

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | November 16-17, 2017 | Bozeman



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Montana State University finished its [seven-year accreditation visit](#) by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities in October. Eight accreditors spent three days on campus meeting with students, faculty, and staff as part of the process. Additionally, MSU assembled a comprehensive 245-page self-study report.

MSU has enrolled a [record number of students](#) this fall, with a headcount of 16,703. It is the largest number of Montanans in MSU's history — 10,251 students from all 56 counties. The retention rate of last fall's first-time, full-time freshmen increased to 76.9 percent, the highest percentage recorded in contemporary records.

MSU research and contract expenditures from state, private, and federal funding sources topped [\\$130.8 million](#) for the fiscal year, a \$12 million increase over last year and a new record.

MSU scientists are part of an international team that contributed to the [first detection of gravitational waves](#), a discovery that won the [2017 Nobel Prize in Physics](#) for the collaboration's leaders.

Sarah Mailhiet, who is the first person in her family to go to college, completed her Ph.D. and became the [first woman to earn a doctorate in engineering with an option in mechanical engineering](#) at MSU.

Roland Hatzenpichler, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, was named a [NASA Early Career Fellow](#). Hatzenpichler studies multicellular bacteria in salt marsh sediments.

MSU faculty members Elizabeth Shanahan and Raina Plowright received [\\$1.65 million from the National Science Foundation](#) to research how human activity contributes to the spread of infectious diseases.

Jason Baide, a senior in studio arts, recently took first place in the [Saul Bell International Jewelry Awards](#) in the Emerging Artist category.

Angela Des Jardins won a [national award for her leadership role](#) in creating the [Eclipse Ballooning Project](#), an unprecedented, national student project that culminated during the 2017 total solar eclipse.

Brittany Fasy is leading an interdisciplinary project to explore storytelling as a culturally responsive way to [engage middle school American Indian and rural Montana students](#) in learning computer science and computing skills.

Bryan Stevenson, author of "Just Mercy," presented the [MSU Fall Convocation](#) address.

MSU hosted a symposium focused on the life and literature of Ivan Doig. "[Doig Country: Imagining Montana and the West](#)," featured family, friends, and scholars discussing Doig's work and its importance to the field of Western American literature.

A team of Montana State University researchers has received \$100,000 from NASA to test a [promising new computing technology](#) that could soon be used in spacecraft and on satellites.

MSU Bobcat Athletics' unveiled its [20-year Athletics Facilities Master Plan](#).

As part of MSU's outreach mission, the Office of Research and Economic Development has been traveling the state putting on the "10x10 Innovation Road Show," which features 10 faculty members each speaking about their research for 10 minutes.