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To: Board of Regents

From: Les Cook
Chancellor, Montana Technological University

RE: Campus Report for July 14 & 15, 2022, Board of Regents' Meeting

- Montana Technological University's Robotic Mining Club took home the top mining award at the NASA Lunabotics Competition at the Kennedy Space Center. The competition, which saw 38 universities competing for the top honors, involved designing and building a robot to dig through simulated lunar surface to deposit as much gravel simulant as possible in two 15-minute runs.
- Becca Richtman became a four-time national champion when she won the 10,000 M event at the NAIA Outdoor Track & Field Championships. She also finished 2nd in the steeplechase and 5,000 M making her a 10-time All-American in cross country, indoor and outdoor track & field. She was named the Women's Track Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association for the 2022 NAIA Outdoor Track & Field season.
- Drs. Brian St Clair and Mohammadhossein Sadeghiamirshahidi were awarded a \$237,500 REU grant from the National Science Foundation. The Interdisciplinary Research Experience in Environmental Science and Engineering is a 10-week summer research program that encompasses field investigation, mentored laboratory projects, and reporting. The program will run for two summers and is geared to students with interests in a scientific and/or engineering approach to environmental research.
- The American Mining Hall of Fame will celebrate the centennial anniversary of the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering at Montana Technological University by issuing a special citation at the 40th Annual Awards Ceremony presented by the Mining Foundation of the Southwest
- The Montana Tech Women's Track & field program finished third nationally for the Program of the Year Award which honors the institutions that have achieved the most success in each academic year by where the institution finishes in cross country, indoor track & field, and outdoor track & field. Tech finished 11th at the NAIA Cross Country Championships, sixth at the Indoor Championships, and eighth at the Outdoor Championships.
- Oredigger researchers are investigating how the symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast (SCOBY) that grows on top of and ferments kombucha could be used to filter out bacteria. In her Master's thesis in Environmental Engineering, Emily Rutledge successfully created membranes with pore sizes small enough to filter out viruses such as influenza, COVID-19, and malaria. The research, led by Professors Kumar Ganesan and Jin Yong Choi and funded by the Army Research Laboratory, will continue over the summer with additional graduate, undergraduate, and possibly high school students.
- The Princeton Review listed Montana Technological University as one of 209 outstanding institutions in the nation as a Best Value College 2022 and as a Top 50 Best Value Public College.