5-2011

Student Honors and Awards Program 2011

University Relations

University of Minnesota
MORRIS

A renewable, sustainable education.

2011 Honors and Awards Ceremony

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

Friday, May 13, 2011, 7 p.m.
Edson Auditorium, Student Center

2011 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 Dennis Gimmestad '73, president
Jennifer Rothchild, associate professor of sociology

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 .....Jennifer Rothchild, associate professor of sociology

Chancellor's Award.....presented by Jacqueline Johnson, chancellor
Yuri Machkasov, Morris

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 Christensen, Cottage Grove

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.

Allen W. Edson Award.....presented by Sandra Olson-Loy, vice chancellor for student affairs
Samuel Krump-Johnson, Maple Grove
Matthew Privratsky, Walker

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
Remy Huerta, Aspen, Colorado, student recipient
Jane Harstad, senior building and grounds worker, plant services

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

Jeff Aday, San Carlos, Arizona
Kathryn "Katie" Barron, St. Paul
Guinevere "Gwen" Bitker, LeSeuer
Jason Bonde, Benson
Eugene Butler, Browns Valley
Carly Dukart, Lakeville
Clara Dux, Stewartville
Dugan Flanders, Paynesville
Brian Goslinga, Milaca
Rachel Harstad, Farmington
Abram "Abe" Henry, Hastings
Matthew Kroonblawd, Lino Lakes
Angela Lexvold, Pine Island
Jeffery Lind, Robbinsdale
Rebecca Lindquist, Plymouth
Andrea Lund, Bloomington
Alex Madsen, North Branch
William Martin, Rogers
Michael McBride, Stillwater
Cody Miller, Rockford
Matthew Privratsky, Walker
Mark Privratsky, Walker
Dominic Scheck, Brooklyn Park
Debbie Schneiderman, Luverne
Chad Seibert, Wadena
William Setzer, Hudson, Wisconsin
Isaac Sjoblom, Montevideo
Josie Skala, North Mankato
Colin Stemper, Richfield
Jacob Thebault-Spieker, Sebec, Maine
Elizabeth Thoma, Eden Prairie
Ellis Valentiner, Plymouth
Brian Valerius, Elk River
Elizabeth "Liz" Vold, Sartell
Katherine "Katie" Wutchiett, Bloomington

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

Dominic Scheck, Brooklyn Park

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 Becca Gercken, associate professor of English

Alex Kmett, Brooklyn Center
Ashleigh Thompson, Salt Lake City, Utah
Tracie Weber, Roslyn, South Dakota
Lucas Wollin, Bloomington

American Indian Salt Springs Teacher Scholarship .....presented by Becca Gercken, associate professor of English

Christopher Mahr, Bloomington
Emily Jeanotte, Pennock

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 Tammy Berberi, associate professor of French, Honors Program adviser

Joy Heysse, St. Cloud
Sydney Sweep, Bismarck, North Dakota
Dominic Scheck, Brooklyn Park
Seokkhun Chang, Seoul, Korea
Bobbi Smith, Duluth
Nathan Christensen, Cottage Grove
Tracy Shega, Apple Valley
Yiwen Li, Nanjing, Jiangsu, China

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 Gwen Rudney, chair, Division of Education

Alex Madsen, North Branch

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.....Luke Toso, Falcon Heights

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 .....Stephanie Roggenbuck, Osakis

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 ..... Melissa Kloek, Stillwater

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 ..... Jeffrey Lind, Robbinsdale

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 ..... *Toccata* ..... Emma Lou Diemer

Molly Kvam, Granite Falls

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

Art History Book Award ..... Steven Rice, Forestville, Wisconsin

Susan Robertson, Apple Valley

Awarded to a graduating art history major, this award recognizes academic excellence and potential for further achievement in the arts.

Natalie Benoit Memorial Award ..... Elise Porcher, Lake Elmo

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 ..... Katreina Gibson, Montevideo

Daniel Stoterau, St. Cloud

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.

Lois P. Hodgell Printmaking Award ..... Leanne Larson, Garfield

This award honors the late Lois P. Hodgell, professor of art from 1962 until her retirement in 1993. The recipient must show outstanding achievement in printmaking. Presented annually to a student who demonstrates creative potential in the field and technical understanding of a variety of print processes.

Alumni Award for Outstanding English Major ..... Dominic Scheck, Brooklyn Park

This award is presented to graduating English majors whose performance in English classes has been consistently superior and who have made positive contributions to the discipline or major in and beyond the classroom.

Raymond J. Lammers Award in the Language Arts ..... Alex McGreavey, Maple Grove

Anthony Albright, Seattle, Washington

Established in memory of Raymond J. Lammers, professor emeritus of theatre, this award is presented to seniors majoring in and demonstrating an outstanding undergraduate career in one of the following disciplines: theatre, English, foreign language, or communication,media, and rhetoric. Professor Lammers was one of the first Morris faculty members and figured prominently in the creation of the theatre major and theatre program.

Keith Carlson Memorial Jazz Award ..... Michael Gill, Granite Falls

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

Brion Dalager Memorial Award ..... Michael Gill, Granite Falls

Adam Helgeson, Ortonville

Elizabeth Thoma, Eden Prairie

Alexandra Weber, Milbank, South Dakota

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.

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

Abbott Award in Physics.....Jeffrey Lind, Robbinsdale
Presented to a graduating senior physics major, with the greatest potential of achieving a professional career in physics or a physics-related field, the award was established by Robinson Abbott, professor of biology from 1961–1991, and his wife Rose Marie, who taught Morris biology courses, to recognize the importance Morris has played in their lives. All four Abbott children graduated from Morris, three with physics majors.

Jay Y. Roshal Award ..... Logan Luce, Minneapolis
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 the late Jay Roshal, professor of biology from 1960-1983 and the first University of Minnesota, Morris Division of Science and Mathematics chair.

spdf Chemistry Award ..... Debbie Schneiderman, Luverne
The annual spdf award is given to a senior chemistry major demonstrating outstanding scholarship, potential, and service in chemistry.

Freshman Chemistry Award .....Chen Chen, Guangdong, China
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..... Vanessa Baratta, Hutchinson
Angela Lexvold, Pine Island
Wyatt Nolan, Prior Lake
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 Gender, Women, and Sexuality 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 gender, women, and sexuality studies major. It is annually granted to a junior or senior gender, women, and equality studies major in recognition of high academic achievement, and social, political, and civic activism.

Ted Underwood Award in History .....Sydney Sweep, Bismarck, North Dakota
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 ..... Dugan Flanders, Paynesville
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..... Michael McBride, Stillwater
Cody Miller, Rockford
Colin Stemper, Richfield
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.

Schneider National Award.....Manjari Govada, Shakopee
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..... Laura Weldy, Oakdale
Angela Laidlaw, St. Louis Park
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 .....Bobbi Smith, Duluth
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 interpreters
Carrie Gutzwiller, NIC ADV., and Janice Wuertz, RID NAD III, to the Honors and Awards Ceremony.

Additional Honors during the 2010–11 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.

Stephen Adams, International Falls
Kathryn Barron, St. Paul
Chelsea Bell, Northfield
Eugene Butler, Browns Valley
Clara Dux, Stewartville
Rachel Harstad, Farmington
Matthew Kroonblawd, Lino Lakes
Angela Lexvold, Pine Island
Andrea Lund, Bloomington
Michael McBride, Stillwater
Cody Miller, Rockford
Samuel Parisian, Lakeville
Elise Porcher, Lake Elmo
Mark Privratsky, Walker
Matt Privratsky, Walker
Colin Stemper, Richfield
Elizabeth Thoma, Eden Prairie
Ellis Valentiner, Plymouth
Elizabeth Vold, Sartell
Katherine Wutchiett, Bloomington

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.

Katherine Wutchiett, Bloomington

Owen W. and Frances A. Tate Memorial Award for Student Learning

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.

Kathryn Barron, St. Paul
Matthew Kroonblawd, Lino Lakes

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.

Sara Butterfass, Howard Lake

Pi Sigma Alpha Best Paper Award

The Pi Sigma Alpha Best Paper Award is awarded to political science students whose papers, submitted for courses during the previous calendar year, were judged the best based on degree of original research, level of critical thinking, and quality of writing. Pi Sigma Alpha is the national political science honor society for college students of political science and government.

Meaghan Young-Stephens, Lino Lakes
Colin Stemper, Richfield

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.

Sam Parisian, Lakeville
Allison Wegner, Winsted

Wawokiya Award

The Wawokiya (Lakota for "one who helps") Award is awarded annually to an outstanding senior psychology major. Recipients who receive this award have strong records of accomplishment at Morris and sincere interest in helping others.

Felixia M. Rosales, Elk River

Horizon Award

The Horizon Award is awarded annually to an outstanding sophomore psychology major. Recipients who receive this award have exceptional records of accomplishments at Morris and strong ambitions for their academic careers.

Kristina Grundmanis, Minneapolis

Chemistry Undergraduate Research Award

The Chemistry Undergraduate Research Fund (CURF) provides support for students who are majoring in chemistry/biochemistry and have an interest in carrying out research in chemistry/biochemistry or a closely related field. The awardee has demonstrated outstanding aptitude for research in the chemistry discipline's Introduction to Research course and the potential for continued success.

Maren N. Anderson, Lake Park
Lauren Bailey, Prior Lake

Honors Recital Selected Performers

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

Samantha Chevalier, Paynesville
Nate Christensen, Cottage Grove
Paul Gecas, Gunflint Lake
Mike Gill, Granite Falls
Eric Gorecki, Foley
Will Gottwalt, St. Cloud
Mark Halverstadt, Morris
Adam Helgeson, Ortonville
Molly Kvam, Granite Falls
Sarah Mensen, St. Paul
Mary Preus, Mayville, North Dakota
Jennifer Riestenberg, Perham
Scott Veenhuis, Slayton

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.

Greg Borchers, soccer, track and field
Kyle Bruns, basketball, baseball
Kali Cordes, soccer
Matt Ellison, cross-country, track and field
Rachel Harstad, soccer
Deidre Konold, golf
Gemma Miltich, cross-country, track and field
Leah Parker, soccer, track and field
Kristina Roe, swimming and diving
Ben Schield, track and field
Sonja Smidt, cross-country, track and field
Chris Thompson, baseball
Jane Yackley, swimming and diving

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.

Stephen Adams/Kristin K. Lamberty
Anthony Bannach/Joseph Carucci
Karthryn Barron/James A. Wojtaszck
Gabriel Bruguier/Pieranna Garavaso
Joseph Dowd/Heather L. Waye
Clara Dux/Jeff Ratliff-Crain
Brian Goslinga/Elena Machkasova
Matthew Kroonblawd/Sylke Boyd
Jeffrey Lind/Gordon C. McIntosh
Hannah Lindquist/Peter Wyckoff
Justin Mullin/Nic McPhee
Alaina Pearce/Cheryl Stewart
Matthew Privratsky/Paula O'Loughlin
Sarah Ranney/Stephen Martin
Deborah Schneiderman/Tim Soderberg
Deborah Schneiderman/Nancy E. Carpenter
Chad Seibert/Peh H. Ng
Will Setzer/Matthew L. Keeler
Toby Simacek/Heather Waye
Isaac Sjoblom/Elena Machkasova
Ellis Valentiner/Cheryl Stewart
Amanda Vogt/Jeff Ratliff-Crain
Elizabeth Vold/Jon E. Anderson

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:

Brittany Anderson/Kent Blansett
Christopher Mahr/Lea Gilbertson
Kelsey Scareshawks/Windy Roberts
Ashleigh Thompson/Christopher Cole
Kao Vue/Farah Gilanshah

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:

Chris Aga/Gordon McIntosh
Seokkun Chang/Jong-Min Kim
Philip Coler/Kristin Lamberty
Lucas Ellgren/Nic McPhee
Manjari Govada/Stephen V. Burks
Brandon Hoffmann/Gordon McIntosh
Jay Lapham/Kristin Lamberty
Anna Lund/Pamela Solvie
Gemma Miltich/Dennis D. Stewart
Dana Murray/Ken Hodgson
Samuel V. Parisian/Tammy Berberi
Ruth Potter/Jon E. Anderson
Michael Roslow/Peh Ng
Dominic Scheck/Brook Miller
Tim Snyder/Elena Machkasova
Alexandra Weber/Martin Seggelke
Kristin Youngblom/Pareena Lawrence

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.

Allison Amidon/Jessica Beyer
Lynn Bixler/Pamela Solvie
Emily Colacino/Sandra K. Olson-Loy
Samantha Esguerra/Argie Manolis
Lucas Felts/Argie Manolis
Daniel Fragodt/Chad Braegelmann
Chelsea Gawboy/Pamela Solvie
Molli Getting/Andrew Sharpe
Holly Gruntner/Pareena Lawrence
Trenton Hafterson/Roger Boleman
Kayla Hagen/Michael Eble
Remy Huerta/Argie Manolis
Veronica Kneeland/Bridget Joos
Samuel Krump-Johnson/Mike Cihak
Molly Kvam/Denise Odello
Matt Lauer/Matt Senger
Jeff Lindblom/Nic McPhee
Lucy Lloyd/Liz Spohr
Swati Narayan/Pilar Eble
Kayla Pridmore/Troy J. Goodnough
Andrew Rehmann/Margaret Kuchenreuther
Susan Robertson/Janell Kolden
William Rottler/Christopher Butler
David Ruprecht/Cindy Poppe
Collin Sandoe/Argie Manolis
Dominic Scheck/Tisha Turk
Drew Schield/Tracey Anderson and Heather Waye
Joshua Mark Smith/Joel Eisinger
Megan Theis/Chad Braegelmann
Luke Toso/Rick Reimers
Brian Valerius/Nic McPhee
Billy Vesto/Matt Senger
Laura Weldy/Jennifer Rothchild
Meaghan Young-Stephens/Tisha Turk

Pi Sigma Alpha

Founded in 2010, Morris's Zeta Eta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the first in the University of Minnesota system, is a national political science honor society. Its goal is to stimulate scholarship and intelligent interest in political science. Morris's chapter aims to encourage development and dissemination of independent research; initiate and participate in community and service activities; and expose members and the University community to the study of government and issues of public concern. Members are juniors or seniors who have completed at least 10 semester credits in political science including at least one upper division course and earning an average grade of B or higher in those courses. Overall, members have achieved a GPA of 3.4 or higher.

Kathryn Barron*˙
Elizabeth Binzcik˙
Julianna Drennen˙
Zachary Forde˙
Paul Gecas˙
Anna Gusaas˙
Jose Kahlenbeck˙
Anita Machayo˙
Michael McBride*
Cody Miller*
Michael Peters
Josh Preston
Stephen Rice*
Colin Scheck˙
Angela Schiappacasse˙
Andrew Showalther˙
Colin Stemper*
Elizabeth Thoma*˙
Kaitlin Thompson*
Morgan Turner
Naomi Wente

* graduating senior
˙ newly inducted

Student Center Art Award

The Student Center Art Award recognizes talented University of Minnesota, Morris students and creates a permanent quality art collection that is on display throughout the student center. A committee of staff and students work together to select pieces from art shows.

Jessica Thielen, Paynesville

2011 Scholar of the College Biographies

Jeff Aday '11, San Carlos, Arizona, biology, collaborated with Peter Wyckoff, associate professor of biology, on a multi-year project examining the interactions between an invasive tree, European buckthorn, and white tailed deer. Aday initiated the project in spring 2008 by building a set of 10 deer exclosures in the forest at Niemackl Lake Park near Herman. Aday and Wyckoff transplanted 900 seedlings of three species—buckthorn and two native trees—into the exclosures and adjacent control plots exposed to deer browsing. Aday followed the seedlings, monitoring growth and survival, measuring rates of photosynthesis, and evaluating growing conditions. Aday built a data set containing 55,800 measurements documenting performance and established evidence of a previously unreported link between white tailed deer and invasive buckthorn success. He presented the results at the 2010 Undergraduate Research Symposium, a conference in Wisconsin organized by the Great Lakes Intertribal Council, and at the 2010 Ecological Society of America meetings in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. After final measurements in spring 2011, Aday and Wyckoff will write a paper on findings for publication in peer reviewed scientific literature. Aday's work was supported by a National Science Foundation (NSF) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program (STEP) grant, a Minority Mentorship grant, funds from the NSF North Star Alliance Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) project, and a Great Lakes Intertribal Council fellowship.

Kathryn "Katie" Barron '11, St. Paul, Latin American studies, political science, and Spanish, developed a sophisticated and varied research agenda, combining interests and expertise in humanities, social science, Latin America, and Spain. Barron served as a Morris Academic Partner as a junior and received an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program grant as a senior to conduct "The First Republic [1873–74]: Foundation of Modern Spanish Liberalism." The research stands to contribute significantly to the field in an area that has received insufficient attention. She presented "Critiquing the Crown: Liberal Analysis of the Reign of Queen Isabel II of Spain" at the Northwestern College Honors Conference in 2011. For the 2011 Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS), she presented "Galdós and the First Republic: Foundations of Modern Spanish Liberalism in the Episodios Nacionales," James Wojtaszek, adviser, associate professor of Spanish. At the 2010 URS, she presented "The Problem of Bolivarian Socialism: Hugo Chávez and Domestic Policy in Venezuela," Sheri Breen, assistant professor of political science, adviser. Barron has been involved in campus governance through the Morris Campus Student Association, the Faculty Affairs Committee, and the Humanities Division Advisory Council. She served as a research and teaching assistant and is a founding member and first president of Vamos Juntos, the new Spanish student organization. She assisted Cyrus Bina, professor of political science, with his book. *Oil: A Time Machine*. Barron is planning graduate studies with an international component and a future in academia, politics, and diplomacy.

Guinevere "Gwen" Bitker '11, LeSeuer, chemistry, first worked on a computational chemistry research problem in Introduction to Research then brought the work to fruition in summer 2010 as the inaugural recipient of the Chemistry Undergraduate Research Fund stipend. Partnered with Jim Togeas, professor of chemistry, she compiled work produced by student workers over the course of about five years to critically review and resolve inconsistencies. Then, she undertook a series of calculations that led to a novel result—the molecules studied consist of two independent units, a ring of eight atoms and whatever is attached to the ring, novel for substances derived from the class of compounds to which acetic acid belongs. She demonstrated that a large number of compounds exhibited this behavior and found that the theoretical model reproduced the results of an experimental study quite unrelated to the larger theme of the research, but confirmed that the model is robust. Bitker produced a coherent and complete body of research that is embodied in a manuscript, "Isoergic Hydrogen Bonding in Substituted Acetic Acid Dimers," under review at *The Journal of Physical Chemistry A* and that she presented at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society in Anaheim, California, in March 2011. She also presented her work at the 2011 Undergraduate Research Symposium. Her long-range plan is to earn a doctorate in physical chemistry.

Jason Bonde '11, Benson, computer science, carried out extensive, highly sophisticated data analysis on the polarization parameters of the silicon monoxide maser emission of Mira, a long period variable star. He determined the lifetime and velocity extent of numerous maser features. His work resulted in several presentations and a major publication. With Gordon McIntosh, professor of physics, "The Lifetime of Mira's SiO Maser Features" was published in *Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific* and "The Characteristic Lifetime of Mira's SiO Maser Features" in *Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society*. Also working with McIntosh, he presented "The Characteristic Lifetime of Mira's SiO Maser Features" at the 2008 Meeting of the Minnesota Area Association of Physics Teachers at Gustavus Adolphus College and at the 2008 Undergraduate Research Symposium. Bonde also presented his research at a national American Astronomical Society meeting in St. Louis. Bonde's research was supported by a National Science Foundation grant for two years.

Eugene Butler '11, Browns Valley, computer science and political science, worked on a Research Experience for Undergraduates computer security project at South Dakota State University in summer 2010. He presented his research summary, "Development of honeynet-based computer forensic readiness," at the 2011Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium (MICS). In spring 2011, Butler worked with another student and Elena Machkasova, associate professor of computer science, on a project to improve error messages in Clojure programming language. The project is supported by a National Science Foundation's Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation grant. He presented this work, "Improving error messages in the Clojure programming language," with Brian Goslinga as a paper at MICS 2011. Butler also studied recent developments in automated sentiment analysis, an area of computer science that connects to his political science major, and submitted a paper, "Superior Public Opinion Information Through Automated Sentiment Analysis," to the 2011 Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference. He also presented at the 2011 Undergraduate Research Symposium. Butler's team placed first at the annual Digi-Key programming competition in 2010. He is a member of the campus robotics team and competed at the MICS robotics competition in 2010.

Carly Dukart '11, Lakeville, chemistry: biochemistry, worked with Ted Pappenfus, associate professor of chemistry, on three projects. As a research assistant in summer 2008, Dukart investigated environmentally friendly alternatives to the production of ammonia. Her research was published in the *Electrochemical Society Transactions* and presented as a poster at the 2008 National Conference of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) in Anaheim, California. She contributed to the poster, "Wind to ammonia: Electrochemical processes in room temperature ionic liquids," presented at E3 2009, the Energy, Economic, and Environmental Conference, in St. Paul. She contributed to the poster "Electrode, electrolyte, and proton effects on the electrochemical synthesis of ammonia" presented at the 2009 American Chemical Society (ACS) National Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, and also at the 2009 Undergraduate Research Symposium. Her second project focused on oxygen sensors. She and her lab partner developing a soluble iridium oxygen sensor and presented their results, "Ir(ppy)2(cs-acac) and polyhedral oligomeric silsesquioxanes in oxygen sensing," at the 2010 ACS national meeting in San Francisco, California, and also at the 2010 URS. The third project aimed at making inorganic-organic hybrid materials for electron applications including light harvesting of solar energy. In the laboratory, she was successful in efficiently attaching thiophene-based organic materials to an inorganic cage—a process not previously reported. A manuscript related to this unprecedented chemistry is in preparation.

Clara Dux '11, Stewartville, psychology, is a scholar whose strengths lie in applied research—translating theory and careful research techniques to real-life concerns with the goal of affecting positive change. This was exemplified in her work with the Big Stone County Food Assessment and in her assistance as a teaching assistant applying health behavior theory and research to the new service-learning project in Professor of Psychology Jeff-Ratliff Crain's Health Psychology course. Dux was instrumental in the development of the project and in guiding student groups as they developed intervention proposals for use by the Morris Healthy Eating Project. Her research skills were exemplified further with her work on a laboratory study on the effects of caffeine on emotional responses and recovery following exposure to a stressful task. Dux and research partner Ellis Valentiner were equal collaborators on this Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program-funded project. "Effects of Caffeine Consumption on Mood and Physiological Responses to a Speech Task," was presented at the 2011 annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association conference in Chicago and at the 2011 annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Ithaca, New York. It was also presented at the 2011 Undergraduate Research Symposium. Dux provided research and support work with the Center for Small Towns for the Big Stone County Food Assessment and as the Symposium on Small Towns and Rural-Urban Gathering intern. She is a community engagement liaison for the Morris Healthy Eating Project.

Dugan Flanders '11, Paynesville, economics and art history, is one of perhaps only a handful of students, graduate and undergraduate, around the United States who has worked intensively with the economics of wind power. Flanders provided independent research assistance on two separate grant projects with Arne Kildegaard, professor of economics and management. He co-presented "Hydrostatic Technology in Wind Turbines" with Bren Thul, Rahul Dutta, Kildegaard, and Kim Stelson at E3 2010, Energy, Economics, and the Environment Conference in Minneapolis. In March 2011, he gave an oral presentation, an Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE) Seed Grant final report, "The cost of gearbox failure and the economic viability of a hydrostatic alternative," to grant team collaborators at the University of Minnesota School of Mechanical Engineering. He presented this topic at the 2011 Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS). In 2010, he presented "Mycenean Tholos Tombs: Construction and Significance," an oral presentation, at the URS. In addition, Flanders is a recipient of UMAC Academic All-Conference honors in cross-country and track, and is a recipient of a Young Ambassadors Program Fellowship for travel to Northern Ireland.

Brian Goslinga '11, Milaca, computer science, received an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Project (UROP) grant to conduct research on improving Clojure error messages. Goslinga's enthusiasm for the software's benefits for reliable and safe programming is in large part responsible for introduction of Clojure in the computer science curriculum. His UROP project addresses a well-known Clojure's reliance on programmers' knowledge of low-level details in order to understand error messages. His work on making error messages more understandable will benefit the programming community and help Clojure adoption in the computing industry and in academia. Goslinga and classmate Eugene Butler presented "Improving error messages in the Clojure programming language," at the April 2011 Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium and at the 2011 Undergraduate Research Symposium. His team placed first at the Digi-Key annual programming competition in 2010.

Rachel Harstad '11, Farmington, chemistry: biochemistry and statistics, performed research with multiple faculty. During her senior year, she worked with Jennifer Goodnough, associate professor of chemistry, and presented that research, "Semi-empirical study of the effects of temperature on hydrogen bonding strength and liquid salt water dynamics," at the National American Chemical Society meeting in March 2011 in Anaheim, California. She also worked with Jon Anderson, professor of statistics, on a project presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in April 2011 in Ithaca, New York. Rachel was awarded an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program grant to conduct the statistics research, "Effects of Cultivar and Initial Plant Spacing on Growth and Development of Primocane-fruiting Raspberries Grown in High Tunnels." With Liz Vold, she presented "Maximizing the Production and Quality of High Tunnel Raspberries" at the 2010 Minnesota Statewide High Tunnel/Season Extension Conference in Mankato. She received UMAC All Academic Team soccer honors in 2010. Harstad has been accepted to several graduate schools to pursue chemistry research.

Abram "Abe" Henry '11, Hastings, Spanish and political science: international relations, completed an internship with the United States State Department during fall 2010. He worked under the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs in the U.S. Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States (OAS). His portfolio included work on the OAS annual budget and addressed international sustainable and integral development at the OAS. He attended meetings and negotiations of the executive secretariat for integral development and reported back to the ambassador and her alternate representatives on science and technology, women and indigenous rights in Latin America, culture as a tool for economic prosperity, and disaster relief and preparedness, especially in Caribbean nations. A major project included making preparations for U.S. contributions to the OAS 2011 Inter-American Year of Culture, which started in March 2011 in Brazil. He received the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Permanent Mission to the OAS Certificate of Appreciation for fall 2010. "Struggling Against the Injustice: The Historical Context and Social Justice in Gabriel García Márquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude," the culminating project for his senior capstone for the Spanish major, was published in *Metamorphosis*, a national undergraduate research journal of the Council of Liberal Arts Colleges. "Multilateral Diplomacy, Multilateral Roles: The Many Understandings of the 'Role' of International Organizations in Modern International Relations" was his final research paper for his internship and political science: international relations major and 2011Undergraduate Research Symposium presentation.

Matthew Kroonblawd '12, Lino Lakes, physics and mathematics and chemistry minors, developed a computer model for the simulations of shock wave propagation in the crystalline explosive RDX. He particularly investigated the shock energy dissipation around voids in the crystal, which yields answers for the mechanisms of detonation initiation in this material. The project, conducted with Sylke Boyd, associate professor of physics, was supported by an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program grant. Kroonblawd presented his research at an international workshop on Progress and Future Challenges in Computational Materials Science in March 2011 at the Bremen Institute for Computational Materials Science in Bremen, Germany. His results will also be a significant part of a publication in a major scientific journal. As a result of his work on the shock propagation through RDX, in summer 2011 Kroonblawd will work with Thomas Sewell, associate professor of chemistry at the University of Missouri, whose research group created the original model that Kroonblawd customized and further developed.

Angela Lexvold '11, Pine Island, geology and anthropology, is involved in three research projects. As a Morris Academic Partner with Jennifer Deane, associate professor of history, she re-analyzed data on animal remains from the Joint Site, a pre-Contact period pueblo in eastern Arizona that was excavated in the 1970s but never fully analyzed or published. Her results were presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archeology in Sacramento, California, in March 2011. Working with another student, Lexvold analyzed the chemical composition of mineral precipitates that form in subglacial environments, an outgrowth of the Geology of Italy course taught by Jim Cotter, professor of geology. Samples from the Italian Alps are prepared at Morris for analyses using the electron microprobe in the Twin Cities Department of Geology and Geophysics. Lexvold's third project investigates a suite of 3.25 Ga basements rocks in Yellowstone National Park region. Her research is part of a larger collaborative effort funded under a National Science Foundation-Research Enhancement for Undergraduates program. Lexvold's research objectives are to understand the nature of these rocks in terms of their age, origin, and temperature and pressure/depth history, and emplacement. She completed microscopic petrographic examination on campus and elemental analysis using the Twin Cities campus electron microprobe. She traveled to the University of Florida to continue elemental analyses using X-ray fluorescence (XRF) and Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS). She will attempt to date samples by measuring uranium-lead isotope ratios in zircon crystals using thermal ionization mass spectrometer (TIMS). Lexvold's research with that of her mentors and peers will further elucidate the tectonic evolution of the western cordilleran. She will present her research at the Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section of the Geological Society of America in Logan, Utah, in May 2011.

Jeffery Lind '11, Robbinsdale, physics, has been participating in the development of a balloon based skylight polarimeter for two years through a Morris Academic Partnership and an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program grant. He has been involved in the equipment development, electronics, computerized data acquisition and analysis, theoretical modeling of the results, and scientific presentation of the results. With Gordon McIntosh, professor of physics, he presented "Attempts to Measure Skylight Polarization during a Balloon Ascent" at the 2010 Academic High Altitude Balloon Conference at Taylor University, in Uplands, Indiana, and "Skylight Polarization during a Balloon Ascent" at the 2010 Meeting of the Minnesota American Association of Physics Teachers at St. John's University in Collegeville. He presented "Skylight Polarization during a Balloon Ascent" at the 2011 Undergraduate Research Symposium. Abstracts will also be submitted to the 2011 Meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers at the University of Nebraska in Omaha, the 2011 Academic High Altitude Balloon Conference at Iowa State University in Ames, and the 2011 Meeting of the Minnesota Area Association of Physics Teachers at St. Mary's University in Winona.

Rebecca Lindquist '11, Plymouth, anthropology and chemistry, has been involved in research since the beginning of her sophomore year. While maintaining a 4.0 grade point average, the breadth of her research interests range from studying alternative sources of biodiesel to the most basic applications of theoretical computational chemistry. She presented "Carbon Dioxide Adsorption on Zinc Oxide Nanomaterials" at the 2011 American Chemical Society ACS National Meeting, in Anaheim, California. She presented "Comparison of Oilseeds for Use as Biodiesel: Analysis of Fatty Acid Composition" at the 2009 Undergraduate Research Symposium. She presented "Comparison of Oilseeds for Use as Biodiesel" at E3 2008, the Energy, Economics, and Environment Conference at the University of Minnesota. She received a 2010 Goldwater Scholarship Honorable Mention Award. She intends to pursue a doctorate in a program that will allow her to direct her talents toward the solution of environmental problems from the unique perspective that her majors provide.

Andrea Lund '11, Bloomington, biology and Spanish, has demonstrated a commitment to public health and its intersection with Spanish-speaking populations in the United States and abroad. During summers 2009 and 2010, Lund worked as a research assistant through Des Moines University studying the incidence of cervical cancer in Caucasian and Latin American women. Her research required extensive interaction in Spanish with study participants, entering and managing data, and conducting statistical analysis. She presented "Socio-cultural Factors and HPV Preventive Behaviors" and "Effects of Previous Sexual Behaviors on HPV Vaccine Acceptability" at the closing program. She presented "Racial disparities between Latina and Caucasian women in factors associated with HPV vaccination" at the 11th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (AMSPSP) in January 2010. She presented "Effects of machismo and acculturation on HPV vaccination status and willingness among White and Latina women" at the closing program in 2010. Her poster was accepted to the 12th AMSPSP in January 2011. The manuscript that she coauthored, "Race disparities between White and Latina women in factors associated with HPV vaccination" is under review for publication in *Preventive Medicine*. Lund worked in Costa Rica through Duke University's Organization of Tropical Studies Global Health Semester, combining field, laboratory, and classroom instruction with language and cultural education in tropical medicine and public health. She presented "The Relationship Between Housing Conditions and Respiratory Illness in Migrant Ngöbe Children: A Global Public Health Study" at the 2010 Undergraduate Research Symposium. Her research was published in *Metamorphosis*, a national undergraduate research journal of the Council of Liberal Arts Colleges. Lund is a finalist for a Post-Bachelor Fellowship at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington. She is accepted to three top public health graduate schools: Yale University, Emory University, and the University of Minnesota.

Alex Madsen '11, North Branch, chemistry with secondary education licensure, performed undergraduate research with Morris faculty and with Efie Kokkoli, associate professor of chemical engineering and materials science on the Twin Cities campus, as part of the Materials Research Science and Engineering Center Research (MRSEC) National Science Foundation-Research Experiences for Undergraduates program (NSF-REU). Madsen's project was "pH Sensitive Polymersomes for Cancer Targeting." She presented her work at the MRSEC Summer Undergraduate Research Expo and the 2010 Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS). In summer 2010, she worked with Maria Oliver-Hoyo, associate professor of chemical education at North Carolina State University, on chemical education research funded through the NSF-REU program. Her project was "Teaching electrochemistry: Addressing misconceptions by the development of educational materials that promote conceptual understanding." She presented this research at the National American Chemical Society meeting in March 2011 and at the 2011 URS. As a student at Morris, she served as a tutor and assisted fellow students through the Peer Assisted Learning.

William Martin '11, Rogers, physics and computer science, was involved in taking data and computing electron trajectories in an atomic physics lab with adviser Matthew Len Keeler, associate professor of physics. He presented his results, "Measuring the Electron Orbits of Highly Excited Potassium Atoms Under the Influence of Krypton Gas," at the 2010 Undergraduate Research Symposium. His contributions were incorporated into a paper, "Rydberg-electron decoherence in experimentally obtained recurrence spectra," published in the *Journal of Physics A*, one of the most highly respected journals of atomic physics. Martin and William Setzer wrote a 40-page lab manual describing basic lab concepts and details of operation.

Michael McBride '11, Stillwater, political science and English, presented "Constructing Double Consciousness: Media Regimes and Racial Identity Construction" at the 19th annual Midwest Undergraduate Political Science Research Conference (MUPSRC) at Coe College in April 2011. McBride examined how the campaign and election of Barack Obama and its presentation by new media legitimized a new race "reality" that competed with the prototypical symbolic construction of African-Americans to the benefit of minority communities. He argues that new media created a new symbolic arena in which the campaign and election of President Obama was able to legitimized a new, nontraditional racial construct. His work is being considered for the top paper award based on the submission review by faculty from Coe and other schools. McBride presented "How priming won the White House" based on an original data set with a survey based experiment and analysis at the 2009 MUPSRC.

Cody Miller '11, Rockford, political science, presented a comparative political theory paper, "Talking to Africa: A Proposal," at the 19th annual Midwest Regional Undergraduate Political Science conference at Coe College in April 2011. Using Dallmayr's method of analyzing cultures and ideas laterally, Miller evaluates articles and books that cover a breadth of uniquely African perspectives and the assertion that a "person is a person through persons." The scholarly analyses reveal a complex set of ideas about the role of an individual in society, the continuity that holds society together, and the definition of what it means to be human. The paper concludes that Sub-Saharan African political theory can be an integral player in global discussion of politics. His work is being considered for the top paper award based on the submission review by faculty from Coe and other schools.

Matthew Privratsky '11, Walker, political science and communication, media, and rhetoric minor, conducted innovative work on how new media forms change our understandings of how political decision makers' use of new media changes the conventional literature on media effects. "The Pentagon Model: A New Model for Media and Politics," his senior capstone project, was presented as a poster at the 2011 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Chicago, the second largest annual political science meeting in the United States. Privratsky's research was conducted as a Morris Academic Partner and as the recipient of an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program grant. He presented "The Compatibility of Islam and Democracy" at the 19th annual Midwest Regional Undergraduate Political Science Conference at Coe College in April 2011.

Mark Privratsky '11, Walker, political science and communication, media, and rhetoric minor, conducted a statistically sophisticated study on a normatively important topic. He presented "Why Politicians drop the ball on stadium taxes," his senior capstone project, at the 19th annual Midwest Regional Undergraduate Political Science Conference at Coe College in April 2011.

Dominic Scheck '11, Brooklyn Park, English, served as a Morris Academic Partner helping Brook Miller, associate professor of English, with completing his book, *America and the British Imaginary in Turn-of-the-Twentieth-Century Literature*. Scheck completed research tasks, including assessing secondary sources, offering style and content suggestions on the manuscript in progress, and scrupulously checking citations and the bibliography. Scheck presented "Sundered waters: Isolated Consciousnesses and Ostensible Communion in Woolf's Narration" at the 2010 International Virginia Woolf Conference at Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky. Scheck and two fellow students collaborated with Miller to propose a panel, "Failure and Functionality in Woolf's Natural Orders," for an upcoming international conference. His single-author essay, "Sundered waters: Isolated Consciousnesses and Ostensible Communion in Woolf's Narration" is forthcoming in the *2011 Virginia Woolf and the Natural World: Selected Papers from the Twentieth International Conference on Virginia Woolf*. He also presented at the 2010 Undergraduate Research Symposium. Based on Scheck's research and outstanding work in the Writing Room, he has been invited to join a proposed panel of Morris faculty and alumni for the 2011 Midwest Writing Center Association conference. Scheck served as the English Discipline's elected representative and Sigma Tau Delta chair.

Debbie Schneiderman '11, Luverne, chemistry, was awarded a Morris Academic Partner for 2009–10 to conduct two research projects with Ted Pappenfus, associate professor of chemistry. Both related to conducting polymers, an active subfield of new materials research, one was a theoretical and computational study on two types of lesser-studied conducting polymers, and the second used both theoretical and synthetic methods to study novel donor-acceptor organic molecules. The latter project resulted in a paper, "Oligothiophene Tetracyanobutadienes: Alternative Donor-Acceptor Architectures for Molecular and Polymeric Materials" in the peer-reviewed American Chemical Society (ACS) journal *Chemistry Materials*. Schneiderman presented her work, "Theoretical Investigations of oligo-and poly(3:2 b:2',3'-d) dithienopyrroles," at the 2010 meeting of the ACS in San Francisco, California. In summer 2010, she conducted biofuel production research at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, isolating yeasts from environmental samples and screening them for resistance to butanol, cellulase activity, and xylose utilization. In her senior year, she worked with Tim Soderberg, associate professor of chemistry, on a biofuels-related Undergraduate Research Opportunities Project, in an effort to discover novel enzymes for potential use in cellulosic ethanol production. Schneiderman has served as a teaching assistant, peer tutor, student representative to the discipline, and co-president of the Chemistry Club. She co-presented a poster, "'University of Minnesota, Morris ACS Student Chapter," at the 2010 ACS meeting. She has received UMAC All Conference Academic honors for both cross-country and track. Schneiderman has been accepted to several prestigious doctorate programs in chemistry.

Chad Seibert '11, Wadena, computer science and mathematics, worked on multiple computer science projects, including an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program with Peh Ng, professor of mathematics, on developing algorithms for adaptable GPS systems. Seibert's strong background in computer science and mathematics, enthusiasm, and dedication allowed him to organize and complete several research projects. He is a solo author of two papers at the Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium (MICS) 2011 on two very different research topics: "Adaptive GPS Systems" and "Runtime Characteristics of the Quadratic Sieve," a cryptographic algorithm that he studied from the standpoint of the speed of computations. He also presented his work at the Undergraduate Research Symposium. Seibert served as a teaching assistant for a database course taught by Nic McPhee, professor of computer science, and was an active participant in computer science activities. Seibert's team placed first at the Digi-Key annual programming competition in 2010. He is a member of the campus robotics team and competed at the MICS robotics competition 2010.

William Setzer '11, Hudson, Wisconsin, physics and math, working with Matthew Len Keeler, associate professor of physics, was involved in atomic physics research in which he experimentally measured the paths of highly excited electrons in potassium. In addition, he made contributions to theoretical predictions through numerical computations of electron energy levels and classical trajectories. The experimental results and theoretical predictions were incorporated into "Scaled Energy Spectroscopy of Collisionally Perturbed Potassium Rydberg States" presented at the 2010 national conference of the American Physical Society, Division of Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics, in Houston Texas, and "Measuring the Electron Orbits of Highly Excited Potassium Atoms Under the Influence of Krypton Gas" at the 2010 Undergraduate Research Symposium. The experimental work, "Rydberg-electron decoherence in experimentally obtained recurrence spectra," was published in the *Journal of Physics A*, one of the most highly respected journals of atomic physics. With William Martin, Setzer wrote a 40-page manual describing basic lab concepts and details of operation. Setzer will attend Wesleyan University physics graduate program in fall 2011.

Isaac Sjoblom '11, Montevideo, computer science, worked with Elena Machkasova, associate professor of computer science, on a project on optimization of the Java programming language first as a Morris Academic Partner and then as an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program project. He participated in experiment design and execution, data analysis, and writing the resulting papers. He is an author of a research paper, "Choosing Efficient Inheritance Patterns for Java Generics," presented at Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium (MICS) in April 2010 that received the Best Undergraduate Student Paper Award. He is the first author of a research paper, "Can You Trust Your JVM Diagnostics?" presented at MICS in April 2011.

Josie Skala '11, North Mankato, chemistry: biochemistry, began her research career with Timna Wyckoff, associate professor of biology, in determining antibiotic resistance in a dairy herd that was being transitioned from conventional to organic. She presented that work, "Examination of Phenotypic and Genotypic Pirlimycin Resistance in Staphylococcus from Milk Samples from Conventional and Organic Dairies in West-central Minnesota," in Philadelphia at the American Society for Microbiology 109th General Meeting and at the Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) in 2010. She presented "Distribution of lincosamide inactivation gene lnu(A) in Staphylococcus strains phenotypically sensitive to the lincosamide pirlimycin" at the Annual American Indian Science and Engineering Society Conference and at the North Central Branch of the American Society for Microbiology 68th Annual Meeting in 2008. Skala also conducted research with Jennifer Goodnough, associate professor of chemistry, taking nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) measurements on hydrogen bonded liquids. Skala presented that research, "Effects of temperature and concentration of Hofmeister series ions NaSCN, NaCl and NaNO3 on hydrogen bonding in liquid water measured using 1H NMR," at the National American Chemical Society meeting in March 2011. She also presented her recent research work at the URS in April 2011

Colin Stemper '11, Richfield, political science and communication, media, rhetoric minor, has taken his research in comparative party systems to the level of publication in a peer-reviewed journal and presentation of a poster at one of the two primary national political science conferences. "It's Not Just the Economy, Stupid! Party Change in Electoral Authoritarian States: A Russian Case Study" was presented as a poster at the 2011 Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting, the second largest annual political science meeting in the United States. His senior capstone project was presented at the 2011 Midwest Annual Political Science Association Conference in Chicago and will be published in *Retos Internacionales*, an international social science journal.

Jacob Thebault-Spieker '11, Sebec, Maine, computer science, worked for three years on developing methods to improve the performance of distributed file systems, information stored on multiple computers on a network. Most of his work focused on improving the process by which a client system decides which server to request a file from on behalf of the user. This work started with the receipt of two highly competitive Google Summer of Code grants in 2008 and 2009, and continued with an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program grant. He published and presented his work, "Can protocol and application layer statistics improve client-server responsiveness?" at the Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium in 2010. In summer 2010, he served as a research assistant to Dr. Madhev Satyanarayanan at Carnegie Mellon University, where he worked on improving the performance of systems that store entire virtual computer system images on the network, allowing users to restart their virtual computer on whatever physical computer they are currently using. Most recently, he helped a Morris research group explore ways to use these techniques to allow children to share educational artifacts across a classroom network using mobile devices like smart phones.

Elizabeth Thoma '11, Eden Prairie, history and political science, presented her political science senior seminar paper "Family Matters: The importance of parents' political attitudes in shaping their children's political beliefs" at the Midwest Undergraduate Political Science Research Conference at Coe College in April 2011. Thoma's paper is based on an original data set collected from the 2010 election and involves an innovative analysis of data and the bringing together of interdisciplinary work on political socialization. Thoma's senior tutorial for history integrated analytical tools from other coursework into a historical study of the relationship between political cartoons and the shift from isolationism to interventionism in United States political and public opinion, illustrating the value of our diverse liberal arts approach to problems both intellectual and practical. She presented "The Influence of Political Cartoons on Public Opinion during World War II" at the 2010 Undergraduate Research Symposium. Thoma worked as a researcher on a Minnesota's Legacy Fund project and surveyed historical records for Pope County Township, a model project in assembling materials on a micro-historical level. She served as a teaching assistant in Introduction to United States History.

Ellis Valentiner '12, Plymouth, psychology, earned two Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) awards in different subfields of psychology, health psychology and cognitive psychology, and completed public health research under the supervision of faculty in statistics and biology. The health psychology UROP, a laboratory study on the effects of caffeine on physiological and emotional responses to a stressful task, was developed, run, and analyzed in collaboration with Clara Dux, and the results, "Effects of Caffeine Consumption on Mood and Physiological Responses to a Speech Task," were presented at the 2011 annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference in Chicago and at the 2011 National Conference for Undergraduate Research in Ithaca, New York. The second UROP project, developed and run with Alaina Pearce, was on comprehension of words presented in the form of lexical shortenings (e.g., text message abbreviations) and is in the final stages of completion. A biology and statistics project on predictors for obtaining seasonal flu vaccinations in Stevens County provided another avenue for linking psychological attitude research with health behaviors, using data obtained through the United States census. The projects resulted in Undergraduate Research Symposium presentations.

Brian Valerius '11, Elk River, computer science, worked on two projects with Elena Machkasova, associate professor of computer science. During the 2009–10 academic year, he studied software programs for testing website functionality to determine which programs would be best suited for use in a classroom setting. Valerius presented his findings as a paper at the 2010 Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium. In summer 2010, he worked on a project, supported by a National Science Foundation's Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation grant, on collecting information about a program in the Java programming language via a software program known as a parser. The results of his challenging work will be used in a University of Minnesota, Morris project on Java optimization. He presented his work at the North Star STEM Alliance third annual Student Research Symposium in April 2011.

Elizabeth "Liz" Vold '11, Sartell, biology and statistics, has served as a research assistant at the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris. She conducted a large, multi-year experiment to compare raspberry quality and yields grown in a high-tunnel enclosure to those grown by traditional methods. Vold contributed her knowledge of plant biology to the research project during the data-production stage, and she used her statistics education to analyze the data. She used modern, reproducible research methods in her dissemination activities. Vold presented results, "Maximizing the Production and Quality of High Tunnel Raspberries" at the 2010 Minnesota High Tunnel Conference in Mankato, and she will also present her work, "Raspberry Size and Total Yield in a High Tunnel Compared to Traditionally Managed Fields," at the 2011 National Conference for Undergraduate Research in Ithaca, New York. Vold received an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program grant in support of her raspberry high tunnel research.

Katherine "Katie" Wutchiett '11, Bloomington, political science and economics, presented her senior capstone project, "The Gender Frame: Differences Between the Framing of Republican and Democratic Female Candidates," at the 19th annual Midwest Regional Undergraduate Political Science conference at Coe College in April 2011.Wutchiett has conducted an interesting and statistically sophisticated study on a normatively important topic that is right now at the front of both gender and politics and research in political psychology. She has also conducted research and fieldwork on women as policy-makers in India with Pareena Lawrence, professor of economics.

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