



Latest News and Information

The Council of Academic Professionals and Administrators held its monthly meeting on February 20, 2009. Highlights from the meeting include:

- Rosie Barry from Organization Effectiveness in the Office of Human Resources (OHR), gave the council an outline of the upcoming career fair, which will be held on April 22, 2009. The event will take place in Coffman Memorial Union, Mississippi Room from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. There will be a keynote speaker and breakout sessions on topics from the stages in your career and leading from where you are to work life balance and energizing teaching. Breakout sessions will also be available on UM Connect.
- Miriam Ward, director in OHR, informed the council that the new vacation tracking method would first appear on March 25, 2009 pay statements. Vacation will be tracked in hourly increments although P&As will continue to report whole or half days. The conversion to hours will take place in the new system. Maximum vacation days are the same, i.e., 22 days, which translates to 176 hours.

Featured Article

U of M's "Art to Z" initiative highlights free and low cost on-campus happenings By Ryan Maus

Families around Minnesota may be tightening both their belts and budgets these days, but they can still enjoy high-quality arts and entertainment options in the Twin Cities. The University of Minnesota recently unveiled the most recent installment of its popular "Art to Z" initiative, a series of 26 on-campus events that are available to the public at little or no cost, all of which are taking place on campus during the spring semester.

The spring version in this series (begun in the fall of 2008) features events that span a wide array of subjects, from artistic exhibits and performances to thought-provoking lectures and discussions.

"This initiative includes a broad spectrum of artistic, cultural and scholarly opportunities," said Steven Rosenstone, vice president for cultural and scholarly affairs at the university. "We want to welcome the public to participate in the wide range of endeavors going on here at the U of M."

The artistic highlights of "Art to Z" range from things such as a presentation by legendary poet Louise Glück, who often calls upon Greek deities like Persephone and Hades (March 4). On the opposite side of the spectrum, the School of Public Health's annual public service announcement film contest lets budding filmmakers showcase their work while raising public awareness on topics such as pollution, clean water, nutrition, infectious disease and access to health care (April 6-11).

Those of you who are more scholarly inclined might find yourselves drawn to speakers such Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Seymour Hersh, who visits campus along with former vice president Walter Mondale March 10 to speak with U of M political science professor Larry Jacobs on the topic of "America's Constitutional Crisis." Those more interested in biology might enjoy national expert Avery Gilbert's April 18 presentation on "The Attraction of and Seduction of Scent" at the Bell Museum of Natural History.

Browse all 26 selections in this spring's ["Art to Z" calendar](#).

Resources and Professional Development Opportunities

Discounts to local activities

Tickets to several local attractions, museums, and many Twin Cities movie theaters are available at a discount. In addition, Metro Transit bus and light rail passes are available at a discount. Tickets and passes can be purchased at the Student Union Information Desks, and more information about specific discounts can be found at [Student Unions & Activities Tickets and Passes](#).

Around the world course

The University is host to many students and staff from other parts of the world. In this lively session, International Student and Scholar Services will provide a whirlwind tour of the globe by addressing a series of questions. [More information.](#)

P & A Audio Spotlight**Roberta Juarez, Disability Services disability specialist**

As a disability specialist, Roberta reviews and makes recommendations on accessibility conditions for students, faculty and staff across campus. She's also in charge of disability accommodations in the new TCF Bank Stadium.

[Click to listen.](#)

This e-mail was sent to all current P&A staff at the University of Minnesota by the Council of Academic Professionals & Administrators.