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**UMM will host prestigious Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference**

*Summary:*

(February 17, 2005)-About 85 undergraduate students from Southern California, Colorado, Illinois, and Nebraska, and from schools such as Grinnell and Macalester, along with political science faculty from the Upper Midwest, will travel to the University of Minnesota, Morris to participate in the 2005 Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference March 3-5.

Students will present and defend their research papers during this highly regarded student educational opportunity. This is the first year that UMM will host the event.

"We are very proud to be the first public institution to host this exciting event, and only the second Minnesota institution to enjoy the honor of hosting," stated Paula O'Loughlin, assistant professor of political science at UMM. "UMM students have been presenting at this conference for several years. Their growing numbers, their enthusiasm and the quality of their research make us a natural site. And hosting the event shows UMM's continuing commitment to undergraduate education."

Eleven UMM students will participate: Tim Lindberg, Roseville Geoff Sheagley, Minneapolis Emily Loehr, Savage Isaac Linehan-Clodfelter, Lake Crystal John Alden, Hackensack Sara Campbell, Madison, Wis. James Bordewick, St. Cloud Clint Mack, Sleepy Eye Ellery Crane, Shorewood Mackenzie Wilson, New Hope and Kristen Strissel. Loehr and Sheagley are helping to coordinate the event.

The Conference will begin on Thursday, March 3, with registration, followed by an opening banquet in Oyate Hall. Wy Spano, director of the Masters Program in Advocacy and Political Leadership at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, will provide the keynote address. Spano is a co-founder, long-time publisher and co-editor of the newsletter Politics in Minnesota. He is also a lobbyist and co-author of the text book Minnesota Politics and Government.

Those wishing to attend the opening banquet, which costs \$10, should contact Paula O'Loughlin by phone (320)589-6205 or email [oloughpl@morris.umn.edu](mailto:oloughpl@morris.umn.edu).

Friday, March 4, will be a day of panels followed by a dinner and award presentation at 6:30 p.m. in Oyate Hall. Prizes will be awarded to the top four papers presented during the conference. The Conference will conclude on Saturday.

The public is invited to attend the conference presentations and panels. See [www.morris.umn.edu/academic/polisci/PolSci\\_Brochurewebsite.htm](http://www.morris.umn.edu/academic/polisci/PolSci_Brochurewebsite.htm) for a complete schedule or call (320)589-6200 for details.

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