Element Hotel Offers MSU Student Hospitality Experience

The college’s newest program in hospitality management has already placed its first “intern,” Elle Limesand, who learned about hospitality this summer in one of Bozeman’s newest hotels, the Element. Limesand, a native of Snohomish, Wash., currently majoring in sociology, had heard about the hospitality management program from her resident advisor, who saw an article in the “Bozeman Daily Chronicle.” She decided to drop by Dean Alison Harmon’s office one day in the spring to find out more.

Through an Industry Advisory Board that Harmon has established with area stakeholders, she worked with Mollie Eckman, assistant general manager at the Element, to place Limesand in a position.

“I did several internships and valued the experience—where I was actually in the field and learning,” said Eckman, who has experience in retail, event planning, and hospitality in California and Montana.

As part of her training, Limesand stayed overnight at the Element, a Starwood brand under the umbrella of Westin Hotels, so she could experience firsthand what it is like to be a guest. She worked at the front desk with guest check-in and received training from Munya Majongwe, the guest services supervisor whose career was with Disney hotels, Marriott, and Starwood hotels, before moving to Montana to work at a guest ranch. Majongwe has been very impressed with Limesand’s ability to greet guests and tell them about happenings in Bozeman.

“Elle is very enthusiastic when talking about Bozeman,” said Majongwe. “She has great attitude, which is something you can’t teach. You can teach skills, but not attitude.”

Harmon said the MSU hospitality management program will launch fall 2017; however, Limesand and other students interested in hospitality can take classes beginning this fall that will support earning the degree. Faculty searches are currently underway and work continues to create coursework for the program.

“The experiential portion of this degree program will depend on collaborative relationships with leading hospitality providers in Bozeman and beyond,” said Harmon. “We are excited to have several leaders in the region on our Industry Advisory Board. This will help ensure that the program is relevant and that students will have the skills and professional network to support their desired hospitality career path when they graduate.”
New Personnel Join EHHD

The college welcomes Kayte Kaminski as the new director of student success, taking over for Denise Malloy, who is leaving to join her husband in Rochester, New York. Kaminski will be handling student issues, including suspension appeals, admission and graduation requirements, core equivalency review appeals, and student conduct issues and concerns. She will be available to visit with faculty concerning classroom conduct issues should the need arise.

Bringing a wealth of experience in the area of student services, Kaminski has worked as a resident advisor and assistant resident director at Ball State University, where she received her master’s in counseling psychology, as well as serving as resident director at MSU at South Hedges and Johnstone dorms for three years. She also worked for two years as a conduct officer in the Dean of Students office at MSU and taught classes for University Studies, including an online class called, “This Is Your Brain on Art and Music” for liberal studies.

Originally from Wisconsin, Kaminski obtained a bachelor’s in French with a minor in music from the University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh and then spent two years in China with the Peace Corps teaching “medicine in spoken English” (where she won a teaching award), tutoring students in English, and being involved in World’s AIDS Day.

Most recently, she just returned from a four month appointment as dean of students with the Semester at Sea program, with stops in Hawaii, China, Southeast Asia, Africa, and finally England.

Back home in Montana, Kaminski is working on a doctorate in adult and higher education administration at MSU, where she has already earned her College Teaching Certificate. She also serves on the Pecha Kucha board for Bozeman and enjoys hikes with friends.

Originally from the Missoula area, John Melick returns to Montana as the new director of Field Placement and Licensure in Reid Hall. Melick brings extensive experience to the position, as he has served in similar capacities in Minnesota. Formerly an elementary teacher, he worked for five years for the state of Minnesota as the director of licensing and for the last four years, he worked for the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, placing students in practicums and student teaching.

A track scholarship took Melick to the University of Jamestown in North Dakota, where he received a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. He taught for several years in North Dakota and Minnesota and obtained a master’s degree in elementary education from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. He then worked at a community college, building a two-year transfer program that included over 100 hours of field base experience to help students decide if teaching was the right career. For eight years, Melick worked at the Minnesota Department of Education in the licensing unit writing legislation to create alternate pathways to certification such as Teach for America. He also provided training to principals and superintendents to recruit teachers to rural Minnesota, and for five years he led the division for all K-12 licensure needs for the State of Minnesota.

Melick is happy to be back in Montana where he has lots of family. He and his wife have two elementary aged sons who enjoy fishing and hiking.
For the past five years, Montana Dietetic Internship (MDI) students have served in various settings across Montana during their 41 week program. However, this spring MDI student Jackie Roller had the unique opportunity to serve three weeks of an internship in Honolulu, Hawaii, where she worked at several community centers and a food bank.

A native of Belgrade, Mont., and a 2015 MSU graduate in food and nutrition, Roller had never been to the island of Oahu and was awarded the Mayme E. Chesarek Memorial Scholarship that allowed her to experience something she would not have been able to do without financial support.

MDI director, Coleen Kaiser, said Roller was the perfect student for the Hawaii internship because it provided her with the “ability to experience an enriching cultural exchange away from home.”

Kaiser worked with University of Hawaii professor, Anne Caprio Shovic (now teaching at MSU) and Hawaii internship director Ann Ditzler, to set up a cultural exchange for dietetic interns. In 2015, two students from Hawaii spent three weeks in the Flathead area and at the Blackfeet Community Hospital in Browning. In 2016, it was MSU’s turn to send a student to Hawaii.

When Roller first arrived in Honolulu, she worked with a diverse population at the Kokua Kalihi Valley Community Health Center helping with a grant-funded garden that is similar to MSU’s Towne’s Harvest Garden. Roller said the center’s garden gives much of their produce away for free to the community, as well as using some of it for their café, where she “got some cooking experience in as well.”

“There was a lot of community member interaction,” said Roller about the center which included participation by area doctors as well as local farmers. “I wish I could implement a program in the Gallatin Valley like they have that introduces people to locally grown food.”

The center also hosts community days where anyone from the community is welcome to work in the garden or just learn about the connection between culture and food.

She also worked at a very large food bank and recorded her observations in her internship journal, and she spent a week in the WIC program at the Kalihi Palama Community Center. She gave a presentation to a group of elderly Chinese on the benefits of a low sodium diet. Because of the diverse population, she had to work with a translator to help with the presentation and with questions from the audience.

“The staff at the center speaks 16 different languages,” said Roller, “which shows just how diverse the population is in Hawaii.”

Because of her experiences, she learned that communication is the key to working with people, especially when it comes to different cultures. The trip also sparked an interest in farm to table and examining policies to change how services are offered to those who need it most.

Back home, Roller is studying for the registered dietitian’s exam and working on a business plan for local gyms that would include adding a staff dietitian to provide nutrition information to their clientele.
Through an MSU study abroad program and the College of EHHD’s international travel scholarship, Lauren Hausauer had the opportunity to travel outside of the United States for the first time in her life. The elementary education major from Bozeman, Mont., spent six weeks immersing herself in the culture of Nicaragua by studying Spanish and teaching at a youth center for children ages six to thirteen. Las Tías Youth Center was started by six women as a program for homeless children, but now serves the underprivileged population in León, Nicaragua.

“It’s a safe place for children to go,” said Hausauer. “Children receive lunch, can study, and are taught health and life skills.”

During her stay in León, Hausauer helped in the center’s kitchen, provided office assistance, and had the opportunity to work with a small group of children teaching them English. In addition, she attended a Spanish class for two hours each day where she received one-on-one conversational practice with a professor, who was a war veteran of the Nicaraguan Revolution. Hausauer said a lot of their conversations were about history, educational theory in the United States, and how we manage our students.

Hausauer, who is also earning a minor in Spanish teaching, had other opportunities to practice her Spanish while she lived in the home of a woman and her daughter. The mother is an apartment manager for Nicaraguan students and also sells homemade juices.

On weekends, Hausauer explored the country—hiking to the top of a volcano to see hot lava, sledding on volcano ash (volcano boarding), visiting a coffee plantation, and going to the beach.

She was also impressed with the large murals painted on buildings of United States’ leaders like Martin Luther King and President Obama. There were also murals of the revolution, when the country was fighting against the United States.

Seeing the world from a different view allowed Hausauer to understand how far-away world events affect countries like Nicaragua.

“I went to Nicaragua thinking I was going to change the world, but the experience changed me more,” Hausauer said.

She said she would not have been able to study internationally without the College of Education, Health and Human Development International Travel Experience Scholarship, a new scholarship established by Interim Dean Alison Harmon with funds from the many alumni and donors who contribute to the college’s scholarship fund each year.
A Summer Camp for Children’s Literacy

For three weeks during the summer, children ages six to eleven threw water balloons at chalk words on the sidewalk, went on a scavenger hunt for words on signs, and read to dogs, all while learning important reading skills as they attended Literacy Camp on the campus of MSU. Education students from Kathryn Will-Dubyak and Donna Bulatowicz’s literacy class first assessed the needs of each student and then created hands-on, innovative lessons to help children improve their reading skills. The 18 children attended camp for two-and-a-half hours a day, for four days a week, working one-on-one and in small groups. At the end of the three weeks, MSU students held parent-teacher conferences to update parents on their children’s progress.

In addition to improving the children’s reading skills, the nine MSU students gained valuable clinical experience in working with children and also with communicating to parents.

“I hadn't really had the opportunity to work with parents yet in my education,” said Brittany Mitchell, a senior in elementary education from North Dakota, “so it was a nice experience.”

Mitchell said parents were eager to learn not only how their child had improved, but also what they could do at home to help their child continue to grow.

Rebecca Dunning, an MSU alumna in early childhood education, said her eight-year-old son had fun every day. She felt the camp was very beneficial in getting back into reading before school started.

“Max showed great improvement over the three weeks,” said Dunning.

Will-Dubyak said one child was unable to retell a story when she first arrived at camp.

“Her tutor, Hannah Frichtl, worked with her throughout the three weeks to develop her understanding of story structure and the key elements which make up a story, among other strategies,” said Will-Dubyak. “By the end of the three weeks, she was able to retell a story and even (dictated) her own version of a story which she published and shared with other campers.”

On the last day, while parent-teacher conferences were conducted, the children played a variety of games, like bean bag toss and musical chairs with words, and also had the opportunity to read to three therapy dogs from Intermountain Therapy Dogs.

Revitalizing Endangered Indigenous Languages

The Department of Education’s Center for Bilingual and Multicultural Education hosted a professional development workshop in July to work with Class 7 teachers in Montana, who are involved in the revitalization of Indigenous languages of the state’s tribes.

To read a full story by MSU reporter, Anne Cantrell, visit MSU center hosts conference to support efforts to revitalize endangered Indigenous languages.
On any weekday year round, 35 (on average) preschoolers are busy learning and playing in the Child Development Center (CDC) on the first floor of Herrick Hall, just as children have been doing since Professor Gladys Branegan introduced the “lab school” concept in 1927. While at times the child development center has been housed in other locations like the Home Management House on Cleveland Street and old army barracks on campus, the current center has been operating in Herrick since 1976.

Today the CDC is recognized as only one of 10 programs in Montana that are nationally accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Miranda Wheeler, the director of the center since March of 2014, spent a year-and-a-half documenting and assessing to ensure the program met the 10 rigorous standards.

“In preparation for NAEYC accreditation, the CDC introduced a comprehensive, research-based curriculum called ‘Creative Curriculum’ that aligns with NAEYC curriculum standards, as well as the CDC’s play-based approach to learning,” said Wheeler. “We have been successfully using this curriculum since August 2014.”

She and her staff have also successfully implemented a screening process for children—the Ages and Stages Questionnaire—that assesses their social and emotional development for their age.

In addition to national accreditation, the program is currently participating in the state of Montana’s Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) STARS to Quality program, where they are required to maintain certain levels of quality and professional development for early childhood education. The CDC is so well recognized that there is a waiting list of two years.

“People put their children on the waiting list as soon as they’re born,” Wheeler said. “We’ve even had parents request applications before their child is born!”

The CDC not only provides a quality educational experience for preschoolers, but it also provides hands-on lab experience for students in early childhood education, elementary education, family and consumer sciences, and nutrition programs. Montana Dietetic Interns even toured the center in August and had lunch with the children.

“During the school year, we also have some nursing students and students from exceptional learners’ classes,” said Wheeler. “We even had students from the Technology Education Club work with the children, integrating technology into their lessons.”

Besides Wheeler, the CDC employes two lead teachers and one assistant teacher. Jean Hannula, a lead teacher with 20 years’ experience at the CDC, has made a big impact on the Bozeman early childhood community, according to Wheeler. Kelly Bard, a graduate of HHD’s Early Childhood Education & Child Services program, began as the other lead teacher in May 2016. Between eight to twelve student workers serve as teacher aides, who help in planning lessons and interacting with children.

Twenty-one technology education teachers from Montana were on campus in June for a workshop, including three very recent graduates now teaching in Kalispell and Gardiner.
The second annual School Library Advocacy-Montana (SLAM) workshop, coordinated by Dr. Ann Ewbank, was held on April 30. Eighteen school librarians from all over Montana participated in this workshop which provided strategies for advocacy for effective library programs in K-12 schools.

Aubree Roth, Farm to School Coordinator for Montana Team Nutrition, presented information on Montana Harvest of the Month Program at the Montana After School Alliance Conference at MSU in Bozeman in August 2016.

Faculty, staff and graduate students from MSU (Dr. Tricia Seifert, Christy Oliveri, Anna Zelaya, Marianne Brough, Chelsey Wilson, and Ashley Beck) and Canada hiked about 150 miles of the Camino pilgrimage in Northern Spain in May, while reflecting upon purpose and meaning in their lives and their work as higher education professionals.

Assistant Field Placement Director Gini Mohr and grad student Danette Long presented at the Association of Teacher Educators conference in Louisville, Kentucky, where they also checked out Churchill Downs.

Katie Bark and Molly Stenberg, from HHD’s Montana Team Nutrition, presented “Creating Smarter School Lunchrooms” at the Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior Conference in August.

Assistant professor in community health, Vanessa Simonds, held a Guardians of Living Water summer camp at Crow Agency, Mont. The camp was an environmental health literacy project funded through the Center for American Indian and Rural Health Equity. Above, Crow fifth graders are collecting insects to determine water quality of the Little Big Horn River.

What
We
Did
This
Summer
Craig Stewart, professor of health enhancement, presented at two conferences in June. He presented “Flipping entry–level coach education classes: Meeting the characteristics of tomorrow’s millennial coaches via today’s student/athlete input” at the International Association for Physical Education in Higher Education Conference at the University of Wyoming, and “Mental Toughness and the Millennial Athlete: Are they compatible?” at the National Coaching Conference at the University of Washington in Seattle.

As part of the Piikani Digital Storywork project, Christine Stanton, associate professor of education, and Lucia Ricciardelli, assistant professor in MSU’s School of Film & Photography, hosted two documentary filmmaking workshops for Blackfeet Community College and Blackfeet Academy (high school) students, faculty, and staff this summer. Related to these workshops, they co-authored, along with Piikani storywork project leaders and participants, a chapter, an article, two chapter proposals, and multiple conference proposals.

Graduate students and faculty in the educational leadership program and administrators from rural Montana schools were guests at a reception of the Montana Rural Education Association’s (MREA) annual conference in Bozeman in June.

Tena Versland, program coordinator and assistant professor in educational leadership, said MSU and MREA have been working together for many years to recruit and train students from rural places to take jobs in their own communities or similar small Montana towns. MSU often has rural superintendents as guest speakers in their education classes to help keep the connection between the university and schools.

“We really hope this partnership can help MSU take the lead on alternative ways to deliver our programs to folks in rural places, so that we can better tackle the problem of teacher recruitment and retention together,” said Versland.

Former deputy superintendent in Montana’s Office of Public Instruction for seven years, Dennis Parman has assumed the duties as executive director of MREA and said he welcomed the opportunity to work for educational issues such as school funding and examining Montana’s laws on district expansion. Parman replaces Dave Puyear, who retired after 18 years with the association to work part time as the director for the Montana Cooperative Service, a purchasing program under the umbrella of MREA.

HHD adjunct instructor, Nicole Wanag, reported that in collaboration with Montana Office of Public Instruction FCS Specialist, Megan Vincent, the Montana State University family and consumer sciences program hosted the annual Montana Family and Consumer Sciences middle and high school teachers conference August 2-4. The conference focused on early childhood education, farm to school, and Montana manufacturing careers with tours of West Paw Designs, Simms fishing products, and Olivelle.

HHD adjunct instructor, Carol Staben Burroughs attended the American Mental Health Counselors Conference in New Orleans in July.

Welcome to the 2016-17 cohort of Montana Dietetic students, who began their internship in August.