A group of engineering and architecture students from Montana State took first place among an international field with their integrated sustainable building design in a competition sponsored by the American Society for Heating, Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Engineers, or ASHRAE. The competition’s challenge was to select a building to renovate, retrofit and redesign with integrated sustainable building energy systems and fundamental elements.

Two MSU music technology students have had electroacoustic compositions selected for the Electronic Music Midwest Festival to be held in October in Chicago. The compositions are part of the 66 works out of about 250 submissions selected by a jury for performance at the festival. Both works were composed as part of a second-semester freshman music technology course taught by Linda Antas, professor in the MSU School of Music.

Four students from the Department of Animal and Range Sciences at MSU tied for second place in the National Academic Quadrathlon. The four-part contest consisted of a comprehensive written exam, impromptu oral presentation, hands-on lab practicum, and a double-elimination quiz bowl tournament. The MSU team won the oral presentation and took second in the lab practicum.

MSU microbiologist Ryan Jackson has received a $100,000 two-year fellowship from the National Institutes of Health to continue his work investigating how bacteria fend off invading viruses, which that has already attracted international attention.

MSU is the lead institution on a new $10 million, four-year project to form a research center focused on innovative energy research. The Biological Electron Transfer and Catalysis (BETCy) Energy Frontiers Research Center (EFRC) will be based at MSU. Participants from seven institutions will form an integrated team to conduct basic research, looking for scientific breakthroughs to help build a new energy economy in the United States. The project is funded by the Department of Energy’s Office of Basic Energy Sciences.

Mica Jenkins, a graduate student in sustainable food systems from Lenoir City, Tenn., has received a Fulbright scholarship to study how health and nutrition can be improved in Mozambique.

MSU graphic design students won two gold awards and a silver from the National American Advertising Competition in spring 2014. With more than 40,000 entries in the national advertising competition, Kinsey White, a Bozeman native and senior in graphic design, and Diana Heryford, a 2013 graduate in graphic design each earned gold ADDY awards in publication design alongside only 20 other gold recipients.

Patrick Lawrence, a graduate student in Land Resources and Environmental Sciences, earned a six-month fellowship to conduct ecosystem-oriented teaching and research at Chief Dull Knife College on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. Lawrence’s research focuses on the resilience of large-scale dry-land ecosystems to economic and climatic change.

Doctoral engineering student Jessica Mueller received a graduate fellowship grant from the U.S. Transportation Department and the Federal Highway Administration for research comparing driving simulators with actual on-road driving. Mueller, who is conducting research at MSU’s Western Transportation Institute Driving Simulation Lab on campus, will receive the $13,000 Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship to help fund a project assessing the accuracy of driving simulators.

Montana State University Food Services won a gold medal from the National Association of College and University Food Services for a Spirits of Montana dinner hosted at the Miller Dining Facility last fall. Graphic illustrations from an art class transformed Miller Dining Hall into a Montana ghost town celebrating the spirit and hospitality of Montana mining towns.