

## CAMPUS REPORT

**DATE:** October 27, 2011  
**TO:** Board of Regents  
**FROM:** Donald M. Blackketter, Chancellor, Montana Tech of The University of Montana  
**RE:** Campus Report for the November 17-18, 2011 Board of Regents' Meeting

- John Morrison's research on battery diagnostics was recognized by The Wall Street Journal in their 2011 Technology Innovation Award competition. John is a Professor of Electrical Engineering at Montana Tech. His research, sponsored by the Idaho National Laboratory, previously received a prestigious R&D 100 Award.
- Geophysical Engineering Professor Marvin Speece recently received the Antarctica Service Medal of the United States of America in recognition of valuable contributions to exploration and scientific achievement under the U.S. Antarctic Program.
- Montana Tech scored the second highest in the nation in the NAIA's Champions of Character Five Star Award released today by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. Seven schools from the Frontier Conference will receive the award, but Montana State University-Northern was the only other Frontier Conference school to break into the top 25 institutions. The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics boasts a proud reputation for promoting competitive athletics, academic excellence and character values. The Scorecard Process is based on the five core values of integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship and servant leadership.
- Gordy Flanders and Tim Kober presented their paper *Redesigning a Capstone Class using Simulations, Case Studies and Critical Thinking* at the Marketing Management Association Fall Educator's Conference, September 23, 2011, in St Louis, Missouri. The paper *Redesigning a Capstone Class, from the Perspective of the Student* (2011), co-authored by Tim Kober, Gordy Flanders and David Ottolino, was accepted for publication by the *Montana Professor*, Fall 2011.
- The Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, which operates the Mineral Museum at Montana Tech, will host a Museum Open House from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, November 6, to celebrate the Museum's 110-year anniversary. Eighteen new exhibits will be featured, including a "new" meteorite recently found in Montana. This meteorite is on loan to the Museum for a year and is one of fewer than 10 known from Montana. At 32 pounds, it is one of the largest meteorites ever found in this state. Additionally, as part of a FEMA grant, a new earthquake exhibit shows real-time seismic activity and allows visitors to create their own seismic event and view it on an interactive seismograph.
- Tom Patton, hydrogeologist and manager of the MBMG's state-wide Ground Water Assessment Program, was named a "Water Legend" and presented with an award at the recent Montana meeting of the American Water Resources Association. This award is given in recognition of individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to understanding Montana's water resources. Tom is only the 9<sup>th</sup> individual to have received this honor.
- Martha Apple (Biological Sciences) and Xiaobing Zhou (Geophysics) received a \$61,247 grant from the Department of Energy-EPSCoR to continue their research on plant responses to leaks in carbon sequestration systems at the Zero Emissions Research Technology (ZERT) site at MSU.
- John Amtmann along with applied health science students Chris Tacke, Jeremy Basler, Meaghen Randall and Matt Doble co-authored 6 articles on fitness for whitewater kayakers that appeared in the American Whitewater Affiliation's *American Whitewater* this year.
- Dr. Chris Gammons, Professor of Geological Engineering, and Dr. Courtney Young, Dept Head and Prater Distinguished Professor of Metallurgical & Materials Engineering, worked with The Tributary Fund in Bozeman to host 3 members of a Mongolian delegation of Monks along with 2 translators on Oct 5 and 6. The Monks were here to study impacts of mining on the environment, community engagement, mining regulations, mining and milling technology, and restoration technologies. Strong relationships were established with a view towards international exchange of faculty and students between Mongolia and Montana Tech.
- Dr. Pat Munday, Professor of Science & Technology Studies with the Technical Communication program, recently published a number of photographs in various venues, including: *Montana Outdoors* magazine; a non-profit guide about sustainable aquaculture published by the International

Union for Conservation of Nature; and the field guidebook *Flora of Montana's Gallatin Region, Greater Yellowstone's Northwest Corner* (2011). Munday also had an article, "The Na'vi as Spiritual Hunters: a semiotic explanation," accepted for publication in the *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture* and his entry for the "Environmental Protection Agency" was published in *Green Culture: An A-to-Z Guide* (2011).

- Dr. Chris Gammons (Geological Engineering) and graduate student Joshua White presented two talks and a poster at the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Minneapolis (Oct. 8-12). Several Geological Engineering students presented talks or posters at the Montana American Water Resources Association meeting (Oct. 6-7, Great Falls), including grad students Shawn Kuzara, Joshua Lee, Bill Henne, Elizabeth Bramlett, and undergraduate student Allie Brown. Later in October, Bill Henne will present his MS thesis research on Georgetown Lake at the North American Lake Management Society annual meeting in Spokane.
- Chris Gammons (Geol. Engineering) and Steve Parker (Chemistry and Geochemistry) received a \$35,000 grant from the BLM to investigate natural and mining-related acid rock drainage in the Judith Mountains, Montana.
- Dr. Courtney Young, Dept Head and Prater Distinguished Professor of Metallurgical & Materials Engineering, co-taught a short course on Fundamentals of Mineral and Metallurgical Processing at the Uranium 2011 Symposium in Casper, WY, with Dr. Corby Anderson, the Case Western Professor of Metallurgical Engineering at CSM. Attendees ranged from Geologists to Metallurgists with international companies to a government employee at a national lab.
- Dr. Young was also selected for the "Distinguished Lecture Award" by the Engineering Processing Division (EPD) of The Metals Society (TMS) and presented the lecture at the TMS Annual Meeting in San Diego in early March (2011). The presentation was "The Removal of Arsenic, Selenium and Metals from Aqueous Solution by Iron Precipitation and Reduction Processes". Each year one person is selected from the EPD membership of approximately 1000 to present the Award Lecture.
- Larry G. Twidwell, Emeritus Professor of Metallurgical Engineering at Montana Tech, is co-author of "Removing Arsenic from Aqueous solution and Long-term Product Storage"\* which was published in the August 2011 edition of *JOM*, the journal of The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society (TMS).
- Montana Tech is celebrating the grand opening of its new, state of the art x-ray laboratory in the College of Technology. The new x-ray equipment and laboratory will be utilized by students in the Associate of Applied Science Radiologic Technology Program. The equipment and lab will provide students with opportunities to practice their clinical skills.
- G.I. Jobs, the premier magazine for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, has awarded Montana Tech the designation of Military Friendly School. The 2012 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members and veterans as students.
- Montana Tech has been ranked in the top tier of "America's Best Colleges" by *U.S. News & World Report*. Montana Tech earned the No. 1 spot for public colleges as one of America's "Best Regional Colleges (West)" and also ranked No. 40 for "Best in Undergraduate Engineering" in the recently released *Best Colleges 2012 guidebook*. Montana Tech was recognized in the No. 1 spot for public regional colleges in the category "Best Regional Colleges-West Region" for institutions that "focus almost entirely on the undergraduate experience and offer a broad range of programs in the liberal arts (which account for fewer than half of all bachelor's degrees granted) and in fields such as business, nursing, and education." Montana Tech was ranked in the No. 6 spot overall. Montana Tech's 2012 rankings are up from last year. In the 2011 edition, Tech landed in the No. 4 spot among public baccalaureate colleges in the West and No. 10 overall.
- A student computer programming team from Montana Tech placed first in the Montana qualifying Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) International Collegiate Programming Contest at Montana State University in Bozeman. The Montana Tech team competed in a field of 10 teams from Carroll College, The University of Montana, UM College of Technology, and Montana State University. The Montana Tech team consisted of students Tyler Lee, Chris Tenda, and Zach Wormgour. The contest challenges teams of three university students to use their programming skills and rely on their mental endurance to solve complex, real world problems under a grueling five-hour deadline. As the winning team, Montana Tech will compete at a regional competition in Utah on October 29th.