MSU Alumnus Norm Asbjornson (B.S. ME 1960, Hon. Doc. Engineering 2004) and Montana native from the small town of Winifred, has pledged $50 million to the University for its College of Engineering. His commitment represents the largest private gift in the history of the state.

Three Montana State University students were awarded prestigious Goldwater Scholarships, the nation’s premier scholarship for undergraduates studying math, natural sciences and engineering. MSU has now produced 61 Goldwater scholars, and is among the top 15 institutions in the nation for number of recipients.

Two MSU students won prestigious Udall Scholarships from the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation. Cara Thuringer of Sioux Falls, S.D., was named a Udall Scholar in the environmental category, and Emery Three Irons from the Crow Indian Reservation was honored in the Tribal Public Policy category.

The Montana State University Center for Faculty Excellence was recognized as a 2014 Exemplary Teaching and Learning Center at the 25th International Conference on Teaching and Learning.

MSU began offering priority registration for veterans in spring 2014.

MSU set a record enrollment for spring semester with 14,102 students enrolled, a 2.9 percent jump over spring a year ago.

The MSU Collegiate Cattle Women’s Club won a national competition, and the prize – 30,500 pounds of chicken products from Tyson Foods, Inc. – was donated to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank. The group won the contest by collecting 500 pounds of canned goods during the annual “Can the Griz” food drive last fall and completing other weekly assignments in the annual Animal Agricultural Alliance Online College Aggies Scholarship Competition.

Two music technology students recently had their compositions selected by jury for performance at the 2014 National Student Electronic Music Event. The Bachelor of Arts in Music Technology at MSU is a synthesis of traditional musical training applied through new technologies.

As part of its commitment to increasing Montana food and products on campus, MSU hired a full-time Montana-Made program manager. The farm-to-college program began as a way to support local farmers, ranchers, processors, manufacturers and distributors. It is also designed to raise awareness about the importance of local food systems and enhance the economic, environmental and social health of communities throughout the state.

A new residence hall living option for incoming freshmen interested in developing leadership skills will be available at MSU beginning in fall 2014. The Emerging Leaders Living Learning Community, a co-ed living option, focuses on engaging first-year students interested in leadership.

MSU’s recently resurrected Wool Judging team participated in the national competition after taking fifth place at the National Western Judging Contest.

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