

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

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Three MSU students – Brigit Noon, Riley Shearer and Anna Scott – received the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship, the nation’s premier scholarship for undergraduates studying math, natural sciences and engineering. MSU has now produced 64 Goldwater scholars, keeping the university one of the nation’s top institutions for number of recipients.

For the first time in the university’s history, two MSU students have been named recipients of a [Truman Scholarship](#), a highly competitive and prestigious scholarship given to college juniors with demonstrated leadership potential and commitment to public service. Alex Paterson, an economics major, and Cara Thuringer, a liberal studies and photography double major, are MSU’s 10th and 11th Truman Scholars. Paterson was also recently named a Newman Civic Fellow.

A group of scholars and agricultural specialists who are considered some of the world’s top experts on food production, food safety and solving hunger across the globe gathered in Bozeman when the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD) met at MSU. This is only the second time in its history that the six-member board has met outside Washington, D.C.

MSU’s Museum of the Rockies opened a new exhibit featuring a towering dinosaur from northern Montana and six *T. rex* skulls. Called “*Montana’s T. rex*,” the skeleton is about 60 percent real bone and is one of the most complete specimens ever discovered.

MSU student Brent Zundel received a Fulbright Scholarship that will take him to the University of Concepción to study water resource issues facing the Patagonia region. The Fulbright research program is an international program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State designed to increase international understanding between people.

MSU graduate Maurice Hilleman, who saved the lives of millions by developing a wide array of vaccines, was inducted into Gallery of Outstanding Montanans in Helena at the State Capitol Rotunda.

Gail Small, professor of Native American Studies, has been named a 2015 Leopold Leadership Fellow. Based at the Stanford’s Woods Institute for the Environment, the program honors 20 leaders in environmental research who come from 16 institutions in the U.S. and Canada.

MSU is part of a national network that just received \$14.5 million to create and operate a center for detecting gravitational waves, an achievement expected to offer radical new insights about the universe. MSU astrophysicist Neil Cornish is a senior member of the center, and his research group will receive \$403,000 under the award.

Astrophysicist Nico Yunes, 34, is the 2015 winner of the Young Scientist Prize administered by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics through the International Society on General Relativity and Gravitation.

Scientists from MSU and Sweden have discovered an antioxidant system that helps sustain the liver when other systems are missing or compromised. Ed Schmidt, MSU professor in MSU’s Department of Microbiology and Immunology, is co-author of the study, which was published in Nature Communications.

The Gianforte Family Foundation gave \$1 million to MSU’s College of Engineering and Computer Science Department in an effort to help educate and graduate greater numbers of computer science majors.