

Fall 2017

## School of Public Affairs Newsletter, Vol. 6. Iss. 2

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## School of Public Affairs Dean's Office bids farewell to Whitney House



St. Cloud State University Whitney House built 1916/17.

The School of Public Affairs Dean's Office bid farewell to Whitney House on May 19 and moved to third floor Stewart Hall room 365 to be closer to Public Affairs students and faculty.

### Whitney House & Whitney Family History

The Whitney House was built in 1916-17 by Albert Gideon (A.G.) Whitney and Alice Wheelock Whitney. A.G. was an entrepreneur and was involved in the city's utilities industries, eventually forming the Northern States Power Company (NSP). Alice was the director of the MN Children's Home.

Alice and A.G. had three children: Wheelock Sr., Lois and Pauline, all of whom grew up in the Whitney House. A.G. lived only a few years in the house, dying in January 1922. Alice resided in the home until her death in 1954. Upon her death, the home was donated to St. Cloud Teachers College. Alice was a great philanthropist and public servant, devoting both time and money to the benefit of local causes.

Alice played host to such famous personages as First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and African-American vocalist Marian Anderson. First Lady Roosevelt stated, "I am seeing the first snowflakes fall as I sit in a delightful enclosed porch in Mrs. Whitney's home in St. Cloud this morning. It is a charming spot, where one can envision hours spent looking out on stormy weather, and rejoicing over a book and a happy feeling that one is in such surrocomfortable undings."

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## John earns Hellervik Prize



Gareth John, professor of geography, has earned the prestigious Hellervik Prize, which encourages research or scholarly activity to advance knowledge of importance to students, academia and society at large. His project, "Groundtruthing Spatial Narratives of the Native American Past in Kandiyohi County,

Minnesota," proposes research John will do with geography GIS graduate student Mollie Lou Pintok.

The research explores European Minnesotan narratives of Native American culture at the local scale as told plaques, markers and statues throughout the landscape of Kandiyohi County.

"While the claim of a permanent Native occupance in the county may seem to serve Native interests by appealing to their continued past presence in the region, the simplistic idealization of the county as a long-standing Native settlement until the arrival of European Minnesotans and ultimately the advent of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 can also serve to misrepresent specifically Dakota narratives of the region's past," John wrote in his proposal.

The research will include recording and analyzing images and text on plaques, markers and statuary and in museums, seeking Native interpretations of and alternatives to those narratives, then using GIS tools in the School of Public Affairs Spatial Analysis Research Center lab to identify landscape features that indicate locations of Native American activity such as the Green Lake Burial Mounds near Spicer. John previously worked with Kelsey Young '12, who now is working towards a Ph.D. in geography from Syracuse

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## Public Affairs welcomes new hires



Cindy Fitzthum

**Cindy Fitzthum** is director and instructor of the social studies teaching program. Fitzthum has worked at St. Cloud State since 2013 in many different capacities; including director of economic education, social studies teaching instructor, American Democracy Project coordinator and Winter Institute director. Prior to St. Cloud State she taught high school social studies at Sartell High School and Princeton High School while also adjunct teaching at St. Cloud State and Anoka Ramsey Community College.

Fitzthum has a Master of Arts in economics education from the University of Delaware and is completing her doctorate in higher education administration at St. Cloud State. She also holds a current Minnesota 5-12 Social Studies teaching license and is completing work for her K-12 Minnesota Principal License.

Her professional work includes research on student debt and curriculum writing with the Council for Economic Education, New York. She has written numerous economic education curriculum packages, facilitated workshops for K-12 teachers and presented at state and national conferences. She also works with Anna Marie's Alliance to provide economic education to K-6 children residing within the shelter.

She is married to Ryan and has two daughters, Carly, 4, and Rory, 1, with her third child due in December. She enjoys reading, walking, going to the cabin and traveling in her free time.



John Baker

**John Baker '99** is assistant professor of criminal justice studies. He teaches criminal procedure to undergraduate and graduate students. Baker spent the last 10 years in private practice as a partner in the Baker Williams Law Firm (also known as the GunnyLawyer). He represented clients in Minnesota state and federal courts on all levels of criminal charges. He frequently represented service members, veterans and first responders in criminal and related cases. In 2010, he was recognized as a Minnesota Lawyer Attorney of the Year. He received this award for his work in chairing the initiative to start Veterans Courts in Minnesota.

For the last year, Baker has taught ethics to undergraduate students in the business degree program at Rasmussen College and also teaches continuing education classes at Century College. Since 2011, he has traveled the country co-teaching "De-Escalation Strategies for Military Veterans in Crisis" to law enforcement agencies through the Upper Midwest Community Policing Institute. He also co-teaches "De-escalation Strategies for Persons with Mental Illness or Behavioral Disorders in Crisis."

Baker retired from the United States Marine Corps as a Gunnery Sergeant after serving 22 years in various infantry, artillery and administrative capacities in numerous locations within the United States and around the world. He was deployed multiple times to high conflict areas around the world during his military career.

In August, Baker rode his bicycle from Minneapolis to Chicago as part of Project Hero UnitedHealthcare Great Lakes Challenge. He has a Juris Doctorate from Hamline University School of Law (now Mitchell Hamline School of Law) and graduated in three years magna cum laude from St. Cloud State University in 1999.



**Save the Date! Winter Institute 2018**  
**Thursday, February 1 & Friday, February 2**  
**St. Cloud State and 912 Regency Plaza, St. Cloud**

### 2018 Winter Institute February 1 & 2

The Winter Institute is a two-day conference celebrating economic education. It offers high quality educational programming featuring nationally recognized speakers and stimulating ideas. The Winter Institute is unique in its ability to attract students, faculty, staff, community members, and business leaders. By bringing together this diverse audience, the event fosters idea creation and innovation. You can expect invaluable networking opportunities, concurrent sessions featuring practical issues of interest, and nationally recognized speakers. For updated information, visit: [stcloudstate.edu/winterinstitute](http://stcloudstate.edu/winterinstitute).



2017 Winter Institute panelists left to right: Nimantha Manaperi, St. Cloud State professor of Economics; King Banaian, dean, School of Public Affairs; Luke Greiner, regional analyst, MN Employment and Economic Development.

**Stay informed! Like the Winter Institute Facebook Page [facebook.com/winterinstitute](https://www.facebook.com/winterinstitute)**

## School of Public Affairs celebrates retirements and years of service

### 2016-2017 Retirees

Barb Hartkopf, Geography and Planning  
Chuck Seefeldt, Criminal Justice  
Deb Yorek, Criminal Justice

### 25 Years of Service

Dick Andzenge, Criminal Justice

### 15 Years of Service

Ken Rebeck, Economics

### 10 years of Service

Lynn MacDonald, Economics  
David Switzer, Economics

## Dean's office move continued...

### Historical Timeline of Whitney House

1916-17	Built by A.G. Whitney and Alice Wheelock Whitney
1955	Donated to State of MN for use of St. Cloud Teachers College (St. Cloud State)
1956-65	Residential hall for first-year women
1961	Renovation
1965-66	Alpha Phi sorority house
1966-75	President's Office, administrative offices, various program and department offices
1975-2012	Various program and department offices
1998-2012	College of Social Sciences and Psychology Department
2012-2017	School of Public Affairs and Psychology Department
2017	Psychology Department

*Historical information provided by St. Cloud State Archives and Stearns History Museum. Special thanks to Alexander I. Ames '07 '12 and St. Cloud State Archivist Tom Steman for compiling information.*



Student residents sit by the Whitney House fireplace in 1956. Image courtesy of the St. Cloud State University Archives.

## Hellervik Prize continued...

University, drawing on cultural-interpretative techniques to study Dakota identity and ties to the land. Their joint work on memorials to events in the aftermath of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862 has appeared in the "Journal of Cultural Geography and Social and Cultural Geography."

"Since joining St. Cloud State in 2005 I have become increasingly inspired by the quality of undergraduate work in geography at St. Cloud State, especially some of the projects developed by students in the senior undergraduate research courses," John said. "St. Cloud State's geography program is producing a legacy not only in local private and public sector employment, particularly in the area of GIS, but also through many of our recent graduates pursuing higher degrees at top-rated programs. It has been a privilege to have witnessed their personal and academic growth as well as successes. I have benefitted tremendously through collaboration, such as that with Kelsey and now again with Molly Lou, in which the roles of teacher and learner are frequently reversed. That for me is what scholarship is about — constantly learning, and from new people, often your own (former and current) students."

John and Pintok plan to co-present their findings at the American Association of American Geographers in New Orleans in 2018 and seek publication of their research. There will also be a public presentation of the results at St. Cloud State.

John received his bachelors in American Studies and Geography from the University of Wales, College Swansea with an exchange year at SUNY in Albany. He holds a masters in geography from Penn State and Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky. He specializes in the areas of: cultural geography, historical geography, landscapes, history of geographical thought and practice, geographic education, American popular culture and contemporary British culture and society.

The Hellervik prize is named after Lowell Hellervik '56, co-founder of Personnel Decisions International, a global consulting firm. Hellervik graduated from St. Cloud State with a history degree. The prize provides support for up to \$10,000 plus reassignment of work from teaching toward the project.



## Public Affairs sponsors fall events

### Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement

5-7:30 p.m. Sept. 12 The Courtyard by Marriott, St. Cloud  
Panelists include: Assistant Chief of Police, St. Paul, Kathy Wuorinen; Stearns County Attorney, Janelle P. Kendall; Professor Mary Clifford, St. Cloud State University; Sergeant Tina Lake, Alexandria Police; Officer Darcie Zirbes, Alexandria Police; Lieutenant Lori Ellering '95 '06, St. Cloud Police and Officer Talisha Barlow '11 '16, St. Cloud Police. Cost to attend is \$16.95 and includes dinner. Reservations by Sept. 7, [kathyhuls@charter.net](mailto:kathyhuls@charter.net)

### China's One Belt One Road Initiative and Its Potential Impact

12:30-1:45 p.m. Sept. 13 Atwood Alumni Room  
China is striving to be the super power in the next decade as President Xi vows to be a leader in global economic development. One belt one road is a new initiative designated to connect China to the Middle East, Russia and Europe by reviving the "Silk Road" to Europe. Panelists will discuss major geopolitical implications to the United States and the world. It is the first step to understand how the "butterfly effect" influences our life and future. Panelists: TBA. Co-sponsored and food provided by St. Cloud State Confucius Institute.

### Quarterly Business Report Review & Regional Outlook

7:30-9 a.m. Sept. 14 Sartell Resource Training & Solutions  
Presenter King Banaian, dean, St. Cloud State School of Public Affairs and co-author, "St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report," will discuss economic and business conditions in the St. Cloud region. Free advance tickets required. Contact [kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu) for registration details.

### Constitution Day Trivia

10 a.m.-Noon Sept. 18 Atwood Mall  
Come and test your knowledge of the U.S. Constitution!

### Resume Writing 101

2-3 p.m. Sept. 18-19 Atwood Alumni Room  
Job recruiters spend an average six seconds reviewing a resume. Learn how to make your resume stand-out by effectively showcasing your skills and experiences. Learn how to format a resume, how to find online resume writing resources and resume tips. These sessions will be focused on criminal justice, economics, geography and planning and political science careers, but all students are welcome.

### Education Abroad Fair

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 20 Atwood Mall (rain site: Atwood Lounge) Explore the world! Learn about St. Cloud State study abroad opportunities!

### Career Day

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 27 Atwood Ballroom  
This is the largest fall on campus job and internship fair! It brings a variety of employers to campus to promote their opportunities and recruit for internships and full time positions.

### SOPAbowl

6-9 p.m. Sept. 27 Atwood Underground  
Learn about majors in the School of Public Affairs (SOPA) as well as meet Dean King Banaian and professors from criminal justice, economics, geography and planning and political science. Enjoy bowling and free food!

### Second annual Police and Social Services Conference Minnesota

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 28 Courtyard by Marriott, St. Cloud  
"Bridging the divide through a shared identity: Making everyone in the Community Count" is this year's theme. St. Cloud Police Chief Wm. Blair Anderson is the keynote speaker. Conference fee is \$79 (\$99 after Sept. 1) and \$29 for students and seniors. POST credits and social work CEUs 3.0 available. For more information and registration visit: [stcloudstate.edu/conferences/police-social-services/](http://stcloudstate.edu/conferences/police-social-services/).

### Gear Up Class of 2021

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 6 Atwood Ballroom  
Students from the class of 2021 will learn about spring registration, campus resources, meet advisers/professors, explore majors/careers and have the opportunity to question recent alumni about their academic/professional journey.

### Careers in Criminal Justice Panel

11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Oct. 12 Ritsche Auditorium  
Learn about careers in criminal justice from St. Cloud State alumni! Panelists will represent law enforcement, corrections, non-profit and for-profit career fields.

### Criminal Justice Alumni Reunion Brunch

10 a.m.-Noon Oct. 14 Atwood Cascade Room  
CJ alumni, emeriti and their families will enjoy brunch while reconnecting them with campus and each other. RSVP to [kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu).

### Who are the Hilikomori in Japan and Sampo in South Korea?

12:30-1:45 p.m. Oct. 18 Atwood Alumni Room  
During this presentation, we will try to understand one of the current social issues for millennials in Japan and South Korea. Millennials are facing various challenges in different societies including the United States. During this presentation, we will give you a brief insight on young generations and how they face potential challenges in Japan and South Korea. Panelists TBA.

### Crime and Consequences: The Difficult Road Back

1-2 p.m. Oct. 18 Atwood Theatre  
Amy Wilson is an ex-convict, who was incarcerated in an Indiana correctional facility for two years for embezzling nearly \$350,000. Since her 2011 release, Wilson speaks openly about her criminal actions so students will better understand the importance of choosing the ethical path in all aspects of life.

### Government & Non-Profit Career Fair

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 20 University of Minnesota, Coffman Union  
Free job fair for St. Cloud State students or alumni interested in internships and jobs in government agencies. For more information and online registration, visit [toggpartners.com/govnonprofitfair/](http://toggpartners.com/govnonprofitfair/).

### Outlook for Careers in the Hospitality Industry

10-11 a.m. Oct. 25 Atwood Alumni Room  
Based on the Bureau of Labor, the hospitality industry is expected to grow in the upcoming decades. This panel presentation will feature senior managers from Sand Hospitality, Jason Mortland, director of revenue manager; and Muhammad Aslam, director of hotel operations. Attendees will learn the path to success in the hospitality industry and gain first-hand knowledge in this booming industry.

### Pizza with Professors

11 am-1 p.m. Nov. 15 Stewart Hall Third Floor Lounge  
Enjoy pizza while faculty advisers assist you with your spring registration. Open to students in criminal justice, economics, geography and planning and political science.

### Grad Expo

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Nov. 29 Atwood Voyageurs  
Graduating fall 2017? Check out the grad expo and learn everything you need to know about commencement, alumni benefits, purchasing commencement regalia etc.

### Quarterly Business Report Review and Regional Outlook

7:30-9 a.m. Dec. 14 Sartell Resource Training & Solutions  
Presenter King Banaian, dean, St. Cloud State School of Public Affairs and co-author, "St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report," will discuss economic and business conditions in the St. Cloud region. Free advance tickets required. Contact [kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu) to register.

## SCSU Survey: Majority of Minnesotans with memory problems get the help they need

The majority of Minnesotans with memory problems and their caregivers are getting the help they need according to a report released in May by the SCSU Survey.

Eighteen percent of Minnesotans surveyed in the Fall 2016 SCSU Survey said they either had dementia or memory problems or cared for someone with memory problems. Of that group, 76 percent reported that they are able to get all the resources they need to manage their memory problems or dementia.

Twenty percent of respondents said they do not feel they were able to get the resources they needed. The level of satisfaction with resources was similar in both the seven-county Twin Cities metro area and in Greater Minnesota.

The St. Cloud State University survey seeks Minnesotans views on political and social questions regarding major issues facing the nation. The calling is conducted by student callers with professors leading analysis and reporting of the data.

Responses for the survey were gathered from 431 randomly-selected landline and cellphone adult users Oct. 19-30 at the St. Cloud State Survey Lab.

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## Students and alumni attend tourism career conferences

Students and alumni attended the 2017 Women in Travel Summit in April in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Professor Bel Kambach led the group. The Summit provided attendees with the tools, connections and resources they need to become better travel bloggers and influencers. Attendees learned how to enhance their digital presence and meet career goals. The 2018 Women in Travel Summit will be held May 4-6 in Quebec City, Canada.

For the second year in a row, students will attend Travel Weekly's CruiseWorld 2017 conference Nov. 15-17 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. CruiseWorld brings together travel professionals and supplier partners through educational workshops, networking events, ship inspections and a trademark exhibitor showcase.

If you are interested in attending future tourism conferences, please contact Bel Kambach at [bkambach@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:bkambach@stcloudstate.edu).



St. Cloud State travel and tourism students stop for a selfie at the 2016 fall CruiseWorld Conference.

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## Master of Public Administration MPA program meets community needs

The St. Cloud State Master in Public Administration (MPA) program faculty and students have provided many services to nonprofit and public organizations in the community including conducting a training on nonprofit governance for a board of directors, updating a nonprofit's personnel manuals, developing and delivering several human resource trainings, conducting job analyses and writing position descriptions, creating employee performance appraisal tools, conducting salary and benchmarking surveys, grant writing, creating a volunteer manual and designing volunteer recruitment strategies.

The MPA program has also been assisting area nonprofits with strategic planning. Projects include strategic planning for Wright County Community Action and the Salvation Army. The Wright County Community Action plan included strategic alignment with funding agencies to assist them in securing the resources

needed to grow their programs and help people living in poverty in Wright County attain physical, social and economic wellbeing. The Salvation Army's plan is designed to support a new initiative to help homeless children.

Other community projects include lectures and trainings designed for the ongoing professional development of current public and nonprofit leaders, facilitating a Lunch and Learn event for the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits as well as conducting quantitative program analyses for many local and international public and nonprofit organizations, ranging from a Minnesota county's real estate appraisal system to a prison education program in Africa. The MPA program prepares students for leadership and managerial careers in the public and non-profit sectors through global and local exceptional education, research and service.

## Alumni/Student Highlights

**Talisa Barlow `11 `16**, (criminal justice) and **Lori Ellering `95 `06** (criminal justice) are panelists at the Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement event on September 12 in St. Cloud. The panel is being hosted by The American Association of University Women St. Cloud Area Branch.

**Kris Bertelsen `05** (geography and planning), earned a Ph.D. in leadership studies at the University of Central Arkansas. He researched entrepreneurship characteristics among currently incarcerated offenders. Entrepreneurship programs in correctional facilities are being used and researched as way to reduce recidivism and help offenders reenter society by creating their own employment opportunities. Bertelsen is senior economic education specialist at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Little Rock, AR Branch.

**Aaron Biard `94** (criminal justice) was named 4th precinct inspector with the Minneapolis Police Department. He started with the department in 1995, spending time in traffic, sex crime and Police Activities League units in three precincts, according to a department news release. He also was a SWAT trainer and served on a review board that handles police misconduct complaints.

**Christopher Bliss `12 `15** (political science) is working on a masters in political science and human rights at The University of Manchester, United Kingdom.

**Annie Deckert `05** (geography and planning) was named to the first cohort of the Initiative Foundation's Initiators Fellowship program, a two-year initiative that surrounds emerging entrepreneurs with training, financial support and mentorship as they develop a business or social enterprise venture that contributes to thriving communities in Central Minnesota and beyond. Deckert will pursue the expansion of her economic development enterprise, the Decklan Group, to create affordable services for small and pre-startup businesses. Deckert states, "Coming from a small town. I hate seeing business or storefront vacancies. I just want to full them all up. That's why I get so excited about all of the creative things cities can do to thrive."

**Sen. Michelle Fischbach `89** (political science) was elected president of the Minnesota Senate Jan. 3, the opening day of the 2017 legislative session. Fischbach, was chosen on a 34-31 vote in the Senate, which is now under Republican control. She also chairs the Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee.

**Michael Gill `12** (geography and planning) is a Ph.D. candidate in marine sciences at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

**Alynda Her `15** (economics) was promoted to designated school official in the International Student and Scholar Services office at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. She started as an office and J-Visa support assistant in the same office and has been accepted into the University of Minnesota's Human Resources and Industrial Relations Master's program this fall.

**Natalie Hughes** (economics), **Ivan Jimenez** (economics), and **Sean Schlosser** (economics) presented, Building a Better Future: Learning to Live Debt Free, at St. Cloud State in April. Their presentation was based off the book, All Your Worth, by Elizabeth Warren and Amelia Warren Tyagi, which outlines six steps to get out of debt, start saving money, and relieve the stress money may cause.

**Jon Lentz `93** (criminal justice) has been named Stearns County chief deputy. Lentz has worked his way up in the department from correctional officer to captain. "The Sheriff's Office has lots of things to accomplish in my 19-month term as interim Stearns County sheriff and it made sense to me to promote an inside candidate who knows the issues, personalities and the citizens of Stearns County to be the next chief deputy," Sherriff Don Gudmundson said.

**Angela Mundis `17**, (geography and planning) received St. Cloud State's 2017 Excellence in Leadership Award. This award identifies and honors students who have demonstrated outstanding leadership while at St. Cloud State based on an evaluation of their academic commitment and leadership experiences. Mundis was

also selected to speak at the spring morning Commencement ceremony. She will be attending St. Cloud State in the fall working on a masters in special studies with an emphasis in cultural geography.

**Jeff Nelson `11** (criminal justice) was honored with the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association Deputy Sheriff of the Year in Minnesota. Nelson won the trust and support of the community's residents by embracing a community-oriented policing approach, according to Sheriff Hable in his nomination of Nelson. Nelson has been working as a patrol officer with the Renville County Sherriff's office since 2012.

**Eric Schmitt `12** (geography and planning) is a surveyor for Houston County. On his first day in the office, Schmitt was tasked with surveying the county fairgrounds and adjoining Highway Department headquarters parcels in Caledonia. Previously Schmitt worked in the private surveying for six and a half years.

**Shannon Wussow `02 `07** (criminal justice) is executive director of the Mid-Minnesota Women's Center in Brainerd. The Center's budget supports 24 employees, the coordination of 50 volunteers and the costs of operating two facilities—is entirely funded through grants, fundraising and donations. For the past eight years, she served as a probation agent in Crow Wing County.

**Franklin Zumba-Delag `15**, (political science) received a \$1500 grant to study economic development in Guatemala this past summer. He is working on a master's degree at the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

## Faculty/Staff Highlights

**Mary Clifford**, (criminal justice) is a panelist at the Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement event on September 12 in St. Cloud. The panel is being hosted by The American Association of University Women St. Cloud Area Branch.

**Monica Garcia-Perez** (economics) and **Robert C. Johnson** (ethnic and women's studies) published the article, "Understanding the Effect of an Intervention Program on High School Graduation Rates: The Access and Opportunity Program in St. Cloud, Minnesota," in *The Journal of the International Society for Educational Planning*.

**Patricia Hughes**, (economics) served as a panelist at Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University in March for Wise Economic Decision Making: Insights from Nonprofit Research. The presentation was based on the forthcoming second edition of *The Handbook of Research on Nonprofit Economics and Management* for which she is co-author (with emeritus Bill Luksetich) of Chapter 9: Modeling Nonprofit Behavior.

**Gareth John**, (geography and planning) was named Outstanding Adviser for his work with St. Cloud State's Gamma Theta Upsilon chapter. The award was given by the Department of Campus Involvement at the Student Organization Award Celebration this spring. The celebration honors various student groups and individuals for their hard work and dedication to St. Cloud State.

**Kristy Modrow '03 '05 '17** (school of public affairs and geography and planning) earned an Ed.D. in higher education administration from St. Cloud State University. Her dissertation was *Experiences of Bangladeshi Undergraduate International Students' Studying in the United States*.

**Benjamin Richason III**, (geography and planning), is president of the Minnesota Association of Professional Soil Scientists (MAPSS). MAPSS is the only organization representing the professional interests of soil scientists in Minnesota. MAPSS promotes the understanding and wise use of Minnesota's soil resources. Members consist of professional soil scientists, consultants, researchers, teachers and students, as well as those who just have an interest in soils. The

organization hosts a Summer Field Tour to study different soil types and landscapes around the state. MAPSS also puts on a Winter Technical Meeting to discuss various issues of soil classification, mapping and use. It also allows practicing soil scientists to earn the necessary credits to main their professional certifications. At the last meeting Richason made a presentation titled; "Soil GIS Geodatabases and Spatial Analysis: A Stearns County Example."

**David Switzer**, (economics) gave a keynote presentation entitled, *The Semi-Flipped Classroom: Increasing Student Engagement and Learning by Lecturing Less and Teaching More*, at the 28th Annual Teaching Economics Conference at Robert Morris University in February 2017. Using data from his online and face to-face (F2F) courses from the last few years, he showed how using new technology outside the classroom and new teaching methods inside the classroom led to higher quiz, exam, and course grades in his Principles of Microeconomics courses. He also discussed a variety of strategies to engage students in F2F courses, including games and group assignments.

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## School of Public Affairs Research Institute News

Over the past 12 months, the St. Cloud State School of Public Affairs Research Institute (SOPARI) has been actively involved in a variety of applied research projects. With the help of our two graduate assistants, Natalie Hughes and Alex Franta, SOPARI continues to grow as we enter our 5th year. Some of the projects we have worked on over the past year include:

- Four issues of the St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report
- Twenty-four issues of the Quarterly Economic and Business Conditions Report for Minnesota's six planning areas.
- Completion of a land use study for the City of Waite Park
- 2017 St. Cloud Metropolitan Area Scorecard for the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation
- Tobacco Use Fact Sheets for CentraCare Health's Crave the Change program
- St. Cloud State Criminal Justice faculty work on the Enhancing Law Enforcement Response to Victims project with the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Washington

We are also actively engaged in the community in such areas as: strategic planning exercises, cybersecurity and workforce development, East African entrepreneurship, grant writing collaborations, evaluation of grant proposals, background research on the FinTech (Financial Technology) industry, and collection of data on the area housing sector.

If you would like to know more about potential collaborative project work with SOPARI, please contact Rich MacDonald, Interim Director, at 320-308-4781 or [ramacdonald@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:ramacdonald@stcloudstate.edu) or stop by and see us in Stewart Hall 329.





Minnesota Correctional Facility - St. Cloud. Image courtesy of the Minnesota Correctional Facility - St. Cloud.

## Academic-Practitioner Partnership: St. Cloud State and MN Correctional Facility - St. Cloud

Geographic proximity and a significant number of St. Cloud State alumni on staff are two factors that have long cemented the relationship between the MN Correctional Facility St. Cloud (MCF-SCL) and St. Cloud State University. This relationship was further consolidated on April 4, when a group of staff from the facility made a presentation to Professor Mary Clifford's crime and justice in America students.

Warden Collin Gau '94 and staff from MCF-SCL, representing health services, human resources, case management, etc. presented. The presenters talked about their backgrounds, their correctional experiences and what led them to the profession. Gau '94 indicated that the Minnesota Correctional system boasts one of the lowest recidivism rate in the country, embraces an evidence-based model in regards to programming and places a premium on staff professionalism.

The MCF-SCL staff fielded questions on privatization of prisons, contraband, inmate informants, civil commitment and on solitary confinement. This partnership is beneficial to both St. Cloud State and MCF-SCL, Clifford said.

"Academic professors theorize on criminal justice areas, but practitioners provide the additional information that supports the teaching and also it helps interns with opportunities," she said.

Student, Christian Burnham, stated the presentation is, "More detailed and you get the big picture of what you learn in the classroom. Gau '94, who acquired his master's degree at the St. Cloud State, concluded the Q & A session with information on the value of working in the corrections system and DOC's recruiting activities.



SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

The School of Public Affairs wants to hear from our alumni and friends, through newsletters like this and emails. If you would like to receive information, or you wish to contribute a story or update, contact us at **(320) 308-6080** or **kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu**.



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MINNESOTA STATE

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a member of Minnesota State