COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

MARCH 2007
GOOD NEWS

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Hutchins, E. (biology graduate student), and **B. McMillan**. 2007. Preliminary results on the effects of reed canarygrass on avian diversity and reproductive success. Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Alexandria, MN.

CHEMISTRY AND GEOLOGY

The following manuscript has been accepted for publication in Chemical Research and Toxicology by Danae R. Quirk Dorr, Assistant Professor: Site specific N^6-(2-hydroxy-3,4-epoxybut-1-yl) adenine oligodeoxynucleotide adducts of 1,2,3,4 -diepoxybutane: synthesis and stability at **physiological pH.** Co-authors include: Sergey Antsypovich, Crystal Pitts and Natalia Tretyakova

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

The $140,000 Linux Cluster acquired from NSF funds is now operational and available for CSET faculty use. The three grant Co-PIs, Drs. Patrick Tebbe, Rebecca Bates, and David Haglin, will coordinate accounts on that machine. Instructions for requesting an account can be found at http://www.mnsu.edu/hpc

ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Vincent Winstead, Assistant Professor, submitted an abstract which was accepted for the Spring 2007 ASEE Mid-Atlantic Section conference in New Jersey.

INTERIOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Farid Jean Sabongi, Assistant Professor, has been honored by a Restoration Award from the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota.

The Restoration Award was given for restoration of a commercial building in the City of Montevideo, MN, which was built in 1893 to serve as a post office. For a period of about 40 years it housed a café and a tavern. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Sabongi assisted the owner to restore the building according to the Guidelines of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Through Chippewa Preservation Partnership, the building was converted to commercial space while its historic integrity was maintained.

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

Dr. Francis T. Hannick, Professor, will present a workshop on Hands-On Experience with Numerous Activities for the Elementary School Math Curriculum at the Annual Meeting and Exposition of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Atlanta, Georgia on March 24, 2007.

Dr. Gary Rockswold, Professor, gave the keynote address: *Mathematics, Science, and Reality* at the 20th Annual GPC Mathematics Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on February 16, 2007. He also presented a follow-up workshop.

Dr. Gary Rockswold, Professor, gave the keynote address: *Just How Much Power Does Mathematics Have?* at the 33rd Annual Meeting for the Kentucky Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges on March 2, 2007.

Dr. Gary Rockswold, Professor, has authored a new textbook: *Essentials of College Algebra with Modeling and Visualization,* published by Addison Wesley Publishing Company in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Deepak Sanjel, Assistant Professor, with John N. Haddad and Serge B. Provosthas have had a research paper published in the *International Journal of Mathematics and Computer Science*, "A Relationship between the Yule-Walker and the Maximum Likelihood Estimators of the AR(1) Coefficient", Issue: *Vol. 2, 1 (2007) pp. 11-24*
Link: *http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/sanjed/R-HaddadProvostSenjel.pdf*

The reports for the American Institute of Mathematics (AIM) research workshop on "Spectra of families of matrices described by graphs, digraphs, and sign patterns" are now available at:
http://www.aimath.org/pastworkshops/matrixspectrum.html

Dr. In-Jae Kim, Assistant Professor, participated in two research projects at the workshop that are "minimum rank of symmetric matrices described by a graph" and "spectrally (inertially) arbitrary sign patterns". He also served as an editor for the list of open research problems that were raised at the workshop.

Dr. Namyong Lee, Associate Professor, was invited to the following conference/workshop: IMA (Institute of Mathematics & Its Applications) "Applications in biology, dynamics, and statistics" on March 5-9, 2007. MBI (Mathematical Bioscience Institute) "Over the Fence: Mathematicians and Biologists Talk About Bridging the Curricular Divide", June 1-2, 2007.

MECHANICAL AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

Civil Engineering students, Nathan Pieper and Krista Wassenaar, received the Minnesota Professional Engineers Foundation Scholarships; Christopher Marr received the Don Hassenstab Scholarship; and Joseph Zilka received the Minnesota Concrete Council Scholarship in February. All the scholarships are sponsored by the Minnesota Section Society of Professional Engineers (MnSPE). The students were to be recognized during the MnSPE annual banquet during the National Engineering Week on February 23. Due to the weather conditions, they were unable to attend.

Wells Concrete Products (WCP) has established a scholarship for civil engineering students interested in structural design. The first recipient will be

selected for the 2007-08 academic year. Wells Concrete Products has provided generous support, both financially and technically, to the civil engineering program since its inception. Dave Buesing, President of WCP, also serves on the Civil Engineering Industrial Advisory Board.

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

Dr. Russell Palma, Professor, will be presenting an invited colloquium to the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas entitled "NASA's Genesis and Stardust Missions: The Latest Results" on March 7.

Dr. Palma will be presenting a paper on his research at the 38th International Lunar and Planetary Science Conference, NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston Texas. The conference runs March 12-16, and his talk entitled "Helium and Neon Isotopic Compositions from Stardust Aerogel Particle Tracks" will be given on March 14. MSU Mankato Physics and Astronomy undergraduate Jacob Simones is a co-author on the paper.

Dr. Russell Palma will also be attending a meeting of the International Genesis Mission Consortium at the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston, Texas March 11, where he will present the latest results of his research on Genesis samples.