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3-12-2014

### Weekly News Digest 03/12/2014

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*University of Minnesota - Morris*

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#### Recommended Citation

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

Vol. 5, No. 25: March 12, 2014

Editor: Jenna Ray

Please send comments, questions, and submissions to the [editor](#). The submission deadline for the next edition of *Weekly Bulletin* will be Tuesday, March 18, at 4 p.m.

**In this issue:**

- **HHMI Careers in Biology Alumni Speaker Series Continues**
- **Center for Small Towns Announces Its 2014 Symposium**
- **Students Present at March Meeting of the American Physical Society**
- **Morris Commended by the *Minneapolis Star Tribune***

**Featured Events**

**Floating Holiday—Campus Closed**

Friday, March 14  
Morris Campus

**[HHMI Careers in Biology Alumni Speaker Series](#)**

Monday March 17, 7 p.m.  
Science 2950

**Spanish Conversation Table**

Wednesday, March 19, 6 p.m.  
Student Center, Turtle Mountain Cafe

Check out all of the campus [events](#).

**News and Announcements**

**[Cafe Scientifique Asks, "Organic Food: Fact or Fiction?"](#)**

Brad Heins, assistant professor of organic dairy management at the University of Minnesota's West Central Research and Outreach Center, will lead the discussion.

**[CST Announces 2014 Symposium on Small Towns](#)**

This year's symposium is titled "Understanding Rural Migration: Myths, Trends, and Opportunities Exposed."

**[36th Annual Jazz Festival Begins April 4](#)**

Featuring pianist Kevin Harris and trumpeter Darren Barrett, the festival promises to be a unique and soulful experience.

### **[Morris Releases \*Scholarly Horizons\*](#)**

The University of Minnesota, Morris's first digital undergraduate publication, *Scholarly Horizons*, is now available [online](#). Editor-in-chief Jayne Blodgett will be making a call for papers again this spring.

### **Annual Juried Student Art Exhibit Opening Reception**

The University of Minnesota, Morris's annual Juried Student Art Exhibit Opening Reception will be held on Thursday, March 20, at 7 p.m. in the Humanities Fine Arts Edward J. & Helen Jane Morrison Gallery. This year's juror is Becky Dunham, curator of the Plains Art Museum in Fargo, North Dakota.

### **[Update: 2014 State of the U](#)**

Last week University of Minnesota President Eric W. Kaler delivered his third State of the University speech. In it, President Kaler detailed the many accomplishments that make the U an incredible institution. The address is now available [online](#).

### **[Break Photo Contest Deadline March 19](#)**

Morris students accomplish great things during their time away from school. Enter your photo from a school break for a chance to win \$100 to the Bookstore. Information and rules are available [online](#).

### **[Complete the Wellness Assessment and Earn 100 Wellness Points](#)**

The Wellness Assessment is a confidential, online questionnaire that assesses the status of your health. Employees and their spouses or same-sex domestic partners who are covered by the UPlan Medical Program can earn 100 points when they complete the Wellness Assessment before March 31. To get started, [continue reading](#).

### **[Morris Academic Partners Applications Due March 28](#)**

In recognition of the value of academic employment to the intellectual development of students and of the opportunities thus provided to assist faculty in their work, the University of Minnesota, Morris will award non-renewable stipends per academic year to Morris Academic Partners (MAPs). A MAP should be a junior by credits with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Students are required to carry a minimum of 12 credits each semester to remain eligible for this program. Applications are due by Friday, March 28. For more information, [continue reading](#).

### **Decorating Your Easter Table at WCROC**

Joyce Koch and Stacy Holtberg from Sweet Lily's Floral Shop will present their creative ideas for Easter decorating as part of the Come Grow with Us education series on Wednesday, March 19, from 12:15–12:45 p.m. at the West Central Research and Outreach Center (46352 State Hwy 329, Morris, MN 56267). This event will be held in the AgCountry Auditorium. Admission is free, and light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 320-589-1711.

## Accomplishments

**James Froberg '14**, Lindstrom, **Stephen Sorenson '14**, Faribault, **Zachary Klassen '14**, Hanska, and **Josef Wieber '15**, Saint Cloud, and **Sylke Boyd**, associate professor of physics, traveled to last week's [March Meeting of the American Physical Society in Denver](#) to present their research. With Boyd, Sorenson and Froberg presented "Data Collection and Analysis on Halo Displays Using an All-sky Camera," while Klassen and Wieber presented Climate Variability and Local Land Use in the Upper Midwest."

Work by **Rachel Balzar '14**, North Branch, and **Annie Morphew '13**, Farmington, was published in the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) journal [Metamorphosis](#). The journal celebrates undergraduate research and creative activity. Balzar was mentored by **Julie Eckerle**, associate professor of English, and Morphew was mentored by **Jennifer Deane**, associate professor of history.

**Lisa Harris**, assistant to the vice chancellor for finance and facilities, presented at the [Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference](#) in Maryland last week. Harris discussed Morris's sustainability work, including efforts to build on-site renewable energy systems.

**Bill Eiler**, senior heating control specialist, received the Regional Fitness Center (RFC) Difference Maker award for 2013. This award recognizes a member of the community who has gone above and beyond on behalf of the RFC for an extended period of time.

## In the News

Last week the **University of Minnesota, Morris** was featured in a *Minneapolis Star Tribune* [article](#) for garnering recent national press. According to Maura Lerner, "this has been a good two weeks" for the campus.

An [opinion piece](#) by **Jim Mulder '83** appeared in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* last week. In the piece, Mulder calls for increased support of small-town Minnesota.