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Weekly News Digest 12/11/2013

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A weekly news digest for University of Minnesota, Morris faculty, staff, and students

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Editor: Jenna Ray

Please send comments, questions, and submissions to the editor. This edition of Weekly Bulletin is the final issue for fall 2013. The submission deadline for the next edition of Weekly Bulletin will be Tuesday, January 14, at 4 p.m.

In this issue:

- Last Day of Instruction for Fall 2013
- MN Higher Ed "Listening Tour" Coming to Morris
- Morris Named a 2014 Best-Value Public College by Kiplinger's Personal Finance
- Karin Wolverton '97 to Appear in Silent Night on PBS

Featured Events

Jane Addams Project
Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Imholte Hall 111

Spanish Conversation Table
Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
Student Center, Turtle Mountain Cafe

Russian Conversation Table
Fridays, 4 p.m.
Student Center, Turtle Mountain Cafe

Last Day of Instruction
Friday, December 13
Morris Campus

Final Exams
Monday, December 16–Thursday, December 19
Morris Campus

Campus Holiday
Tuesday, December 24
Administrative offices closed.

Christmas Day Holiday
Wednesday, December 25
Administrative offices closed.

Campus Holiday
Tuesday, December 31
Administrative offices closed.

New Year's Day Holiday
Wednesday, January 1
Administrative offices closed

Spring 2014 Classes Begin
Monday, January 13
Morris Campus

Check out all of the campus events.

News and Announcements

MN Higher Ed "Listening Tour" Coming to Morris

Students and key stakeholders will join MN Senate Higher Education leadership to identify ways of improving the state’s higher education systems on Thursday, December 12.

Public Invited to Open Mic Event at Pomme de Terre Food, Inc

The Office of Community Engagement will host an open mic fundraiser for Pomme de Terre Food, Inc. on Friday, December 13.

Hodson Creates Marketing Plan for Someplace Safe

Jason Hodson ’15, Hutchinson, helps create and implement a marketing plan for Someplace Safe.

Winter Break Campus Closings

The University of Minnesota, Morris will be closed on December 24, 25, 31, and January 1. In addition, many administrative offices may be closed December 26, 27, and 30. Further information regarding office closings and winter break hours of operation is available online.

Update on the Drupal Web CMS Implementation

As announced earlier this year, a new web content management system (CMS), Drupal, will be introduced systemwide as the University’s new enterprise-level CMS. A web CMS is a software application that provides website authoring, collaboration, and administrative tools designed to allow users to create and manage website content with relative ease. As the implementation continues to progress, preliminary information and basic orientation are being made available. Public orientation and overview sessions are scheduled on Thursday, December 12, from 11 a.m.–12 p.m., and on Thursday, December 19, from 2–3 p.m. Both will be available via UMConnect. Additional Drupal training information is available on the Technology Training and Usability Services website, and general Drupal project information is found on the project initiative website.

Accomplishments

The University of Minnesota, Morris has again been named to Kiplinger’s Personal Finance’s list of 100 best values in public colleges for 2014. Morris ranked in the top 100 colleges because of its high four-year graduation
rate, low average student debt at graduation, abundant financial aid, low sticker price, and overall value. It is one of only two Minnesota colleges on this year’s list, the other being the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Stephen Burks, associate professor of economics and management, presented a lecture titled “Personality and Cognitive Skills in On Time College Graduation” to two academic audiences in Europe. The talk discussed results from an analysis of the follow-up data on a group of 100 Morris students who were enrolled in 2007 as a control group for one of the main behavioral economic field experiments of Morris’s Truckers & Turnover Project. The first venue was the Center for Decision Research and Experimental Economics (CeDEx) at the University of Nottingham, in Nottingham, UK, on Friday, November 30. The second was a conference on “Self-Control, Self-Regulation, and Education” at the University of Aarhus, in Aarhus, Denmark, on Monday, December 1. The work presented was jointly created by Burks, Jon Anderson, professor of statistics, Paul Kivi, assistant professor of economics and management, and several faculty from other institutions, as well as past and current Morris students: C. DeYoung, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, L. Götte, University of Lausanne, C. Lewis ’15, K. Rocha ’11, and A. Rustichini, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Burks is an external research fellow at CeDEx.

Van Gooch, professor emeritus of biology, had two publications accepted by the Journal of Biological Rhythms, which will be published in the February 2014 issue. Morris students contributed to both “A Kinetic Study of the Effects of Light on Circadian Rhythmicity of the freq Promoter of Neurospora crassa” and “Bright to Dim Oscillatory Response of the Neurospora Circadian Oscillator.”

Work by Sylke Boyd, associate professor of physics, will be featured on Pioneer Public Television’s Postcards, which features artists in west central Minnesota. Boyd’s photographs were featured in the Horizontal Grandeur exhibition in the Stevens County historical museum. The segment will air on Sunday, December 15, at 7 p.m.

Christina Wood Wilson ’07 held her first mixed media painting exhibit in Alaska last week. Many of the paintings are inspired by photographs she took while studying abroad in Italy. Wilson worked at the HFA Gallery (now Edward J. and Helen Jane Morrison Gallery) as an intern for several years during her Morris career.

Work by Drew Schield ’12 is mentioned in the December 6 issue of Science. The issue’s “Secrets of Snakes” refers to a paper published online this week in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, to which Schield contributed. He is a PhD student at the University of Texas, Arlington.

In the News

Catch Karin Wolverton ’97 in Kevin Puts’s Silent Night this month. Wolverton was involved in the 2011 world premier of the opera, which will be aired nationally by Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) throughout December.

Alyssa Herzog Melby ’07 was profiled in a recent post by the Pittsburgh Mommy Blog. Melby, director of education and community engagement for the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, was recognized for organizing the company’s autism-friendly production of The Nutcracker.