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Weekly News Digest 12/12/2012

Jenna Ray

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A weekly news digest for University of Minnesota, Morris faculty, staff, and students

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Editor: Jenna Ray

Please send comments, questions, or submissions to the editor. This edition of Weekly Bulletin is the final issue for fall 2012. The submission deadline for the next edition of Weekly Bulletin will be Tuesday, January 15, 2013, at 4 p.m.

In this issue:

● Fall Semester Final Exams Conclude
● HFA Gallery to Present LOCAL COLOR: Artists from the Lake Region
● Michael Lackey Secures New Book Contract
● Work by Sheng Xiao Featured in Agenda

Featured Events

Final Exams
Wednesday, December 12, and Thursday, December 13, 2012
Morris Campus

Stress Management and Relaxation Class
Monday, December 17, 12:15 p.m.
Student Center, Moccasin Flower Room

Campus Floating Holiday
Monday, December 24, 2012
Administrative offices closed

Christmas Day Holiday
Tuesday, December 25, 2012
Administrative offices closed

Campus Floating Holiday
Monday, December 31, 2012
Administrative offices closed

New Year’s Day Holiday
Tuesday, January 1, 2013
Administrative offices closed

Spring 2013 Classes Begin
Monday, January 14, 2013
Morris Campus
Check out all of the campus events.

News and Announcements

HFA Gallery Presents LOCAL COLOR: Artists from the Lake Region

The Humanities Fine Arts (HFA) Gallery presents LOCAL COLOR: Artists from the Lake Region, curated by Michael Eble, curator of the HFA Gallery and associate professor of studio art. The exhibit will survey artists who work in a range of mediums and subject matter and reside within the Lake region of west central Minnesota. The opening reception will be held on Thursday, January 17, from 7 until 9 p.m. at the HFA Gallery. The exhibit will run from January 17 through March 14, 2013.

Priority Deadline for Competitive Scholarships Approaches

Morris invites incoming first-year students to compete for its competitive scholarship packages. In order to be considered, students must submit an application for admission, required materials, and a competitive scholarship application and essay by Saturday, December 15. These scholarship packages are awarded to students with exceptional academic and leadership records. Recipients will be selected during a competitive interview process held at Morris during the first weekend in February.

Contractors to Break Ground for the Green Prairie Living and Learning Community

Construction of the new Green Prairie Living and Learning Community will soon be underway. McGough Construction, general contractor for the project, will begin work later this month. This new facility complements Morris’s focus on environmental sustainability and marks the first residence hall construction on campus since 1971. Located east of the Saddle Club Barn adjacent to the central parking lot, the two-story residence hall will provide suite-style housing for 72 students during the academic year.

Winter Break Campus Closings

The University will be closed on December 24, 25, and 31 as well as January 1. Several administrative offices and areas will also be closed December 26, 27, and 28. Further information regarding office closings and winter break hours of operation is available online.

Community of Scholars Assistance Requested

The Office of Admissions requests your help with the Community of Scholars Event to be held on Friday, February 1, and Saturday, February 2, 2013. The Community of Scholars Event is an annual on-campus scholarship competition that serves as one of the most important recruiting activities of the year. Admissions is requesting help with activities such as individual student interviews, group discussions, and lunch with families. In order to accommodate the estimated 200 students who will visit campus to participate in this competition, the admissions
staff needs a firm commitment from 50 faculty and staff volunteers for each day of the event by Friday, December 21. Additional information and sign-up forms are available <http://bit.ly/Rnhq8U>online.

**Open Access Publishing Fund**

A pilot fund for University of Minnesota authors to underwrite the cost of making their work accessible to the public is now available through a joint effort of University Libraries and the Office of the Vice President for Research. To be eligible, a work must be a peer-reviewed journal article, scholarly monograph, conference proceeding, or data set created by a U of M author (faculty member, researcher, post-doc, graduate student, or staff member), and fully accessible immediately upon publication. Additional information and applications are available <http://bit.ly/S58K74>online.

**Accomplishments**

**Michael Lackey**, associate professor of English, recently secured a contract for a new book titled *Truthful Fictions: Conversations with American Biographical Novelists*. It is the first book of interviews in which authors define their objectives as biographical novelists. After contacting contemporary writers in an effort to understand the proliferation of these kinds of works, Lackey began recording and transcribing his interviews so as to depict these writers’ motives and processes from their own perspectives. Upon completion of the project, Lackey will have interviewed some of the country's most famous writers, including Michael Cunningham, Anita Diamant, Sherry Jones, Russell Banks, Edmund White, Bruce Duffy, Jay Parini, Lance Olsen, Joanna Scott, M. Allen Cunningham, and Julia Alvarez.

**In the News**

Work by **Sheng Xiao**, assistant professor of economics and management, and co-authors Ronald Masulis, scientia professor of finance at the University of New South Wales, Christian Ruzzier, professor of economics at the University of San Andrés, and Shan Zhao, assistant professor of accounting, law, and finance at Grenoble School of Management, was discussed in the December 3, 2012, edition of <http://bit.ly/X0qeOA>Agenda, a trade press publication of the *Financial Times* aimed at directors of the world's largest publicly traded corporations. The story discusses a presentation given by Xiao at the <http://bit.ly/Z5Lbgr>2012 Corporate Governance Symposium, hosted by the University of Delaware on November 9, 2012. The presentation was titled "Do Independent Expert Directors Matter?" Xiao’s work was one of the four academic papers accepted for presentation from the symposium’s 76 submissions.