

CAMPUS REPORTS

Board of Regents Meeting
May 28-29, 2009
Helena, Montana

Montana State University
President Geoff Gamble

Two chemistry majors have won Goldwater Scholarships this year. Joe Azzarelli and Ben Naab are the 48th and 49th recipients at MSU, keeping MSU near the top of schools around the nation for total Goldwater recipients.

The Department of Native American Studies at MSU has received accreditation from the World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium, the first mainstream non-indigenous controlled institution in the world to ever receive the designation.

Bryant Robbins, a junior in civil engineering is the first student in Montana to win a SMART scholarship from the Department of Defense. It pays for his final year of school at MSU, gives him a \$25,000 stipend and a guaranteed job for one year.

Two faculty members have won prestigious Career awards from the National Science Foundation. They are Christa Merzdorf in cell biology and neuroscience and Jian "Neil" Tang in computer science.

MSU scientists and their collaborators published their findings about an ancient ecosystem below an Antarctic glacier in the April 17 issue of *Science*.

The National Science Foundation invited John Priscu, long-time Antarctic explorer, to write an essay on how Darwin's explanation of the origins of life and diversity of species affected polar science. The essay and an NSF interview with Priscu will remain posted at the NSF site until about June.

Beginning this spring, MSU will offer a new degree program designed to contribute to the development of bioenergy and a stronger, more secure food system in Montana. **Students** enrolled in the program will be able to take their first courses in the spring semester.

A MSU graduate student in physics has been named a NASA Student Ambassador during the International Year of Astronomy in 2009. As an ambassador, Joey Key will give presentations around Montana on NASA programs.

Researchers at MSU, Montana Tech and the University of Montana have been awarded a \$1.4 million grant from the Department of Energy to study the effects carbon sequestration sites may have on the surrounding environment. The project will study the environmental effects of geologic carbon sequestration.

MSU's College of Agriculture received the Distinguished Service Award from Montana FFA. The award was presented at the 79th State FFA Convention held in March.

Students from MSU's Network of Environmentally Conscious Organizations (NECO) have visited more than 1,000 students around the Gallatin Valley for their public school outreach program. The program visits K-12 schools teaching the three R's of conservation: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Researchers at Montana State University's Western Transportation Institute have won a national award for their work in reducing the number of animal-vehicle collisions on highways across the country. The award was announced by the Intelligent Transportation Society of America at the society's 2008 Best of ITS awards ceremony during the ITS World Congress in New York City. The awards honor innovative, effective and influential achievements in transportation systems and technology.

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

Congratulations to Mr. Quentin Gilham, Director, Office of Multicultural Student Services, at MSU Billings. Quentin was honored by the Montana Indian Education Association as “Special Recognition of the Year” for his many contributions to advising, mentoring and promoting growth, responsibility, and development of their leadership and decision-making skills.

A special lecture, sponsored by Associated Students of Montana State University Billings, entitled “*Self Esteem and Rights of Muslim Women*” featured Dr. Tasneem Khaleel, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Student leaders sponsored a series of lectures designed to give faculty and deans an opportunity to give a single lecture that best illustrates their zeal for teaching, learning or research.

The College Coaching Program was created at MSUB, to assist new students, in their first year of college, to connect with someone on campus. New students with undecided majors are paired with a staff, faculty or an administrator (aka a coach), volunteer to meet with the student, answer questions, point out helpful pathways, and become advocates for the students.

The MSUB Symphonic Band Spring 2009 Concert featured the music of Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Bernstein, Berlioz, Elgar and Sousa. Percussionist student, JT Dell, presented his Senior Recital performing works by Mark Ford, Alexander Tcherepnin and others. Music student, Tatiana Glenn, who became an American citizen last December, presented her Senior Recital on violin.

Nearly 300 people attended the 2009 MSUB Faculty Excellence Awards celebration. Those honored by nomination from fellow faculty members, deans and others were: Dr. Lisa Kemmerer, Assistant Professor, Philosophy; Mr. Brian Gurney, Adjunct Professor, Management; Ms. Melinda Tilton, Lecturer, Communications and Theatre; Ms Kathleen Hansen, Adjunct Faculty Member, Music; Mr. Tim Urbaniak, Instructor of Drafting and Design; Ms. Dorothea Cromley, Professor, Music; Dr. Sarah Keller, Associate Professor, Communication and Theatre; and Dr. Ken Miller, Professor, Educational Theory and Practice.

It may be easy to overlook issues of homelessness and poverty while busily working on a college degree, but students and staff at MSBU are working to change that. The MSUB campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity organized its annual “Box-Town” event to encourage students to be proactive and aware of homelessness and poverty and to encourage students and members of the community to become informed and involved with the issues.

Business leaders, a Billings District Judge, community advocates and an educational leader for the Bureau of Indian Affairs were honored as the 2009 Outstanding Alumni of Montana State University Billings. Alumni were recognized in four categories: Distinguished Alumnus, Alumni Merit Medallion, Recognition for Exceptional Achievement, and the J. Cody Montalban Award. Judge Susan P. Watters was recognized as Outstanding Alumni for her contributions as State Judicial District Court Judge, 13th Judicial District and Yellowstone County Family Drug Treatment Court Judge. Mr. Lloyd D. Mickelson, Realtor, Prudential Floberg Realtors, was the recipient of the Merit Medallion for his 27 years of teaching and 19 active years in the real estate business. Recognized for their Exceptional Achievements were: Ms. Lisa Reid Perry, Community Affairs Manager, PPL Montana; Mr. Mark W. Thompson, Senior Deputy Director, Advanced Systems Group, High Performance Technologies, Inc. in Reston, VA; Mr. Edward F. Parisian, Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs; and Mr. Greg A. Krueger, Development Director for Downtown Billings. Mr. Darryl Rensmon, Vice President, Chief Information Officer, Morrison-Maierle, Inc. and President of the Morrison-Maierle Systems Corp, was awarded the J. Cody Montalban Award.

The 41st Annual Inter-Tribal Indian Club Pow-Wow was organized by students and volunteers and was led by the 2008 Grammy nominated drum group, Blackfoot Confederacy. The pow-wow tradition began in times of need, guidance and sickness, when tribes prayed and gave by means of spiritual fasts, sweats and sacrifices. Prayers were answered through the voices of nature, thus establishing the spirit of nature and man as one.

Mr. Lyle R. Knight, President and CEO of First Interstate BancSystem, Inc. gave a presentation to students and the campus community about his role as the MSUB College of Business' Executive in Residence. After the presentation, Mr. Knight met with business majors to talk about career opportunities in banking and finance.

MSUB Staff was recognized for their fine contributions to the MSUB campus. The 2009 Awardees were: Mr. Terry Bramble, Facility Services; Ms. Leanne Frost, Assistant Director, Academic Support Center; Mr. Steve Johnson, Recreation Activities Director; Ms. Cindy Krieger, College of Arts and Sciences Administrative Support; Ms. Rita Rabe Meduna, Academic Senate and Chancellor's Office Support; Ms. Marilyn Warren, Admissions and Records; and Mr. Dan Carter, University & Governmental Relations Director.

Montana State University Northern Chancellor Rolf Groseth

Chancellor's Search - Update

When Commissioner of Higher Education Sheila Stearns and MSU President Geoff Gamble visited the Northern campus on December 16, 2008, they met with various groups from the campus and the community to get input on the characteristics people wanted to see in a new Chancellor for MSU- Northern. The Chancellor's Search committee was established on Jan 29 and is comprised of the 18 people from various campus and community organizations. Advertising for the position went out in late February. As of April 15, 61 applications for the position have been received. The committee will review the candidates and bring two or three finalists to the campus and community for more extensive interviews. They will make a recommendation to President Gamble and he will make the final decision. Gamble said he hopes to have the Chancellor in place in time for the start of fall semester.

Cabin Fever – Huge Success

Over 400 people from across the Hi-Line, came out on Jan. 5-12, 2009 in spite of the cold weather to take part in the 16th annual Cabin Fever, sponsored by MSU-Northern and the MSU Extension Service. These non-credit classes are a good way for people to visit the campus and help them learn some new skills.

We Love Northern Ball - Huge Success

The We Love Northern Ball was a huge success with over 300 people in attendance and a record number of auction items available. The event raised over \$26,000 dollars for student scholarships.

RN Students - Highest Pass Rate

MSU-Northern was notified by the Montana Board of Nursing, that Northern's Registered Nursing students NCLEX-RN pass rate for 2008 was 94.74%. This was the highest pass rate in the state!

Governor Presents WIRED Grant

Governor Brian Schweitzer and Montana's Director of Commerce Tony Preite, were on campus to present MSU-Northern with a check for a \$990,000 investment from the Workforce Investment in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Program for the purpose of supporting and expanding training activities of the University's Bio-Energy Innovation and Testing Center. The funds will help to train students in the growing bio-fuels industry and to purchase an alternate current engine dynamometer.

Farmers Appreciation and Expo

Tilleman Motors sponsored a Farmer's Appreciation Day and Expo on the campus. Farmers from across the Hi-Line and southern Alberta came to Northern's Applied Technology Center to see some of the latest equipment and to hear the latest developments in Bio-Diesel technologies and learn some new farming techniques and policies.

Eleven Student Excellence Award Winners

Eleven Montana State University-Northern students were presented with Student Excellence Awards during the annual Student Scholarship and Excellence Awards Convocation. The student excellence award is the highest honor a student at Montana State University-Northern can receive. This year's award winners were: Dana Ball from Evanston, Wyoming, Matthew Bolland from Malta, Buck Christofferson from Havre, Rikki Flaherty Great Falls, Heather Haney from Havre, Cori Hindoien from Kalispell, Lexa Loch from Dutton,

Kaylee Shaw from Fort Benton, Christy Stevens from Great Falls, Kyle Stone from Portland, Oregon, Ashley Weinheimer from Chinook.

Spring Fling

The Northern Lights Athletic Scholarship Foundation Spring Fling Dinner and Auction was a huge success. Over 330 people came out to support Northern's Athletic Program. Basketball players Stacie Barker and Travis Noble were recognized as this year's Athletes of the Year.

Northern Ag Students Attend National Conference

Six Montana State University-Northern PAS (Postsecondary Agriculture Students) Club members and advisor Tom Welch recently attended the National PAS Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Grant for New Wind Program

A press conference was held at the Office of the Commission of Higher Education to announce the \$1.97 million dollar grant to develop Wind Energy Technology programs at MSU-Northern, MSU-Great Falls COT, MSU-Billings COT, Montana Tech COT, and MSU's Wind Application Center. Northern will also develop a four-year Industrial Technology program for students wanting to upgrade to a bachelorette degree.

Dolezal Earns Doctorate

Congratulations to Assistant Professor Stacey Dolezal who has earned her doctorate (Ed.D) from Walden University in Teacher Leadership. As part of her Doctoral program she conducted a study to clarify the relationship between levels of instructor experience and perceived benefits and successes found in Pre-service Teacher Education.

New Head Volleyball Coach

Northern hired Bill Huebsch as its new Head Volleyball Coach. Huebsch has been with the Havre School District the past seven years as a teacher and high school Volleyball Coach.

College Goal Sunday

MSU-Northern hosted College Goal Sunday which is a nationwide event held every year in February. Financial Aid experts and seven volunteers were on hand to assist 41 future students complete their financial aid applications (FAFSA) on-line for the upcoming school year.

New Website - CareerExpress

The MSU-Northern Career Center is excited to announce the launch of a new CareerExpress website. This new site will help students find a great job by enabling them to: Search for and apply for job opportunities online, schedule on-campus interviews, view and RSVP for on-campus Employer Information Sessions, maintain an online Personal Calendar, manage multiple resumes, cover letters, and other employment related documents and much more!

Bio-Diesel Testing Center Recognized

Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer recently presented MSU-Northern and the Bio-Energy Innovation and Testing Center an award to recognize and commend MSU-Northern for its commitment to make clean, green energy and conservation in the state of Montana. The award was presented at the Harvesting Green Energy Conference held in Billings, MT. Approximately 600 attended the conference that is annually held in the Pacific Northwest.

Northern Hosts 2009 SkillsUSA Competition

Northern hosted the 38th annual Montana SkillsUSA Competition (formerly known as VICA - Vocational Industrial Clubs of America). Over 350 secondary and post secondary students from 32 schools around the state arrived in Havre to compete in 31 different contests. Competitions were held in various categories such as architectural drafting, welding, diesel technology, automotive technology, public speaking, and technical computing. Students also enjoyed activities which included a concert and an engine endurance contest.

Borges Repeats as National Champion

Corey Borges won his second consecutive National wrestling title at the 52nd Annual NAIA National wrestling tournament in Oklahoma City, OK. Borges of Hickman California transferred to Northern after Fresno State dropped their wrestling program. Additionally Borges is a three time All-American and finished second his sophomore year. Also at the National wrestling tournament Evan Hinebauch of Havre, was the runner up at

184 pounds. Hinebauch, a freshman, competed in his first NAIA national championship tournament. As a team the Northern Lights finished a respectable 9th place.

OPI Visits Campus

The Montana Office of Public Instruction had an accreditation team on the campus April 14-17 to review Northern's teacher education programs. This was a technical visit and will provide Northern with valuable recommendations for the official visit which is scheduled for November.

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

MSU – Great Falls launches new website! The college's new website was celebrated with a Launch Party on April 7. The site, which has been nine months in research, design and development, features new sections and enhanced accessibility. Webmaster, **Rhonda Kueffler**, and Chief Technology Officer, **Ken Wardinsky**, gave an overview of the site's evolution and the process of updating the college's web presence.

Cheryll Alt, Practical Nurse Program Director, reports the Montana Board of Nursing was on campus April 2 and 3 to survey the Practical Nurse program. In addition to the Board of Nursing members, an onsite visitor from the Board of Education from Washington DC participated in the visit. The team reported all standards were met, no recommendations were made, only suggestions.

Director of the Health Sciences Division, **Dr. Greg Paulauskis**, and Program Director of Respiratory Care, **Leonard Bates**, announce the successful accreditation of the program by their professional organization, CoARC. The program met or exceeded all currently set "thresholds" for success on each of the required outcome measures.

Robin Williams, Program Director of Dental Assisting, reports reaccreditation was approved without reporting requirements.

Andrea Johnson, Physical Therapist Assistant Program Director, reports three representatives from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) arrived in Great Falls on January 27 to review the program. The Self-Study process and the on-site review were a positive experience.

The first cohort of rural nursing students, who are attending classes in their local healthcare facility using the REACH Montana teleconference network, are completing their pre-nursing courses at MSU-Great Falls this Spring and will apply to the practical nursing program. If accepted, they will begin nursing classes fall 2009 in their quest to become licensed practical nurses. Students in Choteau, Conrad and Havre have been attending classes via teleconference and online technologies since September 2007. The pilot program was made possible through a unique partnership between MSU-Great Falls, the Northcentral Montana Healthcare Alliance, Benefits Health Systems, Teton Medical Center in Choteau, Pondera Medical Center in Conrad, and Northern Montana Hospital in Havre. Although some travel to campus was still required for science labs, the students were able to reduce the required travel time significantly by attending classes in their local facilities. All of the students work at the healthcare facilities.

February is Children's Dental Month. Dental Assisting students volunteered with Kindergarten Brush-ins at area kindergarten classrooms with the Oral Health Educator for CCHD, providing oral hygiene instruction and nutrition tips. The students were joined by Dudley the Dinosaur to make presentations to area preschoolers at the public library. Dental Hygiene students volunteered with Head Start to share information on oral hygiene.

The college's first Health Science Career Fair featured 45 healthcare providers and healthcare faculty and students participating at 23 tables. Each presenter provided hands-on activities for the approximately 236 students who attended from 12 area high schools. The 3rd Annual Skilled Trades Career Fair hosted all the local high schools and general public to help them see the many career opportunities available in the skilled trades. Twenty-five vendors and approximately 300 students attended.

The Associate of Kitchen and Bath Design certification exam was offered for the first time at MSU – Great Falls through a partnership with the National Kitchen and Bath Association and Castle Testing. Interior Design instructor **Julie Myers** and student **Verna Vuckovich** passed the exam. The AKBD exam is the first step for certification as a National Kitchen and Bath Designer.

Julie Myers, Interior Design Program Director, **Melanie Guttormson** '04, Kitchen & Bath adjunct instructor, and **Sierra McClain** '08 attended the National Kitchen and Bath Association Regional conference in San Diego. The conference was attended by executive board members from 24 chapters from the northwest, mountain and southwest regions including Alaska and Hawaii. Melanie is the secretary for the Big Sky chapter, Julie is the VP of Academic Relations, and Sierra is the newly-selected VP of Communications and Technology.

The Great Falls Interior Design Showcase was held on April 22-23 with the theme 'Green.' It featured a Showcase Gala and juried awards in 11 categories ranging from Excellence in Sample Board Creation to Excellence in AutoCAD. Students who received their Associate of Kitchen and Bath Design certification and other scholarships/awards were honored at the Gala. The Interior Design Club sponsored a silent auction with proceeds to assist interior design club members in attending seminars around the region.

The second annual Creative Talks event featured a student exhibition with best works from the Digital Design, Typography, and Photography classes at MSU – Great Falls. All three classes are part of the new Graphic Design program, which has its official launch in Fall 2009. The roundtable portion of the event featured noted Great Falls photographers who showed examples of their work and talked about their profession, including how to get started and their sources of inspiration.

The spectacular annual Great Falls Public Schools Student Art Show exhibited outstanding GFPS student artwork on campus throughout March. Seventh Graders from East and North Junior High School toured the college on April 21 and April 23. **Natalie Nefzger**, Recruiter, reported the tours were set up with 'Hot Spots' where students experienced 'Show and Tell' presentations about specific programs.

Career Services had a busy spring conducting workshops for faculty focusing on job placement and career information. The workshops are sponsored by the Carl Perkins Grant and topics have included *Preparing Students for Job Fairs*, *Career Advising*, *Being a Reference for Students*, *Referring Students for Jobs*, *Teaching Job Seekers to Think Like Entrepreneurs*, *Teaching Students to Create an Employer Needs Job-Search Strategy*, and *Articulation*. Faculty have been able to attend both on campus and online via Adobe Connect. According to Lynn Ward, Program Director and faculty in the HIT and HICS programs, "As a distance faculty, the ability to come to campus for faculty training is not always feasible. These types of workshops are now being held in Adobe Connect. This gives distance faculty the opportunity to attend workshops and training that would otherwise be unavailable. The workshops I have attended this way have been outstanding, and I have learned a great deal. I am very appreciative that this type of training is now being extended to distance faculty."

MSU - Great Falls is partnering for the second year with Great Falls Public Schools to offer online courses as an option for high school students who need credit recovery to graduate. There will be nine courses offered including math, psych, health/PE, history and English for students to meet their graduation requirements. GFPS instructors will teach the courses. **Ryan Schrenk**, Director of the Distance Learning Department, will provide training to the teachers and the students in D2L, our new online course delivery system.

The 9th annual Missouri River Breaks was held during spring break with **over** 80 workshops and 560 participants. It is a collaborative effort with Cascade County MSU Extension.

Disability Week featured a Special Olympics Fundraiser, a History of Disability Display; a Community Resource Fair with community resources available for people with disabilities; a Forum with Guest Speakers; a Student Panel; and a report of the campus's compliance to ADA Standards.