

CAMPUS REPORTS
Board of Regents Meeting
September 25-26, 2008
Butte, Montana

Montana State University
President Geoff Gamble

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory has named Montana State University as the home for the state's new Wind Applications Center. Montana is the first of six states in the country to receive federal funding for a wind applications center. \$40,000 a year for three years will help incorporate more wind-specific topics into existing engineering courses for students, educate the public about wind energy and provide support for Montana's growing wind industry. Wind-related coursework will be offered this fall through an alternative energy applications course. A small wind turbine will be installed on campus in October in support of the Montana Wind for Schools Program.

History Channel's "Modern Marvels" program filmed MSU plant science professor Dr. Gary Strobel for an hour-long program due to air in September that will tell the story of how molds and fungi can both help and hurt people. Strobel's work finding medicinally important fungi within plants has led to cancer-fighting compounds, antibiotics and other bioactive compounds leading to dozens of patents.

MSU recently became one of only a dozen universities around the country to receive a grant from NASA's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. Electrical engineers Kevin Repasky, Joseph Shaw and others will use the three-year, \$750,000 grant and the matching sum that MSU will provide to build a high-spectral resolution light detection system to study clouds and particles suspended in the atmosphere.

The Toyota USA Foundation awarded \$312,000 in June to MSU's College of Engineering to support Teaching Engineering Applications in Math and Science (TEAMS), an program designed to enhance teaching of K-12 math and science in and around Montana's Native American communities.

Recent MSU film graduate Katy Garton Magruder won a Student Emmy in this year's College Television Awards sponsored by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. "Little Mom Full of Color," is a film about the final year in the life of Magruder's mother, Susan Garton, who suffered from metastasized melanoma and kidney failure. The 60-minute documentary was Magruder's thesis project for her Masters of Fine Arts degree in Science and Natural History Filmmaking. Magruder is the third MSU student to win a Student Emmy.

Researchers at Montana State University have developed six mouse monoclonal antibodies available for licensing to interested companies and entrepreneurs. Monoclonal antibodies can be used for the detection of highly expressed proteins and be useful for detecting changes in protein structure.

The Center for Invasive Plant Management at Montana State University will be coordinating a six-state project to detect and manage invasive plants and create a county-level map of saltcedar, a non-native plant species threatening important riparian systems across the west. The center will be coordinating work for the Missouri River Watershed Coalition, which includes Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has awarded more than \$4 million over a span of five years to MSU's Department of Health and Human Development. The grant will fund the [Montana Nutrition and Physical Activity Program to Prevent Obesity and Other Chronic Diseases](#), which works to fight obesity throughout the state by partnering with other entities such as schools, day care centers and workplaces to promote healthy environments.

Five MSU architecture students and their professors designed and built a structure that set a new Guinness World Record for largest sculpture made of canned goods. The students broke the record by building a giant helping hand from nearly 46,000 cans of food at the Rothbury Music Festival in Rothbury, Michigan.

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

For the ninth consecutive year, Montana State University Billings has been ranked as one of the nation's "Best Colleges" by U. S. News and World Report, for undergraduate through master's level academics, in the latest edition of "America's Best Colleges 2008."

Dr. D'Ann Campbell hired as new Provost and Academic Vice Chancellor for MSUB. She is a historian and longtime higher education advocate with a broad range of experience in both the public and private sector. Dr. Sexton said, "The unique blend of Dr. Campbell's academic background, her leadership philosophy and her commitment to innovation, communication and creativity makes her a great fit for MSU Billings."

Summerfest 2008 was enjoyed by the community, faculty & staff. Summerfest was co-sponsored by the Associated Students of MSUB & KCTR Radio at the main campus grounds. Summerfest activities, including inflatable games, obstacles and toys, balloons, face painting, a dunking booth, climbing rock, rides on the Shrine Clown train, cotton candy, sno cones, were all free and open to the community. Faculty, staff and administrators volunteered to promote the fun and successful evening.

The Montana Palladium Research Initiative event was a resounding success! Senator Tester's roundtable listening session was well attended and some interesting perspectives were shared with attendees (reps from the University, MDU, Stillwater Mining, etc.) regarding energy issues.

MSUB offered a free hour-long informative session to anyone wishing to get started in college, return to college to complete a degree, or explore a new career path.

The Women's Basketball Coaches Association announced the Academic Top 25 Team Honor Roll recipients. This award, given in NCAA Division I, II, III, and NAIA and Junior College/Community College, awards teams throughout the nation that carry the highest grade point averages for the entire season based on the nomination submitted by WBCA member head coaches. Congrats to the Jackets Women's Basketball Team!

The Masters Degree Program in Rehabilitation and Counseling Services in the College of Allied Health Professions has reached an all-time high number of students in the program with 61 students currently enrolled.

Dr. David Butler and Dr. Kurt Toenjes, in the Department of Biological and Physical Sciences, received a Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology Grant for Developing Laboratory Applications for Inhibitors of Fungal Morphogenesis in the amount of \$250,397 over a two-year period. Dr. Butler and Dr. Toenjes were also recipients of The Walter and Charlotte Pippenger Excellence In Innovation Award for 2007-2008 which is granted annually to an individual or group whose efforts, projects, or programs demonstrate improvement in the undergraduate teaching and learning experience.

Dr. Jeff Sanders, Native American Studies, Political Science and Sociology Department, received the Montana Indian Education Association "Special Recognition Award." As an instructor he approaches Native American issues diplomatically while remaining true to their history. He has many published works and has given several professional presentations, most notably those in regard to Native American issues.

College of Business student Layne Ziebarth competed in the 2008 International Spring Business Challenge in which 190 world-wide university teams competed. Ziebarth made it into the finals in the Foundation Division, where he competed against the five top universities. He described it as "an extremely competitive eight rounds." Management Simulations Inc. announced Layne won 4th place, continuing the winning tradition of Adjunct Assistant Professor Pat Holman's students in this competition.

College of Business held the Management Information Systems Laboratory Celebration. The \$300,000 lab was possible through a state grant and matching funds from local businesses.

The 4th Annual Meth Conference: Education and Action was presented at the COT new Health Science Building and featured 35 speakers from across Montana and Keynote Speaker Frank Kros from the UpsideDown Organization in Baltimore. The conference was well attended.

More than 300 high school students from across Montana were on campus challenging their minds and team-building skills in the state Upward Bound Olympics.

Jarred Rensvold was selected the *2007-08 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Male Scholar Athlete of the Year*. Rensvold, a biology major and chemistry minor, during his four years at MSUB, compiled a 3.98 GPA. He was recently awarded a \$7,500 NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship. Jarred captained the Jackets cross country (2006-2007) and track and field teams (2008).

Montana State University-Northern Chancellor Rolf Groseth

Senate Field Hearing – A Homeland Security Committee field hearing was held at Northern on July 2. The hearing, titled “Securing the Northern Border: Views from the Front Lines,” examined how effectively the U.S. Department of Homeland Security works with state and local partners.

Senator Jon Tester chaired the Senate Committee field hearing.

25x25 Committee - The National Steering Committee for the 25x25 Alliance visited Northern’s Biodiesel Testing Lab on July 9th. The 25x25 leaders hosted a roundtable luncheon for stakeholders interested in advancing renewable energy production in the state of Montana. The goal of the committee is to make recommendations to have 25% of our energy being made from renewable resources by the year 2025.

Staff Appreciation Lunch – On Thursday July 10th the administration conducted a staff appreciation lunch for all classified staff members. We featured a Hawaiian Luau with a meal fit for a king. The entertainment was a skit to initiate the Big Kahuna. Dr. Groseth proved to be more powerful than the earth, wind, fire or water. Everyone had a great time.

Lewistown Visit – Chancellor Rolf Groseth, Provost Joe Callahan and Dean Janice Brady visited Northern’s Lewistown Campus to review some educational opportunities that are developing in the area. Northern is reviewing what things we can do to better meet the educational needs of that community.

New Interim Volleyball Coach – Northern hired our Assistant Volleyball Coach Steve Leggitt as the new Interim Head Volleyball Coach to replace Greg Ryan who resigned in July.

National Motorcycle Rider Safety Conference – On August 15-17 MSU-Northern hosted the 2008 National Association of State Motorcycle Safety Administrators annual conference in Billings Montana. This event drew over 500 people to the Billings Convention Center and included a visit from U.S. Congressman Denny Rehberg.

Athletic Camps – During the summer months the campus has been busy with Basketball, Volleyball and Football camps.

Staff and Faculty Orientation – is scheduled for Aug 25-29 and will feature the dedication of Northern’s new clock tower and many practical workshops and planning sessions.

Chokecherry Stomp – The Central Montana Education Center is hosting the first Chokecherry Stomp on September 6th to raise money the Lewistown campus. The event has a \$20 admission and features Shane Clouse and Stomping Ground. Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

New “N” Shaped Flower Planter – The Northern Alumni Association built a beautiful “N” Shaped Concrete flower planter which is located in front of Donaldson.

Montana State University – Great Falls College of Technology Joe Schaffer, Interim CEO / Dean

Dr. Janet Heiss-Arms has been hired as Interim Assistant Dean of Bozeman Operations to replace Dr. Vicki Orazem, who has resigned leading the Bozeman extension of MSU – Great Falls for the past two years. Heiss-Arms has served as Director for Academic Success Initiatives in Bozeman since 2006. Prior to that, she worked as a Students-in-Transition Advisor in the Office of University Studies at MSU. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis with a minor in Counseling Psychology and Non-Profit Leadership. She has been the Director of Academic Success Initiatives at Bozeman since 2006.

Kim Schrenk is the new Director of Adjunct Instruction. Her primary role is to implement the College's model for the supervision and evaluation of adjunct faculty. Schrenk will oversee the recruitment, hiring, and evaluation of adjuncts. She will provide ongoing support and training in academic and campus policy areas. In the last two years, MSU – Great Falls has utilized nearly 250 different adjunct instructors. For this fall semester, there are approximately 120 adjunct instructors teaching in Great Falls and at the College's extension in Bozeman.

Kyle Gillespie and Pat Schoenen have been hired as the Program Directors for the new welding and carpentry programs (respectively). The Grand Opening of the Construction and Industrial Trades building was held on September 4 in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. A 'ribbon cutting' ceremony was held, but instead of cutting a ribbon, the opening of the welding and carpentry bays was commemorated by cutting a metal band and a pine board. Steering Committee members, Brad Talcott of Talcott Construction and Mike Waldenberg of Central Plumbing and Heating joined Dean Joe Schaffer to welcome guests and thank the community for their support.

Cheri Calsetta is the new Medical Assistant Program Director. She comes to the College with rich experience as a Medical Assistant in a variety of specialties, including an acute care hospital, walk-in clinic, medical office management and transcription. Her practical, on-the-job experience is key to the success of the program. The program was brought out of moratorium in response to demand from the medical community in north central Montana for Certified Medical Assistants.

Kathy Meier is the new MSU – Great Falls Director of Disabilities and Learning Support Services. She received her Master's of Education and her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education / Special Education from the University of Great Falls. She most recently worked at the University of Great Falls in the Trio Student Support Services Program as the Disabilities Advocate and as the Director of the Trio Program.

Charlene Marshall has been hired as a faculty member in the Physical Therapist Assistant program. She has been practicing as a Physical Therapist Assistant at Benefis Healthcare in Great Falls for the last three years. Charlene earned a Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology from the University of Minnesota and her Associate of Science Degree as a Physical Therapist Assistant from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

Patricia Marie Nelson, ASID, is the new Interior Design faculty at the MSU – Great Falls extension in Bozeman. She has a Bachelors Degree in Art with an emphasis on Environmental Design and a focus on Interior Design. She has extensive experience in all aspects of interior design both commercial and residential with a specialization in Hospitality Design, specifically wineries. She has five years experience teaching Interior Design in her native San Diego, California.

Mandy Lynn Wright has been hired as an English faculty. She holds a Master of Arts in English and a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Montana State University and a Bachelor's degree in Literature and Writing from Carroll College.

Lynn Ward was recently asked to be a co-facilitator for AHIMA's (American Health Information Management Association) New Faculty Mentoring Communities of Practice. She will be generating discussion online to assist new faculty.

Roger Peffer, along with his Graduate Advisors, published *Riparian and Upland Small Mammals on the East Slope of the Cascade Range, Washington* in the Journal- Northwest Science. Peffer's research focuses on the small mammals inhabiting stream corridors and comparing them with the mammals in the forests adjacent to those streams. Although extensive research had been done on west slope forests of the Cascades, this was the first major study of east-slope small mammal communities.

Impact of One-Time-Only (OTO) Funding

The 2007 Legislature invested in new program start-up for high-wage, high-demand occupations. In response, MSU-Great Falls has launched the following programs:

- Radiology Technology
- Physical Therapist Assisting
- Medical Assisting
- Carpentry
- Welding Technology
- Interior Design in Bozeman
- Rural LPN Education Program

Wind Technician Program Explored

MSU – Great Falls is currently contracting out for a feasibility study to explore plans to erect a wind turbine on campus. The College plans to hire a position to develop the Industrial Trades / Wind Technician program curriculum. Companies involved

in regional wind energy projects, local government, and economic development agencies have voiced their support of this program.

Summer Technology Institute for Teachers

The 5th annual Montana Institute on Educational Technology (MIET) was held in June with 79 Montana K-12 teachers attending. Workshops featured the Adobe Creative Suite and Microsoft Office products, creation of an online course, photography, and many more topics of interest for classroom application. Ritchie Boyd of Montana State University was the keynote speaker. Many of the attendees are from the rural areas of Montana where this type of training and networking is not commonly available. Partners for the MIET project are the Montana Business Instructional Technology Educators and the Peaks to Plains Consortium.