

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

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Seventy-two percent of the top academically ranked Montana high school scholars have indicated they plan to attend Montana State University in the fall.

Gallatin College MSU has received a \$199,450 grant from the National Science Foundation to support a new associate's degree program in photonics and laser technology, which will prepare graduates to work as technicians in laser optics and photonics companies.

At spring commencement 2040 MSU students received their degrees. Will Weaver (BS, 1965 and MS, 1971 in Business Education) received an honorary doctorate in letters (education) and Jean Bennington Sweeney (BS, 1976 in Chemical Engineering) received an honorary doctorate in science (engineering).

A promising new youth suicide prevention intervention program, Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM), will be provided in schools across Montana thanks to a \$303,000 grant from the Montana Research and Economic Development Initiative, a group of committed facilitators and the Montana State University Center for Mental Health Research and Recovery. The program is designed to enhance mental health resiliency in youth,

Hikmet Budak, MSU's first Montana Plant Sciences Endowed Chair, will be using cutting edge research to help the university develop wheat that will stand up to the four traditional stressors of Montana's most important crop – wheat stem sawfly, drought, heat and micronutrient deficiencies.

John Peters, Stephen Keable and their colleagues recently announced that sunlight or artificial light can break down nitrogen with a much smaller carbon footprint than a century-old process used by industry to produce the ammonia found in fertilizers. The team's findings were published recently in "Science" and have implications for food and alternative fuel production.

Albert Parker, a research professor in MSU's Department of Mathematical Sciences and the Center for Biofilm Engineering, is part of a team of researchers awarded the 2015 Scientific and Technological Achievement Award, level 1 from the Environmental Protection Agency. The award was given for Parker and the team's research into the effectiveness of the performance standards the EPA uses to evaluate antimicrobial products, such as sprays and disinfectants.

Jeffrey Simkins, a doctoral student in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering, and Sarah Mailhot, a doctoral student in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, have each been awarded a prestigious fellowship from the National Science Foundation that is designed to foster future international scientific collaborations.

Daniel Zizzamia, a MSU graduate in history, has earned a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship to research environmental topics at the Harvard University Center for the Environment.

More than a dozen MSU faculty members, staff and alumni won Emmys at the recent regional Emmy award ceremony held in Seattle.

Museum of the Rockies celebrated Family Day in honor of Jack Horner who retired after 33 years.

Several important positions at the university have been filled recently. Robert Mokwa has been named interim executive vice president of academic affairs and provost, Royce Smith has been named dean of the College of Arts and Architecture, Leon Costello has been named athletic director and Dan Stevenson has been named associate vice president of university services.