

WREY Radio

Quarterly Issues/Program List

April 1st – June 30th, 2013

Severe Weather in Minnesota

For the week of April 7th, 2013

Guests: Bill Borghoff, Senior Forecaster at the National Weather Service Twin Cities; Todd Krause, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service Twin Cities

Issues: Minnesota Severe Weather Awareness Week; Minnesota's long winter and upcoming severe weather season; Weather prediction technology; Safety tips during tornadoes and flash floods; How social media is changing severe weather awareness

10 April 2013

Minnesota's 'MnSure' Health Insurance Exchange

For the week of April 14th, 2013

Minnesota is launching a web-based health insurance exchange program as part of President Obama's 2010 Affordable Care Act. The controversial exchange gives the approximately 1-in-5 Minnesotans who currently lack health care insurance an opportunity to shop for coverage.

Guests: Dr. Lynn Blewett, Director of the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC), and Professor at the University of Minnesota in the School of Public Health

Issues: The Affordable Care Act and state health care exchanges; Educating consumers on the exchanges; Who will use the exchanges; Who is not eligible; Quality and cost control measures associated with the MnSure exchange and Affordable Care Act

17 April 2013

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

For the week of April 21st, 2013

Comprehensive immigration reform is currently on the fast track in Congress. A bipartisan group of Senators has unveiled a plan to overhaul the nation's immigration system, but some lawmakers are concerned the initiative is moving too quickly, and the issue of granting illegal immigrants a path to citizenship remains a sticking point.

Guests: Katherine Fennelly, Professor in the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota

Issues: An overview of the new proposed immigration bill in Congress; The backlog of legal immigrants awaiting authorization; The economic impact of immigration reform; Challenges for undocumented immigrants

24 April 2013

Memoir of a Gravedigger's Daughter

For the week of April 28th, 2013

- Minnesota author Rachael Hanel grew up in Waseca, Minnesota. But hers was not a typical childhood; her father was the town's only grave digger. Her new book is titled "We'll be the Last Ones to Let You Down," which was the motto of her dad's business. This week on Access Minnesota, Hanel shares her youthful experiences as an observer of death and grief until the sudden passing of her father forces her and her family to confront those issues head-on.

- **Guest:** Rachael Hanel, author, former journalist and copy editor

- **Issues:** What it's like to grow up around cemeteries; Dealing with the death of a loved one; Is death more difficult to accept in modern culture?

1 May 2013

The State of the News Media

For the week of May 5th, 2013

Digital technology is making news reporting more ubiquitous and accessible. Traditional media—newspapers, magazines, radio and television—now compete with thousands of online news outlets. Critics say that news reporting quality has suffered as advertising revenue declines. But others contend that we're entering a new "Golden Age" of journalism. On this week's Access Minnesota, University of Minnesota Journalism Professor Dan Sullivan discusses the state of the news media.

- **Guest:** Dan Sullivan, Cowles Chair of Media Management and

Economics in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota

- **Issues:** Economic struggles of legacy media; The quality of news as revenues decline; Are news aggregating websites good or bad for content creators?

8 May 2013

The University of Minnesota's Gene Modification Breakthrough

For the week of May 12th, 2013

Science magazine calls it one of the “breakthroughs of the year.” It’s a technique developed at the University of Minnesota that allows researchers to manipulate genetic material with a greater level of precision and control. That could lead to significant advances in the treatment of genetic diseases in humans. On the next Access Minnesota, U of M researcher Dan Voytas discusses this cutting edge research and its potential impact on both human and plant health.

- **Guest:** Daniel Voytas, professor in the University of Minnesota’s Department of Genetics, Cell Biology and Development and director of the Center for Genome Engineering
- **Issues:** Past challenges in gene modification; New breakthroughs using the TALENS technology; Future research possibilities in plants and humans; Ethical considerations with regard to gene modification

15 May 2013

Paleofantasy: What Evolution Tells Us About Sex, Diet, and How We Live

For the week of May 19th, 2013

Humans continually strive to improve their living conditions. But some researchers suggest that behaviors from our pre-historic past remain relevant today. For instance, was a Stone Age diet heavy on meats but scarce on grains actually healthier? And should we lose the running shows and focus instead on short, intense workouts? U of M Researcher Marlene Zuk discusses her new book, Paleofantasy: What Evolution Really Tells Us About Sex, Diet and How We Live.

- **Guest:** Marlene Zuk, Professor of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior at the University of Minnesota and author of “Paleofantasy: What Evolution Tells Us About Sex, Diet, and How We Live”
- **Issues:** Why idealizing prehistoric human life is a fallacy; Where this evolutionary nostalgia comes from; Is today’s culture evolving faster than our ability to adapt to it?

22 May 2013

Why Lawmakers Choose Belief Over Research

For the week of May 26th, 2013

Political compromise seems increasingly elusive these days. Extreme partisanship divides both Congress and our own state lawmakers resulting in legislative gridlock. Policymaking is often driven by emotion instead of by facts and solid evidence. This week on Access Minnesota, Hamline University Law Professor David Schultz discusses his new book titled ‘American Politics in the Age of Ignorance: Why Lawmakers Choose Belief Over Research’.

- **Guest:** David Schultz, professor in the Hamline University School of Law
- **Issues:** The loss of compromise in our legislative bodies; Causes behind ideologically driven policy; Lack of a common purpose or agreement on the role of government in America; Common policy myths

29 May 2013

The Gray Divorce Revolution

For the week of June 2nd, 2013

Divorce rates overall in the United States are declining. But more 50-plus couples are calling it quits than ever before. There are no easy answers why so-called 'gray' divorce rates are soaring, but new research does shed some light on the phenomenon.

- **Guest:** Susan Brown, professor in the Department of Sociology at Bowling Green State University in Ohio
- **Issues:** The demographics of 'gray' divorce; Does divorce make these couples happier?; Why divorce rates are higher in remarriages and older adults than in first marriages and younger couples

5 June 2013

Protecting Victims of Human Trafficking

For the week of June 9th, 2013

- **Guest:** Michele Garnett McKenzie, Advocacy Director at The Advocates for Human Rights
- **Issues:** Sex trafficking as modern day slavery; How predators find victims; Why victims often stay in the system for so long; How recent laws help victims; Who is most at risk to be trafficked

11 June 2013

Effects of the Sequester on Scientific Research

For the week of June 16th, 2013

For many Americans, the effects of broad reductions in federal spending—the so-called sequester— have barely been felt. That's worrisome to some scientists who fear the public often doesn't appreciate the value of scientific research. This week on Access Minnesota, we discuss sequester cuts to scientific research and the potential impact on the U.S. economy and our way of life.

- **Guest:** James Kakalios, Taylor Distinguished Professor in the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Minnesota
- **Issues:** Sequester effects on scientific research and grant proposals; Why science funding was so much higher during the Cold War; Why it is so difficult for scientists to explain the effects of funding cuts on their field with the public

18 June 2013

Caesarian Birth Rate Disparities in US Hospitals

For the week of June 23rd, 2013

It's the most common surgical procedure in America. But some experts are asking why so many Caesarean-sections are being performed even for low-risk pregnancies. And a recent University of Minnesota study found a wide variation in the rate of C-sections among hospitals. This week on Access Minnesota, U of M School of Public Health Professor Katy Backes Kozhimannil discusses how safer and more cost-effective procedures could reduce the number of C-sections.

- **Guest:** Dr. Katy Backes Kozhimannil, Assistant Professor in the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health in the division of Health Policy & Management
- **Issues:** Why hospital C-Section birth rates vary so dramatically; Why these procedures are so much more common in American hospitals; What questions expectant mothers should ask their health care providers about C-Section births; The demographics of Caesarian birth rates; Effects of C-Sections on mothers and their children

25 June 2013

Mapping the Human Brain

For the week of June 30th, 2013

This spring, President Obama announced a bold initiative. The federal government will kick-start the funding for research to map the human brain. While not quite on the scale of the 1960's space race, it is nevertheless a massive and potentially groundbreaking project.

- **Guest:** Kamil Ugurbil, McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair of Radiology at the University of Minnesota, and Director of the U's Center for Magnetic Resonance Research
- **Issues:** President Obama's BRAIN Initiative; How MRI technology works; Why the University of Minnesota is a leader in this project; Whether current technology is adequate for Obama's vision; Concerns about continued funding