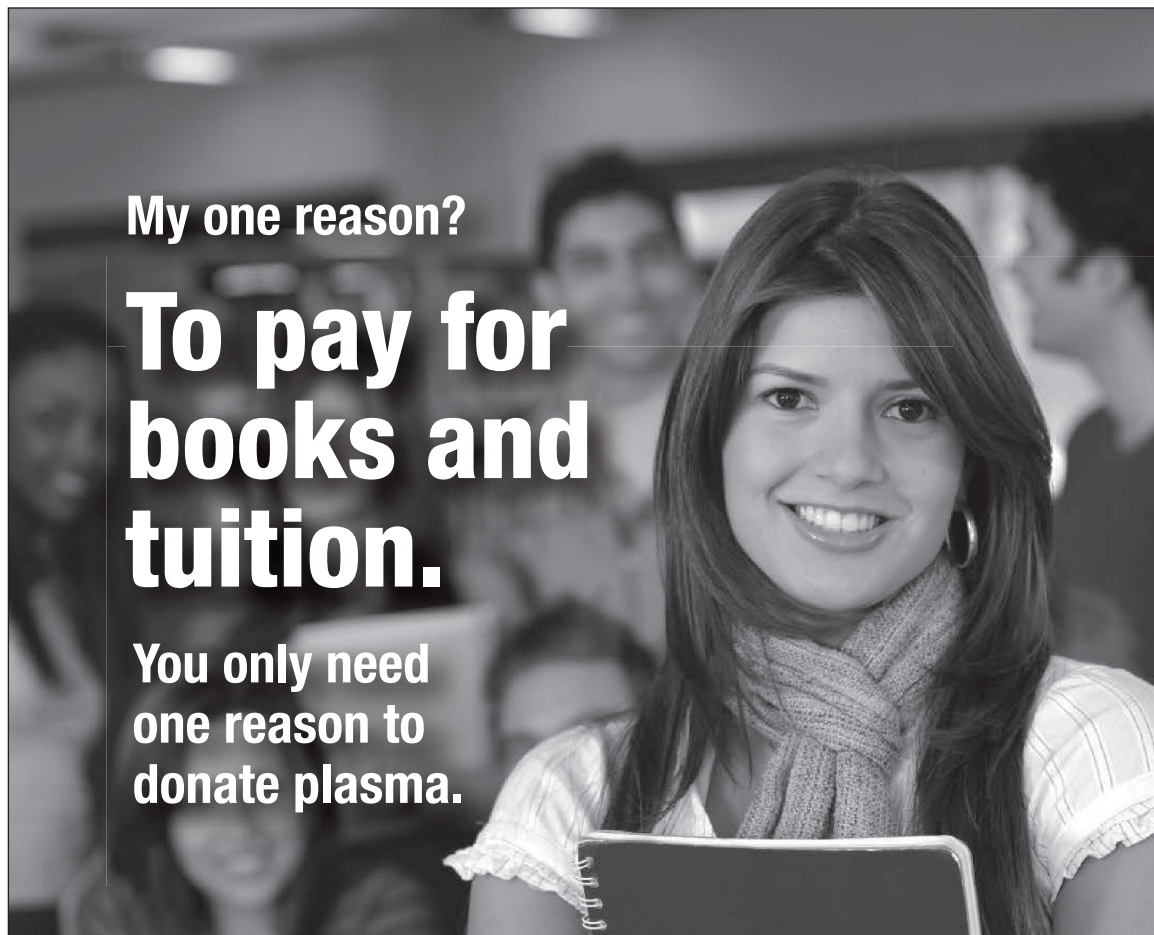
relations, and Ethan Evenson was the copywriter of the team.

"For this project I liked where we went with this, because we had five ideas we emailed her," Ferrian said. "I thought this was a good idea to bring humor to it and not offend people by saying all cigarettes are gross or something like that."

Ferrian's group went as far as asking smokers whether the posters offended them.

The smokers reacted to the posters positively and appreciated not being attacked. "That's good," Ferrian said. "We can keep them happy while keeping our client happy."

Grimm and her team of wellness educators will help spread the campaign around campus by hanging the laminated posters in specific smoking areas soon.



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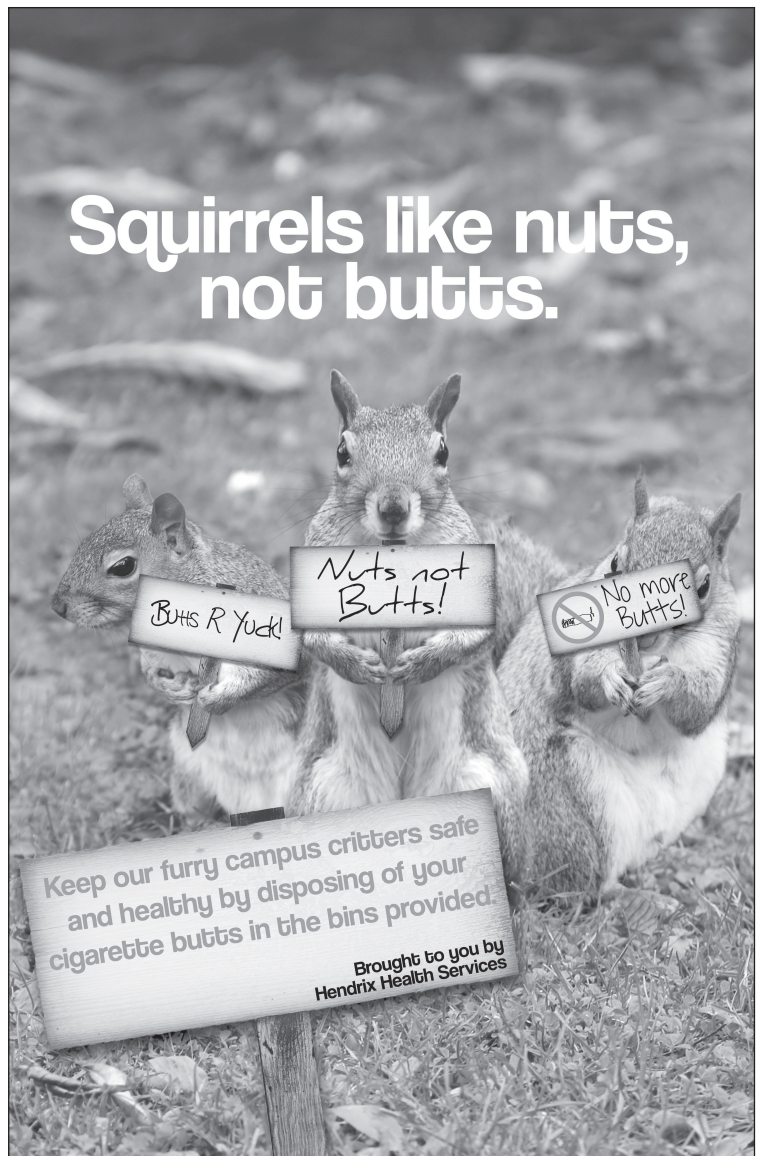


Photo Illustration by Jordan Reinertson

One of the two posters designed by Flypaper Creative Services who teamed up with Hendrix Health Center to encourage smokers to throw away their cigarette butts in the bins provided instead of on the ground.



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Features

MSUM grad's song featured on HBO show

BY JOSIE GERESZEK
gereszekjo@mnstate.edu

A Fargo-based folk outfit is gaining increased recognition after being included in the recent documentary film "Paycheck to Paycheck: The Life and Times of Katrina Gilbert."

Six years ago MSUM grad Amanda Nygard joined forces with fellow musicians Abby Swegarden and Minda Ringdahl to form Amanda Standalone and the Pastry Shop Girls. The project was featured in the opening credits of the documentary which aired last month on HBO.

Nygard said the band's inclusion in the film was completely unexpected; she was contacted via the band's Facebook page last fall by a music licensor after her song was discovered using a search engine. At first she was in disbelief, but after several months of communication and contract discussions, as well as watching the film's premier, it's

finally sinking in.

The band's featured song, "Bird Flew Hard," accompanied by Haley Rydell on fiddle, proved to be a perfect fit. The film's focus, Gilbert, has a bird tattoo on her back, and bird imagery is abundant throughout the documentary. The track is derived from the band's 2010 album, "Millions of Blackbirds."

Nygard wrote the song while living in an apartment across the street from Nichole's Fine Pastry, the business where she worked with both of her fellow band members at the group's beginning. She describes "Bird Flew Hard" as a metaphoric, personal piece about her return to Fargo following extensive travel around the country. The song's lyrics, "I'll never fly that low again" are relevant as many of the film's themes are about struggling to make ends meet.

Filmed over the course of one year and executive-produced by Maria Shriver, the documentary follows one woman's daily

struggle with poverty. The film is part of Shriver's effort to spread awareness of pressing issues American women often face. The film debuted in February at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in Missoula, Mont.

"We all know Katrina Gilbert - she's our friend, our sister, our daughter, struggling to make her way in the world," Shriver said in a press release. "Understanding what challenges she faces, and seeing how optimistic she is in the face of such challenges is the key to building women's economic empowerment."

Nygard can relate to Gilbert's struggles, as she wrote "Bird Flew Hard" during what she called a tremendously tough and financially unstable time in her life.

Now the Fargo musician is doing what she can to get the best out of this opportunity. The release of Nygard's anticipated solo album is scheduled for August, hopefully followed by a regional tour.

New Rivers Press receives funds to publish anthology

BY KRISTIN MILLER
millerkr@mnstate.edu

New Rivers Press has received a grant from the Lake Region Arts Council for the production of "Paper Camera: A Half Century with New Rivers Press," a collection of essays set to hit shelves and e-readers in January 2015.

This grant marks the first time the council has given funds for the publication of a book. It is a big step forward for the collection, which chronicles the history of the press and its journey to the campus of MSUM.

As a non-profit, funding the publication of new books can be challenging, and this grant will cover nearly all of the publishing costs for the book.

"We operate as an independent press," said Suzanne Kelley, managing editor of New Rivers Press. She went on to explain that though New Rivers is housed on campus, it independently funds all of its publications. Funding is achieved through a combination of grants, donations and revenue generated from its publications.

In its proposal to the council, New Rivers stated, "There are no similar efforts or projects in our regional community ... the production of 'Paper Camera' is a one-of-a-kind, unique project."

To tell its story, "Paper Camera" utilizes essays written by individuals who have been connected to New Rivers since its beginning as an independent publisher nearly 50 years ago. Contributors to the collection include New Rivers' staff and interns, as well as authors who have been published by the press, some of whom, including Charles Baxter and Deborah Keenan, had their first work published by New Rivers.

"The anthology is a study of the rare longevity of a small literary press," Kelley said. She went on to say she has found no similar collection that worked to celebrate and describe the life of a press, making this project unique.

New Rivers Press was founded

by C.W. "Bill" Truesdale in New York in 1968, and has since published over 330 books. After Truesdale's death, New Rivers was nearly forced to shut its doors for good. However, the press moved to MSUM in 2001, remaining true to its vision of publishing new and emerging poets and authors of literary fiction.

New Rivers Press receives upwards of 1,000 manuscripts each year from across the country and has even received submissions from international authors residing in Korea, Sweden, New Zealand and Israel. This year, New Rivers will be publishing nine new titles including the anthology.

"Paper Camera" explores how New Rivers has survived when many similar operations went out of business, and found its way to MSUM to function as a teaching press for students interested in pursuing careers in publishing.

"Paper Camera" has also allowed students in Suzanne Kelley's Introduction to Publishing class to get hands-on publishing experience. As a teaching press, New Rivers puts the responsibility of preparing books for publication in the hands of students.

"I love working for New Rivers Press," MSUM junior Kjersti Maday said. Maday is currently in Kelley's class and does an honors apprenticeship for the press. Maday believes that this experience has left her with a solid foundation for pursuing a career in publishing after graduation.

To prepare the "Paper Camera" for publication, Maday and other students in the class have been responsible for reading through the book's entire content with a critical eye, looking for errors and offering suggestions for improvement.

Next, they will use what they have learned about the publishing business to create an Indiegogo campaign to crowd-source funds for the book's marketing and promotion. The campaign will go live on May 8 and will be entirely student-produced and driven.

Students prepare for SAC

BY ELLEN ROSSOW
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Since its establishment 125 years ago, MSUM has made a name for itself as a school of great diversity. One way MSUM celebrates this diversity is the annual Student Academic Conference, which is taking place this year on April 15.

On this day, MSUM will not be holding classes to encourage students to participate in the conference, view presentations by their fellow students and see the wide variety of knowledge MSUM's different departments have to offer.

This year's conference will be host to around 400 presentations from students in all departments.

With presentations ranging from "Women in Chinese Cinema" and "Cannibalism" to "Sickle Cell Anemia" and theatrical works, the conference promises something of interest for all attendees. Junior Jacob Moe, a computer science and math double major, is excited to present "Cost Analysis of Home Car Repair" at the convention next Tuesday.

Moe got the idea for his presentation after purchasing a used car last summer. Knowing it would need some repairs, he brought it to the dealership to see how much it would cost. After hearing the total, Moe's reply was simply, "Nope. I don't have that kind of money right now."

After this experience, Moe thought it would be beneficial to share with his fellow students just how much cheaper it can be to do the repairs personally.

In an entirely different area of study, international studies and sustainability sophomore Jordan Pinneke, will give a presentation on "The Violation of Human Rights with the Privatization of Water." Like many other presenters, Pinneke's interest in pursuing her topic was inspired by classwork.

For Pinneke, her Introduction to Global Issues professor, Dr. Andrew

Conteh, pushed her to want to present at the conference.

"He is a major advocate of human rights," Pinneke said. "He challenged us to consider what violations were happening in the world."

Presentation at the Student Academic Conference isn't a new experience for Pinneke. Last year she presented the topic "The Education of Women, and its Impact on Population Growth."

Like Pinneke, English junior Maggie Olson has experience presenting at the conference as well.

This year, Olson will present two different projects: "Stones, Streams and Strings: Imagery in Sarah Ruhl's 'Eurydice'" and "Jekyll and Hyde: Classic Literature Adapted for the Stage."

Olson's discussions of these

Literature Adapted for the Stage," Olson will be discussing a musical version and a straight play version of the Jekyll and Hyde story to "look at how the two main branches of theatre use devices specific to their genre to tell a classic story."

Olson had the opportunity to speak with the author of the straight play, Jeffrey Hatcher, when he came to campus recently.

"I got to talk to him a bit about the art of adapting literature to the stage," Olson said. "Adaptation is an art form in itself because, even though it uses a story thought up by someone else, it brings a new perspective."

Moe, Pinneke and Olson all intend to benefit others by sharing their research.

For Olson, attendance at the conference is beneficial to presenters and viewers.

"To teach each other is to encourage the exchange of ideas," Olson said. "The SAC gives us a chance to do that across all

disciplines."

Moe agreed.

"It is a good way to learn about what other students on campus are interested in," he said. "They have taken the time to do the research. It is a good way to learn about what other students care about."

Moe is also grateful for the opportunity to speak at the conference because it will benefit him.

"It's a great way for me to get some public speaking experience," he said.

For Olson, the academic conference offers a chance for students to learn in ways they can't in a traditional classroom setting.

"The SAC is a chance to see student-researched material you might not get to see in your classrooms," Olson said. "Learning in a classroom is one thing, but learning from your peers is more of a group experience."

"The SAC is a chance to see student-researched material you might not get to see in your classrooms. Learning in a classroom is one thing, but learning from your peers is more of a group experience"
-Maggie Olson, SAC presenter

topics are the product of her passion for literature and theatre. Her presentation on Sarah Ruhl came about after doing an independent study with Dr. David Wheeler of the theatre department last fall.

"She is one of the most powerful female voices in theatre today," Olson said. "I love her work, and I wanted a chance to study her more in depth."

Olson's presentation on "Jekyll and Hyde" was born from this passion as well. Since writing and directing her own adaptation of "The Merry Wives of Windsor" and presenting about it in a past Student Academic Conference, Olson has developed quite the interest in the art of theatrical adaptation.

"What fascinates me about adaptation is how the characteristics of the new genre help give a different perspective on the original work," she said.

In "Jekyll and Hyde: Classic

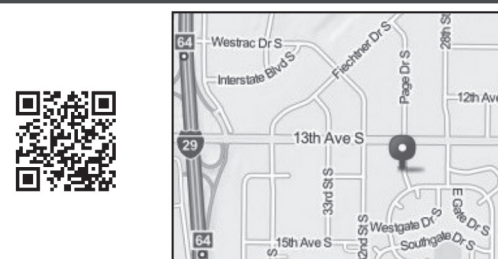


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Opinion

Advocate Editorial Board

Presidential candidates

Last week the three presidential candidates visited MSUM and spoke at various forums throughout their scheduled visit day.

MSUM gave students the opportunity to attend an hour-long student forum and an hour-long public forum for each candidate. Yet, attendance was sparse with 15 people or less at each forum.

Perhaps this shows the visible distance between students and administration. Students feel they are not in control when it comes to administration's decisions because the information is not clearly relayed to them.

Perhaps many students were unable to miss class or work to attend. Some students may care less about the next president.

Either way, one can only hope the next president will work with administration to help strengthen relationships between administration and students.

Students can take the initiative to email or set up appointments to speak with administration.

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.

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Interested in being a columnist? The Advocate wants you!
Contact Jessica at jaspersoje@mnstate.edu

Snowless 'snow' day proved to be right decision



MAGGIE OLSON
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On March 31, MSUM canceled school due to inclement weather, but the inclement weather never came. It was a snowless snow day.

This is a situation that, from the outside, looks like the result of administrator incompetence.

They canceled school because of snow, but there was no snow. They made the wrong decision. Simple, right?

Not quite. As students, it is often difficult for us to see how and why the university makes the decisions it does. In the absence of that knowledge, many seem to think President Szymanski decides simply by looking out of the window at her house.

I assure you, that is not the case. These decisions are not made capriciously.

President Szymanski, Provost Anne Blackhurst and Jan Mahoney, vice president for finance and administration, collectively make the decision to postpone or cancel school. As soon as the potential for hazardous weather arises, they begin conferring with each other.

Special attention is paid to high amounts of snowfall and low wind chills because these are the most

dangerous weather factors.

Szymanski, Blackhurst and Mahoney also consult with administration at NDSU because NDSU hosts the North Dakota State Climatologist. Even though we have the best localized weather information possible, nature is unpredictable.

Snow days can wreak havoc on class pacing, and sometimes material has to be eliminated from a syllabus because there simply isn't time. Snow days mean canceled events, changed plans and, for parents of young children, a rush to find last-minute child care.

All of these things are unfortunate and inconvenient, but in the case of bad weather, safety must always outweigh convenience.

The decision our administration made to close school on March 31 reflects their concern for the safety of everyone on campus, especially given that almost 75 percent of MSUM's student body lives off campus, and many students, faculty and staff commute from well outside of the Fargo-Moorhead area.

For me, the snow day brought an issue I'd been vaguely considering into sharp focus: on everything from snow days to staff cuts, many students do not understand who makes decisions at our university, how decisions are made and the reasons behind them.

It is easy to become frustrated and send out an angry Facebook status at what we might perceive as incompetence. This anger is, at best, unhelpful and at worst, perpetuating the negative public image MSUM has garnered over the last several months. This anger perpetuates misinformation and low campus morale.

I have found an almost fool-proof

solution (for me) to avoid this anger: asking questions.

In preparation for this editorial, I emailed some questions to David Wahlberg, the executive director of marketing and communications. Wahlberg responded within six minutes, asked for some time to confirm some information and sent that information to me first thing the next morning.

While six minutes is an exceptionally fast response time, this prompt attention to student requests is consistent with my experiences with the faculty and administration at MSUM. When I ask for information, I receive it.

Even if the answer isn't what I want to hear, I can at least understand where the administration is coming from as they make the decisions that shape our university.

After one of the recent presidential candidate forums, student body president Kevin Struxness approached me to discuss the questions I posed to candidates. I never met Mr. Struxness before, but he was eager to provide information, receive feedback from me and to encourage more questions.

He assured me that Student Senate was actively pursuing student engagement so that the administration and the student body can all be on the same page.

If you feel like bad decisions are being made, or even if you just want to know how things work, ask someone. Ask your teachers. Ask your advisors. Ask someone in the student senate. Email Kevin Struxness at struxneske@mnstate.edu - he wants to hear from you. If these people have the answer immediately available, they will help you find it.

ESPN sports loosely defined



KYLE SARPONG
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As the end of the school year drew near during my time in high school, watching the Scripps National Spelling Bee occupied my time.

The bee began in 1925, and it always reminded me to freshen up my vocabulary skills. The kids on stage seemed like geniuses working countless hours just memorizing Latin roots and countries of origin. What I remember most was spellers' reactions when they got a word wrong. The bee was first aired on NBC in 1946 and aired since 1994 on ESPN - but why?

ESPN is a sports network, and its most popular show is Sports Center. So, how does a spelling bee fit in the mix? My definition of a sport is a "physical leisure activity that involves a purpose."

Spelling bees are not a competition in that definition. Kids memorize material, and prove it on the national stage. Don't

get me wrong, I enjoy the National Spelling Bee on ESPN, but I don't know why it's on that network.

Putting it on Nickelodeon or Disney wouldn't generate much support even though it is kids-oriented. Putting it on CNN or local channels is a good idea, but the network station relies on the audience it is centered toward. I think ESPN is perfect because millions of Americans watch it. Moving the spelling bee on the basis of a definition is unethical.

Moving forward, I'll be discussing the topics of Poker and NASCAR on ESPN.

The World Series of Poker has been on ESPN since 2003. Has anyone ever wondered if it was a sport? The World Series of Poker is a competition dating back to 1970, founded by Horseshoe Casino.

I don't know why ESPN puts poker on a sports network if it subjects people to get into the act of gambling. Besides that, club poker (WPT) commercials also air on ESPN. This is an online poker game where people play for a chance to win money.

I don't know why Poker is on ESPN, but it could be a sponsoring thing. ESPN has a lot of sponsors, and with many sponsors it may require ESPN to air so many poker commercials or broadcast this many World Series of Poker. Even though I don't know the

validity on the basis of sports poker, and even if it's a competition, it doesn't belong on ESPN.

NASCAR has been recognized since 1947, and millions of NASCAR fans can attest to this also being a sport. Names like Kyle Busch, Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Danica Patrick have revolutionized the NASCAR world. In this social media age, the Super Bowl has popularized Danica Patrick and her Go Daddy commercials. Commercials or not, Danica has proved herself in this male dominated sport and is a role model to some girls.

The Indy 500 and the Sprint Cup have been on ESPN and were even televised on local networks. If anyone can run around 500 laps for 5 hours straight that makes them a winner.

Consensus? As a huge fan, sports come in a lot of different packages. You can't compare spelling bees to football, and you can't compare competitive poker to hockey. ESPN appeals to a large target audience of sport fans young and old.

Sports Center has been aired since 1979. In the past 35 years of broadcasting, they still fulfill the needs of most American's sports sources. You can question the programs ESPN airs, but the next time you see horse racing, the spelling bee or even poker, don't question and ponder why it's a sport: just relax and enjoy the program.

Sports

Recapping the winter sports season

BY BREANN LENZMEIER
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The winter sports season officially came to an end when Dragon divers Shayna Dugger and Kelsey Jandro competed in the NCAA Division II diving championships in Geneva, Ohio. The squad had a successful season under head coach Todd Peters with the team setting a number of records throughout the season.

Dugger placed 15th in the three-meter competition at nationals. The Dragons finished third in the NSIC championships and will return a number of team members with experience for next season.

The men's basketball team had "a really good year" according to head coach Chad Walthall. The team had another 20 win season under Walthall and picked up their first conference title win in over 30 years when they won the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference North title.

"It was one of our goals to win the North Division, and we had a lot of new guys come in. To see them come together and play for each other was great," Walthall said.

The team started off the season 9-0 and concluded the regular season on a three game winning streak after an overtime victory over the University of Mary to seal the north title. The team did suffer injuries, specifically to Jordan

Riewer who missed a number of games at the end of the season, but Walthall said he was impressed by the way the team responded and came together to finish the season strong.

"We couldn't replace him as an individual, but collectively we were able to come together as a team and do some good things. Jordan helped out in any way he could (when he was injured)," Walthall said.

The team picked up two wins in the offseason and were close to making it in the NCAA tournament. Walthall said the players have realized how tough the league is and are working hard in the offseason to improve.

The team finished the season at 21-8 overall and 15-7 in NSIC play. They were defeated in the NSIC Sanford Health Conference Tournament by Winona State 70-53.

As for the women's basketball team, head coach Karla Nelson described their season as "inconsistent," as the team started off 4-0, only to have an up and down season.

"We started off well, then hit a slide, then played well, and then hit a slide at the end. The end was disappointing," Nelson said.

The team saw two players join the 1,000 point club, with Megan Strese and Morgan Zabel achieving the honor in the last year of their careers. Nelson spoke highly of the

team's seniors and said it will be hard to lose the three players that have meant so much to the program the past four years.

"They are all great examples of working hard to achieve personal and team goals. They are great examples of 'if you put your mind to something you can do it,'" Nelson said.

The team went on a six-game winning streak in the later part of the season, picking up a win in Wayne, Neb. against then No. 8 Wayne State.

"When you are playing well, it takes a lot of energy, and the last week to 10 days we didn't have that much energy, and that is disappointing," Nelson said.

She pointed to next year's team being very young, adding there are a number of questions going into the next season.

"It's going to be interesting to see where everything is going to come from and how everything comes together," Nelson said.

The team finished the season at 16-11 and 12-11 in NSIC action.

The wrestling team saw two wrestlers, Steven Monk and Blake Bosch qualify for the national tournament. The team was competitive in all the duals and finished the season 7-9 overall and 4-4 in NSIC action.

Senior Steven Monk was named to the All-NSIC second team. Monk finished the season at 14-14.

MSUM Tennis team sweeps weekend matches



BEN GUMERINGER • gumeringbe@mnstate.edu

Freshman Mariah Stein volleys during the Dragons match against the University of Sioux Falls. The Dragons defeated Sioux Falls 5-4 on Saturday and shut out Southwest Minnesota State 9-0 on Sunday. The Dragons improved to 6-9 overall and 5-5 in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. The team finishes out the regular season on Saturday in Grand Forks against Bemidji State.

MSUM Club baseball team strikes out the competition

BY TURNER BLAUFUSS
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The MSUM club baseball team is 14-7, and teams are taking notice. In the last Division II poll, the Dragons were ranked 14th in the nation with 120 teams at their level. MSUM coach Matt Peck is happy with his team's play and hopes it can carry over to conference play.

"Everything's going good right now, and we're looking forward to playing some more now that the weather's getting so nice," Peck

said. "We had 12 games in the fall and seven in Florida, and we're excited to play some more."

The Dragons traveled to Florida for their spring break and took care of business going 4-3. Two of the victories came against Division I teams including the highly ranked Iowa team. However, the Dragons didn't move up in the polls following their productive trip.

"I was getting a lot of texts from the league office saying they were surprised we didn't move up in the polls, but we'll see if we do this

week," Peck said.

The Dragons are 5-1 in conference play and are in first place. MSUM hopes to win their conference and punch their tickets to the regional tournament in Sheboygan, Wis., where the Dragons placed second last year.

One of the keys to MSUM's success is Eric Hulterstum. The senior slugger is batting .305 with 19 RBI's and plays all over the field. Hulterstum's RBI rank is third in all of Division II.

"(Hulterstum) is hitting the

ball really well, and his versatility is great for us defensively," Peck said. "He's been a big help for us the past couple years, and we hope he keeps doing well."

Another man with a hot bat is catcher John Sawatzky. Sawatzky is batting a whopping .411 with a pair of homers and seven doubles.

"(Sawatzky) is having a great year. He's hitting very well," Peck said. "He's another one of our big hitters, and we hope he keeps it up."

On the mound, Tyler Schmidt

is the Dragons' ace. Schmidt is ranked third in the country in ERA and first in wins. Schmidt is known for his control and location of his fastball and for his deadly curve ball.

"Leading the nation in wins is really a nice stat to have, and Tyler's doing great this year," Peck said. "He's got four wins for us, and only one other pitcher has four wins so far this year."

The Dragons' next game is Saturday against Winona State in Winona.



Submitted Photo

Senior Tyler Schmidt pitches against Lakehead University last fall for the MSUM club baseball team. Schmidt is ranked third in the nation in ERA and first in wins. The team is 14-7 this season.

Dragon calendar:

- Tuesday, April 8**
 - Softball: @ Jamestown 3 p.m./5 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 9**
 - Softball: @ University of Mary 2 p.m./4 p.m., Bismarck
- Friday, April 11**
 - Track and Field: @ NDSU Invitational TBD
- Saturday, April 12**
 - Track and Field: @ NDSU Invitational TBD
 - Softball: @ Winona State 12 p.m./2 p.m., Winona
 - Golf: @ Augustana College Invitational TBD
- Sunday, April 13**
 - Golf: @ Augustana College Invitational TBD
 - Softball: @ Upper Iowa 12 p.m./2 p.m., Fayette
 - Tennis: vs. Bemidji State, Grand Forks TBD

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News

PRESIDENTIAL FORUM, FROM FRONT

importance of athletics for both athletes and non-athletes. "If done well ... (it's) very important for the institution in general to symbolize the best of what goes on here." Vargas-Aburto focused his talk on student success and ensuring MSUM is a "student-centered organization."

Kevin Struxness, Student Senate president, agreed with Vargas-Aburto and said currently MSUM has a "serious problem with customer service."

Vargas-Aburto said this would require a cultural shift at the administrative level. "We need to work to see what it is that we need to do internally to change that culture," he said. "What is it that keeps people treating students in a way that is not appropriate?"

For Vargas-Aburto, this involves a sense of mindfulness at the student and administrative level.

"When we are evaluating something, we (should be) mindful of the implications that it has, not

only for our own area, but for everyone else," he said.

All candidates stressed the importance of branding the university in a positive way to the public.

"How are we excellent and how are we distinctive?" Minner asked. "If that's not crystal clear we need to work on that."

Blackhurst spoke of her plans to be involved in the F-M community. "When people see the president as visible, then suddenly the university is visible in a way it wasn't before," she said. "When the president's not there, the university just isn't top of the mind."

"We need to be more active in communicating to the community out there that we are here, who we are and what we do," Vargas-Aburto said.

The decision will be finalized at the MnSCU Board of Trustees' April 23 meeting; the individual selected will take office July 2014.

ASSESSMENT, FROM FRONT

actually helping campuses better themselves, and they wanted to see projects that promote continual improvement.

Last June, the Assessment Academy team spearheading the initiative attended the HLC Assessment Academy to kick off the project. Team members included staff members Jason Anderson, Tim Borchers, Tim Decker, Michelle Malott, Jeremy Page and Stacy Voeller.

The intention of the new university learning outcomes is to better define the educational experience expectations for MSUM students, no matter their major.

"Are they really learning the things we think they should learn to become participating adults in a society that needs participation?" Assessment Academy team co-chair Voeller said. MSUM already follows the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities learning outcomes, and by defining specific, the university

rounds out its offerings to students.

"Looking at (the outcomes) in line with our strategic plan and our vision, and our fulfilling our promise, I think that it's a really good way of closing that loop and being accountable for what it is we say we're going to do," Voeller said.

The new learning outcomes also focus on the educational experiences that come with co-curricular activities and will be focused on student growth outside the classroom.

"They're not just, 'well now I'm a 'blank' major and that's all I've learned,'" said Michelle Malott, dean of the College of Natural and Social Sciences. "But they also have learned a lot of other skills that they pick up in co-curricular activities."

On Friday, Borchers, Vollere and Page are traveling to Chicago to give a presentation on the university's improvement plan at the HLC Conference. The commission is impressed with non-academic department involvement in the plan.

"They didn't accept that many proposals, so I think it's a really good thing," Voeller said. "They're noticing that we're doing good stuff here."

The Assessment Academy team has met with different departments and will meet with Student Senate for feedback on the proposed learning outcomes to make sure expectations meet academic standards across campus.

The academy team encourages student and faculty input and will be accepting feedback on mnstate.edu/assess/uw until April 16. A draft of potential outcomes can also be found on the site.

SEAP, FROM FRONT

nominated by deans of the departments and then chosen based on their availability.

After the half hour mock classroom sessions were over, the groups of attendees were brought back for the final half of the event.

Part of each event involved the raffling of six \$500 scholarships. Three were given to traditional freshman and three to transfer students.

Finally, to fully link MSUM with the community the group was addressing, alumni from the area were asked to give a short speech about their experience at MSUM and how it shaped them in finding a career.

Throughout the night, students could submit their application with no fee and receive an instant admittance decision.

Of the eight events, not counting the most recent hosted on campus, 173 total prospective students attended. There was also a nine percent increase in the total number of applicants. Fourteen percent also signed up for RoomSync, which allows students in the residential halls to find a roommate with similar interests via Facebook.

Prior to the events, gift baskets containing items from Moorhead were sent to principals and counselors in the eight cities that were visited. Baskets contained items such as coffee, wild rice and locally baked bread as well as information about MSUM and the Keeping Our Promise in Your Neighborhood event.

Underdue Murph stressed that she wanted to build lasting relationships with her constituents in the high schools and community colleges. "We don't want to just parachute in. We want to be sustainable partners," she said.

After the final event, which took place in the CMU, a staff member had the idea to have Scorch deliver the balloons used as decoration to the local children's hospital. Underdue Murph said that while she wishes the idea would have come sooner so the same could have been done in all eight cities, this new idea will be implemented in next year's round of events.

With visit days for new freshmen beginning this week, Underdue Murph hopes to implement some of the same ideas used in the Keeping Our Promise in Your Neighborhood events to get students excited to attend in the fall.

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