MSUB Student Veterans Services Club members were given front row seats during the annual Student Veterans of America conference held in San Antonio, Texas. Vice President Joe Biden addressed 1,200 students from across the United States at the conference. For Matt Rich, Veterans Service Club President, the purpose of the club is to unite and organize its membership in a social framework that provides assistance to the special needs of the military community on MSUB’s campuses.

Award-winning education activist and founder of Freedom Writers Foundation, Erin Gruwell, delivered the keynote address following a special movie screening of “Freedom Writers” during the “Power of One” week at MSUB. Vanessa German, visiting artist and a 2010 AAP Mendelson Exhibition Award Winner, presented a spoken-word performance followed by a reception where German’s “Bitter Root” body of work was on exhibit.

The sophomore-level communications course is designed to provide hands-on experience to learn the dynamics of communication in small groups. Melinda Tilton, University Lecturer in Communications at MSUB, said the coursework goal is for students to learn by doing something meaningful and applicable. “The course has gradually evolved to be more and more focused on enhancing student learning and engagement,” Tilton said. Amy Stuckey, a sophomore communications major, along with her classroom group, gathered more than 300 articles of warm weather clothing items and sleeping bags for donation to the Tumbleweed Runaway Program benefiting runaway and homeless youth as part of their final project for the communications course. “The project made me think bigger, like what can I do next to help,” Stuckey said.

City College at Montana State University Billings graduated 21 registered nurses and 19 practical nurses from their Nursing Program during their annual ceremony. Susan Floyd, Director, City College Nursing Program, said, “Our program is known for its quality education and ability to equip students for lifelong learning and career potential.” More than 90 percent of City College nursing graduates are hired in the healthcare field following graduation.

MSUB Women’s and Gender Studies program hosted a “Miss Representation” film screening and panel of the 2011 American documentary film written, directed and produced by Jennifer Siebel Newsom. The film premiered in the documentary competition at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, exploring how mainstream media contributes to the under-representation of women in influential positions by circulating limited and often marginal portrayals of women. MSUB Assistant Professor, Dr. Jennifer Lynne, who teaches several women’s and gender history courses, said the film speaks to a host of high-profile issues such as equal pay for equal work, sexual assaults on university campuses and high school dress codes for girls. “The conversation is about how a wider population is affected by these issues and how we can educate and discuss in a productive way that leads to real change.”

The MSUB Math Club kicked-off their spring series with junior mathematics major, Baudry Metangmo, talking about his research work with Dr. Saroj Aryal, MSUB Mathematics Assistant Professor. He also presented the research on Continue Fractions: Finding Rational Approximants of Irrational Numbers and Multivariate Functions at the Joint Mathematics meetings in San Antonio, TX.