What We Did This Summer

Guests attending the fifth annual President’s Lunch dined on a variety of delicious foods prepared with ingredients grown at Towne’s Harvest Garden, the university’s three-acre produce farm and outdoor classroom. Attendees sampled everything from hortopita and basil pesto barley salad and baked green tomatoes to beet cookies and strawberry torte. Associate professor of nutrition Alison Harmon welcomed guests and students, gave an overview of the garden in 2011, and introduced several faculty and student speakers. David Baumbauer from the College of Agriculture shared information on new buildings at the farm that have been collaborative efforts with engineering and architecture students. New infrastructure includes a new in-field wash station and “classroom,” a solar heated seed starting hoophouse, and an innovative greenhouse chicken coop with a living roof.

New to the sustainable foods program this year are partner farmers from the community who are providing supplemental internship experiences for SFBS practicum students. Additionally, Anna Diffenderfer, a graduate student in nutrition, has been hired as the new marketing and operations manager, focusing on creating a cohesive image for Towne’s Harvest through branding and communication.

Annual Towne’s Harvest President’s Lunch

CPR/AED Training Held in Reid

In August, faculty and staff in Reid Hall participated in CPR and AED training conducted by Safety and Risk Management’s Dan Archer. Archer led two three-hour training sessions for interested individuals in the College of EHHD, the Department of Education, and the College of Business to become certified in CPR, as well as receive hands-on instruction in the building’s new automated external defibrillator (AED) located at the top of the main staircase, second floor. More training sessions will be offered in September and October.

(left to right) Donna Jackson (University Food Service Catering Manager), Anna Diffenderfer (Towne’s Harvest Marketing Manager), Matt Rothschilder (partner farmer at Gallatin Valley Botanical and an MSU alumnus), and MSU President Waded Cruzado at Towne’s Harvest Garden lunch.
In June, at the annual American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) conference in Vancouver, B.C., Betsy Palmer, associate professor in adult and higher education (A&HE), won the overall “Best Conference Paper Award” out of over 1,000 submissions. Palmer’s paper was originally voted as the best published manuscript in the Design in Engineering Education Division, then moved on to win one of five Professional Interest Council (PIC II) Best Papers. At the ASEE conference, Palmer’s paper was selected as the overall Best Conference Paper, which comes with a $3000 award. The manuscript was based on collaborate research conducted as part of two National Science Foundation grants. The P360 grant focused on six high-quality, innovative engineering programs to see how these programs teach students to integrate design and context, while the P2P grant surveyed individuals at 31 engineering programs across the country regarding a variety of outcomes. The research team consisted of Barbara Komlos, former graduate assistant in A&HE, Sarah Codd, and Carolyn Plumb, both from the College of Engineering at MSU. The paper entitled “Design in Context: Where do the Engineers of 2020 Learn This Skill?” was co-authored with colleagues from Pennsylvania State University and Arizona State University-Polytechnic Campus.

At the annual conference of the Montana Rural Education Association (MREA) in June, Joanne Erickson and Rich Shaffer from MSU’s educational leadership program were recognized with the association’s Outstanding Leadership Award for 2011. Executive Director Dave Puyear said the award has been given for 30 years and this is the first time that the recipients are from higher education. They received the award for designing the Educational Leadership Rural School Leaders Partnership.

“Joanne and Rich were recognized for their efforts to support rural education,” said Puyear. “They are carrying the rural education message.”

MREA has a membership of 150 administrators from Class C, B, small A, and independent schools in Montana. The association provides services and resources for Montana’s rural school districts. MREA also partners with MSU in training school leaders for rural schools.

Priscilla Lund, associate professor of education, has been selected to be part of a National Art Education Association delegation that will visit Cuba in October to share art education research. The goal of the visit will be to compare art’s role in the education system in Cuba and the United States and to discuss common challenges and strategies with art education professionals.
When Great Falls native John Clark finished serving his eight years in the Marines, he knew he wanted to teach. So he enrolled in Troops to Teachers (TTT) to achieve his goal. Now a student at MSU in the technology education program, Clark is also working for Lewis and Clark Troops to Teachers (based at MSU) as a work-study student, and most recently this summer, as an intern. Clark said his project as an intern was “to develop a web-based seminar to show military veterans the whole path to teaching and how TTT helps get them there.”

The seminar is approximately 30 minutes long and uses videos and testimonials to lead interested veterans through the whole process of becoming a teacher. Using what he has learned from technology education classes, Clark filmed the videos himself and stores them on You Tube.

When people leave the military, they attend a three-day briefing on career options after their service. So Clark felt the new addition to the TTT website would be a great help.

“The main priority is outreach,” said Clark. “A lot of vets don’t know the program exists.”

Le Gaub, program manager for TTT, said he likes having a veteran work-study who is also an education major. It is a natural fit.

Gaub said, “This is a great example of how TTT, EHHD, and MSU’s Veteran Assistance office can partner to produce a usable product.”

Starting August 8, 14 interns attended the first orientation session for the new Montana Dietetic Internship (MDI) program, the only one in Montana. MDI director Coleen Kaiser planned four weeks of activities that, as registered dietitians, these students will deal with in their future profession. Topics ranged from dealing with the media to nutrition support workshops to Native foods. The group also went on several field trips—to Warm Springs to visit the state hospital, to Deer Lodge to visit the state prison, and to Bozeman Deaconess Hospital’s dialysis unit.

Over the next 10 months, interns will have 1295 hours of supervised practice in various settings and a 30-week online didactic course. Kaiser said 38 facilities and sites around the state are participating in MDI by providing supervised rotation opportunities for the interns.

“It is an exciting first, and it has been amazing to work with MSU professionals and the many RDs around the state, assuring the success of the program,” Kaiser said.
Faculty went back to school in June to learn the latest in classroom technology from Apple in Education trainers based out of Portland, Ore. and Seattle, Wash. For the past year technology education professor Scott Davis has been meeting with Apple liaisons Kent Kerney, DJ Erdmann, and Kurt Bedell periodically to plan the “Learning beyond the Classroom” seminar for post-secondary instructors wanting to incorporate more technology into their classroom instruction. The seminar in June was the first to show faculty how to integrate the use of Macs, iPod Touches and iPads in their teaching to engage students. Davis hopes to have the Apple educators return for seminars on creating multi-media presentation and content development.

2nd Year Counseling Students Host Incoming Students

In June, second year graduate counseling students were hosts to over 20 incoming first year counseling students at a reception at the Human Development Clinic on South 3rd. The reception gave students a chance to meet fellow students and faculty, as well as learn about the courses they will take and challenges of working with people in a therapeutic manner. Students also broke into groups according to their options (marriage and family, school counseling, or mental health) and heard first hand from second year students about their experience in the program. Second year student Simone Schilthuis said, “We shared aspects of the program that only one can learn from experience.”

Pictured above are two of the several cohorts from the Educational Leadership program that were here on campus this summer for a week of intensive instruction. Students were from the rural education cohorts as well as the online master’s degree programs. Above are assistant professor Michael Redburn’s master’s cohort (bottom photo) and adjunct instructor Linda Janich’s rural education cohort (top).
Moving On

Long time education professor Bill Hall finished a three-year post retirement position this spring after working for many years in the Department of Education. He taught math methods classes and also supervised student teachers abroad, particularly in New Zealand. Since the mid-1990s, Hall has served as director of overseas student teaching, but actually began sending students abroad in the late 1970s. The college appreciates his many years of service in enriching students’ educational experiences. Pictured right, Bill with wife Sandy, a long time adjunct instructor of education at MSU.

Mike Redburn, assistant professor in educational leadership for the last four years, has accepted the position of executive director of the American Association of School Personnel Administrators (AASPA) in Overland Park, Kan. Redburn will begin his new duties on September 1, splitting his time between Overland Park and Bozeman. AASPA is an international organization that provides professional development, resources, and networking to human resource administrators in schools.

Bryce Carpenter, assistant professor of education, resigned at the end of spring semester. For the past six years, Carpenter has taught a variety of classes in the education department, including social studies methods. Carpenter was also actively involved in the Bozeman chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America and helped coordinate several events for the community, such as “A Night in Pompeii.” (left) The college wishes him all the best in his future endeavors.

After nearly three years with the Troops to Teachers (TTT), Janna Urschel is leaving the program to pursue a master’s degree from MSU in English. Starting this fall, she will be teaching Writing 101 and taking classes. Her goal after graduation is to teach at a community college. She already has one master’s degree in linguistics. While with TTT, Urschel provided HR, marketing, finance and administrative support. Program Manager Le Gaub said, “Janna’s efforts and expertise moved our administration and program coordination to the next level.” Pictured left, Urschel and daughter Rowan at a farewell reception held on August 17 to thank Urschel for her time and efforts.