10-15-2014

Weekly News Digest 10/15/2014

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*University of Minnesota - Morris*

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

Vol. 6, No. 8: October 15, 2014

Editor: Jenna Ray

Please send comments, questions, and submissions to the editor. The submission deadline for the next edition of *Weekly Bulletin* will be Tuesday, October 21, at 4 p.m.

**In This Issue:**

- Briggs Library Associates Holds Book Sale
- Morris Welcomed Delegation from Germany
- Graham’s Latest Poem Collection Published
- Elijah Mayfield ’07 Featured in *EdSurge*

**Featured Events**

**Asking the Big Questions—"Are We Alone: The Search For Life in the Cosmos"**
Wednesday, October 15, 7:30 p.m.
Briggs Library. McGinnis Room

**Briggs Library Associates Book Sale**
Thursday, October 16, 12–7 p.m.
Friday, October 17, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Student Center, Oyate Hall.

**Chamber Concert**
Thursday, October 16, 7:30 p.m.
Humanities Fine Arts Recital Hall

**First Half Semester Classes End**
Friday, October 17
Morris Campus

**Fall Break**
Monday, October 20–Tuesday, October 21
Morris Campus

**Second Half Semester Classes Begin**
Wednesday, October 22
Morris Campus

**Elementary Education Application/Information Meeting**
Thursday, October 23, 5 p.m.
Imholte Hall 111

[Check out all of the campus events.](#)

**News and Announcements**

[Morris Welcomed Delegation from Germany](#)
The delegation explored research being done on energy and renewable agriculture.

**Works by Weeks and Ibarra Grace Morrison Gallery**

*Wheel Within a Wheel* and *Seeds of Babel* open on October 30.

**Keeler Conducts Local Foods Research**

Maria Keeler ’16 is researching growers and producers of local foods in the west central region.

**Take the Employment Engagement Survey**

Make your voice heard by completing the 2014 E² Employee Engagement Survey by Friday, October 31. The survey will help University leaders understand your perspective on workplace issues and develop action plans to improve your department and the University overall. Responses to the survey are completely confidential.

**Mark your calendars: Employee Health and Benefit Fair**

Plan to attend the Employee Health and Benefit Fair on Monday, November 10, from 11 a.m. –1 p.m. in the Student Center’s Oyate Hall. Visit with vendors representing medical plans, flexible spending accounts, employee benefits, retirement savings, dental plans, employee wellness, and more. Free flu shots will be available from 12–1 p.m. Door prizes, give-aways, and a light lunch will be provided.

**Upgrade Program Update Available**

The latest edition of *The Upgrade* is available now. In this issue:

- Change in Name from ESUP
- Enhanced Upgrade Education Page
- Upgrade Key Messages

View this issue and more at [upgrade.umn.edu](http://upgrade.umn.edu).

**This Week in Photos**

The campus came alive with fall color, and Bill Nye the Science Guy visited to Morris. Enjoy these photos and more!

**Accomplishments**

*The Hummingbird’s Tongue*, a new collection of poems by [Professor of English Vicki Graham](http://umn.edu), was released this month by [Red Dragonfly Press](http://reddragonflypress.com). In these finely detailed poems, Graham has transformed her understanding of the complexities of biological processes into love songs for the earth.

Jennifer Rothchild, associate professor of sociology and GWSS, presented “‘Whose breasts Are They?’: Deconstructing Gender in Breast Feeding Advocacy Programs” at the Powell Center for Women’s Health annual conference on the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus. The poster she presented was co-authored by Karen Mumford, Haley Van Cleve ’14, and Matt Johnson ’10.
Jess Larson, professor of studio art, will take part in the Women’s Art Institute panel discussion “Fiber Arts: Women’s Work and/or Feminist Statement” on Wednesday, November 5, at St. Catherine University in Saint Paul. Larson will present and discuss her work.

Roger Rose, associate professor of political science, will moderate a candidate forum for House District 12A candidates on Thursday, October 16, in Morris. The forum is hosted by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities.

In the News

Elijah Mayfield ’07 is the subject of a story by EdSurge. Mayfield’s LightSide Labs, which uses machine learning to develop a writing assistant that offers feedback and suggestions as students work through paper drafts, was recently acquired by Turnitin, one of the most widely distributed educational applications in the world.

Ryan ’06 and Kim Johnson Kasl ’06 were featured in the Minneapolis Star Tribune. The Kasls recently moved their two children into a 207-square-foot Tiny House near Braham and were featured on FYI’s Tiny House Nation.