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Bel Kambach, professor of geography and planning (right) and her daughter Ilse Kambach (left) attend the annual EuroCHRIE Conference Gala Reception on Oct. 18, 2013 in Freiburg, Germany. The conference is designed for cooperative education and research for hospitality and tourism educators.

Reflections on a first sabbatical

NOTE: Professor Belkis Kambach in the geography and planning department is on sabbatical this year. She is at St. Cloud State at Bremerhaven University of Applied Sciences (Hochschule Bremerhaven) in Germany. Following are her experiences from her first sabbatical.

Sabbaticals are often considered the ultimate prize of the independently wealthy, or a more restful period for a few chosen academicians. Given the economic climate of our country, fewer admins are inclined to feel much empathy for either.

However, I have concluded that a first sabbatical must be the very best thing about this profession. It's way besser (as the Germans would say) than August in the Caribbean.

In 2007, I was offered a tenure-track position at St. Cloud State. I had been in the workforce for more than two decades with only one interruption – the birth of my only child, Ilse Kambach. Until then, I was on an accelerated single mum Olympic obstacle course. When I first found out that I had been awarded a sabbatical leave, I was elated. I would finally enjoy the much-anticipated first sabbatical of my career. In academic circles, where research time is such a precious commodity, I felt I had won the lottery.

Trying to make the most of the upcoming year, like most sabbaticalers, I formulated a lofty plan: During my sabbatical, I would do research for a cruise line industry article and a possible textbook among a long laundry list of things.

For me and my daughter, this sabbatical came with a drastic change in language and geography that transplanted us from the Midwest to the scenic North Sea. There also was a cultural adjustment. I have been in Germany several times, but my Dutch-German daughter has been in the region only as an infant. She was a hesitant participant; as her St. Cloud South Junior High and a viola are the center of her universe.

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Recent News

Research Institute

The School of Public Affairs Research Institute, which launched July 1, 2013 under the direction of King Banaian, has its first outside funding (thanks to the Initiative Foundation for its support) and is already assisting several external organizations with important work. Construction is complete on the third floor of Stewart Hall to create an upscale suite that will house the office and our student services units.

International partnerships

We welcome Southwestern University of Finance and Economics (SWUFE) in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China, as our newest international partner. There are two units within SWUFE that the School of Public Affairs plans student exchanges, faculty exchanges and faculty collaborations with – the School of Economics and the Research Institute for Economics and Management (RIEM).

Public Safety Executive Leadership

A search will soon be underway in the Department of Criminal Justice to hire a tenure-track faculty member who will be assigned to direct and teach in the graduate program in Public Safety Executive Leadership (PSEL) program, one of the school's signature public affairs programs. The department also will fill two fixed-term faculty positions; both will be partly assigned to the PSEL program. The Center for Continuing Studies is funding these positions.

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Reflections on a first sabbatical (continued)

We moved from Minnesota to Bremerhaven. The plan was to allow Ilse to spend more time with her Dutch family in the Netherlands, learn German, rediscover Germany's 38 stunning UNESCO World Heritage sites, research Papenburg's long history of German shipbuilding, go Eurailing with Ilse and make new memories together.

There was some research serendipity involved as I have professional and personal contacts elsewhere, but Germany was not entirely a dart-board choice. This program is the top cruise line industry program in the world, one I immensely admire. My mentor here, Dr. Papathanassis, and the major mega ships of today built in Papenburg, Germany, are without doubt the perfect research laboratory for any American travel and tourism professor, like myself, who is passionate about this segment of the industry.

Other big shifts: no family or friends nearby, a new dean and German students, teaching in quite a different institutional setting. Everything was new for us, from adjusting to German food, our new German friends and colleagues, to the beautiful dreamlike cobblestone walk to work by the sea from the university's Gästehaus "Nordsee-Villa" on Klußmannstraße facing our local Marina. It was surreal.

'The good, the bad and the ugly'

I toyed with the idea of subtitled this sabbatical retrospective "the good, the bad and the ugly." When I began my sabbatical in August, I was overwhelmed with the marked imbalance in my life. Without doubt, a dramatic shift in my daily activities resulted in one of the most pressure filled times I have spent. I can't say I have one

complaint about how my year in Germany has gone, and sure I will approach my next sabbatical with a shorter "to do list." Though I am extremely grateful for this year, I must admit going abroad with a child poses its own challenges.

Prior to my sabbatical, I was in constant motion, but was able to spend little time conducting research or writing. Somewhere along the way, I began to feel the wear and tear. The shine had begun to rub off of how much I loved teaching. I had less and less time to spend with my students and to pursue research.

Not only did I experience this unique transition from chaos to quiet, but also for the entire time I have been abroad time has passed by way too quickly. The outcome is a daily conflict between my desire to enjoy my time teaching a diverse group of students I love, who speak a different language in a foreign country and to move forward on my planned research activities while simultaneously feeling my need to interact with my new German, Greek and Korean colleagues.

I am now well aware of some factors to consider for those who have never taken, but are contemplating, a first sabbatical.

- It is important to anticipate the potential impact of beginning a sabbatical following teaching an academic year.
- When you take a sabbatical, you have to start your sabbatical work well before your sabbatical begins. This was something I plan ahead and much of my time upon arrival was consumed with German paperwork bureaucracy, legalities, residence and work permits.
- We all have different levels of tolerance for change. How we anticipate and manage the transition of living abroad into a sabbatical is significant.

Needing a sabbatical from sabbatical

Teaching in Germany has also led to some exciting new avenues of research in the industry and future publication, not included in my plans. I'll leave future projects for future, but I had the chance to lay quite a bit of groundwork during this sabbatical. Travels in October were definitely the peak of sabbatical. I attended a EURO CHRIE conference in Freiburg; I also got to visit a couple of places to later lecture this upcoming spring.

I recently confided to a faculty friend that I felt exhausted from being on work-leave. This got me thinking: if the word "sabbatical" deriving from "Sabbath," meaning "rest," why was I so restless and worn out? Handling the transition to your sabbatical is without doubt the key to its success. I feel traveling abroad can only bring fresh perspectives and insights into one's research and academic discipline.

A year break from my normal daily routine has proven to be quite good, and the break I personally needed. I can't say I'm totally ready to get back, but the energy level is good and I am grateful to have a job that I love and am passionate about.

I will always be grateful to the unselfish support offered by Dean Papathanassis at Hochschule Bremerhaven, who not only welcomed me with open arms to the Cruise Research Society and the Institute for Maritime Tourism but was also a great mentor.

Oh yeah. One more thing to do during your sabbatical abroad: Blog. Both my St. Cloud State and Bremerhaven students benefited from this experience and were able to interact.

St. Cloud State hosts Minnesota Political Science Association annual meeting

Faculty research by political science professors Steve Frank, Morgan Nyendu and Shoua Yang was highlighted in sessions focusing on Minnesota politics, U.S. politics and world politics when St. Cloud State hosted the annual meeting of the Minnesota Political Science Association (MNPSA) on Nov. 9. Sixty-five attended with 25 students from across the state presenting their research projects.

Minnesota Sen. Sandy Pappas was the keynote speaker. Sen. Pappas focused on Forward Global Women, an organization she founded to, "foster the development of nonviolent peacemakers by providing women leaders and activists with the opportunity to study peacemaking and co-existence and to put nonviolence into practice."

The success of the meeting was ensured by the commitment of the Department of Political Science and generous support by the School of Public Affairs. Political science professor Michelle Kukoleca Hammes serves as the president of MNPSA. Political science professor Aref Hassan also serves on the board and is the coordinator of the student poster session.



Greetings from the Dean

Dear Friends of the School of Public Affairs:

Happy New Year from the dean's office! On behalf of all the faculty and staff in the School of Public Affairs, let me extend to our alumni, friends and current students the warmest of holiday greetings and our best wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year. I want to pause and give thanks to all those who have helped me to move our school forward during 2013:

- Our very talented faculty, who are training our students to be future stewards of the public interest and doing outstanding work in the public affairs arena.
- Our dedicated staff members, who help enhance student and faculty success, and help me with my work.
- Our alumni and friends who have provided us with financial and in-kind support.
- St. Cloud State colleagues outside of the school, including the administration and other schools and colleges, for supporting our work and collaborating with us on different activities and projects.

The new year promises exciting things for the School of Public Affairs. We anticipate approval to offer an MPA degree, the implementation of our five-year strategic plan, welcoming new faculty and welcoming students and faculty from some of our international partners. New community partnerships are also anticipated. I look forward to reporting back to you about these and other activities next spring.

Thanks again to our alumni and friends for their interest in and support of the school this past year. We are, as always, grateful for financial support. Please stay in touch with us and be sure to let me know (obbodvarsson@stcloudstate.edu, 320-308-2225) if you are planning to visit campus. Lunch is always on me!

Orn Bodvarsson
Dean, School of Public Affairs

SCSU Hosts 52nd Annual Winter Institute 2014

The Winter Institute will take place on Feb. 12 and 13, 2014 hosted by the Department of Economics and the School of Public Affairs. The Winter Institute provides the opportunity to gather the best minds in the region and the country to share their thoughts and ideas on various economic issues with attendees from Minnesota and the Midwest.

The Winter Institute is an important forum for the members of the community to generate ideas that can foster growth and development in greater St. Cloud, Central Minnesota and beyond.

This year's Winter Institute will feature keynote speaker Raj Chetty, professor of economics at Harvard University, co-director of the Public Economics Group at the National Bureau of Economic Research and editor of the Journal of Public Economics. His research combines empirical evidence and theory to inform the design of more effective government policies. Chetty's work tax policy, unemployment, and education has been widely cited in media outlets and Congressional testimony.

For more information regarding program sessions and to register visit: stcloudstate.edu/winterinstitute/



School of Public Affairs welcomes Ghana Fulbright Scholar Paul Baidoo



Paul Baidoo joins the Department of Geography and Planning and the School of Public Affairs as the Fulbright senior research fellow for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Baidoo's topic of research at St. Cloud State is "Persistence of child labour in cocoa-growing areas in Ghana." He will share his research with the School of Public Affairs faculty and students before he goes back to Ghana.

Baidoo is a lecturer in the Department of Geography and Regional Planning at the University of Cape Coast in Cape Coast, Ghana. He was trained as a professional teacher at Wiaawso Training College in Ghana and later at the University of Cape Coast, also in Ghana, where he obtained a Diploma in Education. He taught for 12 years at basic schools in Ghana before he pursued a university education. He holds a bachelors in geography and economics, also from the University of Cape Coast, and a masters in development geography at the University of Oslo, Norway.

He is currently working on his Ph.D. thesis on "The Socio-Economic Dimensions of land grab in Ghana" and his research interests encompass the interface between development and the environment; features of Political Geography and Geopolitics; Agriculture Geography; Resource Management; and Rural Development. He has interest in both their theoretical and applied aspects, with the belief that real progress lies in a closer integration across theory and practice. Despite finding theoretical debate important, he advocates strongly the grounding of these in real-life situations in applying the insights gained to improving the welfare of humanity and communities.

Iceland on the Move ***

Gudmundur Arni Stefansson, Ambassador of Iceland to the United States

Feb. 3

9:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. Reception

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Lecture

James W. Miller Learning Resource Center Ringsmuth Auditorium



Ambassador Gudmundur Arni Stefansson will discuss the effect of the banking and economic crisis on Iceland as well as current Icelandic American relations.

Stefansson was appointed as an Icelandic Ambassador in 2005. Since then he has served as the Icelandic Ambassador to Sweden, Albania, Cyprus, Syria and Kuwait, and currently the United States. Stefansson is a media expert with extensive experience in producing radio programs, editing daily newspapers and, has worked in various sectors of journalism.

Exploring the role of peasant farmers in ensuring food security in the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District, Ghana



Paul Baidoo, development geographer and lecturer, University of Cape Coast, Ghana & Fulbright African Senior Research Scholar, SCSU Department of Geography and Planning

Feb. 4

Noon-1 p.m.

Alumni Room, Atwood Memorial Center

Food security has become a major problem for many African countries, especially those countries in the arid areas of the continent. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Ghana, and some non-governmental organizations have provided several interventions to ensure food security among rural farmers in the northern region of Ghana. However, there are indications that these have not had the desired impact. There could be several reasons for this among which “the role of peasant farmers in the achievement of food security for themselves” examines.



52nd Winter Institute

Feb. 12 and 13

Atwood Memorial Center and Kelly Inn, St. Cloud

The Winter Institute provides the opportunity to gather the best minds in the region and the country to share their thoughts and ideas on various economics issues with attendees from Minnesota and the Midwest. For more information and to register visit: stcloudstate.edu/winterinstitute

Global Pedagogy Symposium**

Feb. 28- March 1

Atwood Memorial Center and SCSU Welcome Center



This gathering of faculty and other professionals will focus on emerging technologies in global learning, engaging international students and the world as a classroom. Attendees will share and learn success stories of what works in global education. For more information and to register visit: stcloudstate.edu/globalstudies/events.asp



Nobel Peace Prize Forum

The Nobel Peace Prize Forum is a four day international event that inspires peacemaking by celebrating the work of Nobel Peace Prize winners. Attendees may purchase tickets for a single day or for all four days. The 2014 topic is “Crossing Boundaries to Create Common Ground.” School of Public Affairs (SOPA) student’s admissions will be waived by the Dean’s Office. SOPA students should contact Kristy Modrow as soon as possible to register for the event at: kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu. All other students should register online at: nobelpeaceprizeforum.org. Student admission is \$12 per day. Tickets are limited.

March 1

Minneapolis Convention Center Faith and Peace Day featuring his holiness the Dalai Lama and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Sister Helen Prejean, Author of “Dead Man Walking.”

March 7

Augsburg College and University of Minnesota West Bank Law and Business Day featuring Ian Bremmer, founder, Eurasia Group.

March 8

Augsburg College and University of Minnesota West Bank Science and Health Day featuring Doctors Without Borders.

March 9

Augsburg College and University of Minnesota West Bank Global Day featuring Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Peace Prize laureate

Public Affairs Events/Colloquia

Is Europe converging? The problem of one currency and many institutions.

Tino Berger, assistant professor, Center for Macroeconomic Research, University of Cologne, Germany

March 17

3-4 p.m.

Alumni Room, Atwood Memorial Center



Berger's research focuses on empirical macroeconomics with a special emphasis on time-series econometrics. He has published several articles regarding aggregate labor markets. More recently his research additionally focuses on economic integration with a special focus on business cycle synchronization.

Staying Calm Under Fire and Conflict Resolution*

Denny Smith, leadership development coach

March 19

4-5 p.m.

Theatre, Atwood Memorial Center



Denny Smith has been creating and facilitating learning experiences for 42 years. After 11 years as a full-time teacher and coach, Smith launched a career as a

professional speaker, trainer and seminar leader. For the past 33 years he has been conducting personal and professional development sessions for business groups, sales organizations, health care professionals, educators and students.

Growing Tourism in Minnesota

John Edman, director, Explore Minnesota Tourism

March 26

2:30 p.m. reception

3-4 p.m. lecture

Alumni Room, Atwood Memorial Center



As the state's leader for Minnesota Tourism, Edman has developed marketing strategies for Minnesota tourism, created public and private marketing partnerships, generated more than \$15 million in private industry funding for tourism, and created a new statewide advertising campaign. Under his stewardship, Minnesota received top honors as the Best Overall Tourism program in the country, as recognized by National Council of State Travel Directors.



Student Research Colloquium

April 15

Atwood Memorial Center

Gain experience and knowledge in your field of study. The Student Research Colloquium promotes research, scholarship and creative works in collaboration with faculty as a vital component of higher education. Students can further their understanding of their field of study, gain experience researching and presenting, receive academic recognition and add an excellent complement to their resume.

All students who would like to present their research or creative works at the colloquium must register at: stcloudstate.edu/src



Golf Etiquette Program and Lunch*

Noon-3 p.m.

Wapicada Golf Club, Sauk Rapids

Laura Patrick, a Class A LPGA teaching professional and Titleist Performance Institute certified instructor, will teach students golf etiquette and give advice on how to properly putt and drive golf balls. This session is limited to 40 students. For more information or to register contact Kristy Modrow at: kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu

* Denotes events co-sponsored with the SCSU Herberger Business School

** Denotes events co-sponsored with the SCSU College of Liberal Arts

*** Denotes events co-sponsored with the SCSU Learning Resources Services

Submit your ideas

School of Public Affairs is always looking to add speakers and events to the Colloquia. Submit your ideas for speakers and events to Kristy Modrow, experiential learning and outreach coordinator, at kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu or (320) 308-6080.

SCSU Survey releases fall 2013 results

The SCSU Survey at St. Cloud State University has completed its annual fall statewide survey and began releasing results Nov. 27.

The first release related to a series of questions about job approvals of President Barack Obama, Governor Mark Dayton, and Senators Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar. Also included were results from the annual “Feeling Thermometer” about U.S. Rep. Michelle Bachmann and four political parties: Democrat Party, Republican Party, Libertarian Party and the Tea Party.

Respondents were most “warm” to Klobuchar who came in at 66 degrees and Franken at 51. Ratings on the thermometer between 50 and 100 degrees meant the respondent felt favorable and “warm.”

The second round of survey results released included Minnesotans’ views on the direction of the state, what is the most important problem facing the state, which political party if any can best handle these problems and what political party they would like to control the Minnesota House of Representatives after the 2014 election.

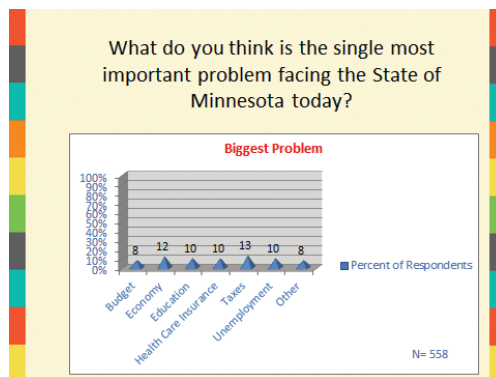
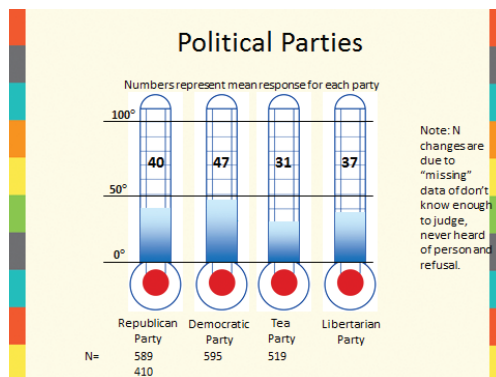
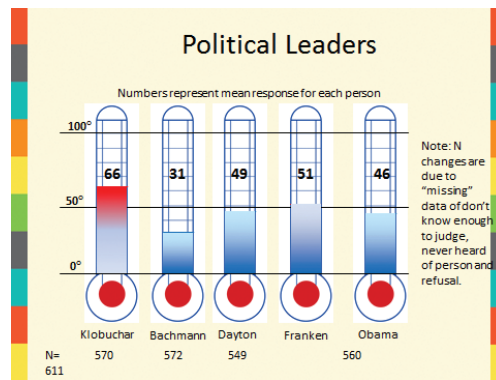
For the first time in more than three years, more Minnesota adults think the state is headed in the right direction (45 percent) compared to those who think the state is on the wrong track (38 percent).

The Survey also asked about Minnesotans views on legalizing marijuana in general and for medical use and their use of marijuana and a series of questions relating to immigration. The current political affiliation of Minnesotans also was gauged.

Results will be posted at www.stcloudstate.edu/scsusurvey.

The 629 randomly chosen adult Minnesotans were interviewed Oct. 20-27 via live interviewers and random phone bank calling to reach landlines and cell phones. Interviews were conducted by about 48 trained St. Cloud State students who were supervised by faculty and student directors.

The 2012 fall survey received high marks from Nate Silver, New York Times survey analyst and political writer. Silver ranked the SCSU Survey No. 3 for accuracy and bias control among polls that conducted fewer than five polls, three weeks prior to the presidential election.



Recent News (continued)

Several mid-level law enforcement supervisors and administrators have joined the PSEL program. A commander from Niles, Ill., an assistant chief from Rapid City, S.D., a member of the sheriff’s office in La Crosse, Wis., and an officer from Irvine, Calif. will start classes spring semester via ITV and Jabber software administered through Information Technology Services.

Round table discussion

In September, we held the first co-sponsored event with our partner, the Caux Round Table, a round table discussion on the topic: “Venture capital in Minnesota: Where did it go and how can we get it back?” The discussion was kicked off with remarks by Kathy Tunheim, a senior economic advisor to Gov. Mark Dayton, and the discussion featured contributions by over 20 experts on the subject of venture capital in Central Minnesota and beyond.

Colloquia events

Jim Graves, CEO of Graves Hospitality, Inc., and a candidate in the last 6th District congressional race, presented during the colloquia series in September. Graves, a St. Cloud State alumnus, spent the afternoon visiting classes, holding conversations with faculty and giving a public presentation that was standing-room only.



Jim Graves '74, looks on as former President Bill Clinton speaks during a campaign stop for President Barack Obama at St. Cloud State in 2012.

Economists expect wage, price increases in Quarterly Business Report



King Banaian



Rich MacDonald

A growing St. Cloud area economy should produce rising wages and prices in the coming months, according to authors of the most recent St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report (QBR).

Central Minnesota's definitive, survey-based analysis of economic activity is published by Times Media, Greater St. Cloud Development Corp., and these St. Cloud State entities: Center for Economic Education, Department of Economics and the School of Public Affairs.

"As we have noted in recent reports, local employment has surpassed its prerecession levels," said King Banaian and Rich MacDonald, St. Cloud State economics professors and QBR authors. "Indeed, measured employment of 105,366 in October was the highest level ever recorded."

MacDonald and Banaian argue state and national economic forces will support local economic expansion in 2014. They point to strong national gross-domestic product numbers and production data, and moderately higher earnings and income.

- Job creation expanded 2.2 percent in the year ending October 2013, exceeding its average of 1 percent annualized growth over the previous 15 years.
- Of the 73 area businesses surveyed, 60 percent said their wages and benefits would increase in the next six months. No businesses expect wage and benefit decreases.

- Twenty-seven percent of firms surveyed expect to increase prices by May 2014, the highest such finding in three years.

St. Cloud's October unemployment rate was measured at 3.9 percent, the lowest rate since November 2007. Banaian and MacDonald said the unemployment rate would likely rise due to the seasonal nature of St. Cloud labor markets.

National unemployment rates were 7.3 percent for October and 7 percent for November.

The QBR's economic-security thermometer – the Probability of Recession Index – is the lowest it's been since 2011.

The QBR has been produced four times a year since January 1999. Access past editions at <http://repository.stcloudstate.edu/scqbr>.

Access the Quarterly Business Report online at: <http://scsu.mn/1cwzyyh>

Alumni/Department/Faculty/Staff/Student Highlights

Dick Andzenge (Criminal Justice) and **Lee Gilbertson** (Criminal Justice) attended the St. Paul Freedom Fund Event, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of the St. Paul Chapter of the NAACP. The Keynote speaker was former NAACP National Chairman Julian Bond, with remarks by current National President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. **Carolyn Ruth Williams** (Academic Affairs) and **Jeffrey Johnson** (Aviation) also attended the event.

King Banaian (Economics) and School of Public Affairs research director, was recently appointed by St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis and the St. Cloud City Council to the Economic Development Authority Board for a term through 2017. The Economic Development Authority (EDA) is dedicated to enhancing St. Cloud's economic vitality and expanding the city's employment base.

Pat Bodelson (Political Science) received a teaching and excellence grant from the St. Cloud State Center for Teaching and Learning to incorporate more service learning into her disaster course.

Bodelson also met with the Minnesota Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators (BENHA) for approval of ongoing annual support for the SCSU Health Administration Certificate Program.

Lee Gilbertson (Criminal Justice) is finishing a book entitled, "*Case Studies in Drowning Forensics*" with CRC Press, which should be released late March. Sergeant Kevin Gannon, a retired New York Police Department (NYPD) detective, is co-author, with contributions by his partner Anthony Duarte, a retired NYPD detective second grade. He also signed a book contract with the Taylor and Francis Group to co-author the book "*An Introduction to Gangs*" with George Knox, director at the National Gang Crime Research Center; Gregg Etter, associate professor at the University of Central Missouri and retired Kansas deputy sheriff; and Carter Smith, assistant professor at Austin Peay State University, S.T.A.R. instructor for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and retired special agent with the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division.

Stephen Hennessy (Criminal Justice) presented a commentary on his book "*Thinking Cop - Feeling Cop, a Study in Police Personalities*," to students enrolled in the Master of Justice Administration Program at Methodist University, Fayetteville, N.C., via Google technology. Darl Champion, director of the program, requires Hennessy's book as a textbook reading assignment in their program's leadership development segment and asked if Hennessy could join the class via distance learning technology to answer questions and speak to recent research in the field of policing and personality. He has since been asked to join their classes several more times this next year for additional discussions.

Bel Kambach (Geography and Planning) is on sabbatical this year and is a visiting professor of cruise line industry of Germany at Bremerhaven University of Applied Sciences, faculty of economics and business in the Institute for Maritime Tourism. She is also doing research for The Cruise Research Society, also in Germany.

Continued on back



Alumni/Department/Faculty/Staff/ Student Highlights (continued)

Wade Lamirande '10 (Criminal Justice alumnus) chief of police of Cloquet, was named the police and peace officer educational (PPOE) coordinator at Fond Du Lac Community College.

Randy Mohawk '12 (Criminal Justice alumnus) was named the police and peace officer educational (PPOE) coordinator at Rochester Community and Technical College.

Morgan Nyendu (Political Science), published an article titled, "*Confronting the Problem of Increasing Partisan Politics in the District Assemblies System in Ghana*" online in the Journal of Asian and African Studies, 0021909613511180, Nov. 26, 2013. He also presented a paper titled, "*Testing Democratic Governance in Africa: Challenges to Election Results: Case Studies of Kenya*

and Ghana," at the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Political Science Association.

Caitlin Prodoehl '11 '13 (Geography and Planning alumna) is GIS specialist at GeoComm.

Ryan Ross '08 (Geography and Planning alumnus) GIS specialist for the Department of Military Affairs at Camp Ripley and Marine Corp Veteran and was selected to receive honors at the Minnesota Humanities Center's 25 Veteran's Voices Award during a ceremony Sept. 11, 2013. Ross was nominated by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota for his contributions to the organization and the community.

Mandi VanOverbeke '01 '09 (Criminal Justice alumna) was named the police and peace officer educational (PPOE) coordinator at Ridgewater College in Wilmar. VanOverbeke also is an adjunct faculty member in the St. Cloud State Department of Criminal Justice.

Lew Wixon (Geography and Planning), delivered his last lecture on December 13 after an illustrious career that began on September 19, 1966. True to form as both a beloved and demanding professor, Lew kept his Geography of Europe class for the entire class period, ending at 1:50 on Friday afternoon.

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