

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
GOOD NEWS
APRIL 2003

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Tom Woolf, Graduate Student in Environmental Science, presented "Seasonal biomass and carbohydrate allocation patterns in Southern Minnesota curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) populations" at the Winter Aquatic Plant Meeting organized by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in Bloomington, MN on 27 March 2003.

Morgan Case, Graduate Student in Environmental Science, presented "Environmental Factors Limiting the Success of Sago Pondweed (*Stuckenia pectinata*) in the Heron Lake System" at the Winter Aquatic Plant Meeting organized by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in Bloomington, MN on 27 March 2003.

John Madsen presented "A suggested protocol for standardized lakewide aquatic plant management plans for the State of Wisconsin" at the Winter Aquatic Plant Meeting organized by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in Bloomington, MN on 27 March 2003.

CHEMISTRY AND GEOLOGY

ARLINGTON, VA--The White House honored Mankato, Minnesota science teacher Eric Koser at the 2002 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching ceremony on March 21.

Mr. Koser, a science teacher at Mankato West High School, and graduate student at Minnesota State University, Mankato, was among 167 teachers to be recognized for an extraordinary ability to inspire students to learn by bringing challenging concepts to life in the classroom.

Mr. Koser is currently working on a Masters of Science Education at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He has worked closely with Dr. Jeff Pribyl, Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Geology, for several years, as Pribyl has advised him through coursework. He also works closely with Dr. Louis Schwartzkopf, Chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, helping to put on a physics demonstration show with the department each year. He has recently joined up with Dr. John Frey, the Dean of the College of Science and Engineering on an NSF proposal working with fuel cell technology using solid waste as a hydrogen fuel source.

The Presidential award was established by the White House in 1983 as the nation's highest honor for elementary and secondary school math and science teachers. The program is administered by the National Science Foundation.

"These honored teachers have the gift to kindle excitement in young people about complex ideas that can be intimidating to young learners," said National Science Foundation Director Dr. Rita Colwell. "Educators like these bring contagious enthusiasm into the classroom and weave the essential life skill of critical thinking into the fabric of our rising generations."

Along with 167 fellow awardees, Eric Koser receives a special citation signed by President Bush, a \$7,500 cash award from NSF to improve science and mathematics instruction, gifts from

donors, and the trip to the March 21 awards presentation in Washington, D.C. Mr. Koser participated in several educational and celebratory functions while in Washington, and shared mathematics and science expertise with colleagues, discussed current issues in teaching, and met with members of the Bush administration and members of Congress.

Teachers from public and private schools in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity are nominated for recognition in one of four categories: elementary mathematics, elementary science, secondary mathematics, and secondary science. The 2002 PAEMST awardees list and detailed information about the program is available at www.nsf.gov/pa.

On Saturday, March 22nd the ACS Student Affiliate (Chemistry Club) hosted a site for the administration of the Chemistry Olympiad written exam. The Chemistry Olympiad is a competition for high school students that consist of two parts; a written exam and a laboratory exam. High School students who win the national contest can go on to be part of the US team that competes internationally. Over the last several years, the exam has been only given in the metro region. This year several outstate sites were selected for the written exam, with MSU being one of them. The Chemistry Club volunteered to host and proctor the exam. According to the members, it was a great experience.

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

Dr. Mike Wells presented "Improving the Application Course" to the Minnesota State University community. This presentation was the direct result of Dr. Wells' receipt of a Teaching Scholar Fellowship.

Professor Ann Quade presented her research, The Development and Validation of a Computer Science Self-Efficacy Scale of CS0 Courses and the Group Analysis of CS0 Student Self-Efficacy, at the IEEE Computer Society's International Conference on Information Technology: Coding and Computing. It was published in the conference proceedings.

Professor Quade was selected to give the keynote address at our university's fifth annual Undergraduate Research Conference.

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

Dr. Mezbahur Rahman and Dr. Larry M. Pearson (2003). A Note on Estimating Parameters in Two-Parameter Pareto Distributions. *International Journal of Mathematical Education in Science and Technology* (forthcoming). Volume and Page numbers are to be determined.