

# CHANCELLOR CHECK-IN

**MONTANA**  
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY



*May 3, 2024*

[Athletics](#) | [Giving](#)

Greetings Montana Tech Family,

Last week, I had the pleasure of hosting former Montana Senator Max Baucus and his wife, Mel Hanes. Senator Baucus was Montana's longest-serving senator with 35 years in the U.S. Senate, and also served as ambassador to China.

The gist of our conversation revolved around the importance of civic engagement and preparing tomorrow's leaders in a rapidly changing world. As you might guess, our conversation quickly evolved into one about the value of hands-on, applied, and experiential learning.

My conversation with the former senator reverberated throughout the week as our campus community celebrated M-Days, Techxpo, the Techspy's, faculty/staff and student awards, and much more. All of these activities demonstrate the incredible value of experiential learning, and showcase leadership and civic engagement.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Chancellor Check-in, and the many stories that not only reaffirm our conversation, but also Montana Tech's mission to provide a transformative experience that prepares graduates to lead and make a difference in society and our changing world. We've had another incredible year at Montana Tech, and the following stories not only affirm our mission, but highlight our progress. Thank you for being an Oredigger!

With gratitude and all the best wishes,

Les



## WELCOME DR. TIM ELGREN

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Tim Elgren to our team as our provost and executive vice chancellor. Dr. Elgren is the chief research officer and director of corporate and foundation relations at the University of North Carolina, Asheville. In this role, he works with senior staff to articulate strategic priorities and identify, cultivate, and solicit potential funding. He also oversees three grant-funded centers at the University—the North Carolina Center for Health and Wellness, the National Environmental and Modeling Center, and the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) Studio. Before his time at UNCA, he served as the chief academic officer, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and professor of Chemistry at Oberlin College. He also served on the faculty of Hamilton College along with serving as chair of

Biochemistry, associate dean, and in a variety of other administrative roles.

Tim has a bachelor of arts in Chemistry from Hamline University, a PhD in Bioinorganic Chemistry from Dartmouth College, and a Postdoctoral Fellowship from the University of Minnesota. He has served on the National Council on Undergraduate Research Board including the executive board as president in addition to serving as an American Council on Education Fellow at the SUNY-Institute of Technology at Rome/Utica. He has also served as a member of his local school board including a term as president.

Tim and his wife, Gail, have two adult children, a daughter, who is a NICU physical therapist at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville Tennessee and a son, who is a software engineer relocating to Salt Lake City this summer. Dr. Elgren will join us in July.



## MONTANA TECH STUDENTS SHOWCASE RESEARCH AT TECHXPO

Winners of the 13th annual Techxpo Design showcase have been announced.

Seventy-eight student research and design projects, represented by 175 undergraduate and graduate students, filled the HPER Complex at Montana Technological University on Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Techxpo is a campus-wide event aimed at showcasing the hard work, innovation, and excellence of students. Exhibits included projects in science, engineering, and mathematics. A

panel of industry professionals judge the students' projects, and the top project in each category is awarded a cash prize. [Read more](#)



### **BOB MORRIS NAMED LANCE ENERGY CHAIR**

Bob Morris has been selected as the inaugural endowed Lance Energy Chair. The chair will 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. "Montana Tech has been a leader in the energy field since its beginnings. The Lance Energy Chair will assist us in elevating this focus and amplifying all we do. Significant momentum is occurring in the energy transition, and Bob has both the expertise and vision to ensure that Montana Tech

continues to lead in this transition," said Chancellor Les Cook.

The position was created as part of a historic \$31 million donation to the Montana Tech Foundation from alumnus Ryan Lance (Petroleum Engineering, '84), and his wife Lisa, in April 2023. [Read more](#)



### **FIRST CLASS OF EARTH SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING PH.D. STUDENTS TO GRADUATE SATURDAY**

Montana Tech will present degrees to the first graduates of its Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Earth Science and Engineering program at commencement on Saturday, May 4, 2024. They include a longtime assistant professor determined to cross the finish line to meet a personal goal, an international student from Kenya who

overcame homelessness and has long-term ambitions to become a politician and make a difference in his home country, and another international student who traveled from Iran in the throes of a global pandemic to study carbon capture and sequestration with goals to research and develop solutions to global climate change. [Learn more](#) about the graduates who are David Reichhardt, Amos Taiswa, and Amirhosein Riahi.



## 2024 EARLY IMPACT ALUMNI AWARDEES ANNOUNCED

Montana Tech will present the 2024 Early Impact Alumni Awards at a luncheon on campus on Friday, May 3, 2024. The awardees are Shanara "Shanny" Spang Gion, Teresa McGrath, and Adhikeshavan "Adhi" Ravee.

The Early Impact Alumni Award is given to Montana Technological University graduates who have already made a lasting impact on their community, Montana Tech, and their profession. This award celebrates alumni who have made an early impact after graduation and shown tremendous potential in their professional field. Awardees are great examples of how a world-class education from Montana Tech is limitless. [Read more](#)



## BONSELL NAMED GOLDWATER SCHOLAR

Montana Tech undergraduate Katherine Bonsell has been awarded the 2024 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. The award is the most prestigious undergraduate scholarship awarded in the US for natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

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. She is



## PHILLIPS RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

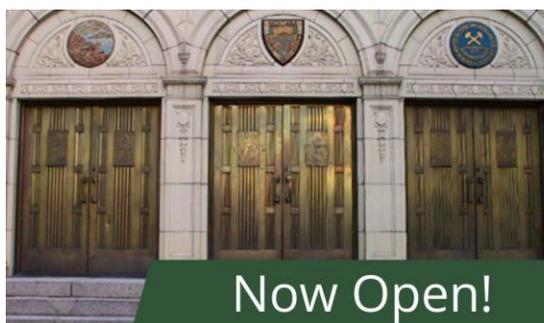
Baylie Phillips has been awarded two prestigious research fellowships. Phillips has been selected to receive the 2024 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship and the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) from the ARCS Foundation Seattle Chapter.

Phillips's legacy at Montana Tech includes her academic and research achievements, along with her many volunteer activities that deeply enriched the Butte community. Montana Tech's National Student Awards Committee (NSAC) worked closely with

conducting her current research under the mentorship of Dr. Xiaobing Zhou.

Montana Tech nominated four students for the 2024 award. The nominees were Bonsell, Abigail Clark, Ethan Heggem, and Jakob Nielsen. [Read more](#)

Phillips since Fall 2021 to support her applications for the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, Rhodes Scholarship, and NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. [Read more](#)



### **MINERAL MUSEUM ON CAMPUS OPEN**

Come see what's new at the Mineral Museum on the Montana Tech campus. Over the winter, the Montana Bureau of Mines & Geology (MBMG) team has been hard at work renovating the Mineral Museum to reorganize and update the collection, while still preserving the important history and heritage of the Museum building. Updates include refinishing the beautiful original flooring, clearing off the stage to create a presentation space for exciting seminars and discussions, and fixing up the old display cases for a better viewing experience of our amazing mineral collection.



### **GIANT GOLD NUGGET AT MINERAL MUSEUM TO BE FEATURED ON DISCOVERY CHANNEL**

*(Photo and story by Meagan Thompson, KXLF)*

A giant gold nugget that is on display at the Mineral Museum on campus has found its way to the spotlight and will be featured on a Discovery Channel show that will air soon. The gold nugget was found in 1989 by a Butte family in the Highland Mountains and is one of the largest nuggets found in Montana. It's rare to see a large gold nugget still in its natural form, but museum director Steve Quane says one best things that can be found in the museum is the preservation of local heritage. [Read more](#)



## MONTANA TECH, HIGHLANDS COLLEGE STUDENTS DEBUT NEW SOLAR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

A new solar demonstration project has been installed on the Montana Tech campus through the collaboration of students in Dr. Robin Bullock's senior design course and a metals fabrication class at Highlands College.

The project measures 14 feet tall. It is a structure that looks like a headframe and holds south-facing solar panels. The panels power a charging station that sits underneath the headframe, and provides shade to a picnic table where people can sit and enjoy while plugging in their devices. The project is located on the south lawn of the Engineering Lab Classroom (ELC) Building. [Read more](#)



## YOLANDA ANTONIO NAMED STUDENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Yolanda Antonio, an electrical engineering junior, is the recipient of the Montana Technological University 2024 Student Employee of the Year award. Antonio was announced as the recipient at the annual Student Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Yolanda, an office assistant in the Admissions and Enrollment Department, was selected based on the National Association of Colleges and Employers' competencies and personal characteristics. Competencies



## ETHAN LENEGAR NAMED 2024 STUDENT VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Montana Tech recently recognized the nominees for the 2024 Student Veteran of the Year Award (also known as the Distinguished Student Veteran Award). This year, the university received a nearly unprecedented number of nominations, with 17 students. The 2024 nominees were Matthew Ashcraft, Ethan Lenegar, Troy Springer, Travis Schroeder, James Adams, Cody Skibsted, Rylan Signalness, Jason Martin, Jared Edwards, Louis Harlan, Marisa Redgrave, Samara Gutierrez, and Ethan Mishler, as well as four other excellent nominees who wished to remain anonymous. [Read more](#)

include critical thinking, problem-solving, intercultural fluency, collaboration and teamwork, professionalism, work ethic, and leadership and communication skills. [Read more](#)



## HIGHLANDS COLLEGE UPDATE



### HIGHLANDS COLLEGE STUDENTS BUILD MODULAR HOMES

The Construction Technology Program at Highlands College has been busy building modular homes, which will be sold upon completion. The students enrolled in the program get hands-on training in the complete build of the homes—from conception to completion.

The first home was started in the fall of 2022. The students who began the program

at that time started with the framing, and as they moved through the program and started their second year, they are now seeing the home through to its completion, with the first home being ready for sale in the summer of this year. The second home was started in the fall of 2023, and it will be ready for sale next spring.

Our students have received hands-on training in all aspects of home building, and they feel that this training is of the utmost importance as they progress in their field.



## LANCE COLLEGE OF MINES & ENGINEERING UPDATE

It's been a busy spring at the Lance College of Mines and Engineering. I want to thank our faculty and staff for their commitment and dedication to student success. I also want to

congratulate our graduates, and I hope you can join us at the graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 4, to celebrate their achievements.

Here are a few updates on the Lance College of Mines and Engineering:



### **TAU BETA PI INITIATES 40TH CLASS AT MONTANA TECH**

Montana Technological University's chapter of Tau Beta Pi, the oldest engineering honor society and the second-oldest collegiate honor society in the United States, initiated its 40th class in early April.

Students in the top 12.5% of the junior class or top 20% of the senior class, based on GPA, are invited to join.



"Most professional fields have similar honor societies," Tau Beta Pi faculty sponsor Dr. Richard LaDouceur said. "Some people have a misconception that because of the Greek letters, it's a social organization. It's not a fraternity. It's an honor society to honor those who exhibit distinguished scholarship and exemplary character. It's a great opportunity, a recognition of the success you have already achieved, and all you've done to be successful in your life beyond the University, as well." [Read more](#)



### **OSHA 10 CONSTRUCTION COURSE**

Montana Tech will be offering a free on-campus OSHA 10 Construction Course for faculty, staff, and students on May 7-8. This two-day, 10-hour training course provides fundamental knowledge of common job-related safety and health hazards. The Montana Department of Labor and Industry sponsors the training. Attendees will receive an OSHA-10 card upon successful completion of the course. Contact [Dr. Liping Jiang](#) for more information and to register.





## STUDENTS DESIGN STORMWATER SYSTEM TO IMPROVE MOTEL PARKING LOT

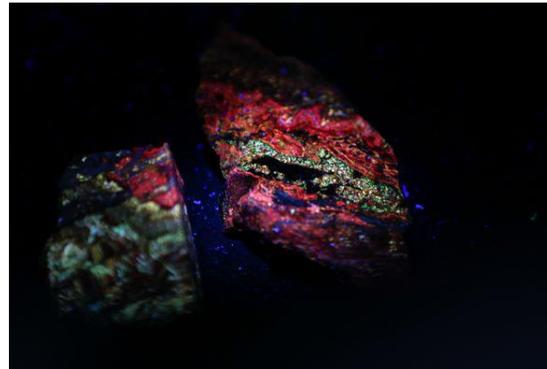
A team of students from Montana Technological University have designed a stormwater system for the parking lot and grassy area upgradient of the Motel 6 in Butte that will incorporate native plants, and improve the infrastructure's resilience to climate change.

The team consists of environmental engineering student Daniel Leas, and civil engineering students Elijah Zeluff and Hayden Massar. The project was completed as part of a senior capstone class taught by Dr. Robin Bullock and Dr. Rick LaDouceur. Butte-Silver Bow public works personnel have been working with the students over the past 2 semesters to complete the work at the property, located at the intersection of Copper and Wyoming Streets. [Read more](#)



## EPIROC USA AND MONTANA TECH PROFESSORS COLLABORATE TO DONATE EQUIPMENT TO UMEC

Montana Tech's Underground Mine Education Center (UMEC) received a substantial donation in the form of an Epiroc Scooptram ST2D underground loader. This collaboration between Epiroc and dedicated educators marks a significant milestone in bolstering the educational resources available to students at the UMEC. The Scooptram ST2D, tailored for narrow-vein operations, with a capacity of 3.6 metric tons, represents a cutting-edge addition to the UMEC's training



## PROFESSOR GAMMONS AWARDED \$365,000 NSF GRANT TO STUDY SPHALERITE IN BUTTE, PHILLIPSBURG

The National Science Foundation has 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.

"We are excited that Professor Gammons and team are receiving external recognition to continue the long-standing tradition of mineral

equipment. This state-of-the-art loader, designed for navigating mining tunnels and efficiently removing material, promises to elevate students' hands-on learning experiences in underground mining, providing them with practical skills on industry-standard equipment essential for successful careers in mining engineering. [Read more](#)

exploration that is at the core of the University's identity and history," Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate School Angela Lueking said. "A successful, competitively awarded NSF proposal, is an indication that the science our faculty are doing has value to external stakeholders and the nation." [Read more](#)

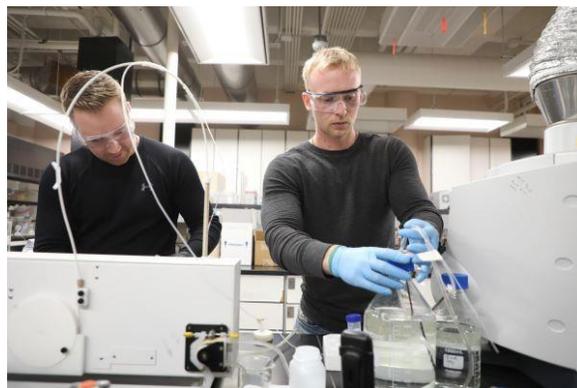


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### STUDENTS DEVELOP SYSTEM TO EXTRACT LITHIUM FROM OIL AND GAS WASTEWATER

Montana Tech students are designing a system to separate lithium from wastewater produced by drilling petroleum and natural gas wells.

Lithium is a rare element critical to producing rechargeable batteries found in cars, phones, and the power grid. The element is so critical to power infrastructure in the U.S. that the Department of Defense has an official Lithium Battery Strategy to ensure affordable domestic supply chains of lithium. [Read more](#)



### VISITING SCHWEITZER ENGINEERING LABORATORIES

Recently, Montana Tech and the Montana Tech Foundation visited Schweitzer



### STUDENTS DESIGN TWO-DRONE SYSTEM

Students at Montana Tech have designed a system meant to remediate some of the least

Engineering Laboratories in Pullman, WA. The team included Bryce Hill, electrical engineering associate professor and department head; Jaime Heppler, Montana Tech Foundation CEO; Brian Smyth, Montana Tech adjunct faculty member and SEL senior engineer; and eight IEEE club members. [Read more](#)

accessible contaminated mining sites. The team consists of environmental engineering members Johannes Chandler, Gavin Rahl, and Benjamin Schrieber and mechanical engineering members Alex D'Antuono, Shelby Draper, and Giovanna Luciano. They plan on testing their design throughout the spring semester. [Read more](#)



### LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR DRONE OBSTACLE COURSE

Construction of a new drone obstacle course will begin this spring just west of campus. "This drone obstacle course will provide excellent opportunities for students to improve their piloting skills in the drone (UAS) classes and UAS certificate programs," said Dr. Mary MacLaughlin, who helped spearhead the development of the classes and certificate programs at Tech several years ago. It also has the potential to become a testing field for companies in Montana's growing technology sector. [Read more](#)



### TOP HONORS AT 46TH INTERNATIONAL COLLEGIATE MINING COMPETITION

Three dozen teams from the United State, Australia, the United Kingdom and Canada competed. 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. They placed second in track stand and swede saw. Montana Tech's Men's Team "Badgers" took third place overall, placing second in mucking and survey, and third in gold panning and hand steel. [Read more](#)





### GRADUATE STUDENTS TAKE FIFTH AT SME CONFERENCE

Two Materials Science Ph.D. students are working in Dr. Richard LaDouceur's laboratory to find more sustainable and economical methods of obtaining samarium-cobalt through recycling. The current process of extracting critical minerals from ore is limited by high monetary and environmental costs. Frank Agyemang, from Kumasi, Ghana, and Zainab Nasrullah from Lahore, Pakistan, presented a research poster on their project, "Process intensification by resonant vibratory mixing for the recyclable Samarium-Cobalt leaching with deep eutectic solvents," at the SME annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona. It took fifth place among 70 competitors from top universities. [Read more](#)



### MONTANA TECH ASCE CLUB COMPETES IN VANCOUVER

The ASCE Chapter competed in the concrete canoe and steel bridge competition at the Pacific Northwest ASCE Student Symposium in Vancouver, Canada. The Student Steel Bridge Competition challenges students to extend their classroom knowledge to a practical and hands-on steel-design project that grows their interpersonal and professional skills, encourages innovation, and fosters impactful relationships between students and industry professionals. Each student team develops a concept for a scale-model steel bridge to span approximately 20 feet and to carry 2,500 pounds according to the competition rules. [Read more](#)



### 29TH ANNUAL JOCKO EVANS SYMPOSIUM A WILD SUCCESS

The 29th Annual Jocko Evans Symposium was once again a wild success. Almost 100 industry professionals from all over the US and Canada were on campus for this fun and



### OREDIGGERS AWARDED REACH HIGHER MONTANA SCHOLARSHIPS

Reach Higher Montana has announced the Class of 2024 high school and college scholarship recipients. This year, the Montana-based nonprofit organization has

instructive event. The technical talks are always the mainstay of the symposium, and this year, we had a wide variety of talks, including automated drilling, financing oil projects, enhanced geothermal, and many more. Additionally, there were two fantastic keynotes.

Kyle Haustveit ('13) opened the event with insight into the industry's future and the need for innovation and new technology, which was an excellent message for the many students and young alumni in attendance. David Arrington shared his unique stories and wit in his 'Life of an Independent Oilman' luncheon keynote, an uplifting, inspiring (and humorous) industry portrayal. Overall, the 29th symposium was a rousing success, and everyone looks forward to April 30, 2025.

awarded 30 - \$2,000 scholarships to Montana high school students and 50 - \$2,000 scholarships to continuing Montana college students.

High School winners who will attend Montana Tech include: Kaitlyn Johnson of Harlem and Hope McAtee of Kalispell.

Current undergraduate winners include: Chloe Nelson of Helena, Austynn May of Jefferson City, Zachry Kinyon of Harlem, Aliza Haney of Havre, Caleb Smartnick of Boulder, Makayla Kombol of Roundup, and Tess Shaw of Roundup. [Read more](#)



## COLLEGE OF LETTERS, SCIENCES & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES UPDATE



### PHAGES SYMPOSIUM

Montana Tech's 2024 National Institutes of Health Science Education Partnership Award, **Phages Helping Acquire Genuine Experiences in Science**, "NIH-SEPA PHAGES" project symposium took place April 14-16, 2024 at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort. Dr. Marisa Pedulla, Rayelynn

Brandl and their Montana Tech and CFWEP colleagues have been awarded more than \$3.5 million by Montana's NIH INBRE and NIH Science Education Partnership Awards (SEPA) supporting nearly two decades to work with K-12 teachers and students to isolate and characterize tiny viruses called phages that kill bacteria. Since the program's inception, the PHAGES (Phages Helping Acquire Genuine Experiences in Science) program has involved dozens of middle and high school teachers and thousands of Montana K-12 students screening samples they collect for phages. Together, the projects have resulted in over 130 phages discovered, and 24 sequenced and annotated, with genomes deposited in international GenBank repository. Partners at the University of Pittsburgh/Howard Hughes Medical Institute's SEA-PHAGES program archive the phages in their collection. These scientific contributions by Montana K-12 teachers and students have real world implications as biotechnology continues

to apply successful phage therapies for treating antibiotic-resistant infections using compassionate use/emergency authorization protocols.

At this year's conference, teachers and former student participants from 2006-present gave presentations about their phage journeys, and Montana Tech faculty and staff also made short presentations. Keynote speakers included Dr. Jack Skinner, professor in mechanical engineering at Tech, and Robert Lester, owner of Mountain King Industries. The research topics and national exposure of this program were showcased and the achievements of participating schools, teachers, and students were recognized and celebrated.



## **BERRINGTON NAMED MUS TEACHING SCHOLAR**

Dr. Blaine Berrington, Assistant Professor in Chemistry and Geochemistry, was selected as a 2024 Montana University System Teaching Scholar. MUS Teaching Scholars program was created to elevate excellent teaching and learning as the signature feature of an MUS education *and* to continuously make the profound impact of high-quality teaching more accessible to all students. The program does so by recognizing faculty members who have made exemplary contributions to teaching and learning at their institutions and by supporting these faculty in leading their peers to further advance excellence in teaching.



Each year, the MUS Teaching Scholars program focuses on a selected theme that highlights innovative approaches to teaching and that aligns with MUS teaching and learning priorities. This year, the MUS Teaching Scholars program is focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the classroom. In higher education, AI has and will continue to change how students learn, how faculty teach, the workforce our students will enter, and the world our students will engage in as they are tasked with solving society's most pressing challenges and pursuing its most promising opportunities.

MUS Teaching Scholars are from all types of institutions within the Montana University System – doctoral flagship, regional four-year, two-year and community college. Scholars were chosen from a competitive pool of faculty from across the system and all faculty tracks and ranks. Dr. Berrington will explore a method utilizing a visual machine learning observer to train students in proper and safe techniques in chemistry labs. He will lead a faculty learning community (FLC) at Montana Tech to focus on ways to level the playing field of AI tools for students. The FLC will develop guidelines for what an equitable environment will look like for such tools. Guidelines for assessing AI tools include what bias is, how to identify if there is bias, and steps to address any identified bias. This will provide a foundational framework for general use of AI assessments that can built upon and ensure an equitable learning environment. [Read more](#)





### **PAL COLLABORATES WITH RESEARCHERS IN GERMANY, CHINA, AUSTRALIA**

Professor Robert Pal is continuing a very productive sabbatical year this winter and spring by collaborating with researchers and academics in Germany, China, and Australia on important issues impacting ecological restoration and native ecosystem resilience to climate change on a global scale. Pal is an professor and director of restoration, who spent Fall 2023 collaborating with researchers at the University of Camerino in Italy on a number of projects, including a research proposal to study how lodgepole pine forests are recovering after fire events and how the undercanopy changes with maturity about species composition in Yellowstone National Park.

From Italy, Pal traveled to Halle, Germany, where he collaborated with a former student and colleague on a manuscript about invasive plants. [Read more](#)



### **MMIW BILLBOARD CREATOR TALKS ABOUT ONGOING CRISIS, CREATIVE PROCESS**

It only takes one person's art to ignite a movement. Indigenous artist Jen Murphy joined Montana Tech writing instructor Stacey Corbitt's technical writing classes in the first week of April to showcase how her work featuring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) grew from a small project to a statewide billboard campaign.

Murphy owns [Tveraa Photography](#), and anyone who has driven across the state of Montana lately has likely seen her work. She is the creator of haunting billboards featuring Native American women with red handprints across their faces, with messages highlighting the fact that since 2016, more than 6,000 indigenous women have gone missing from reservations in the United States. [Read more](#)





## **INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES MASTER'S DEGREE HELPED WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST ADVANCE IN CAREER**

When you ask Brent Lonner (M.S. Interdisciplinary Studies, 2006) why his work as a wildlife biologist matters, he has a great answer.

“This career is certainly one of those that becomes a lifestyle rather than just a job. The longer I've been in this field of work,

the more passionate and interested I get,” Lonner said. “I truly appreciate and enjoy the opportunity to intimately engage with natural resource management. Having kids places added value in what and why I do the work I and many others do. In a world of ever-increasing technology and urban type lifestyles, the ability to connect with the natural world in many different ways is increasingly important for many to maintain a sense of unity, harmony, and interconnectedness with all living things. It connects us to and reminds us that humans are part of a larger ecosystem, and connecting with nature can take many forms.” [Read more](#)



## **ATTORNEY SAYS ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING PROGRAM PROVIDED A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS**

Caelan Brady (Environmental Engineering, 2019) loved being outside growing up. Hunting, fishing, and recreating in Montana’s



## **BILLINGS ATTORNEY SAYS MONTANA TECH PAVED THE WAY FOR SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN LAW**

When Brianne McClafferty (Business & Information Tech-Management option, '12) went to sign up for classes at Montana Tech

outdoor paradise are still some of his favorite things to do. He also did well in math and science classes.

“When deciding what to do for college, I figured a natural mixture of my interests was environmental engineering,” Brady said. [Read more](#)

the summer before her freshman year she called her dad in a panic. “I told him ‘I can’t go to college,’” McClafferty said.

“The people I went to sign up for classes with are way smarter than me. I’m in trouble. I can’t do this.” [Read more](#)



### **FOOD PANTRY OFFERS MORE GRAB-AND-GO OPTIONS**

Four years after the Pantry opened in 2020, organizers say they have shifted their focus from creating the infrastructure needed to sustain the resource to providing the nutrition that best fits the needs of the Oredigger community.

Quinn Cox, a software engineering sophomore from Soldotna, Alaska, is an ASMT senator and chair of the Food Pantry. “The Food Pantry is probably my favorite thing that ASMT does,” Cox said.

Last year Cox learned how to run the food pantry from Baylie Phillips, who was



### **AMTMANN BRINGS HOME BRONZE FROM JUDO COLLEGIATE NATIONALS**

Electrical engineering senior Devin Amtmann brought home a bronze medal from Judo Collegiate Nationals held at Texas A&M University April 5-7.

Devin went 2-2 at competition against competitors from the University of Washington, University of Hawaii, United States Military Academy West Point, and San Jose State.

Devin is the first Montana Tech Judo Club member to attend a national judo competition in its 33-year history. Devin is a Butte native who has been practicing Japanese martial art

instrumental in getting it started during the pandemic, when an on-campus ASMT survey determined that 40% of students struggled with food insecurity. Early needs for the program were shelves, a freezer, and volunteers. Now that the pantry has those things, plus a dedicated student worker, it can better serve students. [Read more](#)

since she was three years old, and is the president of Montana Tech's Judo Club.

"Devin fought very tough, and I am so proud of my daughter," said Biological Sciences Professor John Amtmann, Montana Tech's Judo Club sponsor, and Devin's father. [Read more](#)



## ATHLETICS UPDATE



### MONTANA TECH HOSTING FRONTIER CONFERENCE OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Montana Tech will host the Frontier Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships for the first time in school history. The meet, comprised of all six conference schools, will begin on Sunday, May 5th, at 10:00 am, with the second and final day starting at 9:15 am on Monday,

May 6th. The meet will be held at the newly renovated Charlie Merrifield Track Complex at East Middle School. Montana Tech has already met qualifying marks in six events for the NAIA National Track and Field Championships per the A standard, with four more male athletes and one female athlete meeting the B standard. Athletes that meet the A standard are automatically qualified for the national meet, while each school can bring up to three athletes that meet the B standard from their men's and women's teams. Indiana Wesleyan University will host the NAIA National Track and Field Championships from May 22nd–May 24th. You can watch the Frontier Conference Championships via stream by visiting [www.godiggers.com](http://www.godiggers.com).





## FOOTBALL PLAYER IS A MATCH

A leukemia patient is about to have a better chance at survival thanks to Oredigger football player Maximus Anderson. The business junior from Kalispell attended an event co-hosted by the Montana Tech football team and the Be the Match Foundation in Spring 2022.

“It was a quick cheek swab,” Anderson said. “They told us the database we’d be entered to is there because people with blood diseases need help. It’s more complex than when you donate red blood cells. You need to have a similar DNA set. I really wanted to be picked, but knew it’s super rare.” [Read more](#)



## Upcoming Events

- 5/3:** Line Rodeo (9:00 am-12:00 pm, Highlands) | Order of the Engineer (5:00 pm, Auditorium) | Chancellor's Reception for Graduates (6:00-8:00 pm, SSC)
- 5/4:** Nurse Pinning (8:00 am, Library) | Commencement: Highlands College/CLSPS (10:00 am, HPER) | Commencement: Lance College of Mines & Engineering/Graduate School (1:00 pm, HPER)
- 5/5-6:** Frontier Conference Track Championships (Butte)
- 5/6:** Phase III Heating System Upgrade Begins
- 5/7:** Advancing Tech Forum (2:00 pm, Copper Lounge)
- 5/9:** Communication & Conflict in the Workplace - Lunch & Learn (11:30 am, Copper Lounge)

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