



clarion

NEWS FROM THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

UMD
College of Liberal Arts
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH
Driven to Discover

2019
2020

Features students,
faculty, donors,
friends, and alumni
who are impacting
their world

clarion

2019-2020

The Magazine of the College of
Liberal Arts University of Minnesota
Duluth

DEAN
Jeremy Youde

ASSOCIATE DEAN
Jason Ford

SENIOR DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Jennifer M. Berges

EDITOR
Whitney Jacobson

DESIGN
Stephanie Carlson

PRINTING
Pro Print Inc.

CLA ONLINE
www.d.umn.edu/cla

CLArion is published for alumni,
donors, and friends of the College of
Liberal Arts at the University of
Minnesota Duluth and is also
available in an electronic version.

Send all correspondence to the
editor:

CLArion Editor
College of Liberal Arts
1208 Kirby Drive
Kirby Plaza 306
Duluth, MN
55812 3095

EMAIL
newsedit@d.umn.edu

The University of Minnesota Duluth
is an equal opportunity educator and
employer.

THE DEAN'S CORNER

There is no more exciting time to be the Dean
of the College of Liberal Arts than right now.



In June, I packed up my life in Australia to
move back to Duluth to work with the amazing group of students, staff, and
faculty in our college. Every single day, I am in awe of the innovative, creative,
and vital work that folks are doing here--and this work has direct and tangible
effects on the wider world.

One of the real hallmarks of the college is its commitment to sustainability, and
this is such an important time to be focusing on that. My former home started the
year by battling some of the worst bushfires in history. More than 30 people
died, thousands of homes burned to the ground, and flora and fauna found
nowhere else in the world were devastated. Closer to home, forecasters are
already predicting significant spring floods in parts of Minnesota. Over the past
year, Duluth has received a lot of attention as a potential destination for climate
refugees.

These are all significant challenges. In order to address them, the world will
need critical thinkers who can devise creative solutions, build coalitions, and
engage with diverse communities. As you'll see in this issue of *CLArion*, CLA
students, faculty, and alumni are taking leading roles in addressing these
challenges head on.

Just as the world around us is undergoing changes, so is the college. As you
may have seen, the College of Liberal Arts and the School of Fine Arts will be
coming together to create a new college as of July 1st. This is an exciting
opportunity to bring the fine arts, social sciences, and humanities together. It will
allow us to maintain the wide range of programs we already have and create
new interdisciplinary initiatives. Keep your eyes peeled for more information as
things progress!

As we were putting the finishing touches on this issue of *CLArion*, our collective
world changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In short order, campus closed,
everyone began working from home, and all instruction moved online. This was
an incredible change, but I am amazed by the resilience and commitment of our
students, staff, and faculty to these disruptions. We're working to do everything
we can to support our CLA family during these times, and you can find out more
about the effect COVID-19 is having on campus by checking out the UMD
webpage.

CLA is the heart of UMD, and I'm thrilled to work with all of you to continue
offering our students a great education here on the North Shore.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Youde".

Jeremy Youde
Dean, CLA

IN THIS ISSUE



EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the 2019-2020 edition of *CLArion*! It has been utterly invigorating to observe and talk with the faculty, students, and alumni highlighted in this issue.

From growth at UMD's Land Lab and traditions maintained in American Indian Studies, to transportation in the Twin Cities and housing projects based in Colorado, sustainability has been and looks to be an essential part of the College of Liberal Arts for many years to come.

Many people I spoke with were eager to recognize the web of support behind

their environmental actions, whether teachers, departments, friends, or community members. Sam Domeier, Cole Grotting, and Travis Black all credited Mindy Granley, UMD's former Director of Sustainability, as a key person in their career paths.

Likewise, everyone underscored how critical it is that sustainability, whether environmental, economic, or social, continue to be developed and supported across generations, locations, and cultures. Despite the many challenges present in our world, it seems that there is much to be hopeful for.

If you have a story, accomplishment, publication, milestone, or comment to share, please email me at newsedit@d.umn.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Whitney Jacobson".

Whitney Jacobson
Editor, *CLArion*

COVER

Bee keeping at UMD's Land Lab

- 2 Dean's Corner; Publication Credits
- 3 Editor's Note
- 4 The American Indian Studies Program Arrives on the Scene
- 5 College of Liberal Arts Timeline
- 6 Seeing the "Big Picture": Students Examine Cultural and Practical Differences in Sustainable Practices Between the United States and Germany
- 7 Digging in: Land Lab Farm Operations Manager Builds Knowledge from the Ground up
- 8 9 Experiential Learning: Students Grapple with Sustainable Food Systems
- 10 11 Newly Formed Lake Superior Sustainable Farming Student Organization Fosters Student Engagement with Land Lab
- 12 13 Challenging Women to Change the World: Lexi Finnegan Finds Her Voice with Help from the Jane Maddy Scholarship; Connection Day: Students Invite Others to Declare Their Independence from Technology
- 14 15 Our People and the Environment Go Hand in Hand
- 16 All Hands on Deck: Alumni Sam Domeier Fights for a Sustainable Future
- 17 Sustainable Development: Alumni Len Simich Plans for the Future
- 18 CLA News
- 19 Seoul Meets Minnesota

BACK COVER

A Message from the CLA Development Team



The American Indian Studies Program Arrives on the Scene

By: Cheryl Reitan

In May, 1973, David "Niib" Aubid (AA '92, BA '12) arrived at the Kirby Ballroom for the Anishinabe Days Pow Wow. That night he was bringing the Pow Wow drum and a van full of drummers for the ceremony. He was with John Martin, an Ojibwe singer who taught traditional songs.

Niib, who was a UMD student at the time, is from a community of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe where Ojibwe was spoken and cultural ways were practiced. When Niib walked in, Paul Buffalo, an American Indian elder and spiritual leader from Leech Lake was performing a ceremony, sanctifying the area. Niib said, "Paul had on a headdress, and was shaking a rattle near the floor, blessing the space for the dancers."

Many were in native dress, a few in full regalia. There were Shawl Dancers and one of the male dancers was wearing a bustle, a large shield of eagle and hawk feathers, worn at the back. That Pow Wow was one of the first annual Anishinabe Days Pow Wows. Vern Zacher (AA '67 BA '72) explained, "One week every spring we held Anishinabe Days." There were films and speakers each day. "It was a strong time for American Indian students at UMD," Vern said. "It became a focus for students in Minnesota and North Dakota."

A lot of credit for the AIS program goes to George Himango. He returned from a tour in Vietnam in 1970 and with the encouragement of Ruth Myers, a woman known as the "grandmother of American Indian Education in Minnesota," enrolled at UMD.

The year George arrived, only two American Indians had graduated from UMD. George recruited twelve friends to come to UMD, and they put together a

student organization, the Anishinabe Club.

In April 1972, American Indian Studies (AIS) formed, and by October 1972 it became a program within the Division of Social Sciences. Its first director was Robert Powless, a full-blooded Oneida Indian.

Niib gave high marks to one class, American Indians in the 20th Century. "It was taught by Dr. Powless," he said. "We learned a lot ... about Hiawatha, the peace chief of the Iroquois tribes, and the Great Law of Peace, the oral constitution of the Iroquois Confederacy."

Another class, History and Culture of the Ojibwe, brought in the community. Visitors included Paul Buffalo, Roger Fairbanks, Tim Roufs, Don Murdock, Ruth Myers, Billy Blackwell, and Betty Gurno. In addition, students were visited by a dance group with Mary Howes, Roger Shaibaish, and John Martin.

The AIS students were extremely active. George, Vern, Clyde Atwood, and Ray Murdock met with the medical school and social work staff to provide them with greater understanding of cultural differences. George and other students in the program, Ed Howes, Nora Gallaher, and Roberta DuFault, tutored American Indian inmates in Sandstone Prison. After earning his BA in 2012, Niib taught the Ojibwe language at UMD for many years.

The 48-year old AIS program is still strong. The program joins over a dozen American Indian programs on the UMD campus, and hundreds of alumni from those programs remember the classes and American Indian traditions at UMD.

College of Liberal Arts Timeline

1946: The Minnesota State Teachers College Board approved Duluth State Teachers College becoming a four-year liberal arts institution, beginning in the fall of 1946.

1947 February: The Minnesota House began consideration of a bill by Rep. A.B. Anderson for the conversion of the DSTC into a branch of the University of Minnesota.

1947 July: The name and organization of the college were changed to the University of Minnesota Duluth Branch (UMD). UMD gained permission to grant AA, BA, BS degrees.

1952: Professor Wendell Glick, English, started at UMD.

1953: Professor Frederick Witzig, geography, came to UMD. He later became the dean of the College of Letters and Science.

1953 October: Master of Arts degree offered through the Graduate School at UMD.

1954 September: Kirby Center opened.

1956 February: The new UMD library is dedicated.

1956 May: Ceremonies were held for the new Humanities Building and the Tweed Gallery.

1956 November: A radio station began broadcasting. KUMD became the official name in 1958.

1961 February: Eric Sevareid, CBS news, gave the first Dalton A. LeMasurier Memorial lecture.

1965: Professor Walter Baeumler, sociology, came to UMD. The Baeumler-Kaplan Holocaust Memorial Lecture Series was later established at UMD.

1966: The first annual Feast of Nations was held at UMD.

1967: Jane Maddy joined UMD's Department of Psychology. She was one of the early pioneers for making Women's Studies a recognized discipline at UMD.

1967: Frank McCray graduated from UMD with a BA in English and in 1971 received his MA in English.

1971 November: A plan to develop UMD into a major University Center was explained to newsmen by Provost Raymond W. Darland and Vice Provost for Academic Administration David Vose.

1972: The American Indian Studies program received a strong start when Robert E. Powless was hired to direct the program. Anishinabe Days was held annually at UMD for many years.

1974 October: The Board of Regents approved UMD academic reorganization from four divisions to two colleges and four schools. One of the colleges was named the College of Arts and Letters.

1975: George R. Rapp Jr. served as the dean of the College of Letters and Science until 1983.

1980 September: The first year-long study abroad program (Study in England) was initiated at UMD.

1983: Robert Franz Jr. served as the dean of the renamed College of Letters and Social Sciences until 1986.

1984 September: Establishment of the annual Albert Tezla Scholar/Teacher Award was announced.

1985: The College of Letters and Science became the College of Liberal Arts.

1986: Judith Gillespie served as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts until 1990.

1987: The Royal D. Alworth Jr. Institute for International Studies was established.

1990: John Red Horse served as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts until 1994.

1994: Harold Hellenbrand served as dean of the College of Liberal Arts until 1999.

1994 September: A new library task force was appointed. The task force sought support to erect a new library building, which was opened in 1998.

1995 November: Kathryn A. Martin became the first female Chancellor.

2001: Linda Krug served as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts until 2010.

2010: Susan Maher served as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts until 2019.

2019: Jeremy Youde began serving as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

SEEING THE "BIG PICTURE"

Students Examine Cultural
and Practical Differences in
Sustainable Practices Between
the United States and
Germany

Dr. Dan Nolan's (World Languages and Cultures) class GER 3407: "Sustainability in German-speaking Cultures" not only brings languages, customs, and environmental systems together; it brings people together, too.

According to Nolan, "In this course students learn about sustainability and the history of environmentalism in German-speaking cultures. They conduct interviews to learn about the specific assets and needs of partner organizations in Minnesota and Germany. The course often draws on contacts developed through the University of Minnesota's Climate-Smart Municipalities Exchange; in addition, students' intercultural learning is bolstered through a Collaborative Online International Learning project with a partner course at the University of Siegen. At the conclusion of the course students report back to partners in North Rhein Westphalia and northern Minnesota."

Travis Black (German & Environment, Sustainability, and Geography '20) recently enrolled in the course and valued the knowledge and skills it developed: "The relatively independent workload in the class can be difficult; however, being able to understand how some of these networks function has been a real boon for me moving forward with my sustainability degree."

During his time in the class, Black and a partner

researched and gave a presentation on the benefits and practices of green roofs and passive architecture, two rising practices of green building in Germany. "We wanted to see how and where that approach could fit into the American model, and what benefits and challenges were associated with it," Black explained.

They ultimately presented their findings to Mindy Granley (then Director of Sustainability at UMD, now the City of Duluth's Sustainability Officer) and Jodi Slick at Ecolibrium3. Speaking about "green architecture to people involved at the city scale really added a sense of gravitas to the closure of our semester and research," Black reflected.

According to Black, the course helped highlight "opportunities for us here in the States to learn from Germany. They are seriously ahead of our curve and in many ways are writing the book on how it is done. There are, of course, ways in which they can learn from us as well; this is an international improvement challenge we all face....Sustainability is critical for our lives. We are the generation who will see great amounts of change over our lifetime and hold the power to mitigate that impact. Understanding international perspectives and practices can help give a real scope to the topic. There is nothing to lose by broadening our knowledge base and looking to other countries to share and learn from."

DIGGING IN

Land Lab Farm Operations Manager Builds Knowledge from the Ground up



How You Can Get Involved:

Bringing in more revenue and getting on more solid financial footing is the Land Lab's biggest challenge. One approach they are taking this year is starting a campus CSA (community supported agriculture), where faculty, staff, and students can purchase produce shares and receive a box of fresh vegetables every week throughout the summer. If you are interested in purchasing a share, forms can be found in the Geography and Philosophy Department office: 324 Cina.

If you attended Fall Fest last September at the UMD Land Lab, formerly known as the UMD Sustainable Agriculture Project (SAP) Farm, you may have seen a familiar face in a new role. Cole Grotting (Environment and Sustainability '19) started working as the Farm Operations Manager at the UMD Land Lab in July and is harnessing his degree to enhance lives now and into the future.

The Land Lab provides a unique partnership for UMD courses and a space for hands-on learning around a theoretical concept. Grotting explained, "The Land Lab operates as a functioning organic farm, but our mission is to use the farm as an outdoor classroom to support active learning, programming, and research opportunities for students, youth, and community members. Our site can be used to learn about a variety of topics including food systems, sustainability, food justice, ecology, GIS, soil and water quality, and weather and climate. We have about ten acres of organically-managed farmland, a five-acre apple orchard, a hoop house, a small apiary (honey bees), a root cellar, several acres of forest, and a weather station, all of which are resources for UMD students to collect data in a variety of different fields of study and complete a course or research project."

As an undergraduate, Grotting served as a student worker at the Land Lab for two seasons. Though he learned much about sustainability in the theoretical realm during his undergraduate education, implementing sustainable practices on the farm opened his eyes to how much work it can be in execution. Nevertheless, Grotting stated, "It is immensely rewarding to care for the land so directly and contribute to that intimate, beautiful process of growing food."

The Land Lab hires six to eight interns each summer, but hundreds of UMD students, youth groups, and community members visit the site to have discussions and collaborate on projects. Grotting believes, "When students get the opportunity to actually do something with their hands and apply what they are learning about to something more tangible, it makes them ask a lot more questions and have more of an interest in fully understanding course material."

The vast majority of the students who work with the Land Lab will not become farmers, but Grotting emphasized that "every single one of them will surely be interacting with food systems every day for the rest of their lives." In fact, the majority of the Land Lab's produce is currently sold to UMD's Dining Services and served in Superior Dining. "The work we do at the Land Lab is less vocational training (although for some it may be) and more about creating educated, mindful consumers of food and developing knowledge that changes our relationship with our environment in a positive way."

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



Students Grapple with Sustainable Food Systems

Dr. Teresa Bertossi (Geography and Philosophy) enters the classroom, arms filled with a mix of posters, books, and folders packed with resources from a bee symposium she and a group of students recently attended. After setting down the materials, she conducts a debriefing session with students as they haven't met in the classroom for a couple of periods.

The class is ES 3100: "Sustainable Food Systems," and they've been meeting with community organizations, such as the American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO); attending events concerned with food sustainability, such as the Beekeeping and More! Symposium at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College; and conducting research at local co-ops, farmer's markets, and grocery stores. As students talk about their experiences, Bertossi connects their analysis

to course concepts, readings, assignments, and projects.

Students in the class are working in groups to research food systems before ultimately writing a report and giving a presentation during Earth Week. One gets the impression that Bertossi is the experienced guide in the passenger seat, but students ultimately are in the driver's seat navigating the roads of information toward the end goal of understanding sustainable systems.

Bertossi's Fall 2019 ES 3500: "Ecological Economics" class also asked students to ground their research in local needs. Joe Murphy (Environment and Sustainability '20) worked with three other students to create a CSA (community supported agriculture) focused on selling produce to the UMD community.

After looking at other models, they proposed creating themed boxes such as a spice-themed box or greens-themed box, pairing up with community partners to sponsor or contribute to the shares on a weekly basis, investing in a seed bank where seeds could be distributed in shareholders' own gardens, and pursuing off-season CSA methods by featuring canned or fermented options.

“Visiting one of the many farmers markets is a great way to learn more about them and build direct relationships with the farmers, too.”

Emily Rakos (Environment, Sustainability, and Geography '20) also created a CSA based on her experience working at the Land Lab. Her CSA aimed to start small and feasible with fifteen shares available to purchase and then expand from that base in future years.

The project helped students think beyond merely the logistics of a CSA. Rakos explained, “a CSA not only helps connect more people to the Land Lab but also to sustainable agricultural practices. Having a CSA additionally helps sustain those agricultural commons and provides financial security to the farmer year round, despite possible market fluctuations or unfavorable weather conditions. Lastly, different payment options promote food accessibility to those who may not be able to afford to pay full price immediately....I am definitely interested in working with low income neighborhoods to provide better access to healthy and affordable foods.”

Murphy is also passionate about helping and educating others in regards to sustainability and environmental science. He counseled, “Consider looking into a CSA in your area! If you live in the Twin Ports region, we are blessed with many fantastic options (see localharvest.org for offerings). Visiting one of the many farmers markets is a great way to learn more about them and build direct relationships with the farmers, too.”





Newly-Formed Lake Superior Sustainable Farming Student Organization Fosters Student Engagement with Land Lab

When Dr. Teresa Bertossi (Geography and Philosophy) requested help at the Land Lab, students stepped up. Matthew Sperrazza (Environment, Sustainability, and Geography '22), Maggie Salwei (Biology and Environment, Sustainability, and Geography '22), Paxton Zirpel (Environment, Sustainability, and Geography; and International Studies '22), and Mikayla Erickson (Environment, Sustainability, and Geography '20) formed the Lake Superior Sustainable Farming Organization. The new 25+ member student-run organization is designed to get more students involved with not just the UMD Land Lab but the planet in general.

The organization uses the Land Lab to work on projects, test out new ideas, and teach sustainable and organic farming practices. Salwei pointed out, "Keeping bees at the Land Lab has been an amazing learning experience for our club members on how to take care of bees over the winter and the vital role pollinators play in our global food system."

In February, the group held a two-day Valentine's Day plant sale fundraiser here on campus. While talking about the organization and welcoming students to join, they sold 100 succulents, and around 25 students made and donated Valentine's Day cards.

Erickson reflected, "Running and managing the plant sale has been the most important event we've held since we are so new. We could not have held this event without the help of the Geography Department loaning us funds to buy the succulents to sell in the first place. With the raised money, we paid back the department and thanked them very kindly. Seeing smiling students walking around with their succulent and feeling the support from the faculty as a new group has made my organization experience extremely fulfilling."



The plant sale was just the beginning, though. Prior to closures due to COVID-19, they were planning a Spring Festival to be held on March 21st at the Land Lab. Salwei noted, "We hope to have food, several workshops educating the public about pollinators, organic farming practices, composting, and kombucha making, and maybe some live local music. It is coming together nicely!"

While the Land Lab has benefited from the group's work, members have also benefited from the organization's creation. Erickson noted, "In addition to learning beekeeping skills, and how hard it is to maintain a hive throughout Minnesota winters, I have learned how to coordinate events, manage an organization with my peers, and navigate the Bulldog organization page. Working alongside my professors has also helped me gain knowledge about local organizations and resources."

Group members encourage all interested students to join the Lake Superior Sustainable Farming Student Organization. Zirpel declared, "There are so many possibilities at the Land Lab that anybody will be a great asset to the team!" and Salwei affirmed, "Different majors other than Environment, Sustainability, and Geography would help diversify our group even further!"



CHALLENGING WOMEN TO CHANGE THE WORLD

Lexi Finnegan Finds her Voice with help from the Jane Maddy Scholarship

By: Cheryl Reitan

Lexi Finnegan, a senior at UMD, was sitting in the library when her phone dinged. Finnegan casually glanced at the screen, unaware that the message she had received was notifying her that she had been awarded the Jane Maddy Scholarship. As soon as Finnegan read the email, she immediately called her mom to share the good news. "I was freaking out in the library," Finnegan said, "I was so excited."

Putting Knowledge to Work

As a double major in women, gender, and sexuality studies (WGSS) and international studies, with a minor in political science, Finnegan's time at UMD has been far from dull. She has spent the last two summers as an intern in challenging roles.

In 2018 she spent the summer with a United Nations program in New York City and in 2019 she was in downtown Minneapolis at the Global Rights for Women program, which is a nonprofit organization that works internationally to help women, focusing specifically on domestic violence issues. "Every day, women around the world face terror. In many countries, sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking aren't even

crimes," says Finnegan. "The program works on creating laws to protect women's rights."

That internship was a goal she had been working toward since her freshman year at UMD. With only eight people working in this high impact program, the experience taught Finnegan that, "you don't need to be a... billionaire to make a difference."

A Scholarship Boost

Finnegan grew up in a feminist family and joked that she has feminism running through her blood. "I always knew that I wanted to do this type of work and advocate for women and advocate for anyone that is marginalized in our society."

Finnegan shared that she wanted to come to UMD because of the women's movement scene in Duluth. She admires the programs in the city and even said that some of the work she did with the Global Rights for Women program was based off of the Duluth Model program. She said that winning the Jane Maddy Scholarship only affirmed what she already knew, "This is what I am meant to do."



The Jane Maddy Scholarship is awarded twice annually, providing selected students with anywhere from \$500 \$1,000 in finances. It is dedicated to women's studies and feminist causes. The scholarship honors UMD alumna, Jane Maddy (MA '68), who was one of the founders of the women's studies major at UMD and a professor of psychology. Finnegan received the award her junior and senior year for her work within the program, which she says has changed her entire life.

"It has helped me find my voice and my identity and the importance of... advocating and being strong and being powerful and using your voice," Finnegan explained. y received two offers.

Looking through a Different Lens

The women's studies program has prepared Finnegan for real world experiences by teaching her to critically examine society, the economy, and power structures or, as Finnegan said, "how to look at things."

Finnegan has conducted research for her WGSS senior seminar about the connection between violence against women and the men who perpetrate mass shootings, as

well as research for her International Studies senior seminar looking at how limited access to water has a disproportionate effect on the lives of women. Her paper about access to water is for her International Studies senior seminar.

Although some of the topics discussed in classes can be difficult, Finnegan said that "being able to have discussions and being respectful too is a very important lesson." She said that the lessons learned in the program can be applied to almost any field of work.

"The person I was my freshman year has been dramatically changed by this program," Finnegan explained, "The advisors, the students, the professors, just every person in the program has made an impact on my life and I am so proud to soon be an alumni of the program."

After graduation, Finnegan hopes to help women through an international program such as Global Rights for Women. She has applied for several jobs and has already received two offers.

CONNECTION DAY

Students Invite Others to Declare Their Independence from Technology

By: Izabel Johnson

On Tuesday, February 18, five students at UMD asked that others join them in unplugging from technology and working to form connections with one another instead of with their screens. The event was called Connection Day.

The idea started as an assignment in one of Instructor Susan Perela-Dewey's (English, Linguistics, and Writing Studies) classes, and she encouraged the students to take it further than the classroom. She, along with Dr. Jennifer Moore (Communication), supported the students in the Connection Day effort.

Connection Day was previewed with an OP-Ed and an article in UMD's *The Bark*, a preview story through University Marketing and Public Relations, live reporting by Moore's Digital Storytelling class on *The Bark*'s social media the night before, and a column by one of the Connection Day founders, Trevor Peterson, in the *Duluth News Tribune*. Articles released on or after February 18 included one written by the *Duluth News Tribune* and one by Minnesota Public Radio.

The events centering around Connection Day were located in multiple spots on campus throughout the day.

There were name tags for people to make and a place to write commitments to connect with one another on that day. Some commitments included things like smiling and saying "Hi" to multiple people or taking out headphones for the day. A raffle also took place, along with other events like a craft night in Kirby. Oh, and of course there were cookies.

A lot of students were unaware of the event until the day of. Nevertheless, the event received a generally positive response and drew attention to the issue of technology in our lives. Even if students chose not to participate, the message being sent was hard to ignore.

The founders, Kelly Gilomen, Kendra Kvebak, Trevor Peterson, Tiana Forbes, and Paige Wagner all stated that spreading awareness was one of the main goals of Connection Day. With that in mind, it is safe to say that their mission was accomplished.

The founders hope that Connection Day will not simply be a thing of the past, but a recurring event on and off UMD campus.



Photo of the Spirit Tree by
Travis Novitsky. It hangs in
the UMD American Indian
Studies classroom.

OUR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT GO HAND IN HAND

By: Cheryl Reitan

"I want to work anywhere that benefits Native people." "I want to support my tribe and protect its natural resources." These were some of the statements made by the first graduating class of the Master of Tribal Resource & Environmental Stewardship (MTRES) program.

Shannon Kesner, who already holds the position of wetland specialist with the Fond du Lac Band, in Cloquet, Minn., says she is gaining deeper understanding about the environment. The program makes clear that the "quality of our natural resources affect the health of our people, especially the quality of the water and air," she says.

Another student, Thomas Howes, who works with the Fond du Lac Band's natural resources program, says the program is not only academic. "We study other approaches and we can apply that wisdom. I appreciate seeing how the world turns in Indian Country."

Kesner and Howes join two other students to make the first MTRES graduating class. The group is led by Professors Kekek Jason Stark, a Turtle Mountain Ojibwe, and Wendy F Smythe, Alaska Native Haida. Kekek is an alumnus of Hamline University School of Law. He came to UMD with a long history commanding classrooms and courtrooms and serving tribal groups across the Midwest. Smythe is a geoscientist and oceanographer who received her Ph.D. from OHSU Center for Coastal Margin Observation and Prediction in Portland, OR.

The program concept for the MTRES program came when Wayne Dupuis '87 at Fond du Lac approached Rick Smith, director of the UMD American Indian Learning Resource Center, and Professor Tadd Johnson (American Indian Studies), now the senior director of American Indian Tribal Nations

Relations for the University of Minnesota. During the following three years they worked with UMD professors, Howard Mooers, Jim Zorn, Rachel Breckinridge, and scores of others to develop MTRES. Smith, Johnson, and others from UMD met with natural resource managers in tribes across the northland to get input. Johnson said, "MTRES is a program designed by Indian tribes for Indian tribes."

Mark Pero, an MTRES class member from the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Wisconsin, says, "Tobacco led me here." He found out about the program and felt "an instant connection," a connection he considers sacred, the same way tobacco is sacred to him.

Ever since Pero was a child he has felt that "our people and the environment go hand in hand." Pero enjoys the reading assignments, the class projects, and the discussions. He says:

"I know the program is leading me somewhere I need to be."

Students participate in person and from remote locations in the MTRES program. They all agree; MTRES is meaningful on a career level and a personal level as well.

Tadd Johnson and Kekek Jason Stark with MTRES students.



ALL HANDS ON DECK

Alumnus Sam Domeier Fights for a Sustainable Future

Just when alumnus Sam Domeier (Political Science and Environmental Studies '10) seems to reach a summit, new heights and objectives appear.

Following graduation, he worked for a year as a Minnesota GreenCorps Energy Conservation Specialist for UMD's Office of Sustainability. He credits Mindy Granley, former Sustainability Director at UMD, with giving him his first opportunity to work in the industry that would become his career.

After working as a Marketing Assistant with Xcel Energy in Minneapolis and later Denver, he accepted a job as an Associate Product Portfolio Manager, becoming the youngest product portfolio manager at Xcel Energy.

In September 2018, he began his current work as an Environmental Sustainability Specialist at Mercy Housing in Denver, CO, one of the nation's largest affordable housing nonprofits. He described their work as "the development, preservation, management and/or financing of affordable, program-enriched housing across the country....In 2019, Mercy Housing's Green Hope environmental sustainability team implemented projects at almost 50 properties across the country, saving those properties a total of \$155K per year."



Sustainability has always been a passion of Domeier's. He explained, "As an avid skier, cyclist, and all-around outdoor enthusiast, I am personally committed to a cleaner environment and a more sustainable future. When I moved to Denver, I was blown away by Colorado's stunning mountains, open vistas, and rushing rivers. I decided I needed to devote my career to protecting our environment and quality of life so future generations will be able to enjoy this place for years to come."

His mission is mirrored in his work. Domeier illuminated, "At Mercy Housing, we care about the communities in which we serve, which is why we created Green Hope. This initiative reduces our consumption of natural resources and creates healthier living environments....Green Hope guides us in all aspects of our operations, from designing, building, and rehabilitating properties, to office practices, property operations, and resident services. Green Hope has reduced portfolio-wide energy consumption by 26% and water use by 30%, saving properties a cumulative total of more than \$3 million."

Domeier is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Environmental Policy and Management with a concentration in Energy and Sustainability at the University of Denver, and he urges students seeking a career working in sustainability to "Do it. Climate change is the greatest existential threat of our lifetime, and we need movers and shakers to get things done. It's all hands on deck to save the planet that we call home."

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Alumnus Len Simich Plans for the Future

Alumnus Len Simich (Urban Studies '84) began working for SouthWest Transit in 1997 and now holds the title of CEO. He credits his years at UMD for providing him with a strong educational foundation and desire to continue learning, which he maintains to this day: "Going through the Urban Studies program at UMD gave me a perspective about creating a better community and world that I may not have had otherwise."

Simich sees sustainability as an essential feature of his work. He explained, "By its nature, transit is a key component to any community's sustainability. At SouthWest Transit we reduce well over one million car trips per year. When you apply the distance most people travel on our system (25 miles per trip), the impact we make to both air quality and congestion mitigation / reduction on some of the most heavily used freeway segments in the entire metro area is significant."

SouthWest is also involved in land development, partnering with private developers to build transit-oriented developments around their transit stations. Simich illustrated, "To date we have master planned and developed over 1,000 housing units as well as 60,000 square feet of commercial retail adjacent to our stations, and have introduced sustainable / energy efficient practices such as solar energy, high efficiency LED lighting, and geothermal heating and cooling plants. Developing land we own in this fashion eliminates numerous trips by our current riders which otherwise would have been taken in an automobile."

Despite the many advantages that come with progress, there are challenges. Simich noted that "funding as well as the perceived cost and public acceptance of operating in a more sustainable fashion" can work against the sustainability goals in each of the three communities SouthWest serves. Nevertheless, he was proud to note, "Our communities have been identified as some of the most desirable places to live in the U.S. with a lot of that success due to the sustainability initiatives each has put into practice for years."

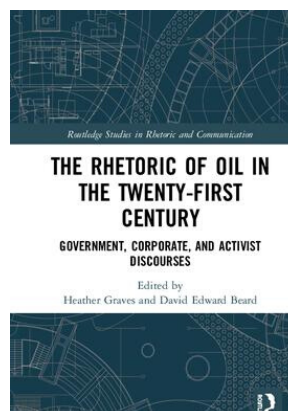
His advice to students seeking a career in sustainability was direct: "Our future depends upon it. Go for it!"



CLA NEWS

Share your news here—recent research, publications, events, achievements, and/or accolades.

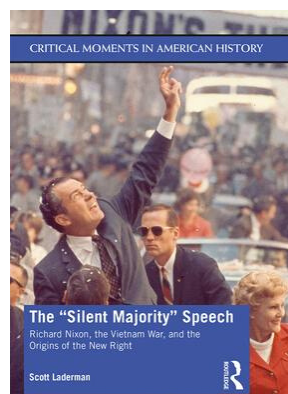
Email your announcements to newsedit@d.umn.edu.



Dr. David Beard (English, Linguistics, and Writing Studies) and Dr. Heather Graves (University of Alberta, Canada) co-edited *The Rhetoric of Oil in the Twenty-First Century: Government, Corporate, and Activist Discourses* (Routledge, 2019). Beard also received an Imagine Grant for a program entitled "Art, Music, and Poetry at the UMD Planetarium" and published a column in the

Duluth News Tribune on UMD education and how our research mission sets us apart from MNSCU schools and community colleges.

Dr. Olaf Kuhlke (Geography and Philosophy) worked with communities and taught workshops on cultural entrepreneurship, sustainable tourism, and digital business in both Morocco and the Canadian/US Arctic. The project addressed the creation of sustainable businesses in fragile ecological systems and was supported by a National Science Foundation grant. An essay based on the project is forthcoming in *Renewable Economies in the Arctic: A State of Knowledge* (University of Saskatchewan Press).



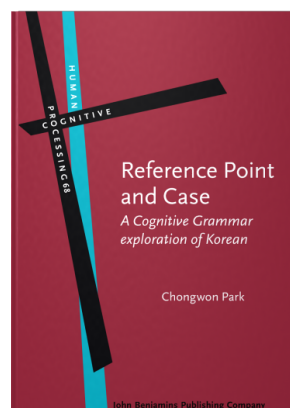
In *The "Silent Majority" Speech: Richard Nixon, the Vietnam War, and the Origins of the New Right* (Routledge, 2019), **Dr. Scott Laderman** (History, Political Science, and International Studies) "treats Richard Nixon's address of November 3, 1969, as a lens through which to examine the latter years of the Vietnam War and their significance to U.S.

global power and American domestic life." November 2019 marked the fiftieth anniversary of Nixon's "silent majority" speech, and this term continues to resonate in American political culture.

Dr. Susan N. Maher (English, Linguistics, and Writing Studies) published her article "Restorative Narrative: Nonfiction and the Resetting of the Grasslands' Future" in *Great Plains Quarterly* 40.1

(Winter 2020). The essay focuses "on non-Native late twentieth- and early twenty-first-century essayists from the Plains of Canada and the United States who are helping to shift the paradigm and define restorative narrative."

In May 2019, **Dr. Gideon Mailer** (History, Political Science, and International Studies) was invited to speak about sustainable practices, and what current initiatives can learn from a historical focus, at the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition in Ocala, Florida based on his book, *Decolonizing the Diet: Nutrition, Immunity, and the Warning from Early America* (Anthem Press, 2018). In fall 2020, he is also due to teach one of the few CLA humanities classes to feature the Sustainability Liberal Education categorization, which follows his book and combines research from evolutionary biology, history, and Native American Studies.



Dr. Chongwon Park (English, Linguistics, and Writing Studies) published *Reference Point and Case: A Cognitive Grammar Exploration of Korean* (John Benjamins Press, 2019) and joined the editorial board of the Human Cognitive Processing series at John Benjamin's Press.

Dr. Sara Sowers-Wills and **Instructor Kevin Swanberg** (both of English, Linguistics, and Writing Studies) led the CLA Change Team's "Immigrant Simulation: A Walk in Their Shoes" and successfully "processed" approximately 75 students through the immigrant experience. A number of people have suggested a reprise.

Dr. Rob Weidner (Anthropology, Sociology, and Criminology) and Dr. Jennifer Schultz (LSBE) published an article, "Examining the relationship between U.S. incarceration rates and population health at the county level" in *SSM -- Population Health*, in which they study the link between high incarceration rates and poor population health outcomes. This paper contributes to a growing body of literature on the collateral negative consequences of mass incarceration in the United States. It is the product of research Weidner first presented last fall at a symposium on mass incarceration sponsored by the Vera Institute of Justice (a criminal justice think tank) in New York City.



SEOUL MEETS MINNESOTA

By: Cheryl Reitan

Twenty undergraduate students from South Korea spent a portion of the 2019 summer at UMD. For the first time, UMD presented an Introduction to American Environmental Writing from the North Woods to students from Kyung Hee University.

The students alternated their writing classes with visits to UMD programs and community organizations. "The program is teaching us many fields: literature, linguistics, history, philosophy, and environmental studies," student Habin Kim says. All of the students are English majors, but their career goals are varied.

Surim Back says the program is valuable, "I want to learn diplomacy," she says. "I'm very interested in the relations between South Korea, North Korea, and the United States." Songhee Cheon is looking forward to a career as a "cultural marketer," a job that is similar to Chamber of Commerce personnel in the U.S. "We need to tell the story of the best parts of our cities," she explains. "We also need to educate others about the negative effects people are having on the environment."

Linda LeGarde Grover, an American Indian writer and faculty member at UMD, met with the Korean students about her book, *Onigamiising: Seasons of an Ojibwe Year*. The class also visited the cultural museum at the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Yurim Jeong has a special interest in the topic. "I plan to work as a translator, and I'm curious about different cultures," she says.

The field trips exposed the students to American culture and environmental sustainability. A class at

Duluth Folk School gave them hands-on experience using natural methods to make hand soap. A trip to the Mall of America was a crash course on consumerism, but it was also a lesson in how the MOA recycles.

Other sites the group visited included the Large Lakes Observatory's *Blue Heron* research vessel and the Natural Resources Research Institute. Excursions to Bayfield and the Apostle Islands in Wisconsin, as well as the Glensheen Historic Estate, rounded out their immersion into the Upper Midwest.

Geonhee Kim, who is pursuing a career teaching the English language, was especially attracted to the UMD summer institute because of Lake Superior. "Relaxing in the environment, breathing clean air, and spending time on the beach are wonderful," she says.

"The students participated in discussions facilitated by UMD faculty members," says Dr. Susan Maher, a professor in the Department of English, Linguistics, and Writing Studies, "They studied three Minnesota writers, sociolinguistics, and learning new theories and perspectives on American environmental (nature) writing."

This program was initiated and organized by Maher, UMD's Dr. Chongwon Park, a professor of English, Linguistics, and Writing Studies, Chris Haidos, director, International Partnerships and Outreach, and Kremena Popov, director of English as a Second Language International. They partnered with Jong-Bok Kim, faculty in the Department of English, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, South Korea.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

College of Liberal Arts
1208 Kirby Drive
Kirby Plaza 306
Duluth, MN 55812-3095

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

♻️ Printed on 100% recycled paper

A Message from the CLA Development Team

This past year has been rejuvenating. Working with our new Dean, Jeremy Youde, has given me the chance to see CLA through fresh eyes and reimagine the role of philanthropy. One area that Dean Youde has focused my attention on is increasing access to enriching opportunities for our students outside of the classroom.

We know that internships, studying abroad, and participating in research can help students hone in on their interests and also makes them stronger candidates in a competitive job market. However, they can be cost prohibitive for many who can't afford an unpaid internship or the airfare to attend a research conference or study abroad. This past fall we launched an initiative to help bridge the gap for students wishing to explore these types of opportunities.

Through our new CLA Experiential Learning Opportunities Fund we aim to provide funding so all students, regardless of their financial situation, can participate in these, often life-changing experiences. To support this fund, or if you would like to explore another way to make an impact in the lives of our students, give me a call at 218-726-6708 or send me an email at jberges@d.umn.edu. I look forward to connecting with you.

Jennifer Berges

Senior Development Officer, CLA

