

CAMPUS REPORT

DATE: January 23, 2015
TO: Board of Regents
FROM: Donald M. Blacketter, Chancellor, Montana Tech
RE: Campus Report for the March 5, 2015 Board of Regents' Meeting

FACULTY EFFORTS

- Liberal Studies Professor Robert Ziegler announces that his article "Leon Bloy's Books of Revelation" is appearing in issue 175 (2015) of "Studi francesi."
- Keith Vertanen, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, along with students Haythem Memmi and Justin Emge, had their paper "VelociTap: Investigating Fast Mobile Text Entry using Sentence-Based Decoding of Touchscreen Keyboard Input" accepted at the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI).
- Dr. Waleed Al-Rawashdeh, Associate Professor of Mathematics, is the author of the peer-reviewed papers: "Quasihomogeneous Toeplitz Operators on Weighted Bergman Spaces", Journal of Mathematical Analysis, 5(2014), 12-17; and "Compact Composition Operators on Weighted Hilbert Spaces", Journal of Applied Functional Analysis, 10(2015), 101-108.
- "Montana's New Collaborative Materials Science Ph.D.: An Innovative Model for Graduate Education in Rural States," was accepted for presentation at the 2015 Annual Conference of the Western Association of Graduate Schools on March 10, 2015. The co-authors are Beverly Karplus Hartline (Montana Tech Graduate Dean & VCR), J.B. Alexander Ross (UM Graduate Dean), and Karlene Hoo (MSU Graduate Dean).
- Dr. Pat Munday, Professor of Science & Technology Studies (Technical Communication), published his photograph "Slime Mold" in the January-February issue of Montana Outdoors.

HIGHLANDS COLLEGE

- Highlands College Dean Dr. John M. Garic, Bill Ryan, Chair of the Highlands Trades & Technical Department, and Bernie Phelps of Tech's Institute for Educational Opportunity met with the leadership and select faculty of both Beaverhead High School and Butte High School about the possibility of expanding dual enrollment opportunities to the trades disciplines of Welding and Construction.
- With the support of Perkins Grant funding, Highlands College conducted a Mathematics Bridge Program over the holiday break. The program utilized EdReady structure to assist 20 students to brush-up on their math skills prior to taking the Compass test for math placement.

PROGRAMS

- Montana Tech has published its Spring 2015 program of weekly public lectures. This term's intellectually diverse set of topics and speakers features two Nobel laureates. The public is welcome.

MONTANA BUREAU OF MINES AND GEOLOGY ACTIVITY

- MBMG geologist Dr. Kaleb Scarberry presented a "fireside" chat about: *The evolution of Cretaceous and Eocene igneous rocks near Butte, Montana* to a gathering hosted by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks at Lewis and Clark Caverns state Park on August 1, 2014 (this activity has not been previously reported).
- Thomas Michalek, Ground Water Investigations Program hydrogeologist, presented an update on the *Four Corners and Belgrade – Lower West Gallatin Study Areas* to the annual meeting of the Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators at Belgrade, Montana, on December 2, 2014.
- On December 5, 2014 MBMG hydrogeologist Alan English presented information on the *Scobey Soil* to the fourth grade class at Longfellow School in Bozeman, Montana. The presentation provided data to support the class's effort to have the "Scobey" officially designated as the State Soil.
- MBMG geologist Dr. Kaleb Scarberry gave an invited presentation titled: *The tectonic setting of ore deposits within and adjacent to the Boulder Batholith of southwest Montana* to the Montana Geological Society in Billings, Montana, on December 5, 2014.
- The MBMG was invited to become a node in the *United States Geoscience Information Network (USGIN)* information "cloud". The MBMG received a grant from the Arizona Geological Survey to install the software and become one of about 12 states hosting USGIN nodes. Currently MBMG geothermal data are being served through the node.

- MBMG Ground Water Investigations Program hydrogeologist, Thomas Michalek provided a *Discussion of Gallatin Valley geology and hydrogeology* to the Gallatin River Ranch Homeowners' Association Board of Directors, Manhattan, Montana, on December 12, 2014.
- John LaFave, Program Manager of the Ground Water Assessment Program, presented *Tracking Montana's Groundwater: 20 years of lessons learned* to the Montana Tech Public Lecture Series, in Butte, Montana, on January 8, 2015.
- Michael Stickney, MBMG's Director of Earthquake Studies, gave an invited talk to a US Geological Survey hazardous fault workshop held concurrently with the *Basin and Range Province Seismic Hazard Summit III*, in Salt Lake City, Utah, January 12, 2015. Director Stickney spoke about: *Montana's most hazardous and least understood faults*.
- Allison Brown, a graduate hydrogeology student working for the MBMG's Ground Water Investigations Program defended her Master's Project Report on water quality in aquifers near Big Sky, Montana. The Ground Water Investigations Program supported Allison's research and MBMG hydrogeologist James Rose served on the graduate committee.
- Director of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology and State Geologist Dr. John Metesh announced the 2015 Mining and Mineral Symposium to be held May 8-10, 2015. The symposium will provide a forum where professional and amateur mineralogists can share knowledge about mineralogy and mineral deposits. The discussions are expected to stimulate interest in new studies, lead to new discoveries, and encourage economic development.
- On January 20, 2015, MBMG Ground Water Investigations Program Hydrogeologist Andrew Bobst presented an overview of the *Boulder Valley Groundwater Investigation*, to a meeting of the Jefferson County Commission.
- The Data Preservation Program at MBMG reports accession of two important collections. The *New World Mine Collection* is one of the most comprehensive extant data sets related to a world class Eocene epithermal gold deposit. Unless preserved in a publicly accessible venue, these basic geologic data would remain inaccessible and potentially be lost. The *Jones Collection* includes reports and maps about eastern Montana oil and gas development created during several decades.