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## Student Honors and Awards Program 2013

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# 2013

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS

# HONORS AND AWARDS

IN RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ENRICH CAMPUS LIFE

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EDSON AUDITORIUM, STUDENT CENTER  
FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2013, 7 P.M.



# 2013 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS STUDENT HONORS AND AWARDS

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**Welcome** ..... Bart D. Finzel, vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean

**University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association Teaching Award** ..... presented by Suzanne Hendricks Basiago '87, president  
Timna Wyckoff '94, associate professor of biology  
Nic McPhee, professor of computer science

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.

**Addresses** ..... Timna Wyckoff '94, associate professor of biology  
Nic McPhee, professor of computer science

**Chancellor's Award** ..... presented by Jacqueline Johnson, chancellor  
Kristofor Gieske, Sauk Centre  
Luciana Ranelli, Duluth

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  
Holly Gruntner, Chisago City

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.

**Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship recipients** ..... recognized by Jacqueline Johnson, chancellor  
Andreana Saunders, Bloomington  
Amber Whittemore, Colorado Springs, Colorado

The Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program broadens the student population that studies abroad by supporting undergraduates who might not otherwise participate due to financial constraints. The program aims to encourage students to choose non-traditional study abroad destinations, especially those outside of Western Europe, Australia and New Zealand. Such international study is intended to better prepare United States students to assume significant roles in an increasingly global economy and interdependent world.

**Allen W. Edson Award** ..... presented by Sandra K. Olson-Loy, vice chancellor for student affairs  
Holly Gruntner, Chisago City

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 K. Olson-Loy, vice chancellor for student affairs  
Shauna Wimmer, New Brighton, student 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 Alisande Allaben, Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, Functions and Awards Committee chair 2013–14

Rachel Balzar, North Branch	Timothy Ginader, Apple Valley	Kenna Nelson, Shoreview
Abdala Bashir, Mogadishu, Somalia	Samuel Gockel, Saint Paul	Ruth Potter, Long Prairie
Obsa Bokku, Robbinsdale	Sarah E. Goergen, Maple Grove	Luciana Ranelli, Duluth
Wesley Brand, Burnsville	Deon Haider, Northfield	Andrew Rosenthal, Savage
Iris Burniece, Maple Grove	Sarah Hanson, Avon	Colin Scheck, Brooklyn Park
Melissa Carnicle, Garretson, South Dakota	Alex Hoyt, Saint Francis	Tim Snyder, Morris
Nicholas Cornhill, Saint Paul	Nicholas Johnson, Mound	Michael Sorenson, Detroit Lakes
Seth Elsen, Shelton, Washington	Anika Kildegaard, Morris	Seth Sorensen, Buffalo
Rebecca Erickson, Eyota	Andrew Lexvold, Pine Island	Bixuan Sun, Heman, China
Chase Gerold, Hastings		

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 Pieranna Garavaso, chair, Division of the Humanities

Samuel Gockel, Saint Paul

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.

**Sustainability Award** ..... presented by Jacqueline Johnson, chancellor

Alicia Beattie, Hastings	Laura Anne Hunt, Eagan
Heidi Eger, Woodbury	Andreana Saunders, Bloomington
Seth Elsen, Shelton, Washington	Naomi Wentz, Dodge Center
Zak Forde, Saint Paul	

This award recognizes students that have displayed exemplary service on our campus to advance our sustainability initiatives and campus sustainability conversation. The efforts of these students have been sustained over the course of their tenure at Morris and have helped to create positive change with leadership that has been a model to others. Sustainability is a big idea that connects with our liberal arts leadership. These students have asked “big questions” and have worked to find solutions.

**American Indian Salt Springs Cultural Award Scholarship** ..... presented by Becca Gercken, associate professor of English and American Indian studies

Eric DuMarce, Browns Valley	Melanie Johns, Freeport
Lera Hephner, Waubun	Shelby Spry, Detroit Lakes

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

Ashlyn Jasken, Detroit Lakes  
Nicholas Heck, Fergus Falls

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

John Bliss, Minneapolis	Sara Kirchman, Clearbrook
Cameron Cook, Chaska	Chris Lanctin, Sartell
Mara Facile, Maplewood	Annie Morphew, Lakeville
Josh Godding, Saint Cloud	Josh Preston, Montevideo
Holly Gruntner, Chisago City	Andreana Saunders, Bloomington
Stephen Harper, Hastings	Andrew Showalter, Maplewood
Annie Hawkinson, Saint Paul	Taryn Upmann, Rochester
Anika Kildegaard, Morris	

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.

## EDUCATION AWARD

Presented by Gwen Rudney, chair, Division of Education

**William R. Scarborough Memorial Award** ..... Megan Domine, Mahtomedi  
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 Award** ..... Scott DeVries, Muskegon, Michigan  
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** ..... Emily Mehr, Aitkin  
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** ..... Kali Cordes, Glenwood  
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** ..... Logan Orazem, Mora  
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

Alexander Rensch, Rapid City, South Dakota  
performing "Julia Florida," by Agustín Barrios (1885–1944)

## HUMANITIES AWARDS

Presented by Pieranna Garavaso, chair, Division of the Humanities

**Art History Book Award** ..... Samantha Bruno, Foley  
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** ..... Holly Gruntner, Chisago City  
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.

**Keith Carlson Memorial Jazz Award** ..... Lukas Skrove, Northfield  
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 Jacobson, Foley  
Michael Raynes, Lakeville  
Lukas Skrove, Northfield  
Derek Ziemer, Saint Cloud

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.

**Natalie Benoit Memorial Award** ..... Samantha Bruno, Foley  
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** ..... Deanna Barr, Ramsey  
Jordan Landin, Willmar  
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** ..... Megan Fitzgerald, Hancock  
Tyler Weber, Erie, Colorado  
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.

**Raymond J. Lammers Award in the Language Arts** ..... John Bliss, Minneapolis  
Stephen Harper, Hastings  
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.

## SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS AWARDS

presented by Peh Ng, chair, division of Science and Mathematics

**Jay Y. Roshal Award** ..... Taryn Upmann, Rochester  
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** ..... Dan Seidenkranz, Woodbury  
The annual spdf Award is given to a senior chemistry major demonstrating outstanding scholarship, potential, and service in chemistry.

**Freshman Chemistry Award** ..... Garrison (Sonny) Komaniecki, Rochester  
Matthew Smith, Willmar  
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** ..... Michelle Williams, Litchfield  
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.

**Abbott Award in Physics** ..... Robert Smith, Browerville  
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.

## SOCIAL SCIENCES AWARDS

Presented by Leslie Meek, chair, Division of the Social Sciences

**Chris Berg Memorial Award** ..... Nicholas Johnson, Mound  
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.

**Schneider National Award** ..... Ann Austin, Vadnais Heights  
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.

**UMM Management/Economics Alumni Award** ..... Bixuan Sun, Pingdingshan, Henan, China  
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.

**Mimi Frenier Award in Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies** ..... Haley Van Cleve, Saint Paul  
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 sexuality studies major in recognition of high academic achievement, and social, political, and civic activism.

**Ted Underwood Award in History** ..... Stephen Harper, Hastings  
Miles Wangenstein, Woodbury  
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.

**Dimitra Giannuli Memorial Award** ..... Annie Morphew, Lakeville  
This annual award is 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.

**Gieske Academic Award** ..... Colin Scheck, Brooklyn Park  
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.

**Outstanding Graduate in Psychology Award** ..... Toni-Ann Flower, Somerville, Massachusetts  
The Outstanding Graduate in Psychology Award is given annually to a senior graduating with a psychology major. Recipients who receive this award have excelled in the following areas: scholarship, research experience, and participation in the psychology discipline.

**Sociology/Anthropology Book Award** ..... Ashleigh Thompson, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Awarded to an outstanding sociology and/or anthropology student, this honor recognizes academic excellence and active engagement in the fields of sociology and anthropology.

**Announcements and Closing Remarks** ..... Bart D. Finzel, vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean

With appreciation, we acknowledge the contribution of American Sign Language interpreter  
Taftens Colbaugh, NIC Master, to the Honors and Awards Ceremony.

# ADDITIONAL HONORS DURING THE 2012-13 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.

Tiwaloluwa Ajibewa, Saint Paul	Yehia Khalifa, Cairo, Egypt
Abdala Bashir, Mogadishu, Somalia	Anika Kildegaard, Morris
Rachael Blais, Saint Paul	Saesun Kim, Namyang Joo, South Korea
Obsa Bokku, Robbinsdale	Alex Kleinfehn, Melrose
Melissa Denler, Champlin	Emily Mutch, Apple Valley
Rebecca Erickson, Eyota	Luciana Ranelli, Duluth
Chase T. Gerold, Hastings	Michael Sorensen, Detroit Lakes
Sarah Goergen, Maple Grove	Emily Szeliga, Long Lake
Kristina Grundmanis, Minneapolis	Alice Toll, Jamestown, Rhode Island
Christine Hoffman, Alexandria	Angela Wipf, Eyota

## **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, DC or the Minnesota State Capitol.

Ben Baglio, Palmer, Alaska

## **Owen W. & 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.

Samuel Gockel, Saint Paul  
Bixuan Sun, Pingdingshan, Henan, China

## **David Minge Internship Award**

The Minge Internship Award supports students seeking Washington, DC, 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.

Elizabeth Catlin, Stillwater

## **David C. Johnson Award for International Service Learning**

To assist deserving students to participate in service learning projects in other nations, e.g., the teaching of English as a second language in developing nations, Habitat for Humanity programs. Preference is for students who will return to UMM subsequent to their work abroad. David served as chancellor of UMM from the fall of 1990 to the summer of 1998.

Amanda House, Gilman  
Michael Peters  
Marci Sanchez, Rosemount

## **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.

Dan Stoterau, Saint Cloud  
Taryn Upmann, Rochester

## **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.

Kristina Grundmanis, Minneapolis

### **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.

Kelly Davis, Cold Spring

### **John Brian Becker '97 Memorial Student Activist Award**

Established by friends of the late John Becker '97, this award is meant to honor and to thank a student identified as being a progressive thinking individual whose activism has made an impact on campus or beyond by raising public awareness and promoting social change. John majored in English and theater arts while at Morris, and was actively involved in the Student DFL, KUMM, and Women's Resource Center.

Naomi Wentz, Dodge Center

### **Matthew Ian Helgesen Memorial Award**

Established by Tim and Jean Helgesen in memory of their son, Matthew '06, this award is given to the Captain of the Bad Movie Club. Matt was one of the first students to start the club during his freshman year at UMM. The award honors the values of UMM and reflects student initiative and creativity in leadership, and serves to encourage the captain to keep the club going by doing "all the extras that always need to be done."

Joe Holden, Saint Cloud

### **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.

Nate Anderson, Northfield

Alyssa Chaplin

Melissa Denler, Champlin

### **Honors Recital Selected Performers**

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

Allison Hansen, Lake Elmo

Michael Jacobson, Foley

Jun Yi Jiang, Shanghai, China

Anika Kildegaard, Morris

Mary Preus, Mayville, North Dakota

Alexandra Regeimbal, Crookston

Alexander Rensch, Rapid City, South Dakota

Niko Simmons, White Bear Lake

Derek Ziemer, Saint Cloud

### **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.

Collin Anderson, golf

Sarah Dens, swimming and diving

Abby Fragodt, basketball, golf, and tennis

Brendon Foss, basketball and football

Justin Irlbeck, football

Nick Jansen, basketball

Andelee Quast, swimming and diving

Even Reller, basketball

Matt Zdrazil, football

### **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.

Nicholas Cornhill/Nic McPhee

Tamir Elnabarawy/Roger Rose

Rebecca Erickson/Peter Wyckoff

Samuel Gockel/Nancy Carpenter

Eric Gonzalez/Michael Ceballos

Anika Kildegaard/Denise Odello

Alissa Melberg/Bibhudutta Panda

Elizabeth Pappenfus/Jeff Ratliff-Crain

Ruth Potter/Margaret Kuchenreuther

Luciana Ranelli/Margaret Kuchenreuther

Chad Reverman/Sylke Boyd

Andy Rosenthal/Julie Eckerle

Katie Schaefer/Heather Waye

Rose Schwietz/Daniel Demetriou

Robert Smith/Sylke Boyd

Mike Sorensen/Tracey Anderson

Bixuan Sun/Arne Kildegaard

Aubrey Thyen/Timna Wyckoff

Chelsae Walsh/Jeff Ratliff-Crain

### 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:

Tiwaloluwa Ajibewa/Rich Hardy  
Anwar Ahmed/Jennifer Deane  
Gammachis Bokku/Pieranna Garavaso  
Bao Chang/Heather Peters  
April Dennison/Margaret Kuchenreuther  
Jennifer Guadarrama/Hilda Ladner  
Benjamin Hughes/Ted Pappenfus  
Sia Moua/Heather Waye  
Meng Xiong/Meng Her

### 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 year-long 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:

Ann Austin/Stephen V. Burks	Hong Liu/Sheng Xiao
Rachel Balzar/Michael Lackey	Markki Meyer/Windy Roberts
Elizabeth Catlin/Jennifer Kolpacoff Deane	Emma Molden/Gordon McIntosh
Timothy Ginader/Stephen V. Burks	Annie Morphey/James G. Schryver
Amy Grant/Stacey Parker Aronson	Jiachen Ning/Jon E. Anderson
Sallie Harris/Kristin Lamberty	Katherine Schemel/Michelle Page
Emma Ireland/Nic McPhee	Bixuan Sun/Sheng Xiao
Dongwook Kim/Jong-Min Kim	Alice Toll/Margaret Kuchenreuther
Lincoln Kirkeide/Pieranna Garavaso	Zachary Van Cleve/Roger Rose
Rachel Kollar/Julia Dabbs	Jordan Wente/Arne Kildegaard
Andrew Latterner/Kristin Lamberty	Angela Wipf/Peter Wyckoff
Conner Lewis/Jon E. Anderson and Stephen V. Burks	Tianxing Yang/Sheng Xiao
Andrew Lexvold/Jon E. Anderson	

### 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.

Anwar Ahmed/Joe Alia	Kay Keegan/Jayne Blodgett
Taylor Barker/Mike Cihak	Anika Kildegaard/Ken Hodgson
Rikki Beaver/Chad Braegelmann	Avery Koester/Rose Murphy
Rachael Berns/Jana Koehler	Phou Lee/Matt Zaske
Samantha Bruno/Michael Eble	Matthew Linder/Pamela Gades
Ravi Butler/Pamela Gades	Elizabeth Marcus/Liz Spohr
Jean Cochran/Gordon McIntosh	John McCall/Matt Senger
Alisha Colling/Timna Wyckoff	Anne Meyers-Welsch/Brook Miller
Marissa Crannell/Stephen Gross	Rilee Moulton/Argie Manolis
Maia Dalager/Argie Manolis	Madeline Moyer/Chad Braegelmann
Annette Gabriel/Jennifer Rothchild	Reid Ronnander/Gordon McIntosh
Brennan Gensch/Nic McPhee	Kaala Ross/Heather Waye
Kristofor Gieske/Mike Cihak	David Ruprecht/Nic McPhee
Gabriel Grimley/Roger Boleman	Adrian Schiller/Nic McPhee
Holly Gruntner/Leslie Meek	Kaitlyn Slieter/Erin Christensen
Christian Hahn/Joel Eisinger	Hanna Svoboda/Janell Kolden
Laura Hunt/Richard Reimers	Katelynn Thomas/Melissa Weber
Lindy Jackson/Liz Spohr	Laura Yourd/Troy Goodnough
Josie Kahlenbeck/Argie Manolis	

### **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.

Zak Forde, Saint Paul

Anna Gusaas

Josie Kahlenbeck

Anita Machayo, Eden Prairie

Michael Peters

Joshua Preston, Montevideo

Colin Scheck, Brooklyn Park

Andrew Showalter, Maplewood

Jon Troe, Lakefield

Haley Van Cleve, Saint Paul

Zachary Van Cleve, Saint Paul

Naomi Wente, Dodge Center

### **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.

Kat Belluomini, Gurnee, Illinois

# 2012–13 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS SCHOLAR OF THE COLLEGE BIOGRAPHIES

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## **Rachel Balzar**

Rachel Balzar '14, North Branch, English and honors, has made significant contributions to the publication of three scholarly books. In 2012 she received Morris Academic Partnership (MAP) funding to work with Michael Lackey, associate professor of English, on the *Haverford Discussions*, a manuscript with previously unpublished writings from African American luminaries such as Ralph Ellison, John Hope Franklin, St. Clair Drake, Kenneth Clark, and J. Saunders Redding. Balzar annotated the 200-page manuscript in order to make it accessible to undergraduates. This required eight months of research, as there are 139 scholarly footnotes amounting to 44 pages of writing. She also transcribed the interviews used in Lackey's *Conversations with Jay Parini* as well as those that will appear in *Truthful Fictions*, Lackey's collection of interviews with American biographical novelists. Balzar is both a Prairie Scholar and the recipient of the Florence Eystad Gahm Memorial Scholarship.

## **Abdala Bashir**

Abdala Bashir '14, Mogadishu, Somalia, chemistry, has performed undergraduate research with several faculty members over the past three years. As a freshman and again as a junior, Bashir worked with Jennifer Goodnough, associate professor of chemistry, on a project entitled "Hydrogen Bond Strength Analysis in NaCl Solution Using 1H NMR," which was presented at the 2012 North Star STEM Alliance research symposium at the University of Minnesota. As a sophomore he worked with Ted Pappenfus, associate professor of chemistry, on a project entitled "Synthesis of oligomeric forms of 4,8-dialkylbenzo [1,2-b:4,5-b']dithiophenes (BDTs) as model systems for conducting polymers." Most recently Bashir has worked with Joe Alia, associate professor of chemistry, on a project titled "Natural bond orbitals related to the pKa of carboxyl acids and phenols." The results of this recent work have been accepted for presentation at the spring 2013 national meeting of the American Chemical Society. Bashir hopes to present his work at the 2013 Undergraduate Research Symposium. He also conducted and presented a Multi-Ethnic Mentorship Program (MMP) project—"Yemen's Revolution"—with Sheri Breen, assistant professor of political science. Bashir has been an active participant in the campus community as a student athlete, president of the Black Student Union, and co-founder and board member of United Students for Africa. He is also a Community Adviser in his residence hall, and he received Academic All-Conference honors as a varsity soccer player in 2010.

## **Obsa Bokku**

Obsa Bokku '14, Robbinsdale, chemistry, has used computational electronic structure theory methods to study the pKa of aqueous amides. Understanding de-protonation reactions in aqueous solution is of fundamental importance and electronic structure theory allows geometrical information and other information about the molecule and its solvation found that is not available using other methods. The methods not only allow comparison with experimental results, but also understanding in terms of chemical concepts. Bokku and his former lab partner submitted a poster entitled "Linear relationship between computed energies and pKa for carboxylic acids and amides" for presentation at the 2013 national meeting of the American Chemical Society in New Orleans, Louisiana. The poster has been accepted for presentation.

## **Wesley Brand**

Wesley Brand '14, Burnsville, mathematics, philosophy, and physics, presented a paper entitled "Medical Necessity and Body Identity Integrity Disorder" at the 2012 Minnesota Philosophical Society Undergraduate Conference, held at Mankato State University. He also submitted "The Cosmological Argument and Mathematical Reasoning" to the 2013 Minnesota Philosophical Society Undergraduate Conference. Brand is a 2011 Morris Scholar and Dean's Scholar, a 2011 National Merit Scholarship recipient, a 2011 national AP Scholar, a 2011 President's Educational Excellence Award recipient, and a Kopp Foundation Scholar. He has applied to both the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Neuroscience's Undergraduate Research Program, and SRI's Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program for summer 2013. Brand competed in the MAA/NCS Team Math Competition in fall 2011. He is also an active participant in Philosophy Club.

## **Iris Burniece**

Iris Burniece '13, Maple Grove, political science, completed her senior thesis in political science in the fall 2012 and went on to present her research in March 2013 at the 22nd Annual Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference at Minnesota State University, Mankato. Her project, entitled "Responding to the Global Ecological Challenge: The Persuasive Power of a Local Approach," is a sophisticated analysis of ideal governance through the lens of ecocentric, communitarian, and cosmopolitan political theories. After examining the strengths and insufficiencies of the decision-making structures advocated by each of these perspectives, Burniece presented her original

synthesis—ecocentric communitarianism—and argued for this innovative theory’s ability to respond to global ecological problems through “the power of locality.” With this project, she has made a valuable contribution to the ongoing discourse of ecological politics.

#### **Melissa Carnicle**

Melissa Carnicle '13, Garretson, South Dakota, geology, chemistry, and environmental science, has participated in four summer research programs and completed field research in Minnesota, Colorado, Italy, and Brazil. She has presented the results of her work at five national conferences, and in 2011 Carnicle won the award for outstanding poster presentation at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) National Meeting. She has also served as a leader, mentor, and role model for Native American students, serving as a mentor for the Wind-STEP program, a recruiter for the STEP program, a fellow in the North Star STEM Alliance, and president of the Morris AISES chapter. In 2013 she received the Leadership Award at the AISES Leadership Summit. Carnicle has also been a teaching assistant for several courses as well as a discipline representative. She has served on several committees and tutored individual science students. She was made a research technician by the government agency UNAVCO and was entrusted to generate Terrestrial LIDAR scans (TLS) for James Cotter’s, professor of geology, research in Italy and Minnesota.

#### **Nicholas Cornhill**

Nicholas Cornhill '14, Saint Paul, computer science and music, has worked to incorporate notions of locality into evolutionary computation (EC) systems and to explore the impact of different migration topologies on the evolutionary process. In traditional EC systems there is no sense of space, and all individuals are capable of interacting with all other individuals. Cornhill’s work explores the impact of adding notions of locality, where individuals can only interact with their neighbors, looking at a variety of migration topologies that constrain the movement of individuals in the space. His work has been funded by both the Morris Academic Partnership (MAP) program and the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). Cornhill presented his work—“Comparing 2D and 3D Geographies in Evolutionary Computation”—as a poster at the 2012 Undergraduate Research Symposium and the Midwest Instruction Computing Symposium (MICS), held at the University of Northern Iowa in April 2012. His article “Community Graphs, Scale-free Networks, and Grid Structures in Spatially Distributed Evolutionary Algorithms” is under review for the 2013 Proceedings of the Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference (GECCO).

#### **Seth Elsen**

Seth Elsen '13, Shelton, Washington, political science and area of concentration, conducted research that details construction of the Grand Coulee dam and the profoundly negative impact that project had on the culture and traditions of the Columbia

Basin Tribes. This research, “The Grand Coulee Dam: Anthropocentric Policies and the Effects on Upper Columbia Tribes,” was presented at the 2012 meeting of the Minnesota Political Science Association. Elsen has carried the spirit of this research over to his practical work for UMM’s Center for Small Towns (CST). In 2012, with support from CST, he undertook a study of the feasibility of solar and wind power on the native lands of the Upper Sioux community. Such a project represents the beginning of an effort to bring beneficial energy sources to native lands in a way that minimizes harmful development and empowers tribes to control their energy future. Elsen’s research reflects his commitment to working with native tribes, both in Minnesota and in Washington, to develop renewable, sustainable energy sources.

#### **Rebecca Erickson**

Rebecca Erickson '13, Eyota, biology and statistics, pursued independent research on Hemlock wooly adelgid disease as part of a prestigious summer program at the Institute for Ecosystem Studies in Cary, New York, in 2012. In the same year she began working with Peter Wyckoff, associate professor of biology, on a National Science Foundation-funded project exploring the impacts of climate change and invasive species on forests in western Minnesota. Erickson has continued that work in 2013, now supported by an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) grant that is co-advised by Wyckoff and Jon Anderson, professor of statistics. She is examining the relationships between adult trees, seedlings, and earthworms in forests across a climate gradient. Her research has progressed rapidly, and she and two co-authors have submitted an abstract—“Invasive earthworm community composition linked to overstory vegetation across a climate gradient in western Minnesota”—for presentation at the August 2013 annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America in Minneapolis.

#### **Chase T. Gerold**

Chase T. Gerold '13, Hastings, chemistry, worked with Ted Pappenfus, associate professor of chemistry, as a research assistant in summer 2012, performing undergraduate research and laboratory development. Gerold and a partner developed several experiments for the undergraduate laboratories, which have already been implemented in a number of laboratory courses. These experiments focused on incorporating green/sustainable chemistry across the undergraduate chemistry curriculum. Two papers describing some of the team’s efforts have been accepted for presentation at the spring 2013 national meeting of the American Chemical Society—“Green acetylation of ferrocene using conventional microwave synthesis” and “Synthesis of polycaprolactone: A green approach with polymer analysis techniques.” In fall 2012, Gerold and his partner shifted their focus to renewable energy technology research by conducting a directed research project. They successfully synthesized a novel-conducting polymer for potential use in organic solar cells as part of this research. These experiments are at the leading edge of green/sustainable chemistry.

**Timothy Ginader**

Timothy Ginader '13, Apple Valley, economics and statistics, has been a key contributor since 2011 to the work of the Truckers & Turnover Project (T&T), an ongoing UMM-based research effort sponsored by two foundations and developed in cooperation with a large motor carrier. T&T is organized by Stephen Burks, associate professor of economics and management, and involves Jon Anderson, professor of statistics, and ten faculty co-investigators from around the world, along with multiple generations of UMM students. Ginader worked full-time during the summer of 2012 and was Burks's Morris Academic Partner (MAP) in fall 2012. He has had primary responsibility for a key part of T&T's data, a set of commercial driver medical forms, with the interpretive help of co-authors from Harvard Medical School, and is presenting initial results from these data in the 2013 Undergraduate Research Symposium. He has also made substantial contributions to the construction, cleaning, validation, and analysis of other parts of the data, including medical data; he is one of three students working on generating analytic results that depend upon merging data on enrollment and claims from two medical service providers and operational data from the trucking firm. He has presented in person and over the web to senior executives at the headquarters of the cooperating trucking firm, an essential contribution to the private/public research partnership on which the project is based. He is also contributing to an analysis of how vehicle accident risk varies by medical status and will be a co-author of the paper the project will submit to a medical journal during 2013 regarding the accident risks and medical results associated with obstructive sleep apnea.

**Samuel N. Gockel**

Samuel N. Gockel '13, Saint Paul, chemistry and Spanish, worked with Ted Pappenfus, associate professor of chemistry, as part of a directed research in spring 2012. His project focused on the design and synthesis of organic materials as models for polymers used in photovoltaics. Gockel was successful on this project, as he successfully synthesized a relatively complex organic material in a single semester of work. He also served as a mentor to students in the Chemistry Discipline's Introduction to Research course. A manuscript with contributions from his research is in preparation. Gockel was awarded a GlaxoSmithKline research fellowship and performed research under the direction of Nancy Carpenter, professor of chemistry. His research focused on the investigation of catalytic systems for important carbon-carbon bond-forming reactions. A paper describing his fellowship work—"Regioselective Suzuki-Miyaura coupling to 2,4-dibromoquinoline"—has been accepted for presentation at the 2013 national meeting of the American Chemical Society. In addition to being named a GlaxoSmithKline Research Fellow, Gockel is a John Q. Imholte Scholar, a Theodore S. and Tone H. Long Scholar, a Morris Scholar, and a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Nominee. He has also been named to the Dean's List for Academic Excellence.

**Sarah E. Goergen**

Sarah E. Goergen '13, Maple Grove, chemistry, worked with Ted Pappenfus, associate professor of chemistry, as a research assistant in summer 2012, performing undergraduate research and laboratory development. Goergen and a project partner developed several experiments for the undergraduate laboratories, which have already been implemented in a number of laboratory courses. These experiments focused on incorporating green/sustainable chemistry across the undergraduate chemistry curriculum. Two papers describing some of their efforts have been accepted for presentation at the spring 2013 national meeting of the American Chemical Society—"Green acetylation of ferrocene using conventional microwave synthesis" and "Synthesis of polycaprolactone: A green approach with polymer analysis techniques." In fall 2012, Goergen and her partner shifted their focus to renewable energy technology research by conducting a directed research project. They successfully synthesized a novel-conducting polymer for potential use in organic solar cells as part of this research. These experiments are at the leading edge of green/sustainable chemistry.

**Deon Haider**

Deon Haider '14, Northfield, environmental studies and theatre arts, has been very actively involved in theatre, dance, and music both on and off campus. Due to her exceptional talent as an actress, dancer, and singer, Haider was honored with an extra role in *Anything Goes* as a first-year student in 2010. In February 2013, her portrayal of Veronica in *God of Carnage* earned her the opportunity to compete for the Irene Ryan acting scholarship at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. In addition to her roles at UMM, Haider has been cast at both the Northfield Arts Guild as well as the Paradise Center for the Arts, playing the roles of Patrice in *13, the Musical* and Snow White in *Into the Woods*. She has also held three internships during the summer months at both the Pinnacle Performing Arts Center and the Paradise Center for the Arts. As part of an internship, she presented material on acting, dance, music, and the production process. Most recently, Haider was selected to direct the Meiningens Student Theatre spring one act, *The Visitor*. She is one of only three students selected for this honor.

**Sarah Hanson**

Sarah Hanson '14, Avon, management, theatre arts, and honors, has a strong interest in technical theatre. She began her involvement with UMM theatre in the role of assistant technical director for the 2012 Meiningens production, *Medea*, and went on to be involved in seven shows within a three-semester period of time. The Meiningens recognized Hanson's dedication to theatre with a Most Dedicated Meinie award in 2012. For her design work on the Theatre Discipline's 2013 production of *The King Stag*, Hanson has combined the original production concept of commedia dell'arte with a medieval aesthetic and the idea of Pixar animation. She plans to present her material at the 2013

Undergraduate Research Symposium this spring as well as at the Design Expo for the 2014 Regional American College Theatre Festival. During the 2012–13 academic year, Hanson has taken on the roles of assistant costume designer for *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, lighting designer for *God of Carnage*, and technical director for the Meiningens' *Evening of One Acts*.

#### **Alex Hoyt**

Alex Hoyt '14, Saint Francis, philosophy and psychology, has demonstrated independence and leadership through his work in philosophy. He has presented the paper "Feminist Metaphysics: Males Kinds, Female Kinds, and the Case of Intersexual Persons" at the 2012 Red River Undergraduate Philosophy Conference. He is currently working as a research assistant under Heather Peters, assistant professor of psychology, on a project entitled "Cognitive Dissonance: Have You Had Your Fruits and Vegetables Today?" and as a teaching assistant for Pieranna Garavaso's, professor of philosophy, Philosophy of Religion course. Hoyt has recently revised the paper he presented at the Red River Conference and submitted it to the undergraduate journal *Prometheus*. He also applied for an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) for his project "Challenging Incest Norms and Taboos," mentored by Dan Demetriou, assistant professor of philosophy.

#### **Nicholas Johnson**

Nicholas Johnson '13, Mound, economics, mathematics, and statistics, has been involved with five research projects: unemployment hysteresis/path-dependence, renewable energy economics, dual-class firm behavior, development of AP Economics material, and rural Minnesota healthcare. He will be presenting his work—"Hysteresis in Unemployment: Jobs Don't Grow on Trees"—at various conferences, including the National Conference of Undergraduate Research and the 2013 Undergraduate Research Symposium. He is a recipient of various research grants and is involved in various campus activities, including being parliamentarian as well as an Executive and Curriculum Committee member. Johnson has been named to the Dean's List and is a recipient of the Sun M. Kahng Scholarship for Outstanding Scholarship in Economics, the Dean's Scholarship for Academic Achievement, the Bonner Community Scholarship for Civic Engagement, and the Tyler Hill Memorial Scholarship for Chinese Language.

#### **Anika Kildegaard**

Anika Kildegaard '13, Morris, music, Spanish, and honors, has undertaken an Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) project on the songs of Minnesota composer Libby Larsen, under the guidance of Denise Odello, assistant professor of music. Kildegaard has served as Morris Academic Partner (MAP) to Ken Hodgson, professor emeritus of music, Morris Student Administrative Fellow to the Music Discipline, and both president and vice-president of the UMM Concert Choir. She is a recipient of the Edna Murphy Morrison

scholarship and was selected as featured presentation at the 2012 Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS). Her URS presentation, a lecture-recital entitled " 'Do You Want To Be Like God?': An analysis of Context and Text Painting in Jake Heggie's Eve-Song," was accepted for presentation at the 2013 College Music Society's regional conference. In 2011 Kildegaard sang a duet with Garrison Keillor during *A Prairie Home Companion's* live broadcast from UMM. She has been a semi-finalist in the state National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition, a counselor for Wyoming Seminary's summer Performing Arts Institute in Kingston, Pennsylvania, and a rehearsal accompanist to a 2012 production of *West Side Story*. In addition to accompanying a number of music student recitals, she has performed two solo vocal recitals, performing music of Mozart, Beethoven, Manuel de Falla, Samuel Barber, Jake Heggie, Xavier Montsalvatge, and others.

#### **Andrew Lexvold**

Andrew Lexvold '13, Pine Island, mathematics and statistics, has been involved since spring 2012 in the work of the Truckers & Turnover Project (T&T), an ongoing UMM-based research effort sponsored by two foundations and developed in cooperation with a large motor carrier. T&T is organized by Stephen Burks, associate professor of economics and management, and involves Jon Anderson, professor of statistics, and ten faculty co-investigators from around the world, along with multiple generations of UMM students. Despite joining T&T relatively late in his undergraduate career, Lexvold has been a central researcher on the project. He has particularly contributed to T&T's current work on the accident risks and medical costs associated with obstructive sleep apnea in commercial truck drivers. He has had primary responsibility for key parts of the data set construction and analysis and has made a particular contribution to analysis of how the driver subject pool changes due to the effects of selection on accident risk. He will present results in this area at the 2013 Undergraduate Research Symposium and will be a co-author of the paper the project will submit to a medical journal during 2013 regarding this topic. He has several times presented over the web to senior executives at the headquarters of the cooperating trucking firm, an essential contribution to the private/public research partnership on which the project is based.

#### **Kenna Nelson**

Kenna Nelson '13, Shoreview, mathematics, statistics, and honors, has been involved since 2011 in the work of the Truckers & Turnover Project (T&T), an ongoing UMM-based research effort sponsored by two foundations and developed in cooperation with a large motor carrier. T&T is organized by Stephen Burks, associate professor of economics and management, and involves Jon Anderson, professor of statistics, and ten faculty co-investigators from around the world, along with multiple generations of UMM students. Nelson worked on an extension of T&T under a subcontract for

a task commissioned by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies of the United States and as a result was a principal co-author, along with safety and human factors expert Dr. Ronald Knippling, of a Commercial Truck and Bus Safety Synthesis Program “synthesis of practice,” *Safety Management in Small Motor Carriers*, published in 2011. She also contributed to several other parts of T&T, including current work on the accident risks and medical costs associated with obstructive sleep apnea in commercial truck drivers and an analysis of the relationship between personality characteristics and risk of job exit from discharge or quitting voluntarily, using an advanced “competing risks” model. She has presented over the web to senior executives at the headquarters of the cooperating trucking firm, an essential contribution to the private/-public research partnership on which the project is based. She presented “Cognitive Skills, Screening for Job Matches, and a Competing Risks Model of Quits versus Discharges among Truckers” at the 2012 Undergraduate Research Symposium.

### **Ruth Potter**

Ruth Potter '12, Long Prairie, biology, worked with Peter Wyckoff, associate professor of biology, on a National Science Foundation-funded project exploring the impacts of climate change on forests in western Minnesota from 2011 to 2012. Potter's particular focus in the larger project was on the recent growth history of sugar maple trees across a climate gradient. She was part of the crew that collected tree-ring samples in the field, and during the 2011-12 academic year she worked with a fellow student to process the samples in lab and to develop the complicated statistical models needed to pull a climate signal out of a series of measured tree rings. Potter and three co-authors presented their results—“Impact of climate on growth of *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple) at the prairie-forest border in western Minnesota”—at the 2012 annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America in Portland, Oregon. Potter's attendance at the meeting was supported by both a Bos and a Tate award. In addition to working with Wyckoff, Potter conducted research with Margaret Kuchenruether, associate professor of biology, during 2012 and 2013 as part of an ongoing project assessing the ecological impacts of various potential biomass feedstocks. That work will be presented this summer at the Ecological Society of America annual meeting. Potter received a Scholar of the College Award for work in economics in 2012.

### **Luciana Ranelli**

Luciana Ranelli '14, Duluth, biology, has worked with Margaret Kuchenreuther, associate professor of biology, on a long-term project investigating how to best manage a restored stand of native prairie as a biomass feedstock. With Morris Academic Partnership (MAP) funding she investigated the effects of fertilizer treatments and harvest on the community structure and biomass production of the stand. With funding through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) she expanded her research to explore the response of insect diversity

and abundance to differences in community structure of restored prairie. She has presented the results of these projects in several professional venues. Ranelli was co-presenter of posters at the 2012 annual meeting of the NorthStar STEM Alliance Annual Meeting and the 27th National Conference on Undergraduate Research in April 2013; her work will appear at the 2013 annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America this summer. In summer 2012, Ranelli participated in the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates program at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL) in Colorado. There, under the direction of her mentor, Jennifer Rudgers, associate professor of biology at the University of New Mexico, she investigated how above- and belowground grass-fungus symbioses change over elevational gradients. She will return to RMBL this summer and plans to submit her work, which will likely include description of a new fungal endophyte species, to a professional journal. In addition to her scientific accomplishments, Ranelli is also the recipient of a University of Minnesota Scholarly Excellence in Equity and Diversity (SEED) Award and a Brion Dalager Memorial Award for leadership and exceptional playing in Symphonic Winds.

### **Andrew Rosenthal**

Andrew Rosenthal '13, Savage, English and philosophy, is a determined and committed thinker who has combined his interest in English and philosophy to present at two conferences during his senior year. Rosenthal presented “A Hybrid Proposal of Personal Identity” at the 2012 Red River Undergraduate Philosophy Conference at North Dakota State University and “The Concept of Free Will in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and *Macbeth*” at the 2013 National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in La Crosse, Wisconsin. For his 2012 Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) project, supervised by Julie Eckerle, associate professor of English, Rosenthal worked to develop a theory about William Shakespeare's use of free will, with a particular focus on one comedy (*Twelfth Night*) and one tragedy (*Macbeth*). In the course of his research, he has made every effort to share his work in a more scholarly setting, via the NCUR and submission to the 2013 Undergraduate Research Symposium.

### **Colin Scheck**

Colin Scheck '13, Brooklyn Park, history, political science, and Spanish, has published an article—“Neorealism, Neoliberalism, and the Politics of Neutrality”—in the peer-reviewed journal *Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics*. Scheck also presented “The Decline of European Neutrality: A Neoliberal and Neofunctional Perspective” at the 2012 Minnesota Political Science Association Annual Conference, held at the University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute in November 2012. He presented a paper at the 2012 Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference and the 2012 Undergraduate Research Symposium.

**Tim Snyder**

Tim Snyder '13, Morris, computer science and mathematics, worked with Elena Machkasova, associate professor of computer science, on a project on program optimizations for the Java programming language as a directed study in summer 2010. The project continued in the 2010-11 academic year, supported by Morris Academic Partnership (MAP) funds. Snyder made numerous valuable contributions to the methodology, and his suggestions for the interpretations of the results helped advance the project. Snyder is a co-author on a paper entitled "Can You Trust Your JVM Diagnostic Tools?" He and the other student author presented the paper at the 2011 Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium (MICS). In addition to research, Snyder also participated in numerous programming competitions, and his team took first-place honors at MICS 2010 and at the Digi-Key competition 2011.

**Michael L. Sorenson**

Michael L. Sorenson, '13, Detroit Lakes, environmental science, worked with Tracey Anderson, associate professor of biology, during the 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years. Sorenson's research was supported by funding from the Morris Academic Partnership (MAP) program and the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP). For two years his research has focused on the food resources used by aquatic insects and crustaceans inhabiting the near-shore lake environments, which is part of ongoing work by the Anderson lab on the food web dynamics in prairie pothole lakes. He participated in all aspects of this research, including near-shore land use analysis using GIS, fieldwork, processing and identifying macroinvertebrate samples, and data analysis. This May Sorenson will present the results of his research at the annual meeting of the Society for Freshwater Science in a poster entitled "Benthic macroinvertebrate communities in prairie pothole lakes reflect the availability of coarse organic matter from littoral and riparian sources." He will also be a coauthor on any subsequent publications that result from this work. In addition to distinguishing himself as a researcher, Sorenson's experience working in freshwater ecosystems includes internship positions at the Pelican Lake Watershed District, Clean Up Our River Environment, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Shallow Lakes Program. Additionally, he has served as an undergraduate teaching assistant for the GIS and Remote Sensing class.

**Seth Sorensen**

Seth Sorensen '13, Buffalo, computer science and mathematics, worked with Elena Machkasova, associate professor of computer science, on a project on program optimizations for the Java programming language, supported by Morris Academic Partnership (MAP) funds in the 2011-12 academic year. Sorensen participated in developing tests and testing methodologies and interpreting the results. Together with another student who worked on the project, he wrote a paper summarizing the

findings and presented it at the 2012 Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium (MICS). The paper was awarded the second-place Best Undergraduate Paper Award out of 20 undergraduate papers. He also co-presented a poster on his research at the 2012 Undergraduate Research Symposium.

**Bixuan Sun**

Bixuan Sun '13, Heman, China, economics and management, published a paper entitled "An Empirical Analysis of the Correlation between Financial Development and Income Inequality in the United States" in *China Business*. Her papers were accepted for presentation at influential conferences such as the 5th Asia-Pacific Forum on Economics and Finance, the Missouri Valley Economic Association 49th Annual Meeting, and the 27th National Conference on Undergraduate Research. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Economics and Finance was a high-profile conference featuring speakers such as the Chief Economist of the World Bank, the Chief Representative of International Monetary Fund in China and the Vice Governor of China's central bank. Sun was on Dean's List for Scholastic Achievement for the fall of 2011. She was also in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) and the Morris Academic Partnership (MAP) program. As a member of the Students Today Leaders Forever (STLF) program, she traveled through six states to conduct community service and charity work during spring break in March 2012. She made a closing speech on behalf of UMM students at the National STLF Conference in Washington, DC.







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