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**Homecoming 2011: a weekend of fun activities**

*Summary: Exciting activities, both traditional and inaugural, are planned for the Homecoming, September 30 through October 2.*

(September 30, 2011)-University of Minnesota, Morris to celebrate Homecoming 2011

The campus and community are invited to join Homecoming 2011 activities. Exciting activities, both traditional and inaugural, are planned for the Homecoming, September 28 through October 2.

Homecoming kicks off for students on Wednesday from 6 until 8 p.m. with the Black Student Union Homecoming Date Auction in Turtle Mountain Cafe.

On Thursday, the traditional Powderpuff Football game will be held in Big Cat Stadium with the Residence Halls Tug-o-War to follow. At 9 p.m., a Bonfire will be held on Cougar Hill south of Big Cat Stadium.

Homecoming kicks off for alumni with an inaugural event sponsored by the University of Minnesota, Morris Alumni Association (UMMAA). Nearly 30 invited alumni will return to campus on Friday for the first annual Alumni and Students Networking Event. The alumni attendees represent various academic programs and grad years ranging from 1968–2011. They will discuss careers and life experiences, and network with Morris students in various settings from formal panels to one-to-one conversations throughout the day.

The UMMAA will host the annual Distinguished Alumni Award and Networking Banquet in Oyate Hall on Friday evening. The event also serves as an opportunity to thank alumni who participated in the Alumni and Students Networking Event. It begins with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. Dinner follows at 6:30 p.m.

The 2011 [award recipients](#) are David Eckmann '78, Gary McGrath '68, the late Thomas McRoberts '68, and John Tavis '85.

“The Distinguished Alumni Award honors alumni who have made noteworthy contributions in their professional lives, in public service, or in service to the University,” says Carla Riley, director of alumni relations and annual giving. “The four who we will honor this year are amazing examples of the impact UMM alumni have in their communities, in our country, and around the world.”

Also on Friday at Pomme de Terre Park, UMM Intramurals will host a disc golf tournament. No need to pre-register. Just arrive shortly before 5:30 at the disc park for the friendly competition.

The Cougar Homecoming 5K opens Homecoming activities on Saturday. Registration begins at 8 a.m. at the Regional Fitness Center with the run getting underway at 9 a.m.

Campus tours will be available at 10:30 a.m. Meet at the Welcome Center.

The Tailgating Party, sponsored by the UMMAA, will be held just west of Big Cat Stadium and will provide traditional tailgating fare from 11:45 a.m. until 1 p.m. Enjoy a brat or burger provided by and supporting student organizations while listening to live UMM jazz.

Homecoming athletic competitions are twofold this year. Cougar volleyball takes on Northwestern in the P.E. Center at noon, and Cougar football kicks off at 1 p.m. in Big Cat Stadium.

Reunion gatherings will be held throughout the day on Saturday. Alumni who served as students worked with the Center for Small Towns are invited to the Welcome Center from 10:30 until 12:30 p.m. Alumni who participated in Lutheran Campus Ministry are invited to an open house at Christus House from 2 until 5 p.m. Computer science alumni are gathering at the home of Professor Nic McPhee from 3 until 5 p.m. And Old No. 1, downtown Morris, will be the scene for an all-alumni reception from 4 until 6 p.m.

The bookstore will be open from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday.

On Sunday, students and alumni will present the annual Homecoming Concert with performances by the Concert Choir, Jazz Ensemble, and Symphonic Winds. The concert will be held in Recital Hall in Humanities Fine Arts, and a reception follows.

Also during Homecoming weekend, the Humanities Fine Arts Gallery will feature the nationally touring art exhibition *Stoked: Five Artists of Fire and Clay*. The exhibit features the work of noted ceramicist Richard Bresnahan and four former apprentices: Stephen Earp and University of Minnesota, Morris graduates Kevin Flicker '74, Morris, UMM ceramics instructor, Samuel Johnson '96, and Anne Meyer '04. Hours during Homecoming weekend are 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

For more information or to RSVP and purchase tickets for the Friday evening banquet, please visit the [Homecoming](#) web page or call 320-589-6066.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at [morris.umn.edu](http://morris.umn.edu) or call 888-866-3382.