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To: Board of Regents

From: Les Cook
Chancellor, Montana Technological University

RE: Campus Report for May 15-16, 2024, Board of Regents Meeting

- Montana Technological University undergraduate Katherine Bonsell was awarded the 2024 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. Bonsell, a junior from Goleta, California, is a non-traditional transfer student majoring in Geological Engineering. Her research is focused on investigating the direction of groundwater flow in Anaconda, MT. Her research mentor is Montana Tech professor, Dr. Xiaobing Zhou.
- Graduate student, Baylie Phillips from Butte, MT was awarded a 2024 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship (five-year award with three years of financial support with an annual stipend of \$37,000) and a 2024 Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) fellowship (unrestricted gift of \$22,500 dispersed over three years) from the ARCS Foundation Seattle Chapter. Phillips completed her B.S. in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering in 2023 and her M.S. in Materials Science and Engineering in 2024. She plans to continue her research into biomaterials at the University of Washington with a specific interest in lowering the failure rates of stents in the cardiovascular system.
- Bob Morris was selected as the inaugural endowed Lance Energy Chair. Bob earned his B.S. in geophysical engineering (1984) and M.S. in Engineering Science (1991) from Montana Tech. He has worked in both the oil and gas exploration business and the electric power systems industry. He will work to enhance the prominence of Montana Tech as a national leader in energy by leveraging private funding and developing partnerships with industry, trade organizations, national labs, and state/federal agencies.
- Two Montana Tech Materials Science Ph.D. students, Frank Agyemang, from Kumasi, Ghana, and Zainab Nasrullah from Lahore, Pakistan, took fifth place among 70 competitors for their research poster, "Process intensification by resonant vibratory mixing for the recyclable Samarium – Cobalt leaching with deep eutectic solvents," at the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) annual conference.
- The National Science Foundation awarded a \$385,000 grant to professor of geological engineering, Christopher Gammons to explore the economic significance of sphalerite, an ore mineral known by its chemical name ZnS, or zinc sulfide, and often found with other trace minerals, including some critical metals, from the Butte and Phillipsburg Mining Districts.
- Montana Tech hosted three dozen teams from the U.S., Australia, the United Kingdom, and Canada for the 46th International College Mining Competition held in March. Montana Tech's Men's Team, "The Original," took first place and the Sunshine Trophy, by placing first in jackleg drilling, hand steel, and survey. The Tech Men's team, the "Badgers" took third place overall, placing second in mucking and survey, and third in gold panning and hand steel. The Tech Women's Team, "Orphan Girl," consisting entirely of first-time freshman competitors, took fifth overall.