

**CAMPUS REPORTS**  
**Board of Regents Meeting**  
**September 23-24, 2004**  
**Butte, Montana**

**The University of Montana-Missoula**  
**President G. M. Dennison**

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- Two new grants, one from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in the amount of \$475,000 and \$75,000 from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, will enable The University of Montana's innovative reznnet program to expand via the Internet and teach journalism to more Native American students across the country.
  - The University of Montana's enrollment continued its steady climb this fall with an all-time record of 13,558 students, including an increase in the number of nonresidents attending the Missoula campus.
  - The community center at The University of Montana's new Lewis and Clark Village was named in honor of a longtime administrator who spearheaded the project. The naming of The **Barbara Hollmann** Community Center recognized her 23 years of service to University of Montana students.
  - Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program IGERT was awarded a grant of \$6,000,000 from the National Ecological Observatory Network program of the National Science Foundation. The grant will support the establishment of a NEON Coordinating Consortium.
  - Thanks to a recent \$1.6 million, a four-year award from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration, The University of Montana will research traumatic stress on the Rocky Boy Reservation and provide school-based trauma services to children and teens from the Chippewa-Cree tribe. The University of Montana team members at the Division of Educational Research and Service (DERS) and the Department of Psychology will partner with trauma experts from RAND Corp., the University of California, Los Angeles, and Duke University.
  - The University of Montana is offering a new student leadership program to provide students with the skills they need to succeed academically and professionally after graduation. Ursa Major is a four-stage leadership development experience that uses a variety of co-curricular activities to teach students independence, ambition, creative problem-solving, motivational ability and self-assessment.
  - Two University of Montana seniors were presented as Royal Ambassadors at The University of Montana's annual Homecoming Singing on the Steps. **Ann Douglas**, a senior in psychology, and **Karissa Drye**, a senior in elementary education, won this year's positions as University of Montana Royal Ambassadors. The two will represent the University and The University of Montana Alumni Association at events throughout the year.
  - A couple who earned degrees from The University of Montana in the 1960s, **Priscilla and Harold Gilkey**, has committed \$1.5 million for the new Executive Education Center at The University of Montana-Missoula School of Business Administration. The gift also will start the Gilkey Executive Lecture Series.
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**Montana Tech of The University of Montana**  
**Chancellor W. Franklin Gilmore**

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- Montana Tech Environmental Engineering graduate student Trisha Smith has been selected as a 2004 recipient of a prestigious U.S. Environmental Protection Agency fellowship.
- Staff mining engineer, Robin McCulloch, Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology, has authored a new book centering on the analysis and evaluation of gold placer deposits.
- The COT Health Programs department recently received a \$95,000 grant that will assist in increasing student recruitment and enrollment into health sciences fields.
- John Amtmann and Adam Cotton's article "Swiss Ball Training for the C to C Kayak Roll" has been accepted for publication by the Journal of the American Whitewater Affiliation. Their article "Strength and Conditioning for Judo" was accepted by the National Strength and Conditioning Association's refereed journal *Strength and Conditioning Journal* this summer.
- John Amtmann's article, "The Role of Judo in Health Promotion," appeared in the August issue of *Scholastic Coach and Athletic Director Magazine*. His article "A Lesson from Arthur Jones" appeared in the summer issue of the British Judo Association's *The World of Judo Magazine* as well as the inaugural issue of *High Performance Training* in April.

- Drs. Andrea and Don Stierle recently published two papers on their work with microbial secondary metabolites and drug discovery. The first included collaboration with colleague David Hobbs and undergraduate research assistant Janalee Stokken: *Berkeleydione and Berkeleytrione, New Bioactive Metabolites from an Acid Mine Organism*, Donald B. Stierle, Andrea A. Stierle, J. David Hobbs, Janalee Stokken, and Jon Clardy. *Organic Letters* 2004, 6(6): 1049-1052. The second paper was invited for inclusion in the special *John Faulkner - Paul Scheurer* memorial issue of *Journal of Natural Products*, August 2004, and includes their work with undergraduate Kourtney Kemp: *Novel Sesquiterpenoid Matrix Metalloproteinase-3 Inhibitors from an Acid Mine Waste Extremophile*, Andrea A. Stierle, Donald B. Stierle, and Kourtney Kemp.
- Don and Andrea Stierle and Butte High School biology teacher Bill Callaghan received an M.J. Murdock Foundation *Partners in Science* award to study the secondary metabolites of microbes in Silver Bow Creek by Miles Crossing.
- Chemists Andrea and Don Stierle and Biologists Richard Douglass and Amy Kuenzi were recipients of five year research awards from NIH-INBRE. The Stierles' award will support their work with Berkeley Pit microbes and is entitled: *Extremophilic Life in Berkeley Pit Lake: Bioprospecting for Bioactive Compounds in Acid Mine Waste*. Each of Douglass' and Kuenzi's awards will support their collaborative work with hantavirus. Dr. Douglass' project is entitled: *Understanding the interactions of deer mouse population ecology, environmental factors and domestic cat predation and their influence on human exposure to SNV*. Dr. Kuenzi's project is entitled: *Factors Associated with Hantavirus Transmission*. These five-year awards are part of a larger grant awarded to the state of Montana. The umbrella grant will also provide overhead and infrastructure to Montana Tech and to several other schools in the MUS system.
- Montana Tech's student chapter of the Society of Petroleum Engineers was named SPE International's Outstanding Student Chapter at the SPE annual convention in Houston in October. They also won the SPE Petrobowl, a scholarship competition featuring students from eight universities throughout the country.
- The Montana Tech Mineral Museum recently won first place "Best of Museum" competition at the 37th annual Denver Gem & Mineral Show.

**The University of Montana-Western**  
**Chancellor Richard Storey**

**Enrollment for Fall 2004**

- Greatly increased numbers of freshman applications has translated into a **42 percent increase in the number of new freshman students** at Western this fall. New freshmen currently number 245 full-time equivalent (FTE) compared with 173 FTE new freshmen on the same date last year. Overall FTE enrollment currently stands at 1031 compared with 987 last fall, or a 5 percent increase. **Western's residence halls are at a ten-year high in occupancy** numbers, reflecting the greater number of freshman students as well as a large group of returning students living on campus. Western is currently taking steps to increase the retention of this year's bumper crop of freshmen and to recruit a still larger group of freshmen next year. Western's innovative Experience One scheduling, increased array of academic programs, athletic programs that recruit and retain large numbers of students, and increased marketing efforts have all factored into this positive enrollment picture.

**Accomplishments**

- The University of Montana-Western is **ranked first in the Best Public Comprehensive Colleges-Bachelor's Division in the West region** by U.S. News and World Report in its 2005 edition of America's Best Colleges. Western's division is comprised of public institutions that focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs in the liberal arts and in professional fields. This is a significant recognition of the quality of Western's academic and student support programs.
- **Dr. Jim Sethi, Western Professor of Business** continues to be highly active as a scholar with a number of recent publications and presentations to his credit. These include the following **conference presentations**:
  - E-Commerce Global Trends and Challenges: Lessons for CEOs and Strategic Managers, Ottawa: Institute for International Marketing, August 9, 2004.
  - Information Technology and Technostress: Strategic, Ergonomic and Ethical Strategies. Ottawa: Institute for Leadership Excellence Workshop, August 16, 2004

- A Model of Strategic Self-Reengineering for Managing Stress, Technostress, and Burnout: Implications for HRM and HR Managers, Mountain Plains Management Association, 46th Annual Fall Conference, October 14-16, 2004, Mesa State College, Grand Junction, Colorado.
- Professor Sethi has also had or will have the following **articles published in journals**:
- Strategic Ethical Issues for Contemporary Organizations: An Interest-Based Model, Human Resource Development Review, [in process]
- A Framework For Ethical Leadership for Strategic Analysis of Balancing Profitability and Ethical Equity: Implications for CEOs and Team Leaders", Journal of International Business Economy, Fall 2004
- Teamwork and E-Business: A Guide for CEOs and Team Leaders. Journal of Comparative Sociology & Ethics, Volume XXXI, 2004, pp. 3-145.
- Strategic Self-Reengineering: Toward An Integrated Model of Human Resource Management. Mountain Plains Journal of Business and Economics. [in process].
- Finally, Dr. Sethi has had the following **book published**:
- An Integrated Model For Human Resource Management For the Internet Economy. Universal Publications, 2005.
- **Dr. Craig Zaspel**, Western Professor of Physics and very productive scholar, has recently had **two more articles accepted for publication**:
  - "Magnon Modes in Permalloy Nanorings" with coauthors: Boris A. Ivanov, Institute of Magnetism, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.
  - "Collective Modes in Magnetic Dot Arrays", Boris A. Ivanov, A. Yu. Galkin, Institute of Metal Physics, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine.

Dr. Zaspel's research is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation. Both of his most recent articles deal with potential problems that can arise when using nanoscale magnets for high-density information storage.
- Another active scholar at Western is **Dr. Rita Moore**, Associate Professor of Education. Her **second book**, (authors: Rita Moore, UMW and Carol Gilles University of Missouri-Columbia.) Reading Conversations: Retrospective Miscue Analysis with Struggling Readers Grades 4-12 will be out in February 2005 with Heinemann Publishers.
 

Dr. Moore has also had an **article accepted** with Teacher Educator (Ball State) entitled Validating Teaching and Learning Communities for Teacher Education Reform. About building trust and sharing resources in professional development settings.
- As part of the INBRE program, Western Assistant Professor of Biology **Dr. Michael Morrow** has received a grant from the National Institute of Health (NIH) to continue his research at Western. This grant has many purposes. While it is largely a research grant to be used to further Dr. Morrow's studies on how proteins are secreted from the pathogenic yeast, *Candida albicans*, it is also designed to seriously strengthen the biomedical education capacity of Western. Some of the major goals include getting more Western students interested in the biomedical sciences, providing opportunities to these students to learn current cell/molecular biology techniques by participating in individual research projects, and significantly building the infrastructure of Western's cell/molecular biology labs. The grant funds will largely be used to purchase major pieces of lab equipment and lab supplies, make lab/facility improvements that will benefit the entire sciences area, provide student employment opportunities to do research during the summers and academic year, fund opportunities for Dr. Morrow and students to travel to national and regional meetings to present research results, fund travel to other Montana institutions to utilize equipment that is not present at Western, and employ a full-time laboratory technician.
- Professor of Geology **Dr. Rob Thomas's Geology 432 - Depositional Environments students** will be presenting their work in that class from last spring at the national meeting of the Geological Society of America in Denver, Colorado in early November. The title of the talk is: Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction of the Mid-Miocene Beaverhead Graben in Southwest Montana. The national meeting of the Geological Society of America is the largest gathering of geoscientists in the world, attracting some 7,000 geoscientists from around the globe.
 

At this same meeting, Dr. Thomas will be an invited speaker for a special topics session entitled "We Can Do Better: Alternatives to the Same Old Lab-Lecture Format in the College Classroom. The paper, which is co-authored with **Dr. Sheila Roberts** is entitled: Making a Field-Based Geoscience Curriculum Work by Teaching One Class at a Time: The University Of Montana-Western. Dr. Thomas was invited to give this talk based on the buzz around the geoscience community that Western was making significant changes to the traditional geoscience curriculum with our Experience One format.

- Western Associate Professor of English **Dr. Diana Francis** continues being successful with her creative writing and will have her **second novel published in December**. Its title is Path of Honor. It is the second of her trilogy begun with Path of Fate.  
August's Montana State of the Arts had Dr. Francis's article "Publishing Your First Commercial Novel" in it. She will be teaching a workshop on fantasy writing and acting as guest critiquer at the October Write On the Sound Writers Conference in Edmonds, Washington. Dr. Francis also recently had her short story "Native Spinsters" accepted for publication in the literary journal Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet.
- Upon the nomination of a former student, **David Moore**, Academic Assistant to the Provost, has had his biography accepted for publication in **Who's Who Among America's Teachers® 2003-2004**. In its award letter to Mr. Moore, Who's Who stated that "You have obviously made a difference in the life of the student who nominated you."

#### **Experience One Implementation Progress**

- There are currently 9 cohorts of 25 to 28 students enrolled in Experience One general education courses. These courses have been going well with faculty reporting nearly 100 percent attendance. Faculty members having been working especially closely with student-athletes and coaches to assure that student-athletes are given every opportunity to succeed in their courses, especially if absent for extended periods of time.
- Western's new **Advising Center**, under the direction of David Moore, will be assisting faculty advisors in advising students who will be transitioning to the Experience One format next year. Advisors will be working with individual students to devise a graduation plan that will make it possible for all students to graduate within the same time frame that would have been possible under the continuation of traditional scheduling.
- Western's early childhood education program was awarded a \$68,000 grant from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The grant will be used for recruitment, retention, articulation, and enhanced degree quality. One component of the grant will be a coach/mentor program. Research will be conducted on the effectiveness of the mentor/coach model on student retention. The Principal Investigator for the grant is Professor Julie Bullard. The duration is one year and it began on October 1st.

#### **Montana State University-Billings Chancellor Ronald P. Sexton Ph.D.**

- The Montana Center on Disabilities selected Professors Judith McLaughlin, Psychology, and Eric Gilbertson, Mathematics in the Academic Support Center, to receive outstanding faculty member's awards for 2004-2005.
- Professors David Butler and Dan Gretch are participating in new biomedical research to unlock the secrets of biofilms and chronic wasting disease as part of the statewide project called IDEa Networks of Biomedical Research (INBRE).
- Approximately 40 people attended the Montana Youth Leadership Forum hosted by the Montana Center on Disabilities from the College of Education. The MILD is a leadership-training program for youth with disabilities in Montana.
- Mr. Quentin Gilham, Coordinator, Office of Multicultural Student Services (MSS), delivered a letter to Dr. Takes Enemy, Superintendent, Pryor Schools, in support of a partnership with MSU-Billings to conduct a Mentoring Program (K-12) with Pryor Schools and St. Charles School.
- The Office of Community Involvement has coordinated with MSU-Billings students, faculty, staff and families to participate in supporting community organizations such as Relay for Life (American Cancer Society), Back to School Drive (school supplies to children in the Billings community), and Service Saturdays (a different service project each month for the 2004-2005 school year directed to the Billings community).
- Mr. Jay Shaw, Associate Professor, Health and Human Performance, has been accepted to present a session at the Northwest District AAHPERD Convention March 17-19, 2005. His topic will be "Using Adventure Education in the Classroom."
- Student Opportunity Services (SOS) had an active role in assisting with the MSU-Billings Welcome Week and in meeting and greeting students at all the 2004-2005 orientation sessions. SOS mentors conducted workshops on reading comprehension, note taking, and computer basics with twenty-one (21) separate presentations to students at the Academic Support Center.

- Jacquelyn Weitz, a senior in Piano Performance, from Billings, was the only college pianist chosen from the USA to perform at an international piano competition in the Netherlands in October. Also, she was one of the only 24 pianists chosen from around the world to participate in the Young Artists' Program at the prestigious Van Cliburn Institute in Texas last summer.
- Mr. Elijah Scheidler, from Ballantine, MT, a College of Arts and Sciences student was one of 200 youth leaders from across the nation chosen to attend the National Student Leadership Forum on Faith and Values, in Washington, D.C., featuring Congressional leaders, Attorney General John Ashcroft, a former high-ranking Iraq military official, and many others.
- Fulbright Scholar Dr. Matthew Benacquista, Physics Professor in the Department of Biological and Physical Science, returned after a year in Italy, studying with some of the best minds in Europe on the European Gravitational Observatory and on data analysis techniques using a joint French/Italian gravitational wave detector called VIRGO. He conducted research on detecting gravitational waves from neutron stars and worked at the University of Florence in Firenze, Italy and at the Arcetri Observatory.
- MSU-Billings signed an articulation agreement with President Bodu Wu of Jilin University in China, establishing an official working relationship between the two universities. Faculty and students enjoyed their first study-abroad trip to China during Summer, 2004.
- Fulbright Scholar Dr. Ernesto Randolfi, Professor in Health and Human Performance, lectured at the Kenthea Center for Education about Drugs and Treatment of Drug Addicted Persons, in Nicosia, Cyprus.

### **Montana State University-Great Falls College of Technology Dean Mary Sheehy Moe**

- Thesperadoes - A group of enthusiastic students and staff have organized a new MSU-Great Falls drama club, the Thesperadoes. The first production will be a comedy / farce. Recruitment of faculty, staff and students with talent or interest in acting, set design, lighting, sound, wardrobe, props, organization and publicity is underway. Fred Bridger, English faculty, is the advisor for this new organization.
- State of the College - MSU President Geoff Gamble and MSU-Great Falls Dean Mary Sheehy Moe provided overviews of the current state of higher education in Montana and the specific progress of MSU—Great Falls. This year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MUS restructuring, which has definitely affected higher education in Great Falls. Ensuring the prosperity of Great Falls and the region it serves is foremost in the vision of the Great Falls College of Technology. Attendees at the event included the institution's advisory council, candidates for political office, community leaders, and students and staff of MSU-Great Falls.
- Study Abroad – The first study abroad opportunity offered by the College of Technology is a 10-day tour to Ireland 'Ireland: Identities of the Emerald Isle,' departing from Great Falls on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Three undergraduate credits will be offered by the College for each of the following courses: Irish History, Irish Literature, or Lettering & Illumination.
- American Indian Heritage Day - The MSU-Great Falls Campus celebrated American Indian Heritage Day with a presentation by Darrel Koke, the First Vice-Chair of the Little Shell Tribe, on history of the Little Shell and on the tribal recognition process. The Little Shell Tribe is in the process of seeking full status from federal government. Ms. Koke presented an official tribal flag to the MSU-Great Falls Campus. An organizational meeting of the new Native American Student Club was also held.
- Stories in Stone – The 1st Annual MSU-Great Falls Halloween Motorcoach Tour was held the day before Halloween - on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Janet Thomson and local historian and storyteller George Dean shared local folklore, cemetery symbolism and iconography to tour participants. Real Montana ghost stories and old-time obituaries were part of the presentation - 'Dead men may tell no tales, but the symbols on their tombstones do!' The tour included visits to cemeteries in Neihart, Monarch and Belt.
- Coding Program Accredited – The College's Health Information Coding Certificate Program has been accredited by the American Health Information Management Association. The program is offered online.
- Dual Credit Pilot Program – The College is partnering with Valier High School to offer college credit opportunities to high school students in psychology and sociology through on-line course work.

- Staff Accomplishments - Rutgers University Press recently published American Labor and the Cold War which contains an essay by Associate Dean Vernon Pedersen, Ph.D. The essay is entitled "Memories of the Red Decade: HUAC Investigations in the State of Maryland."
- Tim Paul, Program Director of Web Development and Chair of the Business and Technology Department at Montana State University – Great Falls, has been named a National Advisor for the World Organization of Webmasters.
- Rob Truax, an adjunct faculty member of the College and a teacher for Great Falls Public Schools, has been recognized as an "American Star of Teaching." Rob is the only teacher in Montana to receive this award. The success rate of students in his AP biology course increased from 56% in 2002 to 69% in 2003 and 87% in 2004. Rob currently teaches BIO 108 online for MSU-GF COT. The BIO 108 course is a lab-based Biology course that was designed by Rob for online delivery.

### **Montana State University-Northern Chancellor Alex Capdeville**

- Alumni Auction –The Northern Alumni Association held its Annual Scholarship Social and Auction on September 25 in the Donaldson Commons. This annual event is the main fund-raiser for Alumni scholarships, which support a variety of Northern student scholarships. This year's event raised an all time record for auction income at \$9,032.50.
- MSU-N Hall of Fame Inductees - MSU-Northern and the Northern Alumni Association recently held the 2004 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The ceremony was held Sat., Oct 9. This year, the honorees were Chris Faber a three-time NAIA All-American in 1990, 1991, and 1992, who captained the team to back-to-back National Team Championships in 1991 and 1992. Faber was also a member of the 1990 USA All-American Cultural Exchange Team touring the Soviet Union and Finland. Featured on the cover of USA Wrestling News Magazine, he was a National Wrestling Coaches Association Academic All-American in 1990, 1991, and 1992. Faber is a 1992 Northern graduate with a degree in Business Technology. Kristi Kincaid earned the Most Valuable Player Award at the NAIA Division II National Tournament in 1993 when Northern won its first ever women's National Championship. She was selected as the Frontier Conference Player of the Week twice and All-Conference and National Tournament 1<sup>st</sup> Team in 1991-92. As a senior, she was an All-Conference selection, NAIA Tournament 1<sup>st</sup> team, and MVP of the 1993 National Championship team. She was a Kodak All-American and was selected for the Sports Illustrated "Faces in the Crowd" issue. She holds a number of records in both Basketball and Volleyball at Northern. This year, the Northern Alumni Association's first ever Meritorious Service Award was given to Wells Lamey for his life-long service to the youth of this community and the athletes of Northern Montana College and MSU-Northern. Lamey has researched, compiled, and recorded a listing of all the athletes, their achievements and records throughout the University's history. His leadership and research led to the establishment of Northern's Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame. His service to the community of Havre and to the youth programs is unparalleled. His knowledge and service to all sports and the athletes from the area grade schools to the MSU-Northern Lights and Skylights is well known.
- In Celebration of the Academy – a ceremony was held on Monday, September 27 for the purpose of celebrating the academic successes of the university and honor faculty who received significant academic recognition within the past year. This year, we honored faculty and staff who have achieved promotion, tenure, or advanced degrees. Recipients were James Edwards for promotion to Professor of Economics, Joel Soiseth for promotion to Professor of Art, Curtis Smeby for receipt of continuous tenure, Lisa Handley upon receipt of her Master's degree, and Joel Brodeur upon receipt of his Master's degree. This will hopefully be a tradition that will be carried on through the years.

### **Montana State University-Bozeman President Geoff Gamble**

- This month, third year architecture students competed against students from 82 other colleges and universities throughout the world in the Leading Edge Design Competition, sponsored by the New Buildings Institute, and earned 3 of the top 4 awards out of 226 entries. Designs were evaluated independently and the near sweep by one school is unprecedented. According to a critique by Vivian

Loftness, a judge in the competition and professor of architecture at Carnegie Mellon University, "The winning entries showed innovative design strategies, strong technical analysis and aesthetics that worked with the campus and environment."

- The College of Education received a two-year \$2.1 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education to help ten or more western states create a network to make existing Troops-to-Teachers programs more successful. MSU has 2 programs, Troops-to-Teachers and the Northern Plains program, that work together to train soldiers and mid-career civilians to become teachers. This grant should benefit Montana schools by increasing the number of qualified teachers in the state.
- Montana State University received a \$16.5 million grant to support biomedical research in Montana from the National Institutes of Health IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research (INBRE) program. The five-year grant supports a consortium of Montana universities, colleges, and tribal colleges. It builds on the previous success of a \$6 million BRIN (Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network) grant and will increase the biomedical research capacity of the state of Montana by building research infrastructure, supporting faculty and student research, and fostering a state-wide collaborative network.
- Elinor Pulcini, who earned a PhD in microbiology from MSU and is now a research associate in the Biofilm Behavior Laboratory, is one of four investigators named as the first National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI) Postdoctoral Fellows. Pulcini is mentored by MSU professor, Barry Pyle, and will receive \$40,000 each of the next two years. She'll become a member of an NSBRI research team, spend one or two weeks at NASA Johnson Space Center and participate in investigator retreats.
- Lynn Paul, Montana State University Extension Food and Nutrition Specialist, received the 2004 Outstanding Member Award from the Weight Realities Division of the Society for Nutrition Education. The objectives of the group are to provide science-based information to members regarding weight and health and to create opportunities for education and dialogue.
- College of Engineering students in Electrical Engineering 101, Introduction to Electrical Fundamentals, recently built robots and displayed them between games 2 and 3 of the Bobcat women's volleyball match against Weber State. As part of the course requirements, 94 students soldered together a printed circuit board and assembled the chassis, wheels and motors while learning to use oscilloscopes, function generators, digital multimeters and other laboratory test equipment. Freshman Kurt Wood of Ronan stated, "The robots are what make the class for me. At first I had to learn to solder the parts. Once I got that down, I learned how the circuits worked. It's the best part of my classes. Creating the robots makes the math and the lectures all come together for practical experience."
- The Department of Veterinary Molecular Biology received a \$10.1 million Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) grant to develop a research center for better understanding diseases that spread between humans and animals. The grant will fund new faculty at MSU as well as four research projects by junior faculty members at MSU and the University of Montana. Senior researchers from MSU, UM and NIH Rocky Mountain labs will form the nucleus of the center. Allen Harmsen will administer the grant.

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## **Miles Community College** **President Darrel L. Hammon**

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- **Fall 2004 enrollment numbers** were 41 FTE or 9% higher than Fall 2003. Particular note that nursing enrollment increased from 54 students in Fall 2003 to 85 students in Fall 2004. We resubmitted the Glendive/Sidney distance LPN to RN completion and the RN programs.
- **Kathy Wankel**, Nursing Division Director, and **Annette Gorton**, FIPSE coordinator, recently did a poster presentation on the "Bridging Health Connections in Montana" FIPSE grant for the National League for Nursing Annual Educator Conference, held in Orlando, FL. Over 1000 nurse educators attended the conference.
- Part-time nursing instructor, **Susan Walla**, will be inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International which is the International Honor Society for nurses in November.
- **Miles Community College** hosted the fifth annual MCC Educators' Conference. Almost 170 teachers and administrators from Montana, mostly eastern Montana, attended courses focusing on coaching, history, motivation, technology, library, and science. Faculty and staff presenting in the 2004 Miles Community College Educators' Conference on October 21-22, 2004 were **Robin Gerber**, History;

**Jack Larson**, Agriculture; **Shelly Weight**, Director of the Center for Technology and Learning; **Donna Faber**, Arts and Sciences; **Nancy Swope**, Information Technology; **Brett Brabant**, IT Specialist; **Stan Taylor**, Math; **Ann Rutherford**, Library Director. **Beth Wiedeman**, **Coordinator of Continuing Education** planned the event.

- **Miles Community College** hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Nurse Educator Conference featuring Mary McDonald focusing on multiple choice test construction methodologies for Nursing.
- **Congressman Denny Rehberg** visited campus on Monday, October 25, 2004 and held an Eastern Montana Economic Development Roundtable. He focused on agriculture, natural resource development, rural health care, education (K-Life), and infrastructure. **Senator Conrad Burns** visited on Wednesday, October 27, 2004
- Miles Community College celebrated its **65th Anniversary** (1939-2004) on Friday and Saturday evening, October 15-16, 2004. Approximately 170 people enjoyed a dinner and dance complete with a 40's style radio play on Friday evening. Mr. **Harold Luke**, a member of the original 1939 class, was among the many alumni attending the event. A 65th Anniversary Alumni basketball game was held on Saturday evening with 30 former basketball players from in-state and out-of-state playing. Approximately 300 alumni enthusiasts enjoyed the games and agreed that most of them had not lost a step. Both events were great activities and provided fun-filled reunions for Miles Community College alumni from the past 65 years.
- **Students from Miles Community College** and the **Miles City Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** will partner in a Community Ride-To-Vote service project on Election Day, 2004. The goal of this collaborative project is to provide rides for any senior citizen that that would like to vote at the polls. Both Miles Community College and RSVP received state grants for Help America Vote Act (HAVA) education reforms in February 2004. The Ride to Vote partnership project is in support of Miles Community College encouraging young Montana voters to become informed through voter education and proactive in the voting process. The Ride to Vote partnership project is in support of RSVP providing education and greater voting accessibility to the polls for senior citizens.
- The Miles Community College **Endowment** has hired **Jessica Lofland**, a recent MBA graduate, as the new part-time Endowment Director.
- In July the **Judson H. Flower Library** became a "National Medical Library" which allows student access to current research, which supports our Nursing Program. The library also received a state grant that will allow our collection to be added to the state library catalog.
- In its October board meeting, the Miles Community College **Board of Trustees has approved adding volleyball** to its athletic program. Currently, we support men's and women's basketball, rodeo, and golf; and men's baseball.

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## Flathead Valley Community College President Jane Karas

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- U.S. Senator Max Baucus visited Flathead Valley Community College September 17 to introduce the **Enzi-Baucus Higher Education Affordability, Access and Opportunity Act of 2004**. If passed, the bill would allocate approximately \$60 million to foster education and training partnerships between community colleges and local businesses. While on campus, Senator Baucus visited with students, toured the First Interstate Workforce Training Computer Lab and presented the bill to a roomful of FVCC students, faculty, staff and Flathead Valley residents.
- Flathead Valley Community College held two legislative forums, one at the college's Kalispell campus and the other at the Venture Inn in Libby. The forums provided legislators and candidates running for office the opportunity to have a dialogue with the college about its students, programs, plans and the role it plays in the community. Fourteen legislators and candidates attended the forums.
- Flathead Valley Community College Elderhostel volunteers participated in the **Glacier National Park Restoration Program**, in partnership with FVCC and Glacier National Park, in early September. Seventeen volunteers from across the United States spent a week working on a variety of projects to preserve the park and its awe-inspiring beauty.
- Flathead Valley Community College Biology Instructor and Director, Project THEO, Training for Health and Educational Opportunities, **Dr. Linda Hunt** has been selected to serve on **American Occupational Therapy Association's Driver Rehabilitation and Community Mobility Panel**.
- Flathead Valley Community College Board of Trustees approved the recommendation from the college's Building Naming Committee to rename its Science and Technology building "**Ross Hall**" in



honor of **Herman "Chet" Ross, D.V.M.**, at the college's Board of Trustees meeting September 27. The recommendation recognized the significant contributions Ross made to FVCC since its inception. Flathead Valley Community College is pleased to announce that **Student Built House #8** was exhibited in the **Parade of Homes** September 10-12. The house, built by Flathead Valley Community College and Flathead High School students, was part of the Student Built House program founded in 1996 by the Flathead Building Association and Flathead Valley Community College.

- Flathead Valley Community College student **Deborah Miller** has been awarded a **\$1,000 scholarship** from the **Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation**. Miller, who is pursuing an Associate of Applied Science degree in human services, is one of 400 students attending higher-education institutions that grant two-year degrees awarded the scholarship.
  - Flathead Valley Community College has introduced a new job service, "**CONNECT**", to its students, alumni and area employers. The state-of-the-art student employment software system helps provide employers and potential student employees with better opportunities to connect for job opportunities. The free service allows employers to post positions online and to search for students by degrees, skill levels or majors. The system also allows students to search, view and apply for jobs posted by local employers and internship providers online.
  - The Flathead Valley Community College Foundation is pleased to welcome three new members, **Lynn Bauer**, **Ed Jasmin**, and **Cheryl Wilson**, to the Foundation Board of Directors and one new member, **Dr. Megan Gordley, D.C.**, to the Foundation's Associate Board.
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### **Dawson Community College President Terry Hetrick**

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- On Saturday, October 9, 2004, DCC conducted its third annual "Community Appreciation Day." For the past three years, the College has scheduled this event to show the residents of Glendive and neighboring communities how much it appreciates their continual support. Activities for the day included games for children, golf and a trail walk for adults and families, tours of the campus, and a free lunch.
  - New outreach and distance education activities continue throughout DCC's service area. Currently, the College is working with local area high schools to establish dual enrollment programs for advanced high school students. In addition, the College established a working relationship with three area high schools for the transmission of college coursework via ITV. A two-year schedule of classes has been set for the students at the three high schools. Improved collaboration between the College and area high schools is a priority and the results to date show considerable promise.
  - **Michael Wiederich**, a DCC welding student, recently donated a large piece of welding sculpture to the College. His creation, the head of a tyrannosaurus rex, will be put on display in a prominent place on campus. The project took Wiederich seven weeks to complete.
  - Construction of the new Physical Education and Performing Arts Centers has slowed down due to the limited availability of steel. Currently, the contractor is awaiting the arrival of anchor bolt plans and the shipment of the anchor bolts. Once these items are in hand, the major concrete work for the project can commence. In addition, DCC is preparing to conduct a fund-raising telethon on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> on KXGN television from 8:00-10:00 p.m. For the past several years, the College has been engaged in a wide variety of fund-raising activities for its facilities expansion project.
  - **President Hetrick** and **Dean Law** attended an economic development roundtable conducted by Representative Denny Rehberg at Miles Community College on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Attendees focused on five major topics pertinent to Eastern Montana: Agriculture, Natural Resource Development, Rural Health Care, Education, and Infrastructure. A follow-up session will be scheduled for this coming spring.
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