



*March 7, 2023*

Greetings and go Diggers!

Tonight at 7:00 pm, our Montana Tech men's basketball team plays in the first round of the NCAA Playoffs, and as we say in Butte, it's a big damn deal! The Orediggers won the Frontier Conference Tournament, with Coach Hiatt named Coach of the Year, Caleb Bellach named Player of the Year, and Asa Williams named Newcomer of the Year. It's been awhile since the Orediggers won back-to-back championships and there is history to be made at the HPER tonight! I hope you'll join me to cheer on the Orediggers.

Beyond our basketball Orediggers, there is a lot of other good news to share at Montana Tech. Kudos to Tamara Harp for being named to the State Board of Radiologic Technologists and Chris Danielson for receiving a Fulbright to Hungary. Congratulations to Nicholas Verlanic for receiving the George M. Dennison Civic Engagement Scholarship and Dean Karen VanDaveer for being named the inaugural Margie Thompson Distinguished Women in Business Award recipient.

We frequently say it's the people that make Montana Tech. I think you'll find this evident as you enjoy this edition of the Chancellor Check-in.

Thanks and roll Diggs!

Les





Presented by



TUESDAY MARCH 7



5 PM

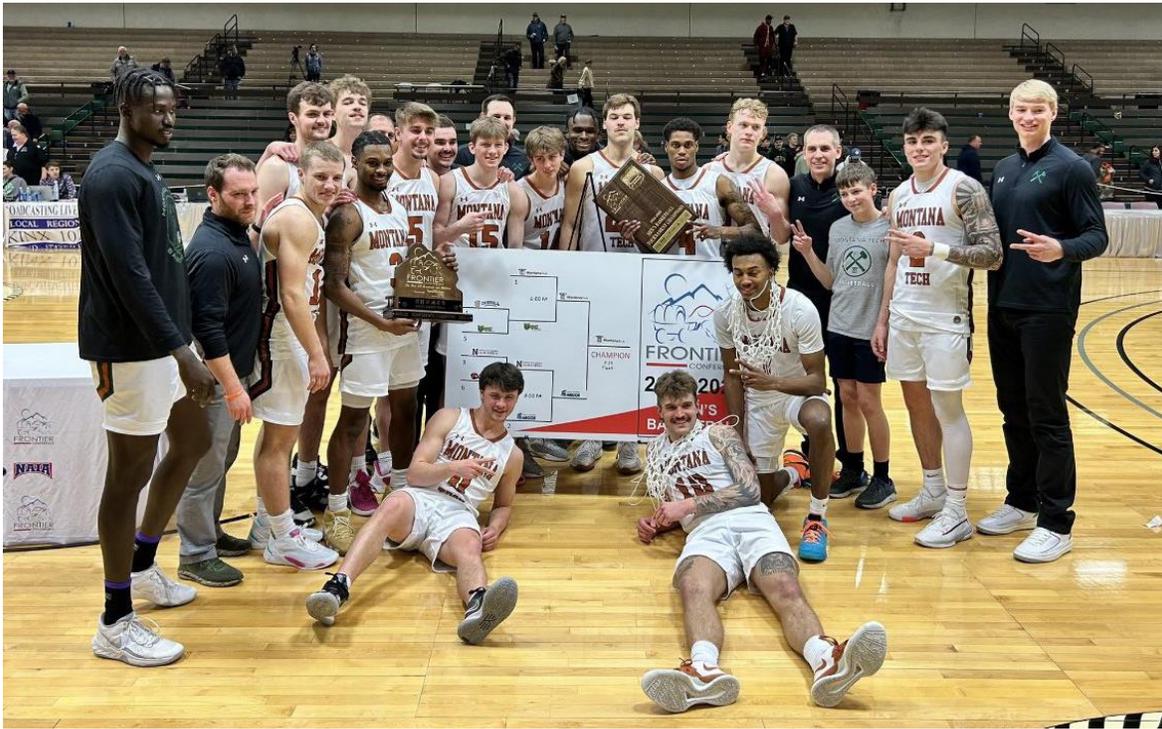


7 PM

KELVIN SAMPSON COURT  
BUTTE, MONTANA



**FRONTIER CONFERENCE CHAMPS**



Congratulations to the Montana Tech men's basketball team on back-to-back Frontier Conference championships. The Orediggers defeated the University of Providence 103-95 in a thrilling championship game at the Four Seasons Arena in Great Falls, MT.

The championship game saw Asa Williams getting the momentum going hitting back-to-back threes in the opening minutes and had his third before five minutes had passed. Williams finished the half with 12 points going 3 for 5 from beyond the arc. Williams finished with 23 points shooting 58.3% from the field and 5 for 8 from three-point range. Williams also led the Orediggers with eight rebounds.

Three more Orediggers hit double-digits in the first half. Caleb Bellach netted 11 going 2 for 4 from long. Hayden Diekhans went 5 for 5 from the field and Michael Ure went 5 for 6 as they both finished with 10 points each.

Tech slowed the Argos charge and created some space getting the lead back up to nine after Bridger Larson made a layup with 11:30 left in the game. Tech was able to hold off Providence's advances in the final ten minutes. Larson had 10 of his 14 points in the second half.

The Orediggers had seven in double-digits by the end of the game. The Tech bench had 37 points.

Bellach finished with 15 points, three rebounds, and three assists. Diekhans had 12 points and five boards.

Keeley Bake shot 4 for 5 from beyond the arc finishing with 12 points and five assists. Camdyn LaRance had 11 points and six rebounds.

The last time the Orediggers won back-to-back tournaments was in 1998 and 1999. There was only one other time the Orediggers won both regular season and tournament titles two years in a row. The 1983-84 and 1984-85 teams under head coach Kelvin Sampson won both back-to-back.

The Orediggers road to the NAIA National Championship begins tonight when they take on No. 13 Westmont in first round action beginning at 7:00 pm in the HPER. We need all faculty, staff, and students to be there to cheer on the Diggers! Faculty and students get in free.

[Read more](#)



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2023



Join Charlie Oredigger along with the Montana Tech and Highlands College teams in the St. Patrick's Day parade on Friday, March 17th. The parade begins at 12:00 pm in Uptown Butte. We would love to have a large group of faculty, staff, and students walk in the parade. Please meet by the Montana Tech and Highlands College trucks at 11:30 am on Granite Street by the Lexington Gardens. The first few faculty and staff to email [jdelay@mtech.edu](mailto:jdelay@mtech.edu) will receive a Montana Tech St. Patrick's Day t-shirt. Please wear your best St. Patrick's Day accessories to the parade. It is going to be a great day!



## CAREER FAIR SUCCESS



Montana Tech experienced phenomenal growth during this academic year with employer attendance at career fairs. Both fall and spring fairs were record breaking, with 31% growth for fall and a 34% increase in employers attending to meet Montana Tech students! The 2023 spring fair was the largest the university has hosted since its creation in 2009. The spring fair saw 102 employers attending (11 new companies) and 194 students pre-registered, and 302 people signed in (including faculty and a high school

student).



## PETEX DONATES SOFTWARE TO MONTANA TECH

Montana Tech received a donation from Petroleum Experts for educational licenses for their geological and petroleum engineering software. The state-of-the-art software, valued at \$6,564,992.43, will be licensed exclusively for teaching, tutorials, and non-commercial research primarily in the Structural Geology for Engineers and Sedimentology and Petroleum Geology courses, which cater to a diverse audience of geological, petroleum, and civil engineering students.

The Montana Tech Foundation helped facilitate the in-kind donation from Petex.

[Read more](#)



## **VAN DAVEER RECEIVES MARGIE THOMPSON DISTINGUISHED WOMEN IN BUSINESS AWARD**



Highlands College dean Karen VanDaveer was named the inaugural recipient of the Margie Thompson Distinguished Woman in Business Award at the Butte Chamber of Commerce's 2023 annual dinner. To receive the award, recipients must be a business owner or leader in the Butte community. They must exemplify Margie's legacy of forward-thinking innovation in business, selfless leadership, community involvement, and dedication to paying it forward. The award was presented to VanDaveer by Margie's son, Mark Thompson.



## **HARP NAMED TO MONTANA STATE BOARD OF RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGISTS**



Montana Governor Greg Gianforte has appointed Montana Technological University radiologic technology program director Tamara Harp to a three-year term on the Montana State Board of Radiologic Technologists. The appointment received unanimous Senate approval.

Harp, who was nominated for the position by former board member Dan Funch, has worked at Highlands College of Montana Tech since 2017. She has been a registered radiologic technologist since 2006, earning valuable experience working throughout Montana and Washington; recently, she earned a Master of Science in Radiologic Sciences degree.

[Read more](#)



## DANIELSON SELECTED FOR FULBRIGHT IN HUNGARY

Congratulations to Dr. Chris Danielson for being selected for a Fulbright award to Hungary during the academic year 2023-2024. The presidentially appointed 12-member board supervises the Fulbright Program worldwide and approves the selection of all Fulbright recipients. According to the board, Danielson's appointment reflects his leadership and contributions to society. The Fulbright is made possible through funds appropriated annually by the U.S. Congress and, in many cases, by contributions from partner countries and private parties.

Danielson will lecture at the University of Pécs in the institution's Department of Literatures and Cultures in English on U.S. history



and his areas of specialization in U.S. race relations, the civil rights movement, and U.S. foreign policy.

In 2021, Danielson received a Fulbright Award to Russia to teach at the University of Tyumen, but this award was not finalized due to the present state of U.S.-Russian relations.

[Read more](#)



## MONTANA TECH TEAMS COMPETE IN CONSTRUCTION COMPETITION

Three teams from Montana Technological University competed in the 2023 Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Region 6/7 annual Construction Bidding Competition in Sparks, Nevada. Montana Tech entered a team in the following categories: Heavy Civil, Preconstruction, and Project Management.

The university's Heavy Civil team placed 3rd in the competition. The team was comprised of six seniors studying civil engineering. The team trained through the fall semester, focusing on learning various methods to construct heavy civil projects.

The team had only one individual, Brandon Quinn, with past competition experience. Quinn, the 2023 team captain, competed in the 2022 competition as an alternate, and his team placed 2nd. The Heavy Civil team members have various construction experiences through summer internships. The competition included 15 teams from Rocky Mountain region universities, including Montana State, Colorado State, Northern University of Arizona (1st place), Brigham Young University (2nd place), and the University of Alaska. The Montana Tech team included Chip Anderson, Willie Anderson, Beau Drivdahl, Cody Gagnon, Brandon Quinn, and Ashley Patera. Adjunct Sonya Rosenthal coached the team and expressed pride in how quickly the team learned and applied learnings from workshops and presentations from industry and coursework to solve their competition problems. The team was given two Kiewit-sponsored problems of replacing a steel tank with a concrete tank in Hawaii and then repairing a marine structure on Waikiki beach.



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## MONTANA TECH STUDENT RECEIVES GEORGE M. DENNISON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Montana Campus Compact, a network of higher education institutions committed to promoting civic and community engagement, is proud to announce the 2023 George M. Dennison Civic Engagement Scholarship recipients.

Montana Tech student Nicholas Verlanic is one of 10 students receiving the scholarship. The 2023 recipients are Bridgette Shields, Aaniiih Nakoda College; Brandi Harwood, Blackfeet Community College; Shelby Smith, Montana State University; Melia Swirsky, Montana State University; Nicholas Verlanic, Montana Technological University; Shaylie Pierson, Montana State University Billings; Freeman Voyles, Montana State University-Northern; Samantha McNair, Salish Kootenai College; Maria Kouidi, University of Montana; and John Mears, University of Montana Western.



The scholarship program, created in honor of the late George M. Dennison, aims to encourage students to become active and responsible citizens through community service and leadership. Dennison was president of the University of Montana (1990-2010) and a co-founder of the Montana Campus Compact.

This year, the students received \$1,000 in scholarships for outstanding community contributions. The recipients were selected based on their dedication to serving others, leadership qualities, and potential to impact their communities positively.

[Read more](#)



## JOHN RAY HAS PAPER ACCEPTED FOR PRESENTATION



Dr. John W. Ray of Montana Tech's Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Department has had a peer reviewed paper entitled "The Decline of Political Institutions: Extent, Causes and Remedies" accepted for presentation next spring at the *Sixteenth International Conference on Climate Change: Impacts and Responses* to be held at and sponsored by the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Pau, Pau, France. The paper examines the extent to which democratic institutions, which have a proclivity to respond to immediate issues, can mitigate climate change that is perceived to be of somewhat distant concern.





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