College News Update

The Department of Education recently re-chartered the international education honor society, Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) and initiated 54 members into the chapter. The ceremony was held January 31 and began with a welcome by Dean Lynda Ransdell. Field placement director, Kathryn Will-Dubyak, introduced Karen DeLawter, the regional chapter coordinator from Indiana, who read the names of the initiates. Keynote speaker was David Henderson, assistant professor of educational leadership.

KDP was originally chartered at MSU many years ago, but disbanded when Professor James Hauwiler retired in the late 1990s. Will-Dubyak, a member of KDP, worked for almost a year filing paperwork and organizing the chapter. Those being initiated were graduate and undergraduate students, as well as several faculty members and department head, Jayne Downey.

Officers are Derrick Criner, president; Cori Phillips, vice-president; Faith Steinbacher, secretary; Tamara Droge, treasurer; Mary Kohnstamm, membership coordinator/historian; Cassandra McCann, foundation representative; and Donna Bulatowicz, graduate student liaison. Chapter advisors are Joe Hicks, director of the After School Initiative, and Kathryn Will-Dubyak.

MSU held the fourth annual spring convocation on January 13 by celebrating 21 faculty and staff members with awards. Coleen Kaiser, director of the Montana Dietetic Internship (MDI), was the recipient of the Rufus T. Firefly Award for Innovative Service, an award given to a professional employee who has demonstrated innovation, a positive and broad impact on student experience, and leadership distinguished by role modeling.

Kaiser is in her fourth year as the director of MDI, the only dietetic internship in the state. It allows MSU students to stay in the state after receiving their bachelor’s degree, and many who graduate from the MDI program remain in the state. Kaiser works with preceptors (mentors) all across Montana, who provide internship opportunities for the students. Kaiser believes MDI is an excellent example of MSU fulfilling the land-grant mission. Congratulations, Coleen!
Students in the MSU’s Department of Education technology education program were presented with a unique and challenging project fall semester when they had to design and engineer a prosthetic leg for a dog.

When the nine students begin their senior capstone class, “Manufacturing and Designing,” their instructor said she had a surprise project for them, but wouldn’t tell them the specifics of what she had in mind.

“Someone named Anni needs your help,” said Lidia Haughey, assistant teaching instructor in the Department of Education’s technology education program.

The students soon discovered that Anni was a Doberman pinscher, who had lost a leg and been adopted by Haughey.

After Haughey challenged the students to design and fabricate a prosthetic hind leg for Anni, students divided into three groups and began planning.

The group consisting of Jen Marshall, Kaitlin Trutzel, and Mike Robbins wanted to explore the biomechanics of the dog’s stride, so they contacted health and human performance associate professor, John Seifert, and asked to use the program’s eight-foot wide treadmill to test the stride and joint compression. They set up three sessions with Seifert.

The video helped them understand how Anni walked and compensated for the lack of a hind leg, said Marshall, a junior in the program. Instead of “walking like a tripod,” they wanted to train Anni to use her new prosthesis.

“The first time, we wanted Anni to get used to being on a treadmill,” said Robbins, a senior from Helena, Mont. “Someone had to be with her on the treadmill to keep her walking.”

During the second session, the group measured and marked the treadmill with masking tape and put markers on Anni’s joints to measure the compression on the joint to see how much the prosthesis needed to bend. With Robbins at her side encouraging her, they filmed her walking and running on the treadmill.

Seifert was also intrigued by the idea.

“This was the first time we tested an animal on the treadmill,” said Seifert, who along with Professor Dan Heil, uses the treadmill to test MSU ski team athletes.

“At first students worked exclusively in their teams on designs and production, but as the semester moved along, they began sharing ideas and collaborating more on materials and ideas with the other groups,” said Haughey.

When students worked together, they began recognizing strengths and weakness of each others’ designs. Haughey said that in manufacturing, projects cannot be “siloed” but employees must collaborate for success.

Students noted that their teamwork and patience improved greatly over the semester, as they worked together to solve problems.

Even though the three prostheses looked slightly similar, teams used many different materials to construct their final products.
“Lidia encouraged us to scavenge for recycled materials and to be creative with resources,” said Margaret Forslund. “We melted the plastic from an ice cream bucket to use for the blade.”

Besides using a variety of metals, plastics, shocks from bicycles and remote control cars, and straps from backpacks and harnesses, the community stepped in to help, too. For example, REI provided tennis shoes for one group to use as the non-slip tread for the bottom of the foot. Bangtail Bike and Ski Shop helped out with bike shocks. Using specific skills they had learned in previous classes, students used a variety of equipment, such as the 3D printer, AutoCAD 3D modeling software, lathes, Bridgeport mill, and drills to fabricate prototypes and their final products. Since most of these students plan to teach, these specific skills and processes are invaluable in their future careers. For those in the industry option, the experience provided a real-life industry setting where they had to solve problems.

Because this is a marketing and design class, students treated the project as a business venture.

“Each group had to research what was already out there (animal prosthetics), create a business plan, talk to experts in the field, and finally create the prosthesis,” said Haughey.

The three groups were continually creating and testing. Ben Butts, a senior from Kalispell, Mont., said when something didn’t work, they had to come up with another plan and fine tune at the last minute.

“The hours that we spent just looking at other types of dog prosthetics and making changes to our original design on paper was huge,” said Butts. “Then we moved into creating a tangible leg and made modification after modification to ensure comfort and making sure the leg still worked correctly.”

“Sometimes I would wake up in the night trying to figure out a problem,” said Robbins.

The final problem that still plagues all the students is how to keep the leg attached. One group used a pre-made harness, while the other two used their sewing skills to create their own. Haughey plans to have the next capstone class continue the project, hoping to find solutions.

The week before finals, students shared Anni and their projects with President Cruzado, who said, “You are making a difference!"

Margaret Forslund summed up the capstone class by saying, “This class is secretly a game show!”

Students in the other two groups were Margaret Forslund, Joel Snipes, and Mark Gangsted; Ben Butts, Mitch Sedlmayr, and Wyatt Atkinson.
“Why save a language?” asked Jioanna Carjuzaa, associate professor of multicultural education at MSU. The recipient of the College of EHHD’s Distinguished Professor Award for Teaching, Research, and Service for 2014-2016, Carjuzaa, recently presented a lecture on “Linguistic Diversity in Montana: Indigenous Language Revitalization and Maintenance” that examined the issue. Carjuzaa began the lecture by introducing herself in her heritage language Greek, as well as in a language she has studied and taught and is her husband’s native language, French.

Carjuzaa said that saving a language is important because a language “reflects a unique world view; it stores the wisdom of a group.” She emphasized that language loss leads to the irrevocable loss of human cultural heritage. Indigenous languages have been threatened since forced assimilation took place during the Indian boarding school era in the late 1800s and early 1900s. An entire generation was taught “not to be proud of their language.” Thus, today it is mostly the elders of a tribe that can speak their tribal language. Unfortunately, in the U. S. only a dozen Indigenous languages of the original 400-500 have a chance of surviving beyond the next 30 years.

In Montana, Carjuzaa is working to support language preservation. Tribes are utilizing a variety of innovative strategies to teach tribal languages in schools. The language and culture teachers need help with creating resources and dictionaries, designing curriculum, and even establishing language immersion programs. Carjuzaa, along with education professors Bill Ruff and David Henderson, have received a $70,000 Title II: Improving Teacher Quality Grant from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE). Along with the Center for Bilingual and Multicultural Education’s Advisory Council, they are creating professional development opportunities for “Class 7” language and culture teachers, to support efforts to revitalize the 11 critically endangered Indigenous languages spoken here in Montana.

“The goal is to protect, preserve, promote, practice and pass on Indigenous languages,” said Carjuzaa.

Two doctoral students in the Department of Education’s curriculum and instruction program have formed a professional learning community with the purpose of sharing ideas and resources to help fellow graduate students with research. Denise Malloy and Donna Bulatowicz took their idea to Jayne Downey, department head, who enthusiastically endorsed it. After surveying students in all three graduate programs to gauge interest and possible meeting times, the duo planned a social so colleagues could become acquainted. When thirty-five people expressed interest, two groups were organized to accommodate schedules.

“It’s easier to go through this (graduate program) together than alone,” said Malloy.

Bulatowicz said that the community provides help with writing, research, and making connections with others. She and Malloy have utilized resources at the university to plan events, panel discussions, and socials for the year. In the fall semester, this included an End Note workshop, a library/research workshop, and a graduate professional writing workshop.

“When students learn about resources or get advice from others, they can share it with the community,” said Bulatowicz.

Malloy said they plan to invite junior faculty to a panel discussion this spring to share their own recent experiences and offer advice on going through a master’s or doctoral program.

All graduate students are welcome to participate. Please contact donnabulatowicz@gmail.com or denise.malloy@montana.edu
The first sustainable food and bioenergy systems (SFBS) seminar of the semester kicked off with a panel of chefs who are putting local food on their menus. Panelists included Nathan Sartain, a certified executive chef from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, Martin Lewis, executive chef for MSU’s residence halls, and Eric Stenberg, a personal chef who has a catering business in Bozeman. The panel discussed strategies for putting local agriculture on the menu and how they are working to make that happen. Sartain believes that “local food is the most efficient way to incorporate nutrition and craft.”

All panelists shared ways they build relationships with local producers and vendors. According to Chef Lewis, MSU works with 108 local vendors to provide everything from produce to ice cream.

The panel also fielded questions from students in the audience, such as how MSU specifically buys local food, how the chefs have built relationships, and how they define “local.”

The seminar was organized by SFBS program leader Alison Harmon and hosted by class instructor of SFBS 146, Anna Diffenderfer.

To view the seminar online, go to https://vimeo.com/120079310

**Education Students Build Relationships with Area Schools**

The After School Partnership kicked off spring semester with meetings that allowed education students to meet with their assigned school principals. The two largest meetings were at Belgrade Community Library and Bozeman High School, with smaller groups at Livingston, Amsterdam, LaMotte and MSU’s Child Development Center. Joe Hicks, MSU’s director of the After School Initiative, said 160 education students are out in community schools receiving pre-service early field experience through providing standards-based lesson and enrichment activities for book clubs and technology clubs. Currently, students are placed at 20 sites.

Marilyn King, deputy superintendent of instruction with Bozeman schools, welcomed students and told them, “You will be a part of our schools and be role models. Building a meaningful relationship with students will have an impact for years to come.”

At the kick-off meeting in Bozeman, students broke into groups by assigned schools to get acquainted with each other and the principal or school program coordinator.

After meeting with the schools, students received professional development on classroom management strategies and resources.

MSU has been partnering with the Greater Gallatin United Way kidsLINK After School program and Bozeman School District since 2011 and serves a dual purpose—to provide services and support to the after school programs and to allow MSU education students to gain valuable hands-on experience working with children. Jayne Downey, department head for education, told the Bozeman group of students that there are only “a few programs in the country like this one and we are fortunate to have this relationship with Bozeman Schools and the Greater Gallatin United Way.”
Joyce Herbeck, associate professor of literacy in the Department of Education at Montana State University, was recently appointed to serve as a member of the NCTE Charlotte Huck Award for Outstanding Fiction for Children Committee for the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). Her three-year term will begin after the 2015 Annual Convention scheduled for November 19-24, in Minneapolis.

This committee’s task is to select the recipient of the annual Charlotte Huck Award and up to five honor books with both authors and illustrators receiving recognition. This award was established in 2014 to promote and recognize excellence in the writing of fiction for children. In particular, this award recognizes fiction that has the potential for transforming children’s lives by inviting compassion, imagination, and wonder. The award will be presented at the Books for Children Luncheon at the NCTE Annual Convention.

The National Council of Teachers of English, with 35,000 individual and institutional members worldwide, is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education.
In her second year in the HHD counseling program, assistant professor Cristen Wathen’s research focuses on several areas—using mindfulness in small groups and the internationalization of counselor education and counseling. This past year, she has been researching and publishing in both areas.

“Every country has some form of counseling,” said Wathen. “With our global society, there is a push to learn what others are doing in counseling, as well as to increase our students’ multicultural competence.”

Working with Bonnie Meekums, counselor trainer at the University of Leeds in England, Wathen and counseling students arrived at Reid Hall one morning last winter at 6:30 a.m. when it was 20 degrees below zero for a distance learning teleconference with counseling students in England. The professors thought it would be beneficial and fun, as well as cost effective, to get students together to dialogue about counseling in their respective countries.

“There is a need to expose students to different perspectives as part of counselor training,” said Wathen.

Each group prepared questions, then discussed differing perspectives. The British students perceived that mental health counseling had less of a stigma in America and that many people went to counseling. Montana State students were able to share that though there is progress in reducing stigma, it still exists, especially in a rural state like Montana, where the “Montana cowboy” metaphor exists. This metaphor relates to a person being independent and less likely to ask for help when it may be needed.

While the United States’ counseling is built upon a prevention and wellness model, Great Britain was more focused on a medical approach. Similarities were also noted, such as the importance of self-awareness in training programs, the stress of graduate school, and the challenges of counseling. In regards to mental health stigma, the British students shared that the “British stiff upper lip” metaphor connected to the Montana cowboy metaphor. For students on both sides of the pond there was a desire to decrease stigma and increase the services provided for mental health needs.

Wathen and Meekums, along with Rebecca Koltz, associate professor of counseling at MSU, presented the results at the British Association for Counseling and Psychotherapy conference in London last summer, and are currently collaborating on a manuscript, “The Montana Cowboy and the British Stiff Upper Lip: Innovative techniques for cross cultural dialogues in the counselor education classroom.” Wathen and Koltz hope to expand videoconferencing sessions in the future to bring students together from other countries, as well as other states in the U.S.

Wathen’s research group also received a $1500 grant from the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision to study using mindfulness in group counselor training. Each student in a counselor training program is required to have 10 hours of experiential group counseling. Wathen and collaborators recently completed a qualitative study that involved 20 students who went through an eight week mindfulness training small group experience as a part of their training program. Wathen said the study helped “those of us who are teaching to better understand what students felt and learned personally and professionally.” The study found that students learned group counseling skills while also learning mindfulness skills. The mindfulness skills translated into the students’ personal lives to reduce stress, as well as into their work with clients. Presentation results were presented this fall at the Rocky Mountain Association for Counselor Education and Supervision and a manuscript is currently being reviewed by the “Journal for Counselor Education and Supervision.”
Three programs in HHD’s masters of counseling program were recently granted accreditation by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational programs (CACREP), a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The three programs are Clinical Mental Health Counseling; Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling; and School Counseling—all receiving accreditation for eight years.

Rebecca Koltz, assistant professor in marriage and family counseling and CACREP liaison, said the self-study process began in 2010 and culminated with the site visit in October 2014. Accreditation was based on the self-study, the report from the visiting team, and MSU’s response to the team’s report.

“It was a very significant process,” said Koltz. “There were over 250 standards and we had to meet all of them to become accredited.”

CACREP sets standards for the field and level of care. Koltz noted there was a “huge shift” from the old standards to the new ones, which focus on assessing and documenting student learning outcomes. While it is good to know programs are accredited, students are also benefiting from the process. Because benchmarks are more intentional and tangible, students not only understand what they are learning, but also why. Koltz said an additional benefit of accreditation is that many employers, such as the Tri-Care program for veteran services, are required to hire employees who have graduated from a CACREP accredited program.

Faculty involved in the accreditation process included Koltz, Mark Nelson, Adina Smith, Cristen Wathen, and Katey Franklin.

The College News Update is published monthly. Designed and written by Debra Redburn, Communications Specialist for the College of EHHD. For submission ideas, contact dredburn@montana.edu
This spring, three students are representing the college as student senators for the Associated Students of Montana State University’s student government (ASMSU). Sophomore Levi Birkey is a social studies broadfield major from Kalispell, Mont., and saw an opportunity to become involved on campus. He is on the legislative committee and helped write the resolution in support of the Commissioner of Higher Education for the 2015 Montana Legislature.

Lacy Chapman, a community health major from Belgrade, also saw being a senator as a way to connect to the university. She is the liaison to KGLT radio station and the ASMSU daycare program.

Lauryn Windham, a Billings sophomore majoring in elementary education, was appointed to a vacant seat, has sat in on the library space and technology committee, and likes seeing how the university works.

The senators have also initiated a College of EHHD Student Council, which will serve as a bridge between faculty and students. Two at-large positions were created for the student council, and from applications, Brad Turnbaugh, health and human performance major, and Alicia Stoner, education, were selected. The council also held the first “Coffee Beans with the Dean” for students in the college to gather to meet the dean.

To honor the 559 EHHD students who made either the dean’s list or the president’s list for fall 2014, Dean Lynda Ransdell hosted the third annual student reception in Leigh Lounge at the beginning of February. Each attendee was presented with a specially designed Dean’s List pin.

EHHD’s new Student Council held the first “Coffee Beans with the Dean” in February so students in the college could meet informally with Dean Ransdell. Other coffees are planned for later this semester.