

# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

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**CAMPUS REPORT** | Board of Regents Meeting | Jan. 13-14 | Helena

Garret Leach, a 2018 MSU business graduate and former student leader, earned [a Schwartzman Scholarship](#), a highly competitive award recognizing leadership, and will now spend a year studying at China's Tsinghua University.

MSU researchers [won a \\$3 million NIH grant](#) to explore ways to simulate and study the gut's immune response, potentially leading to improved oral vaccines.

MSU undergraduate Meg Branine [published her first academic paper](#) this summer, the result of her hands-on research into fungi in the lab of MSU professor Sara Branco.

MSU undergraduates [gained research experience](#) working with Bradley Whitaker, assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, to develop an algorithm designed for early detection of sepsis in hospitals.

Professor of agricultural economics and economics Randy Rucker and two colleagues authored a paper in the Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists on [the economic impacts of colony collapse disorder](#) among honeybees.

Gallatin College MSU collaborated with Amazon Web Services and Sumitomo Electric Lightwave for a two-day course designed to meet [modern workforce demands in fusion fiber splicing](#).

A spectrograph designed and built by students and faculty in [MSU's Space Science and Engineering Laboratory](#) collected data on explosive events in the sun's atmosphere aboard a NASA rocket at the end of September.

MSU launched an effort to increase [equitable research partnerships with tribal nations](#) by involving tribal representatives at every step of the research. Organizers say this effort may be "game-changing" when it comes to how research is conducted within tribal nations.

An MSU team led by associate professor of computer science Laura Stanley [won a \\$1.2 million grant](#) to improve interactions between workers and robots and develop technology to improve worker safety and job satisfaction.

MSU researcher Mark Schure found that [Thrive](#), a web-based therapy, [reduced the severity of depression and anxiety](#) and improved functioning and resilience among a mostly rural population of U.S. adults.

MSU professor Meta Newhouse has received a [Fulbright fellowship](#) to Ireland, where she will teach guerrilla advertising and marketing workshops.

MSU hosted 1400 students from 120 schools at the annual [Science Olympiad](#) on the MSU campus.

At its December commencement, [MSU conferred degrees](#) on 853 undergraduates, 306 graduate students and 31 students from Gallatin College. In addition, [Mike Clark received an honorary degree](#) and [Diana Blank received the president's medallion](#).

Loren BirdRattler, a member of the Blackfeet Nation who coordinated the country's first in-house indigenous agricultural resource management plan, has been appointed the Montana State University [Katz Endowed Chair in Native American Studies](#).