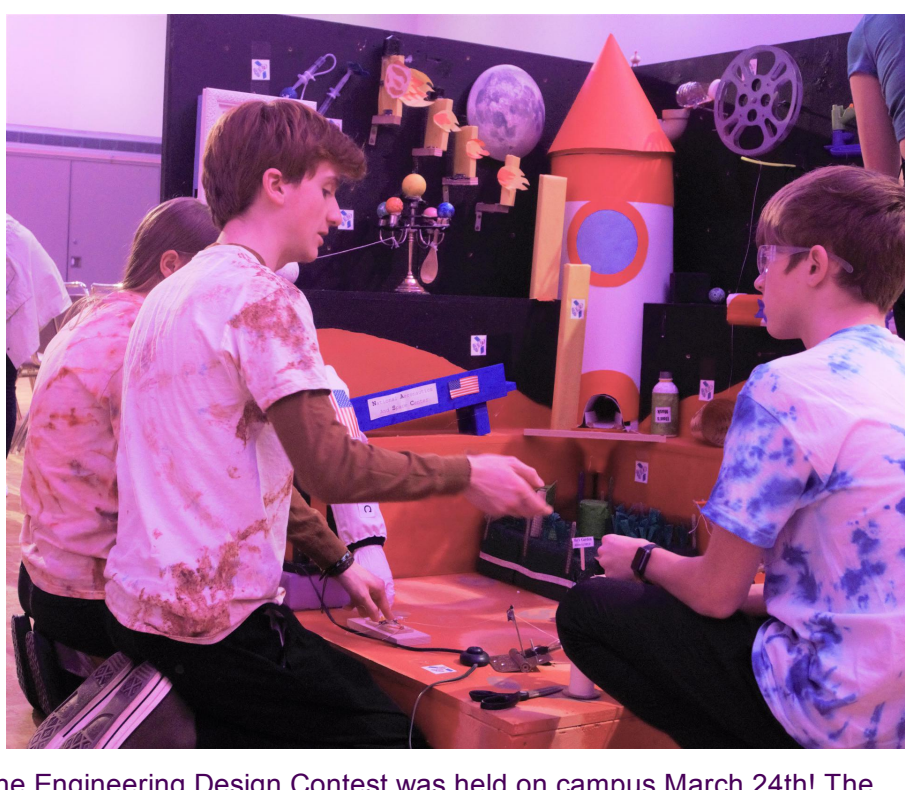


## March Highlights



The Engineering Design Contest was held on campus March 24th! The contest was an opportunity for teams of 3-12 students (grades 5-12) to design and build a complex machine using everyday objects with the guidance of a coach. The completed machines used multiple steps to complete a simple task. Qualifying students compete in the championship on April 21 at Anoka Technical College. [Visit the Engineering Machine Design Contest Site](#) to learn more!

## The Department of Biological Sciences

Dr. Keenan Hartert of Biological Sciences released a new episode of his podcast *For Whom the Cell Tolls*, available on [Spotify](#) and [Apple](#). The episode covers the emerging Genetic dynamics of the tumor microenvironment, the cells involved, and how this affects current and future therapies.

## The Department of Computer Information Sciences



### CIS Students competed in a National Data Science Competition

24 CIS students (3 graduate and 2 undergraduate teams) participated in the MinneMUDAC 2023 competition hosted by the Minnesota Twins at Target field on March 25. This year's challenge focused on predicting gate attendance for all Minnesota Twins home games for the 2023 season. One CIS team was ranked fourth in the graduate category. Over 70 student teams representing dozens of colleges and universities participated in the competition. The CIS student teams were mentored by Dr. Rajeev Bukralia and Dr. Naseef Mansoor.

## The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology

Dr.Xuanhui Wu recently secured an agreement with Keysight Technologies to provide the ECET department with a bundle of software valued at \$71 million per year. The software will provide MNSU students the opportunity to deepen their research in the area of high frequency circuits. Students from the ECET department will have access to all programs on the Keysight suite in the coming weeks. Congratulations!

## Southern Minnesota Regional Science & Engineering Fair 2023



*Saturday, April 22, 2023*

### Science Fair Judges and Volunteers Needed | April 22 (3rd-6th Grade)

**Are you in a STEM field and interested in engaging with 3rd - 6th grade students?** Then, we need you!

We are seeking college/university students, faculty, and other professionals in STEM fields to join us as judges or general volunteers on **Saturday, April 22, 2023** from approximately 7:30 am – 3:30 pm for the **72nd Annual Southern Minnesota Regional Science and Engineering Fair**.

**CSET Faculty** – This could be a good opportunity for extra credit for your students.

Visit [smrse.fairs.com](http://smrse.fairs.com) and click on the "Judge's" or "Volunteer's" tab to learn more and sign-up. Direct questions to [science.fair@mnsu.edu](mailto:science.fair@mnsu.edu). Please share this call out with others in your network!

Sign-Up

## Upcoming Events

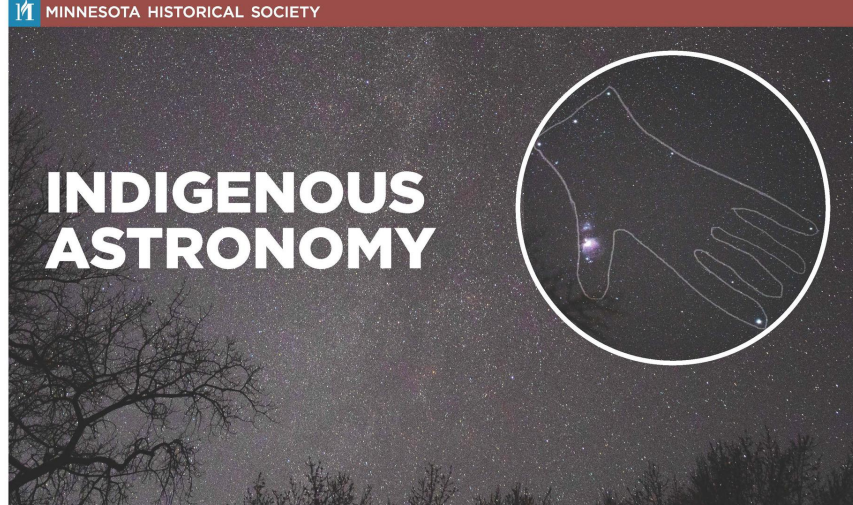


Minnesota farming pioneer Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin will share his model for regenerative poultry farming, insights about regenerative agriculture, and his vision for food system change. The event will be held in Ostrander Hall on the Minnesota State University, Mankato campus on April 11, 2023 from 7pm – 8:30 pm. It is free and open to the public.

Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin has spent a lifetime working towards food systems change and regenerative impact. According to the Ashoka Institute, Regi and his team have refined a global model for small-scale, poultry-powered (and planet cooling), scalable regenerative agriculture system. They have started scaling the spread of the model through a network of farmers, nonprofits, farmers associations, civic, public, and industry leaders. This approach to business development and systems change has allowed him to create space for small farmers and large businesses alike to work in alignment with the ecology of the land. Originally from Guatemala, Regi assists other farmers to build regenerative farming operations through an indigenous framework of thought: "that we are part of—not separate from—the land."

Based in Northfield, Minnesota, Regi is a recipient of the Moses Change Maker Award, a lifetime Ashoka Fellow, founder of the non-profit Regenerative Agriculture Alliance, and current CEO at Tree-Range® Farms, Inc. You can learn more about the Tree-Range® Chicken brand and his vision for food systems change: [www.regenpoultry.com](http://www.regenpoultry.com), [www.regenagalliance.org](http://www.regenagalliance.org), [www.treerangefarms.com](http://www.treerangefarms.com)

This opportunity is made possible by a collaborative partnership among [Minnesota State University, Mankato, Water Resources Center](#), the [IRRA](#), [The Prairie Enthusiasts](#), and the [Living Earth Center](#). For more information on this event, contact Kimberly Musser at [Kimberly.Musser@mnsu.edu](mailto:Kimberly.Musser@mnsu.edu) or 507-389-5492.



**Friday April 14, 2023 • 3 – 10 p.m. • FREE & Open to the Public**  
Join us for a fun afternoon and evening as we explore Indigenous Astronomy, light pollution, and the dark night skies.

### Event Schedule:

**3:00 PM – 4:00 PM | Trifolium 123C or via Zoom (Registration Required)**  
Presentation on light pollution and night sky preservation by Dr. Michael Rutkowski, Professor of Astronomy, at Minnesota State Mankato.

**5:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Jeffers Petroglyphs**  
Located 60 miles from Mankato, Jeffers Petroglyphs Historic Site holds more than 5,000 ancient rock carvings set amid the prairie grasses, images of bunnies, turtles, thunderbolts, and humans tell the stories of Native American ancestors spanning more than 1,000 years. From 6-8PM, enjoy tours provided by Jeffers Petroglyphs staff as well as astronomy-themed activities provided by the Bell Museum.

**8:00 PM – 9:00 PM | Jeffers Petroglyphs**  
Tom Sanders, former Site Manager, will provide a presentation about Archaeoastronomy of the world, Jeffers Petroglyphs, and the Red Rock Ridge. Weather permitting, the event will culminate with a viewing of the cosmos with telescopes.

\*Current Minnesota State Mankato students can register for FREE transportation from campus to Jeffers Petroglyphs. Van space is limited to 16 students. Pick-up at 4:30 pm, outside of CSET Recreation Center. <https://regcomparcsmnsu.edu/> click on "Maverick Adventures Program."

**MORE INFORMATION, SCHEDULE & TICKETS**  
[www.mnhs.org/jefferspetroglyphs](http://www.mnhs.org/jefferspetroglyphs)



**SAVE THE DATE!** Join us on Friday, April 14 for an evening exploring Indigenous Astronomy! Dr. Michael Rutkowski, astronomy professor at MNSU, will give a talk on campus (also available on zoom), and following the talk there will be a bus headed to the Jeffers Petroglyphs Historic Site in Comfrey, MN. There, attendees will explore ancient rock carvings, star gaze and more! Transportation for students is FREE. Learn more about the evening here: <https://lnkd.in/g/gzgdgru>

Webinar Registration

## Earth Day Research Festival Saturday, April 22, 2023 | 10AM – 2 PM | Shellberg Gym & Courtyard

Celebrate and learn about the environmental research being conducted by our MNSU, Mankato campus community. Visit MSU faculty and students at a series of interactive "stations" where researchers from across campus will provide hands-on demonstrations. Stop by the Geography station where you can learn about drones, GIS, and remote sensing technologies or see soil cores and learn about regional soils from soil scientists. At the prairie and big woods station, biologists will explain how identify plants and all about biodiversity (with oak tree and acorn giveaways). At the water quality station, you can learn about water monitoring techniques and the health of area rivers and lakes. Researching the history of human habitation in our region will be the focus at the Anthropology station and you can learn about sustainable environmental planning from the Urban and Regional Studies Institute faculty. All are welcome. Bring the family for kid-friendly activities to celebrate Earth Day. This event is free and open to the public.

The festival will be located outside in the courtyard between Trafion Science Center, Armstrong, and Morris Hall and in the Shellberg Gym. The event is coordinated with the Regional Elementary Science Fair.

This event is coordinated by the Water Resources Center in collaboration with departments across campus. Please contact the WRC at 507-389-5492 or [Kimberly.Musser@mnsu.edu](mailto:Kimberly.Musser@mnsu.edu) or [Kimberly.Musser@mnsu.edu](mailto:Kimberly.Musser@mnsu.edu) with any questions.

Looking for help promoting your program, organization or upcoming event? Need photos? Want to submit an update for our newsletter or have an idea for our magazine? Reach out to [Emily Frederick](#), Communications & Marketing Director for CSET.

Follow us on social media:

