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6-15-2006

### Community connections enhance experience

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#### Recommended Citation

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**Community connections enhance experience**

*Summary: Sisters Michelle '00 and Jenny Rost '06 participated in community activities that enhanced their University of Minnesota, Morris experiences.*

(June 15, 2006)-Michelle Rost '00 served as a campus tour guide during her UMM years, and that included telling sister Jenny '06 about the campus, too. The Fridley natives earned majors in different fields of study, Jenny in elementary education and Michelle in biology, but their reasons for attending UMM were the same—great reputation, small school, great community. Both found ways to not only be active on campus, but also in the city of Morris.

“In Morris, I took a course at the Stevens County Ambulance Service to become certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT),” shares Michelle. “I have used the certification as a First Aid Team volunteer at the Metrodome for the last six years. It has been one of my most fun and rewarding experiences.”

Since her first year in Morris, Jenny has been employed at the Fraternal Orders of Eagles Club in Morris. “I spent the past three and a half years making connections with people in the community,” shares Jenny. “I also joined the Eagles and have helped with many fundraisers and other charitable events.”

While Jenny loves the Morris area and will be making her home in nearby Hancock, her most memorable UMM experience happened thousands of miles away through UMM’s Global Student Teaching program. “Australia was the highlight of my college experience,” shares Jenny. “I was so lucky to be able to travel all the way around the world and to meet many wonderful Aussies. We have ‘Minnesota Nice’ here, but I think that Australia has the same thing! I student taught at Ocean Grove Primary School in Ocean Grove, Victoria. I strengthened my skills as a teacher and grew as a person. I traveled to Melbourne, Sydney, and Cairns where I snorkeled at the Great Barrier Reef. I would definitely recommend Australia and study abroad to anyone!”

Michelle, a regulatory compliance specialist with Boston Scientific, attended Jenny’s graduation in May, and enjoyed seeing the green spaces and buildings she once toured with visitors, especially the mall, her favorite place on campus in the spring.

Photo: Michelle '00 and Jenny Rost '06 on commencement day.

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.