

CAMPUS REPORT

DATE: May 12, 2008

TO: Board of Regents

FROM: W. Franklin Gilmore
Chancellor, Montana Tech of The University of Montana

RE: Campus Report for the May 29-30, 2008, Board of Regents' Meeting

- Professor Henry Gonshak, Liberal Studies, was awarded a Fulbright to study in Poland. Henry will be teaching at the University in Wroclaw, starting in September 2008.
- Dick Berg, Senior Research Geologist at the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) and Curator of Montana Tech's Mineral Museum, was presented the Hal Williams Hardinge award at the Society of Mining Engineering meeting February 27th in Salt Lake City.
- A paper on hantavirus research supported by the INBRE program will be published in *Vector Borne and Zoonotic Diseases*, titled "Seroprevalence Against Sin Nombre virus in Resident and Dispersing Deer Mice." Authors include Biological Sciences Professors Richard J. Douglass and Amy J. Kuenzi, researcher Kevin Hughes, and grad student Brent Lonner, in cooperation with Mike Minnick at UM.
- The Montana Tech Biology Department's Outreach Phagedigging Program continues to expand to nearly 2000 pre-college students and teachers.
- Associate Professor of Biology Marisa Pedulla was named the 2008 Montana Academy of Sciences Science Mentor of the Year.
- Courtney Young, Professor of Metallurgical Engineering, has been invited to present reviews of the processing technologies for treating Berkeley Pitlake Water at the Mineral Processing Division of the Colorado Local SME section in Colorado Springs and, in collaboration with Dr. Corby Anderson, CAMP Director, research with cyanide alternatives for leaching of gold ores in Lima, Peru.
- Free lectures and workshops offered this spring at the Mineral Museum include: Earthquakes: Are you ready for the BIG one?; Nature, Art and Geology; CSI Archaeology: Cool Tools for Learning about the Past; Yellowstone Engraved: the Daunting Task of Representing Wonderland; Are We Alone? Astrobiology and the Science of Extraterrestrial Life; Ground Water 101; and Yellowstone, Then and Now.
- Professors Rich McNearney, Philip Dirige (Mining Engineering) and Mary MacLaughlin (Geological Engineering) attended and presented papers at the 41st Symposium on Engineering Geology and Geotechnical Engineering, held in Boise, Idaho, from April 9-11. Five students accompanied the professors and several of them presented their research work.
- Pat Munday, Professor of Professional and Technical Communications, was an invited participant in the NSF-funded 2008 New England Workshop on Science and Social Change at the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory.
- Don and Andrea Stierle's article on their work identifying novel compounds from microbes in the Berkeley Pit water was one of the Most – Accessed Articles last year in the Journal of Natural Products.
- On April 10th Geological Engineering Professor Willis Weight and Assistant to the Dean Craig Byington met with pre-engineering students and faculty from Northern Idaho College in Couer d' Alene, Idaho to explain non-traditional engineering (Mining, Geological, Metallurgical) opportunities at Montana Tech.
- Chris Gammons, Professor of Geological Engineering, recently had two papers accepted for publication, entitled "Photoreduction fuels biogeochemical cycling of iron in Spain's acid rivers" to appear in the journal *Chemical Geology*; and "The Rio Agrio Basin, Argentina: A natural analog to watersheds affected by acid mine drainage" to be published in the journal *Mining Engineering*.
- Steve Parker (Chemistry/Geochemistry) and Chris Gammons (Geological Engineering) were awarded a new NSF grant entitled "Stable isotopes of dissolved oxygen as tracers of chemical and biological processes in groundwater". Collaborators on this project include Dr. Ric Hauer of UM.

- Professor Diane Wolfgram, Ph.D., R.G., P.E., has been appointed an Alternate Member of the 2008-2009 ABET Engineering Accreditation Commission. Professor Wolfgram is Head of the Mining and Geological Engineering Departments at Montana Tech.