

CAMPUS REPORTS
Board of Regents Meeting
January 18-19, 2007
Helena, Montana

Montana State University-Billings
Chancellor Ronald P. Sexton, Ph. D.

- Melinda Tilton, University Lecturer in Communication and Theatre Department, is chairing a session entitled *Strategies for Connecting in the Online Classroom* at the National Communication Association Convention in San Antonio, TX.
- Dr. Craig Wilson, Professor of Political Science at Montana State University-Billings, received national exposure when he appeared on CSPAN on October 30, 2006 to give his perspective on the Montana political scene and the U. S. Senate race. Craig and Joe have conducted polls of Montana voter preferences for 17 years.
- U. S. Department of Labor awarded nearly \$2 million to MSU-Billings College of Technology's "Energy for Tomorrow" grant to build Montana's energy workforce through the creation of an Energy Workforce Training and Development Center.
- MSU-B welcomes two new Deans: Dr. Gary Young, College of Business and Dr. Karen Heikel, College of Professional Studies and Lifelong Learning.
- Seventeen students who want to build a future in the booming construction trades industry got a boost when they were each awarded \$2,000 scholarships to pursue a two-year carpentry degree from the MSU-B College of Technology.
- American Medical Response (AMR) donated a 1996 Ford E-350 ambulance to the MSU-B COT Paramedic AAS Degree Program. This is the second ambulance donated from AMR in the past 10 years.
- Volleyball players Alexis Sandru and Alicia Cazemier were named to the ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District VII teams by the College Sports Information Directors of America.
- MSU-N men's soccer player Greg McKeever was named to the Daktronics Midwest Region First Team. McKeever, along with two other players from the Heartland Conference were selected to the first team. The team finished the season ranked first in school history for goals against average (1.40) and for shutouts in a single season (4).
- MSU-B held seven post-election legislative meetings during November and December to allow Yellowstone County civic organizations, citizens groups and constituents the opportunity to make presentations to and have conversations with the region's newly elected and incumbent legislators.
- Celebrate Billings 2020 Community Conversation Breakfast was well attended. The breakfast focused on our community and the action steps that can and should be taken today to position us for leadership, economic growth and planned development over the years ahead.
- ***People, Pride & Promise: The Campaign for Excellence at Montana State University-Billings*** concluded December 31, 2006, and exceeded its original goal of \$21 million by at least 30%. By December 15, the campaign total had reached \$27.7 million. The infusion of capital by generous donors will help MSU-Billings fulfill its potential as an exceptional urban university. Compared to the first 32 years of the MSU-Billings Foundation's operations, the five campaign years produced phenomenal results. Several foundation asset areas have more than doubled since the beginning of the campaign, including net foundation assets, endowed assets, and the number of named endowment funds. Hundreds of volunteers, both alumni and non-alumni, were involved in the campaign, and their engagement will continue in future years through involvement in the Wine & Food Festival, the Annual Drive for Excellence, campus-community projects, and university legislative initiatives.
- ConocoPhillips and MSU-B hosted a community conversation on energy issues. Featured guest panelists CEO of ConocoPhillips, Jim Mulva, and General Manager of Research and Development, Meri Lindstrom, in a conversation moderated by Dr. Scott Rickard, Director of the Center for Applied Economic Research at MSU-B. ConocoPhillips's hosted the Town Hall meeting in Billings, to discuss energy solutions that are reliable, available and environmentally friendly, and we want to hear from you."
- The Pippenger Award was established in 2005, funded by Dick & Cheri Cox, their sons Shaun and Scott Cox, and the members of the Cox Family in honor of Cheri's parents, Walter and Charlotte Pippenger. A \$5,000 monetary award is given to an individual or group whose efforts, projects, or programs can clearly and objectively demonstrate improvement in the undergraduate teaching and learning experience. The goal

is to improve/enhance the quality/excellence of the undergraduate experience at MSU-Billings. This years recipient was Ms. Barb Pedula, Instructor at MSU-B College of Technology, for her effective leadership in helping the MSU Billings College of Technology make tremendous strides in program review, assessment and improvement.

- It's the off season for college baseball teams, but 40 members of the MSU-B Yellowjackets assisted in building a Habitat for Humanity house. Coach Chris Brown said, "It's good for our guys to get experience with that. Part of our responsibility as a community member is to give back."
- Through a competitive State of Montana bidding process, Hardy Construction of Billings secured the construction contract for the new \$9 million Health Sciences Building at MSU-B College of Technology.

Miles Community College

President Stefani Hicswa

- Fall 2006 enrollment at Miles Community College is at 440 FTE which includes 36 out-of-state.
- The Center for Distance Education and Community Outreach reported approximately 209 distance education students for Fall 2006 semester. Director Shelly Weight provided twelve workforce and customized training seminars for the Miles City Holy Rosary Healthcare Hospital. The Center also held the Miles Community College Fall Educator's Conference for teacher recertification in October 2006. Over 160 Montana educators were served.
- The campus received notice of three grants early this fall: --a three-year, \$237,071 grant under Montana's New Homestead Act: Workforce Innovation and Regional Economic Development (WIRED). The grant will include the creation of an Entrepreneurship Certificate and Bioproducts certificate/degree for Miles Community College and five Montana tribal college partners. Two smaller grants were received from private and corporate foundations; \$2,000 that will improve campus athletic center wellness facilities and \$1,000 that will enhance GED testing services of the Center for Academic Success remedial learning center for financially deserving students.
- Robin Gerber, Social Sciences and Humanities Instructor, was named the 2006 Montana State Professor of the Year by the U.S. Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). The four national winners and individual state Professors of the Year were honored Thursday, November 16 at a luncheon at the Willard InterContinental Hotel in Washington, D.C. The CASE award is sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, recognizing professors for their influence on teaching and their outstanding commitment to teaching undergraduate students.
Robin has been employed at Miles Community College since 1998. In addition to teaching classes in history and humanities, Robin has served as a faculty advisor for the Multicultural Club student organization, served as director of the Miles Community College Players dramatic productions for the last six years, has helped to organize the annual fall Miles Community College Constitution Day event and was instrumental in student fundraising activities for 2005 Hurricane Katrina victims. Robin researched and wrote a child's history book entitled "A Long Way From Anywhere—A History of Miles City, MT—For Kids," in 2006. She also submitted and received a grant in Fall 2005 to develop a culturally-based curriculum for Grades 1-8 as a part of the State of Montana's Indian Education for All Act.
- The two-year, associate degree in nursing was reviewed by both State and Federal program approval/accreditation agencies in November. In each instance, the review was favorable and complementary. The most recent approval, from the National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission, gave the program its longest possible authorization, eight (8) years. Credit for the exceptional healthcare program must go to Program Director, Kathy Wankel, and her nursing colleagues. The MCC Registered Nursing program currently has 79 nursing students with a projected 37 graduating in May 2007. Numbers include students at the Miles City, Sidney, and Glendive sites.
- Three Miles Community College employees received training from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities in Seattle, Washington to become accreditation site visit evaluators; Garth Sleight, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Accreditation Liaison Officer; Kathy Wankel, Registered Nursing Program Director; and Darren Pitcher, Director of Student Services. Ms. Wankel was a member of an evaluation team that participated in an accreditation site visit to Clackamas Community College in Oregon City, Oregon in November.
- Annette Gorton, Director of the Miles Community College Center for Academic Success, was elected to the Montana Association for Adult and Community Education (MAACE) board of directors. She assumed all duties and responsibilities as the Eastern Region Representative on the MAACE board for a two-year term in October 2006.

- The Miles Community College GEAR UP Summer Discovery 2006 camp was held June 12-15, 2006. Twenty-five students, entering 7-9 grades, returned letters of acceptance to attend the GEAR UP camp in Miles City. Twenty Montana students attended the GEAR UP camp. GEAR UP schools represented at the Summer Discovery 2006 camp were Hardin (10), St. Regis (3), Box Elder (4), and Rocky Boy (3) middle schools.

Flathead Valley Community College
President Jane Karas

- The Flathead Valley Community College Board of Trustees accepted the low bid of \$1,363,000 submitted by Swank Construction of Kalispell for the construction of the **Early Childhood Education and Care Center**. The bid was \$21,000 under the architect's estimate of \$1,384,000. The facility is scheduled to be completed in August 2007.
- Flathead Valley Community College hosted over 240 local third grade students November 17 for **Seussville University**, a day-long celebration of Dr. Seuss and literacy. The goal of the event was encourage local children to read. Activities included art and music classes, games, storytelling and a theatre production, each of which is centered on a Dr. Seuss book. Approximately 50 FVCC students participated in the event through the Service Learning program, which provides students with opportunities to serve the local non-profit agencies and schools.
- Flathead Valley Community College hosted its 14th Annual **Native American Thanksgiving Celebration for Kids** November 21. More than 600 teachers, assistants and children in kindergarten through fourth grade from area public elementary schools attended the event. Stephen Small Salmon of the Flathead Indian Reservation in Ronan along with a group of performers provided education and entertainment about Native American culture through performances of song, dance and story telling.
- FVCC held its second newly-revamped **Career Fair** session November 29 which focused on the **Education, Human Services and Criminal Justice Career Cluster**. The session provided all participants the opportunity to network among employers, students, job seekers and organizations.
- FVCC teamed up with The Big Sky Astronomy Club to host a **public viewing** of the **Mercury Transit** November 8 on Flathead Valley Community College's Kalispell campus. The event involved the planet Mercury crossing the face of the Sun. The club supplied telescopes with solar filters that allowed FVCC students and employees and the public an opportunity to safely view this event.
- FVCC hosted an **Occupational Trades Day** December 11. More than 50 area high school students from Flathead, Columbia Falls and Polson High Schools interested in pursuing careers in the trades heard from presenters from various trades programs including welding, building trades, electrical, plumbing, metals and heavy equipment operators. Students who attended were the first to get an inside sneak-peak at the college's new Occupational Trades building scheduled to open in January 2007.
- Flathead Valley Community College inducted 16 new members into **Phi Theta Kappa of the Alpha Iota Pi Chapter** November 14. The inductees of the international honor society of two-year colleges obtained at least 12 credit hours from FVCC while receiving a minimum grade point average of 3.5.
- FVCC held its **13th Annual Scholarship Award Luncheon** October 26. 246 students were recognized for receiving private donor scholarships totaling over \$161,000. The nearly 150 individuals who attended the event heard from grateful scholarship recipients, and scholarship donors were also recognized for their generous contributions.

Montana Tech of The University of Montana
Chancellor W. Franklin Gilmore

- Two hundred students from East Middle School in Butte participated in a research project with Dr. Marisa Pedulla, assistant professor of biology. The students searched for never-before-discovered viruses in samples of soil and compost that they collected for the project. Follow-up tests revealed the discovery of ten new bacteriophages, viruses that infect bacteria, which outnumber all other forms of life combined. The project was supported by an NIH grant from the INBRE-BRIN Program of the National Center for Research Resources, the Montana Tech Technical Outreach and Department of Biological Sciences, and VWR International.
- Dr. Courtney Young, professor of metallurgical & materials engineering, has agreed to speak at the 2007 Society of North American Goldsmiths' Conference, to be held in Memphis in June 2007, regarding: **Environmental Stewardship in the Gold Mining Industry: Can Cyanide and Mercury be used Safely?**

- Drs. Don and Andrea Stierle were featured in an interview on “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” for their work on Berkeley Pit Microbes. The interview is available on the Daily Show website under “Bad Pit”.
 - Andrea Stierle was one of the women featured in ***Motherlode: Legacies of Women's Lives and Labors in Butte, Montana (Clark Press, Finn and Crain, Eds.)***
 - Andrea and Don Stierle and former undergraduate research assistant Kal Kelley authored a paper in the Journal of Organic Chemistry: **Berkelic Acid, A Novel Spiroketal with Highly Specific Anti-tumor Activity from an Acid-Mine Waste Fungal Extremophile. J. Org. Chem. 71: 5357-5360.**
 - Dr. Diane Wolfgram, professor of geological engineering, was the EAC/ABET Program Evaluator for the Geophysical Engineering program at Colorado School of Mines, October 8-10, 2006.
 - Dr. Courtney Young has been asked to serve on the standing Technical Expert Panel of Singapore’s Environment and Water Industry Development Council, formed to spearhead growth and development in the environment and water sector in Singapore. Panel members will provide advice during the review of research proposals.
 - Chad Okrush, assistant professor of professional and technical communications, has been asked to participate in an Oxford Roundtable on August 5-10th, 2007, to consider ethical issues concerning the waning public trust in government. Chad will present a paper regarding public participation and environmental decision making in Butte.
 - Chad Okrush’s collaboration with Professor Linda Steiner, titled “Care as a Virtue for Journalists,” was published as the lead article in the peer reviewed “Journal of Mass Media Ethics.” Chad serves on the Leadership Council for the Clark Fork Watershed Education Project and the Butte-Silver Bow Arts Foundation Board of Directors.
 - The Southwest Montana Ambassadors have nominated College of Technology Dean Jane Baker for Educator of the Year, in recognition of her dynamic leadership, her emphasis on student access and affordability, and her work to ensure that the University System is responsive to business and industry needs, through COT offerings and state-wide service.
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