MSU Billings extends congratulations and best wishes to each 958 graduates of 2016! Two seniors and one graduate student received the University’s most prestigious student awards. For their academic achievements, campus and community involvement, and leadership, Brittani Anderson and Mary Justine Owen were each the recipients of the 2016 Outstanding Senior award and Patrick Klugman was the recipient of the Nels Christiansen Outstanding Graduate Student. Owen was also named this year’s Golden Merit award winner.

Congrats to the MSUB baseball team for their participation in the 2016 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Baseball Championship trying to defend their reigning GNAC Champs title. The team finished as GNAC co-champs defending their title, finishing 3rd in the tournament.

City College students captured top awards in four areas of the SkillsUSA State Competition this spring. The winners from City College: Brandon Dickson, DJ Miller, Nick Niehenke, Austin Schultz, Ryley Shipp, Eddie Gabel, Ryan Broste, Tristan Rohrer and Will Johnson. Sophomore, Austin Schultz from Richey, Auto Body Refinishing major, said, “We’ve worked really hard and have a lot to be proud of, and a lot to look forward to.”

American Indian Business Leaders of MSUB won the national championship this spring in Phoenix, AZ, making this the sixth national title for the student organization. Violet Birdinground, Sabrina Half and Bessie Crooked Arm presented their business plan in competition with other AIBL club member universities from Alaska to Colorado. The competition encourages business and marketing students to identify culturally significant business plans to boost the economies of American Indian reservations. The group produced a children’s book, “Lily Good Path Becomes the Buffalo” which combines Indian folklore from many tribal heritages to inspire and empower youth by taking care of mother earth and respecting all American Indian cultures.

The annual MSUB Research and Creativity Conference is a free and open to the public event that features scholarly works as diverse as the fields of study they represent, from physics to biology to communications and creative writing. “The event offers students the opportunity to present and share their research, scholarship or creative work in a professional and supportive setting,” said Honors Program Director, David Craig. “The conference is a platform for students, staff and faculty to learn more about the variety of research and creative works occurring at MSU Billings and City College.”

Assistant Professor Suzette Nynas, Director of MSUB’s Athletic Training Education Program, was awarded with the 2016 Athletic Trainer Service Award from the National Athletic Trainers’ Association. The NATA member was recognized for her contributions to the athletic training profession as a volunteer at the local and state levels. A candidate is required to be a certified athletic trainer, conferred by the Board of Certification, in addition to being an NATA member, for at least 20 years.

The Montana Business Hall of Fame at MSUB annually recognizes outstanding businessmen and women who have made significant and enduring contributions to their business, industry, and communities through extraordinary leadership. Dean Barbara Wheeling said Hall of Fame inductees exemplify the entrepreneurial spirit of Montana. Inductees will be honored at the fall fundraiser dinner event, “An Evening with Henry Winkler.” Henry Winkler will deliver a keynote speech during the MSUB Foundation’s third annual event.

The public was invited to an “Exploring Space” astronomy lecture and viewing on the MSUB campus. Science students, physics and chemistry Professor Dr. Steven Wiles, joined Chancellor Nook to provide fascinating facts and history about the night sky from our own backyard.