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## Student Honors and Awards Program 2009

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**MORRIS**

2009  
Honors and Awards  
Ceremony

In recognition of students who demonstrate  
academic excellence and enrich campus life

Friday, May 15, 2009, 7 p.m.  
Edson Auditorium, Student Center



# 2009 Student Honors and Awards Ceremony

Welcome.....Cheryl Contant, vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean  
University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association Teaching Award.....presented by Brian Ulrich '98, president  
Bradley Deane, associate professor of English

Thanks to the generosity of the alumni association, the campus recognizes outstanding professors and their contributions to undergraduate education through the University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association Teaching Award.

Address.....*Morris Saves the World*.....Bradley Deane  
associate professor of English

Chancellor's Award.....presented by Jacqueline Johnson, chancellor  
Nathan Lael Giles, St. Paul  
Breanne Jill Suter, St. Michael

Presented annually to outstanding seniors on the basis of academic excellence and contribution to campus life, the chancellor of the University of Minnesota, Morris makes the Chancellor's Award selection after consulting with various campus groups.

Curtis H. Larson Award.....presented by Jacqueline Johnson, chancellor  
Nathan Lael Giles, St. Paul

The Curtis H. Larson award is conferred upon the graduate chosen as senior class speaker. The selection is made by faculty and graduating seniors. The award was established in memory of the late Curtis Larson, the University of Minnesota, Morris's first class speaker in 1964, who lost his life in an accident while serving with the Peace Corps in Ecuador following his graduation.

Katherine E. Sullivan Scholarship.....recognized by Jacqueline Johnson, chancellor  
Melinda Kernik, White Bear Lake

Awarded by the University of Minnesota Office of International Programs, the all-University Katherine E. Sullivan Scholarship honors high-achieving University seniors with financial support for a fifth year of undergraduate study in another country.

Udall Scholarship.....recognized by Jacqueline Johnson, chancellor  
Tara Greiman, Dayton

The nationally competitive scholarship awarded by the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation honors scholars on the basis of a commitment to careers in the environment, health care, or tribal public policy, leadership potential, and academic achievement. The scholarship honors Congressman Udall who served in the House of Representatives for three decades, a career distinguished by civility, integrity, and consensus.

Truman Scholarship.....recognized by Jacqueline Johnson, chancellor  
Kellcee Baker, Audubon  
Ashley Gaschk, Bismarck, North Dakota

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation recognizes college juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to making a difference through public service by providing financial support for graduate study, leadership training, and fellowship with other students.

Allen W. Edson Award.....presented by Sandra Olson-Loy, vice chancellor for student affairs  
Matt Abbott, St. Paul

Presented annually in recognition of contribution to campus life, the Allen W. Edson Award recipient is chosen by the executive board of the Morris Campus Student Association, student members of the Campus Assembly, and the faculty. The award honors Allen Edson, superintendent of the University of Minnesota West Central School of Agriculture and Experiment Station on the Morris campus from 1947 to 1958. He joined the WCSA staff in 1921.

Mary Martelle Memorial Award.....presented by Sandra Olson-Loy, vice chancellor for student affairs  
Nathan Lael Giles, St. Paul, student recipient  
Carol McCannon, associate administrator, Office of Student Activities, staff recipient

Presented annually to a student and to a staff member deemed to have made outstanding contributions to the quality of Morris campus life, the Mary Martelle Memorial Award perpetuates the memory of Mary Martelle, senior secretary in the Office of Student Activities from 1965 until her death in 1976.

Scholar of the College Award.....presented by James Togeas, professor of chemistry  
Functions and Awards Committee, chair

Jeremy Bleichner, Eagan	Owen Kinsky, Woodbury	Samuel Potter, Long Prairie
Zachary Boser, Zimmerman	Stuart Kohl, Denver, Iowa	Charles Rudeen, Bird Island
Jim Davison, Burnsville	Pam Lindenberg, Alvarado	Sara Russell, Duluth
Ashley Deering, Cottage Grove	Sabuoan Nasser, Hengelo, Netherlands	Josie Skala, Mankato
Erin Denman, Minneapolis	Sheila Nezhad, Woodbury	Laura Thoma, Minnetonka
Rui Ding, Great Neck, New York	Bradley Nix, Melrose	KauChee Vang, St. Paul
Nicole Dobmeier, Willmar	Nolan Nordlund, Clearbrook	Benjamin Wheeler, Racine, Minnesota
Seth Ferrey, Mahtomedi	Kate Novotny, Woodbury	Sarah Winikoff, Edina
Katrina Flaig, Anoka	Adam Olson, White Bear Lake	
Jessica Henry, Roseville	Veronica Olson, Fertile	

Scholar of the College awards are presented annually to students who demonstrate distinguished contributions to scholarship in one or more of the academic disciplines.

Edith Rodgers Farrell Memorial Award for Undergraduate Research.....Peh Ng, professor of mathematics  
Sam Potter, Long Prairie

Established by the family, students, and friends of Edith Rodgers Farrell, late professor of French and undergraduate research advocate, the annual award is granted to a graduating senior whose research is judged by a jury of faculty to be excellent.

American Indian Salt Springs Treaty Cultural Awards.....presented by Julie Pelletier, assistant professor of anthropology  
Jenna Reiser, Bismarck, North Dakota  
Robyn Straw, Onamia  
Christopher Blahna, Sartell  
Natalie Crazy, Harlem, Montana

American Indian Salt Springs Teacher Scholarship.....presented by Julie Pelletier, assistant professor of anthropology  
Taelyn Coffee, Juneau, Alaska  
Kayla Goodridge, Hutchinson

The American Indian Salt Springs Awards are presented on the basis of academic excellence and contribution to the Indian and campus community to outstanding American Indian students who will return to the Morris campus next year.

Honors Program Recognition.....presented by Bradley Deane, assistant professor of English  
Honors Program adviser  
Kelsey Hagen, Minnetonka  
Ruth Hamberg, Oakdale  
Elijah Mayfield, Fergus Falls  
Claire Stover, Columbus, Wisconsin

Honors Program graduates receive "with honors" on their transcripts for having completed a unique interdisciplinary curriculum that is team-taught by faculty from different academic divisions and disciplines. They have earned at least a 3.5 grade point average and have defended an interdisciplinary senior honors project before a panel of faculty.

William R. Scarborough Memorial Award.....presented by Judy Kuechle, chair, Division of Education  
Audrey L. Nomeland, Osakis

Presented annually to a senior in elementary or secondary education, the William R. Scarborough Memorial Award recognizes demonstrated competence and potential for becoming an outstanding member of the teaching profession. The award honors the memory of William Scarborough, former Division of Education chair, who joined the faculty in 1966 and made many contributions to the Morris campus and to public education in Minnesota.

Athletic Awards.....presented by Mark V. Fohl, director, Athletics Program

Arnold Henjum Scholar-Athlete.....Matt Fragodt, Becker  
Presented to a senior male athlete on the basis of academic and athletic excellence and integrity, the award honors Arnold Henjum, professor of education from September 1964 to June 1992, who made innumerable contributions to Minnesota public education.

Willis Kelly Award.....Allie Betsch, Estelline, South Dakota  
Presented to a senior woman athlete who exemplifies the spirit of competition at Morris in women's athletics, the award is in memory of Willis Kelly, physical education coach and athletic director at Morris for more than 20 years. She was the first director of women's athletics in 1975 and served as director of men's and women's athletics from 1982 until her retirement in 1987.

Women's Honor Athlete Award.....Allie Betsch, Estelline, South Dakota  
Selected by a committee of coaches on the basis of academic and athletic achievement, recipients of the Honor Athlete Awards have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

Men's Honor Athlete Award.....Scott Harder, Mountain Lake  
Selected by a committee of coaches on the basis of academic and athletic achievement, recipients of the Honor Athlete Awards have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

Musical Selection .....*La Canzone di Doretta*.....Giacomo Puccini  
Laura Woltjer, Little Falls, soprano, accompanied by pianist Diane DeJong, teaching specialist

Humanities Awards.....presented by Janet Schrunk Ericksen, chair, Division of the Humanities

Natalie Benoit Memorial Award.....Debbie Covart, Ramsey  
Presented to a junior or senior who demonstrates ability and shows promise as a serious art student. Given by George and Joan Benoit, former Morris residents, in memory of their daughter who was an art major studying at Penn State when an accident took her life.

Dik Munson Art Award.....Fran Knapp, LaFarge, Wisconsin  
Daniel Nelson, Dayton  
Presented to outstanding first- and second-year studio art students demonstrating creative potential in future discipline course work. This award is intended for purchase of materials and supplies for the recipient's artwork and experimentation with new media.

Art History Book Award.....Calla S. Bjorklund, Arlington, South Dakota  
Awarded to a graduating art history major, this award recognizes academic excellence and potential for further achievement in the arts.

Alumni Award for Outstanding English Major.....Benjamin Wheeler, Racine, Minnesota  
This award is presented to a graduating English major whose performance in English classes has been consistently superior and who has made positive contributions to the discipline or major in and beyond the classroom.

Keith Carlson Memorial Jazz Award.....James Jarvie, Cokato  
Presented annually to the most outstanding jazz musician at Morris, this award is given in memory of Keith Carlson by Jack and Ethel Carlson.

Betty Peterson Memorial Accompanying Award..... Kati Marie Hamlin, Springfield  
Presented to a music or nonmusic major whose accompanying is of exceptionally high quality, the annual award was established in memory of Betty Peterson by family and friends.

Brion Dalager Memorial Award.....Michelle Bielat, Sartell  
Nicole Dobmeier, Willmar  
Kati Hamlin, Springfield  
Adam Schmiesing, Swanville

Established by the family and friends of the late Brion Dalager, University of Minnesota, Morris music student from 1969 to 1972, this scholarship is awarded annually to students who have demonstrated outstanding ability on a band instrument.

The Raymond J. Lammers Award in the Language Arts  
to be added

Science and Mathematics Awards.....presented by Michael Korth, chair, Division of Science and Mathematics

Jay Y. Roshal Award.....Matthew Bombyk  
Presented to a senior student majoring in biology who demonstrates the most promise and interest in a career in the biological sciences, the award is in honor of Jay Roshal, professor of biology from 1960-1983 and the first University of Minnesota, Morris Division of Science and Mathematics chair.

spdf Chemistry Award.....Stuart Kohl, St. Cloud  
The annual spdf award is given to a senior chemistry major demonstrating outstanding scholarship, potential, and service in chemistry.

Freshman Chemistry Award.....Jennifer Schmidt, St. Cloud  
This award, honoring a first-year student's outstanding performance in a chemistry class, is given by the Chemical Rubber Company.

Clemens "Johnny" Brauer Memorial Award.....Jacob William Leader, St. Paul  
Emmaline Schlosser, Nelson  
Zoe Danielle Weis, Sitka, Alaska

Established by former colleagues and students to honor the memory of Clemens Brauer, associate professor of geology from 1966 to 1981 who passed away in May 2003, this award supports geology majors in their educational pursuits at the University of Minnesota, Morris by providing financial assistance to cover field camp expenses. Recipients must exhibit academic excellence and plan a professional or academic career in the geological sciences.

Social Science Awards.....presented by Pareena Lawrence, chair, Division of the Social Sciences

Mimi Frenier Award in Women's Studies.....Laura Weldy, Oakdale  
This award was established by colleagues, students, alumni, friends, and the University of Minnesota, Morris Commission on Women in recognition of Professor Emeritus of History Mariam Frenier's dedication to Morris and in appreciation for her contributions to the development of the women's studies major. It is annually granted to a junior or senior women's studies major in recognition of high academic achievement, and social, political, and civic activism.

Ted Underwood Award in History.....Melinda Kernik, White Bear Lake  
Presented to a graduating senior with a major or minor in history or a history concentration in the social science major who has demonstrated distinguished academic performance in history, the award is named for Dr. Ted L. Underwood, who served the University of Minnesota, Morris as an outstanding scholar, teacher, and administrator from 1967 until his retirement in 1999.

Chris Berg Memorial Award.....Matt A. Nelson, Chaska  
Presented annually to an outstanding senior economics major demonstrating academic excellence in that field, this award is presented by the University of Minnesota, Morris economics/management faculty in memory of their late colleague, Chris Berg.

Gieske Academic Award.....Alex Murphy, Plymouth  
Offered annually to outstanding political science majors in their senior year, this award is given to students who have an exceptional record of accomplishment at the University of Minnesota, Morris as well as strong prospects for success after graduation. The award is in memory of Millard Gieske who was a professor in the political science department for more than 15 years. He served as acting chair of the Division of the Social Sciences, was a respected leader in many professional organizations, and the author of many political works.

Dimitra Giannuli Memorial Award.....Melinda Kernik, White Bear Lake  
This annual award is presented based on the excellence of a paper written for any of the history courses offered at the University of Minnesota, Morris. The award was established by colleagues, friends, family, and alumni in memory of Dimitra Giannuli, associate professor of history.

Schneider National Award.....Lisa Lenzmeier, Paynesville  
Presented to an economics or management student who has demonstrated outstanding research abilities and maintained academic excellence, the award is funded by Schneider National, Incorporated.

Sociology/Anthropology Book Award.....Jared Walhowe, Buffalo  
Awarded to an outstanding sociology and/or anthropology student, this honor recognizes academic excellence and active engagement in the fields of sociology and anthropology.

UMM Management/Economics Alumni Award.....Sheila Nezhad, Woodbury  
This award is presented to a graduating discipline senior who has achieved academic excellence and has provided service to the discipline and the Morris campus. It is funded through collective alumni gifts to the management/economics discipline.

Announcements and Closing Remarks .....Cheryl Contant, vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean

With appreciation, we acknowledge the contribution of American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters Jan Wuertz, NAD III, and Carrie Gutzwiller, AC/CI, to the Honors and Awards Ceremony.

## *Additional Honors during the 2008-09 Academic Year*

### **Bos Undergraduate Research Awards**

The Bos Research Fund was established in honor of Angela Bos '01 to enhance the successful undergraduate research experiences of Morris students. Funds are made available to cover expenses for travel, conference registration, and other costs associated with the pursuit of undergraduate research opportunities. All students are eligible to participate.

Ashley Deering, Cottage Grove  
Rui Ding, Great Neck, New York  
Nicole Dobmeier, Willmar  
Seth Ferrey, Mahtomedi  
Katrina Flaig, Anoka  
Katrina Heimark, Aitkin  
Gordon Hicks III, St.Louis Park

Kathryn Julik-Heine, Taylors Falls  
Pam Lindenberg, Alvarado  
Jeshua Livstrom, Roseville  
Michael McBride, Forest Lake  
Victor Melnichuk, Eden Valley  
Cody Miller, Rockford  
Alex Murphy, Plymouth

Sabuoan Nasseri, Hengelo, Netherlands  
Sheila Nezhad, Woodbury  
Adam Olson, White Bear Lake  
Veronica Olson, Fertile  
Sara Russell, Duluth  
Lindsey Senske, Watertown, South Dakota  
KauChee Vang, St. Paul

### **Gieske Internship Award**

The Gieske Internship Award honors the memory of Millard Gieske, University of Minnesota, Morris professor of political science. The award supports political science students who pursue legislative internships in Washington, D.C., or the Minnesota State capitol.  
Michael McBride, Forest Lake

### **Owen and Frances Tate Award**

Established by the Tate family to honor the memories of Owen and Frances Tate, lifelong residents of Big Stone County, and to support student learning activities that do not have other funding sources available. The award provides matching dollars to cover travel expenses for students presenting scholarly work at symposia and professional meetings, engaging in artistic activities, conducting research projects, or performing outside of the campus community, all of which are activities that showcase the University of Minnesota, Morris to a broader learning community.

Ashley Marie-Arlene Deering, Cottage Grove  
Rui Ding, Great Neck, New York



### David Minge Internship Award

The Minge Internship Award supports students seeking Washington, D. C., internships, educational opportunities that former Congressman David Minge values as important and insightful components in learning about public policy process at the federal level. Preference is given to internship participants who integrate the study of peace, justice, conservation, the environment, rural affairs, or similar issues.

Michael McBride, Forest Lake

Matthew Privratsky, Walker

### Rodney A. Briggs Library Student Art Award

The Rodney A. Briggs Library Student Art award recognizes talented University of Minnesota, Morris students and creates a permanent quality library art collection. A committee of two library staff, three library student assistants, and an Academic Services Support Committee member select pieces from each of the art shows.

Michele Leedahl, Glenwood

Mitch McGuire, Annandale

### Honors Recital Selected Performers

Chosen by competitive audition, honors recitalists are recognized for outstanding performances during the academic year.

Kati Hamlin, piano, Springfield

Jessica Henry, French horn, Roseville

Mitch Grussing, piano, Morris

Tricia Johnson, soprano, Monticello

Adam Helgeson, baritone, Ortonville

Bert Michalscheck, tenor, New Brighton

Laura Woltjer, soprano, Little Falls

### Chi Alpha Sigma

Chi Alpha Sigma, the National College Athlete Honor Society, recognizes high academic achievements of student athletes at the collegiate level. Student athletes who contribute significantly to at least one intercollegiate sport while maintaining a 3.4 or higher cumulative GPA throughout their junior and senior years are eligible for membership in Chi Alpha Sigma. The University of Minnesota, Morris chapter, established in 2006, is the only chapter in Minnesota.

Bri Czer '09, New Ulm, volleyball and softball

Joshua Johnson, '10, Stewartville, track

Maddy Gerber '10, Mahtomedi, women's soccer

Seth Harrington '10, New Hope, '10, track

Allison Betsch '09, New Ulm, track

Scott Harder '09, Mountain Lake, track

Megan Croatt '10, Bellingham, track

Joy Heysse '10, St. Cloud, women's basketball

Joseph Weber '10, Roseville, track

Sam Trojan '10, St. Paul, men's golf

Karsten Maurer '09, Champlin Park, track

Matthew Johantgen '09, Ramsey, men's soccer

### Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program

The UROP program affords students an opportunity to perform independent research with University of Minnesota, Morris faculty members. Students gain research skills, similar to those needed for graduate and post-graduate studies; faculty receive valuable assistance in their own research interests. Students who participated in the program are listed first, followed by the faculty they assisted:

Allison Ameluxen/Jamey Jones

Bradley Nix/Van Gooch

Rebecca Lindquist/Nancy Carpenter

Jeremy Bleichner/Elena Machkasova

Samuel Potter/Peh Ng

Michael McBride/Paula O'Loughlin

Zachary Boser/Ted Pappenfus

KauChee Vang/Timna Wyckoff

Prash Naidu/Julie A. Pelletier

Jim Davison/Timna Wyckoff

Kevin Arhelger/Elena Machkasova

Matt Nelson/Stephen J. Gross

Gordon Hicks III/Jamey Jones

Talia Earle/Julia Dabbs

Ashley Jensen/Stephen Martin

Owen Kinsky/Jimmy Schryver

### Morris Student Administrative Fellows

This program offers students of high ability and motivation the opportunity to play an important role in the daily management of campus programs and offices. Students worked with the individuals listed following their name.

Caitlin Anfinson/Stephen Martin

Samuel M. Krump-Johnson/Roger

Jill Schoeppner/Bridget Joos

Erin Booher/Joel Eisinger

Boleman

Chad Seibert/Cindy Poppe

Andrei Brinzila/Thomas McRoberts

Jay Lapham/Rebecca Webb

Rhea Tauer/Jessica Beyer

Ashley Deering/Rebecca Webb

Matt Lauer/Trish Crace

Jacob Thebault-Spieker/Trish Crace

Talia Earle/Julia Dabbs

Moon-Yong Lee/Michael Cihak

Luke Benjamin Toso/Peter Wyckoff and

Katharine M. Engdahl/Paula O'Loughlin

Hui-Ling Lin/Engin Sungur

Troy Goodnough

Kathryn Grabosky/Jessica Beyer

Stephanie Messer/Janell Kolden

Aurora Turgeon/Pareena Lawrence

Evan Gragg/Michael Cihak and Shannon Shi

Dori Minder/Gwen Rudney

Thomas Vail/Leslie Meek and

Jay Heggstad/Chad Braegelmann

Caroline Ougier/Sarah Buchanan

Bryan Herrmann

Amber Heggstad/Michael Eble

Cecelia Perry/Julia Dabbs

Kao Vue/Engin Sungur

Matthew A. Johnson/Sandra Olson-Loy

Joseph E. Rader/Jinzhao Gao

Lyndsey Weber/Pieranna Garavaso and

Rebecca Korth/Timna Wyckoff

Hayley Saccoman/Ray Schultz

Jennifer Rothchild

### Morris Academic Partner Program

In recognition of the value of academic employment to the intellectual development of students and for the opportunity to assist faculty members in their work, this program awards yearlong stipends to academically talented third-year students. These students will undertake assignments which will enhance their intellectual competence and increase their interest in graduate or professional study. Students were paired with the following faculty/staff members:

Jason Biatek/Kristin Lamberty	Kathryn Julik-Heine/Pareena Lawrence	Steven Rice/Sheri Breen
Alexander C. Clausen/Marynel Ryan Van Zee	Sara Lahr/Nic McPhee	Philip Rudney/Dennis Stewart
Jeremy Davis/Yungik Kahng	Lisa Lenzmeier/Stephen V. Burks	Tyler Sable/David Roberts
Nicole Dobmeier/Stephen V. Burks	Andrea Lund/James Wojtaszek	Adam Schmiesing/Martin Seggelke
Seth Ferrey/Jennifer Goodnough	Jonna Maas/Van Gooch	Lindsey Senske/Pamela Solvie
Katrina Lynn Flaig/Jimmy Schryver	Johanna Martin/Sylke Boyd	Collin P. Tierney/Pieranna Garavaso
Seth Harrington/Jennifer Deane	David Nieves/Barry McQuarrie	Miranda K. Tjaden/Harold E. Hinds, Jr.
Robert Henjum/Bert Ahern	Nolan Nordlund/Elena Machkasova	Andrew Wey/Jong-Min Kim
	Adam Olson/Paula O'Loughlin	Benjamin Wheeler/Michael Lackey

### Multi-Ethnic Mentorship Program

Participants in the mentorship program are paired one-on-one with a faculty mentor based on similarities between the mentor's data profile and the scholar's intended academic major, career, or personal interests with the ultimate goal of fostering maximum achievement of personal, academic, and professional potential for the scholar. Students and their faculty/staff mentors are as follows:

Lea Awoudi/Seung-Ho Joo	Antonia Murray/Solomon Gershaw	Jeff Aday/Peter Wyckoff
Ciana Cullens/Barbara Burke	Saja Puthiyottill/Donna Chollett	Josie Skala /Timna Wyckoff
Katie Froiland/Kristin Lamberty	Pang Vang/Nancy Pederson	
Yue Li/Engin Sungur	Prash Naidu/Donna Chollett	

## *2009 Scholar of the College Biographies*

**Jeremy Bleichner '09**, Eagan, computer science, worked with Elena Machkasova, assistant professor of computer science, during the 2008-09 academic year on an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program project on program optimization. He made valuable contributions to data analysis and testing framework employed in the project. He is the first author on a paper, "Effects of Generic Types Specialization on Program Behavior," presented at the Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium in April 2009. Bleichner participated in programming competitions and was a member of the winning team at the Digi-Key competition in fall 2008. He served as an officer for the Morris chapter of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM), the educational and scientific professional computing society.

**Zachary Boser '10**, Zimmerman, chemistry, prepared an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) proposal related to the synthesis of novel conjugated organic materials that was approved for funding in April 2008. Boser's research, of which many would perceive as graduate level, was accepted for joint paper presentation at the Spring 2009 American Chemical Society National Conference. Co-authors of "Synthesis and Characterization of Nonathiophene Oligomers and the Effects of Oxidation Patterns," are Boser; Ted M. Pappenfus, associate professor of chemistry; Lindsay M. Hinkle; Kari A. McGee; and Kent R. Mann. Boser presented the paper at the 2009 Undergraduate Research Symposium.

**Jim Davison '09**, Burnsville, chemistry: biochemistry, began his research career with Ted Pappenfus, associate professor of chemistry, on a project to produce ammonia electrochemically from wind energy. He co-authored a paper presented by Pappenfus at the 2007 E3 Conference (Energy, Economics, and Environment) in Minneapolis. During summer 2008, Davison worked in the laboratory of Vytas Bankaitis, professor in the cell and developmental biology department at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, through the National Science Foundation—Research Experience for Undergraduates program. He tested the solvent accessibility of an enzyme called P1TP during the exchange of phospholipids on lipid membranes. Davidson worked with Timna Wyckoff, associate professor of biology, during the 2008-09 academic year through Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program funding. He was instrumental in getting a new project off the ground in Wyckoff's laboratory that involves surveillance of antibiotic resistance in *Staphylococcus* bacteria as the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center transitions half of its dairy herd to organic management. Both Bankaitis and Wyckoff anticipate that Davidson will be a co-author on future scientific manuscripts from their laboratories. In fall 2009, Davison will begin work towards a doctorate in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

(Scholar of the College Biographies continued pages 7–12)

**Ashley Deering '09**, Cottage Grove, French and history, researches the roles of two key medieval Dominican friars, St. Dominic de Guzmán and Bernard Gui, as “doctors” to those individuals afflicted by the spiritual “disease” of Catharism, a prominent heresy in the Middle Ages. Her research contributes to the scholarship of medieval pastoral care by providing insight into the work of two pivotal spiritual leaders. She received Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program funding for “Saving Faith in Languedoc: the Dominican practice of medieval ‘doctors of souls.’” Deering presented at the Fourth Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies at Moravian College in December 2008, the 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan in May 2009; and the Undergraduate Research Symposium at the Morris and Twin Cities campuses in April 2009. She will present her work at the International Medieval Congress in Leeds, United Kingdom, in July 2009. Deering also writes science fiction and fantasy.

**Erin Denman '09**, Minneapolis, theatre arts, distinguished herself in the area of performance appearing in Morris productions of *The Merchant of Venice*, *Stop Kiss*, *The Weir*, *The Shape of Things*, and *Closer*. Denman's performance as Mrs. Gibbs in *Our Town* in fall 2008, her senior capstone experience, was nominated for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival's prestigious Irene Ryan Scholarship acting competition. Denman also worked with several Minneapolis area performance companies during her undergraduate career, including Theatre Unbound, Cromulent Shakespeare, La Vie, House Red, and Arthur Repertory Theatre, performing in productions such as *Wonderland*, *The Comedy of Errors*, and *Salome*. *Wonderland*, La Vie's adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland*, was voted one of the best productions of the 2006 Minneapolis Fringe Festival. She also served as co-chair of Meiningens, the student theatre organization.

**Rui “James” Ding '09**, Great Neck, New York, computer science and statistics, worked with Jinzhu Gao, assistant professor of computer science, on a data visualization project. He developed and implemented an impressive software system for visualization of atmospheric nucleation processes and has solved multiple technical challenges in developing the software. His research will be published as a paper, “Collaborative Visualization of Atmospheric Nucleation Processes Using Java 3D,” co-authored with Gao, at the prestigious International Symposium on Cluster Computing and the Grid in Shanghai, China, in May 2009. It is very unusual for an undergraduate student to have a paper published in such a venue. Rui will present this work at the symposium. He also worked on a project in statistics with Jong-Min Kim, associate professor of mathematics, and will present the results of this work as a poster, “Microarrays Data Analysis Using Java Visualization,” at the Spring Meetings of Eastern North American Region/International Biometric Society in San Antonio, Texas, in March 2009.

**Nicole Dobmeier '09**, Willmar, statistics, played a key role on the research team for a large sponsored project that involves multiple funders and seven faculty co-investigators in several locations including Morris, Paris, and California. She began as a trainee on the Truckers and Turnover Project and worked under the guidance of principal investigator Stephen Burks, associate professor of economics and management, and co-investigator Jon Anderson, professor of statistics, first part-time and then as a full-time research assistant. She developed expertise at the early graduate level in constructing and analyzing complex panel data sets in Stata statistical software. Dobmeier presented preliminary research results to executives of the cooperating trucking firm during a site visit in June 2008. During the last two semesters, she performed an innovative and complex statistical analysis that examines the impact of cognitive skills on employment turnover in truck drivers. The resulting paper, “Cognitive Skills, Screening for Job Matches, and a Competing Risk: Model of Quits versus Discharges among Truckers,” was competitively selected for presentation at the undergraduate session at the Midwest Economics Association Annual Meeting in March 2009 in Cleveland, Ohio. Her paper is expected to form the foundation for a future published paper co-authored with several of the project's faculty co-investigators. She presented her paper at the 2009 Undergraduate Research Symposium. Dobmeier intends to pursue a graduate degree in statistics.

**Seth Ferrey '10**, Mahtomedi, chemistry: biochemistry, became interested in undergraduate research during his sophomore year while taking Introduction to Research. He worked with Nancy Carpenter, professor of chemistry, on a project titled “Investigation of Reactivity of Beta-Ketoacylferrocene, An Iron-Containing Mystery Product.” He was selected to work on a Morris Academic Partnership (MAP) project, “Calculation of Rotational Correlation Times for N-Methylformamide,” with Jennifer Goodnough, associate professor of chemistry, during the 2008-09 academic year. In the company of chemistry graduate students, Ferrey presented his results at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society in March 2009 in Salt Lake City, Utah, and also presented at the 2009 Undergraduate Research Symposium. Ferrey has applied to several summer 2009 National Science Foundation–Research Experiences for Undergraduates programs.

**Katrina Flaig '10**, Anoka, art history and anthropology, is interested in the intersections of anthropology, archaeology, art history, and history. Through coursework, research on Greek myth and archaeology, and research on the adoption of Hercules as a decorative motif by early Christians, she is developing a broad expertise in the ancient world. She turned a class project into an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program project on Greek myth history. She presented “Greek Myth–History: The Cultural Movement from Ancient Reality to Ancient Myth” at the 2008 Undergraduate Research Symposium. The strength of her interdisciplinary approach increasingly shows in projects she undertakes and the recognition she receives for her work, locally on the Morris campus and nationally. She presented “Greek Myth–History: The Movement from Ancient Reality to Ancient Myth” at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in April 2009. She completed a Morris Academic Partnership with Jimmy Schryver, assistant professor of art history, examining the role and portrayal of Hercules in early Christian art.

**Jessica Henry '09**, Roseville, biology, a pre-med student, expresses curiosity and openness to new ideas in both biology and music. In her very first biology course, she and three other students developed an original research project exploring the effects of light on the responses of plants to touch—a project developed directly out of reading work by Charles Darwin. Her interest has broadened to include the metabolic and physiological bases for diseases. While many Morris students have broad interests, few make the sustained effort to pursue them as diligently as Henry has with music. And, her commitment is not only to her own enjoyment and developing abilities, and hence to the music itself, but also to fellow ensemble players. Henry appeared as principal horn player and horn section leader of the Symphonic Winds and Wind Ensemble, as well as with chamber ensembles, most notably “Quintocracy,” the brass quintet. She has given several student solo recitals of highest quality. As section leader, she organizes and leads section rehearsals during which she shares her excellent skills with peers in a professional, encouraging, and pedagogically refined manner. Henry performed with the 2009 College Band Directors' National Association (CBDNA) National Intercollegiate Honor Band at the National CBDNA Conference in Austin, Texas; the 2008 CBDNA North Central Intercollegiate Honor Band at the Regional CBDNA Conference in Omaha, Nebraska; and the 2009, 2008, and 2007 Minnesota Music Educators' Association (MMEA) Intercollegiate Honor Band at the MMEA Midwinter Clinic in Minneapolis. She serves as the Symphonic Winds Council vice president.

**Owen Kinsky '09**, Woodbury, chemistry: biochemistry, is “bilingual” according to his professors. He naturally employs interdisciplinary thinking between science and his art history minor. Using the new XRD instrument in chemistry, he analyzed mortar and pottery samples from archaeological excavations at Kiltasheen, Ireland, as an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program project. Kinsky has conducted research in the chemistry discipline. Kinsky synthesized the polymer used in a novel method of carbon dioxide detection. This research was guided and published by Ted Pappenfus, associate professor of chemistry, and researchers from the Department of Mechanical Engineering on the Twin Cities campus. Kinsky is cited in the article's acknowledgements. He presented at the E3 (Energy, Economics, and Environment) Conference in 2007. In 2008, he presented “High Lipid Content Microalgae for Biofuels: Species Evaluation” at the Undergraduate Research Symposium. Kinsky completed a summer internship at 3M Dyneon, LLC and plans to attend graduate school at the University of Arizona.

**Stuart Kohl '09**, Denver, Iowa, chemistry: biochemistry, worked with Ted Pappenfus, associate professor of chemistry, during summer 2007. His research contributed to a poster presentation with Pappenfus and Laura Thoma titled “Theoretical, Thermal, and Electrochemical Properties of poly(3-alkylthiophenes) for Undergraduate Lab Experiments” at the spring 2008 American Chemical Society National Meeting. His work was submitted for publication in the *Journal of Chemical Education* in December 2008, “Regiochemistry of Poly(3-hexylthiophene): Synthesis and Investigation of a Conducting Polymer,” with Pappenfus, David L. Hermanson, Stuart G. Kohl, Jacob H. Melby, Laura M. Thoma, Nancy E. Carpenter, professor of chemistry; Demetrio A. da Silva Filho and Jean-Luc Bredas, School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia. During summer 2008, Kohl worked on a computational chemistry project at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and continued this work during fall 2008. By the end of the fall semester, Kohl succeeded in optimizing a transition structure for a metal catalyzed organic reaction, a very impressive accomplishment considering the complexity of the system and of the caliber one would expect for publication. His work in Theoretical Chemistry was graduate level.

**Pam Lindenberg '09**, Alvarado, history and English, possesses both an interest in and an intellectual facility with medieval literature and culture that distinguished her in both English and history courses. Working from an extended research project on a one-thousand-year-old text, the Old English poetic life of Saint Juliana, Lindenberg presented at the 2008 Undergraduate Research Symposium and then presented “Beating Up Devils: A Model for Living in Cynewulf's Retelling of *Saint Juliana*” in December 2008 at the Third Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The language, narrative, gender, and theological issues raised by the poem and framed within every version of Lindenberg's writing on this topic demonstrate a remarkable understanding of the field for an undergraduate. She not only excelled in this but also in rapidly familiarizing herself with the distinct history of saints' lives, as she analyzed the choices made by the Anglo-Saxon poet in his adaptation of a continental source. Her work—writing and research—meets graduate student standards. Lindenberg wrote a senior history tutorial on historiographical approaches to the Anglo-Saxon “Dream of the Rood,” an intriguing and self-developed project that combines her interest in medieval English and history.

**Sabuoan Nasserri '10**, Hengelo, Netherlands, political science and history, has a defined research agenda within political science at the intersection of comparative politics and political psychology. His graduate level work brings together research on tolerance and comparative political culture with the latest research on the neurological underpinnings of political behavior. His Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) project on cross-national aggregate shifts in tolerance was co-sponsored by Regent's Professor John Sullivan on the Twin Cities campus as one of the foremost scholars on political tolerance in the field. Nasserri co-authored the Political Psychology chapter in the *Twenty-First Century Handbook of Political Science* (Sage, 2009 forthcoming). He also co-authored a paper, “Political Culture under Attack (9/11): Fundamental Values, Sentiments, and Knowledge of a Nation in Jeopardy,” presented at the Midwest Undergraduate Political Science Conference in Iowa in March 2009 and nominated for the best paper award. Nasserri presented a preliminary version of his UROP research at the 2009 Undergraduate Research Symposium.

**Sheila Nezhad '09**, Woodbury, economics and management, started research with Pareena Lawrence, professor of economics, in 2007 through the Morris Academic Partnership (MAP) program on “Women as Policymakers: A Case Study of Northern India.” Nezhad and Lawrence traveled to India in 2007 to conduct fieldwork. The outcome of the ongoing research is being incorporated into a book manuscript of which Nezhad wrote the draft for one chapter and coded and entered data. They presented their research at a workshop titled “Involving Undergraduates in Field Research Overseas,” at the 2008 Council of Undergraduate Research Conference at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph. Through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, Nezhad worked with Lawrence to research non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and issues related to transparency, accountability, and government co-option. She interviewed four NGOs from around the world. Data analysis reveals a variety of transparency-improving techniques applicable to small and large organizations that range from formal reporting techniques to face-to-face transparency reporting. The results reveal varying degrees by which NGOs and government work together to help residents and communities. Nezhad presented her research at the 2009 Undergraduate Research Symposium and at the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research in La Crosse, Wisconsin. A paper co-authored by Nezhad and Lawrence has been accepted for publication by the *International NGO Journal*, a refereed scholarly publication published by Academic Journals Press. Nezhad served as an economic development assistant with the Center for Small Towns. After graduations, she plans to work overseas with an international socio-economic development organization.

**Bradley Nix '09**, Melrose, biology, has always been interested in research and plans a career in medicine. He was accepted to the Life Sciences Summer Undergraduate Research Program (LSSURP) at the end of his second year at Morris and presented his project, conducted with Dr. Siavash Pasalar and Dr. Timothy Ebner, in August 2007: “Correlation of Complex Spike in Cerebellar\_Purkinje Cells to Arm Kinematics in Monkey,” University of Minnesota Medical School, Department of Neuroscience, LSSURP Neuroscience Program, LSSURP Conference, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. During summer 2008, he served as a teaching assistant in an LSSURP neurophysiology course. Nix also researched the daily rhythms of the Asian Lady Bug that required unique equipment setups. He obtained Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program funding to study the effects of light on the biological clock on a model system of mold. Again, this project required work to get the system mechanically operational, and Nix lived up to the task. “The Role of Protein VIVID on Circadian Rhythms in the Bioluminescent Transgenic Mold *Neurospora crassa* under Colonial Conditions” was presented at the 2009 Undergraduate Research Symposium, and the data will be part of a future publication. Nix served as the co-president of the Biology Club and vice president of the Tri-Beta National Biological Honor Society at Morris.

**Nolan Nordlund '10**, Clearbrook, computer science, worked with Elena Machkasova, assistant professor of computer science, on a Morris Academic Partnership project on program optimization. He made significant contributions to data analysis, suggesting and implementing several improvements to the automated testing process and statistical analysis of data, and significantly advanced the testing framework. He helped develop and maintain a system of keeping concise summaries of results—a significant factor in the project that deals with multiple tests of programs with only slight differences. He is co-author of “Effects of Generic Types Specialization on Program Behavior” that was presented at the Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium in April 2009.

**Kate Novotny '10**, Woodbury, English, produced distinguished original research in both literary criticism and composition studies. She received an Undergraduate Teaching Opportunities Program grant. She was invited to present her essay on the Victorian novelist George Eliot at the annual conference of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honors society, in Minneapolis in March 2009. In addition, the philosophy minor contributed research and scholarship to presentations and articles by Pieranna Garavaso, professor of philosophy. Novotny presented at the 2009 Undergraduate Research Symposium.

**Adam Olson '10**, White Bear Lake, science and statistics, has a defined research agenda within political science and a sophisticated knowledge of the field of legislative studies. He presented “When Does Gender Matter?: Toward a Better Understanding of Gender Dynamics in Congress” at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Chicago in April 2009. This is a national conference for political scientists, one of the two largest for the field, and, in the subfield of American institutions, the most prestigious and competitive. To have a paper accepted at this conference as a legislative studies graduate student is rare; for an undergraduate it is unheard of and speaks to the quality of Olson’s research and contribution to the field. Olson’s paper has drawn him interest as a potential graduate student at some of the best legislative studies departments in the country, such as George Washington University. He presented “Women, Congressional Committee Preferences, and Committee Assignments across the Reform and Post-Reform Congresses” at the 2009 Undergraduate Research Symposium. The methodological creativity and quality of Olson’s study of gender and congress as illustrated in his papers puts him at the cutting edge of a very hot research topic in legislative studies. Olson, a Morris Academic Partner, is defining his niche such that eminent scholars like Sarah Binder, an expert on congressional and legislative politics, have noticed his work.

**Veronica Olson '09**, Fertile, English, has a wonderful ability to be interdisciplinary across her interests in art history and English. Her paper on the use of Westminster Abbey as a setting for the association of earthly politics and the heavenly court was at the level of a graduate student. She presented “Political and Sacred Propaganda in Westminster Abbey” at the 2009 Undergraduate Research Symposium. Olson’s interests in medieval subjects led to her participation in the Third Undergraduate Conference in Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in December 2008. She presented “Spirituality by Aversion” on the persuasive mixture of grotesque violence and theological argument in an Old English religious poem, “Soul and Body.” The research and paper required well-developed understanding of Old English, as a foreign language and as a body of literature, as well as of the

religious and cultural climate of England one thousand years ago. Relatively few undergraduates across the United States study Old English. Her intellectual curiosity, interest in word origins, and the relationship between text, image, and architecture are marks of an inquisitive mind.

**Samuel Potter '09**, Long Prairie, mathematics, made significant contributions in the area of applied mathematics by way of four research projects—all of which are interdisciplinary in nature using concepts from, and beneficial to, the fields of mathematics, computer science, and biological sciences, not to mention the real world. The first, titled “Cannibalism: When Parents Attack (Their Kids),” which models the dynamics of cannibalistic fish population, was presented at the 2007 Joint National Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) and the American Mathematical Society (AMS). Potter received an award for being one of the best undergraduate presenters at that conference. The second, titled “Forbidden Structures in Totally Unimodular Hypergraphs,” was presented at the 2007 North Central Section of the MAA conference. The third, titled “Dynamics of Targeted Treatments,” was presented at the 2008 MAA MathFest Conference in San Jose, California. His recent research, titled “Dynamical Systems for Modeling a Competitive Grassland System,” investigates the impacts of seasonality and spatial heterogeneity on barley yellow dwarf virus infected California grasslands. Two of his research projects were supported by National Science Foundation—Research Experiences for Undergraduates funding, while the other two were supported by Morris Academic Partnership and Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program funding with Peh Ng, professor of mathematics, as one of his faculty advisers. Potter presented his computational results from his research at the 2009 North Central Sectional MAA Meeting in St. Paul. He presented “Totally Unimodular Hypergraphs” at the 2007 Undergraduate Research Symposium and “Dynamical Systems for Modeling a Competitive Grassland System” at the 2009 Undergraduate Research Symposium. The results from one of his projects are part of a joint paper in review, while results from his current research project will be disseminated in another joint paper.

**Charles Rudeen '09**, Bird Island, mathematics, made significant contributions in the area of combinatorial optimization by way of two research projects. The first is on developing an optimization model for the Vehicle Routing Problem that has applications in designing efficient bus routes. The second is on constructing classes of graphs on which a notoriously difficult combinatorial optimization problem is provably solvable in an efficient amount of time. He presented “Maximum Weight Connected Subgraphs Problems (MWCSP)” at the Joint National Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) and the American Mathematical Society in Washington, D.C., in January 2009, and “Development of an Optimization Model for Bus Routes” at the 2008 Undergraduate Research Symposium. He presented “Solving (MWCSP) on Subclasses of Graphs” at the North Central Sectional Meeting of the MAA in St. Paul in April 2009 and “Classes of Graphs with Efficient Recognition of (MWCSP)” at the 2009 Undergraduate Research Symposium. Rudeen’s research projects were partially supported by Morris Academic Partnership funding with faculty adviser Peh Ng, professor of mathematics. The results from Rudeen’s work will be part of a joint paper submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

**Sara Russell '09**, Duluth, biology, spent two summers pursuing research. In 2006, she worked as a Minnesota Worm Watch study research assistant for Cindy Hale, now a research associate at the University of Minnesota, Duluth Natural Resources Research Institute. In 2008, she conducted research at the State University of New York, Stony Brook through a National Science Foundation—Research Experience for Undergraduates program grant. She worked on the impact of an invasive crab on the marsh ecosystems of Long Island, New York. She gave an excellent Senior Seminar detailing her Long Island results in fall 2008. She presented her results at the National Benthic Ecology meetings in Corpus Christi, Texas, in March 2009. Russell honed her research skills at Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory in Jamaica and gave a poster presentation of her research, titled “Effects of Submarine Groundwater Discharge on the Hydrography of Discovery Bay,” at the 2008 Undergraduate Research Symposium. Russell served as an intern at the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) in Morris and completed USFWS GIS training. In addition to conducting scientific research, Russell has worked on her science communications skills by writing for the *University Register*, the campus newspaper, and by working as an environmental education intern at the Hartley Nature Center in Duluth.

**Josie Skala '11**, Mankato, chemistry, presented a poster, titled “Distribution of Lincosamide Inactivation Gene *lnu(A)* in *Staphylococcus* Strains Phenotypically Sensitive to the Lincosamide Pirlimycin,” at the North Central Branch of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) 68th Annual Meeting. This poster was based on work performed in the laboratory of Timna Wyckoff, associate professor of biology, during summer and fall 2008 with funding from the National Science Foundation Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program grant received by Jim Cotter, professor of geology. She continued to work on the project through the Multi-Ethnic Mentorship Program during the 2008–09 academic year and is co-author on a poster accepted for presentation at the ASM general meeting in May 2009. Skala worked with Wyckoff during spring 2009 on a project involving surveillance of antibiotic resistance in *Staphylococcus* during the transition of half of the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center dairy herd from conventional to organic management. Skala plans to continue undergraduate research by working with Jennifer Goodnough, associate professor of chemistry, during summer 2009.

**Laura Thoma '09**, Minnetonka, chemistry and Spanish, worked with Ted Pappenfus, associate professor of chemistry, as a research assistant in summer 2007. She was involved in designing undergraduate chemistry laboratory experiments in the area of conducting polymers. One of these experiments has been submitted for publication to the *Journal of Chemical Education* with Pappenfus, David L. Hermanson, Stuart G. Kohl, Jacob H. Melby, Laura M. Thoma, Nancy E. Carpenter, professor of chemistry, Demetrio A. da Silva Filho, and Jean-Luc Bredas: "Regiochemistry of Poly(3-hexylthiophene): Synthesis and Investigation of a Conducting Polymer." The remaining experiments were presented at the Spring 2008 American Chemical Society National Convention: "Theoretical, Thermal, and Electrochemical Properties of poly(3-alkylthiophenes) for Undergraduate Lab Experiments," with Kohl and Pappenfus. Thoma performed undergraduate research with Pappenfus in summer 2008. Her work as a research assistant focused on environmentally friendly alternatives to the production of ammonia, and she served as a mentor to a first-year student working on the project. Thoma's research has been accepted for publication in the *Electrochemical Society Transactions*: "Wind to Ammonia: Electrochemical Processes in Room Temperature Ionic Liquids," with Pappenfus, Kyung-mee Lee, and Carly R. Dukart. Thoma will present her work on this project at the 2009 American Chemical Society National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah: "Electrode, Electrolyte, and Proton Effects on the Electrochemical Synthesis of Ammonia," Thoma, Dukart, and Pappenfus. Thoma has made substantial contributions to undergraduate chemistry curriculum through lab development and research related activities, of which many would perceive as graduate level work.

**KauChee Vang '09**, St. Paul, biology, was the presenting author of a poster titled "Examination of Phenotypic and Genotypic Pirlimycin Resistance in *Staphylococcus* from Milk Samples from Conventional and Organic Dairies in West Central Minnesota" at the 109th General Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in May 2009. Vang began work on this project in the laboratory of Timna Wyckoff, associate professor of biology, during the 2007-08 academic year through funding from the Multi-Ethnic Mentorship Program. KauChee was a co-author on a poster, "Distribution of Lincosamide Inactivation Gene *lnu(A)* in *Staphylococcus* Strains Phenotypically Sensitive to the Lincosamide Pirlimycin," presented by Josie Skala at the North Central Branch of the American Society for Microbiology 68th Annual Meeting in St. Cloud in October 2008. Vang received funding from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program to continue the work during the 2008-09 academic year. In addition, Vang contributed to a new project in Wyckoff's laboratory involving the surveillance of antibiotic resistance in *Staphylococcus* during the transition of half of the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center dairy herd from conventional to organic management. Vang presented a poster at the 2009 Undergraduate Research Symposium. Vang plans to pursue a career as a pharmacist in an underserved community.

**Benjamin Wheeler '09**, Racine, Minnesota, English, produced a body of creative work that is exceptional both in quality and quantity: complete manuscripts of two novels, two novellas, a collection of short stories, two short plays, and a screenplay—an impressive collection for a young writer. Such productivity on top of regularly assigned coursework requires tremendous artistic commitment and personal discipline. His latest project, a multi-layered novel centered on the cowriters of a comic book series in the 1970s, features a command of fast-paced plotting, the development of rich psychological character, and the narrative skill to bring together the novel's two storylines. In addition to his creative work, Wheeler conducted outstanding research in composition studies. He was the only undergraduate student invited to present at the 2009 Minnesota Colleges and Universities English and Writing Conference. In "Talking Across Our Boundaries: A Case for Creative Nonfiction," he examines the rich intellectual possibilities and distinctive ways of knowing represented by creative nonfiction and argues for a return to the personal essay in the composition classroom.

**Sarah "Winnie" Winikoff '10**, Edina, biology, began freshwater ecosystems research as a sophomore, collaborating with two other students to determine the sampling effort needed to adequately characterize the macroinvertebrate communities of local prairie pothole lakes. She and her student co-authors presented the results of this research as a poster at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Academy of Sciences meeting in April 2008. Winikoff continued her work in freshwater habitats during summer 2008 when she participated in a National Science Foundation—Research Experience for Undergraduates program through Notre Dame University in which she investigated transient storage in salmon rivers in Alaska that experience different intensities of timber harvest in their watershed. She presented a poster of this work in May 2009 at the annual meeting of the North American Benthological Society, a meeting that draws an international crowd of students and top scientists in the field. This is a particularly prestigious accomplishment for an undergraduate student to present in the regular poster session with all other scientists. Elected by her peers, Winikoff serves as biology student representative.





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