MSU College of Business

Students of Excellence
2010-2011

Excellence in Undergraduate Business Education & Master of Accountancy Program
2011 College of Business Scholarship Banquet
MSU Alumna Shares Lessons Learned with Scholarship Recipients

At the 2011 Scholarship Banquet, the CoB gave more than 120 scholarships and awards for students majoring in business options for the 2011-2012 academic year—one of the highest numbers ever. The scholarships, announced Monday, April 18 at the banquet, were provided through endowments and funds set up to specifically grant financial aid to students enrolled in the CoB. Around 267 people, including family and friends, attended the event.

Linda Reynolds, a 1971 Montana State University (MSU) graduate, was the keynote speaker for the event. She talked about seven life lessons learned that she wished to pass on to the scholarship and award recipients. These lessons were:

1. No matter what you are doing, do your best. Make it a challenge to excel.
2. Look for the opportunity to make a positive impact.
3. Skills and knowledge are transferrable.
4. If you don't know what you really want to do, then “What” is not the issue. Just pick an industry with lots of room for advancement.
5. There is no such thing as failure: You either get what you want or you get more information.
6. Find the type of work that challenges you. In other words, “Choose work that forces you to grow—to use more of yourself.”
7. You can leverage the use of your time and talents by a third T: Treasure. Save some money along the way.

Reynolds delved more into the importance of “Time, Talent and Treasure” and how various people have donated their “treasure” to allow the student recipients to leverage their time and their talent while at MSU. As a scholarship recipient herself, she encouraged everyone to think about how they can apply their time, talents and treasure to make an impact on others. “Invest your treasure to give someone else the opportunity to succeed, like you were given. You can have an impact, change a life and maybe change the world. And you may find that one of the biggest impacts is the joy you feel by helping someone else!”

Four College of Business Seniors Honored with Awards for Excellence

The Montana State University (MSU) Alumni Association and the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce recognized the top forty MSU seniors and their faculty or staff mentors at the 29th annual Awards for Excellence banquet. The awards ceremony took place on Tuesday, February 22 in the Strand Union Building Ballrooms.

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.

Left-Right: (back) JAMess McGuiness, Gary Bishop, Bonita Peterson Kramer, Sophie Mumford
(front) Mike Gold, Meghan Doyle, Aimee Hokanson, Steve Ault, Dan Moshavi

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

Meghan Doyle, marketing, management and psychology / Mike Gold
Aimee Hokanson, finance / Steve Ault
James McGuiness, management / Gary Bishop
Sophie Mumford, accounting and economics / Bonita Peterson Kramer

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.
Montana State University student Bethany Cordell is a die-hard sports fan who has parlayed her enthusiasm for sports into a future career path.

“I’m the most un-athletic person around, but I have a lot of spirit,” Cordell said. “I’ve also discovered that I love marketing.”

Cordell says these two passions make a career in sports marketing a great fit for her. And, thanks to opportunities she has pursued as a student in MSU’s College of Business, she has already gained considerable experience in the field, including an internship with a major league baseball team.

Cordell, now 20 and a junior in MSU’s College of Business from Helena, has landed a number of marketing internships, including one she recently completed with the Seattle Mariners. Cordell was with the Mariners from August through mid-October. While there, she supervised a group of employees who gave away promotional items during Mariners games. She also planned several kids’ appreciation days, which involved coordinating 30 area mascots attending the events.

“I was out on Safeco Field four hours after starting the internship,” Cordell said. “I wasn’t expecting a major league team to let their interns have that much responsibility. It was great.”

Working for the Mariners in a year when their record wasn’t stellar made for valuable marketing experience, Cordell added. The Mariners had 61 wins and 101 losses in the 2010 season.

“The New York Yankees sell out every game regardless of how the team is doing,” Cordell said. “In a year like this one for the Mariners, you really need to focus on marketing to get people there.”

Cordell said the marketers focused on ways of encouraging families to attend games, such as promoting inexpensive seats and adding additional attractions like the kids’ appreciation days.

Cordell also said she was able to hit the ground running at the Mariners after working as an intern with MSU Athletics’ marketing department. Cordell, who discovered she loved marketing after taking a marketing class in her senior year at Helena High School, applied for the MSU internship at the end of her freshman year.

“I was really well-prepared for my job in Seattle after MSU Athletics,” Cordell said. “I think I get as good or better experience at MSU than people at bigger schools do, because I get to do such a large variety of things.”

Even though Cordell’s original plan was to attend MSU for two years and then transfer to another university out-of-state, she said she quickly decided to stay.

“I don’t want to leave,” Cordell said. “I have so many amazing opportunities here.”

Some of Cordell’s responsibilities with MSU Athletics have included preparing pre-game and halftime promotions for Bobcat football, basketball and volleyball games. She has also written scripts for announcers to use at basketball games and created games and contests for students and children.

In fact, it was Cordell’s experience with MSU Athletics that made her internship application to the Mariners stand out, said Mandy Lincoln, marketing coordinator at the Mariners.

“We receive hundreds of applications each year, and choose only three to four people each season,” Lincoln said. “Her resume stood out for having experience that the position would entail.

“We also saw (in Cordell) initiative in completing other internships,” Lincoln said. “That’s a good indication of her work ethic. She had applied what she was learning.”

Continued on page 17
MSU Students Take Second Place at Regional Advertising Competition

A unique class comprised of twelve senior-level marketing and graphic design students placed second in their district at the National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC) in Boise, Idaho. The team also won the award for “best in-store customer experience” and Meghan Doyle, a senior in marketing, won the award for “best female presenter” in the competition. The NSAC has become the proving ground for more than 80,000 students, many of whom are hired by top advertising agencies.

The team was advised by Mike Gold, College of Business adjunct professor, former president of Saatchi & Saatchi – one of the largest and most prestigious advertising firms in the world.

“This year’s class had an excellent combination of strong design and marketing students, who worked well together to produce a strategically sound and creatively exciting campaign. It is a great credit to this group of students to have competed with and beaten schools of the caliber of University of Oregon, Portland State, Boise State and Washington State,” Gold said.

Business and graphic design students alike learned a lot from the class and gained some unique experiences. Meghan Doyle, a senior business student highly recommends the class.

“It was the most realistic and exciting class I took in my college career. I loved that the class was made up of both marketing and graphic design students because it allowed us to collaborate the way we would in a real business setting. It was refreshing to have a focused project that you could really delve into and create a solid piece of work in the end. The added bonus of competing at the NSAC and taking second place definitely showed that MSU can make its mark. I know that the class will help me in my future and it’s one I would highly recommend.”

Mary Meccage, a senior graphic design student said that she also learned a lot from this class – most importantly the team aspect of the class.

“Design in school is pretty exclusive, 95% of the time you are working by yourself, being led by your personal aesthetics. Working as a team, it is powerful how much everyone can do if you’re focused on the same goal. Marketing students want to provide the best business plan backed by solid information, and design students want to create a consistent and appropriate design. We all have different skills to bring to the table and when everyone is focused on the same goal you can really do great things. As a design student we’re not really exposed to the business/research side of things much, we basically just want to make things look good. But working on a campaign with the marketing students really gave our designs purpose and focus. Instead of thinking, “Does this look good to me?” We’re thinking, “Is this appropriate for our target market?”

After an entire year of research, team work and practice for the competition, the students were thrilled with the outcome. “We placed 2nd in Boise which is the best MSU has ever done, and we’re all really proud of it. We all learned a lot and couldn’t have done it without our fearless leader Mike Gold pushing us to think on the next level, to not be satisfied with a mediocre idea, and being accountable to one another. An amazing class, I’d do it all over again if I could. I guess that’s what the “real world” is for, right?” Meccage added.

A different corporate sponsor provides a challenging, real-life issue or case study related to a specific company product or service each year. This year the sponsor was JCPenny. Students research the product, the competition, identify potential problem areas, and provide solutions which are packaged into a completely integrated marketing campaign for the client during this year-long marketing class, MKTG 489/490, offered through the College of Business.

Students who participated in the class included Keegan Bowen*, Whitney Connolly*, Meghan Doyle, Jordan Jarosky, Jolene Karls, Mary Meccage*, Elise Nelsen, Tyler Noland, Khari Otto*, Gabrielle Pfeifer, Kelly Schroeder, Michael Spencer*

*denotes graphic design
ThirTY-NiNTH ANNuAL SCHolARship AWARDS BANquet
April 18, 2011

Jim Alderson Entrepreneur Scholarships
Presenter Scott Bryant with Alex Garbo and Zori Fossum

Armistead International Study Scholarships
David Johannessen with presenter Susan Dana
Dustin O’Connell *in absentia

Anderson ZurMuehlen & Co. Scholarship
Loretta Hemingway with presenter Bill Mills

Mary Frances Bennett Memorial Scholarship
Presenter Charles Erickson with Danielle Taurman

Beta Alpha Psi & MSU Accounting Scholarship
Daniel Jensen with presenter Perry Solheim
Big Sky ACFE Scholarship
Colette Krantz with presenter Tom Gibson

John W. Blankenhorn Scholarship
Shawn Knutzen with presenter Marc Giullian

The Boeing Business Scholarship
Kaitlin Spokas with presenter Bill Brown

Mike Bowen Memorial Scholarship
Carol Bowen, Kevin Peterson and presenter Jennifer Simon

Gary K. Bracken International Study and Gary K. Bracken Scholarships
(Back) David Johannessen, Brian Delaurenti, Hannah Taylor, Roger Bracken, Dotty Bracken
(Front) Leigh Enselman, Katherine Snapp, Elise Canevascini, Carlee Goemans and Garrett Goemans.
Avram Pitter *in absentia
Gary K. Bracken Senate Finance Scholarship
Eric Roberts *in absentia

Donald Bullock Memorial Scholarship
Hannah Jerome, presenter Bruce Raymond and Kaci Shea

David & Tanya Cameron Scholarship
Presenter Gary Caton with Josh Stevens

CoB Board of Advisors Scholarships
Lana Lynass with presenter James Taylor, Jr.

Gil Crain Memorial Scholarship
Presenter Christie Johnson with Sophie Mumford

D.A. Davidson Scholarship
Afton Johnsen *in absentia
Farmer Anderson Memorial Scholarship
David Johannessen with presenter Bruce Raymond

Deloitte Scholarship
Presenter Jesse Engle with Celina Reno
Katie Michunovich *in absentia

Eide Bailly LLP
Consultants/CPAs Scholarship
Daniel Keslin with presenter Angela Woodland

American Bank/Carolyn Erickson Finance Scholarships
(Back) Samuel Pehl, Rajeev Modi, Justin Tribitt
(Front) Samantha Holzwarth, Jack Kost, Haley Reutimann with presenter Tyler Erickson

Joseph Eve CPAs Scholarship
Tonia McCamish with presenter Bruce Raymond

Farmer Anderson Memorial Scholarship
David Johannessen with presenter Bruce Raymond
Friends of the Open Classic Golf Tournament Scholarship
Gargi Jagtap, presenter Bruce Raymond and Brooke Seagars

Galusha, Higgins & Galusha Scholarship
Presenter Gayle Hokanson and Kayla Jorgensen

Howard Kelsey Memorial Scholarship
Presenter Kelly Kelsey with Aimee Hokanson

Russell B. Hart Memorial Scholarship
Nate Mooney with presenter Tim Alzheimer

Scott & Barbara Heck Scholarship
Jacqueline Swenson with presenter Mike Gold
J & H Office Supply Scholarship
Presenter Janet White and Alyssa Hjelvik

Junkermier, Clark, Campanella, Stevens (JCCS) Scholarship
Jodie Kunesh, Patrick Franqui and presenter Morgan Scarr

KPMG LLP Scholarship
Erin Pezoldt with presenter Anne Christensen
Lauren Jackson*in absentia

Neil Klusmann Memorial Scholarship
Presenters Jen Klusmann and Sara Klusmann with Tanner Willis

Harvey A. Larson Scholarship
Heather Ridley and presenter Mike Kroff
Mary Elizabeth McClure Memorial Scholarship
Dabrianna Raprager, Kelty Wallace *in absentia* and presenter Susan Dana

Scott Miller Accounting Scholarship
Presenter Bonita Peterson Kramer with Alyssa Sipes

Montana Bankers Association 25 Year Club Scholarship
Bradley Penoyer and presenter Bruce Gerlach

John T. Cadby & George Bennett Scholarship
Cory Brester and presenter Bruce Gerlach

Montana Society of CPAs Scholarship
Courtney Wendland and presenter Mike Williams
Elizabeth Seitz-Moyer Memorial Scholarship
(Back) Dmitry Trubachenkov and Gavin Voeller
(Front) Emily Bumgarner, Mariko Shimada and presenter Mike Shaw

Harlan F. Patterson Scholarship
Presenter Anne Christensen with Daniel Mouw Matthew McKee *in absentia*

Parent Family Association Scholarship
Steven Moodie and presenter Jodie DeLay

Amy H. Pound Memorial Scholarship
Ryan Bovy with presenter Graham Austin

Frank Preston Scholarship
Molly Zander, Jennifer Cooley and presenter Bruce Raymond
Jeanne M. and Harold Roby Scholarship  
Presenter Pat Dunn and Tanner Willis

Grace Rosness Memorial Scholarship  
Gabrialle Berthelson and presenter Tim Alzheimer

Robert Simkins Memorial Scholarship  
Amanda Wadsworth with presenter Marc Giullian

Jerry D. Trainer Scholarship  
Tracie Colter with presenter Christie Johnson

US Bank - Bozeman Scholarship  
Amanda Johnson with presenter Julie Jackson
Women’s Circle of Excellence Scholarship
Presenter Kerry Hanson with Kate Padula

Jake Jabs Scholarships
(Back) Jennifer Brien, Skyler Hager, John Benton, Nate Mooney, Lynnea Nelson, Jeremia Prummer
(Middle) Justin Zarecor, Desirae Lindquist, Morena Garcia, Andrew Helder, Whitney Milos, Michael Nylund
(Front) Jamie Pearce, Heather Ridley, Ben Scott, Katherine Snapp, Renee Waterland, Molly Zander

“The Main Event” Introduces Students to the World of Event Planning
On March 23, the CoB Human Resources Management Club (HRMC) hosted “The Main Event,” a panel session with four expert event organizers. HRMC put on this event due to an increased interest in this particular subject.

Panelists included Tate Chamberlin, founder of Chamberlin Productions; JoAnn Brekhus, executive director of the Sweet Pea Festival; Ellie Staley, program director for the Downtown Bozeman Partnership and Stephen Michael, founder of SRO Live.

The panelists began by introducing themselves and talked about how they got into the event management business before jumping into a Q & A session. One person asked how funding for projects worked for each of their businesses. Others wanted to know the best and worst things about being in event planning.

Each of the panelists gave the audience many great take away thoughts and advice. Brekhus emphasized relationships with people. “Make a plan and make it work. Network!” she offered. “It’s about mentorship! Who’s got what you want?” Michaels agreed. “Surround yourself with key people.”

Avram Pitter, a member of the HRMC, learned a lot from the panelists. “I learned that great communication, exceptional resource management, and excellent planning are essential to events management.”

The HRMC students learned the benefits and challenges of event planning, as well as took away advice from the “Main Event” panelists. Throughout the semester, many of the CoB’s student business clubs host guest speakers, who bring their expertise into the classroom. This face-to-face contact with industry professionals allows students to ask tough questions and learn from experts.
David W. And Dorothy E. Patterson Scholarships

(Back) Nicholas Axline, Brooks Demaree, Skylar Hager, Dane Hancock, Loretta Hemingway
(Front) Anna Adolphson, Gabrialle Berthelson, Jocelyn Drange, Michael Hines and presenter Jerry Carvalho

(Back) Angelica Hould, Hannah Jerome, David Johannessen, Samantha Mahlen, Lynnea Nelson, Derek Nickelson
(Front) Marci Kolar, Desirae Lindquist, Sophie Mumford, Austin Patritti, Hannah Pimley and presenter Dave Foster

(Back) Randi Regli, Zane Spoklie, Mitchell Wallace, Jay Trotter
(Front) Katherine Snapp, Kali Vergeront, Breana Wolery, Justin Zarecor and presenter Craig Ehler
2011 Special Awards

Alfred L. Day Academic Excellence Award
Meghan Doyle

Dean’s Award for Excellence - Graduate
Presenter Bonita Kramer with Amanda Manuel

Montana Society of CPAs Medallion Award
Kyle Blessinger with presenter Mike Williams

Bracken Professionalism Award
Arnold Kleinsasser with presenter Susan Dana

Harrington’s Bottling Company Student Mentorship Award in Honor of Bob Arrotta
Katherine Snapp with presenters Bob Arrotta and Scott Leese
Sixteen College of Business Students Get a Taste of Wall Street

There’s no better place to experience the finance industry than New York—Wall Street to be exact. A group of 16 College of Business (CoB) students traveled to New York City where they were able to meet with some extraordinary business leaders and visit iconic financial institutions.

MSU students began their trip with a visit to the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) where they were given a personal tour on the floor of the exchange. This was followed by a tour of NASDAQ and Standard & Poor’s (S&P), one of the top credit rating companies in the world. While at S&P, students and faculty were able to speak with one of their analysts who also talked about MSU’s credit ratings.

At the New York Federal Reserve, which implements monetary policy for the United States, students listened to a lecture by one of the professionals, John McGowan, who is directly involved in this process.

MSU alumnus, Cory Pulfrey, hosted the group at Morgan Stanley, which is one of the oldest, most respected and largest investment banks in the world. While there, they also talked to Wes Edens, the founder of Fortress Investment Group, who is a Montana native and had attended MSU his freshman year of college. Lastly, at Citigroup, a very well-known international bank, everyone was able to meet with the director of North American Markets, Suni Harford, who also has family roots in Montana.

The group took in some cultural and historic sites when they weren’t visiting financial institutions. They spent some time at Ground Zero and Central Park. Students also took advantage of the live music scene by listening to blues and jazz at some local clubs. They even took in a cabaret show while there.

The trip provided significant opportunities for the students to listen to and interact with leaders in different fields on Wall Street. They were also able to see whether or not working in this environment would be a good fit for their own professional aspirations. It was more than just an eye-opening experience. The Montana connections they found demonstrated that with hard work, Montanans can be successful at the highest levels of the profession.

Haley Reutimann, one of the students on the trip, was thrilled with the opportunity to go to New York. “It was truly a remarkable experience. Our group had the opportunity to experience things many others do not get the chance to do. The connections we made, as well as the individuals we met, were incredibly intelligent financial professionals who were able to give us insight into the top tier of finance professions. Not only did we have the opportunity to network, but the financial institutions we visited were among the most renowned, as they not only apply to finance. It is inspiring to experience New York from this perspective, and I think we can all be grateful for the amount of time and effort our professors put into planning this trip and making our experience so remarkable,” Reutimann said.

While there, several students applied for jobs and internships with the companies they visited. The process of making a connection, and then using that connection in assisting with the application, was educational.

This opportunity was first made possible two years ago by Gary Caton, the Finance Club faculty advisor, who has spent a considerable amount of time putting together this trip every other year. The quality of the trip resulted from these efforts through the connections that he made on previous trips, and new connections that he made for this trip.

Caton said that the faculty who went on this year’s trip also found it to be a great networking and educational opportunity and experience. “We made contact with potential employers of our students, and learned along with the students what some of the highly innovative finance companies are doing.”

When asked about any lasting impressions, Caton answered, “When our well-dressed, attentive, and curious students visit these institutions they make positive impressions in the minds of high-level finance professionals of the college, the university and the state. For example, the day we visited Citigroup, a group of students from Harvard was also visiting. While the Citigroup people will certainly never mistake the two, on that day MSU and Harvard were intertwined in the minds of the HR professionals who put our visit together and the speakers who talked to both groups.”

Through dedicated faculty efforts, opportunities like this trip are offered to CoB students. Students witnessed the financial institutions at work, met with professionals in the field and asked them questions, as well as absorbed as much information about the industry as possible. With this experience, students saw how what they’ve learned in the classroom is applicable to careers in finance, and their exposure to leaders in the industry may give them that needed edge if they apply for jobs with companies they visited on this trip.
Cordell’s internships with the Mariners and MSU Athletics, as well as two other internships she’s held with Montana Lottery and the Bozeman Public Library, have affirmed Cordell’s decision to pursue a career in marketing. They are also a reminder of the wonderful opportunities she’s had as a student at MSU.

“My internships and classes go in a circle,” Cordell said. “I learn things in internships that I later learn in class, and vice versa.”

For example, her final project with the Mariners was a professional analysis comparing how promotions affected attendance at major league baseball games. The project relied on the use of Excel, a program that Cordell reluctantly learned as a student at MSU, but which proved to be invaluable as she worked on the project.

“I’m really proud of that project,” she said.

Drew Ingraham, Cordell’s supervisor at MSU Athletics, said that she has good intuition when it comes to marketing for sports.

“She has a really good perspective when it comes to understanding the flow of events and finding what people would find entertaining,” Ingraham said. “She is also a quality thinker who is able to think outside of the box.”

And, because of her many experiences while at MSU, business professor Michael Kroff, who is Cordell’s adviser, predicted that Cordell will do well in the field once she graduates.

“She has been gaining experience in different areas, and I think she will be well-prepared coming out of college,” he said. “She will be ready for the job market.”

After she graduates from MSU, Cordell plans to continue on her path to a future career in sports marketing.

“I’d like to stay involved in university athletics,” she said. “And I would love to go somewhere different. I’m really open. I’ve really learned that if you’re not open, you’re going to miss out on opportunities.”

Beta Alpha Psi Student Team Takes Second Place at Regional Conference

The Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) team, comprised of four College of Business students: Daniel Jensen, Garret Shaw, Jodie Kunesh and Anna Adolphson, traveled to Salt Lake City on March 26 for the annual BAP Regional Conference.

They participated in the “Best Practices Competition” and chose the topic of “Innovate: The Accountant’s Role in a Changing Business Environment.”

Shaw, one of the accounting students on the team, believes the accounting program prepared them well for the problem presented. “Since our presentation topic was on the implementation of an educational resource for the implementation of U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles to International Financial Reporting Standards, the accounting program prepared us for our presentation because it is emphasized to us that reporting standards will change in the near future and is one of the most important issues in the accounting industry today.”

Jensen agreed. “This is an important topic for today’s business professionals in order to keep up with a globalized economy and in order to comply with legal and regulatory standards in future years.”

Shaw felt that this experience was very valuable and the students were able to take away a lot from the trip. “I enjoyed the opportunity to meet students from other universities and seeing the different styles of leadership each chapter had and believe the regional conference is a great opportunity for incoming officers to gain enthusiasm and understanding of their roles for the upcoming year. The competition added value to our professionalism because we prepared to present to professionals in the accounting industry and it was another opportunity get more comfortable with public speaking.”

With the contributions of the Alderson family going towards students participating in these competitions, the CoB students have been able to compete against other universities which provide experience and a confidence about their business education and knowledge here at MSU.
Eighteen Montana State University College of Business (CoB) students and a CoB faculty member were added to the prestigious list of Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS) inductees at the induction luncheon on Tuesday, April 5. BGS, an international honor society started in 1913, provides the highest recognition a business student anywhere in the world can receive in an accredited, Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), undergraduate or master’s program.

BGS Advisor, Dr. Susan Dana welcomed attendees to the induction and the BGS officers, Randi Regli, Abbey Schmaltz and Caley Chadwick, started the induction. The officers gave the definition of Beta Gamma Sigma and what it means to be a member of this honor society. The inductees were encouraged to live according to the standards of Beta, meaning honor; Gamma, meaning wisdom; and Sigma, meaning earnestness. The inductees recited the BGS pledge and received their certificates and pins.

Afterwards, BGS presented The Beta Gama Sigma Professor of the Year Award to Dr. Bonita Peterson Kramer, CoB professor of accounting. Kramer has been a part of the faculty since 1994, after earning her Ph.D. from Washington State University. Her accounting work experience includes three years as an auditor with KPMG in Texas and the Montana Office of the Legislative Auditor, in addition to several summers as an accountant in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming and Denali National Park, Alaska. Dr. Kramer is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), and a Certified Management Accountant (CMA). She has taught courses from the sophomore through graduate levels, including courses in auditing, financial accounting, fraud examination, accounting information systems and cost accounting. Over the years, Kramer has won many teaching awards for her dedication to her students.

BGS also recognized Ryan T. Screnar, senior vice president and audit director for Glacier Bancorp, Inc. Prior to working at Glacier Bancorp, Screnar was an associate accountant at Galusha, Higgins & Galusha in Helena. He is very dedicated to public service to the CoB, serving on the CoB Accounting Advisory Board, as well as to his profession and the community, holding many positions on boards. Screnar received his bachelor’s degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting from the University of Montana before coming to MSU to earn his Masters in Professional Accountancy. He also attended the Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington and has been a licensed CPA since 2000.

Screnar gave the guest presentation, congratulating the students on their achievement of being inducted into BGS. He told how he got to where he is today, describing how he had gone into an interview, thinking he was pitching his company for a consulting job, and instead, ended up getting a job offer. This occurred before the April 15 tax deadline and he told the new company that if he were to work for them, he needed to finish out his old job through that date. He told his company that an opportunity had come up and he was taking a new job, but would work through the April 15th tax deadline. He worked 110% through that deadline and put in the most billable hours for his company to date. Screnar tied his story to the core values of BGS: Honor, Integrity, Earnestness and the Pursuit of Wisdom and then challenged the students to be the leaders in their life and to always be responsible and give back whether it was through their talents, time or money.

2011 BGS INDUCTEES

Masters: Jennifer Larson, Kale Norwood.
Seniors: Kaitlyn Ash, Jennifer Brien, Aimee Hokanson, Lauren Jackson*, Jodie Kunesh, Nathan Mooney, Jamie Pearce*, Ben Scott, Katherine Snapp*.
Juniors: Cassandra Carter, Samantha Holzwarth, Marci Kolar, Steven Moodie, Samuel Pehl, Breana Wolery Molly Zander.* in absentia
Team Takes Second Place in “Global Research Challenge” Finance Competition

On Friday, March 4, three College of Business (CoB) students: Tyson Johnson, Andrew Kaiser and Kristian Miller, traveled to Spokane to compete in the CFA Society of Spokane Investment Research Challenge. This is the first year that MSU has been represented at this competition.

The team of students placed 2nd out of 5 university teams. WSU edged out the MSU team in the final standings but the other teams were made up mainly, if not all of MBA students. Other participating schools were Washington State University (WSU), Gonzaga, Eastern Washington University and Whitworth. The team, coached by Peter Rubicam, adjunct instructor of finance, and Eric Flynn, alumnus with Bitterroot Capital Advisors, LLC, spent four weeks preparing an analysis of one company for the competition. They were judged on a written paper and presentation.

Eric Flynn said that the students represented MSU with poise and a high level of knowledge. “I know they will be right back at the top in next year’s challenge!” Rubicam agreed, “Our team did a fantastic job on their presentation, and deftly handled a challenging Q&A session with the judges.

SIFE Club Competes and Excels at Atlanta Regional Competition

Each year the MSU SIFE Club works hard to put on events that focus on each of SIFE’s categories (market economics, success skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, environmental sustainability and business ethics) in order to qualify for the regional competition. The team is then judged on their presentation of these events and how successfully the teams developed and executed a strategy to ensure the long-term sustainability of their team and educational programs.

This year, the SIFE Club focused in on sustainability within the community. The students put on three large scale outreach projects to help increase economic growth in Bozeman and worked with Big Sky Skydiving, the local Economic Development Council, and Family Promise.

After completing these major projects and keeping up on seven on-going club projects, the SIFE team entered the Atlanta Regional Competition in April. The team consisted of eight members from the club: Elliot Rueb, Jamie Pearce, Skyler Hager, Zach Curtis, Justin Zarcor, Allison Hunthausen, Katherine Snapp and Kaley Bjornsen. Gary Bishop, adjunct instructor of management and the SIFE Club advisor, also attended the competition and was a valuable asset to the team.

The club reported their accomplishments for this year in a 24 minute presentation to a panel of 15 judges and a conference room full of spectators. The MSU SIFE team was the first runner-up in their league, competing against larger schools including Kentucky State University (Frankfort, KY), D’Youville College (Buffalo, NY) and the University of Georgia (Athens, GA). This is the highest ranking MSU has earned at a regional competition since the club was started. Overall, 62 teams from across the United States participated at this regional competition. The team was very excited to bring home a trophy and increase awareness for the MSU SIFE Club.

Elliot Rueb, president of the MSU SIFE Club was thrilled with the competition results. “This year’s SIFE club has been exceptional. Without all the effort put forth by all of its members, we would not have been this successful. We grew from five members in the club to 25 throughout the course of a semester. With this growth, we were able to compete with large schools like the University of Georgia and Auburn. It was a very rewarding experience and I couldn’t be more proud to finally bring home a trophy to show off after being with MSU SIFE for three years. We can only grow from here and hopefully improve again next year and make it to the world cup.”

Gary Bishop was also very pleased with the outcome. “This was a hard working student team, whose focus was doing the very best they could. These eight students were all totally dedicated to making as good a showing as possible in faraway Atlanta, Georgia, for Montana State University. I was very proud of their achievement, bringing back to the school a trophy for ‘First Runner-up’ in their league. They truly deserved it!”

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