



# College News Update



College of Education, Health and Human Development

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[www.montana.edu/ehhd](http://www.montana.edu/ehhd)

## MDI Interns Host Lunch for EHHD Staff



**A**t the fall staff lunch meeting in September, employees were treated to a delicious lunch with produce from Towne's Harvest

Garden prepared by eight students from the Montana Dietetic Internship (MDI) program. The interns were participating in their first rotation in sustainable foods. Director Coleen Kaiser offered a brief explanation of the program and said that MDI was helping to fulfill the land grant mission, as many of the interns will stay in the state after graduation as registered dietitians. Associate professor Alison Harmon stated that the MDI program is the only internship in the country with an emphasis in sustainable foods.

After lunch, several staff members shared information from professional development conferences or workshops they had recently attended using professional development funds from the dean's office. Those sharing information were Kate Hallowell, Elizabeth Bird, Melis Edwards, Jennifer Clark, and Tracy Krushensky.



## MSU Education Students Outscore Peers on National Exam

Excerpt from an MSU News Service article  
by Anne Cantrell

**M**ontana State University education students have outscored their peers on 14 of 15 national exams that they are required to take before becoming teachers.

Students in MSU's teacher education program are required to take a test called Praxis II in order to qualify for a teaching license in one of 15 different areas. MSU students took a total of 276 Praxis II exams in 15 areas in 2010-2011, the latest testing year for which scores were reported. MSU students' average scores were higher than the national average scores on 14 out of 15 tests.

Their high marks underscore the strength of the education they receive, according to Jayne Downey, head of the MSU Department of Education.

"These scores are a very strong indicator of the quality of teacher education at MSU and the quality of education that these students are getting across all the different content areas," Downey said. "Content comes from four different colleges at our university, so this is really a positive reflection on MSU as a whole."

Praxis tests measure teacher candidates' knowledge and skills and are part of the certification process required by many states and professional licensing organizations.

Downey said she is proud of the MSU students' quality of work.

"If we think about what these scores mean, what this is showing us is the best and the brightest are going into teaching, and that's really good for the state of Montana," Downey said.

## Education Professor Leads Great Expedition Trip

**T**his past summer, education professor Ann de Onis led a group of MSU Honors Program students on a “Great Expedition” trip to Ireland for 13 days. The Honors program invites faculty to submit topics for consideration for the Great Expedition trips, and de Onis submitted a proposal for a class called “Intersection of Irish History, Politics and Culture: What, How, and Why?” After interviewing with the Honors’ selection committee, de Onis was selected to teach the class and take a group to Ireland. De Onis, who is Irish American, jumped at the chance.

“During the course, we studied the history of Ireland, literature, music, and culture,” said de Onis. “We studied the famine by reading the book, ‘The Great Shame.’ ”

Once in Ireland, they toured many of the sites they had studied, such as Kilmainham Gaol, famous for imprisoning Irish citizens for not paying their landlords during the famine and for housing and executing many leaders of Ireland’s numerous rebellions.

Megan Kuntz, a sophomore majoring in community health/pre-med from Bozeman, said the group was excited to be able to connect class work with actual historical sites.

“It was nice to have the background on the history and economy of Ireland,” said Kuntz. “There’s a lot of political energy in the country right now.”

For an individual research project, Kuntz explored Ireland’s health care system and contrasted it with health care in the United States. She found, in general, the Irish population has a good attitude about their health care system.

“They have a socialized health care system,” Kuntz said, “so the government pays for a lot.”

As a Catholic, Kuntz also enjoyed visiting the cathedrals and even attended a church service. She found it interesting to see the older, more traditional churches and to compare the services in Ireland with those at home.

“Even though the layout of the Catholic mass is the same in every country, it was still hard to follow an Irish mass because they talk so fast!” said Kuntz.

Working with MSU’s Office of International Programs, de Onis said the entire trip was set up by E.F. Tours, who coordinated all travel, hotels, transportation, and meals. E.F. consolidates groups with other universities. de Onis said she was proud of MSU students because they came to the trip with “rich background knowledge of the places and historical figures that we had studied.”

“I was so blessed with the most polite, courteous, energized, and cooperative students,” de Onis said. “They were great emissaries for MSU.”

“Great Expeditions: Ireland” was one of three trips available in 2012 to students. The other two were to South Africa and Brazil. The three-credit class meets on campus during spring semester, then travels to the country to experience first-hand what they learned in the classroom.



Megan Kuntz at the Ring of Kerry

## Meet Our New Faculty

**D**avid Henderson joins the educational leadership program this fall as a tenure track faculty member. Henderson, who grew up in Memphis, Tenn., began his education career as a high school chemistry and biology teacher after graduation from Harding University. He left education in 1981 and for the next 12 years, worked in the software industry as a technical writer, developer, product manager, and co-manager of software research and development in Dallas, Texas. In the meantime, he and his wife bought property in northwest Montana, and in 1993, they decided to leave the corporate world and get back to education. They moved to Yaak, Mont., and Henderson began teaching fifth through eighth grades in the last one room school in Montana that still met in the original log cabin.

"It was a good move for the family," said Henderson, who has four grown children.

They lived "off the grid" for the next 14 years, while Henderson was a teacher, coach, and a high school principal in Yaak and Troy. During this time, he also began working on his doctorate from the University of Montana and received his degree in 2007 in educational administration. From 2007-2012, to be closer to aging parents, he accepted a position as assistant professor at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, teaching educational leadership.

His research interests focus on "the intersection of the inner life of leaders with their practice of leadership grounded in a heart striving for integrity and authenticity." He also co-founded Montana Courage to Teach and will continue to facilitate Courage to Teach, Courage to Lead, and Circles of Trust retreats.



**T**ena Versland is no stranger to MSU. After serving as an adjunct faculty member since 2008, Versland joined the educational leadership program this fall as a full-time tenure track faculty. Versland has received all three of her degrees from MSU, beginning with a bachelor's in music education. After graduation, she spent six years as a K-12 music teacher in Opheim Public Schools in northeast Montana. She says she did everything from classroom teaching to directing bands and choirs. Versland, who plays French horn and trumpet, was even a member of the Prairie Symphonette, a 30 member group of talented ranchers and community members from the area.

With encouragement from Opheim's school superintendent, Versland returned to MSU to earn a master's in educational administration and began her administrative career as assistant principal at Park High School in Livingston, her home town. After three years, she moved to the middle school as principal and spent 20 years "loving middle school kids."

While pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership, she felt a need for a change.

"I was looking for more intellectual stimulation and needed to stay on the cutting edge," said Versland about her move to MSU. "I felt the university was a good transition."

Versland's research interests include principal preparation and leader self-efficacy, collective efficacy, school improvement, and rural education.

In her spare time, Versland spends time with her daughter's family and her large extended Livingston family, following nieces and nephews in sports activities. She also likes to hike and looks forward to skiing at Bridger Bowl this winter.





Above: Scholarship recipients Michael Korczyk, Adrienne Petch, Megan Udovich, and guest Patrick Zimny.

Left: Donor Lois Norby greets recipient Bobbie Robinson and husband Duke.



**A**lmost 150 donors and scholarship recipients attended the college's annual donor appreciation and scholarship awards breakfast on September 15 at the Gran Tree Inn. In many cases, students were able to meet their scholarship donor or donor families to personally thank them for their generosity in supporting students in the college. Representing all scholarship recipients, Adrienne Petch, an elementary education major from Grand Junction, Colo., was the guest speaker. She told donors that "your generous donations are more than simply financial aid; they are a way of telling a student that you believe in them..." She also challenged her fellow recipients to give back some day—"to continue that cycle of giving."

## College of EHHD Well Represented at Tour de Cure

**M**ichael Fox, a senior from Bozeman, is passionate about educating people with diabetes. For the third year, Fox has volunteered with the Tour de Cure bicycle ride to raise awareness for diabetes, but this year, he was also a red rider, a diabetic participant who wore a red shirt.

"There were over 450 riders this year and 73 were red riders," said Fox.

Diagnosed at the age of 12 with Type 1 diabetes, Fox chose to focus on nutrition with a dietetic option as a major in college because it became apparent how effective nutrition could be in controlling diabetes. To help educate diabetics, he leads a student diabetic support group at MSU.

"Diet should be regarded on equal footing as prescription medicines to help manage the disease," Fox said. "I have reduced my insulin dose by 75% simply by changing the foods I eat. When food, food characteristics, and their effects on insulin resistance are left out of conversations, it really leaves a huge hole in a diabetic's ability to manage their disease."

Fox was joined on the Tour de Cure ride in September by a team from MSU, consisting of students and EHHD staff—Melis Edwards, Tracy Krushensky, and Kathy Weaver. Edwards said there were 13 people on her team that brought in \$1500.

"There was such a positive energy the whole day—from participants to volunteers," said Edwards who rode the 100 mile loop that began and ended at the Missouri Headwaters State Park.

This year the tour raised over \$172,000. Elise Coy, manager of fundraising and mission delivery for the American Diabetes Association, said the money is used to help fund other state events such as the Family Retreat and Montana Youth Retreat.

"It also helps pay for services in Montana including Family Link events and educational materials for patients and providers," said Coy, who is finishing her master's degree this semester at MSU in health promotion and education.

For more information about programs, visit [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org) or [www.diabetes.org/montana](http://www.diabetes.org/montana).



Fox crosses the finish line.

# Franklin Elected to Counseling Board



**K**atey Franklin, adjunct instructor and program leader for the school counseling master's program, has been elected to serve a four-year term on the board of the Montana School Counselor Association. Franklin, who began her term on October 1, is the President Elect-Elect and will serve as president two years from now.

Franklin says MSCA is "an organization who advocates for the school counseling profession, the implementation of a school counseling program in every school, and provides resources/opportunities for school counselors for continuing education and leadership."

## 2nd Annual Education Fall Kick-off

**O**n September 5, the Department of Education held the second annual "The Future Starts Here" fall kick-off in the SUB with over 100 in attendance. At the reception, students were introduced to faculty and staff, who shared information about themselves and their programs. Students received door prizes of clothing and gift certificates to area businesses.

"The event is part of a larger effort to build a strong sense of community and support student success," said Jayne Downey, education department head.



*Education Department Head Jayne Downey with elementary education student Ty Smith and Education Assistant Professor Nick Lux. Ty is modeling the tie he won as a door prize.*

## Newly remodeled classrooms for Reid

**O**ver the summer, several classrooms in Reid Hall received much needed renovations. Rooms 124, 126, and 301 (all education classrooms) were gutted and received new carpeting or tile, paint, lighting, smart boards, white boards, tables and chairs. In addition, technology education's classroom in 422/423 was reconfigured and remodeled to accommodate a computer lab area. In 423 and 425, the web of computer and electrical cables are now hidden under the flooring.



Reid 423 After



Reid 124 Before



Reid 124 After



Reid 301 Before



Reid 301 After