

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

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Two more satellites built by MSU students and partners launched on a NASA mission. The students designed and built the satellites using sophisticated space flight hardware and will have the unique opportunity to operate their own satellite in space. MSU's satellite development program was also featured on NASA TV.

A National Science Foundation-funded team of researchers, which includes faculty and students from MSU, has become the first ever to reach and sample the area where Antarctic ice, land and sea all converge. Cameras sent down the drilling hole also revealed an unsuspected population of fish and invertebrates living beneath the ice sheet, the farthest south that fish have ever been found. The surprising discovery of fish in waters that are extremely cold (28 degrees Fahrenheit) and perpetually dark poses new questions about the ability of life to thrive in extreme environments.

S2 Corporation, a laser photonics company in Bozeman, has provided a cumulative \$5 million to MSU research efforts over several years, making the company the university's largest private sector sponsor. S2 Corporation subcontracts much of its research and development to the MSU Spectrum lab. S2 is the only company in the world focused on providing extreme-wideband sensing and signal processing solutions for multiple customers. It currently has rights to 17 U.S. patents, with 13 of these being licensed from MSU. Eight of S2's 10 employees are MSU alumni or former MSU employees.

A study conducted by a group of scientists at MSU and California State University, Long Beach, has found that students from underrepresented minority groups are more likely to pursue scientific or research careers in biosciences if they believe the careers will in some way help them give back to their home communities. The study was published in the January issue of the journal *BioScience*.

Les Craig, a software entrepreneur, business mentor and veteran, has been hired as director of the Blackstone LaunchPad at MSU. Craig has co-founded two successful companies, is an active member of two non-profits that help veterans transition to the private sector and is a former U.S. Army Ranger. The Blackstone LaunchPad helps students and alumni launch new business ventures.

Neil deGrasse Tyson, astrophysicist, cosmologist, author and one of the most recognized science communicators in America today, will lecture at MSU March 4. Tickets for his presentation sold out within the first two hours.

In January the MSU Center for Mental Health Research and Recovery presented "The Experience and Science of Mental Illness." The event provided a venue to better understand mental illness from both the patient perspective and from that of the clinical and scientific community.

Students from Montana, Washington, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming tested their robots against each other in late January at the annual MSU College of Engineering First Robotics championship.

MSU was recently recognized as one of the 25 most popular colleges and universities by *Mic*, an online media outlet designed for young people. MSU was ranked No. 20 in the nation for experiencing the highest growth in applications since 2003. According to the publication, MSU has experienced 209 percent growth in applications since 2003.

MSU and three partners across the Northwest are working together to increase the number of American Indian and other underrepresented minorities entering and earning doctorates in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math. With a new four-year grant awarded from the National Science Foundation, MSU and the University of Montana will focus on developing an Indigenous mentoring model for American Indian graduate students in STEM degree programs, while the University of Idaho and Washington State University will partner in this effort and lead distinct activities.