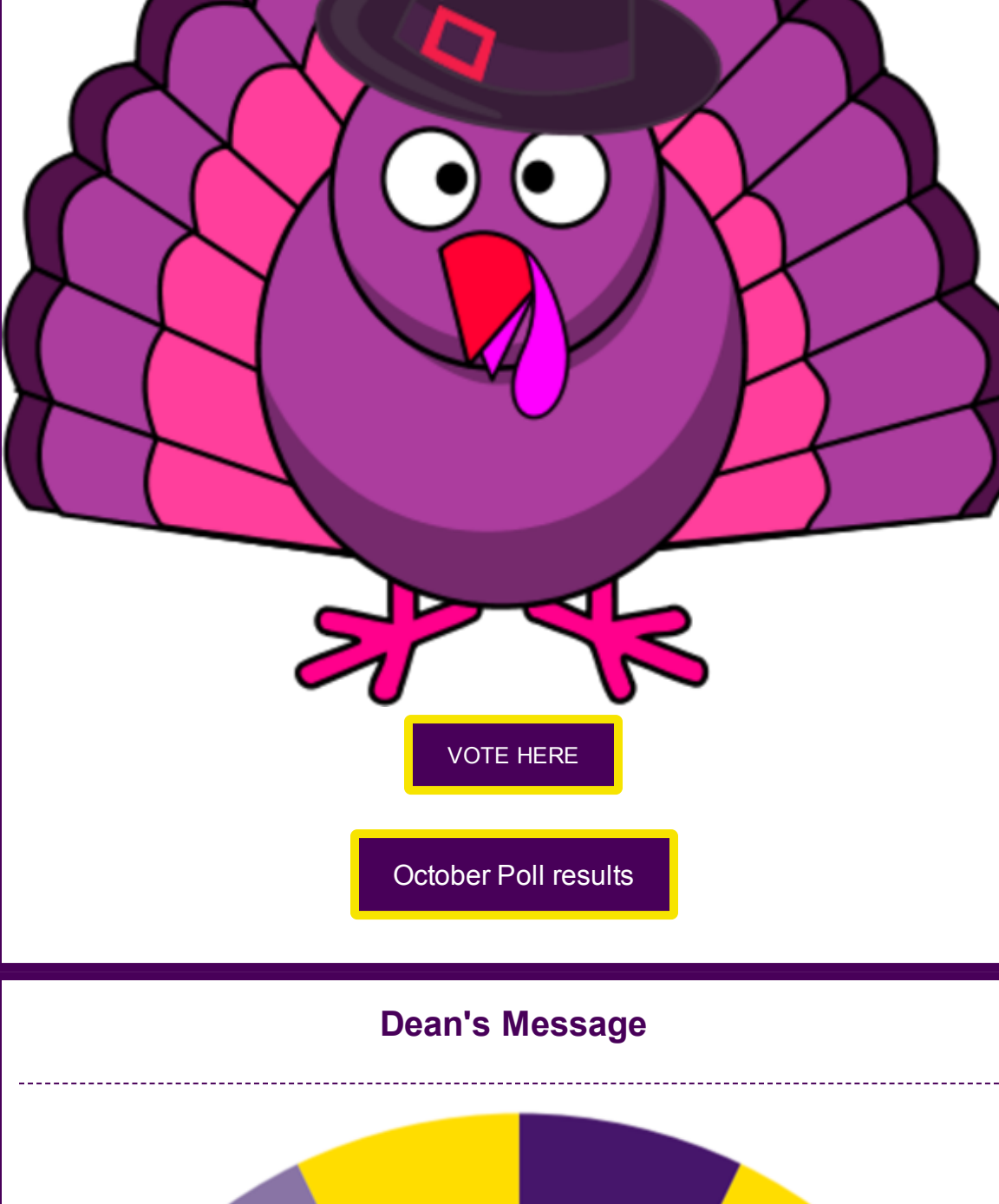
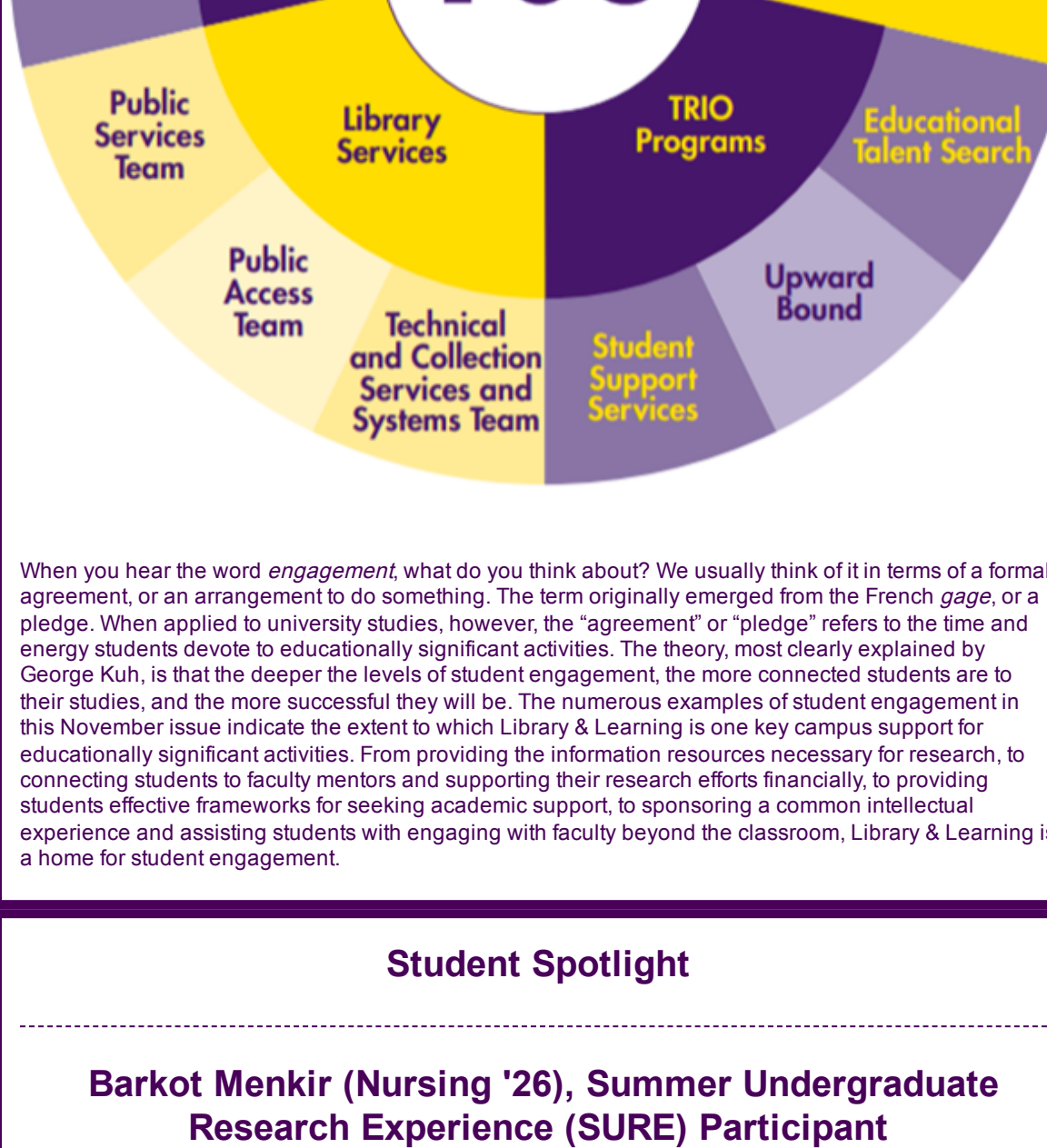


Poll Time

What do you look forward to most about Thanksgiving?



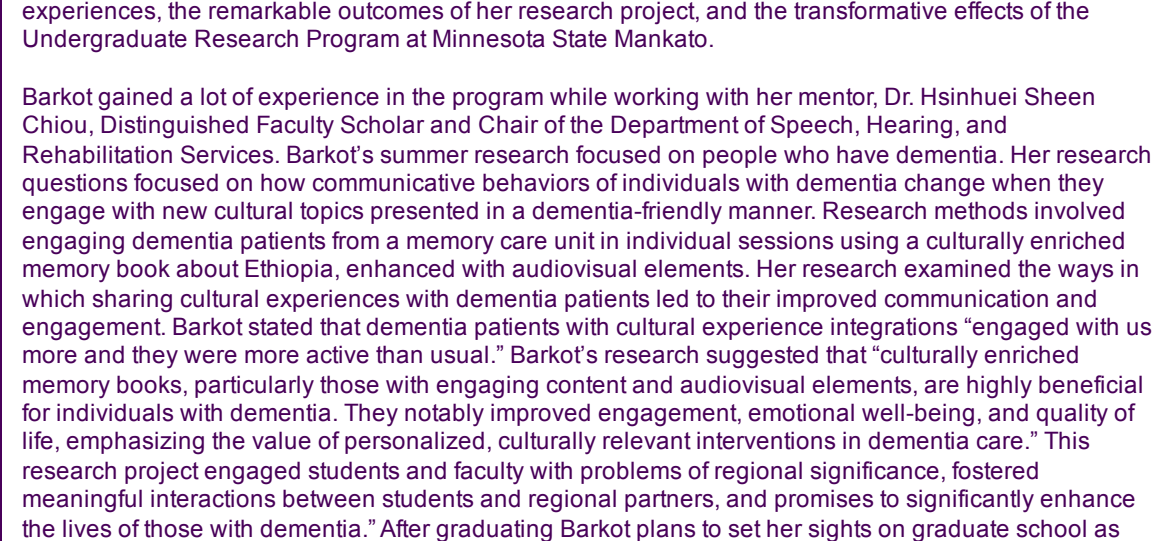
Dean's Message



When you hear the word *engagement*, what do you think about? We usually think of it in terms of a formal agreement, or an arrangement to do something. The term originally emerged from the French *gager*, or a pledge. When applied to university students, however, the "agreement" or "pledge" refers to the time and energy students devote to educationally significant activities. The theory, most clearly explained by George Kuh, is that the deeper the levels of student engagement, the more connected students are to their studies, and the more successful they will be. The numerous examples of student engagement in this November issue indicate the extent to which Library & Learning is one key campus support for educationally significant activities. From providing the information resources necessary for research, to connecting students to faculty mentors and supporting their research efforts financially, to providing students effective frameworks for seeking academic support, to sponsoring a common intellectual experience and assisting students with engaging with faculty beyond the classroom, Library & Learning is a home for student engagement.

Student Spotlight

Barkot Menkir (Nursing '26), Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Participant



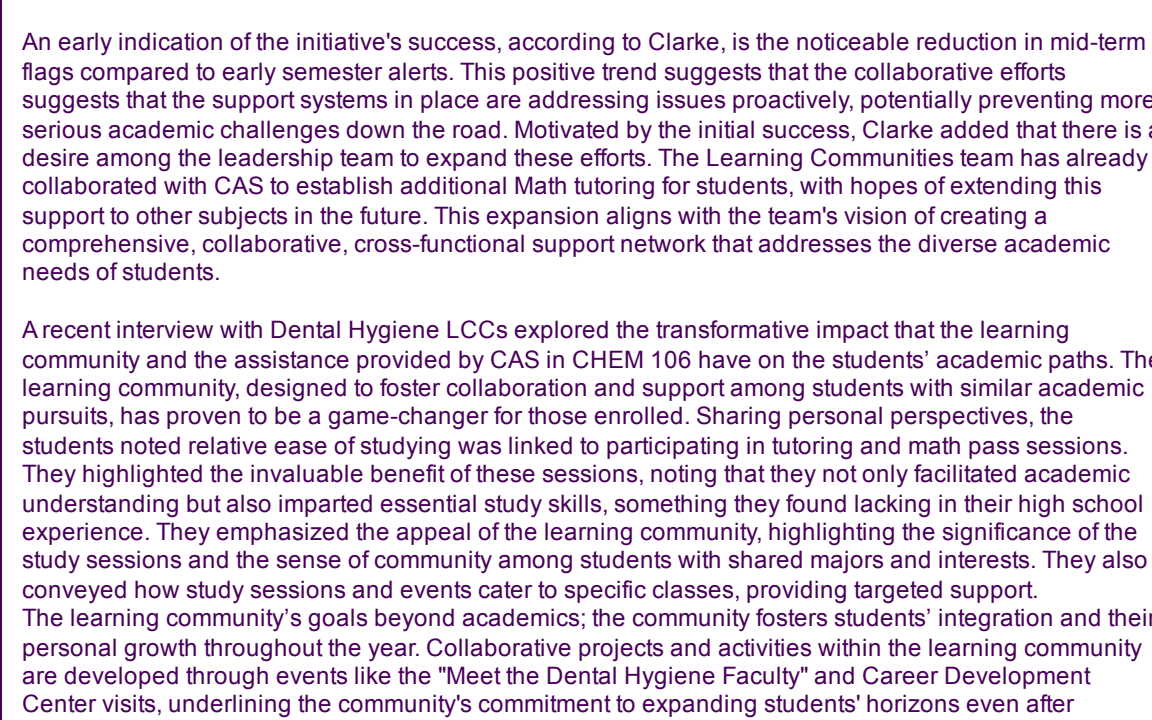
Barkot Menkir sought out a Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) to enrich her academic journey and leave a long-lasting impact on individuals living with dementia. Her dedication to this research endeavor was complemented by the financial support of the Undergraduate Research Center's current funding from Blue Cross-Blue Shield. In her interview, Barkot shared her motivation, experiences, the remarkable outcomes of her research project, and the transformative effects of the Undergraduate Research Program at Minnesota State Mankato.

Barkot gained a lot of experience in the program while working with her mentor, Dr. Hsinhui Sheen Chlou, Distinguished Faculty Scholar and Chair of the Department of Speech, Hearing, and Rehabilitation Services. Barkot's summer research focused on people who have dementia. Her research questions focused on how communicative behaviors of individuals with dementia change when they engage with new cultural topics presented in a dementia-friendly manner. Research methods involved engaging dementia patients from a memory care unit in individual sessions using a culturally enriched memory book about Ethiopia, enhanced with audiovisual elements. Her research examined the ways in which sharing cultural experiences with dementia patients led to their improved communication and engagement. Barkot stated that dementia patients with cultural experience integrations "engaged with us more and they were more active than usual." Barkot's research suggested that "culturally enriched memory books, particularly those with engaging content and audiovisual elements, are highly beneficial for individuals with dementia. They notably improved engagement, emotional well-being, and quality of life, emphasizing the value of personalized, culturally relevant interventions in dementia care." This research project engaged students and faculty with problems of regional significance, fostered meaningful interactions between students and regional partners, and promises to significantly enhance the lives of those with dementia." After graduating Barkot plans to set her sights on graduate school as DNP (Doctor of Nursing). You can access Barkot's research poster [here](#).

Written by Nathanael Tilahun

Program Highlight

Empowering Academic Success: Dental Hygiene Learning Community and Academic Support from the Center for Academic Success



Our Minnesota State Mankato Learning Communities are making waves among students as a powerhouse of academic support and community building. As the quest for new strategies to enhance student success remains a top priority of the University community, a collaborative effort has been undertaken by the Library & Learning Leadership team to address known student challenges. Dental Hygiene students shared with their Learning Community Coordinator (LCC) their struggles with CHEM 106, known for its complexity and academic rigor. Jean Clarke, Director of Learning Communities, recognized the potential of working together with partners to create a more supportive academic environment and recommended pooling resources and expertise to provide more effective support. Working alongside Jason Westman and Lindsey Stepan of the Center for Academic Success (CAS), the leaders created weekly support sessions for the Dental Hygiene Learning Community students enrolled in the course. "Knowing we can identify problems, communicate effectively, and work together to help students be more successful is the foundation of what we do in Library & Learning," Clarke stated.

An early indication of the initiative's success, according to Clarke, is the noticeable reduction in mid-term flags compared to early semester alerts. This positive trend suggests that the collaborative efforts suggests that the support systems in place are addressing issues proactively, potentially preventing more serious academic challenges down the road. Motivated by the initial success, Clarke added that there is a desire among the leadership team to expand these efforts. The Learning Communities team has already collaborated with CAS to establish additional Math tutoring for students, with hopes of extending this support to other subjects in the future. This expansion aligns with the team's vision of creating a comprehensive, collaborative, cross-functional support network that addresses the diverse academic needs of students.

A recent interview with Dental Hygiene LCCs explored the transformative impact that the learning community and the assistance provided by CAS in CHEM 106 have on the students' academic paths. The learning community, designed to foster collaboration and support among students with similar academic pursuits, has proven to be a game-changer for those enrolled. Sharing personal perspectives, the students noted relative ease of studying was linked to participating in tutoring and math pass sessions. They highlighted the invaluable benefit of peer sessions, noting that they not only facilitated academic understanding but also imparted essential study skills, something they found lacking in their high school experience. They emphasized the appeal of the learning community, highlighting the significance of the study sessions and the sense of community among students with shared majors and interests. They also conveyed how study sessions and events cater to specific classes, providing targeted support.

The learning community's goals beyond academics, the community fosters students' integration and their personal growth throughout the year. Collaborative projects and activities within the learning community are developed through the "Needs the Dental Hygiene Faculty" and Career Development Center visits, underlining the community's commitment to expanding students' horizons even after graduation.

Written by Raby Dieng

Announcements

Learning Commons Planning Updates

"Phase Two" planning for the future Learning Commons is underway, with initial meetings of representatives from primary partners scheduled for the week of November 27. Phase two planning includes a renewed focus on patrons, the development of shared vision, mission, and goals, and an integration and implementation plan, including partnership agreements, a common service philosophy, and a vision for a help/information desk. A second group will be working on a mock-up for a digital learning commons. Meetings are anticipated to continue through the end of spring semester.

Start or continue your OER Journey with OER Learning Circles

Spring OER Learning Circles Applications Open. [Apply for the Spring 2024 cohort](#) by January 12. Collaborate with other Minnesota State faculty from across the system who are committed to saving students on the cost of textbooks and course resources by using open educational resources (OER). Participants receive compensation in the form of 2.5-day days.

Learn more in the [ASA Newsletter](#)

Events

Climate Justice: Department of Geography Colloquium with Author Jake Bittle (November 10, 2023)

As part of their Fall 2023 Colloquium series, the Geography Department at Minnesota State University, Mankato hosted an online session with author Jake Bittle. Known for his insightful reporting on environmental affairs, notably climate change. The event, held on November 10, 2023, was jointly sponsored by Library & Learning as part of our Fall 2023 Common Read series featuring Bittle's *The Great Displacement* and the Honors Program Colloquium on climate change. Bittle's presentation offered a deep dive into environmental justice and climate migration in the United States, resonating with the university's commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion, and facilitating dialogue on topics of global significance.

The audience, consisting of students, faculty, and community members, was treated to a comprehensive exploration of the far-reaching consequences of climate change on communities across the United States. Through real-world examples and compelling narratives, Bittle painted a vivid picture of the environmental injustices faced by vulnerable populations and the subsequent implications for climate-induced migration. The interactive session allowed attendees to engage in a meaningful dialogue with Mr. Bittle, posing questions and sharing their perspectives on the urgent need for sustainable solutions.

Prior to his enlightening presentation at the Ostrander Auditorium, Bittle took part in a dynamic Q&A session hosted by the Library & Learning earlier that day. The session, a part of the Library's Friday Professional Development Series, provided an opportunity for in-depth discussions and valuable insights into the world of environmental journalism and climate-related issues.

Written by Raby Dieng

URC CURE session featuring Daniel Moen (Family Consumer Science) (November 16, 2023)

The Undergraduate Research Center hosted its first CURE (Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experience) presentation series, via Zoom on November 16th, 2023. The event featured Dr. Dan Moen, distinguished faculty member from the Family Consumer Science department. Moen's presentation, "Strengths in Marriage & Family: A Qualitative Thematic Analysis," highlighted the importance of integrating research experiences into the undergraduate curriculum. Course-based undergraduate research experiences (CUREs) offer faculty and students the opportunity to engage in hands-on research within the framework of their coursework, fostering critical thinking and collaboration. The event was part of the University's ongoing commitment to promoting undergraduate research and creating platforms for faculty members to share their experiences and insights. As the 2023-2024 academic year unfolds, the URC looks forward to hosting additional CURE presentations, offering a dynamic space for the exchange of ideas and the celebration of undergraduate academic research.

Written by Raby Dieng

Honors Program Colloquium with Professor Josh Winkler (Art & Design) (November 17, 2023)

On November 17, Department of Art & Design Professor Josh Winkler guided Honors Program students through his philosophical journeys that have inspired his printmaking over the years. In the final colloquium event of the semester, Winkler discussed his fascination with the natural environment, from his hiking the Appalachian Trail to his several residencies at unique locations in the western United States. Winkler provided insights into the history and techniques of printmaking, offering numerous examples of his work. After the presentation, the students were able to experiment with their own printmaking in a hands-on session.

Upcoming Events

GA'S Study Break at the Corley's home

COME TAKE A BREAK AND CHILL

LIBRARY & LEARNING GA HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE DEAN'S HOUSE

GET COFFEE, TEA, SNACKS, AND MAKE YOUR OWN DECORATED COOKIES FOR STUDY SNACKS.

4-6 PM

617 RANGE STREET, NORTH MANKATO

In The News

LIBRARY AND LEARNING IN THE NEWS

Student Government fails to replace Mesta, MSU Reporter [Read More](#)

URC gives an award for faculty mentor, MSU Reporter [Read More](#)

Finding a good study spot, MSU Reporter [Read More](#)

Secretary of State: campus voter presentation, MSU Reporter [Read More](#)

Climate Change and the Next American Migration with Jake Bittle on KMSU [Read More](#)

MSU's Lincoln Lounge renamed Wambdi Wapaha, Mankato Free Press [Read More](#)

Training aims to up support for LGBTQ+ students at MSU, Mankato Free Press [Read More](#)

Got a lead? A comment? Submit your ideas [here](#)

