

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

GOOD NEWS

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Whiteman, H.H., J.D. Krenz, & R.D. Semlitsch. In Press. Intermorph breeding and the potential for reproductive isolation in polymorphic mole salamanders (*Ambystoma talpoideum*). Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology.

Brock McMillan and his graduate students, Tom Gorman and Danny Martin, had the following paper accepted for publication: Gorman, T.A., B.R. McMillan, J.D. Erb, and D.J. Martin. 2006. Characteristics of natal den sites of river otters (*Lontra canadensis*) in southeastern Minnesota. American Midland Naturalist, *in press*.

CHEMISTRY AND GEOLOGY

Rachel Burkard, McNair Scholar and MSU Chemistry (ACS) major, will be presenting a poster at the 231st National Meeting of the American Chemical Society to be held in Atlanta, GA, on March 26-March 31, 2006. Her abstract "Study of platinum vapochromic complexes" was accepted on 12/4/05. Rachel's research mentor is Dr. Marie Pomije.

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

Dr. Mike Wells, Associate Professor, presented "Does the Addition of a Procedural Oriented Programming Language Increase Students' Confidence When Using Programming Concepts?" at the 2005 National Decision Sciences Institute Conference in San Francisco, California.

Dr. Wells was selected for the Review Board for Special Issue on "Organizational Blogs: Opportunities and Challenges" by the International Journal of Information Technology and Management.

ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

On November 1, 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.

At this point in the year, the Force Science Research Center has received over \$100,000 in donations to support the work of Drs. Bill Lewinski and Bill Hudson.

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

Dr. Mezbahur Rahman has co-authored a paper entitled "Home page Usability and Credibility: A Comparison of the Fastest Growing Companies to the Fortune 30 and the Implications to IT Governance" with William C. Brown and Travis Hacker to appear in Information Management and Computer Security, Volume 14, Number 3.

Members of the Math Club participated in the North Central Section of the Mathematical Association of America Team Math Contest. The teams consist of no more than three participants and MSU-Mankato had three teams compete. There were a total of 65 teams from 27 individual institutions located in Minnesota, North and South Dakota and Canada. As in past years, our Mathematics students had a good showing compared with teams from the University of Minnesota, Gustavus, St. Olaf, Carleton, Macalester, and other power-house institutions. They worked hard and deserve congratulations!

MECHANICAL AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

Dr. W. James Wilde received a research contract from the Minnesota Department of Transportation to develop a new specification for paying bonuses or assessing penalties to contractors for smoothness in pavement construction.

Dr. Wilde also was invited to speak at a joint technical meeting of the Colorado Asphalt Paving Association and the Colorado Department of Transportation. The presentation is entitled "Addressing Bumps in Hot Mix Asphalt Overlays Caused by Crack Fillers".