

CAMPUS REPORT
Board of Regents Meeting
July 8-9, 2008
Great Falls, Montana

Montana State University
President Geoff Gamble

Two graduate students in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering have received research fellowships from the National Science Foundation. Christopher Colson and Sarah Lukes will each receive up to \$121,000 over three years. Colson, who used to be a nuclear engineer officer on a submarine, will focus on power systems related to alternative energy. Lukes, who was MSU's top engineering students in 2005, will work to improve the focus controls on optical instruments used in surgery.

Christopher S. Guy, assistant unit leader for the Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit at MSU, Department of Ecology, received two awards for a textbook he co-edited. For his work, titled "Analysis and Interpretation of Freshwater Fisheries Data," Guy received a scientific excellence award for furthering the mission of the Cooperative Research Units, a program of the U.S. Geological Survey, and a meritorious service award from the American Fisheries Society. The book provides a frame of reference to encourage appropriate sample design, analysis and interpretation of freshwater fisheries data.

A seed coating that can increase plants' abilities to withstand salt and a new tool for fighting cancer are two new technologies available for licensing to interested companies and entrepreneurs through Montana State University's Technology Transfer Office. More than half of MSU's 150 technology licenses are with Montana companies.

This year marked the 30th anniversary of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program on the MSU campus. Each year, College of Business accounting students receive real-life tax advising experience when they participate in the program, which makes students available to prepare federal and state tax returns and answer tax questions.

A new barley variety and product designed to improve human health resulted from MSU research on high beta-glucan barleys. MSU graduates at WestBred in Butte developed BGLife Barley (TM), which has three times the beta-glucan soluble fiber needed to qualify for heart healthy FDA labeling.

Since receiving a \$1.3 million grant in 2007 from the U.S. Department of Education, MSU's ILEAD (Indian Leadership Education and Development) program has doubled the number of Native American principals serving schools on Montana's reservations. The program aims to improve the quality of schools by reducing administrative turnover. All students in the program are teachers from reservations and are committed to remaining and serving on their reservations.

Graduate art student Caleb Taylor has become the first MSU student to receive a Joan Mitchell Foundation grant supporting emerging artists. The Mitchell MFA Grant is considered one of the country's most prestigious awards for young artists. Taylor's work ranges from portraiture to large, vibrant abstract paintings.

Renowned primatologist Jane Goodall and Shirin Ebadi, the first Muslim woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, have been named the first recipients of the Montana State University Presidential Medal for Global and Visionary Leadership. Both women delivered public lectures on the MSU campus in April and accepted their awards.

MSU skier Claire Rennie has been named to the *ESPN The Magazine* District 7 Academic At-Large First-Team as voted by the College Sports Information Directors of America. Rennie is a three-time NCAA Skiing Championship qualifier and a three-time United State Collegiate Ski Coaches Association all-academic selection.

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

Nicole Emmett, MSUB senior, was accepted to Al Akhawayn University in Moroccan for Fall Semester 2009. After high school, Nicole had plans to become a doctor until classes taken in political science and beginning Arabic set her sights on a new path with a global focus. Classes from Dr. Craig Wilson and Dr. David Hood, who she said, "are great – I couldn't have asked for

better professors," and a short trip to India with MSUB Business Professor Dr. Rakesh Sah in 2006, cemented her desire to pursue a career abroad with the U. S. State Department. "Seeing all those different cultures in India really did it for me," Nicole said. "It had a huge impact on my education, but also on my life in general."

Dr. Barbara Wheeling, Assistant Professor of Accounting at MSUB, while teaching agriculture business majors said, "I found some of this stuff doesn't work for them." Instead of trying to modify lesson plans from existing textbooks, she determined it was time to have a unique textbook that deals with accounting methods that are specific to agriculture. She used her distinctive farm and accounting backgrounds and penned what is now the only comprehensive ag accounting textbook in the United States, "Introduction to Agricultural Accounting." Wheeling said that unlike typical accounting books, her textbook addresses the issues and situations unique to the agricultural industry, which makes sense for students who are preparing for futures in the agriculture industry.

MSUB assisted the Governor's Office with a two-day workforce conference titled "Meeting the Challenge: Montana's Workforce on the Move." It featured discussions on dealing with an intergenerational workforce; helping employers train new workers; developing partnerships between labor and education; and building Montana's "green collar" workforce. Kim Gillan, Workforce Development Coordinator at MSUB, helped to implement the conference. She said the goal of the event is to help employers and state officials make new connections that can help keep Montana growing and to help "grow" employees so that they will be of value no matter where they go to work.

MSUB Staff Senate sponsored a presentation by Simon Atkins, a former faculty member, MSUB College of Business, who believes negotiation is the game of life and business, the lifeblood of relationships, and a positive way of structuring the communication process. To expand the potential benefit to the University of new thinking about negotiation as a life skill, Simon donated back his honorarium to the University to purchase books for the library on the subject.

Student orientations began for new and transfer students to MSUB for the 2008-09 academic year. Shelly Andersen, Director of New Student Services, said the sessions offer first-time or transfer students and their parents an opportunity to get acquainted with MSU Billings. During orientation, students have the opportunity to take placement tests for English and Math, meet with an academic advisor to register for classes and discuss their major program, tour the campus, meet with faculty and staff and other new students, and discover opportunities to get involved on campus. Parents can attend a "Parents in Transition" program on tips and advice on handling their child's evolution from home to college life.

The 4th Annual Meth Conference was held on the Downtown Campus featuring nationally renowned speaker, Frank Kros, M.S.W., J.D., of the Upsidedown Organization in Baltimore Maryland and Executive VP of The Children's Guild. He spoke on the Addicted Brain and examined why pre-teens and adolescents are more sensitive and vulnerable to the effects of alcohol, nicotine and drugs than adults. The conference acknowledged the great strides made in fighting the meth epidemic and how to continue the good work and respond to the affects of meth in our court and prison system, child welfare and family services, medical facilities, schools and in our communities.

The annual Truman Day events drew a large community crowd to campus. Yellowstone County Democrats scheduled a debate for the Democrat candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction followed the next evening with dinner and guest appearances by former President Bill Clinton and Wyoming Governor Dave Freudenthal.

Three graduating seniors were recognized as recipients of the Outstanding Senior Award and Golden Merit Award. The individuals represented three areas of study - communications, education and business. Annie Snedigar, Culbertson, was the winner of the MSU Billings Golden Merit Award, in recognition of her outstanding scholarship, leadership and community service. Dr. Weiss, Assistant Professor of Communication, said, "Quite simply, I have never come across a student who has so selflessly committed herself to her fellow students, her fellow citizens and her fellow men and women." The Outstanding Senior Awards went to Athena Ayers and Susan Weikel. While student teaching Athena noticed a student visually upset, sitting by herself, because her parents weren't able to attend an invite-your-parents-to-eat-hot-lunch event. She consoled the student and made a mental note the experience could affect the student's learning. Her attention to small details, her passion for the learning process, love of dealing with kids and learning from kids, all contribute to her outstanding qualities. Susan Weikel, a Havre native, spent 25 years of her life as a stay-at-home mom before graduating this spring. Mike Campbell, Department Chair and Professor of Accounting, College of Business said, "She is conscientious and very motivated to do quality work and get the task completed in an excellent manner. Susan is the type of person a business owner or manager, planning for a long vacation, could be comfortable leaving in charge and be confident that she would properly handle important issues and make sound decisions."

Montana State University-Northern Chancellor Rolf Groseth

Nurses Pinning - MSU-Northern's Nurses Pinning ceremony was held on May 9th. 36 Nursing students received pins this year, 17 from the Havre Campus, 12 from the Great Falls Campus and 7 from our Lewistown campus. 18 BSN students also graduated and were recognized during the pinning ceremony.

Commencement Ceremonies - Northern held its annual commencement ceremony on Saturday morning May 10th in the Gymnasium to a near capacity audience. We conferred 379 degrees to 343 individuals. The class consisted of 207 women and 136 men. Of these, 111 earned their associate's degree, 232 earned their bachelor's degree, 30 earned their master's degree and six received their certificates. Several people earned more than one degree. Dr. Mary Moe, Dean of the M.S.U. Great Falls College of Technology delivered the commencement address and the Timely Trio provided special music.

Preservation Award - Havre City Council and the Havre Hill County Historic Preservation Commission presented Northern with a preservation award for our work in upgrading Pershing Hall. It was one three awards presented.

Tyson Thivierge Named New Head Wrestling Coach - Montana State University – Northern announced that Tyson Thivierge has accepted the Head Wrestling Coaching position. Tyson will start his coaching duties immediately. Tyson is currently the head coach at Carson City High School in Carson City, Nevada. Tyson holds a Physical Education degree from MSU-Northern and was a 4X All-American Wrestler for the Lights (1999 3rd, 2000 2nd, 2001 3rd, 2002 National Champion).



Founders' Excellence Winners - MSU-Northern Founders' Excellence Awards were presented to Tony Preite and Greg Jergeson. The presentations took place during the Founders' Excellence Dinner Friday, May 9th, 2008 in the Student Union Building Dining Room at 7:00 p.m.

New Pedestal Clock – The Havre Rotary Club graciously donated a new pedestal clock for our new campus courtyard. This gift represents the culmination of several years of fundraising. What a great example of the wonderful support we receive from the Havre community. We will run power to it this summer and will hold an official dedication at a later date.



MSU-Northern Receives \$36,596 from SAF for Student Grants - Montana State University-Northern received a check for \$36,596 from nonprofit Student Assistance Foundation (SAF) to provide grants for students in need. Since 2000, MSU-Northern has received \$183,947 through SAF's Acce\$\$ grant program.

A record numbers of students received their diplomas during commencement ceremonies at the Mansfield Center for Performing Arts. The 203 graduates represented all the major degree programs and certificates offered by MSU – Great Falls. Receiving bachelor's and master's degrees were 31 MSU – Northern students who completed their coursework at the Great Falls Campus. Mayor Donna Stebbins gave the commencement address. A reception followed the ceremony.

ASMSUGF Officers for 2008-09 are: **Mark Mathison**, President; **Craig Rardon**, Vice President; **Stacey Nicholson**, Secretary; **Desiree Dean**, Treasurer.

Bruce Gottwig, curriculum lead and instructor for the Computer Information Technology Network Support degree and certification program at Montana State University – Great Falls has been recognized for his contribution as technical reviewer for the *LAN Switching and Wireless, CCNA Exploration Workbook*.

Dennis Veleber has been appointed to the Board of Directors for Family Connections, a non-profit organization committed to improving the development of young children and building a strong foundation for their success by educating and supporting the adults in their lives - parents, child care providers, teachers and community leaders.

Heidi Pasek represented MSU – Great Falls in Leadership Great Falls (LGF) this year. The College received the Business Appreciation Leadership Award for support of the LGF and Leadership High School programs, the level of in-kind contributions and of the employees who have participated in LGF. **Ryan Schrenk** was awarded the prestigious Leland J. Walker Founders Award. The award is given annually to leaders who generate and perpetuate community involvement and support of the Leadership program. Ryan is currently the Leadership Great Falls 1st Vice Chair.

The **Practical Nurse** program received word that based on the percentage of graduates passing the National Council Licensure Examination; it ranks first out 799 programs in all jurisdictions for the period of October 2007 through March 2008.

Respiratory Care students competed in the Sputum Bowl, an event likened to a college bowl, at the 34th Annual Convention for the Montana Society for Respiratory Care in Kalispell. MSU – Great Falls teams took the two top places.

The six graduating Respiratory Care students passed their National Board for Respiratory Care Certification exam. In April, the College hosted the **MSU – Great Falls Update** for area counselors and advisors. The update allowed faculty, students, and staff an opportunity to share their insight on the educational opportunities and services offered at the College.

Student art was on display throughout the campus at during April and May. Student Achievement Awards were presented by Art Faculty Grayce Holzheimer at an Art Reception in the categories of "Peoples Choice", "Most Improved", "Best Craftsmanship", and "Creative Solutions".

Answering workforce needs, MSU – Great Falls is proud to announce the establishment of a **Public Safety Communications professional certificate**. The certification may be used as proof of required training before taking the Montana Law Enforcement Academy challenge test, which is required for public safety professionals within one year of being hired. Students in the Public Safety program will learn terminology and report writing, as well as stress and crisis intervention. Graduates from the program will be eligible for employment in emergency dispatch centers across Montana.

The **Kid's College** program at MSU-Great Falls offers many exciting and educational summer camps ranging from art and science classes to Zumba.

The 2008 **Interior Design Student Showcase**, a juried show featuring interior design student work in 10 categories ranging from Residential Design to AutoCAD drafting, was held in April.

College AID, MSU – Great Falls' internal appeal for donations from faculty and staff, which collects funds annually via pay-roll deductions, awarded four grants to projects submitted from across campus. The funds supported the purchase of various equipment items, program career fairs, and test preparation courses for students taking their professional certification exams.

MSU – Great Falls assisted at the **Montana Special Olympics** that was held in Great Falls in May. The dental hygiene and dental assistant programs participated in the Healthy Athletes/ Special Smiles event at the Expo Center providing dental screening, oral hygiene instructions and prizes for the athletes. The College also offered the use of laptop computers to allow for live entry of data. Students assisted with the entry of data.