



College News Update



College of Education, Health and Human Development

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www.montana.edu/ehhd

Remembering a Beloved Friend

Friends, MSU colleagues, and students gathered on September 13 on the lawn of the Romney Oval to remember and celebrate the life of Betsy Palmer, associate professor in adult and higher education, who passed away in a trekking accident while leading a group of MSU students in Nepal in May. Present and former students and education faculty shared personal stories of Palmer saying she was a much loved professor and mentor who touched many lives. Also attending were many of the students who had accompanied Palmer on the trip to Nepal. Colleague and friend, Associate Professor Carrie Myers, said of the event “it was an extraordinary tribute for an exceptional individual.”



Students place prayer shawls on Betsy Palmer's memorial board

Dean Lynda Ransdell addresses the gathering for the memorial service.



EHHD staff Sofie Malinowski, Susie Beardsley, Bev Richardson, and Jen Clark with Eric Combs (center) at evening reception.

TTT Hosts Year of Engaged Leadership Event

As part of the MSU's Year of Engaged Leadership, the college's Lewis and Clark Troops to Teachers (TTT) program held their annual conference in September, highlighted by an evening event featuring speakers from the field of education. Two area educators, Candy Lubansky, superintendent of Belgrade Public Schools, and Jim Tweet, former Air Force pilot, current math teacher in Belgrade, and graduate of MSU's Northern Plains Transition to Teaching program,



Keynote Speaker Eric Combs Speaks at TTT Annual Conference

spoke about their roles as leaders and educators and of the importance of establishing relationships with every student. Keynote speaker for the evening was retired Senior Master Sergeant Eric Combs, a 20-year US Air Force veteran and current assistant principal in Ohio. Combs speech was sprinkled with humorous stories of his military experience and how that background has helped him in becoming a teacher, administrator, and consultant.

“Only the educated are truly free,” said Combs, who was Ohio Teacher of the Year in 2006 and a finalist for Ohio Assistant Principal of the Year for 2013.

Troops to Teachers annual conference was attended by TTT area representatives from the seven state region,



which stretches from Idaho to Wisconsin. The program advises and assists qualified military personnel with transitioning from the military to becoming educators.

Meet Our New Faculty

Cristen Wathen joins the HHD faculty as Assistant professor in marriage and family counseling. She is a licensed counselor in Idaho and a nationally certified counselor. Originally from Texarkana, Ark., Wathen earned a bachelor's degree in Biblical studies and history from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., and a master's in counseling from Baylor University. She completed her doctoral degree in counselor education last spring from Idaho State University with an emphasis in couple and family counseling and mental health counseling. At MSU, Wathen is teaching classes in counseling theory, counseling skills, child and adolescence counseling, and addictions counseling. Her research centers on multicultural development of counselors through international experiences. She is also interested in sexual abuse and trauma counseling in Montana. In December, her counseling theory students will be videoconferencing with the counseling students at the University of Leeds in England to discuss cross-cultural perceptions of counseling theory.

Between her master's and doctoral work, Wathen worked clinically as a counselor specializing in sexual abuse and assault. She also led the Support and Empowerment Program for Single Parents at McLennan Community College in Waco, Texas, and was an academic advisor for the Teacher Development Center at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Wathen mentored and counseled college students at Baylor University's Career Counseling Center and Academic Support Program as well. Most recently, she worked as a counselor at Idaho State University's Counseling and Testing Center.

A dancer since age five, Wathen loves ballet and modern dance, and she also does yoga. She is a diehard Arkansas Razorbacks football fan and is also becoming a Bobcat fan.

She "loves having new experiences," especially traveling and hiking.

"Experiences give you a new way of looking at or understanding things," said Wathen.

Her husband, Chris, from Kentucky, is the Fire Marshal at Idaho National Laboratory in Arco, Idaho.



Originally from Korea, Jaebum (Jae) Park begins his tenure at MSU as an assistant professor in health and human performance, after conducting post-doctorate work at Pennsylvania State University. Park is teaching courses in his area of interest—biomechanics. He received his bachelor's and master's from Seoul National University in South Korea, with emphasis in kinesiology, biomechanics, and sports equipment design. He moved to the United States in 2005 to pursue a doctorate from the University of Maryland in biomechanics and motor control (neuromechanics).

Park was attracted to MSU because he felt MSU was a good opportunity for research and collaboration, where he could move forward with his own interests in human movement. He recently received an MSU/INBRE grant to study changes in mechanical properties of hand digits and multi-finger coordination in farmers. His other research interests include the clinical application of how the brain controls the human body and how the biomechanics and neuroscience processes of humans behave in micro-gravity situations like space.

A baseball player in his home country, Park and his wife Hyun Jung, a book editor in Korea, moved to Bozeman over the summer.

Meet Our New Faculty

Chris Seitz, assistant professor in community health, began his new position this fall teaching undergraduate classes in “Drugs and Society” and graduate classes in “Professional Communication Skills in Health and



Human Development.” Born in Denver, Colo., Seitz moved with his family when he was 11-years-old to Gettysburg, Penn., where he later attended Stevenson University and received an associate’s degree in medical technology and a bachelor’s in health science from Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania. He earned both a master’s and a doctorate in public health from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

Seitz became interested in community health when his grandfather passed away from lung cancer. It was an “ah ha moment” when he realized “that prevention is just as powerful as treatment.” His research interests reflect his philosophy on prevention.

“Why are we treating medical conditions when we could have prevented them?” said Seitz.

He is also interested using the Photovoice method to advocate for change in health policies.

“Photovoice is a program that gives a camera to people who don’t have a voice, like the homeless,” said Seitz. “They take photos of the environment that can be changed to make them healthier.”

From that, a photo show is created and shown to policy and decision makers in a community who can make change happen. Seitz has used the method in a study advocating for change in a campus smoking policy and been published in the “Journal of American College Health.” <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/07448481.2012.688781>

An avid outdoor enthusiast, Seitz plans to fly-fish, hike, and get back to snowboarding now that he has moved to Montana.

Having spent most of her life in the center of New York City (Manhattan), Selena Ahmed, assistant professor in sustainable food systems,



said she was drawn to MSU because of its innovative sustainable food and bioenergy systems (SFBS) program and “because Montana looked like Tibet,” where she had traveled. Having earned degrees in diverse areas of study, Ahmed incorporates them into her research—using a holistic approach to study the health of the environment and human wellbeing. From Barnard College at Columbia University in New York City, she earned a bachelor’s in economics; from the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, she received a master’s in ethnobotany; and from the City University of New York, she earned a doctorate in biology and plant science. Before arriving at MSU, her post-doctoral work was in biomedical science at Tufts University in Boston.

At MSU, she is teaching a graduate course on food policy and practice, and in the spring she will teach the introduction to sustainable food systems class. She is developing two new classes for the SFBS program—one in food systems resilience, vulnerability and transformation, and the other in measuring innovation in food systems.

Much of Ahmed’s research funding has allowed her to travel extensively (She has been to 41 countries) and she has worked in Morocco, India, the Amazon, Belize, and now in China, where she is conducting research on the impact of climate change on the quality of tea. She and a friend even spent one summer traveling cross country from New York to California just to experience her own country, camping on BLM land along the way.

Her research interests include examining the quality of food systems and all of the components and processes that make up food system quality from the ecology and socio-economics of production to the dietary diversity and wellbeing of consumers.

In her spare time, Ahmed likes to do field research in forest and mountain dwelling communities, where she gets to do a lot of hiking, and she is looking forward to exploring trails in Montana and new outdoor activities like learning to cross-county ski.

2013 Donor Appreciation/ Scholarship Breakfast

The college's annual donor appreciation/scholarship breakfast was held on September 14 at the GranTree Inn in Bozeman. Over 170 donors, scholarship recipients, family members, and university representatives attended the morning event to thank generous donors to our college and to recognize scholarship awardees. Education student Emily (Linker) Hessler gave the keynote address, thanking donors for their dedication to MSU saying, "Your funds have given us some freedom to discover who we are and where our passions lie." She also encouraged her fellow recipients to give back and consider establishing their own scholarships in the future.

Student speaker, Emily Hessler, with her grandmother and mother



Tech Ed students at scholarship breakfast

EHHD students visit with donors at the breakfast



The Future Starts Here



Education students gather for the annual fall kick-off.

Just prior to MSU's Convocation, the Department of Education held its annual fall kick-off for faculty, staff and students at the SUB. Department Head, Jayne Downey, welcomed everyone and introduced faculty. A number of education students who had traveled to France and England this past summer with Associate Professor Joyce Herbeck's children's literature and art education class, shared their experiences with a power point presentation. There were also drawings for many door prizes donated by community restaurants and businesses.

EHHD Graduate Student Orientation

For the first time this fall, graduate students new to the College of EHHD attended graduate orientations for their respective departments. After department sessions, all grad students, faculty and staff met outside to play some "get acquainted" games and participate in a campus scavenger hunt for prizes.



Scavenger hunt winners Noel Williams, Becky Quigley, and Kyle Masterson

Science Math Resource Center: Making Science Fun!



Annie Mollock, Jessie Hunter, Kiley Eversole, and Irene Grimberg represented the Science Math Resource Center (SMRC) and the Montana Science Olympiad at the Montana Science and Engineering Festival held on September 21 at Bobcat Stadium. In an effort to publicize the Montana Science Olympiad to the community and engage the public in science and engineering, several hands-on activities were available. Flyers explained what the center does for STEM education in Montana and the volunteer opportunities offered by the Montana Science

Olympiad. Two hundred thirty-five people visited the booth to play with magnets, decipher optical illusions, and explore the intricacies of mass and inertia. The activities were very well received, and adults and kids both had fun. Teachers of the area requested resources for their classrooms, and many MSU students pledged to volunteer for the Montana Science Olympiad on November 26 on the MSU campus.

In addition to the Montana Science Olympiad booth, the Science Math Resource Center, along with faculty from plant science and plant pathology, land resources and environmental science, College of Agriculture, and MSU-Extension, had a booth to disseminate their research on integrated pest-management in crops. Together, MSU has a number of USDA grants to investigate multitrophic pest interactions and cropping system management. The Science Math Resource Center is in charge of the educational component. At this booth, sheep and microscopes greeted visitors and even children played virus and cells in a virus-tag game.

Submitted by Annie Mollock, administrative associate for SMRC

Ed Student Wins Convocation Contest

At convocation in September, one lucky education student had the honor of meeting speaker, Yan Martel, author of “Life of Pi,” during a reception honoring the winner of the Writer’s Voice Contest. Kara Bates, double major in microbiology and general science broadfield, won the contest for her submission with a short fiction piece called “As It Seems.” Bates, a senior from Plains, Mont., was encouraged to enter the contest by education advisor, Jen Clark. Contestants read Martel’s award winning book, and then wrote either a short fiction piece, an essay, or a poem about something that inspired them from the book. The winner of each category attended an awards ceremony where Martel presented them with an award and a signed copy of “Life of Pi.” “It was fun meeting him and learning how he thinks,” said Bates.



**Education staff and students attend
convocation reception with author
Yan Martel.**

**Back row: Jen Clark, Catherine Johnson,
Yan Martel, Kayte Kaminski, Tammy
Stewart, Dean Lynda Ransdell.
Front row: Kara Bates, Chelsea Wilson,
John Johnson**

MDI WELCOMES NEW COHORT



In August, the Montana Dietetic Internship welcomed 18 new students to the program

with an intensive three-week orientation on campus. The diverse group has students from seven states, besides Montana, and for the first time, there are three men and one Native American student. During orientation, the interns attended workshops on personality typing, food service in rural communities, cooking demonstrations from the director of nutrition services at St. Peter's Hospital in Helena, and information on Farm to School, presented by former MDI intern, Jennifer Montague, current food service director at Kalispell Public Schools.

Once orientation was complete, the interns began their rotations, working with preceptors (mentors) around the state to become registered dietitians.



Former MDI intern Jennifer Montague shares information on the Farm to School program in Kalispell Schools.

NEWEST COHORT IN MDI HOSTS TASTING

Students from the latest cohort of the Montana Dietetics Internship program hosted two tasting lunches in Herrick Hall's foods lab. Nine students in the sustainable food rotation offered a variety of dishes to faculty and staff in EHHD, using produce from MSU's Towne's Harvest Garden. They also hosted tastings at two other locations—Livingston Food Pantry and the Belgrade Senior Center. Food was prepared in the foods lab and then transported to the two other sites. The sustainable food rotation is just one of rotations the interns will participate in during their internship. They also experience rotations in clinical and community nutrition, and food service management.



Emily Smith, Dennis Ball and Kelsey Conrow prepared a variety of dishes for sampling.

Nutrition Students Volunteer For Diabetes Fundraiser

On September 14th, the American Diabetes Association held its fourth Tour de Cure fundraising ride at the Missouri Headwaters State Park, with MSU well represented. The purpose of the ride was to bring awareness to the disease, celebrate those who live with it, raise money for research, and support the diabetic community in Montana. Participants had the option to ride the 100, 50, 25, or 12 miles, or walk 5K. Some 595 riders participated this year - 79 of whom are diabetics. They are enthusiastically referred to as Red Riders and wear red jerseys. The popularity and support for this event continues to grow, and this year's event raised over \$200,000, surpassing the goal by \$25,000. These contributions will benefit diabetics in Montana by supporting a youth camp for type 1 diabetics, diabetes care within the Native American community, as well as support to family members and school safety programs.



About 62,000 individuals in Montana have diabetes, and programs like these are much needed. And as the incidence of the disease continues to rise in Montana (increasing from 2.8 percent in 1994 to 8.0 percent in 2012), efforts like these are likely to continue and will become increasingly important.

Recognizing the collective benefits derived from community service, the HHD program continues its history of enriching and expanding the classroom experience by encouraging students to volunteer hours of service to valuable causes like the Tour de Cure. For example, 30 percent of students in NUTR 321 (Nutrition in the Life Cycle) participated in this year's Tour de Cure. Gabriella Malisani, a senior majoring in food and nutrition, was

introduced to the tour through this class and has gone on to volunteer at diabetic summer camps and multiple tours.

"I just love the energy and sense of community," she said of the tour. "...being able to ask questions that I am curious about and having people answer them willingly."

Aspiring to become a registered dietitian, she said, "It is awesome to see [diabetics] live a normal, healthy life, regardless of their diabetes."

Next year's Tour de Cure will be held on Sept. 13, 2014. More information can be found at www.diabetes.org/, or contact the Montana ADA representative, Elise Morris, at emorris@diabetes.org.

—Submitted by sustainable food systems graduate student, Michael Fox, who intends to become a registered dietitian specializing in the care of individuals with diabetes. With 24 years of experience as a Type 1 diabetic, he participated as a Red Rider in this year's Tour de Cure.

HHD student Takes Opportunity to Study Abroad

Many students at MSU take advantage of the study abroad options available to them during their college career. Dietetics student, Elizabeth (Liz) Narigon, felt last spring was a great time to experience another culture and traveled abroad to study at the University of Southern Queensland-Springfield about 30 minutes from Brisbane, Australia. While it took some time to get use to different attitudes and a different vocabulary, the senior from North Oaks, Minn., found it was a valuable experience to "immerse yourself in another culture."

"It's good to take yourself out of your comfort zone," said Narigon. Compared to Americans, who are more career driven, Australians tend to "go with the flow and try to find what's right for them."

Narigon always knew while she was in college that she wanted to study abroad. In contrast to MSU, the University of Queensland is much smaller with around 1,000 students and only one building for the campus. During school breaks, Narigon was able to explore Australia including a trip to Cairns, a city close to the Great Barrier Reef, and saw firsthand how the reef is slowly deteriorating. She and fellow MSU engineering student, Danielle Montick, also traveled to New Zealand before returning to Bozeman.

