

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Recent Montana State University graduate Megan Rothstein won the first Fulbright research fellowship to Germany in MSU's history. This summer she will leave to continue her research on Parkinson's disease at University of Bonn's Institute for Reconstructive Neurobiology.

Matthew Byerly, M.D., a professor at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, one of the country's leading medical centers, was named the new director of MSU's [Center for Mental Health Research and Recovery \(CMHRR\)](#). His experience as a psychiatrist and expertise as a research scientist will help lead the center as it pursues the goal of improving the mental health of all Montanans.

MSU astrophysicist, [Sachiko Tsuruta](#) won the [Marcel Grossmann Prize](#), a prestigious international award for her pioneering work on neutron stars.

Stephanie McCalla, an assistant professor in MSU's [Chemical and Biological Engineering Department](#), earned recognition and financial support from the Rising Stars program of the Institute of Transitional Health Sciences. McCalla will join a cohort of 12 scientists for a two-year rising stars program that provides targeted and structured career development assistance to promising early-stage investigators from the five-state WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) region.

MSU [School of Film and Photography](#) graduate Eddie Roqueta recently won the [College Television Award](#) for Best Documentary for his film "Silencing The Thunder," which details the lives of Yellowstone National Park's free-roaming bison as they stray onto land outside of the park.

MSU hosted seven tribal college students and nine underrepresented minority high school students from across Montana and the country as a part of two summer programs – the Montana Apprenticeship Program and Bridges to the Baccalaureate. Students conducted research in science and engineering laboratories on campus and displayed their results during a symposium.

The Blackstone LaunchPad at MSU helped advise an MSU alumna and her husband who are preparing to launch their startup company, [Pocket NC](#). The couple successfully closed out a Kickstarter campaign, out raising their goal by more than \$285,000 and now plans to begin production of the Pocket NC, a small, tabletop computer-driven mill with five-axis movement, capable of fabricating small items from aluminum and other soft materials.

MSU's Center for Biofilm Engineering, an internationally recognized research center developing beneficial uses for microbial biofilms and finding solutions to industrial biofilm problems, named Matthew Fields, a professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology as its next director. The center celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

Montana State University will pilot a new program this fall aimed at increasing the number of first-generation college students staying in school and graduating. Funded by a \$1.1 million [U.S. Department of Education TRIO](#) grant, the Student Support Services, or SSS, program will run for five years and serve a total of 140 MSU students over that time. The program will be the latest of more than 50 initiatives MSU has implemented in recent years to help students stay in school and earn degrees.

"[Unbranded](#)," directed by MSU film graduate Phillip Baribeau and produced by Dennis Aig, director of the MSU film program, won the audience choice awards at both the 2015 [Telluride Mountainfilm Festival](#) and Toronto's [HotDocs](#) festival, which is the largest documentary film festival in the world. The production units of the film included many members of MSU's faculty, students and alumni.