

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
NOVEMBER 2004

GOOD NEWS

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Zhu XY, Chade AR, Rodriguez-Porcel M, Bentley MD, Ritman EL, Lerman A, Lerman LO (2004) Cortical microvascular remodeling in the stenotic kidney: role of increased oxidative stress. *Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol* 24:1854-1859.

Dr. Brock McMillan, Associate Professor, gave an invited research seminar entitled, "Space use, population status, and sustainability of river otters in southern Minnesota" at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks on October 25, 2004.

Dr. Brock McMillan had the following paper accepted for publication:

Rehmeier, R.L., G.A. Kaufman, D.W. Kaufman, and **B.R. McMillan**, 2005. Long-term study of abundance of the hispid cotton rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*) in native tall grass prairie. *Journal of Mammalogy*, 86:in press.

CHEMISTRY AND GEOLOGY

On Tuesday, November 9, 2004, the Department of Chemistry and Geology hosted the 15th Annual Leonard A. Ford Lectureship. James BeMiller, Professor of Chemistry at Purdue University presented two lectures on Carbohydrates.

"Cis and Trans Isomers of Pt(CN-p-(C₂H₅)-C₆H₄)₂(CN)₂," A. G. Dylla, D. E. Jenzen, **M. K. Pomije** and K. R. Mann, Poster Presentation, University of Minnesota, Department of Chemistry Centennial Celebration, Minneapolis, MN; October 2004.

Mr. Alex Blom, a senior chemistry major, presented his poster entitled "*Dissolved Organic Matter Characterization By Fluorescence Spectroscopy and Singlet Oxygen Production Rate*" at the 27th Annual Midwest Environmental Chemistry Workshop in Madison, WI (October 15-17). The research was conducted with **Prof. John Thoemke** in collaboration with Prof. Kris McNeill (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities). The work was supported by a grant from the Research Site for Educators in Chemistry (RSEC), an NSF-sponsored program, hosted at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Drs. Marie Pomije and John Thoemke, Associate Professors, presented their paper "*Making the Connections: An Integrated Approach to Physical and Inorganic Chemistry Laboratory-Selected Experiments*," at the 18th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education in Ames, IA (July 2004). This curriculum development project was supported by a Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement grant from the National Science Foundation; with matching funds from MSU.

Dr. Dean Moosavi, Assistant Professor, gave a presentation entitled "My special place: Use of a place-based writing project to improve student learning in a large introductory undergraduate geology course" at the Geological Society of America meeting in Denver, CO. on November 6-11, 2004. Dr. Moosavi also participated in an earth system science textbook feedback session sponsored by Wiley publishing.

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

Dr. Colin Wightman, Professor, has been invited to participate in the annual conference of the National Association of Seed and Venture Funds. They have a track this year on Universities, Seed Capital, and Entrepreneurs. The conference is in Salt Lake City, November 10-12, 2004.

Dr. Michael Wells, Associate Professor, will be presenting "Does Web Interface Training Improve the Usability of Student Web Interface Design During a Data Communications and Networking Course?" at the 2004 National Decision Science Institute Conference in Boston, MA on November 20-23.

Dr. Allan M. Hart, Assistant Professor, was awarded a Faculty Improvement Grant to cover costs associated with attending a workshop in Atlanta, GA. The workshop ran from October 18-20 and included training in the use of Hibernate. Hibernate is a powerful, ultra-high performance object/relational persistence and query service for Java.

Dr. Rebecca Bates, Assistant Professor, has had a paper accepted at the Global Conference on Engineering Technology and Education which will be held in March 2005 in the cities of Bertioga and Santos in Brazil. The paper is titled "Using Guild-based Group Learning in Technical Classes."

Xu, D. & **Case. S.** "Routing Protocols for Bluetooth Scatternets." Thirteenth Annual Rocky Mountain Conference of the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges. 22-23 October 2004. Orem, UT.

ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

On November 9, Dr. Gale Allen, Associate Professor, gave an invited lecture to electrical engineering students in a Senior Design class at the University of Minnesota. The title of his talk was "Why do projects miss goals? Lessons learned in a development project". The talk covered his experience in a development project at Seagate, and suggestions about how to avoid or reduce problems in projects and thoughts about career development.

INTERIOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

On Saturday, October 23, 2004, Truck Crane Services in Eagan, MN hosted 65 MSU construction management students. The Crane management field trip was organized as a portion of the IDCM 311 Equipment Management course. The field trip was conducted in two parts. During the first half of the field trip, students were given an informative presentation about the different types of cranes, rental rates, insurance, equipment maintenance, safety, and other equipment management information. During the second half, the students had the opportunity to operate (with the coaching of a certified crane operator) either a 90, 150 or 175 ton capacity crane.

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

Dr. Francis T. Hannick, Mathematics and Statistics, presented a workshop on Hands-On Experience with Numerous Activities for the Elementary School Mathematics Curriculum at the Eastern Regional Conference of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics at Baltimore, Maryland on October 14.

Dr. Francis T. Hannick, Mathematics and Statistics, presented a workshop on Hands-On Experience with Numerous Activities for the Elementary School Mathematics Curriculum at the Southern Regional Conference of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics at New Orleans, Louisiana on November 4.

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

The Graduate Committee in Physics and Astronomy has recommended the submission of Nataliya Kovalchuk's thesis to MAGS (Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools 2005 Distinguished Thesis competition). Her thesis was selected as the best graduate thesis in the University for 2003-2004. Nataliya obtained her M.S. in Physics on May 8, 2004. The title of her thesis is "Thermodynamic Properties of Systems with Strongly Correlated Hybridized Electrons". Her advisor was Dr. Igor Kogoutiuk.

Dr. Igor Kogoutiuk, Associate Professor, attended the Minnesota Area Association of Physics Teachers (MAAPT) meeting in Winona, MN on October 30, 2004 and made a presentation entitled "Physics show as a way to enhance students' interest in physics".

Dr. Hai-Sheng Wu is co-author of a paper accepted for publication in SPIE Conference Proceedings (Vol. 5588). The title of the paper is *Structurally Integrated Organic Light-Emitting Device-Based Sensors for Oxygen, Glucose, Hydrazine, and Anthrax*. This paper is one of the results of his recent sabbatical.