

**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND
TECHNOLOGY
FEBRUARY 2005**

GOOD NEWS

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

A grant: Krenz, J.D., and B.R. McMillan. Effect of hunter density on hunt quality for wild turkey. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. \$31,250 (2 years).

Dr. Brock McMillan, Associate Professor, gave an invited seminar entitled, *Survival, cause-specific mortality, and sustainability of river otters in southern Minnesota*, at St. Cloud State University.

Drs. Brock McMillan, Associate Professor, and Brad Cook, Assistant Professor, received a \$99,132 grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation for their project entitled, *Wildlife value of reed canary grass infested wetlands in Minnesota*.

Dr. Brad Cook, Assistant Professor, is co-author of three abstracts. One was submitted to the American Society of Microbiology and two were submitted to the Society of Wetland Scientists. Dr. Cook has also co-authored a consulting report for BP (formerly British Petroleum).

Abstracts

Ammonia Oxidizer Diversity and Nutrient Selection in Intermountain Depressional Wetlands in Northwestern Montana. T. C. Gsell, W. E. Holben, **B. J. Cook**; Governors State University, University Park, IL, University of Montana, Missoula, MT, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Mankato, MN.

Status and Values of the DMZ Wetlands, Republic of Korea. Kwi-Gon Kim, **Bradley J. Cook**, Dong-Gil Cho, Seoul National University, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Mankato, MN.

Allelopathy as a Mechanism for the Invasion of *Typha Angustifolia*. Meghann E. Morrissey, **Bradley J. Cook**, Minnesota State University, Mankato, Mankato, MN.

Consulting Report

Biodiversity and Wetland Assessment along the Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkey Pipeline. David Kikodze (Dzelkva LTD., Tblisi, Republic of Georgia), **Bradley Cook** (Minnesota State University, U.S.A.) Zaal Kikvidze (Almeria University, Spain)

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

Dr. Mike Wells, Associate Professor, was awarded a Flies Fellowship to investigate data privacy issues at GMAC-RFC in Minneapolis. Dr. Wells was also

awarded an MSU Teaching Scholar Fellowship for the summer of 2005 to complete a textbook manuscript for the Application Programming course.

Dr. Rebecca Bates, Assistant Professor, has had a paper accepted at the ASEE (engineering education) Annual Conference & Exposition which will be held in June 2005 in Portland, OR. The paper is entitled "Constructing an Interdisciplinary Peer Mentoring Network for First Year Faculty." She will also be presenting a faculty poster entitled "Guild-based Group Learning for Computer Science Courses" at the ACM SIGCSE (computer science education) conference, February 24-26, 2005 in St. Louis, MO.

Ms. Martha Lindberg, Instructor, will present a paper at the Teaching and Learning with Technology Conference at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, on Feb. 15. Title: "Using Group Projects to Increase Interactivity in a Large Lecture Class."

Dr. Rebecca Bates, Assistant Professor, received a Faculty Improvement Grant to attend the Global Conference on Engineering & Technology Education in Brazil March 13-16, 2005. She will be presenting the paper "Using Guild-based Group Learning in Technical Courses". Dr. Bates also received a Faculty Research Grant entitled "Analysis and Prediction of Meeting Style Using Discourse Information".

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

Eskridge, P.B., Monson, J.A., Jansen, R.A., Taylor, V.A., Windhorst, R.A., & de Grijs, R., (2004) "Resolved Stars and Unresolved Light in NGC 1311," *Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society*. 36, 1494. Paper presented at the 205th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society (9-13 January 2005). Andy Monson was an MSU undergraduate student when he started working on this project with Dr. Eskridge.

Dr. Hai-Sheng Wu, Associate Professor, attended the 5th International Conference on Electroluminescence (ICEL-5) of Molecular Materials and Related Phenomena on January 20-21, 2005 in Phoenix, AZ.

Dr. Russell Palma, Professor, will be presenting the following invited departmental colloquia in February: "Exploring the Sun and Early Solar System: Genesis and Stardust" Physics Department Colloquium, University of Memphis, Memphis, TN, February 18, 2005; "Measuring Nitrogen from Genesis Gold Foils: A Novel Mercury Amalgamation Extraction Technique" joint Chemistry and Physics Department Colloquium, Rhodes College, Memphis, TN, February 17, 2005; and "Salvaging Science from the Genesis Mission" Physics Department Colloquium, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, February 10, 2005.

Ms. Nataliya Kovalchuk, a graduate student in Physics, won Minnesota State's Annual Thesis Competition for her study "*Thermodynamic Properties of the systems with Strongly Correlated Hybridized Electrons.*" Ms. Kovalchuk's advisor was Dr. Igor Kogoutiuk, Associate Professor. Her thesis, selected by the

MSU Graduate Sub-Meet and Confer, has been forwarded to the Annual Distinguished Master's Thesis Award Competition sponsored by the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools.

WATER RESOURCES CENTER

Cecilia Berg, Interim Director of the Water Resources Center, announces the following grants awarded to the WRC in January, 2005: The Minnesota River Watershed Monitoring Program (\$76,500); the Minnesota River Basin Data Center Data Reporting Initiative (\$35,000); and the Minnesota River Aggregate and Ecological Resource Evaluation (\$76,500). The 3rd Minnesota River Research Forum is scheduled for March 10, 2005 at Ostrander Auditorium. Please visit the MRBDC web site for details. <http://mrfdc.mnsu.edu>.