

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY
JANUARY 2008
GOOD NEWS

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Dr. Brock McMillan, Professor, gave an invited seminar entitled, "Ecology of river otters in southern Minnesota" in the Department of Biological Sciences at Southern Utah University.

ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Gale Allen, Associate Professor, is giving a 4-day, 32-hour course in component-level industrial automation to employees of local companies in January on weekends, the last day of the class being Saturday, January 19. Jim Dickey, MNCEME technologist, is helping to support the class.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY

In January 2008, Dr. Christophe Veltsos, Assistant Professor, attended the Department of Defense Cyber Crime Conference in St. Louis, MO. This conference is the prime training event for DoD and law enforcement from around the country.

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

An Improving Teacher Quality Grant was funded for \$46,000 for a second year through the Minnesota Department of Higher Education. The grant was submitted in partnership with schools in the St. Paul School District, the Mathematics and Statistics Department at MSU, and the College of Education at MSU. Dr. Mark A. Zuiker, Assistant Professor, is serving as the Principle Investigator for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, with involvement by Dr. Ernest Boyd, Professor, and Ms. Mary Guy, Instructor. Dr. Kathleen Foord is the Principle Investigator for the College of Education with involvement by Dr. Daria Donna.

Dr. Christopher Danielson, Assistant Professor, received \$40,700 in funding from MnSCU for a project to recruit elementary education majors to the middle school mathematics specialty through revision of content courses to include field and/or video experiences with elementary students' mathematical thinking. The first stage of the project is to convene a statewide meeting of mathematics and education faculty to consider current research in this area, to form partnerships and to set a research agenda. This meeting is anticipated to take place in late February or early March.

Dr. Gary Rockswold and Terry Krieger, Beginning and Intermediate Algebra with Applications and Visualization, Second Edition. This textbook is published by Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, Boston.

Tsao, Yea-Ling. Integrating the design mathematical trail in mathematics curriculum for the sixth grade student. In Proceedings of the 2008 Hawaii International Conference on Education. Honolulu, HA.

Tsao, Yea-Ling. Improving students' problem-solving abilities. *The Elementary Education Journal*. 54(4), 44-50.

A paper titled "A Note on the Maximum Likelihood Box-Cox Transformation Parameter" by Mezbahur Rahman, Associate Professor, and Larry M. Pearson, Professor, has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Probability and Statistical Science* (JPSS).

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

Dr. Louis Schwartzkopf, Professor, gave a talk, "Is Energy Independence for Minnesota Possible?" at the physics seminar at St. Cloud State University on January 22. He also gave a public talk, "Renewable Energy, Energy Independence and Climate Change," at St. Cloud State that evening; about 200 people attended the public talk.

Jacob Simones, a senior physics major, was co-presenter of a poster entitled "The Absolute Magnitude Distribution of F-Turnoff Stars", at the 211th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society, at Austin, Texas (7-11 Jan. 2008). (Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society. 39, 924.)

Dr. Paul Eskridge, Associate Professor, attended the 211th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society, held from 7 to 11 January 2008, in Austin TX. He presented a paper at the meeting: Eskridge, P.B., (2007) "Star Formation History of NGC 1311 from Multiwavelength Stellar Photometry," Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society. 39, 896. (paper 095.12).