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Weekly News Digest 05/08/2013

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- National Science Foundation Extends Funding for REU
- Barbara Burke Receives Fulbright Award
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Featured Events

Final Exams
Wednesday, May 8, and Thursday, May 9
Morris Campus

American Indian Honoring Ceremony
Friday, May 10, 3:30 p.m.
Student Center, Oyate Hall

Honors Recital
Friday, May 10, 5 p.m.
Humanities Fine Arts Recital Hall

Honors & Awards Reception
Friday, May 10, 6 p.m.
Student Center, Turtle Mountain Cafe

Honors & Awards Ceremony
Friday, May 10, 7 p.m.
Student Center, Edson Auditorium

Commencement Brunch Buffet
Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Dining Hall

Commencement Division Receptions
Saturday, May 11, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Oyate Hall, Science Atrium, and Humanities Fine Arts Gallery

50th Commencement Ceremony
Saturday, May 11, 1:30 p.m.
Commencement Reception
Saturday, May 11, 3 p.m.
Student Center, Oyate Hall

May Session Classes Begin
Monday, May 13
Morris Campus

USA Spring Fling
Wednesday, May 15, 11:30 a.m.
LaFave House

Summer Session I Classes Begin
Monday, May 20
Morris Campus

WCSA Alumni Garden Planting
Thursday, May 23, 10 a.m.
WCSA Alumni Garden

Memorial Day Holiday
Monday, May 27
Morris Campus
No classes. Administrative offices closed.

May Session Ends
Friday, May 21
Morris Campus

Essential Deadline Day
Monday, June 3
Morris Campus

2013 Rural Arts and Culture Summit
Wednesday, June 5 and Thursday, June 6
Morris Campus

Check out all of the campus events.

News and Announcements

National Science Foundation Extends Funding for Morris REU
The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded James Cotter, professor of geology, a research grant to help fund the University of Minnesota, Morris Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), a research program for Native American women geology majors.

Soup and Substance Sponsors Sought

The Office of Community Engagement is looking for sponsors to co-host five Soup and Substance discussions during the 2013-14 academic year. Soup and Substance is a dialogue about social issues affecting the community, with co-sponsorships from community and campus organizations. Sponsors are asked to be involved in developing and framing questions for the discussion, and a donation of $50 is suggested. If you are interested in hosting a discussion next year, please fill out this form or contact the Office of Community Engagement.

Bicycle Commuter Program

If a UPlan Medical Program-covered participant bikes to work 50 times between October 1, 2012, and August 31, 2013, he or she will receive 75 points for his or her Wellness Points Bank. If you are interested in participating in the program or would like more information, please contact Angela Berlinger before May 31.

Accomplishments

Barbara Burke, associate professor of communication, media, and rhetoric, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and conduct research at Vidzemes Augstskola (VIA) in Latvia during the 2013-14 academic year. During this time she will teach courses in media literacy and visual journalism and speak at guest and community lectures. Burke is one of approximately 1,100 United States faculty and professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program in 2013-14.

Siobhan Bremer, associate professor of theatre arts, will play Miss Pryce in Agatha Christie’s Appointment with Death at Theatre in the Round this summer. The production runs each weekend in July.

Seniors Samantha Bruno ’13, Foley, and Seth Elsen ’13, Shelton, Washington, have spent most of their undergraduate careers as employees of the Center for Small Towns (CST). In that time, both have completed a wide variety of projects benefitting local communities.

Michael Rodriguez ’87, associate professor of educational psychology and Campbell Leadership Chair in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) at the University of Minnesota, will lead the University's efforts to close Minnesota's achievement gap. Rodriguez is leading an audit of activities aimed at closing the gap, beginning with CEHD and then branching out across the campus and beyond. Rodriguez met with Morris education students during a visit to campus April 22-23.

Kari Skildum ’02 was recently named Saint Paul Rotary Teacher of the Year. The club presents this award to a deserving educator each year.

In the News
The University of Minnesota, Morris was included in a Huffington Post slideshow titled “Politicians Giving Commencement Speeches In 2013.” The slideshow features 15 prominent politicians who will address graduates across the country this spring. United States Senator Al Franken will deliver the graduation address at Morris’s 50th Commencement on Saturday, May 11.

Taylor Barker ’14, Fridley, is the focus of a Twin Cities Daily Planet article by Sally Jo Sorensen of Bluestem Prairie. Sorensen discusses Barker’s fondness for rural communities, his desire to work in community-based radio, and his development as a straight ally for the freedom to marry.