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A new academic year begins

Summary: A new chancellor who will welcome new and returning students, staff and faculty -- all indications that an exciting new academic experience is on the horizon. Classes at UMM officially begin on August 28.

(August 17, 2006)-A new chancellor who will welcome new and returning students, staff and faculty -- all indications that an exciting new academic experience is on the horizon on the campus of the University of Minnesota, Morris. Classes at UMM officially begin on August 28 however, planning and preparation for the upcoming academic year has been underway for several months.

"As a newcomer to the University, I share with our entering students a sense of anticipation and expectation as the new school year begins," said UMM Chancellor Jacqueline Johnson. "This is a most exciting time in their lives and I believe that they have made an excellent educational choice. Along with other members of the Morris and UMM community, I look forward to meeting these remarkable new students and the chance to work with them over the course of the next several years."

New faculty and staff, along with new students, participate in orientation schedules. New Student Orientation, held August 24-27 prior to the first day of class, includes activity, information and fun for new students to help prepare them for life at UMM. Incoming students will...

- meet new people (new and returning students, staff, and faculty, area residents)
- make connections with an Orientation group of new students and an upper-class student leader.
- discover exciting components of academic life at UMM including Study Abroad and the First Year Seminar program.
- take care of details like buying books, touring campus offices and finding their classrooms.
- learn more about campus life - the opportunities, atmosphere and cultural perspectives that make UMM a unique place to be.
- find their niche within UMM's many student organizations and co-curricular activities.
- acquaint themselves with the campus and the Morris community.

"We're pleased to welcome another outstanding class of new students to UMM this fall," said Jaime Moquin, UMM director of admissions. "This class is unique in its global diversity with students from countries throughout the world including China, Korea, Moldova, Sri Lanka, India, Taiwan, France, Netherlands, Aruba, Peru and Japan, as well as students of color from the U.S. Each of these students brings to UMM a unique combination of intellectual, social and personal characteristics, all of which will combine to contribute to the tight-knit community and academic excellence for which UMM is well known.

"We are excited about the arrival of this wonderful class and look forward to the contributions they will make to the UMM and Morris community in the coming years," added Moquin.

Nearly 20 new faculty and academic staff have joined those returning from last year. New faculty orientation, division

meetings and meetings with student advisees and a fall faculty workshop are among the many activities planned for faculty and staff now through August 25. An opening campus convocation and campus community picnic are also part of opening of the year events.

"We look forward to another school year at UMM and welcome new and returning faculty to campus," said interim vice chancellor for academic affairs Judy Kuechle. "A recognized strength of this University is its highly qualified faculty who are also noted scholars. The faculty provides many opportunities to integrate classroom learning and research programs. We anticipate an exciting year under the leadership of our new Chancellor Johnson."

New members of the UMM faculty and staff are: Daniel Magner, head coach, women's soccer Tim Grove, interim head coach, women's basketball Brook Miller, assistant professor, English Penny Schmidgall, teaching specialist, speech communication Martin Seggelke, instructor, music (band) Marie-Theresa Sulit, instructor, English Joel Vanderheyden, instructor, music (jazz)

Jinzhu Gao, assistant professor, computer science Jacqueline Greenwood, assistant professor, psychology Oya Dursun, instructor, political science John Holden, assistant professor, psychology Heather Nicole Christian, coordinator (residence hall director), Office of Residential Life Tara Schmidt, admissions counselor, Office of Admissions and Alvin (Chip) Beal, visiting director, Multi-Ethnic Student Program.

The Morris Area Business Expo, designed to acquaint newcomers to the city with Morris businesses and services, will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Oyate Hall of the UMM Student Center. Contact the Morris Area Chamber of Commerce at 589-1242 if you wish to participate on behalf of your business.

To learn more about the University of Minnesota, Morris, visit www.morris.umn.edu/.

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 or call 888-866-3382.