

CAMPUS REPORTS
Board of Regents Meeting
September 24-25, 2009
Billings, Montana

Montana State University
President Geoff Gamble

The National Institutes of Health has awarded a five-year, \$17.5 million grant to the MSU-led Montana INBRE (IDeANetwork of Biomedical Research Excellence) program to improve the state's capacity for biomedical research.

MSU postdoctoral research associate Eric Boyd, whose research has the potential to answer questions about the possibility of life on Mars as well as global climate change, has won a prestigious fellowship from NASA. The NASA Astrobiology Institute Fellowship will allow him to explore the possibility that living organisms exist in subglacial ecosystems at very cold temperatures.

MSU's Western Transportation Institute was awarded a \$1.5 million competitive grant from The Federal Transit Administration to help with projects such as trails and shuttle systems on public lands across the country. WTI experts will work with managers at the country's national parks, forests and recreation sites to start or expand transportation projects that offer environmentally sensitive solutions to problems like traffic congestion, parking and pollution.

Through a partnership with Lockheed Martin, MSU scientists have received \$3 million to design an optical system for a telescope that could be launched on a NASA rocket in 2012. The IRIS team will design its telescope to face the sun at all times, orbit the Earth at least three years and gather images from the sun's chromosphere and transition region.

The MSU College of Nursing received a \$814,021 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to prepare nurses to be family psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners. Most of the state has been designated as a mental health professional shortage area, and the program will help to prepare advanced practice nurses to deliver psychiatric mental health care to a diverse range of families and individuals living in rural communities.

Seven students from MSU's College of Agriculture completed summer internships in Extension offices across the state. The Extension Internship program places interns in county Extension offices to provide practical, experiential learning opportunities in counties, and on campus.

The 2009 NCAA Division I All-Academic Track and Field team included four Bobcat women, two men, and the women's outdoor team. The association honors the top academic achievers in outdoor track and field across all Division I track programs in the country.

G.I. Jobs Magazine has named MSU as one of its "Military Friendly Schools" for 2010 in recognitions of the work MSU does to support student veterans.

The MSU Symphony conducted a three-week, 10,000 mile tour of Southeast Asia this summer. They were the first university musical group to play at many of the venues in Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore.

MSU Extension Food and Nutrition and 4-H, and MSU's Department of Psychology have received a \$1.5 million four-year grant from the USDA to design, conduct and assess a healthy-living program that offers information and opportunities for improving physical activity, nutrition and body image to parents in rural areas.

MSU was selected as one of 14 schools in the nation to receive funding to support a Beckman Scholars Program. The funding will continue through 2010 and provides five MSU students \$19,300 each to conduct research for two summers and the intervening academic year.

Montana State University Billings

Chancellor Ronald P. Sexton, Ph. D.

Congratulations to four MSU Billings students recognized this year by employers and faculty for internship work. Art Rensvold, Erica Helvik, Nicole Salisbery, and Shawn Conrad were named Cooperative Education Students of the Year. Cooperative education internships allow students to earn college credit while doing in-class work along with practical work experience.

MSUB Ceramics Professor Lea Zoltowski, was one of six artists to receive a \$3,000 Montana Arts Council Artist's Innovation Award for 2009. She is the first recipient of the Jessie Wilber and Frances Senska Individual Artist Award in Ceramics fostering environments where the innovation and creativity of artists are valued and celebrated.

MSU Billings COT Auto Tech, diesel students, won honors at the State 2009 SkillsUSA competition. SkillsUSA is a national organization that promotes leadership abilities in students through educational, vocational, civic and social activities. Miles Waltner finished first in the automotive service technology and job interview competitions. Josh Keller finished first in diesel equipment technology competition while Matt Norgaard finished third.

Juggling extra-curricular activities with a full-time schedule can be difficult. MSU Billings student/athletes Rebekah Tsatsa, Terina Stacks, Stephanie Gosselin, Leslie Davis, and Kelly Parsons proved it is possible by earning membership to the Academic All-GNAC Softball Team. The women's basketball team was recognized by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) for their success on the courts and in the classroom after finishing 15th in all of NCAA Division II with a team GPA of 3.472. The MSU Billings men's golf team had two players, Jeff Allen and Travis Gates, who earned second team all-conference honors. Gates was named to the five-member academic all-conference squad with a GPA of 3.79 in Environmental Studies, which is a league best.

Ms. Marilyn Miller, President and CEO of the MSU Billings Foundation, was chosen as one of the 2009 honorees in the YWCA's Salute to Women. Ms. Miller has a distinguished fundraising career raising money for MSU Billings, the Yellowstone Art Museum, and Billings Catholic schools. Congratulations and thank you for your hard work!

A special thank you goes out to Former U.S. Senator Conrad Burns. Burns donated nearly \$80,000 to MSU Billings for student scholarships. Burns also donated funds to Billings Catholic Schools, the Educational Foundation for Billings Public Schools and Rocky Mountain College. His generous gifts will help increase educational opportunities for students and will provide technological tools to help them succeed. Dr. Sexton plans to establish an endowed scholarship fund in the name of Conrad and Phyllis Burns by raising funds to match his donation.

The MSU Billings Master's of Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling celebrated their 40th Anniversary. This program has been one of the most successful at MSU Billings and previously Eastern Montana College. Advanced level graduate students provide supervised services to Billings' residents in our MSU Billings Counseling clinic, established in November 2007, for those who cannot afford to pay for counseling services.

The MSU Billings Career Services and the College of Education sponsored the 29th annual Teacher Recruitment Interviews Event. Attendees were able to meet with dozens of Montana school districts and representatives for registered districts from Wyoming, Alaska, Idaho, Texas and Utah who were recruiting for fall 2009 teaching and counseling positions. Attendees were also able to have their resumes critiqued by Career Services professionals. The event was free of charge and open to the public.

MSU Billings was proud to host the very special presentation, "Tears in the Darkness." This event featured, Michael Norman and Elizabeth Norman, authors of "Tears in the Darkness: The Bataan Death March and Its Aftermath." and Ben Steele, the primary character of the book. Steele was captured by the Japanese while serving in the Army Air Corps in the Philippines and spent 1,244 days as a prisoner of war. As stated by the authors, "he is the only American veteran who experiences almost every aspect of the battle, the surrender, the death march and its aftermath." A book signing followed the presentation.

A new class was offered this summer to help students and others to be well prepared for career changes. The class, "Create Your Best Career" was organized by Pat Reuss, Lisa Wallace, and others from the Office of Career Services.

Don Trentham, MSU Billings soccer coach, fondly remembers his experience competing in two of the most renowned, international soccer tournaments in the world, the Gothia Cup and Dana Cup, while playing youth soccer in Texas. Under his direction, four Billings youth soccer teams from the newly formed Magic City European Soccer were able to head to Europe for tournaments, including the Gothia and Dana Cups. Each player was responsible for paying for their cost of the trip and worked extremely hard to raise money.

Population growth and its effects on natural resources impact everyone. MSU Billings offered a free forum, "Land, Food and Population," presented by the Humanists of Billings and members of the English and Philosophy Department. Dr. Lisa Kemmerer, assistant professor of philosophy at MSUB, wrote the book "In Search of Consistency" and was one of the featured speakers.

MSU Billings was ranked as one of the nation's "Best Colleges" by U.S. News and World Report for the 10th consecutive year under the category "Best Universities-Master's for the West region third tier of the United States." MSU Billings earned a stellar rating in the peer assessment score, especially in the area of faculty dedication to teaching. MSU Billings also ranked high on the percent of faculty who teach full time and who have a doctoral degree, on the average faculty/student ratio of 20-1 or less, and alumni giving.

Water is an important part of our daily lives. Regional water issues were addressed at the second annual Montana State University Billings Water Forum. The forum was coordinated by MSU Billings Urban Institute as a way for stakeholders to hold important conversations. The United States Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar and Senator Max Baucus were featured speakers. Steve Lackman, John Bailey, Dave Mumford, and Don Youngbauer also participated, as well as Mary Sexton and Tom Osborne.

The 2009 Billings American Indian Heritage Day at MSUB will coincide with the September 2009 Board of Regents meeting in Billings. Many festive activities have been planned for Friday, September 25th.

Billings was one of 23 cities chosen to be included on the tour of the Talent Dividend Workshop held at the MSUB Downtown Campus. The purpose of the tour was to show the City of Billings how a simple idea – increasing college attainment by 1 percentage point – can yield an annual economic benefit in the Billings area of about \$107 million, as measured by per capita income.

Tractor and Equipment Co. and Caterpillar most generously donated a 14M Caterpillar Motor Grader to MSUB College of Technology. Caterpillar said they were pleased to provide the COT students with an opportunity to work with the latest technology in earthmoving equipment and hoped the joint activity would provide skilled technicians for their dealerships and professionals in the construction industry that would truly understand what makes Caterpillar Equipment the best in the world.

Montana State University-Northern **Chancellor Frank Trocki**

Northern Ends the Year in the Black – For the first time in several years Northern has ended the year in the black and we were able to make some debt payments ahead of schedule. The fall enrollment, as of 8/20 looks positive.

Creating a sustainable campus - We are installing three new wind turbines on campus. They will play a key role in Northern's new Wind Energy Program as a teaching/technical data source as well as generating energy that will be fed back into the campus energy grid, thus reducing our overall utility cost.

We are also retrofitting one of our older buildings to house our new bio-diesel manufacturing equipment which includes an electric dynamometer, five grain bins, five grain crushers, power monitoring equipment and a 7500 MW generator. The generator will be powered by the bio-fuel that is created from the grain. Similar to the wind turbines, when the generator is in operation, electricity will be fed back into the campus's grid. The generator is estimated to produce power

to handle all our electricity needs when in operation. This operation could dramatically affect our utility bills over the course of a year.

Partnership Development – In an effort to create various partnerships/relationships members of the University will be travelling to Medicine Hat, Canada to solidify an articulation agreement between the two schools. Hopefully, MSUN will be receiving students as early as January.

To meet two of the BOR's goals of transferability and dual enrollment, meetings between Great Falls – COT and MSUN started this spring and culminated in a meeting between Joe Schaffer and Frank Trocki this summer. Articulation agreements have been updated as well as a commitment from both schools to work and implement strategy that will increase enrollments at both schools. Recruitment by MSUN representatives will unfold throughout the year with dual enrollment being a centerfold of its mission....thus creating a true 2+2+2 model.

MSUN has joined the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce. In doing this we hope to provide a networking opportunity for companies to begin sending their employees to complete either their AS or BS education.

MSU-Northern is very honored to be a partner with Fort Belknap College and Fort Peck Community College for the recent federally funded teacher preparation Professional Development Program, Nee-Tha-Hatsa-Nak/Wa' Uspe-Wicakiya Preparation Project. This partnership has a goal to graduate American Indian pre-service educators who will be licensed to teach and continue with mentoring in local schools on and around the Fort Belknap and Fort Peck reservations. MSU-Northern will collaborate in an enhanced 2 + 2 model for elementary and secondary teacher education candidates.

Youth Build program - MSU-Northern is pleased to partner with Stone Child Community College to develop the North Central Montana Youth Build program. This program will provide free training for 80 young people ages 16 to 24 who will work and train with experienced construction professionals to build energy efficient homes using green techniques and technologies. Students will split time between the classroom, construction site and working on getting their GED. This program starts October first. The grant is one of the few Youth Build programs, if not the only, awarded to a "rural" area.

MSUN Athletic Bus – Members of the community have taken it upon themselves to raise the funds necessary to purchase a new 36 passenger bus for our athletic teams. This will help to significantly reduce our travel costs and make travel safer for our students. Keeping with the concept of a sustainable campus we also plan to run the bus on the bio-diesel fuel MSUN produces.

New Public Transit – Northern has partnered with the town and several local businesses to establish a free bus service. This service will make it possible for our students who live in Great Falls and Rocky Boy and other surrounding communities to travel to campus. Almost 800 miles will be traveled each day by the two buses on the routes.

New Washers and Dryers - 20 new sets of coin operated washers and dryers have been installed in our residence halls. These will provide our students with a convenient way to do their laundry. As a side note, these machines are energy efficient and use about one-third the water of the old washing machines.

New Bar-B-Q Pit - Student Senate has installed a new brick Bar-B-Q pit on the lawn east of the Student Union Building where East Hall once stood. This will be an excellent spot for student and community activities.

Football Team Nationally Ranked – Northern's Football team is ranked 19th in the nation among the NAIA schools according to a pre-season poll.

Montana State University President, Geoff Gamble, has appointed **Joe Schaffer** as Dean/CEO of MSU – Great Falls College of Technology. Schaffer has served as the college's interim Dean/CEO for the past year. His new appointment began July 1. Schaffer has been with the college for the past seven years serving as the Director of Outreach, Assistant Dean of Outreach and Workforce Development, and Associate Dean/CAO prior to accepting the interim dean post last year.

MSU – Great Falls dedicated the **Will and Nancy Weaver Library** at a reception on campus during the May Board of Regents meeting. Will and Nancy are former campus administrators, donors, and long time community advocates who have impacted the development of higher education across Montana. The Weaver Library will recognize their achievements and create a lasting legacy in the community for all those who come to the MSU – Great Falls campus.

The MSU – Great Falls Surgical Technology program is the nation's eleventh ranked program based on the National Assessment Examinations. This program prepares students to become Surgical Technologists, which are often referred to as "scrub nurses", "scrub techs" or "operating room techs." **Sandra Allen**, Program Director, announced 100% of the 2009 graduating class passed the Certified Surgical Technologist exam. There is a 72% pass rate nationwide on this exam per the stats that are available this year. This was Sandra Allen's third graduating class at MSU – Great Falls, and the third time 100% have passed their national exams.

The American Dental Hygienists' Association has named the Dental Hygiene Student Chapter as a recipient of the Student Member Community Service Award, **Kim Woloszyn**, Program Director, announced. The award recognizes outstanding student chapters that have made a significant community contribution. The MSU-Great Falls' Dental Hygiene Student Chapter was honored for its sponsorship and participation in the "No Smile Left Behind" sealant day in March. The event was held in conjunction with the Cascade Community Health Fair and offered free dental screenings, sealants, fluoride application, and oral health instruction to children.

Physical Therapy Assistant Program Director, **Andrea Johnson**, was notified by the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education that the PTA Program at MSU – Great Falls will continue to be fully accredited. The commission completed their review of the program. The next on-site review and self-study will be due in 2018.

Cheryll Alt, Practical Nurse Program Director, announced the MSU – Great Falls Practical Nursing program ranked first across every jurisdiction based on the percentage of graduates passing their national exam in the latest program reports from the National Councils of State Boards of Nursing for the period of October 2008 thru May 2009.

Phi Theta Kappa announced 229 students have achieved their academic eligibility requirements this spring – about 50 more students than last year. Current members of Phi Theta Kappa, along with faculty advisor, **Brian Cayko** and Dean Joe Schaffer, were proud to offer membership to this many students. Students in the honor society must maintain a 3.5 GPA and be enrolled in a qualified degree-seeking program in a two-year college.

Respiratory Care students who attended the Montana Society for Respiratory Care 2009 Convention received recognition. **Carrie Walter**, graduating Respiratory Care student, presented a phrenic nerve pacing presentation at the conference and for her performance she won a scholarship from the society. Also during the conference, two teams of MSU – Great Falls Respiratory Care students placed first and second during a respiratory care knowledge competition. A two-hour event with hands on activities from **various health care programs** gave prospective students the opportunity to interact with current students and graduates from many of the college's health science programs. Prospective students were offered practical advice on being successful in college and understanding the rigors and rewards of health care programs and science courses. Approximately 50 new and prospective students attended.

MSU – Great Falls would like to congratulate **Chloe Zahara**, **Kristen Mansch**, and **Stephanie Potter** for their semi-finalist business plans at the John Ruffato Business Plan completion. The competition is the 3rd oldest such event for business students in the county and provided these accomplished MSU – Great Falls students an opportunity to compete against peers in other colleges and universities that may be pursuing masters and bachelor degrees. These MSU – Great Falls students are from the Business Management / Entrepreneurship program and have proven themselves to be well-prepared in the field of business plan development. Congratulations to all the students.

Verna Vuckovich, a student in the Interior Design program at MSU – Great Falls, was one of 33 students receiving the Outstanding Student Award given by the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA) and sponsored by TOTO USA, the largest plumbing manufacturer in the world. As the top student in the MSU – Great Falls program, Verna received a \$450 scholarship. The NKBA is a non-profit trade association with 40,000 members, which has educated and led the kitchen and bath industry for more than 45 years. The mission of the NKBA is to enhance member success and excellence, promote professionalism and ethical business practices and provide leadership and direction for the kitchen and bath industry worldwide.

Dr. Greg Paulauskis was appointed as Director of the Health Sciences Division. Paulauskis has been employed as a faculty member and program chair in the Respiratory Care program since 1981. He has served on the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs and on the Committee on Accreditation of Respiratory Care Education Programs since 1999 in various state and national board positions. He was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Montana Board of Respiratory Care Practitioners for the State of Montana from 1998 to 2005. He earned his doctorate in Adult and Higher Education from Bernelli University, his Master's of Education in Vocational Education from MSU Northern, and his Bachelor's degree from Loma Linda University in Respiratory Care.

Jeff Brown is now the Director of the Business, Trades and Technology Division. Brown began teaching at MSU – Great Falls in 1994 and has taught a variety of computer applications and networking courses at the college. He received his Master of Business Administration from Pacific Lutheran University and his Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Brown also holds Microsoft and CompTIA industry standard certifications.

Dr. Bill Krieger has been hired as Director of the Arts and Sciences Division. Krieger comes to MSU – Great Falls from Walla Walla Community College where he worked in administration and instruction. He earned his doctorate degree from Washington State University in American Studies and his Master's degree in Humanities from Pacific Lutheran University.

Bob Hietala is the new Chief Operations Officer/ Assistant Dean of the College of Technology in Bozeman. Hietala holds a Master of Social Work degree and a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He most recently led the Prospera Business Network (formerly Gallatin Development Corporation) in Bozeman as the Chief Executive Officer supporting businesses in Gallatin and Park Counties on growth and expansion initiatives. Hietala has been an active member on the College of Technology in Bozeman's Advisory Board and is committed to expanding educational and skills training opportunities for individuals and businesses in the Gallatin Valley.

Jacki Elam has been hired as Medical Assistant Program Director. Prior to accepting this position, Elam served as the Medical Assistant Program Director at The University of Montana College Of Technology

Mel Lehman has been appointed as Project Manager for the new Wind Montana Project at MSU – Great Falls. He has over 30 years of experience working with public and private projects as an environmental consultant, project manager or director, program manager, and technical professional. Lehman's work includes extensive energy experience in nuclear, coal, and natural gas-fired electrical generation projects throughout the United States.

Invenergy, the wind power generation firm located in Judith Gap, Montana donated **two wind turbine blades** to MSU – Great Falls College of Technology's Wind Energy program. The blades are 122 feet long and weigh 6.5 tons. This generous donation, which will be used for demonstration purposes, will enhance the learning experience of our wind technician students. Two trucks especially designed for carrying these blades delivered them to campus, and a crane unload the blades, setting one directly in front of the main campus building.

Kim Schrenk, Director of Adjunct Instruction, presented a one-hour session: *Creating a Dynamic Model for Meaningful and Consistent Adjunct Faculty Processes at a Two-Year College* at the International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence hosted by NISOD. The presentation focused on creating a meaningful and dynamic model for consistent adjunct faculty processes.

MSU – Great Falls College of Technology has been named by G.I. Jobs magazine as a **Military Friendly School for 2010**. This honor ranks the college in the top 15% of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide.

MSU–Great Falls, in partnership with OPI and the Montana Business Education Association, offered the **6th Annual MT edtech Summit 2009**. The annual weeklong event gives teachers the opportunity to take seminars on current classroom technologies, best practices, and applications. Over 130 teachers from Eureka to Flaxville and Anaconda to Baker attended. This year's keynote was delivered by [Kevin Honeycutt](#), speaking on *Trends, Tactics and Tools for 21st Century Learning*.

An **emergency exercise** was held on the MSU – Great Falls Campus in collaboration with twelve emergency response agencies including Great Falls Fire, Police and Sheriff's departments, Malmstrom Air Force Base bomb squad, Benefis Emergency Services, Great Falls Emergency Medical Services, 911 Dispatch, and others. Advance planning allowed each group to identify their agency's goal. The goal of MSU – Great Falls was to test emergency response protocols and internal communication.