

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
GOOD NEWS - DECEMBER 2007

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Graduate students in Dr. McMillan's lab presented the following papers:
Munsterman, A.L, B.R. McMillan, K.J. Haroldson, and J.G. Guidice. An Evaluation of Factors that Influence Indices of Population Size for Ring-Necked Pheasants. 68th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Madison, WI

Bade, R.A. and B.R. McMillan. Impacts of Reed Canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea L.*) on Small Mammals. 68th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Madison, WI

Hutchins, E. and B.R. McMillan. The effects of reed canarygrass on avian diversity and reproductive success. 68th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, Madison, WI

Day T.A., **Ruhland** C.T. and F. Xiong. Warming increases aboveground biomass and C stocks in vascular-plant dominated Antarctic tundra. Submitted to *Global Change Biology* (12/10/2007).

Ms. Emily Koppel, Biology student, attended the MidWest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Madison, WI. Her poster presentation "Survival of *Cyathocotyle bushiensis* and its snail host following experimental desiccation" authored by Ms. Koppel and Dr. Robert Sorensen, won best poster award at the conference which came with a cash prize and a year-long membership to the wildlife society as well as a subscription to their publication.

CHEMISTRY AND GEOLOGY

Marjorie Ploeger, chemistry major and MSU American Chemical Society Student Affiliates Chapter President, has been selected for the 2008 ACS Student Affiliates Leadership Award. The award includes an all-expense paid trip to Dallas, TX to attend the Student Affiliates Leadership Conference. Marjorie is one of only five students nationwide chosen for this honor. Dr. Trent Vorlicek, Associate Professor of Chemistry, serves as the advisor for the ACS SA Chapter here at MSU.

The following abstract has been accepted for presentation at the American Chemical Society Spring National Meeting in New Orleans: "Synergetic Reaction Pathways of Fluoroquinolone Antibiotics and Metals in Soils: Roles of Metal-fluoroquinolone Complexes and Clay-mineral Surfaces" Aaron L. Danberry, Heather J. Wingen, and **Trent P. Vorlicek**. Danberry and Wingen are pursuing chemistry majors at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

"Performance Comparison for APRZ on Strongly and Weakly Managed Dispersion Maps for 40 Gb/s WDM Transmission", A. Shirgurkar, **Qun Zhang**,

and M. I. Hayee, to appear, International Journal of Performability Engineering, Vol. 4, No. 2, April 2008.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY

In December 2007, Dr. Christophe Veltsos, Assistant Professor, was elected President of the Mankato Chapter of the Information Systems Security Association (ISSA). The Mankato ISSA chapter is planning its 3rd Annual Security Seminar to be held at the Alltel Office Building on March 20th, 2008 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

INTERIOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Scott Fee, Assistant Professor, attended the first annual International Conference for Financially Self-Sufficient Schools in Paraguay in December. This conference was in support of his work at Eden Campus in South Africa, Africa's first green business school.

Dr. Fee will host the founder of Eden Campus, South African entrepreneur and social capitalist Steve Carver, when he visits Mankato at the end of January to meet with and motivate the twenty-five MSU students traveling to Eden Campus on a study abroad trip this May.

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

Dr. Mezbahur Rahman presented two papers entitled "Goodness of Fit in Logit Models" and "Anderson Darling Test Statistic in Estimating the Box Cox Transformation Parameter" at the conference ICCS-IX in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on December 12-14, 2007 as an invited speaker. The papers are joint work with Dr. Larry M. Pearson.

The paper entitled "Smith Normal Form and Acyclic Matrices" by Dr. In-Jae Kim, Assistant Professor, has been accepted to the *Journal of Algebraic Combinatorics*. This is a joint work with Dr. B.L. Shader at University of Wyoming.

MECHANICAL AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

The paper submitted by Dr. Jin Park, Assistant Professor, and his former student Cac Nguyen, which had already been published through a conference proceedings last year "Analytical and Numerical Approach to Evaluate the Properties of Pultruded Composites Containing Clay Particles", has also been selected for publication in the *Journal of Applied Global Research* (the same publisher).

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

Department of Physics and Astronomy Professor Dr. Russ Palma and undergraduate student Jake Simones are co-authors on a report published January 4 in *Science* (volume 319, pages 75-78): "Helium and Neon Abundances and Compositions in Cometary Matter".

Dr. Russ Palma is co-PI on a proposal funded by NASA for 2008-09: "Studies of Light Noble Gas in Stardust Samples," \$206,004.

CSET

Patti Kramlinger, our CSET Development Director, reports that year-to-date donations (first six months) to the College are at \$385,814. Quantifying gifts of \$1,000 and over gives the breakdown as follows: *CSET*--\$12,250, including \$8,000 in scholarship money; *Biology*--\$21,000, which is all for the Science Fair; *Chemistry/Geology*--\$21,700 which includes a \$10,000 donation for the McCarty Endowment; *AMET*--\$14,000 which includes a \$10,000 donation to the AET Program; *CIVE*--\$17,000 which includes \$6,000 for the Martin Menk Endowment; *ME*--\$3,000; *Computer Science and IST*--\$14,000 which includes \$5,000 for the Curt Stangler Endowment; *Physics/Astronomy*--\$5,300 which includes \$4,300 for the Glen Erickson Endowment; and *CM*--\$5,300. Additionally, in January we received an anonymous gift of \$10,000 for the Leo Standeford Endowment to the Department of Physics and Astronomy.