

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

CAMPUS REPORT | Board of Regents Meeting | March 5-6, 2020 | Dillon



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

- **MSU Billings looks to 2020 as the year of new student opportunities.** Partnership agreements are underway with University of North Texas Health Science Center to create new research and internship opportunities for MSUB students. The agreement would also designate MSUB as an official site for the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, a national DNA registry to help identify missing individuals; this would also greatly assist in identifying the missing and murdered indigenous women in Montana and surrounding states.
- **MSU Billings Athletics named finalist for Division II Award of Excellence.** The accolade recognizes initiatives in the past year that exemplifies Division II philosophy, community engagement, and student-athlete leadership. The Yellowjackets submitted a bid for the award after hosting the Pack-the-House Elementary Day on November 18, 2019, which brought over 600 elementary school students to campus to cheer on the Lady Yellowjacket basketball team to victory.
- **Two MSU Billings students were awarded civic engagement scholarships.** Students Danny Lynn Eder and Willow Peterson were awarded George M. Dennison Civic Engagement Scholarships. Eder volunteers his time tutoring students in electrical, welding, and math. Peterson serves as the president of MSUB HEROES, which works to increase awareness and communication within the academic community regarding health-related matters for students.
- **Renowned trumpeter Dontae Winslow headlines MSUB Jazz Festival.** Trumpeter and hip-hop artist Dontae Winslow has performed alongside Justin Timberlake, Dr. Dre, and other notable musicians. He headlined the MSUB Jazz Festival and shared the stage with statewide high school and middle school student jazz ensembles. The vision of the festival is to educate students by exposing them to high level artistry and providing the opportunity to interact with performers.
- **Former NBA athlete Etan Thomas provides keynote for MSUB's Power of One Week.** Etan, an activist and writer spoke during MSUB Power of One Week. The annual event honors the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year's theme was voting, civic engagement, and activism. The Power of One Week has been going strong for the past twenty years and has included a bell ringing ceremony and various non-partisan, educational events meant to inspire students to exercise their right to become peaceful advocates about issues that matter to them.
- **From Central Africa to the MSU Billings Family.** Vincent Manzie, Ph.D., a specialist in organizational communication is a true believer in his field and says our actions dictate largely how we communicate. Originally from Cameroon, Manzie has studied and traveled all over the world, obtaining his Ph.D. in crisis communication from Michigan Technological University. He was drawn to MSUB by his colleagues in the communications department. Manzie said that he needed to be sure there were likeminded people interested in future research collaborations and found that at MSUB.
- **MSU Billings men's basketball team defeated Central Washington University at the buzzer.** Senior guard Tyler Green hit a buzzer-beating three point shot from 38 feet away. Players and coaches rushed to the floor to greet their teammate, hoisted him in the air and proudly sent Alterowitz gym into a state of shock and awe—the kind that has not been seen for some time.
- **MSUB student shines as intern at St. Vincent Healthcare.** Senior health administration and marketing student Taylor Kurkowski interns at St. Vincent Healthcare in marketing and communications and has been an outstanding student. She completed last semester with a 4.0 GPA while taking 23 credits, working two jobs, serving as vice president of the MSUB student body, and staying engaged on campus. Following graduation, she hopes to continue working in the healthcare industry in marketing and communications.
- **MSUB police officer receives award of merit.** MSUB police officer Don Cetrone was commended by the Yellowstone County DUI taskforce for his outstanding contributions to DUI enforcement. He received an award of merit for his efforts in assisting with the 2018 arrest of Tesha Williams, who struck and killed pedestrian Sterling Dominguez in Billings.
- **ROTC Cadet commissioned at MSU Billings.** ROTC Cadet Haylie Samsel was commissioned by the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps as a second lieutenant into the Montana Army National Guard this past fall. The room was packed with students, faculty, staff, family, community members, U.S. Army representatives, and U.S. Congressional delegates.
- **The Nutcracker comes to life from stage to radio.** Yellowstone Public Radio and the Rocky Mountain Jazz Collective presented a special broadcast of a live recording of Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite. The performance was recorded in front of a live audience of over 350 people in MSUB's Petro Theatre. MSUB students, music faculty, visiting musicians, and local high school students came together to deliver an outstanding performance.