

CAMPUS REPORTS
Board of Regents Meeting
June 11, 2007
Great Falls, Montana

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

- MSU-Billings hosted the third annual at-risk conference on “Meth: Prevention and Intervention.” The two-day conference was developed by the College of Professional Studies and Lifelong Learning and the MSU-Billings College of Education and was sponsored by the Montana Tavern Owners Association with assistance by the Billings Clinic. The conference dealt head-on with the methamphetamine problem in Montana and brought together leading experts in law enforcement, health care and social services. Some of the great speakers included: Montana Attorney General, Mike McGrath; Executive Director of the Montana Meth Project, Peg Shea; Billings Clinic researcher, Dr. Howard Knapp; Diane Jenkins, special agent with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency; Ron and Carren Clem, father/daughter team who wrote a book about a family’s response to a meth-addicted teen; and others.
- Ms. Reno Charette will join the College of Arts and Sciences at Montana State University-Billings as Coordinator for Native American Programs (NAP). The appointment includes teaching responsibilities and coordinating the University’s Native American Programs at MSU-B.
- The Montana State University-Billings Foundation announces that it has received a challenge grant of \$20,000 from the Charles M. Bair Family Trust to help upgrade the 40-year-old lighting system in Petro Theatre with a new \$40,000 Electronic Theatre Controls (ETC) system. An additional \$20,000 must be raised to match the Bair grant and to complete the upgrade.
- Six softball players from MSU-B have been selected to the All-Heartland Conference Softball Teams. Jenna McCartney, Leslie David, Jessica Frank & Terina Stacks were named to the First Team. While Lorel Palmer and Jenna Haacke were named to the All-Heartland Second Team.
- Jonathan Wiley was awarded one of 58 NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships. Wiley was a four-year letterman in basketball for the Yellowjackets, earning honorable mention all-conference honors as a senior. During commencement he was recognized as one of three 2007 Montana State University-Billings Outstanding Seniors.
- Dr. Gary Gray, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at Montana State University-Billings, announced that the University will add men’s and women’s indoor and outdoor track and field beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year. The addition of the four new sports, will give MSU-B 17 intercollegiate sports. Effective July 1, 2007, MSU-Billings becomes a member of the NCAA Division II Great Northwest Conference. Tennis and Golf will become members of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.
- About a year after ground was officially broken on the new health sciences building at Montana State University Billings’ College of Technology campus, the structure’s form has gone from a fenced-in slab of concrete to 350 tons of steel awaiting a new suit of sheeting and masonry. By the end of July 2007, the exterior sheeting and masonry veneer of the 50,000 square-foot building should be installed, Hardy Construction officials say. Between 20 and 30 workers have been onsite daily since work began last July and once work is completed by early 2008, students and faculty from health-related and general education programs will find a new home.
- Charles Tooley has been appointed Director, Urban Institute, for MSU-Billings. Billings’ former Mayor will play a key role in establishing a clear vision and mission for the Urban Institute and preserving its identity.
- MSU-B hosted the Chinese Delegation Business Expo which was organized by Senator Baucus to give Montana companies a chance to pitch their products to the Chinese who represented a wide swath of private sector officials from several industry sectors in that country. “This is a great opportunity for Montana, and for Montana businesses,” Baucus said. “Following up on a great Jobs Summit, this expo will be a chance for Montanans to sell their world class products, which means more good-paying jobs.”
- MSU-B Foundation Director, Marilyn Miller, announced the 2007 Wine & Food Festival netted a record \$360,000 which is earmarked to support undergraduate scholarships. The Festival was co-chaired for the second year by Jane Howell, Director of the MSU-B Library, and her husband, Dr. Joe Howell, Department Chairman and Professor of Mathematics at MSU-B. Nearly 400 volunteers work throughout the year to ensure the success of the Wine & Food Festival.
- Ms. Shelley Van Atta announced her resignation as University Relations Director at MSU-B. Shelley is looking forward to spending more time with her “daughter, husband, friends, horses, books and garden.”
- MSU-Billings is a designated host for the 2007 Big Sky State Games for Basketball Regional and Final competition and for Ballroom Dancing Final Competition.

Montana State University – Great Falls College of Technology
Dean Mary Sheehy Moe

- College of Technology in Bozeman
- The Aviation program graduated its first students in a commencement ceremony on May 14 at Summit

Aviation at Gallatin Field. A new Director of Workforce Development, Barbara Zuck, has been hired to respond to business needs in the Gallatin Valley. Faculty searches are under way for the new Interior Design AAS degree program and Welding Certificate of Applied Science available to the Gallatin Valley as of Fall 2007 through the College of Technology.

- Teleconferencing Makes EMT Courses Available to Rural Montanans
- A powerful Northcentral Montana partnership helped nine rural residents become Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). The Northcentral Montana Healthcare Alliance and MSU-Great Falls College of Technology worked with the Big Sandy Volunteer Fire Department to conduct the 15-week initial training course through teleconferencing. The primary instructor, Kelly McKeever, a Great Falls paramedic who works at Benefis Healthcare, teaches the lecture portions of the course from the college's REACH equipment room while Randy Beaudette, Big Sandy ambulance director and training officer, conducts the practice sessions on-site in Big Sandy. Students attended class in Big Sandy. The Northcentral Montana Healthcare Alliance, whose main office is at Benefis Healthcare in Great Falls, is a group of healthcare facilities in 15 communities who are working together to address common issues. The alliance has been offering telemedicine services, including continuing education, through the REACH network for several years. This fall the college was invited to join the alliance to expand the educational offerings using the system.
- Physical Therapist Assistant Program Accredited
- The Physical Therapist Assistant program at the MSU-Great Falls College of Technology has received full accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). Due to high demand for physical therapist assistants in the Montana workforce, the program has been reinstated after a 4-year moratorium. The Physical Therapist Program is the only Associate of Applied Science degree program offered in this field in Montana.
- Staff and Faculty Accomplishments
- David Mariani, Jr. was elected President of the MSU-Great Falls Associated Students. David is earning an Associate of Arts Degree with a concentration in visual arts. Lee Anne Gills, Program Assistant for the Department of Arts and Sciences, received the Betty Morey-Dan Bukvich Award at the annual MPEA convention in recognition of her outstanding contributions. Gayla Bridger, General Accountant, attained her certification in Grants Management – Recipient Track.
- Montana Institute on Educational Technology
- K-12 teachers learned how to incorporate technology into their classrooms through seminars on new classroom technologies, best practices, applications and much more. The Institute was offered during the week of June 18th through a partnership with the Central Montana Tech Prep Consortium and allowed participants to earn OPI Renewal Units and/or graduate credit through Montana State University.
- FiberFest 2007
- FiberFest 2007 celebrated the Great Falls Spinners and Weavers Guild's 50th anniversary. In collaboration with the MSU-Great Falls' Creative Arts Enterprise Program, the Guild presented a week filled with workshops, demonstrations and opportunities to stock up on fiber supplies. The event celebrated the Great Falls Spinners and Weavers Guild's 50th anniversary year, recognizing its active role in the future of fiber arts in Montana. Expert presenters shared their knowledge of color theory, dyeing, knitting, crocheting, spinning, basketmaking, and weaving as well as other specialty skills such as beading, wheat weaving, painted fiber, felting and entrepreneurship for fiber artists.
- Student Health Services
- The MSU-Great Falls Campus is participating in a joint effort with the University of Great Falls and the MSU Bozeman College of Nursing to offer voluntary student health services to students enrolled at the three campuses. Services are provided by students and faculty at the College of Nursing in an office space located on the UGF Campus. Students may pay a per visit or per semester amount – there is not a student fee charged for this service.
- Respiratory Students Excel
- First year Respiratory students won the Sputum Bowl competition at the Montana State Respiratory Society Convention! There were 8 state teams competing. The first place prize was \$300. The final play was against the Respiratory Therapists at Billings Deaconess Clinic. The trophy will be engraved and held at MSU Great Falls College of Technology until next year's competition. Three second year respiratory care students competed in the scholarship competition with one winning and receiving a scholarship from the Montana State Respiratory Society.
- Dental Hygiene Students Serve
- The Dental Hygiene Program received support from the Fourth District Dental Society to assist with student costs of the WREB clinical exam in June. Students and faculty members provided dental screenings to participants in the Montana Special Olympics in May.
- Surgical Technology Students Ace Exams
- In the PAE examinations conducted in May, the students from MSU – Great Falls achieved a 100% pass rate. Three students passed with exceptional performance.

Flathead Valley Community College
President Jane Karas

- On May 18 during the college's **Spring 2007 Commencement**, FVCC awarded **228 degrees and certificates** consisting of 145 Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees, 66 Associate of Applied Science degrees and 17 certificates. Keynote speaker was Alliance for Excellent Education President and former West Virginia **Governor Bob Wise**. During the ceremony, FVCC President Jane Karas presented her second annual President's Mentor Award to **Fran Laukaitis**, chief of nursing at Kalispell Regional Medical Center. The award was created last year to honor a community leader who every day inspires us with their leadership, vision, integrity and passion and exemplifies the meaning of the word mentor.
- FVCC has received four recent contributions to its **Building for Success gifts campaign**, bringing the total funds raised to date to \$800,000. Recent contributions include: \$30,000 from **Columbia Falls Aluminum Company** to name the Metal and Machine Fabrication Shop Bay and \$30,000 from **Schellinger Construction** to name the College Shop Bay in the Occupational Trades Building; \$30,000 from the **Bibler Foundation** to name the Allied Health Science Lab in Ross Hall and to name a classroom in the Early Childhood Education & Care Center in honor of Jean Bibler; and \$150,000 from the **FVCC Foundation** to support all three new buildings.
- Flathead Valley Community College has opened the first wing of the new **Arts and Technology Building** to art students for summer classes. The 61,500-square-foot-structure is the campus' largest facility and provides a state-of-the-art learning environment. The building is scheduled to be completed this fall in conjunction with the college's 40th anniversary.
- On June 4 in Somers, FVCC President Jane Karas launched the college's sixth annual **Community Conversations**. The conversations provide Karas the opportunity to share the college's present and future activities, including its new facilities and programs, with invited community members while welcoming community thoughts on how the college is meeting local needs. During June and July, Karas will host a total of 11 conversations throughout Flathead, Lincoln and Lake Counties.
- Spring tours of the **Bibler Home and Gardens** hosted by FVCC Foundation raised \$1,000 more in proceeds than last year's spring tours. The Foundation treated 445 guests in 16 tour groups to the enchanting home and gardens May 5, 6, 12 and 13 and generated **\$4,344**. All proceeds benefit student scholarships and programs at FVCC. The Foundation will host summer evening tours of the Bibler Home and Gardens July 23-27 and special tours for gardeners featuring Head Gardener Miriam Ascher July 11 and 12.
- **Bigfork Lady Lions** presented FVCC a scholarship for \$1,000 to provide scholarship assistance to a qualified Bigfork resident studying nursing at the college. The contribution brings the total to \$2,700 in gifts to the Foundation from the Bigfork Lady Lions during the FY 2007.
- Flathead Valley Community College was presented a check in the amount of **\$58,553** from **Student Assistance Foundation** Executive Vice President of Foundation Activities Kelly Chapman at the FVCC Foundation Board meeting May 17. The grant was generated through the Student Assistance Foundation's Acce\$\$ Grant program to help students whose unmet needs are creating barriers to prevent them from continuing their education. Last year, the grant totaling nearly \$39,000 has assisted 32 students with their childcare expenses.
- FVCC presented this year's prestigious **Eagle Award to Bill Roope**, director Northwest Montana Regional Tech-Prep Consortium. The award honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the college. Throughout his career at FVCC, he has taken on a leadership role in career and technical education in the state of Montana, has represented the college in statewide meetings and has collaborated with corporations, small businesses, labor unions and trade associations to strengthen programs for FVCC students, and most recently, has been instrumental in the development of the Career Cluster model in Montana.
- FVCC's **Lincoln County Campus** teamed up with the Libby Job Service to provide **Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (HAZWOPER) training** for 25 Job Service clients in the Libby area May 7-11. The training provided the clients with the certification necessary to obtain positions with local contractors dealing with asbestos abatement issues.

Montana Tech of The University of Montana
Chancellor W. Franklin Gilmore

- Montana Tech Biology reports nearly doubling their number of applicants and confirmed fall 2007 enrollment by sixty percent from 2006. Increases are attributed to several faculty visits to schools across Montana and the department's spreading reputation for excellence in education and research and high placement success, in jobs and graduate and professional school.
- The Computer Science and Software Engineering department at Montana Tech launched a faculty-centered advising and recruiting program in the 2006-2007 school year. To date, applications for these programs are up 140% compared to this time last year.

- Montana Tech's Director of Technical Outreach, Amy Verlanic, will host a press conference on the Montana Tech campus on Thursday, June 21 to announce the establishment of two new and the continuation of one Upward Bound Program. These programs are being funded through a four year, three million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Education.
 - During the conference, Mrs. Verlanic will discuss Montana Tech's intent to provide career guidance, academic assistance, and college preparation activities to over 180 students in 13 high schools. School principals and other educators will discuss the impact that the Upward Bound program will have on their students and communities. Communities to be served by the three programs are Butte, Anaconda, Helena, Ennis, Whitehall, Sheridan, Twin Bridges, Harrison, Alberton, Plains, St. Regis, Thompson Falls, and Superior.
 - On May 2nd - 4th, 2007 Professor Willis Weight (Geological Engineering) taught a short course at the Blackfoot Community College on ArcGis 9.2. The class started with computer literacy, but in the end all were able to construct a map of a Brownsfield site on the Reservation near the town of Browning.
 - Professor Willis Weight submitted a manuscript for a 2nd edition of his book Hydrogeology Field Manual to McGraw-Hill in New York, to be published in early 2008. Professors Curtis Link and Chris Gammons are Chapter contributors.
 - Professor Pat Munday, (Professional & Technical Communication), joined "Writers on the Range," a syndicated column service of *High Country News*. Munday's first article for the service was "Grassroots activists battle a national environmental group," an article about a national organization's unsuccessful effort to prevent state and local chapters of the organization from engaging in public access initiatives.
 - Professor Marvin Speece (Geophysical Engineering) and graduate student Taylor Patterson will travel to Antarctica in October to take part in two International Polar Year research projects. They will help log a new borehole in southern McMurdo Sound as part of the Antarctic Geological Drilling Program (ANDRILL) and they will do a geophysical survey at a potential future drill site.
 - Professors Rich McNearny (Mining Engineering) and Mary MacLaughlin (Geological Engineering) attended the 1st Canada-U.S. Rock Mechanics Symposium held in Vancouver, BC, Canada on May 28 to May 31. Two papers were presented, "Modeling of Shotcrete under ASTM C-1550 with PFC3D", by X. J. Zhou and R. L. McNearny, and "Development of upper and lower bounds to describe engineering properties as a function of macroporosity", by A. Costa, C. Wright, Y. Ye, M. MacLaughlin, and N. Hudyma. Graduate students John Zhou and Colleen Jespersen of the Department of Mining Engineering also attended the symposium.
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