

**CAMPUS REPORTS**  
**Board of Regents Meeting**  
**November 19-20, 2009**  
**Bozeman, Montana**

**Montana State University**  
**President Geoff Gamble**

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MSU has won an \$880,000 U.S. Department of Education Ronald E. McNair post-baccalaureate program grant to support graduate studies for MSU undergraduate students who are minorities, income eligible, and first generation college students.

MSU competed well for research dollars in the 2009 fiscal year with research funding increasing \$2.2 million to a total of \$98.4 million.

President Geoff Gamble and his wife, Patricia, announced in October that they will leave their estate to MSU in support of a new Center for Student Success.

In spring of 2010, MSU geologist Todd Feeley and doctoral student Gary Michelfelder will travel to South America to collect samples and investigate persistent volcanic activity. The trip will be part of a five-year, \$3.5 million project funded by the Continental Dynamics Program of the National Science Foundation to explore the creation of continents.

MSU paleontologist Jack Horner and MSU's Museum of the Rockies were featured in two National Geographic Channel programs on dinosaurs in October.

MSU has received almost \$252,000 to expand its services to tribal college librarians across the United States and Canada through a three-year grant from the Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Librarian Program.

MSU historian Michael Reidy is leading an international effort to transcribe and publish the letters of John Tyndall, one of the most influential scientists of the 19th century, through a three-year \$580,000 National Science Foundation grant.

HarperStudio, a division of publisher Harper Collins, released "Double Take: A Memoir" by Kevin Connolly, a 2008 graduate of MSU and an X-Games athlete, in October to starred reviews. The book traces Connolly's experiences growing up legless in Helena and travelling the world as a photographer.

MSU architecture students are partnering with Ronald Omyonga, a well-known Kenyan architect, to help build sustainable housing in Kibera. Kibera, an area of Nairobi, is Africa's largest slum with an estimated 750,000 people living in an area about the size of the MSU campus. Students will examine sustainable materials and help design homes that will be built in Nairobi by residents.

Five MSU math professors received a five-year, \$3.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to study how instructional coaching helps elementary schools teach math to students across the country. The grant comes from the NSF's Discovery Research K-12 program, which focuses on improving science, technology, engineering and math learning for students and teachers.

MSU students announced the Geoff Gamble Leadership Award in October, a scholarship to be given to an MSU student annually, beginning in the spring of 2010. Money for the award will come from student fees disbursed through the Associated Students of MSU.

Frankee White Dress was selected as one of just 18 Bush Leadership fellows in 2009. With the prestigious \$100,000 fellowship, White Dress, who is Lakota, plans to obtain a doctorate in educational leadership from MSU and establish a small tutoring center on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, where she grew up.

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

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Thank you, Walmart, for the generous scholarship donation of \$30,000 to the Montana University System. The scholarship funds will be available to students pursuing careers in renewable or “green” energy fields.

The National Collegiate Scouting Association recently published the “Power Rankings” for Division II schools. Of the top 100 institutions, Montana State University Billings ranked 9<sup>th</sup>. The ranking is calculated by averaging the US Sports Academy Directors’ Cup ranking, the NCAA student-athlete graduation rate and the US News & World report ranking for the institution.

MSUB College of Technology Nursing Program is partnering with the Family Tree staff, a child-related social service organization in Billings, to provide pre and post natal classes to women who are pregnant and have a child during their time in the Women’s Prison. Many of the inmates do not make appropriate decisions about who to place their child with nor do they have the skills/abilities to always make effective parenting decisions. Sue Winn, COT nursing faculty, when deciding upon the Fall semester’s student project, chose this area as an incredible learning experience for our students and also offered an opportunity to expand our partnership in providing service to the community.

Enrollment at Montana State University Billings marked a milestone as enrollment headcount topped 5,000 students for the first time in its history. Enrollment on the main campus was 3,635 and the College of Technology campus also set a record with 1,406 enrolled.

Dorothea Cromley, Professor of Music at MSUB, has instructed Jason Suchan since his freshman year at MSUB in 2005. Jason will be the featured piano soloist at the “Bright Lights & Rising Start” concert presented by the Billings Symphony Orchestra this fall. Jason will graduate in May 2010 and has set his sights on graduate education. “I think it’s really important to do what you love,” he said.

As part of the University’s efforts to support the growing number of international students on campus, the Academic Support Center has hired tutors who have ESL (English as a Second Language) expertise to assist students whose primary language is not English. Two international students, from Korea and from China, are tutoring math.

GNAC Commissioner Richard Hannan announced that Simon Fraser University has officially accepted an invitation to become the 10<sup>th</sup> full-fledged active member of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. They will be joining the University of Alaska Anchorage, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, Central Washington University, MSU Billings, Northwest Nazarene University (Idaho), Saint Martin’s University (Wash.), Seattle Pacific University (Wash.), Western Oregon University and Western Washington University.

Chad Freitag, history major at MSUB, became inspired after enrolling in Dr. Keith Edgerton’s History 460 class this past summer. Chad took it upon himself to do some serious hands-on research by arranging an extensive interview in Custer, with Frank Borman. Mr. Borman, as lead astronaut on the Apollo 8 in 1968 and the Gemini 7 in 1965, were the first humans to orbit the moon. Chad plans to use his interview to form the foundation of a wider historical research project that will allow him to attend the Phi Alpha Theta Northwest Regional Conference of History Students next spring at Fairmont Hot Springs. After transcription, his project will be available for other historical researchers in our library.

Dr. Norm Schoenthal, Professor of Biological Sciences Emeritus from MSUB, was honored by the Montana Audubon and the Yellowstone River Parks Association at a dedication ceremony of the Norm Schoenthal Field Lab at the Audubon Conservation Education Center. The Center is located at 7026 South Billings Blvd. in Billings and is a state-of-the-art environmental science lab/office and an important addition to expanding community education programs.

The annual progress report for the master’s-level program in Athletic Training Education has cleared review by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). The Master’s of Science in Athletic Training is one of only 19 entry-level master’s programs in the United States to be accredited by CAATE and the only one in Montana.

Dr. Terry Blackwell, Professor and Ashley Waldmann, Graduate Assistant, from the Rehabilitation and Human Service Department at MSUB, published an article, "Special Issues in Rehabilitation Counselor Ethics in Disasters" which appeared in the *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling*, Spring 2009. The article was written to build awareness of ethical issues inherent in the delivery of rehabilitation services in disaster situations and provide suggested best practices to address potential dilemmas.

Mr. Peter Sherry, Associate General Counsel for Ford Motor Company, visited with students, faculty and others at the University to better acquaint them about the importance of this American industry and to promote the 2010 Ford Taurus. Dr. Gary Young, Dean of the College of Business stated, "Given the state of the automobile industry and the global market, we are very fortunate to have an executive at this level speak to our business students, the University and community leaders."

Shawn Griffith, Missoula Sentinel High School; Kelsie Hanson, Chinook High School; Mary Owen, Powder River County District High School; and Conner Schultz, Belgrade High School; were all recipients of the Chancellor's Excellence Awards Scholarships this fall. The Haynes Foundation Merit Scholars, from high schools around the State, were: Julie Banister, Custer County; Matthew Barton, Havre; Jennifer Biersdorf, Billings Senior; Kelsey Clark, Billings Skyview; Alicia Domagala, Baker; Hannah Engebretson, Dawson County; Drew Galahan, Harlowton; Dru Grover, Billings Skyview; Dakota Hammond, Hardin; Kenda Lindblom, Plentywood; Brittny Marchwick-Wix, Culbertson; Amanda Milliard, Columbia Falls; and Amy Tackett, Missoula Hellgate. Congratulations on their achievements!

John Pollock, Professor, Art Department at MSUB, participated in the International Kite Festival in Bologna, Italy. He also participated and conducted a painting workshop at the international invitational artists' kite festival, "Festival of the Winds on Bondi Beach" in Sydney, Australia and in the "American Kiteflyers Association Convention in Rochester, Minnesota.

During this past summer, Dr. Stuart Snyder, Associate Professor, Biological & Physical Sciences Department and his student, Steve Shoen, rebuilt a neodymium-doped yttrium aluminum garnet laser which Dr. Snyder used for research when he was at Idaho National Laboratory. Steve will receive a \$1,500 scholarship from the Montana Space Grant Consortium to continue his study of physics. Dr. Snyder is also the recipient of the Walter & Charlotte Pippenger "Excellence in Innovation" Award for 2009.

In preparation for the National Council on Accreditation of Teacher Education Accreditation visit next spring, the College of Education reorganized to ensure on-going assessment and accreditation coordination and progress.

### **Montana State University-Northern Chancellor Frank Trocki**

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**Accreditation Visits** – In October and November we hosted three important accreditation visits on our campus. We had three people on campus October 12<sup>th</sup> from ABET evaluating our Civil Engineering Technology program. On October 16, we had an interim visit from Northwest. OPI will conduct a full review of our Education Program on November 15-17. My staff has worked hard in preparation for these visits and we feel we will come through these reviews with positive results.

**Northern on Social Networks** - MSU Northern is now available on Facebook, MySpace, Twitter and Flickr! Now you can track news and information about the campus and current events. The easiest way to find Northern is to visit our main website at [www.msun.edu](http://www.msun.edu) and click on the appropriate button located on the bottom left corner of our home page.

**An Academic Achievement for MSU-Northern and a Collaborative Career Pathway for Students to Enter a Nursing Program** - MSU-Northern's ASN program is the only Montana school of nursing in the past five years to consistently have one of the highest pass rates in the state on the RN NCLEX. MSU-Northern adopted the statewide curriculum beginning with the prerequisites FALL 2008. The Department of Nursing will have the three-year curriculum fully implemented by FALL 2010. This new curriculum allows students from the MSU Great Falls College of Technology to smoothly transition into our program, without taking additional courses. LPN students can obtain their Associate RN degree from MSUN in two semesters. This action was in response to Great Falls College of Technology's request by making a commitment to save a minimum

of 10 spaces for LPNs entering our program. MSU-Northern has been able to accommodate all eligible LPNs wishing to enter our program for the last 7 years.

**Diesel Advisory Board** met in September to talk about ways to make the program even better. The Diesel Advisory Board is made up of key people from major corporations around the country. They review the curriculum and make recommendations on how to make the program meet the needs of industry.

**MSUN Athletic Hall of Fame** – The 2009 Northern Alumni Association All-Sports Hall of Fame awards were given to Lori M. Hagen of Great Falls, Montana, Dani Davison-Holgate, of Belgrade, Montana, and Charlene Noreen Wasson of Whitewater, Montana. Each were presented commemorative awards during the halftime of the Lights/Alumni basketball game on October 17, 2009. These awards were given in recognition of their outstanding athletic achievements during their time at Northern.

**Young Women in Technology Grant** - Northern received \$18,000 to help young women better understand the career opportunities in the technology areas. 18 young women will be brought to campus to expose them to our career and technical education programs. They will have workshops that will expose them to drafting, plumbing and electrical programs. They will be on campus April 18 - 21 and will participate in the TecNoXpo.

**Legends for Light Pheasants Jamboree** - The Northern Lights Athletic and Scholarship Foundation hosted their ninth annual Pheasant Jamboree. The Legends for Lights Pheasant Jamboree is a combination of former NFL, NHL, MLB and other professional legends along with locals and outdoor enthusiasts from across the country coming together for a 4-day jamboree that includes trap shooting, pheasant hunting, the Taste of Havre and a little storytelling. Participants pay to be on these teams and the money raised during this event goes toward athletic scholarships.

**Lewistown Open House** – I and several of my staff conducted an open house at our Lewistown campus on September 28. During this visit, we met with the Lewistown Rotary club, nursing students and the Board of Directors for the Central Montana Education Center. It was good to see all of the wonderful things Northern is doing in that community.

**3D Printer** – Our Design Drafting program has a new 3D printer. This new printer will teach our students how to design parts and build a plastic prototype of their parts so they can test their designs. This printer is the result of a Perkins grant.

**New Wind Generators Going Up** - The first of three wind power generators has been installed on the hill by the N. The electrical power inverter and auxiliary net-metering equipment are located in the Automotive Diagnostic Building. The wind power generator is an ARE 110 made by Abundant Renewable Energy Inc. The wind power generator is a 2.5 KW system that will produce approximately 340 KW hours of energy a month; which is about enough to power a normal home for the month.

**New Biodiesel Processor** - Northern's Biodiesel Testing Center has the new Biodiesel Pilot Plant finally installed at our campus; we have already made our first batch of biodiesel fuel. Participants of the Biodiesel Workshop are "brewing" canola oil into biodiesel. The pilot plant produces 50 gallons of biodiesel per batch and was acquired by the Center through grants and support from MT Dept. of Ag GTA, NorthWestern Energy, Opportunity Link and WIRED.

**\$30,000 for Biodiesel Workshops** - Opportunity Link has partnered with the MSU-Northern Bio-Energy Innovation and Testing Center with a check for \$30,000 to help fund workshops that will help produce skilled workers and increase awareness of the growing bio-based industries in Montana.

**Master Degrees** - Two months ago Michelle Burchard and Shauna Albrecht graduated with their MBA's from the University of Montana.

**Professor Receives Recognition** - Karen Thomas, Executive Director of HRDC (right) and Daisy Sherman (left) recently gave a plaque to Jim Edwards Northern's Economic Professor for his help with the self help mutual housing program on Jefferson. If you want to help with this project please call the project manager at 265-4583.

**Montana State University – Great Falls College of Technology**  
**Joe Schaffer, Dean / CEO**

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**Brian Cayko**, Director of Clinical Education in Respiratory Care, has been named a 2009 Great Falls Tribune Rising Star. The Rising Star award honors people under 40 who make a difference at work and in the community. Brian earned his Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from Montana State University in 2002 and chose to enroll at MSU – Great Falls shortly after to work toward an Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Therapy. Since then, he has worked as a Respiratory Care Practitioner and also earned his MBA in Health Care Administration. He began working at the college in 2008.

The first annual **Trades Rodeo** was held on October 6 – 7 and offered at no charge to local middle and high school students courtesy of Bridging Opportunities work group: MSU-Great Falls College of Technology, Great Falls Public Schools, and Central Montana Central Labor Council. Attendees took advantage of hands-on experiences in a number of trades areas that they could pursue through apprenticeship or college programs. Sectionals offered by the Labor Council included: Plumbers and Pipe Fitters, Sheet Metal Workers, Laborers, Boilermakers, Iron Workers, Operators, Carpenters, Elevator Constructors, Electricians, and Sprinkler Fitters. Three programs from MSU – Great Falls College of Technology were featured: Collision Repair & Refinishing, Welding, and Carpentry.

The first ever **College House Groundbreaking Ceremony** was held on October 13 at 1804 20th Avenue South where **Pat Shoenen's** carpentry students are building a home for NeighborWorks Great Falls. The carpentry program will use the house as on-the-job training for students in its Carpentry and Construction Trades program. Beginning this fall and throughout the school year, the students work on every phase of the home, from the foundation to the roof. The homes are sold to income qualified buyers after completion. To qualify for a house, buyers must complete homebuyer education classes and qualify for a first mortgage from the lender. Buyers' annual income must fall below 80 percent of the area median income for Cascade County. MSU - Great Falls' Carpentry Program is the recipient of a generous donation from the Great Falls Women in Construction. The contribution was provided to support the various needs of students.

Since the Dental Hygiene program's inception, students have provided dental hygiene treatment and education to approximately 7,000 patients. They have provided restorative treatment to approximately 100 patients with the oversight of **Dr. Bonnie Lederman**. Faculty **Gail Staples** developed and implemented a Local Anesthesia Refresher course for practicing dental hygienists and has conducted it twice - both times with rave reviews. Clinic Manager **Melanie Paul** and faculty **Linda Wing** successfully developed a record management process for tracking the 10,000 charts accumulated in the Dental Hygiene Clinic.

A technical paper submitted by Respiratory Care graduate **Carrie Walter** was chosen for publication in the May/June issue of *FOCUS Journal for Respiratory Care & Sleep Medicine*. Her article is titled 'Applying Fractal Geometry to Mechanical Ventilation.' Carrie was awarded \$100 along with free registration for the FOCUS annual conference to be held in May. In addition, the MSU - Great Falls' Respiratory Care program received \$100 which has been deposited in a scholarship fund. Carrie graduated in May 2009.

Constitution Day and our American Indian Cultural Heritage were celebrated with the dedication of a Freedom Shrine donated by the Great Falls Exchange Club. Speakers included **Mike Jetty**, Indian Education Specialist from the Office of Public Instruction, who shared his perception of the importance of the inclusion of Indian Education for All in the Montana Constitution and a general explanation of how tribal governments work with state and federal agencies. Montana Constitutional Convention delegates, **Arlyne Reichert** and **Bob Campbell** spoke on the contributions of women, historically and in present day, in state and national government and the importance of our state and national Constitutions.

**Tom Liston**, Program Director of Radiologic Technology, shares the final 2009 Radiologic Technology graduate took his Boards and passed. This puts MSU – Great Falls at 100% retention, 100% participation, and 100% pass on the National Boards!

The Great Falls **Adult Basic Literacy Education Program (ABLE)** has moved to the MSU – Great Falls campus. The ABLE program provides basic literacy education, English as a Second Language, college brush-up, and GED preparation and testing for individuals needing those services in our community. Invenergy donated **two wind turbine blades** to MSU-Great Falls College of Technology's Wind Energy program. The blades are 122 feet long and weigh 6.5 tons. This generous donation will enhance the learning experience of our wind technician students. The Wind Montana Project Academic Implementation Team (AIT) met at MSU-Great Falls on October 6 and 7 to continue work on the development of a common Certificate of Applied Science in Energy Technology to be offered at four campuses in the state. A unique, single proposal from MSU-Great Falls, MSU-Northern, Montana Tech COT, and MSU-Billings COT was

approved at the September Board of Regents meeting. MSU-Northern and Montana Tech COT are offering the program this fall, while MSU-Great Falls and MSU-Billings COT will start offering the program in Fall 2010.

The **COTtage Bookstore** at MSU – Great Falls recently received national attention from the Nebraska Book Company for upgrading the processing of used books for students. Steve Halsted, Bookstore Manager, has overseen the evolution in providing this valuable service to students.

MSU – Great Falls College of Technology sets another **enrollment record**. The College is heading into its thirteenth year of record growth with the Fall 2009 semester enrollment of 1428.73 which is 144.6 higher than last Fall's enrollment – an increase of 11.26%. Headcount has also increased to 2451 students, 217 more than last Fall. The College of Technology Bozeman Fall 2009 full-time equivalent (FTE) is 294.27, 30.34 higher than last Fall's enrollment – an increase of 11.5%. Headcount has also increased to 776 students, 104 more than last Fall.

**Patricia Nelson**, Interior Design Faculty, has been selected to serve as Director at Large for the ASID Intermountain Chapter.