

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS E-NEWSLETTER

INNOVATION

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MONTANA
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Welcome Back /Welcome Aboard	1
Ray Rogers—Friday Speaker Series	2
Marketing Independent Study	3
MSCPA Luncheon with students	4
A Message from the Chair	4
Internship Spotlight: Eric Brown	5
DOB National Ranking	6
Alumni Spotlight: Olivia Sims	7

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WELCOME BACK & WELCOME ABOARD!

Department Head Todd Tregidga welcomed Department of Business continuing students as well as first year students at a “Welcome Back ... Welcome Aboard” event during the second week of the Fall, 2021 semester. The number of first year students this fall was the highest number in five years.

Chair Tregidga introduced the DOB Faculty. He spoke about the new name of the department, having been changed from the Department of Business and Information Technology.

He informed the students of the national ranking received by the department. During the summer, our DOB’s Business & Information Technology degree in Technology Management was ranked 14th in the nation by Bachelordegreecenter.org.

He also informed the students that for the 2020-21 academic year, DOB students scored in the 97th percentile nationally in their Exit Exam conducted by Peregrine Academic Services. These scores are one of the primary items considered for accreditation by the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE).

The main focus of Chair Tregidga’s address was to reiterate to students our plans to help students succeed and our commitment to do so. He noted the DOB’s unique focus on the world’s largest enterprise resource planning organization/software SAP noting that Montana Tech was the only university in Montana with such an emphasis.

He ended his address with this statement: “When it comes to success in anything, there is no substitute for integrity and work ethic and no excuse for not having both.”



First Friday Speaker Series - Ray Rogers

This academic year, through the inspiration and direction of Department Head Todd Tregidga, the DOB is sponsoring the First Friday Speaker Series. The first speaker in the series was Ray Rogers.

The theme for the Speaker Series is The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People based on the book by its author, Steven Covey. Ray spoke on the first of the seven habits: Be Proactive.

Ray is the CEO of the Praxis Center, a \$36 million, 40,000+ ft² rural healthcare simulation training center that is currently under development to be built in Uptown Butte. This will be the nation's first independent, non-affiliated medical simulation training center dedicated specifically to the needs of rural healthcare practitioners.

Since 2003, Mr. Rogers has also been the Chief Executive Officer for the National Center for Health Care Informatics (NCHCI) located in Butte. The NCHCI is a non-profit corporation dedicated to improving the management of health care data, information, and knowledge.

He has over 35+ years' experience in a wide variety of professional capacities including: engineering; higher education administration, fundraising, marketing, and business development; health care informatics; health insurance; simulation training, research, and development; and economic development.

He holds an undergraduate degree in Petroleum Engineering and a MS degree in Technical Communications. He has three grown children, two grandchildren, and enjoys skiing, running, hiking, biking, and fly-fishing.



Ray Rogers

OUR NEXT SPEAKER: FIRST FRIDAY SPEAKER SERIES

**Chris Whitmore
Executive Management
Big Sky Development**



Turning Loss into an Opportunity: Marketing Independent Study Class

By: Jazmyn Smith, Erynn Metesh, and Chelsey McGree

Erynn Chelsey Jazmyn

Philip Kotler said, "Authentic marketing is not the art of selling what you make, but knowing the value of what you make." The Montana Tech Business Department understands how important it is that what they teach in the classroom aligns with what is needed to walk out and become successful in all aspects of the business world.

When Todd Tregidga learned he would be taking over as department head, one of his first steps was to figure out a way to increase the visibility of the department. One of the best ways in today's world to increase the department's visibility is to enhance the digital presence. During our Integrated Marketing class last Spring, we started to do research and develop a marketing plan to do just that.

We are among the last students who will graduate from Tech with a Marketing degree because the degree was cut. We have worked hard to turn that loss into an opportunity to take the lessons we have learned in the classroom in conjunction with real world experience to start to implement a marketing plan of our own this fall.

Our hope is to make marketing the Business department as a win-win for Tech as a whole. We want people to realize that although Tech's engineering and Nursing departments are exceptional, Tech does have a growing, award winning Business Department. We are passionate about growing this department so that when we are gone, we have left something that has the ability to continue to grow and gain traction over the years. We meet with Todd each week to go over plans, ideas, and integration. We have a critical advantage to our marketing plan because a percentage of our target market includes ourselves. We know what the audience wants to see and how they are likely to interact because we use ourselves as references. Marketing is about believing in what you are selling to people. We believe in the value and vision that the Business Department has, we just need to get the word out.

This semester our game plan is to work in hand with the Business Guild, the Public Relations Department at Tech, and in our small but mighty team to enhance our presence on social media and work toward a new look for the website. We are going to grow our following and presence on Instagram and Facebook to share news, information, and the department's vision. Current and future students won't know how valuable a Business Degree from Montana Tech is unless we inform them. We want to spread the word that ***Tech Means Business.***



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Todd Talks

A Message from the DOB Chair



Dear Friends of the Department of Business,

I hope each of you had a great summer filled with fun activities had with friends and family and all of you are staying healthy. While it has been a very challenging year and a half, I am confident the Department of Business has weathered the storm well and is positioned to continue to provide a great experience and high value to each Business student.

This is my first semester as Department Head, which causes me to be both nervous and excited. Thankfully I still have Tim to lean on and a tremendously talented faculty to help overcome my inexperience in the new role.

Regardless of my inexperience, I am confident we are off to a great start this academic year. Preliminary numbers show that our department has grown again this year. We are up 14 students or 9% and now have the second largest standalone program on campus. We have been busy providing students with great experiences in and out of class as we have held three separate events for the entire Department on each of the first three Fridays of the semester. We started with a Welcome Back/Welcome Aboard event on August 27th, Ray Rodgers educated our students about his Praxis Center project and the importance of soft skills to being successful on September 3rd, and on September 10th, the Montana Society of CPAs hosted a networking event on campus for students to give them the opportunity to meet local CPAs and be better educated on the importance of the Accounting Profession. This is all part of a plan to elevate the student experience and the visibility of the Department of Business.

To conclude, I want to thank all of you for being supportive of our Department over the years in so many ways and especially to those that helped us make Day One very successful. While Day One is over, we are always happy to receive your contributions through the Foundation and will put them to good work providing students with an improving educational environment, more experiential learning opportunities, and increasing program visibility.

Wishing you all the very best,

Todd Tregidga



Montana CPAs Speak to Tech Business Students

The Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA) sponsored a luncheon and spoke to students about life as a CPA and about opportunities both as a CPA and for students interested in internships.

Speaking to the students were: Allen Lloyd, Executive Director of the MSCPA, Kolten LaMiaux of Anderson Zurmuehlen in Bozeman and Kevin Markovich, Director of Energy Supply at Northwestern Energy in Butte.

With approximately 20 students and 4 faculty in attendance, the MSCPA provided lunch from Dickie's BBQ.

STUDENT INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT:

Eric Brown

Our Internship Student Spotlight this issue is Eric Brown. Eric will be graduating in the Spring, 2022 with a BS in Business and Information Technology – Accounting Option. Eric is currently experiencing an internship with Anderson ZurMuehlen here in Butte.

“I have really enjoyed the perspective that public accounting brings about how small businesses and nonprofits operate,” Eric noted. “I have gotten the opportunity to meet and work with people from companies and charitable organizations that I really admire. For an internship position I think that’s really cool!”

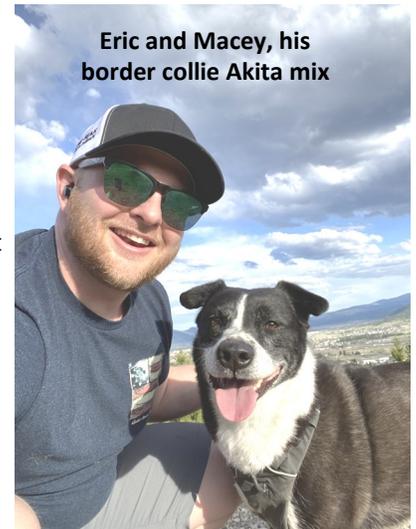
Eric’s goal is to work towards his CPA licensure and to ultimately have a career in public accounting.

One might read the above and conclude that Eric was following a traditional path as he moves through his education and into his career. What you probably would never guess is what Eric did before coming to Tech.

Eric served our country for 6 years in the Navy and for 5 of those years, he served aboard the USS Henry M Jackson, a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine!

We are extremely proud of Eric – for his service to our country – for his dedication to his education – and for choosing to attend Montana Tech.

Well done, Eric!



Eric and Macey, his border collie Akita mix

Charlie says:

*“Montana Tech
means
BUSINESS
and
BUSINESS
is everywhere!”*



14th! National Ranking!

**Business & Information
Technology Degree in
Top 25 Best Bachelor's in
Technology Management
for 2021**



**Accounting
Health Information Technology
Management of Information
Management of Natural Resources**

**The BIT degree has a 92% career outcomes rate
with high starting salaries.**

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Olivia Sims



2020 has proven to be a hard year for us all, full of new challenges, heartbreaks, and battles. With so much hardship surrounding everyone, it is encouraging to see an individual who has been able to find success, despite the obstacles standing in the way. Meet Olivia Sims, a Montana Tech alumna who went over and beyond, to create a bright future for herself in dark times.

In November of 2020, Olivia graduated from Montana Tech with a Bachelors in Business and Information Technology, and two Minors in Mathematics and Statistics. Although her last semester was spent adjusting to a new world and a new way of learning, Olivia stayed on track with her goals and graduated with her degrees in only three and a half years!

In December of 2020, Olivia became engaged to Jesse Sims (a former graduate and athlete of Montana Tech). Shortly after the engagement, she moved to Helena, MT to work her second legislative session for the Montana Senate. Olivia worked as a Senate Committee Secretary for the 2021 Montana Legislative Session, where she spent her time making connections and discovering new interests. During this time, Olivia was also in the process of planning a wedding, buying a house, and finding a long-term career path. Olivia ended her work for the Legislature in May of 2021, just in time to

attend Tech's Graduation Ceremony for the classes of 2020 and 2021.

On June 5th, 2021, Olivia Hopkins married Jesse Sims. The couple got married outside of Wise River, Montana. In the mountains of Beaverhead County. The day of their wedding, Olivia surprised Jesse with writing, recording, and producing the song for their first dance. (The two met and fell in love through playing music and writing songs, and the couple continue to keep this a part of their lives. You can still find the couple performing music at some of Butte's favorite, local venues.) Olivia has written over 30 songs but had not yet released any. You can now listen to her song on almost all platforms, simply by searching for (or clicking here) [Choose You](#) by Olivia Sims!

June 6th, the newlyweds left for the Caribbean and spent a full week in Aruba meeting locals, making connections, and scuba diving the coasts. While in Aruba, the couple built relationships with local families who taught them how to "properly cook Venezuelan food" – Olivia. The couple returned not exactly "relaxed" but very much enriched. Upon arriving back in Montana, Olivia and her new husband spent the next week completing the home buying process and moved into their first home.

During all of this, Olivia was also in the process of becoming a licensed Real Estate professional for the State of Montana. Throughout the graduating, working, wedding planning, home buying, moving, honeymooning, and song writing, Olivia was spending time attending real estate classes and studying for her Montana Licensed Real Estate Professional exams. She managed to pass her exams on her first try, which is not common, and immediately began working as an agent with Butte Real Estate Group. Within her first week of working as an agent, Olivia began working for clients and selling homes.



Choose You
Olivia Sims

Olivia sings!



Olivia weds Jesse!



Olivia graduates!