Dr. Barry Ries has been named Associate Vice President for Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Ries has served as Interim Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research since July 2011. He joined the faculty in the Department of Psychology at Minnesota State Mankato in 1996 after completing his clinical psychology residency at the University of Mississippi and Veterans Affairs Medical Centers in Jackson, Mississippi.

Ries served as department chair from 2008-2011 and served for six years as Director of Clinical Training for the clinical psychology master’s program. Ries has also served on the University’s Institutional Review Board (IRB) since 1997.

“I look forward to continuing my work with Minnesota State Mankato by contributing to the advancement of graduate education and research,” said Ries. “I am honored to be given this opportunity to work with the excellent faculty, staff, students and administrators on strategic initiatives to enhance the university’s reputation as an educational leader in the state of Minnesota.”

Check out the entire article at: http://www.mnsu.edu/news/read/?id=1369257701&paper=topstories
Fiscal Year - 2014: 1st Quarter Summary (July-Sept.)

Funding Highlights

- Compared to the 1st Quarter of FY 2013:
  - Funding from private sources increased by over 40%.
  - Funding from foundation sources increased by $69,152.
- There is currently $25,353,755 in active grants and contracts.
- There has been $2,190,911 of funding through new FY14 awards.

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Register for a free account at www.pivot.cos.com and access the database from any location. Faculty/staff are also encouraged to claim an individual profile or have one created. For more information contact Research and Sponsored Programs at 507-389-2803.
Faculty Research Grants

The purpose of a Faculty Research Grant (FRG) at Minnesota State Mankato is to encourage excellence in research, scholarship, and creative activities among Minnesota State Mankato faculty by providing seed funding for faculty projects.

Congratulations to the following Fall awardees:

Ellen Schofield
“Exploring the Laser Cutter and Paper as a medium for Design and Illustration”

Raymond Asomani-Boateng
“Protecting and Preserving Urban Wetlands in Ghana”

David Sharlin
“Triclosan and Disruption of Thyroid Hormone-Mediated Cochlear Development”

Kuldeep Agarwal
“Design of 3D Printing-Sintering Process for Manufacturing of Bone like Medical Implants”

Eric Sprankle
“Genital Piercing: A Pre and Post-Analysis of Motivation and Satisfaction”

Jonathan Anderson
“Errror Magoni Chronology and Micromorphology Project”

Timothy Secott
“Association of Gene Expression Patterns with Stages of Biofilm Development in Mycobacterium avium subsp. Paratuberculosis”

Heather Camp
“Growing Out of the Practicum: Continuity, Change, and the Making of a Writing Teacher”

Gregory Taylor
“Improving Student’s Pragmatic Competence through instruction in a Study Abroad Context”

Cherie Pettitt
“A New Customized Graded Exercise Testing Protocol”

James Dimock
“Free Trade/Fair Trade Discourses in the Developing World”

David Viscoli
“Rachmanioff CD Phase II”

Richard Robbins
“An Ekphrastic Writing Project Focusing on the Works of Stanley Spencer”

Andrew Roberts
“Solving the Medical Radioisotope Crisis: Productions of 99MO and 99Tc using Wakefield Electron Accelerators”

To access the FRG application or learn more about the process, check out the Faculty Research Grant webpage at: http://grad.mnsu.edu/research/rasp/searching/FRG.html

The Spring 2014 FRG application deadline is MARCH 20, 2014 by 4:30 PM.
Planning for Ghosts: Communities Present their Haunted Histories

Stories about haunted houses permeate our culture. The scary house on the corner that becomes part of a local legend, the one that people talk about in hushed whispers and walk just a little bit faster as they walk by. But in some cases, an entire city is haunted. Haunted, specifically, by the phantom of a notorious event in their past, an event that puts them on the map and makes them a tourism draw – whether they like it or not.

In 2013, Beth Wielde Heidelberg of the Urban and Regional Studies Institute (URSI), with the help of a Faculty Research Grant, conducted a pilot investigation into how these ghosts have impacted the physical design of cities with ghosts, and identified trends in how a community might develop a strategy to manage their ghosts – and the tourists these ghosts draw.

The research took her to Pullman, a neighborhood on Chicago’s south side, a prominent Victorian era company town and the hub of the Great Strike of 1894 that was known for the intervention by federal troops and the new labor laws that resulted from the labor dispute. She also investigated Salem, Massachusetts, the site of the infamous 1692 Witch Trails to see how the local government unit manages the ghosts that pull in thousands of tourists each year, despite the lack of most original buildings.

Heidelberg’s findings reveal that through public policy, prioritizing sites connected to the ghost and investing in their preservation, local governments can serve as stewards of their ghost, ensuring the story of victims and events can be told without exploitation. The findings of the pilot study will be applied to new “ghost” communities in future research.
Steel connections play important roles in the integrity of a structure, and many structural failures are attributed to connection failures. The failures of the Hartford Civic Center (1978), the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kansas City (1981), and more recently, the I-35W Bridge in Minneapolis (2007) are attributed to connection failures. A good connection design requires engineer to have a good understanding of the mechanics and steel behavior.

In recent years, in order to help students better understand various connection types; many schools have acquired steel sculptures. The 8-foot-tall steel sculpture at Minnesota State Mankato is a physical model that shows in great detail forty-eight types of connections that are commonly used in steel construction practices. It is intended to help civil engineering students learn about typical connections as part of their steel design course. Materials for and fabrication of the sculpture at MSU were donated by Central Minnesota Fabrication Inc. of Willmar. Painting of the sculpture was donated by Central Sandblasting Inc. of Willmar. Unfortunately, many civil engineering students in the United States and abroad do not have access to the sculpture. To provide a 24-7 access to the steel sculpture, Minnesota State Mankato (MSU) in collaboration with Northwestern University (NU) and Purdue University (PU) have created an interactive three-dimensional model of the steel sculpture from the fabrication drawings. This computer generated model looks exactly like the sculpture at Minnesota State, which will allow students, instructors, and practicing engineers to manipulate the model to view it from different angles, rotate it, pick a connection and zoom in. Moreover, while holding down the Ctrl key, if a user clicks on a connection, s/he will then be linked to an interactive pdf file that provides additional information for the given connection including blue prints, close-up views, field examples, sample calculations, and a finite element model. (Continued on Next Page)
Putting the “Fun” in Funding: Spotlighting Research at MSU, Mankato!
Professional Development Day - January 8, 2014

From Early Childhood Programing to A City's Haunted History, come and hear about exciting projects that are happening at Minnesota State Mankato. The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs will highlight the awards of Dr. Aaron Deris, Special Education Department, and Dr. Beth Heidelberg, Urban and Regional Studies Institute. Information will also be shared on how RASP supports Minnesota State Mankato faculty and staff from start to finish in the process of obtaining grants and securing contracts.

Are you having trouble finding sponsors to help fund your projects?

Log on to the RASP website and use the Funding Form
This easy to use feature gives the RASP office the information it needs to help you find funding opportunities. Log on today at:
http://grad.mnsu.edu/research/rasp/searching/fundingform.html
and let us assist you!

The Northwestern University Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching is helping with development of assessment instruments and data analysis. In addition to the survey forms, assessment instruments consist of quizzes specifically designed to assess recognition, analysis and evaluation skills of the student in the area of connections. Quizzes are supplemented with student interviews using think aloud protocols to assess students’ conceptual understanding of connections.

This project was funded by the National Science Foundation. The investigators are Saeed Moaveni (MSU), Karen Chou (NU), and Hazar Dib (PU). The student research assistants are: Lee Taylor, Thomas Gunderson, and Supachard Krudtong of MSU and James Sapp at Northwestern University. JavaScript programming assistance was provided by Professor Guarionex Salvia of Computer Information Science Department at Minnesota State University. For more information, please visit:
http://faculty.mnsu.edu/saeedmoaveni

This newsletter is published by Minnesota State University, Mankato and by the College of Graduate Studies and Research.