Dr. Heather Hamilton, assistant professor of theatre, is one of more than fifty new faculty members this year. They include award-winning scholars and artists, researchers on the leading edges of their fields, and seasoned professionals with a wealth of practical experience.
You can’t put a dollar value on research and creative activity. The discoveries, explorations, and collaborations underway at Minnesota State University, Mankato have deep and far-reaching effects, often well beyond what we can measure.

But the record-high funding our faculty members are garnering these days does say something about value. Faculty value the importance of discovery and research, which carries over to undergraduate student research and enhanced teaching.

Grant funding at Minnesota State Mankato jumped from $2.6 million in the fiscal year 2003 to more than $6 million in 2007, over $2 million of which were federal dollars. This year, we’re on track to see our highest totals ever, potentially surpassing $8 million in fiscal year 2008.

Grants aren’t the only measure of important and meaningful work, but this kind of jump clearly indicates quality. Grantmakers are scrutinizing and cautious. They fund only the most solid, strategic, and promising projects—research and creative activity that’s sure to succeed, and sure to make a difference.

That the National Science Foundation, the Department of Education, the National Institutes of Health, and others are supporting and endorsing our faculty work says that ours are among the best planned, best executed, most creative, and most relevant research projects happening anywhere in the world. Cutting-edge work in biofuel development, wetlands conservation, innovative instruction strategies, and health care have attracted much support. Science, technology, engineering, and math teaching (STEM), a hot topic on the national education scene, is also a lightning rod for funding at Minnesota State Mankato today. Grants and gifts keep important projects alive and thriving, and give institutions and their faculty members a jolt of pride; which leads to new levels of excellence.

Private donors, too, are investing in our work. Recently, generous individuals have made sizeable gifts to support faculty and student work in arts and humanities, geography, history, and anthropology.

In the course of my career, I’ve witnessed the transformative power of external support from individuals, corporations, and agencies like those giving to Minnesota State Mankato today. Grants and gifts keep important projects alive and thriving, and give institutions and their faculty members a jolt of pride; which leads to new levels of vision and ambition; which lead to even higher levels of excellence.

What’s happening right now at Minnesota State Mankato is the most dramatic and exciting example of this cycle I’ve seen. Please join me in celebrating the work that’s making it happen, some of which is featured here in TOMORROW.

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DOCTORAL PROGRAMS: The first candidates began their studies in the University’s two new doctoral programs, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) and the Ed.D in Counselor Education and Supervision. Both programs received final approval from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

ANDREAS ENDOWMENT: Lowell Andreas and David and Debbie Andreas pledged $7.5 million for a Nadine B. Andreas Endowment in Arts and Humanities. The endowment will promote student and faculty development in the College of Arts and Humanities and bring cultural events to campus.

MEREDITH ENDOWMENT: Dr. Donald and Mrs. Marjorie Meredith of Mankato, who in 2005 gave the University its largest single scholarship gift, donated an additional $375,000 to endow nursing scholarships for high-achieving undergraduates. Their latest gift brings the total amount donated by the Merediths to Minnesota State Mankato to well over $1 million. In 2005 they gave more than $700,000 to fully endow the Meredith Scholars program for promising science and mathematics students.

THREE FULBRIGHTS: Two students–Erin Rahman of Hopkins, Minnesota, and James Livermont of Rochester, Minnesota–were awarded Fulbright U.S. Student scholarships. Dr. David Williams, Minnesota State Mankato’s Vice President for University Advancement, was named a 2007-2008 Fulbright Scholar.

TEACHER MENTORING: The College of Education’s teacher mentoring program was lauded as a statewide model for retaining secondary teachers. Using a core of five experienced teachers on three-year rotations, the “Mankato model” helps first-year teachers become more productive, gives college education majors more hands-on experience, and energizes the veteran teachers’ own careers.

TOP MBA PROGRAM: The MBA program was listed as one of the nation’s best MBA programs based on surveys of 19,000 students and school-reported data.

INDIA PARTNERSHIPS: President Davenport explored new partnerships with three universities in India as he traveled with Governor Tim Pawlenty’s trade mission. President Davenport was the only higher education executive among the 73 trade mission delegates.

NMR SPECTROMETER: One of Minnesota’s most powerful nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometers, valued at $850,000 when it was new, was donated to the Chemistry and Geology Department by 3M Pharmaceuticals. The 7-feet tall, 3-feet-in-diameter, 1,600-pound instrument allows chemistry faculty members and students to conduct advanced, state-of-the-art studies of compound structures, including drugs, proteins, biofluids and other complex compounds.

WIRED GRANT: Minnesota State Mankato was one of two key higher education partners selected to lead a $5 million federal grant to...
enhance the renewable energy labor force in southwest and west-central Minnesota. The U.S. Department of Labor grant is intended to encourage workers to stay in rural Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development will administer the grant, and Minnesota West and Minnesota State Mankato will lead other higher education partners to develop training for new workers in emerging bioscience and renewable energy industries.

**STEM GRANT:** Minnesota State Mankato and 15 others received a $2.45 million National Science Foundation grant to increase the number of minority students earning baccalaureate degrees in the sciences. Over the next five years, the North Star STEM Alliance aims to double the number of baccalaureate degrees earned by minority groups that are historically under-represented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

**AVIATION PARTNERSHIP:** Citing the high quality of Minnesota State Mankato’s Aviation program and its success in preparing student pilots, Mesaba Airlines announced a new partnership with the University. The new program allows Minnesota State Mankato Aviation students to ‘bridge’ to careers at Mesaba Airlines by successfully completing ten specified Minnesota State Mankato Aviation courses among other requirements.

**ANTHROPOLOGY GRANT:** The Anthropology Department received $100,000 from the Prairie Island Community Tribal Council to support Native American archeology teaching and fieldwork. The money will support graduate students so they can focus on their field research and course work in anthropology. The grant will also support education programs that expose younger students to anthropology.

**GEOGRAPHY ENDOWMENT:** Professor Emerita Betty Goff created a $100,000 geography endowment to honor her late husband, Geography Professor Emeritus Dr. James F. Goff. The endowment, to the Department of Geography, will fund graduate student research fellowships. Minnesota State Mankato’s Geography Department offers training in a full range of emerging technologies as well as traditional courses in regional geographic understanding. The department includes one of the nation’s finest Geographic Information Science training facilities, where students learn about and analyze complex global and local issues.

**CHEMISTRY PCs:** Chemistry students are benefiting from a National Science Foundation grant that uses tablet PCs for a new approach to introductory chemistry. The $149,000 grant provides tablet PCs for a new, “guided inquiry” approach to introductory chemistry courses, in which students use styluses to write data and draw diagrams directly on tablet PC screens. The NSF grant process was highly competitive, with only one in nine such requests awarded.

**INTERNATIONAL CENTER:** A new International Center was dedicated, bringing together the International Student and International Programs offices in a newly renovated space on the second floor of Centennial Student Union. The center will bring more international speakers to campus, organize activities that promote learning about other cultures, and keep the campus informed of international activities on and off campus.

**SUPERCOMPUTER:** A new supercomputer that compresses months of calculations into hours was installed in the College of Science, Engineering and Technology. The Supercomputer, purchased with a $140,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, is accelerating research that requires high-volume computation.

**RONALD MCNAIR POST-BACCALAUREATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM RENEWED:** A $1.1 million grant from the Department of Education will ensure that Minnesota State Mankato’s successful McNair Achievement Program continues to serve under-represented students who aspire to doctoral degrees. Minnesota State Mankato was the only higher education institution in the state to be funded for the maximum five years at the maximum amount.

**FUNDING FOR UPWARD BOUND RENEWED:** In a competition that resulted in 12% of existing programs being denied further funding, Minnesota State Mankato was awarded a $1.76 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The four-year award allows Upward Bound to continue assisting low-income, potential first generation college students from area high schools to succeed in high school and enroll in and succeed in postsecondary education.

Dr. Christopher Ruhland, professor of biology, and undergraduate student Christopher Gardner examine photosynthesis in conifers as part of an undergraduate research project.


**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**


Assistant professor of art Liz Miller is one of ten faculty who received Teaching Scholar Fellowships in 2007. The fellowships provide support for faculty who combine teaching and scholarship in innovative ways to enhance student learning.


* Indicates Minnesota State Mankato student co-author
Minnesota State Mankato has realized a sizeable increase in external funding over the past four years, increasing from $2.6 million in FY 2003 to more than $6 million in FY 2007. With several months remaining in FY 2008, the university is on pace to surpass the $8 million awarded in FY 2006.

Dr. Bradley Cook, assistant professor of biological sciences, studies invasive plant species—such as the narrow-leaf cattail. His research has resulted in a $100,000 grant from the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center to develop a guidebook for organic flat wetlands.

While external funds support research and innovative programs campus wide, nearly $4 million was awarded to the College of Science, Engineering and Technology alone in FY 2007—reflecting Minnesota State Mankato’s leadership in applied research and the STEM areas.

More than $2 million in federal funding was awarded in FY 2007—evidence that programs such as the National Science Foundation, the Department of Education, and the National Institutes of Health view Minnesota State Mankato as a solid investment. External grants have funded cutting-edge research in bio-fuel development, wetlands conservation, innovative instruction strategies, and health care.

### Dollar Amount Awarded by Fiscal Year

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### Funding by College or Division

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### Funding by Source

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### Funding by Type of Award

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Dr. Holly Breitkreutz, assistant professor of counseling and student personnel, uses one-way glass and bug-in-the-ear technology to observe a mock therapy session by Leah Shanks, a doctoral student in counselor education and supervision.