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Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications  
Phone: 320-589-6414, [weberm@morris.umn.edu](mailto:weberm@morris.umn.edu)

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer  
Phone: 320-589-6068, [jrray@morris.umn.edu](mailto:jrray@morris.umn.edu)

**Women medal at swimming, diving**

*Summary: The Cougar swimming and diving team moved up four spots from last year's Liberal Arts Championship. Head Coach Dave Molesworth thinks "we are headed in the right direction to become a very strong competitive team in the future."*

(March 6, 2006)-The University of Minnesota, Morris swimming and diving team closed out the 2005-2006 season with a ninth-place finish at the Liberal Arts Championships held at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Kristine Ertl (Soph., Cokato) led the way for the Cougars with a second-place finish in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 25.24. She was also seventh in the 100 freestyle with a time of 56.51 and eighth in the 200 IM at 2:27.42.

Lauren Trapp (Soph., East Gull Lake) was sixth in the three-meter diving competition. This was the first championship list in three-meter diving in which UMM has had a competitor. Trapp took fourth in the one-meter diving, while Bree McCannon (Soph., Morris) was seventh.

Three relay teams had a good showing over the weekend for UMM. The 200 freestyle relay team of Kristine Ertl, Elizabeth Schlimgen (Fr., Sioux Falls, S.D.), Kim Radtke (Fr., Albany) and Shilo Parisian (Fr., Maple Grove) took ninth with a time of 1:49.96.

Also finishing ninth was the 200 medley relay team of Parisian, Emily Helgerson, (Fr., Plymouth), Ertl and Megan McLennan (Soph., Duluth) with a time of 2:06.64.

In the 400-yard medley relay, Parisian, Helgerson, Ertl and Schlimgen took nearly 10 seconds off their preliminary time and placed 10th at 4:39.25.

Head Coach Dave Molesworth said, "I was very pleased and excited with the way the team competed and supported one another through out the weekend. In just the second season of existence for the UMM swimming and diving program we made great strides the entire season and it all culminated with great individual and team performances at the meet this past weekend."

The Cougars moved up four spots from last year's Liberal Arts Championships to finish ninth out of 15 teams this year. Molesworth added, "I think we are headed in the right direction to become a very strong competitive team in the future."

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