CORNERSTONE: 8 MONTHS OF GROWTH!

Since going live on June 17, 2014, Cornerstone: A Collection of Scholarly and Creative Works (http://cornerstone.lib.mnsu.edu/) has grown to include more than 1,000 items: faculty publications, graduate theses and dissertations, honors portfolios, and a new collection of presentations by graduate students in the Technical Communications Capstone Course. Download counts for Cornerstone now total over 23,000 hits! One of the most popular Cornerstone items is graduate student Brandon Hoffmann’s 2012 thesis, written for his Master of Science in Information Technology degree and titled An Exploratory Study of a Users’ Facebook Security and Privacy Settings. It has been viewed almost 400 times since it was added in June. Psychology Professor Dr. Daniel Houlihan’s article, “Adolescents and the Social Media: The Coming Storm” has received more than 100 downloads since its addition in October. More content is added each week to Cornerstone, so check it out! For more information about contributing to Cornerstone, please contact Heidi Southworth, Digital Initiatives Librarian at 507-389-5066 or heidi.southworth@mnsu.edu.

Full Spectrum Lights

Did you know that full spectrum lights are available on the second floor of Memorial Library? Full spectrum lights simulate the colors found in natural daylight. They can help improve mood and lift winter depression. Research studies have shown that people need at least two hours of sunlight exposure each day to function normally. For more information about the full spectrum lights available elsewhere on campus, contact Lori Marti, Student Health Services, at 507-389-5689 or lori.marti@mnsu.edu.
SERVICES FOR DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENTS

The Minnesota State Mankato Library strives to offer the same level of service to distance learning students as it does to on-campus students. To achieve this, we work with faculty colleagues to develop Library Guides dedicated to distance students that include links to databases appropriate to their research, as well as instructional videos that guide them in using these resources efficiently and effectively (see http://libguides.mnsu.edu/distance).

We also subscribe to an “Ask Us 24/7” service that offers students the opportunity to chat online with a librarian at any time during the day or night. If you have questions about our resources or services contact Paul Wyss, Distance Learning Librarian, at (507) 389-2258 or paul.wyss@mnsu.edu.

FAIR TRADE LECTURE ON MARCH 17

Does Fair Trade facilitate social justice? At 7:00 p.m. on March 17th in Ostrander Auditorium, Mark Hudson and Mara Fridell, co-authors of Fair Trade, Sustainability, and Social Change, will discuss the potential of fair trade as a means of poverty alleviation. Drawing on political economy and social movement theory, the talk, How Fair is Fair? Social Justice and the Fair Trade Movement, will chart the course of the fair trade movement and detail its success, as well as some troubling signs for the future of fair trade’s ability to deliver on its potential.

The event is part of the newly created Social Justice Lecture Series, established by the Department of Sociology and Corrections, which seeks to bring to Minnesota State University, and the broader Mankato community, a wide range of speakers and workshops that address social justice issues. Cosponsors for the event include the Department of Sociology and Corrections, Sociology Club, Kessel Peace Institute, Library Services, Mavericks for Fair Trade, Mankato Area Free Trade Town Initiative (MAFTTI), and the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry.

Dr. Mara Fridell is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Manitoba, where she teaches theory, feminist political economy, and social movements. Her areas of research include comparative immigration politics and policies, comparative education politics and policy, and feminist economic and political literacy mobilization in Manitoba. Dr. Mark Hudson is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Manitoba, and coordinator of the Global Political Economy Program. Beginning in 1997 with field work in Chiapas, Mexico, he has authored a number of articles and spoken widely on fair trade.

For more information about the event, contact Dr. Carol L. Glasser, Department of Sociology & Corrections at 507-389-1345 or by email at carol.glasser@mnsu.edu.