

CAMPUS REPORTS
Board of Regents Meeting
March 5-6, 2009
Helena, Montana

Montana State University
President Geoff Gamble

The U.S. Department of Energy awarded \$66.9 million in November to the Big Sky Carbon Sequestration Partnership at MSU to fund a project that will inject a million tons of carbon dioxide into the sandstone rock layer beneath southwestern Wyoming. The commercial-scale, eight-year carbon sequestration study will demonstrate that underground geologic formations can store huge volumes of carbon dioxide safely and permanently. Approximately \$14 million of the federal money will stay on the MSU campus to pay for the university's contribution to the project.

The U.S. Department of Energy awarded MSU and Utah State University a three-year, \$900,000 grant to study the oil produced by algae, which could be a renewable source of biodiesel. The MSU and Utah State project will screen different kinds of algae to learn which species produce the most oil and which can produce those oils most efficiently.

MSU launched its Energy Research Institute, an umbrella organization for more than 170 faculty, staff and students in 11 departments working in the fields of clean-coal technology, fuel cells, wind, coal bed methane and biofuels. The institute can be found online at www.montana.edu/energy.

MSU broke ground on its new Animal Bioscience building in November. The \$15.7 million building is expected to be completed in 2010, and will include classrooms, teaching laboratories, technology transfer rooms, research facilities, and faculty and staff offices.

MSU offers a new, online Native American Studies course this spring. "Native America: Dispelling the Myths," taught by Kristin Ruppel, professor in MSU's Department of Native American Studies, focuses on the myths and truths surrounding American Indians and utilize readings, videos, online conversations and creative projects.

MSU Extension has chosen 15 more Montana communities to participate in Horizons, a community leadership development program funded by the Northwest Area Foundation. Horizons offers a comprehensive community leadership and capacity building process to benefit small, rural communities that have seen significant decline in population, income and resources. The new communities chosen are Alberton, Choteau, Cut Bank, Darby, Ennis, Eureka, Geyser, Harlem, Hays, Libby, Malta, Sheridan, Superior, Stanford and Twin Bridges.

Shane Colvin, MSU student body president, is one of just 12 national recipients of a 2008 George J. Mitchell Scholarship. Colvin, a senior with three majors (biochemistry, music and cell biology), will use the one year of postgraduate study in Ireland funded by the scholarship to earn a master's in musical therapy from the University of Limerick.

Jeffrey Sharkey, a 2008 graduate from MSU's computer science master's program, won \$275,000 in a software design competition sponsored by Google. Sharkey's entry was one of the top 10 out of 1,800 in Google's Android Developer Challenge, a contest designed to get software developers working on programs for Google's cell phone operating system.

Charles Kankelborg, a solar physicist in the MSU physics department, received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers in a special White House ceremony in December. The award is the highest recognition the United States government gives to outstanding scientists and engineers beginning their careers.

Montana State University Billings

Chancellor Ronald P. Sexton, Ph. D.

MSUB once again presented "Chicks in Science," an event that provides hands-on, minds-on interactive activities to introduce girls in grades 4-8 to various careers in science, technology, engineering and math. "Just as importantly, this reminds girls that you can be a cool chick and be smart at the same time," said Kim Schweikert, Kids on Campus and Outreach Coordinator with the MSUB College of Professional Studies and Lifelong Learning. The program was very successful last year with nearly 1,000 girls in attendance.

The University Connections program at MSUB gives high school students the opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school and at home. The University provides scholarships for the program enabling students to take college classes for only \$100 per credit in Biology, English, Math, Psychology, History, Art, etc.

Billings area residents had a chance to talk directly to legislators. This was the second in a series of technologically interactive meetings coordinated by area legislators, MSUB, the City of Billings and Yellowstone County. Legislators were available to answer questions and give insights into the session.

Dr. Terry Blackwell, Professor in Rehabilitation and Human Services, was notified by the National Rehabilitation Counseling Educators Association, he has been recognized as researcher of the year.

Dr. David Garloff, Dean of College of Allied Health Professions will retire effective February 1, 2009. Dr. Garloff was instrumental in more fully integrating the College of Allied Health Professions into the community and oversaw development of a free community mental health clinic.

A Spring Kick Off event held for Seniors on Campus featured guest speaker, Dr. Richard Jensen, who presented a discussion on the history of American women in World War II based on the book "Women at War with America Private Lives in a Patriotic Era," written by his wife, Dr. D'Ann Campbell, Provost and Academic Vice Chancellor at MSUB.

MSUB College of Technology has reached out to the community in response to critical changes in our region's economic situation. The COT hosted 10 members of the Montana Equipment Dealer's Association and 40 prospective students at Yellowstone County Implement for the Diesel Technology Career Exploration evening; presented the opportunity to 65 prospective students, 20 parents and many community leaders to the potential success they can achieve by pursuing a career in Process Plant Technology and Power Plant Operations; and partnered with Billings School District No. 2 to announce the new and innovative west Billings Adult Education GED preparation site. This expansion doubles Billings' capacity to help people prepare to pass the GED. The COT offered the first Intro to Welding course with the majority of the students participating after being laid-off from Stillwater Mining plus 3 women from Passages. The Prison/Passages programs had 24 women signed up for training classes - AG Modules, Family Economics and Financial Education, writing and math courses. Cleo Sutton from COT developed a curriculum for construction training where the students design their dream homes using design software, then build models of their homes. Training for sheetrock and painting was available at the COT's demonstration house for hands-on-work.

Associate Professor Tami Haaland and Adjunct Instructor Russell Rowland, English and Philosophy Department, College of Arts and Sciences, launched an online literary magazine, with the help of Malia Burgess, a 2008 MSUB graduate. "Stone's Throw Magazine" focuses on poetry and literature.

College of Business Dean, Dr. Gary Young, represented MSUB in discussions on formal business program collaborations with the University of Montana and Flathead Valley Community College.

COB Professor Mike Campbell, along with COT Associate Dean Kirk Lacy, represented MSUB on a trip to China to lay the foundations for Chinese student recruiting opportunities to MSUB.

Kayla Miller, ASMSUB Student Resolution Officer, helped organize a book drive of unwanted college books to help literacy projects in Nepal, Laos or South Africa. The Associated Students of MSUB partnered with Better World Books to collect books that Jackets and Company, the University's Bookstore, couldn't buy back. Funds will be used for Room to Read, an international non-profit that helps supply educational materials to developing countries that have difficulty educating their young people. As an added bonus, ASMSUB will make 50 cents per book which will be used for a local community project.

Dr. Lisa Kemmerer, English and Philosophy Department, College of Arts and Sciences, published her book entitled "*Curly tails and Cloven Hooves.*"

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

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded a \$1.97 million grant to the college to develop wind energy technician and industrial technology programs. The grant, the largest in the College's history, will be a collaborative effort to create and implement shared wind energy and industrial technology programming here and at MSU - Billings COT, MSU - Northern, and UM Montana Tech COT. The Wind Montana project will develop one-year certificate program in general industrial trades, to include general electrical and mechanical, basic job skills, industrial trades math, etc. Those skills will be valuable for entry-level workers in a broad variety of industrial settings. Those who choose could then continue on in more specific wind technician program, which would end with an associate of applied science degree. The project also calls for close cooperation with the public schools to attempt to align curricula so that high school students can complete some of the college-level work while in high school and can move easily and quickly into the college programs. In addition, the grant will focus on alignment with various labor organizations to provide linkages with apprenticeship programs as well as opportunities for existing tradesmen and women to specialize in wind energy areas.

Pat Schoenen, Carpentry Program Director, and his students are building a home in collaboration with Great Falls Neighborworks. The home is one of ten Neighborworks Self-Help Homes being built. The homeowners participate in the building project.

Faculty members, **Dr. Cherie McKeever, Rebecca Johnson, Bruce Gottwig, Lynn Ward, and Robert Truax** are recipients of the 2009 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award. Since its inception in 1978, NISOD has emphasized the importance of teaching and leadership excellence in institutions of higher education.

Dr. Greg Paulauskis received the Fellow of the American Association of Respiratory Care (FAARC) award in recognition of his significant, sustained contributions to the profession. The AARC Fellowship Program was established in 1998 and brings recognition to AARC members who have reached a level of distinction in the professional practice of Respiratory Care.

Lynn Ward, online faculty, Health Information Technology, has been appointed by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) as the lead facilitator of the Faculty Mentoring Communities of Practice. The Faculty Mentoring Communities of Practice is a forum for new educators to connect with experienced faculty.

The Charter to formally establish the MSU – Great Falls Faculty Senate was signed by **Interim Dean Joe Schaffer, Associate Dean Heidi Pasek**, and faculty members **Bruce Gottwig** and **Leonard Bates**. The

Charter is an agreement between the Administration of the College and the Faculty recognizing the establishment of the Faculty Senate as the 'voice of the Faculty as an advisory and consultative body to the Dean and to the Board of Regents on all matters that may affect the attainment of the College's educational objectives.'

Andrea Johnson, Program Director, and Physical Therapist Assistant faculty, **Charlene Marshall**, welcomed an on-site accreditation review team from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education to campus on January 25-28. The visit followed the submission of an extensive self-study of the program. The team met with a variety of faculty and staff from the college as well as community members, healthcare professionals, past and present students.

Patricia Nelson, faculty Interior Design program at the college's extension in Bozeman, reported her students held a successful silent auction during the Bozeman Christmas Stroll to raise money for a trip to the International Homebuilders Show in Las Vegas.

Tammy Filiater and **Roger Peffer**, science faculty members, accompanied eleven Anatomy and Physiology and Biology students to Salt Lake City to view Bodyworlds – an internationally acclaimed exhibit that displays plastinated cadavers artfully displayed in different poses, extracted organ systems, and extensive information about the human body and diseases.

Community Legislative Forums are being held on the MSU – Great Falls campus semi-monthly through the Legislative Session. METNET interactive television provides the opportunity for community members to meet with area legislators and participate in informal discussions concerning issues and developments in Helena.

Nearly 300 students from 22 high schools attended the 11th annual College in a Day event on January 8. Each participant attended sessions offering information on exciting careers in business, skilled trades, and healthcare as well as opportunities to transfer to earn a bachelor's degree. Additional sessions provided information about distance learning, financial aid, and disability services.