Even with tough economic times, the Montana State University College of Business (CoB) presented more than 85 scholarships and awards for students majoring in business options for the 2010-2011 academic year. The scholarships, announced Monday, April 20th at the CoB’s annual scholarship banquet, were provided through endowments and funds set up to specifically grant financial aid to students enrolled in the CoB. Around 230 people, including family and friends, attended the event.

President Waded Cruzado, the banquet’s keynote speaker, began the evening welcoming those in attendance and talked about the legacy being celebrated that evening before she launched into a fun and entertaining story that emphasized her message for the students. “Many years ago in the Middle East, there was a country that had a currency called ‘talent,’” President Cruzado began saying. She told the story of a wealthy man who, before leaving on a journey, passed on “talents” to three servants who were to care for his properties while he was gone. He gave them each a different amount and asked them to use their “talents” wisely and invest, saying he would come back to see how they had done. Upon his return, he found two of his servants had invested the “talents” and now had more than what they started with. On the other hand, the third servant, who was afraid, had buried his “talent.”

President Cruzado concluded the story by encouraging the students to follow the first two servants and not the last. “Everyone here has a talent. You need to delegate and believe in people and trust their judgment. To those who receive a lot, they need to give back a lot.” Then she looked into the audience and emphasized that the donors didn’t know the scholarship recipients beforehand, but had chosen to invest in them. She said each student has now received many “talents” and we will see what they do with those gifts.

The Montana State University (MSU) Alumni Association and the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce recognized forty top MSU seniors and their faculty or staff mentors at the 28th annual Awards for Excellence banquet. The awards ceremony took place on Tuesday, February 16. Student winners were nominated by faculty in their college or department and chosen by an award selection committee. Honorees maintained a minimum 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and demonstrated campus leadership and community service.

The senior College of Business students and mentors who were honored at this year’s banquet were:

Kyle Blessinger, accounting / Bonita Peterson Kramer
Morgan Legerski, marketing and finance / Frank Kerins
Rachel McGinnis, accounting / Christie Johnson
Jann Spizziri, management / Gary Bishop

Please note: Every effort has been made to include each student and academic group or club who has been selected for an award. If your name has been inadvertently omitted or misspelled, please accept our sincere apologies.
**Thirty-Eighth Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet**

*April 19, 2010*

**Jim Alderson Entrepreneur Scholarships**
Stephanie Attebury and Caitlin Sundborg with presenter Jim Alderson

**Anderson ZurMuehlen & Co.**
Presenter Bill Mills with Lacey Ryan

**Beta Alpha Psi & Accounting Club Scholarship**
Presenter Robyn Jarnagin with Jacquelin Irigoin

**John W. Blankenhorn Scholarship**
Hannah Pimley with presenter Angela Woodland

**The Boeing Business Scholarship**
Matthew Barkley with presenter Mike Kroff

**Mike Bowen Memorial Scholarship**
Presenters Jennifer Simon, Carol Bowen and Scott Reese with Matt Helgeson

**Gary K. Bracken Scholarships**
Presenter Carlee Goemans with Jolene Karls, Rachel McGinnis and Alycia Miller

**COB Accounting Scholarship**
Kyle Blessinger with presenter Bonita Kramer

**COB Board of Advisors Scholarship**
Jennifer Brien with presenter James Taylor, Jr.

**Gil Crain Memorial Scholarship**
Garry Hoffman with presenter Christie Johnson
Deloitte Scholarship
Brittany Maroney with presenter Nathan Aman

EideBailly LLP Consultants/CPAs
Presenter Brian Chouinard with Garrett Shaw

American Bank/Carolyn Erickson
Finance Scholarships
L-R: Andrew Kiezer, Ashley Bagley, Rebecca Myers, Aimee Hokanson, and Kaitlyn Ash with presenter Tyler Erickson

Joseph Eve CPAs Scholarship
Presenter Don Jones with Kali Vergeront

Galusha, Higgins & Galusha
Meghan Cyr with presenter Garry Spitzer

Russell B. Hart Memorial Scholarship
Presenter Gary Caton with Justin Newland

Scott & Barbara Heck Scholarship
Presenter Ginny Bratton with Tara Lindblom

J&H Office Supply
Presenter Brent Brandmayr with Katherine Snapp

Friends of the Open Classic Golf
Presenter Dean Folkvord with Tyson Johnson, Tonia McCarmish and Kate Oswald

KPMG LLP Scholarships
Kay Spokas, presenter Christie Johnson and Courtney Holmberg
Howard Kelsey Memorial Scholarship
Courtney Wendland and presenter Kelly Kelsey

Alice Knowles Scholarship
Valerie Bennett

Robert Simkins Memorial Scholarship
Steven Moodie with presenter Gary Bishop

Montana Bankers Association
25 Year Club Scholarship
Samuel Pehl with presenter Vern Voegele

Montana Society of Public Accountants Scholarship
Austin Patritti and presenter Marc Giullian

Elizabeth Seitz-Moyer Memorial Scholarship
Ulan Turuspekov, Ayumi Nelson, presenter Graham Austin and Kevin Peterson

Parent Family Association Scholarship
Calli McQuiston, Xiaochen Zhao and presenter Susan Dana

Montana Society of CPAs Scholarship
Presenter Julie Kostelecky and RaLea McMaster

Harlan F. Patterson Scholarships
Matthew McKee, Heather Morris and presenter Tim Alzheimer

Amy H. Pound Scholarships
Ben Scott, Mariko Shimada and presenter Scott Bryant
David W. And Dorothy E. Patterson Scholarships

Left-Right, Back-Front: Nicholas Axline, Gehrig Dye, Christopher Fisher, Dane Hancock, Dezarae Brewington, Jocelyn Oranje, Ann Harris and presenter Bill Brown

Frank Preston Scholarships
Dabrianna Raprager, Kelty Wallace* in absentia and presenter Susan Dana

Jeanne M. & Harold Roby Scholarship
Presenter Pat Dunn with recipient Meghan Doyle and Jeanne Roby

Jerry D. Trainer Scholarship
Jessica Briceno and presenter Mike Shaw

US Bank-Bozeman Scholarship
Presenter Barry Jeide with Cory Brester

Women’s Circle of Excellence Scholarship
Heather Ridley and presenter Kerry Hanson


Left-Right, Back-Front: Ryann Rivard, Mitchell Wallace, Jay Trotter, Stephanie Tucker, Barbara Todd, Karissa Wivholm, Breana Wolery, Molly Zander and presenter Dave Foster
The first visual impression a student makes when applying for an internship or interviewing for a job, can be key to their success in the job market. Various studies show that 40% of job rejections are linked to poor personal presentation—dress and grooming. The image one presents in the first five seconds they meet with a prospective employer or business partner matters. Dressing professionally shows that you are the right person to do business with; you display confidence, drive and determination.

The College of Business (CoB) already emphasizes the importance of professional appearance for final presentations to clients in the upper-division consulting classes, when participating in academic competitions against other universities and, especially, when attending the fall and spring recruiting fairs. Recognizing it can be difficult for college students to afford business attire, CoB student leaders looked at ways to help improve student professional appearance and developed a service project they called “The Executive’s Closet.” This event provided an opportunity for CoB students to acquire professional quality clothing, with business professionals in the community donating ‘gently worn’ business outfits and accessories.

Students from the different options worked together to make this two-day event a success. Linda Ward, assistant director of the Bracken Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Business Education, coordinated the overall efforts between students and business community. Susan Sheaffer, a student in the Masters of Professional Accountancy Program (MPAcs), made presentations to the Sunrise Rotary in Bozeman and PrintingForLess in Livingston, requesting clothing donations. Jackie Art, a management student, brought in large contributions from the Livingston community. Tyler Taval, president of the Human Management Club, built clothing racks for hanging the suits and jackets. A number of students volunteered the day before the event to help set up the Bracken Center rooms and sort through the donations. Mikel Erickson and Collin Thomas, both studying finance, greeted and checked in students early in the morning on the first day of the event.

For two days, many CoB students were at the Bracken Center assisting other students as they came to the event to see if they could find a new business outfit. The Executive’s Closet began early, at 8 a.m., and even at that hour, students consistently flowed in and out of the Bracken Center rooms, trying on different outfits; many left with a professional looking, complete business outfit. Some CoB faculty took time out of their busy day to help students select pieces that matched and fit properly. Gary Bishop, adjunct management instructor, also held tying demonstrations.

Lily Hurley, a junior in business management, enjoyed her experience attending the Executive’s Closet. “I thought this event was a great opportunity for CoB students because not all of us have the ability to go out and buy nice business outfits, which really give you an edge when interviewing for jobs.” She was able to obtain a skirt-suit combo, blouse, dress shoes and a business portfolio bag.

You never get a second chance to make a good first impression. The Executive’s Closet provided many CoB students with professional clothing to help them make a successful first impression.
Three Recent Graduates Pass the First Level of the CFA Exam

Some Montana State University (MSU) students in finance and economics have started to pursue their Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) certification. On January 27, the Chartered Financial Analyst Institute announced the results for the December 2009 CFA exam, with three out of four MSU graduates who took the test passing it. College of Business (CoB) students Eric Bertelsen, Cairn Clark and Austin Owens were all notified of their success. Chase Basta, a 2008 graduate, took and passed the exam last June.

Approximately 50,000 people around the world took the exam the first Saturday in December. Only 34% of them passed. A BusinessWeek article stated that applicants for the CFA exam hope it will lead to better jobs and higher salaries, as well as a deeper understanding of finance, but the trade off is a recommended 300 hours of study for each of the three six-hour tests. The 34% pass rate is the lowest percentage of passing candidates in four years. Tom Robinson, the institute’s managing director of education, believes that the pass rate may have declined because the test-takers were less serious than previous groups.

That is not the case with MSU’s students. The CoB students passing the exam are testaments to the high quality of education they’ve received in the CoB, at MSU, and the hands-on nature of the faculty.

Clark had this to say about the CoB and the preparation for the exam.

“While other schools boast name recognition, we had access to something different. We had live finance professors that were willing to develop personal relationships with their students outside of the classroom and simultaneously create an excitement and passion for finance. There is no better motivator than knowing you have a great set of mentors behind you every step of the way, especially when you are devoting a large chunk of your life to studying for exams that many people consider ‘life ruining.’ I’m hoping that the obsession with finance that I picked up on the fourth floor of Reid Hall will take me a lot further in my career than having an Ivy League stamp on my resume.”

This first exam tested topics ranged from ethical standards and securities valuation to financial statement analysis and portfolio management. Owens said the key components to doing well on the test were diligence and a solid foundation gained through the finance program. He described sacrifices ranging from reduced sleep patterns and lack of social interaction to having the bulk of his daily caloric intake come from coffee.

Owens is pleased with the outcome of the first exam but he is already looking to the next test and is up to his neck in textbooks and study materials. “The finance faculty’s dedication and excellence in instruction more than adequately prepared us for the Level I exam and will continue to guide us in our studies throughout the next two rounds,” says Owens. We wish them all the best of luck.

*Update

The second level of the CFA exam took place in June and results notification came out at the end of July. Cairn Clark and Austin Owens have both passed the Level II exam with Eric Bertelsen not passing this round. Clark and Owens will have one more level exam to look forward to before achieving their CFA designation.
MSU accounting students to volunteer in Alaska over spring break

While many college students seek to follow the sun over spring break, four Montana State University students will travel to frigid destinations, arriving in small float and bush planes. In some of the spots where they’ll stay, the students will forgo showers and running water. In most of them, they’ll be preparing dinners of dehydrated food and sleeping on the floors of schools and community centers.

The students -- four College of Business accounting majors -- will be working as volunteers during spring break, using the expertise they’ve learned in school to help others. They will spend a week traveling through small, remote villages in Alaska, preparing tax returns for village residents. The students will do so through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, or VITA, which the Internal Revenue Service established to assist people who find it difficult to pay for tax preparation services.

“I couldn’t pass up the chance to go to Alaska, and the trip will also be an opportunity to get more experience doing tax returns,” said Jennifer Larson, a graduate accounting student from Colorado who will travel to the western Alaska tundra to prepare returns.

“I’m excited to see the villages,” Larson added. “It will be neat to see a different culture from what I’m used to.”

The business students - Larson, Bryan Jackson, Caitlyn Deen and Wasawat Tuntiprapha - were selected from among about 25 students who were interested in traveling to Alaska to prepare returns. Accounting professor Anne Christensen, who helped arrange the trip, as well as similar trips the last two years, said they were chosen because of their academic excellence and experience.

The College of Business pays $600 toward each of the student’s airfare to Anchorage, with the students responsible for the difference -- about $100-$200 -- themselves. All other trip expenses will be paid by the Alaska Business Development Center, or ABDC, a non-profit organization that sponsors the trip and takes care of logistical arrangements.

The students arrived in Anchorage on Friday, March 12, and completed training the next day. They shopped for food in Anchorage before departing for their villages on Sunday, March 14.

Deen and Larson will visit three villages in western Alaska, which range in population from about 350 to 445 people. Larson says they expect to complete about 250 returns during that time. She says they’ll bring sleeping bags and are prepared to sleep in the schools and community centers where they work, and she’s “excited” that they’ll at least have a microwave for food preparation. One of the villages does not have water suitable for drinking, so they’ll have to treat water or bring water with them.

Jackson and Tuntiprapha will visit six villages on Kodiak Island. The villages tend to be even smaller; one has a population of just 45. They’ll fly to the villages in bush planes. Like the others, they will be prepared to cook, find safe drinking water, and - as Jackson calls it - “camp indoors,” for the duration of the week.

The students say they feel prepared for the work. In Bozeman, they practiced preparing returns through the VITA program offered through MSU. They also passed an IRS tax preparation exam, completed at least one comprehensive tax course and received specific training related to common tax issues. They’ve also accessed a variety of federal and state reference materials, and they’ve received extra information about tax considerations related to fishing, oil and gas, as well as Alaska’s payment program for its citizens.

“The students are well prepared for the issues they’re most likely to see,” Christensen said.

Still, the students expect they may face unique issues unrelated to accounting. For example, about 90 percent of the villagers with whom the students will interact are Native, and many of them speak a first language other than English, so simply communicating with their clients may be a challenge.

“We probably won’t have translators, but will rely on other people in the room (who speak both languages) to help us communicate,” Larson said.

“It should be lots of fun,” she added. “I can’t wait.”

Christy Foundation Scholarship
and the Val G. Glynn Award

The Christy Foundation Scholarships are awarded to students bringing special recognition to Montana State University based upon meritorious community leadership and service.

The Val G. Glynn Award, based upon leadership, scholarship and contributions to Montana State University, is presented to a senior man in honor of Mr. Val Glynn, Dean of Students from 1948-1964.

MATT SMITH - SENIOR (MANAGEMENT, PHILOSOPHY)

“Sustainability for many people means not burning coal or using gas or oil,” said Matt Smith, a senior majoring in management and philosophy. “I think for a lot of people like me, the environment has always been an inseparable part of our lives,” said Smith, a senior at Montana State University from Helena who is majoring in both business and philosophy. “Experiencing the natural environment is something we all especially value at MSU.”

At the age of 21, Smith is something of a pioneer in MSU student sustainability and green living efforts. When he came to MSU, there were few such student efforts. Even campus-wide recycling was sporadic. Yet in those three years, a variety of organizations have sprung up, mostly notably the MSU Network of Environmentally Conscious Organizations (NECO), which Smith co-founded, and the resulting ASMSU Sustainability Center, funded by an overwhelming student vote and manned by a full-time permanent staff director.

Smith believes that in the last three years, MSU has caught up and, in some ways, is even surpassing other campuses in the region in earth-conscious initiatives. MSU’s progress in the area will be on display April 18-24 with a variety of activities http://www.montana.edu/eco/2010/Schedule.htm. The activities begin with a “Run for the Earth” on Sunday, April 18, and end with a community-wide Earth Day cleanup on Saturday, April 24. The activities also include a lecture Thursday, April 22, by David Orr, who pioneered a campaign for ecological literacy in education and is a leading thinker on environmental politics and climate change.

“I would say that our university has changed,” Smith said. “You can’t pin that on NECO entirely because so much has changed. There are a lot of small things that are happening that add up to some progress.” Smith particularly points to faculty leadership, especially Paul Gennon, an MSU assistant professor in chemical and biological engineering, who is leading a student poster presentation on energy and sustainability that will be held at 1 p.m. both Tuesday, April 20, and Thursday, April 22, in SUB Ballroom A.

“When sustainability is in the curriculum, there is the potential for change,” Smith said.