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University Relations

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**Alumna Lorie Gildea will give Commencement keynote**

*Summary: University of Minnesota, Morris alumna Lorie Gildea, will be the keynote speaker for this year's Commencement ceremony at UMM, to be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 12, on the campus Mall.*

(April 9, 2007)-University of Minnesota, Morris alumna Lorie Gildea, will be the keynote speaker for this year's Commencement ceremony at UMM, to be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, May 12, on the campus Mall.

"I am delighted that Lorie Gildea has accepted our invitation to return to campus as this year's commencement speaker," said UMM Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson. "Her reputation as an excellent speaker precedes her and she is one of the first alums I heard about when I came to campus. We are indeed fortunate that such a distinguished member of our community and of the State of Minnesota will join us for this important occasion."

Gildea completed her undergraduate education at UMM in three years with a 4.0 grade point average. She was named a Scholar of the College and a member of the Dean's List, and received a Medal for Outstanding Undergraduate. She holds a juris doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center, where she graduated magna cum laude in 1986.

In 2006, Governor Pawlenty appointed Gildea as an associate justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court – a role that provides her an opportunity to share her judicial talents with the people of her home state.

Gildea also served as a Hennepin County District Court judge since September 2005. She was also assistant county attorney for Hennepin County and associate general counsel for the University of Minnesota, where she litigated cases on behalf of the University in federal and state courts and before administrative agencies.

She is a member of the Minnesota Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Civil Procedure, and serves on the Executive Committee, the Board of Governors and the Governing Council, Civil Litigation Section, all of the Minnesota State Bar Association. Gildea is the author of an article, "Sifting the Dross: Expert Witness Testimony in Minnesota after the Daubert Trilogy," which was published in the William Mitchell Law Review. She is also profiled in a book by UMM Chancellor Sam Schuman, titled *Old Main: Small Colleges in Twenty-First Century America*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

Since leaving UMM Gildea has accomplished much but will always have a place in her heart for UMM: "I grew up in a town of approximately 300 people (with no stoplights and no street signs), and there were 33 students in my high school graduating class," she said. "Even though I grew up in a small place, I was a teenager with big dreams. Attending a small college like UMM allowed me to realize those dreams. At UMM I was able to participate in things that were important to me from the very beginning, and to assume leadership roles when I was ready. I was exposed to new ideas, taught to think and to take risks, while in an environment that made me feel safe and unique. I never felt like I was just one more number in a long line of numbers. I felt valued and I felt relevant. In short, the day I decided to attend UMM was one of the best days of my life."

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