


2018

News Briefs

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Recommended Citation

News Briefs. (2017). *Frontiers*, 6(1), 2.

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NEWS BRIEFS

• Undergraduate Research Symposium Highlights Student Work

Almost 200 Minnesota State Mankato undergraduate students presented their research as part of the 19th Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium held on campus last April. Students gave oral and poster presentations on topics ranging from chemistry to dance.

• Business Faculty Highlight Research

The College of Business' annual Research Day promotes and celebrates outstanding business research by COB faculty. Last year's event, held in March, highlighted presentations by 2016-2017 award recipients, as well as brief overviews of research that will take place by 2018-2019 recipients.

• Minnesota State Mankato Awarded NIFA Grant

Minnesota State Mankato will team up with South Central College and Riverland Community College to make use of a \$30,000 National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant. The funds will aid in establishing agriculture as an emerging area of distinction within the University and region.

• ACLU President Leads Discussion on Civil Liberties

Author and at grad.mnsu.edu national president Susan Herman delivered a lecture to students, faculty and community members last spring. The lecture and subsequent discussion focused on the continuing struggle for civil liberties in the United States.

• More Special Education Teachers

Thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education, up to 50 new early childhood special education teachers will receive a Minnesota State Mankato education over the next five years. Minnesota State Mankato will partner with Mankato Area Public Schools, Bloomington Public Schools and St. Paul Public Schools to do its part in addressing the ECSE teacher shortage in the state and nationwide.

• Bush Foundation Grant Trains Mentor Teachers

Mentor teachers play a crucial role in teacher candidate development. A \$150,000 Bush Foundation Grant will allow Minnesota State Mankato and its 10 partner schools to train 140 mentor teachers in school districts throughout the state.

• Minnesota State Mankato Hosts Mexican Leaders

Mexican leaders in higher education, business, industry and government spent three days in Mankato as part of a collaboration between Minnesota State Mankato and the Asociación Nacional de Universidades e Instituciones de Educación Superior (ANUIES), the Consulate of Mexico in Saint Paul and the Minnesota Trade Office. Leaders met to discuss opportunities for the exchange of innovation, talent and economic development between Mexico and Minnesota.

• Studying Songbirds and Alzheimer's Disease

Rachel Cohen, an assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, and three colleagues published a paper detailing how new neurons in songbirds are integrated into the existing circuit. The research could have positive implications for diseases like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, in which neurons die off and connections aren't easy to reconstruct.

• Somali Artist on Campus

Somali singer and artist Nimco Yasin visited Minnesota State Mankato's campus last spring as part of a grant aimed at increasing understanding and awareness of Muslim cultures through performing arts. Yasin collaborated with Minnesota State Mankato music students, as well as presenting her work to the University community.

• Boston University Professor of Chemistry on Campus

Boston University professor Malika Jeffries-El delivered two lectures at Minnesota State Mankato last fall, highlighting her work as a chemist, her passion for science and her path to academia.

• Athletic Training Professor Honored

Director of athletic training, Pat Sexton, was inducted into the National Athletic Trainer's Hall of Fame in July 2016. The distinction comes on the heels of a number of awards and honors Sexton has earned during his 35-year career.

• Department of Automotive and Manufacturing Engineering Technology Students Complete Design/Race Challenge

Students from Minnesota State's Formula SAE Team finished 17th out of 120 teams from around the world. The design competition tested students' abilities to build a Formula One-style racecar.