



# College News Update



**College of Education, Health and Human Development**  
www.montana.edu/ehhd

April/May 2014

## MSU Receives Prestigious Carnegie Project Distinction

Montana State University was one of 80 universities worldwide invited to join the Carnegie Project on the Educational Doctorate Consortium (CPED), a global initiative developing an “innovative knowledge forum of rigorous, applied research relative to impact fully improving P-20 educational opportunities.” William Ruff, associate professor in educational leadership, submitted the application with Associate Professors Art Bangert and Carrie Myers and was notified of the membership in March. The invitation letter stated the Department of Education programs would have an opportunity to share their work, as well as being open to learning and changing to improve MSU’s EdD program.

In June, Ruff and Bangert will attend the CPED Convening in Denver, where members will learn together to “reimagine the EdD as a professional education doctorate of choice, designed to impact the improvement of teaching and learning in P-20 school contexts.”

## Education Professor Wins National Award



*Education professor Jioanna Carjuzaa received one of the nation’s top awards for her work in multicultural education—the G. Pritchey Smith Multicultural Educator of the Year Award given by the National Association for Multicultural Education. Carjuzaa has been instrumental in implementing Indian Education for All in Montana.*

## Juneau Addresses Education Community

With over 100 people in attendance, Superintendent of Montana Public Instruction, Denise Juneau, was the keynote speaker at a Year of Engaged Leader lecture in March. The event began with a community reception followed by Juneau’s presentation on education in Montana schools. Juneau said she was “honored to be back at the school that gave me so much.”

Her speech highlighted the three state-wide initiatives she has implemented during her tenure as superintendent—Indian Education for All; Graduation Matters Montana; and Schools of Promise. Even though Indian education was written into the 1972 state constitution, it has taken “too many years to get to where we are today, and we still have work to do,” stated Juneau. Under her leadership, the dropout rate has also decreased. Smaller schools have formed community groups to find ways to build healthy, positive school relationships and increase graduation rates. With support from private partnerships, now every junior in the state takes the ACT test for free, which has helped more students attend college.

“There is empowerment through education,” said Juneau.

**Denise Juneau (center) with education students**



**HHD professors Sandy Osborne and Holly Hunts with Superintendent Juneau**

## Spotlight on Research



Bozeman native, Vanessa Simonds joined the Department of Health and Human Development as an assistant professor in community health in January. Simonds brings an extensive background in research to the department with a bachelor's from MSU in biomedical science, a master's in epidemiology and a doctorate in society, human development and health, both from Harvard University. Her post doctorate work at the University of New Mexico was funded by a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation fellowship and examined community-based participatory research projects across the nation, looking at barriers and facilitators to effective community-university partnerships. She then spent two years as an assistant professor in the Department of Community and Behavioral Health at the University of Iowa before moving back to Bozeman.

"I wanted to work with and establish partnerships with tribes in Montana," said Simonds about reasons for returning to her home state.

Last year, Montana INBRE (IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence) decided to expand its research into the field of health disparities and searched for two new assistant professorships for rural and family health. Simonds was hired along with Monica Skewes in psychology. Simonds is housed in HHD as a tenure track faculty member.

Funded through an NIH grant at the University of Washington, she and two MSU graduate students are looking the health literacy demands of the informed consent process for research projects. They are examining the consent forms used in research projects and determining reading grade-levels, jargon used, the amount of white space, and the appropriateness of illustrations.

"Native Americans are not well represented in clinical trials, particularly phase III clinical trials that provide the most benefit," said Simonds. "Part of this is because of the lack of trust in research, which may be impacted by people's understanding of the research process, benefits and risks. Making sure that people understand the purpose and process of research may increase trust and willingness to participate in research."

She is also examining the Institutional Review Board Policies regarding informed consent to determine whether the policies provide guidance for addressing the health literacy of potential participants. Additionally, she is interested in community based participatory research and will examine IRB policies for their attention to community oversight and community-level informed consent. Finally, she will be conducting focus groups with research participants and asking them for their preferences regarding the informed consent process.

This spring, EHHD's research team of Suzanne Christopher and Elizabeth Bird held three panel discussions on topics relating to grant work. Calling upon faculty who have been successful in obtaining grants over the years, the first panel discussed "Proposal Development," and featured Associate Professor Bill Ruff, Assistant Professor Christine Stanton (both in education) and Associate Professor Adina Smith (counseling). Moderator Associate Dean for Research Christopher posed questions about how the panelists chose to undertake grant-writing, the challenges they encountered and strategies they found helpful, and how they bounced back from the almost inevitable first-time rejection.

The second grant dialogue, "Yikes! I Got a Grant" featured Associate Professor Beth Rink (community health), Early Childhood Project Director Libby Hancock, Assistant Professor Carmen Byker (food and nutrition), and Professor Elisabeth Swanson (science education) with Project Development Specialist Bird asking what they had learned about how to manage relationships with outside partners and how grant opportunities are related to their careers. Each panelist offered tips from how to hire the right people to how to deal with teaching, research and service all at the same time.

The third panel addressed "Now I'm an Accountant?" with moderator Bird, EHHD grant specialist, asking a series of questions dealing with the "whys" and "hows" of effective budget management. The featured panelists were Carmen Fike, Office of Sponsored Programs business officer detailed to support EHHD grants; Professor Mary Miles (health and human performance); Catherine Johnson, education graduate student and project coordinator for I LEAD; Katie Bark, project director for Montana Team Nutrition; and Lynn Marlow, accounting associate for EHHD. They shared their strategies for effectively managing grant funding, sub awards, and budget reallocations.

Submitted by  
Elizabeth Bird



Panelists Elizabeth Bird, Beth Rink, Libby Hancock, Carmen Byker, and Elisabeth Swanson

## Brody Concludes 2013-2014 Outstanding Lecture Series



Brody presents Elisabeth Swanson with a prize for audience participation

The final Outstanding Faculty Lecture of the year was presented by Michael Brody, associate professor in science education, who was named the Outstanding Faculty for Research in the Department of Education for 2013. Brody shared his research path from his early years to recent projects, discussing the many influences on his successful research career. Originally from the Bronx, New York, Brody says where he came from has been one of the influences on his research. Early in his career, he taught science for grades K-12, was involved with Project WET, and the Acadia Institute of Oceanography. His research focuses on positioning; kids and science; teaching and learning; understanding; building community; benchmarking; and horizons.

His research methods utilize the “knowledge V”—starting with what we know (conceptual thinking) then looking at what we are doing (methodology). Through this process, he has established relationships (communities) with Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University in Thailand, the American Educational Research Association (AERA), North American Association for Environmental Education (NANNEE) Research Symposium, and most recently with Russia and the Yellowstone-Altai Project.

With his recent project, he and his MSU colleagues—Christine Stanton, Art Bangert, Shane Doyle, and Cliff Montagne—are exploring the ethno-cultural pedagogical content and research methodologies of Indigenous peoples.

“What is the place of values in science education in other cultures?” asked Brody. “We learn everyday about science in every culture.”

## Education Professor Shares Her Story of Recovery from a Stroke

*“The nouns were the first thing that came back to me,” said Elisabeth Swanson, professor of education, speaking to an audience of 14 biomedical science students of Professor John Miller.*

*Swanson was invited to share her experiences of recovering from a stroke she suffered in 2011. The stroke occurred on the left side of her brain and left her without speech for many months. She spent five months in Chicago with a group of 30 other stroke patients working six hours a day for five days a week relearning how to speak.*

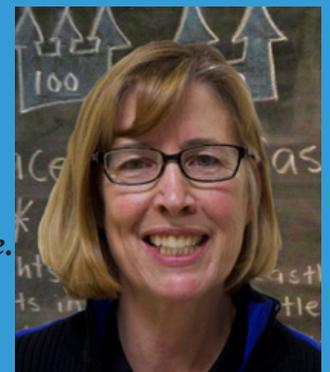
*“I understood the rhythm, pacing, emotion and syntax of language, but production was the problem,” said Swanson. “I knew the meaning and recognized words, but couldn’t produce them.”*

*She began with learning single words using games and learning materials, then progressed to multi-syllable words. She had a thirst for learning and asked questions all the time.*

*While Swanson is back at work, she has had to use new tools to assist with tasks. She uses a dictation program on the computer to write and also has to practice many times if she needs to read something aloud.*

*One thing she did discover. “The essential qualities of a professor or even a human being are still there.”*

*It is going to take more time to be comfortable teaching in front of people and she now knows it is “OK to not be perfect.”*



## MSU Freshmen Benefit from Phi U Service Project

**F**or their annual service project, MSU's Phi Upsilon Omicron (Phi U) created and published a booklet to serve as a guide for students who are transitioning from on campus living to living independently in the community. With support from the several campus organizations—College of EHHD, Department of HHD, Office of Activities and Engagement, Health Promotion, and MSU Communications—members of Phi U printed more than 1600 booklets and distributed them to freshmen living on campus. “College Life 201: Life after the Residence Halls” covers a variety of topics that students may encounter living off campus: social, economic, intellectual, physical, and emotional. It even offers tips on basic laundry rules.

“Phi U decided to create a booklet for freshman moving out of Residence Life because many of us wished we would have had a guide to living on our own for the first time,” said graduating senior Stephanie Johnson, a double major in food and nutrition and cell biology and neuroscience, and the booklet's designer.

To complete the project, each member of Phi U worked on committees from fundraising to providing content. Johnson also thanked Associate Professor Deborah Haynes for her professional guidance which led to the success of the project. In fact, the booklet was so successful that Residence Life hopes to make it an annual publication.

Phi U is an honor society in the integrated field of family and consumer sciences (FCS) and is advised by Deborah Haynes and Sandy Osborne, associate professors in FCS.

## Education Students Use Technology in Rural School

Using technology such as PCs, iPads, MacBooks, and Smart Boards, education Technology Club students from “Integrating Technology into the Classroom” traveled to Pine Creek School in the Paradise Valley south of Livingston, Mont., to work with students in grades five through eight this spring. After School Initiative director, Joe Hicks, worked with principal and MSU curriculum and instruction doctoral student, Michelle McCarthy along with course professor-Nick Lux, to design a pilot program similar to Gallatin Valley's After School Partnership. MSU students are required to meet standards in certain teachable subject areas and not just use technology for the purpose of engagement, noted McCarthy. Therefore, Hicks invited pre-service teachers interested in a rural setting to participate in the pilot project and had to cap participation at seven students after an overwhelming response.

“I liked the small school environment and am interested in one room schools,” said Trina Heide, a sophomore from Bozeman.

Heide worked with fifth grade students on using screen cast to create a slide show presentation with voice over on a biology unit. She worked with students for two hours a day on three different occasions.

McCarthy said the successful program worked well for her students in a multi-level classroom, who learned core subject areas while using technology to research, present, and assess their work.

Tory Vandersnick, a junior from Gardiner, Mont., also participated in the Technology Club experience. Vandersnick worked with six students on a spoken poetry lesson. Students searched the internet for poems and used Tagxedo to create a shape poem. After writing their own poem, they made a video with voice over of the poem.

“I thought this would be a cool experience to work in a small school,” said Vandersnick, whose brother lives in Paradise Valley.

Hicks said he saw the pilot program at Pine Creek as “a good way to integrate 21st Century technology and digital citizenship in a rural school setting.”

McCarthy also agreed.

“My elementary students were thoroughly engaged,” said McCarthy. “I feel that all stake-holders in the project benefited from the program.”



## News Briefs



This spring, eight technology education students traveled to Orlando, Fla., to attend the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association's (ITEEA) national conference. While attending the conference, the students participated in the Technology and Engineering Educators Collegiate Association (TEECA) competitions, which they had been preparing for since January.

Continuing their winning tradition, MSU placed in several categories—fourth place in transportation with an underwater robot; second place in communications; and second place in skills robotics, beating Utah State University's \$15,000 robot (MSU's cost \$1500). Adjunct professor and advisor, Lidia Haughey accompanied the students and noted that judges and other (TEECA) advisors were extremely impressed with the creativity and professionalism of MSU's students.

Students attending were Jen Marshall, Ben Butts, Mike Robbins, Mitchel Sedlmayr, Joel Snipes, Margaret Forslund, Richard Peters, and Connor Stark.



McNair Scholar and education student, Michael Fast Buffalo was one of only 60 students from across the country invited to participate in "Posters on the Hill" in Washington, D.C., in April. Nominated by his mentor Associate Professor Jioanna Carjuzaa, Michael's poster showcased his research on endangered Native languages and why preserving them is so vital. For the full article, go to <http://www.montana.edu/news/12571/msu-senior-to-present-research-april-29-in-washington-d-c>



Elizabeth Bird, EHHD's grant specialist, and Debra Redburn, EHHD Communication Specialist, were two of the honored nominees at MSU's annual Employee Recognition Awards for 2014.



Health Enhancement K-12 education students joined Dean Lynda Ransdell for dinner when they attended the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) convention in early April in St. Louis. Two MSU students were recognized as "Majors of the Year for 2014"—Dana Labuda and Rebecca Wolf. AAHPERD has since been renamed SHAPE America.