



College News Update



College of Education, Health and Human Development
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Bill Freese and Maggie Nottestad from Education get into the spirit of the lunch.

A HOCKEY LUNCH WITH EHHD STAFF



Dean Ransdell serves cake to staff.

EHHD staff members welcomed new dean, Lynda Ransdell, to the college at the Spring Staff Lunch in Reid Hall on February 1. The hockey-themed lunch was organized by HR student worker, Brady Hunemuller, dean's office administrative assistant, Susie Beardsley, and communications specialist, Deb Redburn. Staff members introduced themselves to Ransdell and explained what their job responsibilities are with the college.

DEAN HOSTS RECEPTION FOR HONOR STUDENTS

For the fall semester 2012, 118 EHHD students made the president's list with a GPA of 4.0 and 351 students made the dean's list with a GPA of 3.5 or higher. To honor the achievements of these outstanding students, new dean Lynda Ransdell held a reception on February 6 in the SUB. Students in attendance from both departments were congratulated by Ransdell, as she personally distributed college lapel pins to each attendee.



Students, faculty and staff from EHHD gather for a student honor reception.

New Honorary Society Organized in HHD

On January 25 at the Holiday Inn, students in the graduate counseling program were initiated into the state's first and only honorary society, Chi Sigma Iota. The idea for the society originally began as an advocacy project over a year ago for Abbie Lawler and Rachael Lingerfelt, both marriage and family students from Tennessee. Joining them this fall on the project were Julio Brionez, mental health student, and Maggie Kuhlman, a school counseling student. Chapter advisor and assistant professor Rebecca Koltz incorporates an advocacy project as a class assignment into her "Professional Issues in Counseling" class.

Organizing a new chapter was a lengthy process, said Lawler and Lingerfelt, which required approval from MSU and the national organization. Both women "stuck with the project well past the grade" to get the local chapter up and running.

MSU President Waded Cruzado was the guest speaker for the evening and told the group "it was a privilege to be in the company of the cream of the crop." Her comments focused on five characteristics of leaders, and she encouraged the new initiates to become servant leaders in their counseling careers.

Chi Sigma Iota is an international honor society founded at Ohio University in 1985 and promotes professional excellence in the counseling profession. MSU's Mu Tau Sigma chapter is one of 285 chapters across the nation.



In the photo on the left, honorees are pictured, in the front row from left to right: Julio Brionez, Melissa Frost, Kari Halvorson, Karie Gundrum, Kelsey Link, Katie De'Autremont, Melissa Heinrich, Marise Rowell, Michaela Williams, Megan Obert and Peter Coyle. In the back row from left to right are Dr. Rebecca Koltz, chapter adviser; MSU President Cruzado; honorees Scott Salzer, Maggie Kuhlman, Rachael Lingerfelt, Marlena Renwyck, Hilliary Peil, Sarah Albertson, Abbie Lawler, Heidi McKinley and Missy DeMeyer. Not pictured are honorees Kirstin Marne, Brittany Wenke, Allison Gidley, Chelsea Allsbrook, Adrianna Willoughby, Nikki Rorabaugh, Zac Morgan-Edwards and Kristen Rausch.



Michaela Williams receives a Chi Sigma Iota pin and certificate from Abbie Lawler and Rachael Lingerfelt.



Rebecca Koltz recognizes students who organized the chapter.

Leticq Honored at Spring Convocation

Associate Professor Bethany Leticq was this year's recipient of the Betty Coffee Award, presented at the annual Spring Convocation in January to honor outstanding MSU faculty. The award, established in memory of former engineering professor Betty Coffee, honors a faculty member who is noted for teaching excellence and championing women's equity and minority issues in the curriculum. Leticq teaches courses using feminist and cultural ecological perspectives, promotes the advancement of students of color, first-generation college students, and low-income students on campus, and served as MSU's first Family Advocate to foster a more family-friendly campus. For her research, Leticq works in partnership with Latino migrants in the Gallatin Valley to develop interventions to improve mental health.



Lynda Ransdell and Bethany Leticq at Spring Convocation

EDUCATION STUDENTS JOIN IN DIGITAL TOWN HALL MEETING

On February 6, education students from Assistant Professor Nick Lux's "Education Technology: Designing Instructional Technology" class participated in the second annual Digital Learning Day National Town Hall Meeting, which was simulcast from Washington, D.C. More than 25,000 teachers from all 50 states and over two million K-12 students participated in Digital Learning Day events, including the National Town Hall Meeting. Using the technology in Reid 301, students joined educators and students from all over the country in hearing about technology in teaching and learning. The event featured interviews with governors, legislators, and Secretary of Education, Arnie Duncan, and also showcased four school districts in the U.S. that have used technology to dramatically increase achievement.



With many local and state events around the nation leading up to the event, guest speaker Governor Bob Wise from West Virginia said the event "personalized learning opportunities for students and trained teachers in 21st Century skills."

About the town hall meeting, Lux said, "The event was good for our students. It gave them a chance to hear first-hand how teachers and educators around the country are using digital learning tools in creative and innovative ways to improve student learning."

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

New to MSU



In January, the Department of Education welcomed Sweeney Windchief as a tenure track faculty member in the adult and higher education program. Windchief comes to MSU from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City where he was the assistant dean for diversity in the graduate school. Windchief received a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and science from the University of Central Oklahoma, a master's in counseling education from the University of Montana, and a doctorate in educational leadership and policy from the University of Utah.

As he and his family traveled the nation while pursuing his education (he has transcripts from seven different institutions), Windchief says he has been trying to get back to Montana, where he has family on the Ft. Peck reservation.

"My wife reminded me that it's important to have our children close to family," said Windchief.

So when the opportunity presented itself to teach at MSU, he jumped at the chance. Over the last several years through several chance encounters with Associate Professor Carrie Myers and former interim EHHD dean, Carl Fox, both of whom Windchief met at conferences, and with department head Jayne Downey, he tried to maintain a scholarly connection with MSU. When he came to campus for a visit, "it felt like a good fit" noted Windchief.

His research interests focus on the intersection of indigenous research methodologies and the role of indigenous intellectualism in higher education.

Meet EHHD's New Student Senator

Christina Macy is one of the new student senators for the college for spring semester. Macy, from Bend, Ore., is a sophomore in general science broadfield. Macy says she "fell in love with the campus" when she attended an MSU Friday recruitment day, and since she loves to ski, she fit right into community. She has been interested in being involved on campus and noticed that two EHHD senator positions opened up for spring semester.

"ASMSU is a great program to increase leadership and involvement on campus," said Macy. "I wanted to be a voice for students."

Macy is the ASMSU liaison between the Outdoor Recreation Center and the Office of Sustainability, which are both interests of hers.

