

**CAMPUS REPORTS**  
**Board of Regents Meeting**  
**September 19-21, 2007**  
**Billings, Montana**

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

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- The collaborative work of Dr. Kurt Toenjes, Assistant, Professor, Biology and Dr. David Butler, Associate Professor, Biology, has resulted in MSU-B having its first patent application on file. The invention is based on the discovery of novel anti-fungal properties of a small molecule that was previously shown to induce programmed cell death in mammalian cells. The invention provides a method for treating or controlling fungal infections, such as those caused by *C. albicans*, through inhibition of the yeast-to-filamentous growth transition. The yeast-to-filamentous growth transition is important for the pathogenicity of *C. albicans*. The invention also provides a method for controlling the yeast-to-filamentous growth transition in *in vitro* systems.
- Summer was an active time for summer camps on the MSU-B campus. Dr. Gary Young, Dean of the College of Business, directed a group of youngsters in a Business and Community Leadership Honors Camp. Young entrepreneurs sold candy, snacks and specialty items. As one of the offerings in the MSU-Billings Kids on Campus series, Dr. Young directed a group of youngsters, 20 Billings area 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders, who spent time building and programming robots. The Robotics Camp provided each student with a LEGO Mindstorms NXT programmable robot as well as the skills necessary to assemble, program, and control it. Other Kids on Campus camps offered throughout the summer were: "Let's Make a Movie," "3, 2, 1... Blast Off! Offered by MadScience," "Playwriting," "Cold -Blooded Critters" and "Dino Mania."
- For the eighth consecutive year, Montana State University Billings has been ranked as one of the nation's "Best Colleges" by U. S. News and World Report, for undergraduate through master's level academics, in the latest edition of "America's Best Colleges 2007." Rankings are based on several key measures of quality: peer assessment and graduation and retention rates are given the most weight. Faculty resources and student selectivity also rank highly. The magazine's guidelines and rankings are used to help students and parents in their college selection process.
- Dr. Sarah Keller, Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication and Theatre, was the top female finisher in the VikingMan Half Ironman triathlon in Heyburn, Idaho. She also finished second this spring in the Peak Triathlon in Great Falls and third in the Winter Park, Colorado, triathlon.
- The Montana State University Billings Foundation's 15<sup>th</sup> annual Wine and Food Festival, held May 14-19, netted a record \$360,000 for student scholarships and academic programs. "I can't tell you how grateful we are to the community for their continued support for the mission and vision of Montana State University Billings" said Marilynn Miller, President and CEO, MSUB Foundation. The net proceeds this year sets a record, far surpassing the \$282,000 netted at the 2006 event. To date, the fundraising event has raised more than \$2.5 million for scholarships and other special projects at the University.
- Two MSUB faculty members served as presenters at the third annual "At Risk Conference: Meth Prevention and Intervention," held in early June. Dr. Ernie Randolfi, Professor in the College of Allied Health Professions, Department of Health and Human Performance, discussed risk factors related to teenagers and drug use. Dr. Katharin Kelker, a Special Education Professor in the College of Education, led a discussion about educational interventions for children affected by meth.
- Grant awards processed for the first month of the 2007-2008 academic year totaled \$1,303,772. This total includes the renewal of two vital Big Horn Teacher Project Grants of almost \$400,000 for each grant.
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities Mock Accreditation visit is scheduled for October 17, 2007.
- The State Board of Nursing Accreditation site visit at the MSUB College of Technology was July 16 & 17, 2007.
- The 2007 Walter and Charlotte Pippenger Award for Excellence in Innovation in undergraduate teaching and student learning experiences was awarded to Dr. Sarah Keller, Assistant Professor, Communication and Theatre and Dr. A. J. Otjen, Assistant Professor, College of Business. The \$5,000 award is funded by an endowment established by Dick and Cheri Cox; sons, Shawn and Scott; and the Cox Family in recognition of the parents of Mrs. Cheri Cox.
- MSU-B was awarded \$104,000.00 from The Haynes Foundation for the presentation of Jaynes Scholarships for the 2007-2008 academic year.
- The College of Business is making progress toward American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation. The initial draft of the Self Evaluation Report will be completed by September 15, 2007. A Mock Visit is scheduled for November 4-6, 2007. The year of Self Study is 2008-2009 and the Peer Visit is scheduled for Fall of 2009.

- MSUB put out a welcome mat so the Julie and Lon Carter family could pursue their dreams of a higher education. The Carters were the recipients of a refurbished 3,200 sq. ft. home, thanks to the generosity of the crew of “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.” Julie Carter and one of her daughters have been diagnosed with Chiari Malformation, a debilitating medical condition located in the brain. Family friends and others stated that members of the Carter family – with two of three daughters being college age – have expressed interest in pursuing a higher education, but financial strains because of mounting medical bills have kept them from following that dream.

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### **Montana State University-Northern Chancellor Alex Capdeville**

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- Wired Academy – Northern hosted a conference entitled the WIRED Academy on August 13-15. This is part of the WIRED grant received through Governor Schweitzer’s Agro-Energy Plan to establish a Bio-Energy Innovation and Testing Center which will help foster and promote the production of bio-diesel, bio-lubricants and other bio-energy products in North Central Montana. We are very excited about the potential this research will have to draw Bio-Diesel companies to the Hi-Line. Through that grant we have been able to hire Jessica Alcorn-Windy Boy as the Director for the Bio Energy Innovation & Testing Center, Jon Soriano as our Researcher and Keith Richardson as his Technical Advisor and Assistant. With all our personnel in place we are starting to put together testing projects. Folks from all over the U.S. attended the conference. This is an example where we will be a major player in why companies will want to build bio-diesel plants in this area.
- Lewistown –We hope to have our new Lewistown facility finished in the next two months and a grand opening sometime this fall. This project was funded solely with private funds raised by the community of Lewistown. This facility will make it possible for us to look at offering more programs in Lewistown, such as our business degree.
- NW Accreditation – Northern will have a full scale accreditation this fall. The evaluation team from Northwest Commission on Colleges will be on campus October 15-17. I want to thank Larry Strizich, Carol Reifschneider, Joe Callahan, Will Rawn and all of the faculty and staff who have helped to compile, write and edit the Self-Study for our Northwest accreditation review.
- Admin Retreat - On July 31 and August 1 key administrators and faculty members from this campus met to discuss the issues and set some goals and objectives that will serve as a foundation for the future. We are planning for the changes necessary to place Northern on a solid foundation in spite of our changing landscape.

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### **Montana State University-Great Falls Dean Mary Moe**

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- College of Technology in Bozeman: Faculty have been hired for the new welding and interior design programs in Bozeman - David Cohenour and Cynthia Westover, respectively. In addition to the new faculty, Lesa Pribyl is the Director of Workforce Development. All of the interior design studio classes are full. Overall, the new programs are welcome additions to the COT in Bozeman.
- Celebration of Industrial and Construction Trades Building: A ceremony to celebrate the groundbreaking for a building to house the college’s first construction and building trades programs was held on August 27th.
- E-Waste Event: MSU-Great Falls hosted the community-wide E-Waste Event on September 8<sup>th</sup> to assist residents in getting rid of electronic waste properly. A small fee was charged per pound to dispose of televisions, computers, speakers, microwaves, cell phones and many other items. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality spearheaded the event.
- Staff and Faculty Accomplishments: Over the summer several faculty and staff attend various conferences around the nation. They brought back helpful information in the areas of benchmarking, outcomes assessment (from Alverno), and student retention. All of this new information is being put to use on the campus to help us meet our goals.
- Ryan Schrenk has been appointed to the Leadership Great Falls Steering Committee.
- Bruce Gottwig, Cisco Regional Academy Director and director of the Cisco Academy Training Center for Sponsored Curriculum was selected as one of two people to represent the State of Montana at the Cisco Networking Academy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Washington, DC in October. The other representative is Mark Olszewski, a 2004 graduate of the MSU-Great Falls Networking program who is now the Technology Architect at Great Falls Public Schools. An instructor and a student from each state were selected by Cisco for this all-expenses-paid opportunity. The event is to recognize “the extraordinary impact the Cisco Networking Academy has made in ‘educating the architects of the networked economy’ in the United States over the past decade.”

- Grayce Holzheimer arranged and displayed outstanding student artwork at The History Museum of Great Falls. She also taught 'Field Sketching' through a collaborative effort with The Glacier Institute and the MSU-Great Falls Outreach Department. Holzheimer's 'Waterways #3,' a large relief sculpture, was selected for the annual Paris Gibson Square Museum of Art Show and Auction.
- Kids' College: During the month of August, MSU – Great Falls hosted kid's college, once again. There are classes offered in art, dancing, and various other topics. The highlight has been the Harry Potter camps, but this marked the last year to coincide with the last book of the series. A total of 63 kids participated in all the classes this year.
- State Fair: Once again, the faculty and staff volunteered their time and excitement to working at the Montana State Fair in Great Falls from July 28 – August 6. This has been a great way to get the college's name out to community and answer any questions people may have.
- New Executive Board Members: This summer two new members were appointed to the College's executive board. Bryan Dunn and Joan Bennett have agreed to serve on the board for the next three years. They join current member Dave Warner. The new appointments were due to Susan Humble's term being over, and Jordon Love leaving for a master's program at Columbia University in New York. We are very excited to have Bryan and Joan join our board and work with us over the coming years.
- Online Core: Over the Spring and Summer, 22 people that included faculty and staff, were involved in creating the online core classes. A total of 12 courses were designed and will be available this fall. MSU – Great Falls just completed our 10<sup>th</sup> year offering online learning for credit.

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**The University of Montana-Missoula**  
**President G. M. Dennison**

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- The University of Montana surpassed the \$100 million goal set for its comprehensive fundraising campaign "Invest in Discovery: Connecting, People, Programs and Place." UM met the \$100 million benchmark in July, and that amount continues to grow. Donations have come from more than 25,000 people to date – almost a third of whom are first-time donors.
- **Royce Engstrom** began his duties as The University of Montana's new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Formerly, Engstrom served as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion and taught in the Department of Chemistry.
- For the first time in its history, The University of Montana has hired a woman to lead its venerable, award-winning School of Journalism. UM School of Journalism alumna **Peggy Kuhr** of the University of Kansas in Lawrence was the Knight Chair on the Press, Leadership and Community for the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications.
- **Roberta "Bobbie" Evans**, who has served as the education school's Interim Dean since July 2006, accepted the role of permanent Dean.
- UM received the 2006-2007 Sterling Savings Bank Big Sky Conference Presidents Cup, an award that goes to the school with the most successful student-athletes in the classroom and on the field.
- Summer enrollment at The University of Montana jumped 191 students from a year ago. Total enrollment for summer 2007 was 3,641, compared to 3,450 students last summer.
- University of Montana students dominated this year's regional Society of Professional Journalists conference, winning 32 awards.
- University of Montana senior **Claire Barwise** won the 2007 Western Regional Honors Council Award for Poetry awarded in April.
- In April, **Tyler Hoyt**, a second-year psychology student at The University of Montana, was named the Montana Indian College Student of the Year.
- The University of Montana's **Flathead Lake Biological Station** received a three-year \$4.6 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to continue studying pristine salmon and trout watersheds along the Pacific Rim.
- University of Montana Professor **Reed Humphrey** will be the first physical therapist recognized by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation with its Award of Excellence, the highest award conferred by the association.
- The University of Montana has received a \$125,000 gift from the Charlotte Martin Foundation of Seattle to support the Charlotte Yeoman Martin Endowed Scholarship.
- University of Montana biomedical research received a five-year, \$10.6 million grant for the **Center for Environmental Health Sciences**.
- **Bharath Sriraman**, Associate Professor of Mathematics at The University of Montana, has earned the 2007 Outstanding Early Career Scholar Award from the School Science and Mathematics Association.
- **Dr. Joel Berger**, a renowned wildlife and conservation biologist, was hired as the first John J. Craighead Endowed Professor in Wildlife Biology at The University of Montana.
- University of Montana radio-television students swept the competition at the Northwest Regional Emmy

Awards in Seattle in June. UM student-produced television programs won in all three student categories, including long-form news, short-form news and entertainment.

- **John Twiggs**, a television producer with the Broadcast Media Center at The University of Montana, received two Northwest Regional Emmy awards during June ceremonies in Seattle. Twiggs was nominated in three categories for work on the Montana PBS series “Backroads of Montana.”
- **The Office for Civic Engagement** at The University of Montana has received a \$320,000 grant from the Montana Commission on Community Service to support a new AmeriCorps program, Montana Making \$ense. The mission of MM\$ is to help human service organizations in the state increase their financial education options and to educate and empower Montanans to manage their money wisely.
- University of Montana alumni **Kristine Kennedy** and **Stephan “Dico” Dicomitis** were married on 31 August at Washington-Grizzly Stadium for the first annual College Colors Day Wedding hosted by UM and Collegiate Licensing Company. At this Griz themed wedding, the guests dressed in maroon and silver and The University of Montana Marching Band played the Griz fight song. Monte was the ring-bearer and the reception was a tailgate. Each year a different College around the country will host a College Colors Day Wedding.

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

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- Montana Tech’s Center for Advanced Mineral and Metallurgical Processing (CAMP) has entered a 3-year agreement with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory on “Free Form Low Cost Titanium Fabrication.” CAMP Director Dr. Corby Anderson and John Krstulich, Project Engineer for CAMP, will serve as PI and Co-PI.
- Dr. Richard Berg, Senior Research Geologist and Mineral Museum Curator with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, received the Honorary Award presented by the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Dick was given the opportunity to award two \$4000 scholarships to Montana Tech graduate students in Geological Engineering, Jane Filmore and Shawn Kuzara.
- Professor Pat Munday worked with the Center for Biological Diversity and other environmental groups to write and direct a short film to publicize the plight of the Big Hole River grayling, a species recently removed as a candidate for protection under the Endangered Species Act.
- Dr. Curtis Link, professor of Geophysical Engineering, will travel to Australia in September to help to develop exchange programs with James Cook and Curtin Universities, and doing research at James Cook University involving seismic measurements for evaluating water flow in the Mulgrave River Basin. The first exchange student from Curtin University, junior Michelle Byett, will arrive this fall.
- Dr. Kaijun Song, a post-doc from China, will be conducting research under a NASA grant through the Montana Space Consortium starting August 16, 2007 at the Geophysical Engineering department of Montana Tech. The research will include remote sensing of soil moisture using satellite radar data.
- Montana Tech has purchased and installed 16 Automated External Defibrillators (AED). Dr. Patrick McGree has agreed to provide oversight of this extension of the Emergency Response Plan. A number of CPR/AED/first aid classes are being offered to ensure an adequate number of trained responders.
- Dr. Willis Weight completed a final report of a two-year groundwater study in the north Dillon area for the Bureau of Reclamation, conducted to establish baseline conditions for the north Dillon area that was heavily impacted by drought. Dr. Weight donated his time for the project.
- The Safety, Health and Industrial Hygiene Department contracted with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) on a grant from the Montana Department of Health and Human Services to investigate potential asbestos exposure pathways associated with weatherization activities.
- In July 2007 Assistant Professor Julie Hart’s manuscript was, accepted for publication in the *Annals of Occupational Hygiene*. Titled, “Evaluation of Asbestos Exposures During Firewood Harvesting Simulations in Libby, Montana”, the manuscript stems from Julie’s Ph.D. research in Toxicology.
- Montana Tech’s International program, the Metallurgical and Materials Engineering Department, and the Center for Mineral and Metallurgical Processing (CAMP) hosted three visitors (Dr. Takou Sugawara, Dr. Katsu Sugawara, Dr. Yokia Enda) from Akita University, Akita, Japan in August. Collaborative research programs are in the areas of wastewater clean-up, rare metals recovery, and extractive metallurgical process development.
- Biological Sciences has signed a \$298,000 cooperative agreement with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation to construct and operate a native plant nursery to provide plants for restoration of Butte Hill and Silver Bow creek. The venture teams DNRC, Tech and Butte Silver Bow.
- In August of 2007, Professors Chris Gammons (Geological Engineering) and Steve Parker (Chemistry & Geochemistry) will present papers at the V. M. Goldschmidt Geochemistry Conference in Cologne, Germany. Gammons and his colleagues/students have 8 refereed journal publications thus far in 2007.

- David Lopez (MBMG) and Leo Heath (Petroleum Engineering Dept.) released a new report entitled: "CBM-Produced Water Disposal by Injection, Powder River Basin, Montana."

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### **Miles Community College President Stefani Hicswa**

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- Approximately 80+ students received their associate degrees at Miles Community College graduation ceremonies on Saturday, May 12, 2007. Dr. C. Robert Bennett, former MCC President, gave the commencement address. The 2007 ceremony also marked a Miles Community College presidential reunion. Past presidents attending the ceremony included Vernon Kailey (1970-1979), Dr. Judson H. Flower Jr. (1979-1995), Dr. C. Robert Bennett (1998-2001), and current Miles Community College President Stefani Gray Hicswa (2006-).
- Stefani Gray Hicswa, Miles Community College President, was one of twelve 2007 Distinguished Graduates in Community College Leadership honored on May 19 at the University of Texas at Austin. The Distinguished Graduates were presented the award in recognition of their national contribution to American community colleges. Dr. Hicswa assumed the Miles Community College presidency in July 2006.
- The Miles Community College Pioneers Baseball team won the 2007 NJCAA Region IX championship to Iowa Central Community College (Fort Dodge, Iowa) on May 20 to earn a berth in the Division II World Series on May 25-27 in Millington, Tennessee. This is the first time the MCC Pioneers have participated in World Series play.
- The Miles Community College Pioneers Basketball team was named an NJCAA National Academic Team of the Year for the Winter-Spring 2007 season. It is the fifth time that the Pioneers have been so honored. The men's basketball team at MCC accumulated a 3.51 GPA on a 4.0 scale; the highest of any NJCAA men's basketball participant.
- The Miles Community College Board of Trustees held a board retreat and strategic planning session on July 23, 2007 at the Holy Rosary Healthcare Hospital facility in Miles City. President Hicswa provided board training sessions for all board members. Topics included parliamentary procedure, strategic budget process and facilities master plan, program planning and partnerships, fundraising, history of community colleges, and emerging trends and issues.
- The Miles Community College MAP-WIRED grant project, "Today's Fuels for Tomorrow's Growth," provided demonstrations at community fairs and agricultural expositions in July-August. Kristin Gustad, MAP-WIRED Grant Project Director, provided demonstrations utilizing an oil seed crop press and giving information on the potential in central and eastern Montana for diverse bio-energy development. Miles Community College is in partnership with Chief Dull Knife College, Fort Belknap College, Fort Peck Community College, Little Big Horn College, and Stone Child College for the "Today's Fuels for Tomorrow's Growth" project.
- Michelle Weight was selected as the Miles Community College Dean of Academic Affairs in July 2007. Ms. Weight has been the Director for the MCC Center of Distance Education and Community Outreach since 2002. She has been instrumental in development of the MCC distance education programming which includes interactive television and online classes. She has also worked in tandem with community and regional employers developing customized workforce training opportunities for employee's professional development. Michelle assumed her new duties as Dean of Academic Affairs on August 1.
- Miles Community College was approved for **\$73,600** in state funding and private grant funding; a) \$36,600 for a truck for CDL training and \$12,000 for science lab equipment upgrades, and b) \$25,000 from a private foundation that will be used as seed money in fundraising for building an indoor agricomplex arena for MCC equine studies classes and the agriculture and rodeo programs.
- The 2007 Fall Roundup was held on Thursday evening, August 30 at the MCC campus grounds. Community citizens were invited to attend a barbecue, learn of the developing Equine Studies classes, see demonstrations of the biofuels seed press from the MCC MAP-WIRED project, meet the 2007-08 MCC Pioneers Rodeo Team, and take horse-drawn wagon rides to the current upgraded outdoor arena facility. Students in the Agriculture studies program and MCC Pioneer Rodeo students participated in the evening which included kids stick horse races and practice barrel rides.

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### **Flathead Valley Community College President Jane Karas**

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- **Whitefish City Attorney John Phelps** joined the **Board of Trustees** in June. He has served as a practicing attorney for 29 years, with the last 26 years primarily representing boards of public agencies. Phelps served as an adjunct faculty instructor at the college in 1994 and 1995.
- Flathead Valley Community College hosted an **opening celebration** of its new **Occupational Trades Building** June 30. The college was joined by a number of local, statewide and national elected officials

including **U.S. Senator Jon Tester, Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer, Flathead County Commissioner Dale Lauman and Kalispell City Mayor Pam Kennedy**. Senator Tester led the ribbon cutting ceremony using a cutting torch to “cut” through a steel ribbon designed by a FVCC student.

- Flathead Valley Community College introduced its new state-of-the-art **black box theatre** to the public in August with its debut of **summer theatre**, a program comprised of 30 local college and high school students. Led by FVCC theatre arts faculty and a staff of five FVCC theatre graduates, the program consisted of three family-friendly productions—“**Play On!**” “**Jack and the Giant**” and “**Bye Bye Birdie**”—totaling 21 shows. The new theatre symbolizes a milestone in the college’s theatre arts program as it ends a 14-year period of performing in a space comprised of four classrooms with retractable walls.
- The new **Arts and Technology Building** at FVCC is now fully operational. The 61,500-square-foot-structure is the campus’ largest facility and provides a state-of-the-art learning experience with large windows welcoming natural lighting and views of the Swan Range. In addition to housing the black box theatre, the building contains a fully-equipped teaching kitchen for the culinary arts program and one large and two small community meeting rooms with teleconferencing capabilities and cutting-edge technology. The facility houses the new graphic arts program and the college’s first Macintosh computer lab and is the new home of the college’s Continuing Education Center and all of the college’s art programs.
- FVCC placed **first** in the adult fair parade category and won the **grand prize** sweepstakes trophy in the float category in the Northwest Montana Fair Parade August 17. Themed “Wild Ride of College Pride...Celebrating 40 Years of Lifelong Learning,” the float was joined by FVCC current and former employees, theatre students and alumni.
- FVCC hosted the **Montana Career Clusters Conference** at the new Hilton Garden Inn in Kalispell in June. Stephen Jordan, vice president of the United States Chamber and executive director of its Business and Civic Leadership Center, and Lydia Logan, senior director of the Institute for Competitive Workforce, an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, served as keynote speakers. As part of the conference that centered on aligning high school and college education to meet the business demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, FVCC held a commencement ceremony to honor five of the seven Flathead High School students who recently earned FVCC Certificates of completion during their senior year of high school. Conference attendees also toured the new Glacier High School and FVCC’s new Occupational Trades Building. The tours were followed with a gourmet picnic prepared by the FVCC culinary arts students on the college’s campus.
- Twelve FVCC students returned from a six-week **educational expedition** outside of **Cusco, Peru in the village of Urubamba**, on August 27. The college’s inaugural mini-semester program presented students the opportunity to earn up to 12 college credits while participating in an international academic adventure. Activities included hiking the Andes mountains, traveling to Machu Picchu, exploring cultural exchange opportunities, participating in community service work, visiting archeological sites and Inca ruins, learning to speak Spanish in practical situations and discovering the wonders of the Peruvian culture.
- The Flathead Valley Community College Foundation hosted sold out summer tours of the **Bibler Home and Gardens** in July. Nearly 340 guests were treated to the tours that raised more than \$3,330. In addition, 35 patrons attended the special tours for gardeners presented by Bibler Home Head Gardener Miriam Ascher, raising over \$300.
- Eight FVCC students were named summer 2007 recipients of **Whitefish Credit Union’s Community Pride Scholarships**. The following students received scholarship awards totaling \$1,700 for the summer 2007 semester at FVCC: Shawn MacNorius, Danielle Ruther, Mariah Connolly, Erin Giefer-Heffernan, Shawn Maguire, Tabatha Miller, Shirley Priestley and Laura Ulmer.

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**Montana State University**  
**President Geoff Gamble**

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- With a cumulative team grade-point average of 3.557, the **Bobcat women’s basketball** team was recognized by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association for earning the fourth highest academic average in the country for NCAA Division I women’s basketball.
- **MSU women’s track and field** posted 24 Big Sky All-Academic performances spring semester to lead all spring sport teams in the Big Sky Conference All-Academic picks.
- MSU won a federal **grant of nearly \$1 million** to try to make hydrogen a practical alternative to fossil fuels without burning up more energy than it saves.
- According to the 2006 Graduate Career Destinations Survey, put out by **MSU Career Services**, the majority, over 50% in all majors, of MSU graduates are staying to work in Montana after graduation.
- The American Association of Veterinary Immunologists named **Mark Jutila**, a veterinary molecular biology professor, the **2006 Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist**. Jutila’s research has led to advances in understanding lymphocyte immunology and the mechanisms of lymphocyte trafficking in health and disease. His work on gamma delta T lymphocytes is known worldwide.

- B-Rex continues to amaze researchers and grab headlines: **Jack Horner**, curator of paleontology at the **Museum of the Rockies**, and several other MSU researchers have **published another discovery in the prestigious journal Science**. The Tyrannosaurus rex that became famous for yielding soft tissue, blood vessels and tissue typical of a female bird has now produced 68-million-year-old protein. The instrument and techniques the researchers used offer a better way to study fossil preservation and evolution in the future. This breakthrough also opens the door for more discoveries and may have implications for the medical field.
- A two-acre farm, **Towne's Harvest Garden**, run by MSU students has been very successful this year, growing over 100 types of vegetables and providing thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables to the **Gallatin Valley Food Bank**. The farm was created by a student group, Friends of Local Foods, which seeks to promote healthy eating and the importance of locally grown food.
- **Mechanical engineering students Kylan Engelke, Scott Dent and Jeffrey Larsen** spent last academic year working on a fuel delivery system for a reformer, a device that breaks vegetable oil or diesel fuel into hydrogen gas and carbon monoxide. The project was sponsored by Leonardo Technologies, Inc., an Ohio-based company with a research lab in Bozeman. LTI specializes in energy, engineering, and management services. Leonardo Technologies' sponsorship of the project cost \$3,500 -- almost exclusively for materials. The company plans to continue using the fuel-delivery system the students built for the foreseeable future. LTI also hired Engelke and is sponsoring his graduate studies in mechanical engineering.
- MSU held its first **Freshman Convocation** in August, with **Greg Mortenson**, author of [Three Cups of Tea](#), as keynote speaker.
- **Ian Lake**, of Gresham, Ore., is the 2007 recipient of the **William E. Parkins Engineering-Physics Award** at Montana State University. The award honors the MSU student with the top grade point averages in engineering, math and physics.
- A new **Clinical Laboratory Scientist Training** program supported by hospitals and the Montana Legislature begins taking students in 2008. The program will be housed at Montana State University in conjunction with the **Division of Health Sciences and the Department of Microbiology**. Nationally, hospital laboratories need more than three times as many employees as are being trained in the field, and in Montana, the lack of trained laboratory personnel is significant in both large and small communities.