



# College News Update



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

June 2015

## DEAN RANDELL ACCEPTS POSITION AT ASU

Lynda Ransdell, dean of the College of EHHD for the past two-and-one-half years, has accepted a position beginning in July with her alma mater, Arizona State University. She will become the associate dean of faculty development in the College of Health Solutions, which has over 7,000 majors.

During Ransdell's tenure at MSU, she instituted many new programs and innovative ideas. She held a college research boot camp for the last two summers, bringing in successful experts from other universities to help EHHD faculty plan, write, and submit grants, resulting in increased grant activity. She awarded \$28,824 in seed grants this past year to faculty and awarded \$19,200 in travel scholarships to students so they could present their research at state and national conferences.

She hosted a golf clinic for the last two summers to raise funds for the Betsy Palmer Graduate Scholarship, which was fully endowed at \$25,000 this spring. In February of 2013, she partnered with the College of Nursing to hold a Women's Health Symposium. In addition, she worked tirelessly with MSU administration to secure more faculty lines and staff positions to help support growing enrollment in the college. The college was also approved for its first Ph.D. program by the Board of Regents in the Department of Education this spring.

The college will greatly miss Dr. Ransdell and we wish her tremendous success in her new position.

Alison Harmon, associate professor in the MSU Department of Health and Human Development, has been named interim dean of the college effective June 5, 2015.



Above: Byron McKinney with President Cruzado  
Right: Sara Browne, Melissa Hill, and Tracy Krushensky

## EHHD EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED AT MSU RECEPTION



Several staff members from the college were recognized at MSU's 26th annual Employee of the Year Awards held in the newly renovated SUB Ballrooms. Nominated in the individual category from EHHD was Byron McKinney, advisor with the Lewis and Clark Troops to Teachers program. New this year was a team award that recognized a team that best exemplifies service excellence on a daily basis. EHHD's Testing Services (Wendy Rivers, Denise Hoepfner, Rick Jackson, Sara Lowder, and Carey Rogers) and Health and Human Development's Advising Team (photo left) were nominated in this new category.

# **EHHD Outstanding Awards For 2014-2015**

## **Department of Education:**

Sweeney Windchief, Outstanding Teaching Award  
Joe Hicks, Outstanding Service Award  
Christine Stanton, Outstanding Research Award

## **Department of Health and Human Development:**

Cristen Wathen, Outstanding Teaching Award  
Holly Hunts, Outstanding Service Award  
Jae Parks, Outstanding Research Award

## **EHHD Staff:**

Lynn Marlow, Outstanding Employee EHHD  
Elizabeth Hancock, Outstanding Professional Staff  
Maggie Secrest, Outstanding Classified Staff, Education  
Sara Browne, Outstanding Classified Staff, HHD

## **Graduating Seniors:**

Margaret Forslund, technology education  
Courtney Zundel, elementary education  
Matthew Wenger, secondary education  
Justin Stilson, health and human performance  
Madison Brown, family and consumer sciences  
Alexa Silva, early childhood education/child services  
Tracy Echert, health enhancement K-12  
Jessica Hunter, community health  
Megan Kuntz, food and nutrition  
Cassady Daley, sustainable food systems  
Jake Bleskin, Barbara Miller Award, health enhancement K-12 student teaching

## **Outstanding Graduate Students:**

Betsy Webb, adult and higher education  
Alvera Cook, educational leadership  
Todd Kesner, curriculum and instruction  
Melissa Frost, counseling  
Becky Quigley, exercise and nutrition sciences  
Sloane Real Bird, family and community health  
Kate Bates, sustainable food systems  
Paul Stouffer, family financial planning

**Congratulations to  
the 2015 recipients  
of Outstanding  
Faculty, Staff,  
Graduating  
Seniors and  
Graduate Student  
awards in the  
College of EHHD.  
Over 120 people  
enjoyed "Sweet  
Endings and New  
Beginnings" at  
the Holiday Inn in  
Bozeman on May 8.**



## EHHD FACULTY SHARE RESEARCH ON NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES



Windchief shares information on Indigenous Mentoring

With standing room only in a classroom in the Animal Biosciences Building, faculty from departments across campus presented their latest grant research collaborating with American Indian communities in Montana. Assistant professor in adult and higher education, Sweeney Windchief, and associate dean and professor in community health and a cohost of the event, Suzanne Christopher, represented the College of EHHD.

Rene Reijo Pera, vice president for research and economic development at MSU, kicked off the session by telling the audience that funded grants were up by 26% this year.

Windchief's topic was titled "My Academic Family: Developing an Indigenous Mentorship Model for American Indian Students in STEM." Based on a kinship model of the Assiniboine, his goal is to create a mentoring program for graduate students with many academic mentors. From his own experience, Windchief has many in his academic family who have mentored him like a grandfather, a sister, or an aunt or uncle.

"Academic chairs are like a mom or dad," said Windchief.

Christopher, along with Alma Knows His Gun McCormick from the Crow reservation, shared information on a project they conducted called "Listen to My Story: Data Analysis of Story Data in Health Research." They interviewed people with chronic illnesses and listened to their stories. From analyzing data, they found commonalities. However, they found that it was also important to "keep the story whole to keep the essence of the story teller." From listening to the stories, Christopher and McCormick want to further define and test the process.

## LENTIL RUSH: CELEBRATING MONTANA'S GEMS

*Lentils have been around the Northwest since the 1940s, according to presenters at the Lentil Rush event. As well as strengthening Montana's agricultural economy, lentils have been in the spotlight more recently because of their healthy nutritional aspects and considered a powerhouse food. Michael Fox, an MSU Montana Dietetic Internship graduate, shared information on lentils from a nutritional perspective—they have a low glycemic index, are high in fiber, a great anti-oxidant, and contain no fat or sodium. Lentils can also be used as a substitute for allergenic ingredients such as wheat and nuts. Fox offered tips on how lentils can be added to mashed potatoes, smoothies, salads, soups, and pureed in baked goods. In addition to Fox, other panelists were Perry Miller, MSU agricultural scientist, Liz Carlisle, author of "Lentil Underground" and a native Montanan, and David Oien, CEO of Timeless Seeds.*

*Attendees sampled lentil dishes after the presentations that were prepared by University Catering, chef Claudia Krevat of Claudia's Mesa, and University Food Services' Montana Made Program.*

*For more information, read MSU's recent publication [Lentils: Gems in the Treasure State](#).*

## SPRING POSTER AND RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS



Adam Jurick and Ruth Jennings at the counseling poster presentation

### BEST PRACTICES COUNSELING POSTER SESSION

The HHD counseling program hosted a “Best Practices” poster presentation focusing on promoting mental health in families. Ten students created displays with information on topics ranging from using nature to treat depression and eating disorders to using play for survivors of trauma or post-traumatic stress disorder.

### CHI SIGMA IOTA HOLDS PECHA KUCHA

MSU’s Mu Tau Sigma Chapter of the counseling honor society Chi Sigma Iota and MSU’s Active Minds chapter, an organization through Counseling and Psychological Services, presented the second annual Mental Health Awareness PechaKucha in April during Counseling Awareness Month. Nic Cuyle and Mel Frost, Chi Sigma co-presidents, lead the organization of the event. The students organized community guest speakers focusing on the theme: “Bridging the Gap: Stories of Stigma and Strength” and discussed a variety of topics from women and alcohol to transgender stigma. The event was held in honor of Kari Friedman, an MSU school counseling graduate student who passed away last spring. The Friedman family provided a donation to the event, in addition to a sponsorship from PechaKucha Bozeman.



Chi Sigma students at PechaKucha



Marsha Small, educational leadership student, stands ready to discuss her research

### EDUCATION RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Over 40 graduate students from the Department of Education presented their research at the fourth annual Education Research Symposium at the end of April in the SUB. Master and doctoral students represented all three programs—educational leadership, curriculum and instruction, and adult and higher education.

## EHHD SECURES NUMEROUS GRANTS THROUGH OCHE

In 2014 and 2015, the College of EHHD received funding from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) to work in school districts all across Montana, from Bozeman to far eastern Montana, many whom face challenging conditions. Bringing in a total of over \$341,000, ten education faculty are conducting research and working directly with schools on topics ranging from creating a culture of data literacy, improving teacher quality, and exploring math with analogous tasks. Each grant is funded for one year; however, applicants can re-apply for an on-going project.

“One of the salient features of the grants is that OCHE requires that arts and science be involved in the education,” said Elizabeth Bird, EHHD’s grant specialist, who helped with budgets, editing, and submission of the grants.

Tena Versland, assistant professor of educational leadership said that “the teacher professional development that is realized from our work is powerful and really works to fulfill our land grant mission status.”

Having a huge bearing on education in the state, the grants will impact hundreds of teachers in Montana, as well as thousands of children.

### **Faculty receiving grants and titles of grants are:**

**Jioanna Carjuzaa, David Henderson, and Bill Ruff**

*Class 7 Professional Development Institute*

**Jioanna Carjuzaa**

*Indian Education for All Professional Development*

**Fenjien Luo**

*Exploring Mathematics with Analogous Tasks; and Exploring Math with Manipulatives (EM<sup>2</sup>)*

**Nick Lux**

*Hyalite Partnership Evaluation and Summer Camp Planning Retreat*

**Nick Lux, Gilbert Kalonde, Jayne Downey and Christine Lux**

*Scaling up the Bozeman Side by Side Learning Mode*

**Tena Versland and Sarah Schmitt-Wilson**

*Creating a Culture of Data Literacy in Eastern Montana Rural Schools*

## HHD'S DISCOVERY COMMITTEE PRESENTS GRAD RESEARCH

The Department of Health and Human Development's annual student research presentations were held in early May, with seven students sharing their topics PechaKucha style. Research focused on strategies to control portion size in the food environment, the effects of diet and exercise on metabolic flexibility, influences of inflammation on the metabolic benefits of diet and exercise, and the perception of historic and current loss and its impact on chronic illness. Presenters were Lacy Stephens, John Hallett, Sloane Real Bird, Jay Porter, Andrea Steward, Alyssa Asay and Kate Bates.



## MONTANA ONE OF FIVE STATES TO RECEIVE PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT



Montana is one of five states that has been awarded a U.S. Department of Education Preschool Development Grant that will be used to build or enhance a “preschool program infrastructure to expand high quality preschool programs in targeted communities with low and moderate income families,” said Libby Hancock, director of the Early Childhood Project (ECP), housed in MSU’s Department of Health and Human Development. The \$40 million grant is a collaborative effort, jointly implemented by the Governor’s Office, the Office of Public Instruction (OPI), and the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) for the next four years.

Hancock said that the Early Childhood Project, collaborating with DPHHS, will provide financial assistance (scholarships) in early childhood education at Montana colleges and universities, including MSU-Bozeman.

The grant will support teachers in identified targeted programs and communities, seeking the new Early Childhood Education: P-3 endorsement, which the state recently approved and goes into effect July 1, 2015. Previously, the endorsement had not been available in Montana. Criteria for application and the process for applying for financial assistance is being developed and will be available soon.

“This is a big move forward for the state,” said Hancock, who along with Christine Lux, assistant professor in MSU’s early childhood education/child services program, helped write standards for the new ECE: P-3 endorsement and the program standards for preschools in the public schools.

Hancock and Lux served on a five person team, which was significant in that MSU had two highly respected individuals in the early childhood community on the team.

The grant will support 6000 four-year-olds in 16 communities and allows those children from low to moderate income families to enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and in life.

Since 1985, the Early Childhood Project has been providing state-wide professional development opportunities across the spectrum for 4,500-6,000 professionals who work in early childhood programs. ECP provides certification and manages a comprehensive training system for Montana early childhood practitioners.

## AWARD GIVEN TO AN HHD ONLINE PROGRAM

At the annual Great Plains IDEA conference this spring, the MSU program for family financial planning received the “Focus and Grow” Award, which is given to a program with significant enrollment increase.

Since 2001, MSU has been one of 20 public university members for Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (Great Plains IDEA) and provides online courses for the family financial planning program. Students from across the country can receive a master’s degree from MSU through the alliance.

HHD Department Head, Deborah Haynes, said much of the credit for the award goes to MSU’s coordinator/advisor, Janine Hansen in Extended University, and to instructor M.J. Kabaci, who teaches courses online from Atlanta, Ga.

“This program offers the opportunity for place-bound students to achieve a master’s degree and to prepare for other credentials appropriate to working with families to improve financial well-being,” said Haynes. “The field of financial planning and counseling is one of the growth professions in this century, so the future looks bright for individuals who are willing to achieve the credentials to enter the field with a passion to help.”



## TECH ED STUDENTS WIN AT NATIONAL EVENT



Technology education students in the Department of Education continued their award winning streak at the annual International Technology and Engineering Educators Association conference in Milwaukee, Wisc. this spring. In the transportation category, MSU placed first and in the Quiz Bowl, placed third out of 18 teams. For their efforts, students received a check for \$750 and are donating \$150 of that to

Sacajawea Middle School's technology education program. In addition, adjunct professor and technology education club advisor, Lidia Haughey, received the National Advisor of the Year Award.

## HEALTH ENHANCEMENT K-12 STUDENTS ATTEND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Below: Major of the Year, Tracy Echert, participates in a health enhancement activity.



HHD Professors Nancy Colton and Lynn Owens with health enhancement students at the SHAPE convention.

MSU students majoring in health enhancement had the opportunity to “learn the best from the best” when they attended the SHAPE (Society of Health and Physical Educators) conference in Seattle. Students, along

with physical education teachers from across the country and even some recent MSU alumni, chose from over 300 sessions to learn best practices, research and classroom strategies from experts in the profession. Students said one of the highlights of the convention was the exhibit hall, where teachers and students could see all the latest equipment, such as Spike Ball.

Tracy Echert, a senior from Downers Grove, Ill., and president of the Health Enhancement Majors Club, was honored at a special recognition dinner for receiving the “Major of the Year” award. Echert said her award was “a reflection of the program and the incredible professors who teach here.”

Students attending the convention were Echert, Katie Daniels, Jordan Dressen, Kahlee Dalton, Meghan Costle, Tyson Patterson, Tyler Roberts and Cassie Black. MSU professors/advisors Nancy Colton and Lynn Owens also attended the convention.

Upon returning to Bozeman, students shared their experiences and new activities with their peers in the Health Enhancement Majors Club and also at the college's end of semester meeting.



# Commencement Weekend: A Time to Celebrate

*Many celebrations were held in the college to conclude the academic year, from alumni celebrations to the first ever Indigenous ceremony recognizing our Native American students. Below are photos and summaries of the events that capped off the week of graduation at Montana State University.*

The inaugural ceremony to honor the 2015 MSU Indigenous graduates was held at the Museum of the Rockies on May 9 with students from across campus being recognized. The College of EHHD was proud to have the most students being honored with 20 students from the Indian Leadership, Education and Development (I LEAD) program, two undergraduate students from health and human development and one master's student from family and community health.

The program featured guest speakers, honor songs by the Bear Canyon Singers, and presentation of gifts to the graduates. Those students from the I LEAD program received wool shawls.



Ed Leadership Professor David Henderson presents a shawl.



Close to 40 EHHD alumni from the classes of 1935, 1945, 1955, and 1965 attended a reception in Herrick Hall on May 9 to learn about MSU since they were students. After refreshments, members of the classes broke into groups according to their majors and toured facilities to find out the latest developments in programs in both departments.



Education Professor Tricia Seifert visits with students at the education reception at the Museum of the Rockies.



Instructor Melody Anacker (left) with a nutrition student at the HHD Reception at the Holiday Inn.



Best wishes to the class of 2015 as they begin their journey!