

CAMPUS REPORTS
Board of Regents Meeting
November 20-21, 2008
Missoula, Montana

Montana State University
President Geoff Gamble

A new enrollment record of 12,369 students was set in fall 2008. Additionally, there was an increase in high achieving students: 58 scored in the 99th percentile of the ACT compared to 36 last year, and 105 of 204 Montana University System Honor Scholarship recipients chose MSU.

MSU appeared in a *Popular Science* article titled "Smartest Schools: A Geek's Guide to Colleges" in September 2008. The article highlighted MSU for its dominance in cold regions research including our sub-zero laboratory, avalanche research and exploration of 250,000-year old ice cores. Other schools featured were Cal Berkley, Stanford, Carnegie Mellon and Cornell.

The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, a component of the National Institutes of Health, awarded MSU a \$6 million grant over five years for three new research projects in the Department of Veterinary Molecular Biology. The three projects, headed by Mark Jutila, David Pascual and Michele Hardy, focus on understanding the mechanisms that make alternative and complementary medicines work or not work.

Computer science students were able to enroll in a new interdisciplinary major option in fall 2008. The new option reflects the ways computers intersect with almost every other field and gives students the chance to apply their computer educations to problems in other fields by combining computer science with their academic minors. To complete the option, students create a special interdisciplinary project during their senior years.

Darla Goeres, a researcher in the Standardized Biofilms Methods Laboratory at MSU's Center for Biofilm Engineering, received a five-year \$1.7 million contract from the Environmental Protection Agency to develop new ways to measure how well antimicrobial products perform against biofilms. Biofilms are the extremely common communities of bacteria that form on most wet surfaces.

MSU's fall 2008 Career Fair boasted more than 188 employers including Boeing, Micron Technology, RightNow Technologies, Barnard Construction, GE Aviation, Kraft Foods, Eli Lilly, Chevron, Knife River Corporation, and many government agencies. Career, Internship & Student Employment Services organizes two career fairs each year, one in the fall and one in the spring, to connect students with employment opportunities.

Vanessa Serrao, a graduate student in MSU's Science and Natural History Filmmaking program, was nominated for an Emmy in a special short-film category at this year's Emmy Awards for her short film about the people of the port city of Unalaska.

A 50-foot-tall working wind turbine was installed on campus in October by a crew of students, faculty, staff and community volunteers. The turbine, managed by MSU's new Wind Applications Center, is part of the Montana Wind for Schools program, a K-12 program that teaches students lessons about alternative energy by using the turbines.

Professor of Paleontology David Varricchio was on a team that discovered an 85 million year old dinosaur, "Aerosteon riocoloradodensis." The find was particularly important because the bones showed evidence that the meat-eating dinosaur from Argentina had a bird-like breathing system. The discovery was published Sept. 30 in the online journal, *Public Library of Science ONE*.

Montana State University Billings
Chancellor Ronald P. Sexton, Ph. D.

On October 13-15, 2008, we were pleased to have the NWCCU accreditation team visitation, chaired by the University System of New Hampshire Chancellor, Dr. Stephen Reno, on our campuses for a comprehensive evaluation. Commissioner Stearns, President Gamble, Regents Barrett and Buchanan and Sylvia Moore, Deputy Commissioner, Academic & Student Affairs, were in attendance. We will receive the Accreditation Team results within the next 2-3 weeks. Representatives will attend the January 7-9, 2009 meeting when the evaluation is scheduled for consideration by the NWCCU Board of Commissioners

We are living in interesting times. Our economic and political futures are far from certain. One fact is for certain, however, a well educated and trained citizenry will be the most effective way to ensure Montana has the workforce needed to move the state forward in the 21st century. A special two-day conference, "Reach Higher Montana" sponsored by MSU Billings, and numerous community leaders, is designed to elicit conversation about the education gaps in Montana. National experts in education, workforce training and technology will be a part of the conference and will provide information to assist in finding solutions to pressing problems in dropout rates, continuing education and workforce readiness.

The 17th Annual Emeritus Luncheon was held in October welcoming new Emeritus: Susan Baack, Gary Behm, Linda Christensen, Tom Hinthorne, William Plank, Thomas Zwick and Curt Kochner and remembering the loss of four Emeritus: Nels Christiansen, George Madden, John Mueller and John Bratton.. The 2008-2009 Waterman, Wilson, McRae and Copple Graduate Scholarships were awarded to Carrie Jean Sokoloski, Halley M. Montalban and Kendell Jane Higgs.

The MSUB Billings Library Lecture Series presented Dr. Sarah Keller, Professor of Communication, "Domestic Violence Ads Gone Awry: Backlash Reaction Among Men" focused on a study which examined similarities and differences with respect to how men and women respond and process information from a domestic violence prevention campaign.

"The Veteran Student in Higher Education: The Legacy and Challenges of a New Generation" conference on November 18, 2008 will be held at the COT Health Sciences Building Great Room, coordinated by the MSU Billings Student Health Services and Veterans Upward Bound. Dr. Luke Petriccione, Director, Veterans Upward Bound, said the conference will provide new and updated information for higher education professionals and others interested in strategies to help veterans. His goal is to provide a foundation for better understanding of the needs of veterans who are dealing with post traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury.

Ms. Ashlee Young, an award-winning undergraduate piano and music major student at MSUB, recently won the collegiate artist division in the Liberace Competition held in Las Vegas. The competition was held in three parts and included submission of recordings followed by semi-finals at the Liberace Museum and the finals at Lutheran Community Center, also in Las Vegas.

The Urban Institute, under the direction of Mr. Chuck Tooley, conducted a Water Forum Conference in association with Christine Pierce and the World Water Network focused on improving and protecting

our water reserves through conservation, utilization, management, development and the environment impact on the universe.

Nadine Hart, a physician's assistant at St. Vincent Healthcare and one of the founders of the nonprofit group, Hope 2 One Life (H2O Life), made a presentation on LifeStraws and World Water Day demonstrating how LifeStraws work. She talked about how the technology of the small device has helped children in poverty-stricken parts of the world get clean drinking water.

KEMC/YPR, part of the public service mission at MSUB, was honored for excellence in broadcast journalism at the 10th annual presentation of the Joe Durso Awards in Helena. YPR News Director Jackie Yamanaka won three first place awards in: Best Radio Newswriting, Best Radio Enterprise and Best Radio Spot News Edited. Kay Erickson, YPR Morning Edition Anchor, won for the third consecutive year with Honorable Mention in Best Radio Spot News Edited. General Manager Ken Siebert won Best Radio Web Page for the third consecutive year.

A trio of instructors at MSUB, who are part of a group of regional writers, poets and essayists called the "Wild Bunch," lead a series of workshops in the region. The workshop, lead by Dr. Bernie Quetchenbach, Ms. Tami Haaland and Russell Rowland held the workshops, joined by Burt Bradley, an Associate Professor of English at Northwest College.

In commemoration of Constitution Day, historians and political scientists at MSUB lectured, in five different classes, varying cultural and historical aspects of the U. S. Constitution – all free of charge open to the students, staff, faculty and the general public free of charge.

Montana Center on Disabilities inducted three into the Hall of Fame. Bob Liston of Missoula was inducted for Lifetime Achievement. Sam Herbert, Billings, was recognized as Leader of the Year and Kira Foote of Wolf Point received the Emerging Leader honor.

Montana State University-Northern Chancellor Rolf Groseth

Northern Receives Wired Grant - Governor Brian Schweitzer and Montana's Director of Commerce Tony Preite, were on campus September 9th to present MSU-Northern with a check for \$295,000 for biofuels testing equipment and to develop curriculum to troubleshoot emission systems malfunctions in relation to bio-fuels and fuel additives

Domestic/Relationship Violence Awareness Month - was observed by hosting events and displays at MSU-Northern during October to bring attention to issues of relationship and dating violence.

2008 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductions - MSU-Northern and the Northern Alumni Association recognized Stacy L. Barnes of Great Falls, Montana, Wendy Badgett Bekkedahl of Billings, Montana, and Kevin J. Owens of Hampton, Virginia. Each were inducted into the Northern Athletic Hall of Fame and presented commemorative awards in ceremonies during the halftime of the Lights/Alumni basketball game on October 17th.

The Eighth Annual Pheasant Jamboree – was hosted by The Northern Lights Athletic and Scholarship Foundation. The Legends for Lights Pheasant Jamboree is where former NFL, NHL, MBL and other professional legends along with locals and outdoor enthusiasts from across the country pay to compete in a 4-day jamboree that includes trap shooting, pheasant hunting, the Taste of Havre and a little storytelling. A record amount of scholarship money was raised.

Concert Festival – Student Senate and KNMC sponsored a free concert which consisted of over 10 local and regional bands like: The Graveyard Girlscouts, Out The Lights, Punished, Cheeseboot, Aaron Whitefell, Izekiel, Courage and more.

Bio-Energy Meeting - The Industry Working Group for Bio-Energy producers conducted their meeting on campus. There were representatives from the Montana DEQ as well as the State office for the WIRED grant and Montana Department of Labor and Industry and local bio-diesel Producers. They had a number of presentations during the morning and a tour of Northern's lab facilities and finished the day with a tour of the Earl-Fisher plant in Chester.

Photocell Goes Online

The photovoltaic (PV) power array that was installed last November is finally connected to the internet so you can monitor the power output anytime. It will also keep a running total so you can review the output on a monthly, weekly, and hourly basis. The information is available on the internet site, www.fatspaniel.com. The link to "live sites" is: <http://www.fatspaniel.com/live-sites/index.html>.

Mascots Arrive - Northern's new Mascots, Aurora and Boris (tame Polar Bears from Alaska) arrived at our first home football game against Eastern Oregon. The bears signed autographs at the game. Don't worry, mom, they have not eaten anyone, yet.

Chokecherry Stomp - The Central Montana Education Center in Lewistown hosted the first annual Chokecherry Stomp on September 6th and raised close to \$17,000 for the Lewistown campus. Several of Northern's administration was on hand to take part in the festivities.

Nurse Sue Swan received two outstanding awards - the **Career Achievement Award** and the **Exemplary Service Award** during the Montana Public Health Association Conference. Sue has been the Director of the Student Health Services at Northern since 1991.

Alumni Scholarship Auction - The Northern Alumni Association raised \$10,165.00 (before expenses) on their annual social and auction. It was the highest total ever brought in on this auction and beats 2nd place by \$524. We want send a big THANK YOU to all of you who donated, bought tickets and/or came to have some fun.

First Plumbing Student to Write State Exam - Tyler Embody, a 2006 graduate of the Plumbing Technology Program was the first Northern Plumbing student to take and pass the plumbing exam. An apprentice in the State of Montana needs to complete 8500 hours (5 years) of work and complete 15 courses before they are eligible to take their State exam. By going to Northern Tyler was credited with 3115 hours (subtracted from 8500 hours) and he received credit for 10 of the 15 required courses. Tyler works for Haugenoe Plumbing in Kalispell, Montana.

Montana State University – Great Falls College of Technology

Joe Schaffer, Interim CEO / Dean

Michael Woodhead has been hired as Director of Outreach and Workforce Education. Michael earned his Master's in education from the University of Oregon and his Bachelor's from the University of Idaho. He brings a wide variety of experience in outreach, workforce development, and distance education.

Faculty members, **Dr. Cherie McKeever** and **Tammy Filiater**, along with Shannon Walden, created and published a customized Lab Manual for Anatomy and Physiology students at MSU – Great Falls. The manual was published by Pearson Benjamin Cummings. This is one of many initiatives in plan to improve success rates in Anatomy and Physiology for healthcare students.

New Department Chairs have been appointed in the Division of Arts and Sciences: **Dr. Cheri McKeever**, Chair of the Department of Science; **Colleen Hazen**, Chair of English and Communication; **Dennis Veleber**, Chair of Humanities, the Fine Arts and Social Sciences; and **Tom Oakberg**, Chair of the Department of Mathematics.

IT Services staff members, **EJ Suek** and **Tom Cole**, recently earned their Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist certification in configuring Windows Vista Client and Microsoft Certified Information Technology Professional certification in supporting and troubleshooting applications on a Windows Vista client for enterprise support technicians. Many of the Campus's classroom and office computers have been converted to Windows Vista in an ongoing, scheduled upgrade. An installation by artist and art faculty, **Grayce Holzheimer**, is featured in the Urban Art Project in downtown Great Falls. Her exhibit is titled *Disappearing Act, a Requiem for Birds* and is a reflection of her interest in birds and the recent decline due to habitat.

Adjunct English faculty, **Karen Wilcox**, presented her non-fiction essay *Collaborating with the Dead: Reading about Rousseau, Writing in My Journal* at the 43rd Western Literature Association conference in Boulder, CO. Adjunct Sociology faculty, **Dr. Ruthann Knudson**, presented *James Allen, Oblique Flaking, and Artisans* at the George C. Frison and Plains Archaeology symposium.

Robin Williams, Program Director for the Dental Assistant program, announced the program was re-accredited. Two site visitors from the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) met with faculty, administrators, and staff during their two-day visit.

Andrea Johnson, Physical Therapist Assistant faculty, has been selected as a Great Falls Business 2008 Rising Star. Ten people from the community were selected and received the award in November.

Dr. Greg Paulauskis has been accepted by the American Association for Respiratory Care as an AARC Fellow, to be inducted with the 2008 class of Fellows. He will receive his pin at the AARC International Respiratory Congress in Anaheim, CA, in December. The award recognizes individuals who have made a profound and lasting contribution to the Respiratory Care profession.

Gail Staples, Dental Hygiene faculty, was installed as President of the Montana Dental Hygienist Association at their Annual Session held in Great Falls.

A State of the College event was held in October to recap the successes and challenges of the past year. Community members were invited and engaged in conversation regarding the College. The speakers were Chancellor of MSU Northern, Rolf Groseth, and Interim Dean and CEO of MSU-Great Falls, Joe Schaffer.

Healthcare providers, faculty, students and administration engaged in lively discussion at the *Academics Impacting Healthcare* event on November 12. The event was aimed at increasing relationships between the College and individual healthcare professionals to better impact the needs of these providers and their patient care, as well as the philanthropic needs of MSU – Great Falls. A video presentation on the Health Science programs and a facilitated discussion on increased partnerships highlighted the evening, which was organized in part by a team of community supporters.

A focus on campus safety included Campus Emergency Training with the Great Falls Police Department in August and Violence on Campus sessions with Montana State emergency responders in September. The campus is participating in the MSU Alert Emergency Notification System.

The Grand Opening of the new Construction and Industrial Trades Building was held in September. Both the Carpentry and Welding programs are fully enrolled this semester in Great Falls. The Welding program in Bozeman is also at capacity.

Community Conversations, a lecture series focusing on developing sound public discourse by engaging local residents in a discussion of the issues within our city and region was kicked off with a discussion of *Montana's Constitution and the Right to a Clean and Healthful Environment*. The second Conversation was *American Indian Heritage: A Forward Perspective* with a lively discussion between

panelists and the audience addressing social and economic concerns of Montana's Indian population. Interaction continued at the third Conversation addressing the county bond issue to secure land around the Malmstrom Air Force Base runway.

ASMSUGF, Phi Theta Kappa, Student Emergency Assistance Program, and Student Central sponsored the First Annual MSUGF Coat Exchange in October! *Need a coat? Take a coat; Have a spare? Leave a coat!*

All adjunct faculty completed the orientation training for fall semester by September 24. Last year at this point in fall semester, only 71% of adjunct instructors had completed the required orientation.

Through a collaborative agreement between Benefis Health System and MSU – Great Falls, students and their children can see a doctor or physician's assistant on campus for a reasonable charge. This is a pilot student health services program.