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## The Advocate, February 24, 2015

Minnesota State University Moorhead

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# Briefs

## CAMPUS CALENDAR

2.24-3.2

<b>Tues 2.24</b>	<b>4 p.m.,</b> What Should I Major In?, MA 167		<b>7:30 p.m.,</b> Lines and Notes, Fox Recital Hall
	<b>8:30 p.m.,</b> open swim, Nemzek pool	<b>Fri 2.27</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.,</b> Service Recognition Brunch, CMU Ballroom
<b>Wed 2.25</b>	<b>5 p.m.,</b> Toothpick Bridge Competition, CMU Ballroom	<b>Sat 2.28</b>	<b>2 p.m.,</b> Laserfest 2015, BR 167
	<b>7:30 p.m.,</b> Upright Citizens Brigade comedy show, WE106		<b>7:30 p.m.,</b> Last night Romi/eo and Juliet, Gaede Stage
	<b>7 p.m.</b> Soul Food Dinner, CMU 101	<b>Mon 3.2</b>	<b>11 a.m.,</b> Careers in Social Work Luncheon, CMU 227
<b>Thur 2.26</b>	<b>3 p.m.,</b> Women in Physical Power: Feat. Pres. Blackhurst, CMU 101		<b>Noon,</b> Networking week, CMU Ballroom

## SENATE UPDATE

2.19 Meeting

- Public forum with Hannah Severtson, director of learning communities, who discussed the fees and benefits of participation.
- Public forum with Joe Herbst, sustainability coordinator, who discussed the green fee, future projects and creating sustainability awareness on campus.
- Introduction of Dr. Jeremy Carney as faculty senate liaison. He elaborated on how faculty and senate will practice more open communication and collaboration.
- Jamaal Abegaz appointed business and innovation senator.

*Students are invited to attend Senate meetings Thursdays at 6 p.m. in CMU 205.*

## SECURITY UPDATE

2.13-2.19

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>2.16:</b>                                | <b>2.18:</b>  |
| • Theft in the CA, Moorhead PD responded    | • Motor vehicle crash in G-7 lot, Moorhead PD responded |
| <b>2.17:</b>                                | • Phone harassment on campus, one referred to OSCAR     |
| • Disorderly Conduct in the Wellness Center |   |
| • Theft in Nemzek, Moorhead PD responded    |   |

### Safety Tip of the Week

To report a problem, contact Public Safety at 218-477-2449.

**Follow us on Twitter @ MSUMPublicSafeT, and have daily tips, emergency information, announcements and more at your fingertips.**

## The Advocate

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The Advocate is published weekly during the academic year, except during final examination and vacation periods. It serves as a voice for students and an outlet for information important to them.

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](mailto:advocate@mnstate.edu). The Advocate reserves the right to edit letters and refuse publication of letters omitting requested information. It does not guarantee the publication of any letter.

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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.

Josie Gereszek, editor-in-chief  
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Zana Pommier, copy editor  
Carrie Thayer, copy editor  
Cameron Seibold, online editor  
Robert Plemel, business manager

# MSUM Briefs

### Largest philanthropic gift MSUM's history to be announced today

Come share in the excitement. Today at 10:30 a.m. in the Center for Business Atrium, the largest philanthropic gift in the history of Minnesota State University Moorhead will be announced, along with the renaming of the School of Business.

### World renowned architectural photographer Hélène Binet comes to MSUM

The School of Media Arts and Design invites you to join us in welcoming world renowned architectural photographer Hélène Binet on Wednesday.

Binet has become one of the leading photographers in her field, known for her ability to express the pure essence of the buildings she captures through striking use of light, shadow, contrast and form. Her client list includes top architects Zaha Hadid, Daniel Libeskind and Peter Zumthor. Binet's portfolio

also includes images from a strong list of architects from the past including Alvar Aalto, Le Corbusier, Sverre Fehn, John Hejduk, Sigurd Lewerentz and Andrea Palladio.

Binet has won multiple awards for her achievements in architectural photography, including the 2015 Julius Shulman Institute Excellence in Photography Award, which she will be receiving in Los Angeles after her lecture in Moorhead.

Please join us on Wednesday at 1 p.m. in King 110 for Binet's lecture.

### Dragon Entertainment Group asking for "My Professor has a Secret Life" submissions

Are you a faculty or staff member of MSUM? Have you done something super cool during a sabbatical, before or during time at MSUM? Then the Dragon Entertainment Group wants to know. On March 5 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. there will be an event called "My Professor Has a Secret Life" and it is in need of some faculty or staff to tell their stories. For more information

about presenting please email [ziebarthmi@mnstate.edu](mailto:ziebarthmi@mnstate.edu)

### President Blackhurst holding office hours for students today in CMU

President Blackhurst will hold office hours for students today from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the CMU Main Lounge. Students are encouraged to come and discuss any comments or concerns they may have regarding any aspect of MSUM student life or current policies.

### MSUM Rock Climbing Challenge underway at Wellness Center

Join the MSUM Rock Climbing Club in this exciting event that runs until March 13.

Come to the rock wall and ask to join the climbing challenge. Participants will start at level one and progress to level four. Once all of the challenges are complete in a level, student's names will be entered to win one of 12 prizes. The higher the level, the better the prize. No prior experience necessary.

# World News

### Inmates riot at federal prison in Texas

Some 2,000 inmates at a federal prison in southern Texas rioted on Saturday, forcing officials to scramble to regain control of the facility, the Los Angeles Times reported. According to a spokesman for Management & Training Corp., the private company that runs the prison, some of the prisoners were protesting medical services. The prison in Raymondville, about 40 miles northeast of McAllen, is used to house "deportable individuals" who have committed federal crimes and will be sent back to their home countries after their terms have been served. Officers used tear gas against the prisoners, who set fire to 10 of the 200 kevlar tents used to house many of the men. In a 2014 report by the American Civil Liberties Union, "Prisoners reported severely overcrowded and squalid living conditions" including frequent sewage leaks and inadequate medical treatment. So far, two officers and three inmates have received minor injuries, and all were treated on site.

### Ex-president of Maldives arrested

Mohamed Nasheed, the former president and opposition leader of the Maldives was arrested Sunday on terrorism charges. The country's prosecutor general claimed he illegally ordered the

detention of a senior judge during his tenure as president. Nasheed served as the archipelago's first democratically elected president from 2008 to 2012, and claims he was forced to quit in a coup, when soldiers protesting the judge's detention overran his headquarters.

### Turkey rescues its soldiers from Syria

Nearly 600 Turkish soldiers entered Syria on Saturday night to evacuate dozens of its own troops who have been stuck guarding an ancient tomb near Kobani. For months, Turkey has stationed a rotating cast of 40 soldiers outside a 13th century Ottoman tomb that belonged to the grandfather of Osman I, who founded the Ottoman Empire. The troops moved the crypt closer to the Turkish border and ceremonially planted their flag. One soldier was killed in what the government called an accident. The Syrian government decried the mission as a "flagrant aggression" and accused Turkey of coordinating with ISIS.

### Al Shabaab threatens Mall of America

A video claiming to be made by the Somali militants al-Shabaab called for "Westgate style" attacks against Mall of America, referring to the massacre in Kenya that left dozens dead in 2013. In response, the Minnesota

mall says it has tightened security, and the government has addressed the threat.

"In recent months, the FBI and DHS (Department of Homeland Security) have worked closely with our state and local public safety counterparts and members of the private sector, to include mall owners and operators, to prevent and mitigate these types of threats," a joint statement released on Sunday said.

### Thirty-three killed in Bangladesh Ferry collision

A passenger ferry collided with a trawler and capsized in Bangladesh on Sunday, killing at least 33 of its 100 passengers. At least 50 people have already been saved, and divers are attempting to retrieve bodies trapped in the vessel. Police have arrested two crew members of the trawler. The incident occurred 85 miles from the capital of Dhaka.

### Giuliani says he's getting death threats

In the aftermath of his controversial comments about President Obama not loving America, former New York City mayor says his office has received death threats over the phone. Giuliani told CNN's Jim Acosta about the threats but added the majority of the phone calls his office has received—including from Louisiana governor Bobby Jindal—have been supportive.





# Reimagining of Shakespeare explores trans issues

SUBMITTED

MSUM's unique take on the classic tale of "star-crossed lovers" tells the story of a transgender teen and the search for acceptance.

BY ELLEN ROSSOW  
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But soft, what show from yonder theater breaks? It is "Romi/eo and Juliet," a contemporary adaptation of the Shakespeare classic.

According to its stars, sophomore Emily Carlson and freshman Alexis Schmitz, the famous story of love, tragedy and iambic pentameter has been transformed into much more than that.

MSUM's version of the tale tells the story of young Romi, a transgender teen struggling to find acceptance. Identifying as male, but born in a female's body, Romi strives to become Romeo. Schmitz plays this role.

"The show starts out with a kind of weird montage of

awkward childhood memories and getting kicked out on the street," she said.

But Romi finds acceptance in a gang of misfits, The Montagues, and finds a love that makes him feel whole.

The integration of this social issue into the show is a huge part of what makes it unique. While the show has been a challenge for the actors, they also believe it's an important thing to do.

"It really takes Shakespeare and makes it deal with transgender issues, and the issue of figuring out who you are, being who you really are and being comfortable in your own body," Schmitz said.

For her, the greatest challenge of the show lies in trying to portray a character vastly different from herself.

"I don't know what it's like

to be kicked out of my own house, to not feel comfortable in my own body, to not have support through my entire life," she said. "One of my biggest fears is not being able to portray that correctly for the people that this does emulate."

Carlson agreed being in a production of this nature is challenging.

"It is intimidating to do a production like this, because it is such an issue in our society today," she said.

Like many MSUM students, Carlson's upbringing left her inexperienced when it comes to matters of sexuality.

"I grew up in a small town," she said. "There weren't any trans people around me. Learning about that and how to react to that has been interesting."

While MSUM's adaptation brings a lot of new ideas to the classic piece, it utilizes the original text.

"It's intimidating to do the text because it is so famous," Carlson said. "Especially with the balcony scene, people come to see that scene."

Schmitz agreed.

"We have people coming and going throughout rehearsals for tech and from that first 'but soft' I can feel everyone thinking, 'Oh! This is where I pay attention now.'"

Despite any challenges the show has posed for the pair, they believe they are ready for opening night tomorrow.

"It is going to be really entertaining," Schmitz said. "There are so many great actors interpreting the text."

While the show makes an obvious statement regarding a

social issue, the production is filled with humorous moments as well.

"I think it will open a lot of eyes," Carlson said. "It's going to be sweet."

Following each production is a Q and A panel for open discussion featuring professionals and the show's cast.

"Romi/eo and Juliet" opens at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow and runs through Saturday, Feb. 28 on the Gaede stage. All MSUM theater productions are free for MSUM students.

Both Carlson and Schmitz agreed MSUM students should take the time to see the show.

"I am sick of Shakespeare being done the same way," Carlson said. "I think it's cool to have this twist."

Schmitz agreed. "It's going to be sick."



"Beneath California" is the third album released by hardcore punk band Retox.

YOUTUBE

BY LOUIS JOHNSON  
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Hardcore punk's roots can be traced to southern California. An offshoot of punk rock, hardcore is characterized as being faster, heavier and more abrasive. The genre and subculture was a direct response to both mainstream culture and the dominant hippie subculture of the '70s. Punks hold anti-establishment views, but unlike hippies, are anarchistic.

Now, almost 40 years after hardcore's beginnings, comes punk band Retox. Retox is from San Diego and was formed in 2010. The band was founded by vocalist Justin Pearson, a well

known member of the bay area punk scene who has played with numerous groups since the '90s, most notably in the synth/punk band The Locust.

"Beneath California" is Retox's third release, named appropriately as the band is heavily influenced by classic California hardcore. Pearson's passion for noise and odd time signatures apparent in his work with The Locust bleeds into Retox's sound as well. This release is the band's most straightforward album to date, but is by no means an easy listen.

The album hits you with some headbanging punk rock and loud feedback for 22 minutes and never lets up. The riffs

and drums fly by in a flash with an occasional odd time signature thrown in. The music is satisfying.

As far as the songwriting goes, Pearson is as angry as ever. He's pissed off at life, society, ex-lovers, capitalism, religion and everything in between.

In the song "Die in Your Own Cathedral" he sings "when you look up at a star, know it's dead and not too far from dead shit like common dreams." In the song "Let's Not Keep in Touch" he sings "every empire gets fat and falls apart, so sorry my dying sweetheart." The 39-year-old is misanthropic as hell with no signs of lightening up.

Another highlight includes "I

knew I was too clever for God. Who's still Christian? Stale bread for stale tradition."

In his writing Pearson seems to be driven mad by the vapid consumer culture of the west coast. The corruption and injustice in modern capitalism angers him as well. Pearson's sick of America and all the smiling faces inhabiting it.

Retox holds nothing sacred, lashing out against societal norms, religion and humanity. As the album title implies, Pearson seems crushed by California, suffocated under the weight of a phony society.

If I have any criticisms of this album, I find that at times it is not progressive enough.

I don't feel like Retox is quite as interesting as other contemporary punk bands like Converge, Full of Hell or The Dillinger Escape Plan that incorporate more progressivism and experimentation into their sound. Fans of The Locusts' whackier side may also be a bit disappointed by the album's straightforward nature.

Still, Beneath California is a good listen, and fits snugly next to its hardcore predecessors like Black Flag's "Damaged" and The Dead Kennedys' "Fresh Fruit for Rotting Vegetables." It's 2015, and punk rock has undergone all sorts of transformations, but Retox continue to be hardcore fundamentalists.



## A &amp; E



# “Whiplash” drums up positive review

“Whiplash” is currently being shown at the Fargo Theater and is released on DVD today.

BEATROUTE.CA

BY ANDY WESTON  
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At what point does passion become addiction?

Andrew Neimann (Miles Teller) is a student at one of the top music schools in the country. He has dreams of becoming one of the world’s greatest drummers. The path to his dreams leads him to Terence Fletcher (J.K. Simmons), the conductor of the school’s studio band.

Andrew is accepted into Fletcher’s band as a backup, but after putting in hard work and showing he has what it takes to move up, is placed in the starting position as the band’s drummer.

What sets Andrew’s experience, and the band itself, apart is Fletcher. He’s a demanding and harsh conductor who wants nothing short of perfection from his band. This is shown immediately when Andrew attends his first day of practice.

Fletcher approaches Andrew in the hall while they are on a break and asks questions about his family and background in what appears to be friendly banter. He tells Neimann not to worry too much and just have fun while he is in the class.

Once the band reconvenes,

Neimann is tasked with playing a piece with the band. He is unable to get the tempo right. Fletcher tells him that it’s OK and to keep trying. As Neimann continues to either drag or rush with the tempo, Fletcher throws a chair at Neimann’s head and a switch is flipped in the character as Fletcher continues to berate Neimann using the personal information that was shared earlier to humiliate him. The audience understands Fletcher is a manipulator and willing to go to unreasonable depths to push his students.

But rather than give up and admit defeat, Neimann sets out on a path of borderline self-destruction in order to rise up to Fletcher’s insanely high standards.

Andrew starts practicing nearly non-stop. He sits in a practice room and works on his speed until his hands are raw and bleeding, then continues to practice through the injury. On top of physical damage, Andrew also shuts out any emotional connections. In order to continue with his insane practice regimen, he breaks up with his girlfriend, since he believes she will just be a distraction and hold him back.

It’s through these actions that it becomes more and more apparent

that Andrew is an addict when it comes to his love of drumming. He’s willing to throw away personal relationships and his own health in order to feed his passion. It’s a continual downward spiral as he dedicates himself completely to his craft.

Throughout Neimann’s journey we see how someone’s passion can sometimes consume them. It’s at this point a person needs to step back and figure out if what they do for enjoyment and fulfillment should ever cross over into their competitive and professional lives. It’s a fine line to walk and can destroy someone who toes onto the wrong side.

Although the film may be short on plot, it is heavy on character depth. It could have easily sunk if the wrong actors had been cast in the lead roles, but luckily the opposite occurred.

Miles Teller has made a name for himself lately, starring in indie dramas and romantic films. He has a young John Cusack quality about him that helps to sell his likability in almost every role he’s done.

Here, he’s tasked with portraying a man on a downward spiral, as well as the ability to play the drums in a way that makes him look like he really could be the best

in the world.

Teller is able to convey the talent and determination that fuels Andrew perfectly. There wasn’t a moment in the film that I didn’t feel for Andrew’s plight, and by the end of the movie, I believed he was capable of playing at Garden Center.

Meanwhile, the role of Fletcher is something that J.K. Simmons was born to play. He is brash, intimidating and unpredictable. He is able to make the viewer both hate and respect him. Fletcher is driven by his desire to find and mold the next great artist, and he is willing to do whatever it takes to bring that ability out of his students.

Simmons shows Fletcher’s unwavering determination to push his students when repeatedly delivering strings of profanity that could only be delivered by an actor in his element. But through all of the savagery, Fletcher still has a heart, and Simmons is able to present this through subtle moments where he can soften his voice, let tears form and show the tiniest bit of genuine emotion as it shines through Fletcher’s rough exterior. It takes a true talent to balance and humanize a character that could have easily been played

as a one-dimensional villain.

None of the performances or story would have happened without Damien Chazelle, the film’s writer and director. Chazelle shows a lot of passion for arranged music and is able to translate it well into film.

Going into “Whiplash” I had little to no knowledge of this type of music, but throughout the film I grew to appreciate the sights and sounds of devoted people playing their instrument of choice. There is a clear love that Chazelle has for music, and it is on display here through the performances he captures and the characters he’s written.

“Whiplash” is a story about determination and the hard road one takes to achieve their ambitions. It can tear apart and destroy everything, but with the will-power and willingness to give everything to a craft, one may just be able to realize their goal.

But is there such a thing as pushing someone too far to be their best self? The only one who can really answer that is the individual being pushed.

“Whiplash” has been at the Fargo Theater this winter and comes out on DVD today.

That said, stop dragging and see “Whiplash.”

## Album takes dance music to new levels

BY CAMERON SEIBOLD  
seiboldca@mnstate.edu

Producers Mumdance and Logos are standing at the forefront of the resurgence in interest in the instrumental side of UK grime. With Logos’ release of album “Cold Mission” in 2013 and Mumdance’s hit productions for up-and-coming grime artist Novelist in the past year, this 10-track collaborative effort is a match made in grime heaven.

Try not to go into this one with any expectations. Both artists have unique styles as solo artists, and while they retain their unique identities within “Proto,” the collaborative effort between the two actually offers up some unique flavors, ranging from minimal and meditative to loud, brash, grimy and ravey. The elements of grime music remain strong, while also dipping into both artists’ interests in jungle and hardcore.

Straight out of the gate we get a dash of minimalism with something extra that could have only been thought up by this pairing of artists. It’s not a track that can really be identified as being one or the other’s style, other than the sparseness and space in the sound shared by both. It’s a seven-minute-long trek through a minimal, bleep-filled techno landscape, building interest about where the album might lead the listener in its next nine tracks.

A complete 180 occurs on the second track “Dance Energy.” The Roland TR909 drum machine, beloved by the underground, bursts into the track accompanied by a rolling breakbeat, rumbling gritty bass line

and a reverb-coated vocal chant. The eerie synthesized choir vocals floating on top and bright synth stabs solidify the tune’s direction.

The track recreates and embodies the qualities of the early ‘90s rave music that both producers quote as being an inspiration. This is the kind of rave nostalgia popular right now, and with good reason. Everything comes full circle, and people want to hear these kinds of tunes on the dance floor once again in 2015.

Tracks “Chaos Energy” and “Hall of Mirrors” might hold more expected sounds for a Mumdance and Logos collaboration, offering spatial build ups, powerful percussion and their trademark future grime aesthetic. The massive rhythms and percussion of these tracks showcase the grime influence of the two artists. Completely foregoing any and all melody, it’s just powerful, physical head-nodding beats.

The title track “Proto” harkens back to “Dance Energy,” infusing ‘90s hardcore, jungle, and grime elements into a hybrid of old and new that works incredibly well.

This track is really the thesis of the album. The rhythmic complexity of the rolling old school breakbeat is interspersed with bars of complete silence, only to come swinging back into life accompanied by the gigantic banging claps and hats of the 909 drum machine. These contrasting elements hold much energy and power; it’s a completely fresh and unique sound impossible to ignore.

Fans of electronic music should not miss the collaboration of Mumdance and Logos.



The newest album by producers Mumdance and Logos pushes electronic dance music to its extremes. TWITTER

That being said, it is most definitely not the most accessible release in the world.

It’s extremely sparse and minimal at times, withholding almost all the comforts that an American EDM listener is accustomed to. It’s almost purely percussion, space and ambience. Melodies are few and far between. So, if you aren’t a fan of vintage drum machines and break beats, you might want to hold off on this one until you’ve

grown into this area of music. However, for the experienced listener, “Proto” really shows how far Logos and Mumdance are able to push the future grime aesthetic into 2015. It’s an embodiment of their work pushing dance music to extremes, as well as their interest in the past. The contrast between the two, as well as the new ideas that are presented, really come together to make a great album.



# Exhibit marks beginning of the end for art seniors



ETHAN DEGREE • degreet@mnstate.edu

Claire Doolittle is one of eight seniors given the chance to share her artwork at the BFA exhibit.

BY ONIZE OHIKERE

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A crowd of both the young and old filed into the Roland Dille Center for the Arts Gallery Thursday to enjoy the display of carved wood pieces, framed paintings and detailed drawings at the opening reception of the Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition.

The BFA Exhibition, which goes on throughout the year, is a requirement for seniors in the school of visual arts.

This installment of the exhibit included eight students who welcomed their family and friends to admire their pieces at the reception last Thursday.

"I'm very proud of her," Deb Larson, the mother of one senior who had her works displayed, said. "This is the first time I'm seeing her completed work, and I'm impressed."

More than 200 people visited the gallery during the opening reception.

The chance to have their art pieces be a part of a gallery showcase was not missed on some students.

"It's very exciting to have the opportunity to display my work," senior Claire Doolittle said. "And to get to do that with the support of classmates, friends, family and professors is just great."

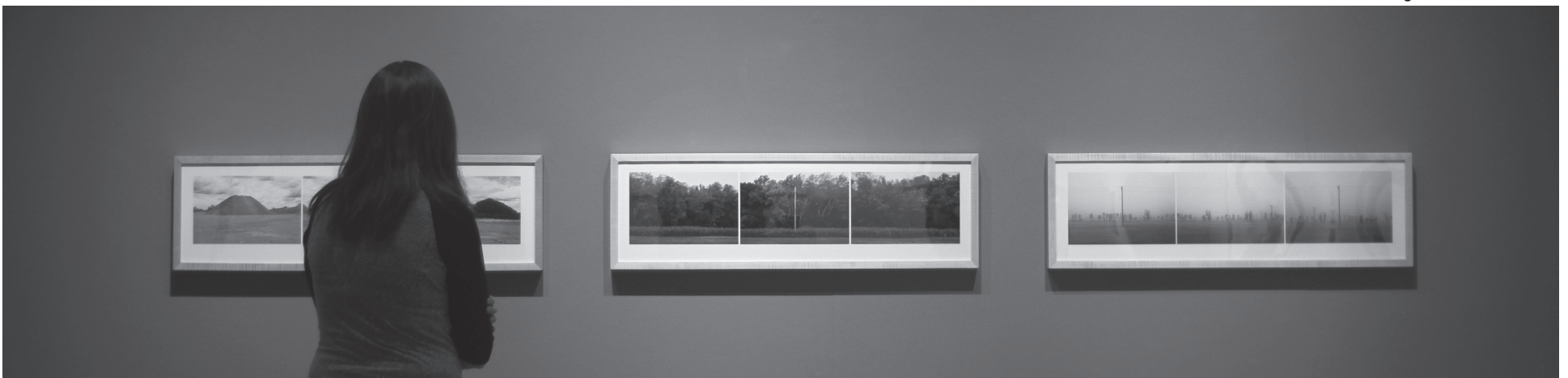
The exhibition will be open through Thursday. The next BFA exhibit opens Mar. 2, with a reception on the 5th.



ETHAN DEGREE • degreet@mnstate.edu

Family and friends of artists came out to enjoy the exhibit's opening reception Thursday. The exhibit closes this Thursday.

ETHAN DEGREE • degreet@mnstate.edu



## Reviewer deems new spy film a "bloody good time"

Inspired by comic books, "Kingsman" combines blood, humor and Bond-esque weaponry to create a unique spy flick.



SCREENRANT.COM

BY CHRIS SANCHEZ  
sanchezch@mnstate.edu

Upon seeing early trailers for "Kingsman: The Secret Service," I first thought it looked like an intensified PG-13 teen spy flick.

But don't be deceived. This a hard, R-rated, blood-splattering picture and a bloody good time, at that.

One could say "Kingsman" is paying homage to typical spy fare, but director Matthew Vaughn has more in mind than that. He adapted this film from a comic book and pulled off juggling both mediums nicely.

Eggsy (Taron Edgerton) is a young U.K. tough guy who's the son of a former Kingsman, an elite member of a secret international spy organization, led by Michael Caine's Arthur who's in charge of

recruitment of new members, particularly after the demise of a former operative. Arthur entrusted the best Kingsman of all, Galahad/Harry Hart (the suave Colin Firth) to find candidates to fill the shoes of the best spies in the world.

Galahad sees a lot of potential in Eggsy despite his rough upbringing. He's a smart lad who unfortunately comes from the British version of the projects and is constantly abused by his step dad. Galahad also feels like he owes a debt to Eggsy's father, who once saved his life.

Galahad takes him under his wing, showing him the ropes of being a spy, including gadgetry James Bond couldn't have dreamt of.

In no time, Eggsy has to duke it out with other potential operatives, led by a strict

Mark Strong. The tests the candidates are put through are bizarre and sometimes life-threatening, much like Eggsy's path, but they're thrilling to watch, especially as they nod to others in the genre.

As an unlikely hero, Firth proves to be a bona fide badass, as he plays a Bond-esque role who is clean cut, sleek, wears perfectly tailored suits, and has the coolest weapons I've seen in film in quite some time. When he takes Eggsy to a bar and gets into a scuffle with drunken patrons, it's a royal treat just to see what Firth's got in store for them. Newcomer Edgerton suits himself well against heavyweights like Firth and Caine, and should prepare for a promising future.

The goal for the Kingsman is to stop an evil globe techie, Valentine (Samuel L. Jackson)

from global genocide, even though the sight of blood makes him queasy. Luckily, he has the help of his sidekick Gazelle (Sofia Boutella) who has sharp-edged prosthetic legs that could easily slice a person to bits. What ensues here is a nasty little spy thriller. The journey Eggsy goes on tests his morals and his place in this crazy spy world.

The film is full of over-the-top cartoonish violence and dark humor, something Vaughn is accustomed to considering his previous film, 2010's "Kick-ass," but he adds some wit and sophistication like his 2011 comic reboot "X-Men: First Class." There are some scenes of violent mayhem that may leave viewers with a sour taste in their mouth, but if you can get past those, then this stylish, subversive and savage film will take you on the ride of your life.



# Opinion

## “Anti-vaxxers” and the right to stay healthy



BY ALEXANDRA TOLLEFSON  
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If you’ve been paying attention to the news lately, you’ll know that back in January, California’s Disneyland theme park had an outbreak of measles. By the end of the month, there were more than 59 reported cases of the disease. Now, it’s spreading.

As of Feb. 6, according to CNN, there were 121 cases spanning 17 states, including Minnesota and South Dakota. This disease, while highly contagious, was thought to

have been eliminated in the U.S. back in 2000, thanks to the vaccine that was developed to prevent it. Most of us have already been vaccinated; our parents or guardians brought us to the doctor when we were kiddos, and one quick shot later, our lives were considerably safer. However, this recent outbreak has brought to light the fact that not all of us got the shot — and neither have all the kids of today.

They’re called “anti-vaxxers,” the people who choose, as is their right, to abstain their children from receiving vaccines. This is how the measles virus was able to spread: one non-immune host, and it has a second shot at causing terror. So, the question raised is whether or not anti-vaxxers are posing a danger to themselves and those around them by not getting vaccinated like the rest of us.

I think it’s important to understand that anti-vaxxers have their reasons. Some may be more solid than others, but that doesn’t mean we

shouldn’t try to understand them. The most well-known reason is the famous “vaccines cause autism” argument. However, this argument has repeatedly been proven false. Unfortunately, the seed of distrust in vaccines has been planted, and some people have never looked at them the same way again.

While autism is not one of the side effects of vaccines, that doesn’t mean they are completely without risk. One in a million children has a life-threatening allergic reaction to vaccines. The CDC reports that pneumonia can still be caused by the chickenpox vaccine, and the vaccine for tetanus can cause permanent brain damage. The chances of any of these happening are slim, but you never know if your kid will be that unlucky patient.

Other people simply believe that natural immunity is more effective than vaccines. That’s why you hear about “measles parties” going on in California. One kid gets sick, and other anti-vaxxer parents bring their

children over so they can be exposed and build up a natural resistance.

Then there’s the mistrust of vaccine companies, which stand to make a profit from selling them. Since many vaccine companies have close ties with the CDC, it isn’t completely unreasonable to think the whole thing is just one big market ploy to earn an extra buck.

But do the risks outweigh the benefits?

The bottom line is that not getting vaccinated can have just as many ill effects as getting vaccinated.

For starters, it puts those around you at a greater risk of getting sick, too. This is the idea of “herd immunity.” There are those who cannot be vaccinated, regardless of their personal choice, due to age, poor health or other reasons. These people rely on the health of the “herd” to keep them safe from things like measles.

Furthermore, it makes more fiscal sense to keep the “herd” vaccinated. The

CDC estimates that “children vaccinated between 1994 and 2014 have yielded net savings of \$1.38 trillion in societal costs, including money saved by preventing lost productivity due to disability and early death.”

Mothers who get vaccinated also are less likely to have children with birth defects. When everyone (or at least close to everyone) gets vaccinated, entire diseases can be nearly, if not entirely, eradicated. But all it takes is one case to bring those diseases back.

So is it worth the risk or not? While the chances of having any adverse side effects caused by a vaccine are slim, they do still exist. And who knows? Maybe it really is just one huge scam for a handful of executives to line their pockets. Still, I’m going to take my chances. When my time comes, despite a hefty fear of needles, I will do my duty to the “herd” and get my vaccine.

Whether or not you do, the choice is your right to make as an American citizen.

## Time to step up, stop teen cyber bullying



BY WILLIAM LEWANDOWSKI  
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Bullying is nothing new. We all know that social media has been an outlet for bullies to hide behind a computer screen, causing students who

face bullying at school to also experience it at home.

I work with a group of teens (mostly in middle and high school) in a group called Teen Safe Haven. It was established after one of my friends committed suicide at the age of 16. The group was created for teens to shed worries and talk about problems, including bullying, they are experiencing.

In school, I rarely faced bullying, but I knew it was there. In recent years, though, bullying has gotten worse, even in the short time I have been away from middle and high school.

Kids are becoming way too comfortable being behind the screen, causing them to throw words around faster, without thought.

The things I have heard could

make a person cry. Hateful messages like, “Go drink bleach and die,” or “You don’t matter. Just do everyone a favor and kill yourself.”

The words I have heard and have seen sent on the Internet to others are criminal and disgusting. Personally, I can’t imagine anyone telling another human being to die.

When we lost our friend, it was like a piece of everyone’s heart went with her. We never truly believed she was gone. What if that kid who was told to die went through with it; how would their loved ones feel?

To me, it’s like the bullies have no heart, just a computer and nothing else to do but be a burden in someone else’s life. The things that are sent are just unbelievable and need to be

stopped.

The teens in the group are advised to block and delete bullies, but you can’t delete them from your life, so what now? Move schools, cities or even states just because of how horrendous kids are being to each other?

Right now there is not much that can be done about online bullying other than documenting, screen shooting and keeping record of it until something happens to the victim.

What needs to change to help these victims of cyber bullying?

There need to be better measures to punish the kids who cyber bully, and not just a slap on the hand. Something needs to be done, like going to a mandatory class on preventing bullying, or even going as far as removing

the bully from the school.

Teen Safe Haven has really helped the kids involved. Many of those who turned to cutting themselves to cope have stopped, or are in the process of stopping; the depressed are recovering and the lonely are involved and appreciated. Everyone has a voice.

Still, the bullying never goes away. So, as I always ask the people who perpetrate the bullying: What happens if you tell that person to die, and they do? How are you going to feel?

What is it going to take to stop cyber bullying among these kids, especially those who are only 12 or 13?

Everyone has a purpose, and everyone matters. There is a reason for everyone to be on this planet.

## Post-holiday sales offer relief for student budgets



BY KIT MURRAY  
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I’ve always enjoyed holidays, minus the fact that it can quickly put a damper on my wallet. As a college student, I’m curious to find ways to budget

my finances, especially when it comes to spending money on friends and family for the holidays.

Although last weekend was Valentine’s Day, how many of us ended up basking in the glorious treats that were half-off at Walmart the day afterwards? I know I went straight to the grocery store in town to stock up on Cadbury chocolate on Feb. 15 with absolutely no shame.

A friend of mine and I were chatting after I saw a gigantic stuffed teddy bear in the gift shop window and realized it was 50 percent off after Valentine’s Day. If a significant other were to buy that for me following the holiday I would still be more than okay with it. Saving money

means more money for Buffalo Wild Wings, right?

Does that mean we’re contemplating ignoring the whole idea of a traditional holiday? Some may say if we’re not celebrating on the day, it isn’t celebrating the holiday.

Another issue is the fact people may think the bar is being set too high. If we’re meant to celebrate just one day, then we should stick to solidifying it.

Keeping the idea of Black Friday aside, might it be a better idea to celebrate Christmas a few days later? That way, families can try to lessen the blow of costs for gifting others and perhaps lower stress levels as well. It may be hard to do, with everyone else celebrating the day off, but in the end,

it’s about who the holiday is celebrated with and what is done to enjoy it.

Although Christmas season has come and gone, we can learn from it each year and take advantage of what we’ve learned financially.

Especially as college students, it’s important to take note of how to save money in any situation.

One Christmas, my family and I had decided to celebrate the day off, but continue buying presents even after Christmas. This made it much less stressful, more budget friendly and easier to manage. It ended up working out incredibly well, but only when immediate family was involved.

Evan Geiger, music industry

junior, had similar thoughts on the topic as well:

“To me, the holiday is the holiday, and we make sure to celebrate on that day. However, if there is a deal a few days later, I would still buy that and include it in the celebrations afterwards. So, for that reason I rationalize just about any holiday-related purchase made within a certain amount of time.”

Holidays can be tricky and stressful, but incredibly rewarding. Nothing makes me happier than seeing a friend’s face when they open a gift that I’ve gotten them to show how grateful I am to have them in my life. These days add spice to our calendars, but we shouldn’t have to compromise our wallets for them.



# Opinion

## Mosaic Center threatens autonomy, identity of campus communities



BY BRIANNA BRADLEY  
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“Our faculty, staff and students form a caring community. This is evident in how people treat each other, as well as in the way our staff maintains our building and grounds ... our campus welcomes and celebrates diversity and works to actively combat racism.”

The quote above is an excerpt from the “About MSUM” section on the school’s official website. While MSUM might be attempting to live up to this, it’s very questionable as to whether or

not it actually does.

The reason I say this is because, while I love the school, it struggles with making its more diverse population feel like they truly are a part of campus. Spaces known to accommodate to these students, like the Anita Bender Women’s Center, Rainbow (LGBT+) Dragon Center and the American Indian Research and Resource Center\* are being threatened. These autonomous safe spaces are at risk of being “relocated,” a decision being made by school administration, into a single space called the Mosaic Center as a part of the CMU’s renovation that will begin at the end of this semester.

I have placed an asterisk by the American Indian Research and Resource Center because I was informed by Yvette Underdue Murph, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, that the American Indian Research and Resource Center is not being relocated even though Layne Anderson, Director of Student Union and Activities, showed a close acquaintance of mine that its current location,

along with the lactation/meditation room right beside it, is being turned into office space.

So, until I see it in a formally written statement, I refuse to believe they will stick to their word and am keeping the space in solidarity with the other two I’ve listed.

From what I understand, this proposed center, as of right now, is expected to house the offices and meeting spaces of the three previously listed groups, as well as the international student organizations. These groups involve approximately 700 people, more than 500 of them international students.

The maximum capacity of the Mosaic Center is projected to be 60 people. According to an architect in charge of the renovation project, even that number was pushing its limits.

I will admit the Mosaic Center seems like a great idea, I’m not denying that whatsoever, but myself and several others who utilize the existing spaces know such a space cannot even begin to suit each individual group’s

needs.

While all of our groups collaborate and interact with each other almost every day, they each serve a different purpose and have different reasons for being considered safe spaces amongst students. Combining them all with the international students will not create a super safe space. No, it just doesn’t work that way.

I’m sorry administration, but expecting us to all thrive and flourish in the space that the ROC is currently housed is not embracing diversity for what it is — multifaceted. You wouldn’t combine all of the departments of this university into one building and expect everything to function as it normally does without running into issues.

Students utilizing the already existing spaces and more recently myself have been fighting to keep the three spaces autonomous for the better portion of two years, if not longer. We have met with different people in the school and student union’s administration numerous times and have only received backlash in response.

Administration’s, more so Director Layne Anderson’s, argument time and time again about the relocation is that all of our spaces are temporary, and this will be their permanent home. Our spaces want to remain autonomous. Let the international students have a home in the Mosaic Center. With their numbers, it is well overdue that they get their own space.

Recently students, including myself, have taken to Twitter, using the hashtag #spacesinsolidarity, to try to gain momentum and support. We will also be increasing our outreach soon.

If this is the first time you are hearing about any of these spaces and would like to visit them, the American Indian Research and Resource Center is in CMU 111, the Rainbow Dragon Center is in CMU 218 and the Anita Bender Women’s Center is in Bridges 154. Each of the spaces are generally open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, with specific hours varying by each center.

## Stop abhorring herbivores: Keep your hate off my plate



BY ZANA POMMIER  
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The easiest part of being a vegetarian is avoiding meat products. Yes, you read that correctly.

The hardest part? Dealing with people who feel entitled to comment on your lifestyle choices.

As someone who’s been a vegetarian for six years, I have a lot of experience with overly-concerned people who seem to always make my dinner plate their own business.

A lot of people like food because they feel like it’s the only thing they have full control over in their lives. This is not true in the lives of vegetarians, who are constantly bombarded at meals

with unwarranted comments from nearly everyone around them.

Despite being such a personal choice, parents feel the need to inform you that you’re just “going through a phase” while friends spurt out “are you sure you don’t want a bite?”

Yes, I’m really sure I don’t want a hunk of your supersized, growth-hormone induced chicken breast.

I don’t care that your “crazy, liberal, lesbian aunt with 15 cats is a vegetarian and is so unhealthy.”

I would much rather hang out with someone open-minded like her than sit here and listen to your condescending comments every time we go out for lunch together.

Then comes the question, “Don’t you just miss meat? Doesn’t this smell so good?”

Actually, no. The longer I go without meat, the more repelled I am by it. And please, don’t tell me you’re actually offended I don’t want to enjoy your hunk of dead animal remains.

Then comes Thanksgiving dinner, when your grandma just can’t accept your choices and slathers gravy all over your plate.

Thanks, Grandma. I always wanted a heaping plate of death on a day of appreciation and thanks.

Afterwards, your cousin, deciding to put you on the spot and

bring an argument to the dinner table, asks with a mouthful of turkey, “Hey, why did you become a vegetarian anyway?”

Gee, I don’t know, to save animals? To reduce air pollution? To minimize water pollution? To lower my risk for obesity, diabetes and cancer? To add 13 years to my life? Take your pick.

The best part is when other people feel the need to apologize on your behalf. While chatting with people and making plans for a barbecue, your friend turns to everyone, and with the biggest, most innocent eyes, explains, “Oh God, I’m sorry. My friend is a vegetarian.”

The word “vegetarian” itself just seems to make people pause. It’s almost as if you just told someone you steal people’s underwear.

In actuality, I try my best not to inconvenience anyone with my food choices. Whenever I go anywhere for more than a few hours, I make sure I bring something I can eat.

I don’t feel the need to apologize to anyone for what I put in my body. Not that it’s anyone’s business, but I make sure I get the nutrients I need.

I am a perfectly healthy person, so please leave your criticisms off my dinner plate.





# Features



## Film student wins Freedom of Speech PSA Competition

SUBMITTED

This marks the third consecutive year an MSUM student has won a national award in the Freedom of Speech PSA Competition.

BY ALEXA GERBER  
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“What if you didn’t have freedom of speech?” challenged MSUM film student Naoya Uchida. Apparently, a man in a black suit would appear to take care of the dissenters.

At least, that’s what happens in Uchida’s PSA. The short video recently took the top prize at the National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation’s Freedom of Speech PSA Competition. Participants were tasked

with creating a 30-second TV or radio spot answering the question, “What does freedom of speech mean to me?” Uchida’s spot won him a \$3,000 scholarship.

The project was assigned to Uchida and the other students of Professor Martin Grindeland’s class Video Production for Ad, News and PR, through the School of Communication and Journalism last spring.

“First, I researched freedom of speech, because I didn’t know about it before professor Grindeland assigned the project,” said

Uchida, an international student from Kanagawa, Japan. Though the finished project ended up being humorous, that wasn’t what he was originally planning.

“Actually, my first idea was very serious and kind of criticizing the weak ends of freedom of speech,” he said. “But I talked to Professor Grindeland and made changes, then it ended up being what I finally made.”

After looking at the previous winning videos, Uchida noticed a trend — they were all very serious, and ended up looking pretty

similar.

“It is always difficult to predict what judges will like in a national contest,” Grindeland said. “Naoya’s Freedom of Speech PSA had an interesting strategy. He was trying to be both serious and a little humorous. Obviously, the judges must have appreciated that combination.”

Uchida has been studying film production at MSUM since his freshman year, and also has a minor in photojournalism.

“I’ve had many difficulties through my college life

and the projects that I have done, but all of them are very valuable lessons for me and I really appreciate that,” Uchida said.

“He is a hard worker with very high standards,” Grindeland said. “All of his projects in the class were very strong. Clearly, he has a gift to tell stories with a camera and a microphone.”

Outside of the classroom, Uchida often works on the Campus News program and is passionate about photography and documenting other cultures, something he gained from

traveling around the world. Perhaps his greatest passion, though, is filmmaking — and he believes freedom of speech is a key part of it.

“There are many opinions about freedom of speech today, but personally, I believe if there was no freedom of speech, I wouldn’t be able to do what I’m doing now, such as filmmaking,” he said. “My favorite part of filmmaking is putting my message in my films and telling my audience the message through them. Therefore I need to have freedom of speech.”

## Freshman creates film festival for high school students



BY SAMANTHA STARK  
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Film production freshman Rachel Soland has dreamed of going into film since she was a kid.

“In 8th grade, I realized that people made careers out of work in the film industry and I knew it was what I wanted to do,” she said.

Coming from a Midwest high school of 700 students that didn’t provide an outlet for film fanatics, Soland worried she would never have the opportunity to showcase her talents and express her passion for film.

Motivated, Soland started her high school’s first film production organization her sophomore year. The AV Club mostly filmed sporting events for the news, but with the equipment provided by the telecom company, they were able to make other videos as well.

“I led two film projects, which were basically commercials for local businesses,” Soland said. “In high school, this was the biggest opportunity I was given

to pursue something I love.”

This experience sparked her idea for the Red River High School Film Festival sponsored by film professor Anthony Adah and the Film Loop, an MSUM organization dedicated to film discussion and debate.

*“Now, as a freshman in college, I want to be able to provide an opportunity for other high schoolers looking for a way to showcase their art as well”*

“Now as a freshman in college, I want to be able to provide an opportunity for other

high schoolers looking for a way to showcase their art as well, whether their school provides any film opportunities or not,” she said.

The film festival is geared toward students in Minnesota and North Dakota exclusively. Soland said that high school students must lead the project, although actors or crew can be of any age.

“The friends I’ve made in the MSUM Film Loop have helped a lot,” Soland said.

The deadline to submit films is Mar. 31, and there is a late fee of \$10 if the film is submitted after the deadline. Films can be of any length or genre.

Soland said they are planning on having three screening festivals on Apr. 25.

The location is still to be determined, though she said she had her sights on Weld auditorium.

Interested high school students can upload their productions to a video-sharing site like YouTube or Vimeo and email the link to solandra@mnstate.edu. Otherwise, they may send a hard copy to 316 Dahl, Moorhead, Minn.

FACEBOOK

Film production freshman Rachel Soland said although there are currently no submissions for her film festival, there is “definitely some interest.”



# Features

## World-traveling student encourages study abroad

MARIE VEILLETTE  
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Throughout all of the 2014 academic year, junior Jade Choung studied abroad in multiple locations, including Central America and the island of Guam, and teaching English as a second language along the way.

For Choung, traveling has been a lifelong desire, but she wasn't always confident about going off on her own.

"I've always wanted to travel, but I didn't know about getting a passport," Choung said. "I kind of felt comfortable here. You feel comfortable when you live in the Midwest."

But from the long list of places she's been, people wouldn't think she ever had doubts about jetting off to a new location thousands of miles away from her Fargo home.

Her last year of college was spent in two foreign locations, and she's also visited Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Nyrobi, Myanmar and Southeast Asia.

Last spring, Choung arranged her schedule to take all online classes. Then she booked a flight to Central America. Due to her extensive traveling outside of academic purposes, Choung had friends in multiple countries on the continent. Though she wasn't technically enrolled in any study abroad program, she earned credits while exploring and sightseeing.

Because she was taking classes through MSUM and not tied to a campus, Choung took the opportunity to immerse herself in the culture.

"I don't really travel to where you would say it's luxurious by any means," she said. "It's more of a backpacker style. I got to see a lot more of the actual culture."

This fall, Choung participated in the National Student Exchange program through MSUM. She chose to study on the island of Guam because "it was farthest away from Fargo."

"Another big reason why I picked it was because it has a lot of influence from the Japanese,

and the Spanish used to be over there, so I got to see a big mix of culture."

She added that choosing Guam was a last minute decision, as most of her travel plans were made, but "it was a really good choice."

*"I just want to share my love for different cultures and people all over the world"*

"When it came to Guam, I was on my own," she said. "I had to get a car on my own, otherwise it's kind of hard to travel around the island."

This experience included a dorm room and physical campus with classes to attend.

"I lived in the dorms and made friends right off the bat," she said.

While both experiences were valuable, Choung said they differed in ways she was and was not expecting.

She found Guam was much more similar to the United States.

"In Guam I felt like there was a lot of western influence," she said. "Media has a huge impact. Everybody is thinking about beauty. In Guatemala people are thinking about how they are going to supply for their family."

Choung was also surprised at the prevalent prejudice she encountered on the island.

"The Islanders in Guam, they're from different islands, and they would speak about each other not the most positively," she said. "That was kind of hard for me to accept."

But she said the differences she's noticed in the multiple countries she's visited has made her "more open to different perspectives."

"I learned that in this country

I do feel spoiled," she said. "I have everything I really need. I'll travel and someone will not have enough money to afford food or might have no shirts that don't have any stains on them. It changes your life and makes you want to do better for your local community."

"One guy I met, all he wanted in his entire life was one shirt that was his, so that was pretty amazing. I was just able to donate, and that changed a lot of things for him, surprisingly."

As far as how her major ties in to all her experiences, Choung said she feels more confident she is pursuing the right career.

"As a future teacher it makes me realize that I can have a big impact on the world," she said.

But how could a college student afford to travel so frequently? Choung is a popular artist on deviantART, producing

commissions for anyone from her fans to popular music artists like Skrillex. She uses the profits from her art, plus general donations from her fans, to fund her trips across the globe.

"Some of my sponsors like that I'm a traveling artist," Choung said. "I promote myself as an artist that doesn't like to stay in one place, that likes to travel. I've always wanted to see if my art can get farther than just the states."

When she is ready to fund another trip, Choung lets her followers know.

"I open up a little post saying I'm willing to do drawings for this amount, and I have this many slots. Usually they really support me. I save the money and go."

For students who may be apprehensive about taking their college experience to a new country, Choung has advice to

belay the nerves.

"You should be more excited than scared, because I think that puts up a wall," she said.

She suggests doing research to discover more information about possible destinations, contacting people who have traveled, like herself or professors in language departments or the study abroad office, as well as visiting government websites to find out what countries require visas to enter and researching other laws that may be pertinent.

Choung will speak in March to Spanish classes at North High School about her travels and encourage students to continue with their language learning courses and consider traveling.

"I just want to share my love for different cultures and people all over the world."

Choung has another trip to Guatemala planned for March.



SUBMITTED  
Junior Jade Choung hikes in Mangilao, Guam, where she studied at the University of Guam.

**The Advocate**  
is back on Twitter.



Give us a follow  
**@MSUMadvocate**

*We're  
back.*





# Sports

## Former Olympian shares story to combat stereotypes of homelessness



BRITTANY SWENSON • swensonbri@mnstate.edu

A panel of employees and clients of The Dorothy Day House in Moorhead preceded Harris' presentation and took questions from the audience regarding the needs of the organization, the assumptions surrounding homelessness and how the public can help combat the issue.



BRITTANY SWENSON • swensonbri@mnstate.edu

Danny Harris spoke to MSUM students Thursday about his battle with addiction and struggles of life on Los Angeles' Skid Row.

**BY MARIE VEILLETTE  
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Danny Harris, a former Olympian, cocaine addict and homeless man, in that order, traveled to MSUM from California to share his life story.

Harris was given a full ride scholarship to Iowa State University for his outstanding ability in football and running hurdles. By his freshman year, Harris had competed in the Olympic games and taken the silver medal in 400-meter hurdles. By his junior year, he had signed a contract with Nike.

Though the contract was an exciting and lucrative addition to his college experience, Harris said the added income, amounting to six figures, made it hard for him to keep hold of reality or attend classes on a regular basis.

Harris admitted to being a regular marijuana smoker from high school through college, but it didn't take long for him to try stronger substances.

"Weed was my drug," Harris said. "I started smoking weed ever since my mom died when I was 14. By the time I was 24 years old, I had tried cocaine for the first time."

The addiction was solidified his first try, and became a problem that would eventually contribute to his disqualification from competitive track races and eventually, homelessness.

"Cocaine had an effect on me and made me want to do it more," Harris said. "There was just something about it that caused me to want to get high all the time."

As an active drug user, the International Amateur Athletic Federation suspended Harris after he tested positive for cocaine twice. Rather than feeling embarrassed or remorseful at his removal, the depth of his addiction caused him to feel something much different.

"It let the pressure off me," Harris said. "I didn't have to hide anymore. I plunged deep, headlong into my addiction."

At the urging of family, friends and his sponsor, Harris entered a rehab clinic program that lasted 28 days and cost \$32,000, an expense Nike agreed to bear.

It didn't work. Not too long after, Nike ended their contract with Harris.

In the time between entering his first rehab program and overcoming his addiction, he would enter 10 more in an attempt to quit his cocaine addiction.

After what remained of his savings dwindled, Harris lost his house, car and nearly everything else he owned, and moved to making a way for himself on the streets. He talked of the "incomprehensible demoralization" of his sister and young nieces watching his struggle with cocaine, but even that feeling wasn't enough to make him stop.

Harris elaborated on his experience with homelessness, saying he used to sneak into hotels to steal food from their continental breakfasts, as well as being a regular plasma donor to earn money to pay for his addiction and small amounts of food.

He ended up at the Midnight Mission on Skid Row in Los Angeles, a homeless shelter that only houses men, and stayed there for eight months. He overcame his cocaine addiction, met his wife and participated in filming a couple movies, earning \$10,000 in six weeks.

Harris played a small role in

the movie "The Soloist" featuring Robert Downey Jr. and recounting the true story of the life of former Julliard student, now homeless man, Nathaniel Ayers, played by Jamie Foxx.

Harris had a more prominent role in a Netflix documentary "Lost Angels" telling true stories of homeless individuals on Skid Row.

With his life moving back in a positive direction, Harris received a call from Iowa State University asking if he would come back and complete his degree on the full-ride scholarship he had been given. Harris went back to finish his final year of school and graduated nearly 20 years after he had first enrolled.

"It meant something to me to finish that and get a degree," he said. "It was time for me to step up and be the person I really want to be."

With a degree in hand, Harris went back to the Midnight Mission, but this time as an employee. He worked as the group manager, overseeing the service of one million meals and the residency of 253 men.

"The people that came in really got to me," Harris said. "I felt a connection with them since I used to

be homeless. These were real people, real families, real children and none of them deserved it."

Harris recently left the mission to finish writing his autobiography and film the story of his life with a documentary filmmaker.

To wrap up his speech, Harris shared some of his knowledge about what is happening to the homeless in Los Angeles. Recently, laws have been put in place that hinder the assistive measures people can take to help, as well as increasing police presence and punishments for minor offenses.

"They've criminalized even the act of trying to help someone on the street," Harris said.

One law in particular mandated the homeless remain within a six-block radius. This small area has a police force of 140 officers dedicated to it.

"When you contain something, you marginalize it," Harris said. "It just hurts that ... we're just going to contain the issue, but only in this certain area."

He also expressed his disgust at the law's wording, never directly naming the homeless, but rather

calling them "the problem."

"Every human being has value," Harris said. "Every soul has value. We just have to scratch some of the dust off to see we have some real gems."

While he recognized the complete end of homelessness is not likely with one solution, he stressed the need to combat laws and rulings like the ones enacted on Skid Row.

"We're not going to eradicate it," he said. "But we can do better."

Preceding Harris' lecture, a panel of two employees and two current clients of The Dorothy Day House in Moorhead took questions from the audience, and shared ways people can help through volunteerism and donations.

Currently, the house is in need of winter gear, especially gloves and hats. The recent onset of the below zero temperatures has led them to see an increase of frostbite in their clients.

Those interested in volunteering can contact the house about participating in game night or preparing a meal for the clients. All meals are volunteer-prepared and served to the current residents.



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Members of the MSUM Track & Field team pose for a picture with olympian Danny Harris after his presentation.



# Sports

## Bosch leads Dragon wrestling 'family' by example

BY TURNER BLAUFUSS  
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The Dragon wrestling team has shown promise on the mats this season, but sophomore Blake Bosch is making a name for himself as one of the top wrestlers in the country. Ranked No. 6 in the nation, Bosch is hoping to reach his goal of being crowned a national champion.

Bosch, who wrestles at 133 pounds, credits his season's success to his physical and mental preparation leading up to a match. The sophomore from Wishek, N.D. doesn't let anything affect his focus.

"My conditioning has improved immensely," Bosch said. "I'm probably in the best shape I've ever been in. Being mentally tougher, too, I think I'm mentally prepared for all my matches."

Although Bosch credits his success to his attitude heading into a match, coach Kris Nelson says it's what he does after a match that

separates him from other wrestlers in the country.

"One thing about Blake is he never gets down," Nelson said. "He's looking to get better everyday. He has suffered some losses this year. He doesn't let it get to him. He comes back and figures out what he needs to work on for next time. He doesn't let something bother him and keeps his goals in mind. He wants to be a national champion, and he's going to do whatever he has to do to reach that goal."

Early in the season the Dragons wrestled at the Bison Open and Bosch held his own against Division I opponents. Bosch has since wrestled some ranked opponents and is making a strong case for himself heading into the regional tournament. Nelson credits Bosch as his young wrestler that is setting an example to follow.

"Blake Bosch is an individual that's been having a great year so far," Nelson said. "He leads

everyday in practice. He's one of the most consistent wrestlers we have on the team."

Bosch's leadership is one of his greatest contributions to the Dragons, and his coaches and teammates agreed. After only one season in a Dragon singlet, the team voted Bosch as a team captain.

"That doesn't happen a lot," Nelson said. "At the end of the year we sit down as coaches to see who worked the hardest, who accomplished the most, who we feel the guys look up to, and at the same time, we let the individuals vote, and he was voted by his peers to be the captain of the team, and he's done a great job."

The wrestler describes his team as a close-knit group with the coaching staff guiding the athletes throughout their college years on and off the mat.

"Especially this season, we've grown together as a family, Bosch said. "Nelson is like a father to us. Traveling to New York and San

Francisco we've grown close. We're a good group of friends and basically brothers. Nelson and all of our other coaches are great role models. They can be our friends when we need them to as well. We go to them if we have trouble."

Bosch, who made it to the national tournament last season wrestling at 125, will now prepare for the regional tournament. The top four advance to nationals and Nelson says Bosch should make it past regionals. However, in one of the toughest regions in the country, nothing is guaranteed.

"When we recruited him that was our goal for him," Nelson said. "Our goal is for him to be a national champion in his time here. Hopefully he can do it a number of times. If he puts together a good tournament, I think he could be a national champion."

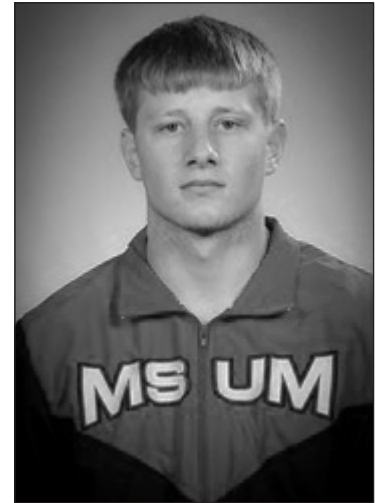
To reach All-American status at nationals, a wrestler must finish in the top eight.

Bosch has his eyes set on the prize, and his goal isn't to finish

top four in the regionals or to finish top eight at nationals.

"First, I want to be a regional champion then a national champion from there," Bosch said.

The regional tournament will be held Friday and Saturday in Mankato, Minn. The first match will begin at 10 a.m.



MSUM Wrestler Blake Bosch

## Dragon women prepare for NSIC tourney matchup with Upper Iowa



SAMANTHA GARDNER

Senior guard and leading scorer (17.8 PPG) Meghan Roehrich lines up an outside shot against St. Cloud State earlier this year.

BY TOMI THOMPSON  
thompsono@mnstate.edu

The MSUM Women's Basketball team is entering tournament season with big goals ahead.

Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference/Sanford Health basketball tournament play kicks off Wednesday night.

The Dragon women and men are high seeds in the tournament, and host first round games at Nemzek.

The women take on Upper Iowa at 6 p.m., and the men play Wayne State at 8 p.m.

The Dragons defeated Upper Iowa on January 2, 71-67 in Moorhead.

A stellar performance from Heather Strese highlighted the win. The junior forward put up 24 points and snared 14 rebounds in the team's previous match up.

Sharp shooting sophomore Morgan Banasik also added 16 points and will look to provide some scoring balance to Strese's inside presence.

The women are ranked second

in the NSIC North. They go into the playoffs with an overall 15-11 record and are 14-8 in the NSIC.

Upper Iowa is seeded seventh in the NSIC South division.

The theme of the playoff games is Glow Dragons. Two hundred and fifty glow-in-the-dark t-shirts will be given to fans. Other glow-in-the-dark accessories will be handed out at the game. Fans are encouraged to wear other glow-in-the-dark attire.

For lone senior Meghan Roehrich, this year will be her last tournament as a Dragon basketball player.

Roehrich said the team has been focused on their overall game and confidence as a team.

"We have been playing hard and together," said Roehrich, "We have a goal of winning a championship"

When the season turns to playoff time, Roehrich said the element of teamwork keeps the women working hard physically and mentally.

"Knowing we have each others' backs, and knowing how

strong our friendships are on our team makes it easier to keep going and keep playing for each other at the end of the year" she said.

Roehrich said the team is more than a group of girls playing basketball together; their friendship off the court strengthens their game time performance.

"I love coming to practice and games knowing that I get to play with my best friends," Roehrich said. "I think that we have an advantage over other teams because our bond of friendship is so strong. That's what makes a good team."

MSUM is 9-15 all-time in the conference tournament, and is one of only three teams to qualify for all 16 NSIC tournaments.

If they win the Dragon women would advance to the second round of the tournament at the Pentagon in Sioux Falls, S.D. The second-round match up would pit them against the winner of Winona State (#3 in the NSIC South) vs. the University of Mary (#6 in the NSIC North).

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# News



ETHAN DEGREEE • degreet@mnstate.edu

Prof. Lin Enger, currently on sabbatical, was the subject of the first Tom McGrath Visiting Series event this semester. Enger gave a reading of his newest novel "The High Divide." Set in 1886, the novel is written from four different perspectives and follows a family recently disrupted by its father's disappearance after secrets surface about his life before marriage. The book is available for purchase in hardback.

## ASSAULT, FROM FRONT

provides a supportive community of people who have either experienced violence against women, or who understand it, and that's not something that the larger campus community offers," she said.

Esslinger said feminist spaces like the Women's Center help to place issues that affect women in the forefront of public attention.

"Women's stories have historically been left out of the conversation," Esslinger said. "Feminism in relationship to sexual assault and violence is particularly important because it dignifies our realities with histories and stories and gives women a forum to express themselves and ultimately change society."

Duckworth said upon learning of the Mosaic Center, many of

the task force's members were concerned, citing priorities for the clinical and mental health of survivors.

"There wasn't anyone who really spoke up or argued for [the Mosaic Center] at the meeting," he said, adding a reference to one task force member who critically dubbed the proposed space the 'island of misfit toys.'

Students have been concerned about the center in that it could eliminate safe, autonomous spaces on campus in lieu of a merge into the community area, which administration says would allow for improved collaboration among student groups.

"The places that have fairly successful diversity programs, like Mankato or St. Cloud, have a community space where the members of the diversity outposts

or centers can congregate and collaborate, but they also still retain their own unique and separate establishments," Duckworth said.

He said the task force has made a point to be committed to improving the campus community regardless of requests for moderation.

"The constant theme has been 'We need to be bold. We need to be firm. We need to put pressure and focus on these things,'" Duckworth said. "When people have suggested toning down or trying to alter, we've had discussions about how we can't afford to moderate."

Students can expect to start seeing task force implementations soon, as the group's recommendations are due to Blackhurst by Mar. 1.

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2/19	Craft beer tasting 5-7PM
3/5	3rd Thursday tasting 5-8PM
3/19	Craft beer tasting 5-7PM
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5/7	3rd Thursday tasting 5-8PM
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