

**CAMPUS REPORT**  
**Board of Regents Meeting**  
**May 28-30, 2008**  
**Havre, Montana**

---

**Montana State University – Bozeman**  
**President Geoffrey Gamble**

---

- The **U.S. Department of Defense** has awarded \$1 million to three **MSU physicists** involved in **military-related research**. Alan Craig, Yves Idzerda and Randy Reibel will use the money for separate projects that deal with surveillance, computer memory and hostile missiles.
- **Engineers Without Borders** at MSU held its first annual “Clean Water for Kenya Jubilee” at the Emerson Cultural Center, raising \$30,000 in a single evening. These donations and monies from other fundraisers will sponsor 10 to 15 students to **drill three fresh-water drinking wells** this summer for schools in rural, southwestern Kenya.
- **MSU Extension** launched a new Web site called "eXtension," a free service which allows users to consult MSU experts using an intuitive, search-based interface. The experts provide research-based information and customized answers to specific questions ranging from parenting, financial planning, entrepreneurship and vegetable gardens.
- With **nine native graduates for 2008**, the **College of Engineering** at MSU ranks in the top ten universities for percent graduating American Indians in engineering and computer science degrees.
- MSU **post-doctoral researcher** Philip Higuera reported significant findings from a four-year study of ancient sediment cores in remote, Alaskan lakes. By looking at **fossilized pollen grains in the sediment cores**, Higuera and his colleagues determined that after the last ice age, the arctic tundra was covered with vast expanses of tall birch shrubs. These findings indicate that a warming climate could make the world's arctic tundra far more susceptible to fires than previously thought. The findings, **published in March in the on-line journal, *Public Library of Science ONE***, are important given the potential for tundra fires to release organic carbon – which could add significantly to greenhouse gases already blamed for global warming.
- **Graphic design senior** Paul Johnson won first place in the 2008 Student Design Competition sponsored by The Society of Publication Designers (SPD) in New York City. Johnson, the second consecutive winner from MSU, will receive a \$2500 cash prize, complimentary housing and a summer **internship at *National Geographic Adventure*** in New York City beginning in June.
- **The Schutter Diagnostic Lab** recently received a five-year grant for roughly **\$40,000 per year from the United States Department of Agriculture**. The lab provides an early warning system of biological invaders and agricultural pests.
- **The *College of Business's "Women's Circle of Excellence"*** held its inaugural event in April, a two-day leadership and networking conference with **more than 80 MSU COB alumni attending from across the nation**. The organization is designed to provide mentoring, networking and educational opportunities for women.
- **Chemistry, microbiology and space science researchers** sent experiments on the **Space Shuttle Endeavour** in March. A portion of these experiments were transferred to the **International Space Station** where they are currently being used to test potential materials that could be used in or on spacecraft, including polymer filaments and an electronic circuit-board. Another set of experiments returned on the shuttle and measured how common bacteria accompanying astronauts into space is affected. The design and construction of the experiments provided highest-quality hands-on opportunities for undergraduate students.
- **Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics** professor Vince Smith has received the highest honor of the **Western Agricultural Economics Association** - their **Distinguished Scholar Award**. The award recognizes individuals making an enduring contribution over their career to agricultural, resource, and/or environmental economics in the Western states. Vince will be honored at a special WAEA award ceremony and **featured in the December 2008 *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics***.

---

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

---

Dr. Tasneem Khaleel, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, was the keynote speaker for a “Chicks in Science” program on the MSUB campus. The event exposed girls to the wonders of science in a social environment.

Dr. Young, Dean, College of Business, hosted a National Advisory Board Meeting and publicly dedicated the College’s new Management Information Systems lab and recognized the private partners for their many contributions to the COB.

MSU Billings student Ashlee Young won the VSA Young Soloist Award, a competition affiliated with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. In addition to her \$5,000 prize, she performed at the Kennedy Center. Ashlee intends to pursue a career as a concert pianist and devotes most of her time to her studies and the piano.

Fourteen MSUB faculty members were honored for Faculty Excellence in teaching, research and service. They were joined by faculty, staff and students from across the University to honor their achievements and other faculty members were recognized for their years of service. Those honored were Dr. Barbara Wheeling, Assistant Professor of Accounting; Ms. Brenda Dockery, Instructor & Assistant Director for the University’s Center for Business Enterprise; Dr. Rachel Schaffer, Professor of English; Dr. Steven Wiles, Assistant Professor of Biological and Physical Sciences; Dr. James Barron, Assistant Professor of Biology; Ms. Susan Baack, Instructor, English and Communications; Ms. Tami Haaland, Assistant Professor of English; Ms. Patricia Holman, Adjunct Professor of Business & Marketing; and Dr. Stuart Snyder, Assistant Professor of Physics.

The ASMSUB 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Leadership Recognition Awards recognized our outstanding students, and student organizations for their amazing talents, leadership, skills and hard work throughout the 2007-2008 academic year. Congratulations to these truly inspirational students for their exceptional dedication, motivation and energy.

The MSUB staff was recognized at the Staff Appreciation Dinner for their extraordinary work and exceptional commitment to our students. Those honored were: Ms. Shelly Andersen, Director, New Student Services; Ms. Kirtlye Schuman, Academic Advisor, COT Advising Center; Ms. Bobbie Thorpe, Administrative Support, Department of Educational Theory & Practice; Ms. Jennifer Moser, Computer Systems Analyst, Admissions and Records; Ms. Danielle Loomer, Administrative Associate II, College of Professional Studies and Lifelong Learning; and Mr. Darrel Williams, Desktop Support Specialist, Information Technology. Staff members were also recognized for years of service.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Outstanding Alumni Awards event was held honoring outstanding alumni in three categories: Distinguished Alumnus, Alumni Merit Medallion and Recognition for Exceptional Contributions. Estelle Tafoya was honored as Distinguished Alumnus for her excellence in teaching that spanned from 1956. Amy Gibler Brown was the Alumni Merit Medallion recipient. Now retired, she worked on campus as the Bookstore Manager after graduating with her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration. Mike Follett, Margaret Aukshun and Doris Barta were each recognized for their Exceptional Contributions. Mike received his Master’s Degree in Health Administration. At St. John’s Lutheran Ministries, he developed a groundbreaking model for smaller, more intimate accommodations for residents. After Margaret earned her Math Degree in 1983, she joined the teaching staff of Billings West High School. She also completed her Master’s Degree in Educational Computing. After Doris received her Bachelor’s Degree in Rehabilitation and Related Services, she worked in a variety of service areas – employment counselor, Director of Big Brothers and Sisters of Yellowstone County and is currently Director of the Grants Division at St. Vincent Healthcare.

Dr. Linda Christensen received the “Special Education Lifetime Achievement Award” at the Council for Exceptional Children State Conference. The award recognizes an individual who has made continued and sustained contributions to the education of children and youth with exceptionalities. The Montana winner will be nominated for the National J. E. Wallace Wallin Special Education Lifetime Achievement Award.

The M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust awarded a \$251,000 grant for science laboratory equipment for the MBUB College of Technology. The equipment will complete the chemistry and biology labs in the new Health Sciences Building. Cindy Rossmith, Director of Nursing, said “These laboratories are critical to our new nursing RN Program.”

Junior softball player, Shay Oberg was featured in the April 22, 2008 edition of the *USA Today*. The article highlighted the obstacles she has overcome playing softball without a left hand.

Native American Program Coordinator, Reno Charette, was selected by the Montana Youth Justice Council to serve on the Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee (DMC). This statewide committee addresses over representation of minority juveniles that are incarcerated or involved with the justice system.

Mr. Tim Tirrell, Director of Online Learning Operations, at MSUB, started his position in January after working in similar positions on the East Coast. As a specialist, Tim realized early in his career the huge impact technology could have on education and is now using his skills to strategically advance the University's online presence through program development and faculty advancement.

---

## Montana State University – Great Falls College of Technology

### Dean Mary Sheehy Moe

---

#### **Building update**

We will celebrate the completion of the Construction and Industrial Trades building this summer. The renovation and expansion of the campus has included new Library, Student Services, Bookstore, Distance Education, Science Labs, Classrooms, Outreach and College Relations areas.

#### **Faculty, Staff and Student Achievements**

**LeeAnne Gills**, Arts and Sciences Program Assistant, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Montana Public Employees Association. Gills has a long history of active involvement as an MPEA union representative.

**Dr. Greg Paulauskis**, Health Sciences Department Chair, was elected as a delegate for the Montana Society for Respiratory Care (MSRC). This is a four-year term providing representation for the Montana Society at the national level of the AARC (American Association for Respiratory Care).

**Leah Habel**, Director of Financial Aid, was recognized as Financial Aid Professional of the Year by the Montana Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA). The award comes with a \$1,000 professional development stipend for her use during the upcoming year. She has worked at the College since June 2004 and is in her 11th year in Financial Aid. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Carroll College in 1997. She is beginning the first of a two-year term as Vice President of the MASFAA.

**Rob Truax**, Biology Adjunct Faculty and full-time science teacher at Great Falls High School, was honored by the Siemens Awards for Advanced Placement for his achievements in college-level course work. He teaches five sections of AP biology, mostly to seniors.

**Lynn Ward**, Health Information Technology Program Director, shared her experiences as a remote program director in an article in the Winter 2008 American Health Information Management Association 'Academic Advisor.' Ward lives in Lewiston, Maine.

**Mark Mathison**, student and writing tutor, was invited to judge at the Montana State Finals of the Poetry Out Loud Contest, held in Helena in March.

The Interior Design Club was awarded \$1,000 by Big Sky Chapter National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA). Big Sky Chapter NKBA members selected MSU – Great Falls' student **Sierra McClain** as winner of the Big Sky Region NKBA Scholarship.

**Student Appreciation Week** was celebrated in April with free coffee and snacks provided by the Bookstore and free printing for all students in the Library. An awards ceremony and luncheon recognized Students of the Year who were selected by faculty. Scholarship donors and student recipients and their faculty guests met for an informal social event entitled *Changing Lives: YOU – That's what it's all about*. The focus of the event was to celebrate the investment of our donors in the lives of our students.

#### **Program Achievements**

The **Practical Nursing** program received news that 100% of the PN students testing in 2007 passed. Thirty-nine graduates took the PN test this year which is a record for the College. This compares to 20 taking the test in 2004, 16 in 2005, and 19 in 2006.

To help celebrate Children's Dental Health Month, **Dental Assistant** students visited local elementary schools and preschools for Kindergarten Brush-ins with the Dental Healthcare Educator from City-County Health Department.

Dr. Greg Paulauskis and Recruiter, Natalie Nefzger, attended the board meeting for Great Falls Public Schools Med Prep to present information on the College's **Health Sciences programs**. Dr. Paulauskis is a Board member and works closely with Tom Kotynski, GFPS Workforce Education Director, on career options and pathways for high school students in the health science area.

The **Physical Therapist Assistant Program** hosted an open house to give prospective students in March an opportunity to meet current PTA students and faculty, learn about the profession and program, and tour the new PTA lab.

Artwork from MSU – Great Falls students and from the Great Falls Public Schools was displayed throughout the month of April in the College's new Atrium. **Grayce Holzheimer**, Art Faculty, presented at a reception for the artists and their families. MSU-Great Falls' student artwork featuring an "Altered Book" competition and color and design projects was exhibited. Holzheimer's original drawings, photographs and paintings were also displayed.

**Interior Design** students attended a Montana's design industry conference in Missoula and the National Kitchen and Bath Association Conference in Chicago. Students met industry leaders from across the United States. The program is one of two in the state and is the only one endorsed by the National Kitchen and Bath Association.

**Julie Myers**, Program Director, and **Melanie Guttormson**, Adjunct Faculty, accompanied the students.

Hosted by the **Web Development** program, students, staff and members of the community gathered on campus for **Discussion with the Pros**, a panel focusing on the ins and outs of the graphic design profession. Panelists shared what makes a graphic designer "tick", how they stay creative while working under the pressures of deadlines and clients, as well as various projects they have designed. Panelists included: Brenda Peterson & Josh Row from Wendt Advertising, Jason Bean from Walker Design, Dan Perbil from Banik Communications, and Chuck Fulcher from Lodestone Advertising.

The **2nd Annual Construction Trades Fair** welcomed nearly 400 area students who visited with twenty vendors and four Colleges of Technology about the construction industry, providing insight into the education and training necessary to enter the workforce, as well as what a student can expect once employed.

### Events

**Black History Month** was celebrated with a panel presentation on local black heritage. Panelists included: Ken Robison, independent historian and current chair of the Great Falls/Cascade County Preservation Advisory Committee; Bob Harris, former chair of the city's International Relations Committee; and Reverend Mercedes Tudy-Hamilton, Pastor, Union Bethel A.M.E. Church.

The **8th Annual Missouri River Break** took place in early March. Over 90 workshops were available to the public over a four-day period. This year's program saw both a new high in enrollment, as well as new and innovative workshops.

The MSU Cascade County Extension Service and the MSU College of Technology hosted the **Cascade County Health Fair** on March 29th. Over one hundred and ten vendors were provided information and answered all types of health questions. The College's dental program provided dental screening for children, Practical Nurse students checked blood pressures, and the College hosted a children's room with a nutrition walk, fingerprinting and the opportunity to explore a Great Falls Fire truck. Screenings by Benefis Healthcare and the Great Falls Clinic were also available.

The **15th Annual Employer Expo** was held on April 1. Prospective employers were on site to provide information to attendees. Free resume critiquing was provided. The event was free and open to the public, sponsored by MSU – Great Falls, the University of Great Falls, Job Service, MAFB Family Support Center, Central MT Radio Network and the Great Falls Tribune.

Great Falls writer, **Pete Fromm**, presented and read selections from his novel *As Cool As I Am* on the MSU Great Falls campus on April 30. The reading was open to the public and free of charge. A four time winner of the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award, Fromm is the author of numerous novels and memoirs.

---

**Montana State University-Northern**  
**Rolf Groseth, Chancellor**

---

- **Former President Bill Clinton** visited MSU-Northern on Tuesday, April 1st to help generate support for Senator Hillary Clinton's presidential bid for the upcoming June primaries. During his visit at MSU-Northern, Clinton met with local Tribal Leaders to discuss issues of concern to Native Americans in Montana. He then addressed a crowd of 2200 at the Armory Gym.

- **Governor Brian Schweitzer** opens Biodiesel Certification Lab - MSU-Northern held an open house for its new Biodiesel Certification Lab. Also on hand for this exciting event were, Tony Preite from the Montana Department of Commerce, Allen Rider from the 25x25 National Steering Committee, Tom Lever, Assistant Director of Montana DEQ, and Lyle Nichols Senior Vice President for Pacific Kiewit Co. The lab will test and certify biodiesel fuels and lubricants to ensure that performance and safety standards are met.
- **Pow Wow** – Northern’s Sweetgrass Society hosted the 32nd annual Pow Wow on Friday, April 25, and Saturday, April 26th. Dancers, drummers and artists from across the state attended and competed.
- **SkillsUSA State Conference** - 380 students from 34 high schools attended this year’s SkillsUSA Competition. Students competed in several skill areas including welding, carpentry, drafting, small engines, job interviewing and many more.
- **Student Awards Convocation** – On Friday, April 18 Northern hosted its annual Student Awards Convocation Day. Two hundred twenty-five scholarships were presented and ten students were given Student Excellence awards, the highest award a student can receive.
- **The Montana Motorcycle Rider Safety Annual Update** - the instructors for the MMRS met in Great Falls to prepare for a busy summer of teaching motorcycle safety courses. MMRS is housed at MSU-Northern, and operates 10 training sites around the state - Billings, Bozeman, Conrad, Glendive, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, Lewistown and Missoula. The program trained 1,648 students in 148 classes during the 2007 training season.
- **Graphic Arts Student Wins Addy** - Lindsey Krause won a Silver Montana Addy Award this winter and has moved on to win a Silver Addy at the district level which includes, Idaho, Washington, Montana, Oregon and Alaska. She will now move to the national/international competition.
- **MAT Presents Divorce Southern Style** - Once again Montana Actor’s Theatre has produced a side-splitting comedy suitable for all ages by Jennifer Jarrett titled Divorce Southern Style.
- **Mascot Contest** - The MSU-Northern Student Senate is working on selecting a mascot as the embodiment of the Northern Lights and Skylights. They received suggestions from students and compiled the submissions and place them on the ballot for their spring election. The top two vote getters were the Polar Bear and the Husky.
- **Student Senate Elections** - Students conducted their annual elections and re-elected Kristiny Loret for the Student Senate Leadership.
- **We Love Northern Ball** – Northern hosted the 22nd Annual We Love Northern Ball on Saturday, April 19. A good time was had by the 250 who attended the dinner dance and participated in the silent and live auctions to support student scholarships. The amount raised was more than last year. The scholarships raised at this event are one of our most direct and effective methods of helping students afford a higher education.
- **“Led Zeppelin” & “Doors” Tribute Bands** - The Associated Students of Montana State University-Northern (ASMSUN) hosted the Doors tribute band “American Night” and Led Zeppelin tribute band “No Quarter” on campus on Saturday night, April 19th This was part of a band festival which also included three local bands.