

# MontanaTech

**Business Department**

*Academic Year 2014-15*

## Alumni BIT

**From the desk of Department Head, Tim Kober**

Dear Montana Tech BIT Alumni and friends:

I hope all is well with you and your family as I take this opportunity to let you know what is happening here in our Department as well as our thoughts for the future. The Department remains one of the largest programs on campus as we have graduated over 40 students per year over the last several years. We have our sight set on growth in the program as we work toward continually improving our business program.

I am very excited, as well as very proud, of the accomplishments of our faculty. Our core faculty includes seven members who have done an outstanding job fulfilling the Department's primary objective of providing quality instruction. In addition, our faculty as a group has significantly stepped up their research efforts while at the same time they have become more valuable members of the local business community. We appear to have a very stable group of folks who are dedicated in seeing our program improve. We also have a great group of adjunct faculty who continue to help us out and I am very grateful for their efforts.

The focus for the current academic year is assessment and local economic development. We are busy working on our accreditation and on a number of ways to increase our presence in the local business community. In addition, we are working on a new option under our Bachelor of Science program. We hope to be offering an option in Natural Resource management in the very near future, a program that is designed to complement a solid business education with the strengths of other programs on the campus.

As always, I love to hear from past students. Please call or drop me a line to let me know how you are. In addition, we welcome the help and guidance of our alumni and friends. Please contact me if you have an interest in serving on our Industrial Advisory Board.

I wish you the best for the New Year.

Tim



**Tim Kober**  
Department Head



**David Ottolino**  
Assistant Professor



**Lance Revenaugh**  
Associate Professor



**Traci O'Neill**  
Associate Professor



**Todd Tregidga**  
Assistant Professor



**Gordon Flanders**  
Associate Professor



**Charles Ericksen**  
Assistant Professor

Thank you to our  
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Montana Tech

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**Alumni Recognition Award: Thadd Tokerud**



The Department of Business and Information Technology has named Thadd Tokerud as its outstanding alumnus for 2014. Thadd originally from Shelby, Montana, received his Bachelor of Science in BIT in 2006. After completing his studies at Montana Tech, he completed his MBA in Corporate Finance at the University of Dallas and went to work at BancTec Inc., as a senior financial analyst. Thadd left BancTec to take a position with MoneyGram International. While working at MoneyGram, he completed the requirements and became a Certified Public Accountant. Currently, in the middle of his third year at MoneyGram, Thadd has worked in the Finance, Accounting and Corporate Strategy departments.

Thadd's current boss, Julia Taylor, VP of Corporate Strategy notes the following, "As a manager in our corporate strategy group at MoneyGram,

Thadd is instrumental in driving the transformation of our products, technology platforms and business model to help us adapt and grow in the future. He has extensive cross-functional experience in multiple business disciplines, which makes him an ideal leader of high-priority initiatives across the company. MoneyGram does business in more than 200 countries and continues to grow our network of over 345,000 locations, and I am confident that Thadd will continue to lead these efforts around the company for many years."

On the home-front, Thadd and his wife Carly currently reside in Dallas, Texas and recently had their first child, a daughter by the name of Tally Mae.

Thadd will always be thankful for his time at Montana Tech, especially for his professors who created a family atmosphere, where they pushed everyone to do their best, but at the end of the day still cared about your future.



**Meet Our Newest Faculty**



**Dr. Charles Ericksen** joins the Montana Tech faculty after a number of years in higher education as a professor and administrator.

He has held various administration positions in higher education including Dean of the Faculty and Associate Dean of Accounting, Finance & Economics. He has taught both graduate and undergraduate business administration students in the United States and in Russia. In the United States he has taught at the University of Wisconsin, the University of Nebraska, Montana State University, Dickinson State University, Carroll College, Western State College, and Mesa State College. Additionally, he has taught both graduate and undergraduate students at Voronezh State University in Russia.

Charles studied at Colorado State University, Western State College, the University of Northern Colorado, Montana State University, and the University of Hawaii. He holds undergraduate degrees in accounting and economics and graduate degrees in business and management education. Also, he is a Certified Management Accountant (C.M.A.). His research interests are small business failures and attitudes toward continuing education by professionals.

## Meet Our Newest Faculty, continued...

**Todd Tregidga** is an Assistant Professor in the Business and Information Technology Department at Montana Tech teaching Economics and Accounting.

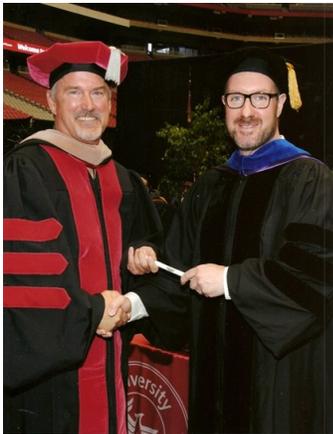
He is a Butte native and has 21 years of experience in Industry. He was most recently an Account Manager for PPL Energy Plus through June 2013. He started his career as an Accountant in 1992 for the Montana Power Company (MPC) in Colstrip, he then worked for MPC in Butte as a Financial Analyst for its electricity generation segment, he then moved to PPL in the same capacity after MPC sold the generation assets to PPL.



Todd graduated from the U of M with a bachelor's degree in Business in 1992 and an MBA in 2007. Todd is a CPA, a Governor appointed Montana Ambassador, a graduate of both Leadership Butte and Leadership Montana and is an active volunteer in Butte having served as Board President of United Way and the Chamber of Commerce, and currently is serving as Chairman of Butte's Tax Increment Financing Industrial District Board of Directors.

His free time is spent enjoying everything Montana has to offer with his wife Shannon of 23 years, his 19 year old son Tanner, and 14 year old daughter Taylor. "This past year has been a great challenge in making the career change, but has led to great reward as I have thoroughly enjoyed bringing my 21 years of industry experience to the classroom".

## *Congratulations!*



Associate Professor **Gordon Flanders** successfully defended his dissertation *The effect of course completion within selected major on freshman college student retention* on December 7, 2013 and received his Doctor of Business Administration (D.B.A.) from the University of Phoenix. Dr. Flanders theorized student retention could be improved for students who were traditional aged, first-time and full-time freshman, if after declaring a major they would immediately take an introductory class in that major during their first semester of college, if that early exposure to their major would motivate them to remain in college. Dr. Flanders researched data from 2007 to 2012 at Montana Tech, and discovered students were 1.7x less likely to leave college if they successfully passed that introductory class, when compared to students who did not take an introductory class in their major, but still successfully completed other classes in their first semester in school. Dr. Flanders then submitted a proposal that was accepted to present the findings of his research at The Gateway Course Experience conference in Indianapolis in March 2014. Pictured at left is Dr. Flanders and Dean Jeremy Moreland, Ph.D.

### **TEDx Talk**

Associate Professor Gordon Flanders was invited to be a speaker at a TEDx event sponsored by the Butte-Silver Bow Public Library. Dr. Flanders gave a talk titled *Set goals and be the person you want to be*. This TEDx talk can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clleIMhMT7Q>.

**Sigma Beta Delta**

**Sigma Beta Delta** is an international honor society of management and business students. Membership in Sigma Beta Delta is the highest national recognition a business student can receive at a college or university with a Sigma Beta Delta chapter. Faculty members in the BIT department elect and invite students to become members; it is our way of recognizing students' outstanding scholastic achievements.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for membership, a business student must rank in the upper 20 percent of the junior, senior or master's class and be invited to membership by the faculty officers. Additionally, one chapter has been established in the United Arab Emirates, the first international chapter. Montana Tech of the University of Montana became a charter member in September 2005.

We have inducted 55 members since our first semester. The Sigma Beta Delta Induction ceremony was held on **April 10, 2014** in the University Relations Center on the Montana Tech Campus. Those inducted were as follows: **Julia Bryant, Dallas Field, Melissa Ruschetti, Reid Baelocher, Kelsey DeWit, Erin Good, Arlena Deppmeier, Chad Lacey, Jessica Short, Megan Graff, Tammy Nelson, Kirstie McPherson, and Corinne Kyler.**



**Alumni Donations to the Tech Foundation**

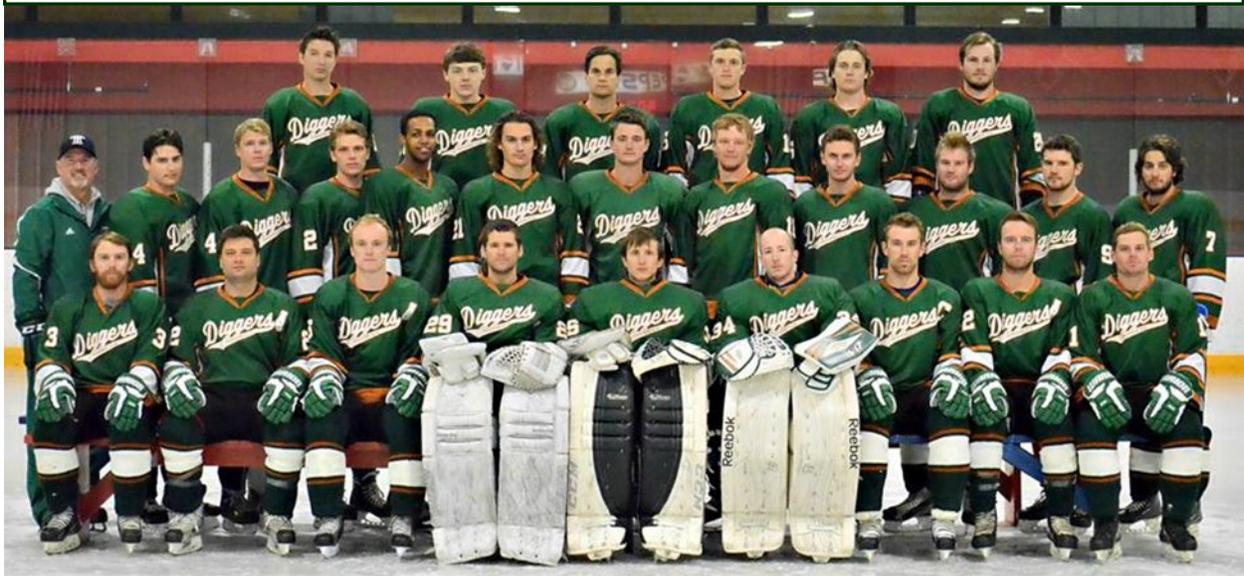
The following is a list of the BIT Department alumni who have donated to the support of the Montana Tech. Your support, currently and in the future, is greatly appreciated. If there are any errors on the list or your contribution does not show on the list – please let us know.

- |                   |                     |                   |                       |                      |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Dan Owens         | Brodie Kelly        | Krystal Ackerman  | Kelsie Goodwin        | Lynnsey Bondi        |
| Marcia Lubick     | Kimberly Brown      | Rikki Patch       | Adam Sackman          | Ruth Schelin         |
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| Julie Kirkpatrick | Jodi Driscoll       | Bryan Cetraro     | Neil Butori           | Thadd Tokerud        |
| Staci Costin      | Jack Duffield       | Jeffrey Dahood    | Renzy Kelly           | Brandon Wood         |
| John Dunn         | Todd Eney           | Tamara Curran     | Scott Mansanti        | Dustin Langford      |
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| Tyler Sandru      | Shayne Shaules      | Robert Stagnoli   | Whit Smith            |                      |
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*Thank you for your generous contribution and support!*



## Montana Tech Hockey Club



Associate Professor **Gordon Flanders**, a faculty member in the Department of Business & Information Technology is the Head Coach of the Montana Tech Hockey Club. The team competes in the Mountain West Collegiate Hockey League, which includes Boise State, Brigham Young University, University of Denver, Montana State University, Utah State University, and Weber State University. The team had a 16-7 record in 2013-2014 and were one goal away from winning the league championship game.

## BEAR Enhancement Project

The BEAR Enhancement Program, which matches local businesses with student interns as a way to strengthen the Butte business community, is an off-shoot of the Montana Business Expansion and Retention, or BEAR program. BEAR was formed under the Montana Economic Developers Association umbrella. Last Spring 2014, four Business students participated in the BEAR Enhancement pilot project, a first of its kind in the state. The BEAR Pilot program was funded by Montana Tech's Business and Information Technology Department, Northwestern Energy, the Butte Local Development Corporation, and the Small Business Development Center. Three goals of the pilot BEAR Enhancement Program included: 1. Create internship opportunities offering each student involved real business world experiences prior to graduation; 2. Assist local businesses in their efforts to exceed strategic goals associated with growth, marketing, and business development; 3. Keep young professionals in Butte, which in turn will help expand the economy. Four students were selected to conduct BEAR Enhancement internships last Spring. Megan Graff interned for owner Maria Ralph at Butte Business Center, a new "co-working" business model. Kirstie McPherson, was an intern at Sandana's Mexican Family Restaurant, Erin Good interned with the Montana Sky Lodge in Anaconda and Julia Bryant worked with Big Brothers and Sisters. All four students provided a variety of web development, marketing, financial analysis, and operational management insight and assistance. The success of the BEAR Pilot Program has encouraged new students and businesses to join hands once again this Fall. New students will be taking on the strategic goals of local businesses in the Butte community to help enhance current business efforts. For more information about the BEAR Enhancement Program and/or to assist in the scholarship dollars paid to BEAR Enhancement students please contact Traci O'Neill ([toneill@mtech.edu](mailto:toneill@mtech.edu); 406.496.4892).



### BIT Endowed Scholarship Recipient: Jordan Johnson



My name is **Jordan Johnson** and I am a sophomore at Montana Tech. I am pursuing a degree in Business management and marketing.

I am from Glendive, MT, which is completely on the opposite side of the state from Butte, and I have lived there my entire life. I have an amazing family, who supports me through everything I encounter. I have an incredible mother and father, brother and sister-in-law, sister and a baby niece. Spending time with them is one of my favorite things in the world, along with being outside, hunting, fishing, riding motorcycles, and playing sports. I stay involved with intramural sports throughout the school year and like to have a good time with my friends. I enjoy traveling to new places, cooking, painting, drawing, and watching good movies in my free time.

I take my schooling very seriously as it is extremely important to me to get good grades. Being awarded with scholarships just reminds me that all my hard work is paying off and it keeps me motivated to continue putting the time and effort into my work.

### BIT Endowed Scholarship Recipient: Dallas Field

My name is **Dallas Field** and I am in my final year studying to earn a B.S. in Business Information Technology with the Management Option. I am a non-traditional student and I will be graduating in May of 2015.



I lived in Washington or Montana most of my life. I moved to Butte in 2011 with my wife and three children. My goal has always been to earn a college degree, and my decision to pursue my goal came at an opportune time. I researched Montana Tech and realized I was in the right place at the right time. The transition to college life has been a challenging path, but I know it will be worth the hard work and effort when I am done.

I appreciate Montana Tech, the staff, and the students for giving me the opportunity to fulfill one of my goals, thank you.

### New Business Scholarship

Pete Akey, Vice President and Branch Manager for Glacier Bank in Butte, and the good folks at Glacier Bank have approached the Montana Tech Foundation and agreed to start a scholarship program for deserving Tech business students. The scholarship will be an annual award of \$1,000 and is scheduled to begin next year. Increasing the availability of scholarships for our students has been a top priority for our Department and this gift is a great step toward this goal. Please join us in thanking Pete and the others at Glacier Bank for this very generous contribution.



We are on the web! <http://www.mtech.edu/clsp/bit/>

toneil@mtech.edu

NEWSLETTER  
E-MAIL:

406-496-4704

FAX:

406-496-4401

PHONE:

Butte MT, 59701

1300 W. Park St

**Montana Tech  
Business &  
Information  
Technology  
Department**

*"The class is intended to  
be one means of helping  
small local businesses  
succeed ..."*

**IN DEMAND**

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