

College and University news

The House is expected to vote tomorrow, Thursday, March 14, on a bonding bill that would provide only \$138.7 million of the University's \$239.8 million request for capital projects. This includes only \$3.4 million of the \$18.7 million request for Plant Growth Facilities and \$48 million of the \$80 million request for HEAPR (Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement) funds. The HEAPR request includes \$27.5 million for utility upgrades needed for construction of the Biotechnology Precinct. In February, the Senate recommended funding the University's full request of \$239.8 million. Gov. Ventura has recommended only \$86 million for the University. After the House votes, the bill will go to conference committee, where members of the House and Senate will reach a compromise. If you have not yet done so, please contact your legislators and ask them to support the University's request. For names and contact information, go to <http://districtfinder.urbanplanet.com>.

The University ranked fourth among 142 colleges and universities for supporting development of start-up companies in a survey by the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM). University research spawned 11 companies in 2000, the last year statistics were available. Companies include Acera Biosciences, Artemis MRI, BresaGen, Nanonex, NaturTek, Neuromics, PigCHAMP, RespiNET, SemiCube, SunRamp Solutions, and Veos Inc.

Faculty and staff get a 20 percent discount on "Foods for Health," the annual conference of the National Agricultural Biotechnology Council, to be held May 19–21 at the Radisson Hotel Metrodome, Minneapolis. Topics will include improving nutritional characteristics of food, approaches to safety and efficacy in new technologies, consumer demand and wellness trends, disease prevention and food, and new models for funding research. Register online at www.coafes.umn.edu/nabc2002/UofMregister.html rather than the general conference Web site to receive the discount. Program details are available at www.coafes.umn.edu/nabc2002 or 612-625-6710.

More than 700 students from CBS, other U of M colleges, local colleges, and area high schools attended the CBS Career Fair on March 1 at the McNamara Alumni Center. Exhibitors included U of M graduate and professional programs; private companies including Gentra Systems, R & D Systems, Peterson Environmental Consulting, Pace Analytical Systems, and DiaSorin. Other participants included the Science Museum of Minnesota, Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Student Conservation Association, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Health Care Recruiting, Anoka County Parks, and Hennepin County Medical Center. More than a dozen CBS alums from the Biological Sciences Alumni Society volunteered by reviewing resumes, offering interviewing tips, and sharing information about their careers with CBS students.

All U of M faculty, staff, students, alumni, and retirees are invited to CBS' Lake Itasca Forestry and Biological Station for the annual Chain Gang Weekend to be held April 26–28. Volunteers will be provided with free housing and meals for the weekend in exchange for a day of light physical labor around the station and Itasca State Park. Transportation is available. Contact Kristen Murphy at kmurphy@cbs.umn.edu for further information and to sign up.

Blue work shirts embroidered with Goldy Gopher and the name of the College of Biological Sciences or CBS departments may be ordered through the book store at the St. Paul Student Center. Cost is approximately \$20 per shirt. Call Sara Beverage at 612-625-3057 for further information or to order.

Have you written a textbook that's being published this year? Please send your name, the title, and publisher to Peggy Rinard, communications coordinator, at prinard@cbs.umn.edu. They will be published in the spring issue of *Frontiers*, the CBS magazine.

"Supervising Student Employees" is a new workshop to be held Wednesday, April 3, 8:30–12 noon at the Donhowe Building. To register, send an e-mail to chrd@umn.edu. Call DeAnne at 612-624-6550 for further information.

The Minnesota Academy of Science State Fair (MASSF) will be held April 12–13 at the Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis. Judges are needed to evaluate the work of nearly 500 Minnesota junior and senior high school students. High school project judges should have a college degree and work in any area of science. University juniors and seniors, majoring in any area of science, are invited to judge the junior high projects. Orientation sessions will take place prior to each event. To register go to www.mnacadsci.org or contact Dezra Helgeson at dezra.helgeson@mnacadsci.org or 651-227-6361.

People

Magnus Olson, emeritus professor of zoology, died on March 2 at the age of 92. Olson, who was born in 1909 and emigrated from Norway with his parents in 1921, earned his bachelor's degree at St. Olaf College in 1932, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the U of M in 1934 and 1936. He was a member of the zoology department from 1938 until his retirement in 1977, heading the department for 10 years. In 1976, he received the Horace T. Morse–University Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education. A memorial service was held at Community Methodist Church in Prospect Park on Saturday, March 9.

Tony Starfield, ecology, evolution, and behavior, and **Leslie Schiff**, microbiology, are among 22 U of M faculty to be honored at the Distinguished Teaching Award ceremony on Monday, April 22, 2002, 3:30–6 p.m., McNamara Alumni Center. Starfield will be recognized for his contributions to graduate education. A mathematical biologist in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, he teaches Decision Analysis and Modeling in Conservation Biology. Schiff, director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Microbiology, will receive the 2002 Horace T. Morse–University of Minnesota Alumni Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education. For more information, contact Deanna Hamilton at 612-625-9180 or hamil038@tc.umn.edu.

Tom Soulen, plant biology, will receive the John Tate Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising at a ceremony on April 26. The award is given for sustained and substantial contributions to undergraduate advising.

Larry Wackett, biochemistry, molecular biology, and biophysics, was awarded \$20,000 from the University to launch the Minnesota Center for Environmental Molecular Sciences. Funding is provided through the University of Minnesota Planning Initiatives in Interdisciplinary Research, Scholarly and Creative Activities.

Tom Soulen of plant biology; **Emily Hoover**, horticulture; **Sandy Tanck**, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum; and **Jane Phillips**, **Kathy Ball**, and **Sandra Mackey** of CBS received \$43,116 from the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office to fund the 11th year of the Workshop on Investigative Plant Biology for Elementary Teachers. The program will include a two-week summer workshop for teachers, follow-up during the academic year, and an assessment of the program's effect on curriculum.

Media Watch: Have a paper coming out in a leading journal or other news of interest to the media? Contact Peggy Rinard, communications coordinator, at prinard@cbs.umn.edu, or 612-624-0774.

Events, seminars, and conferences

- March 18–22 Spring break for Crookston, Duluth, and Twin Cities campuses; no classes.
- March 28 Sigma Xi special lecture “Unexpected Multipotency of Adult Stem Cells.” Dr. Catharine Verfaillie, Director of the U of M Stem Cell Institute, will speak at the National Marrow Donor Program Offices, Broadway Ridge Building, Suite 500, 3001 Broadway Street Northeast, Minneapolis, 7 p.m. For further information and directions, contact Florence K. Gleason at florence@cbs.umn.edu.
- April 26–28 Chain Gang Weekend at Itasca, Lake Itasca Forestry and Biological Station.
- May 1 Life Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium, Earle Brown Center, 2–6 p.m.
- May 7 Plant Biological Sciences Colloquium, “From Mist and Salt-Spray: The Lichens of Haida Gwaii;” Dr. Irwin Brodo, National Museum of Canada; 335 Borlaug, 3:30 p.m.
- May 10 CBS All-College Picnic, front lawn of Snyder Hall/Gortner Lab, 12–3 p.m.
- May 27 Memorial Day holiday; no classes, offices closed.
- May 31–June 2 Life Sciences Summer Undergraduate Research Programs (LSSURP) Orientation weekend.
- August 9 LSSURP Poster Session and Farewell Banquet; location TBA.
- September 21 Cedar Creek 60th Anniversary Celebration, Cedar Creek Natural History Area. Commemorative presentation, cake and ice cream social, 1:30–2:30 p.m.; tours and displays, 2:30–5 p.m.

Go to www.cbs.umn.edu/college_info/seminar.html for links to department seminar lists.

Next issue: March 27 ■ Copy deadline: March 20

Send your items for *CBS News* to Kristen Murphy, 220 BioSci, or kmurphy@cbs.umn.edu.

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This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Kristen Murphy, 612-624-6743.