Hello! My name is Brian O'Connor and it has been a pleasure to be a part of Professional Council these last few years. I also serve as Director of Procurement Services, where I get to work on a wide variety of projects from the diverse areas that make up our great University.

With the return of the students, campus is abuzz again. There is a lot going on and in this newsletter we are highlighting several noteworthy items, including the Rufus T. Firefly award, Outreach and Engagement Council, and upcoming professional development opportunities. In addition, please be sure to mark your calendar on March 23rd for the annual Professional Council Social (more details below). It is always a great event!

Remember that our meetings are open to all, and we have quite a few interesting guest speakers joining us in the near future. If you see something that interests you, please join us!

Rufus T. Firefly Award for Excellence in

Congratulations go out to Kristin Blackler on winning the Rufus T. Firefly award, presented to her at the MSU Spring Convocation held earlier this month. Kristin is the inaugural Director of the Office of Sustainability which was created in 2013. Since that time Kristin has been a champion for sustainability, helping students, faculty, and staff understand this important issue here at MSU. Specifically through her leadership and her teamwork with students many tangible successes have been achieved. Recycling receptacles that were nowhere to be found in years past are now plentiful and well used, resulting in approximately 430 tons of waste being diverted from the landfill over three years. Alternate transportation options as well as improving MSU’s bike-ability are some of

Outreach and Engagement

At our last Professional Council meeting, Janelle Rasmussen updated us on the ongoing seed grant program. Starting in Fall 2015, MSU’s Outreach and Engagement Council launched the University’s first-ever seed grant program to promote outreach and engagement activities involving faculty, students and staff in collaboration with local and regional partners. Last year’s awardees included The World Language Culture and Exposure Program, Boardroom Bobcats, The Creating Community Partnerships to Preserve Fort Ellis: A 19th Century Military Outpost, and The Fort Peck Buffalo Connections Project: Storypole Prototypes and Implementation. The application due date for the next round of grants will be in early March. For more information on these grants please go here: [http://www.montana.edu/outreachengagementcouncil/celebratingengagement.html](http://www.montana.edu/outreachengagementcouncil/celebratingengagement.html)
Professional Development Opportunities

February 9 – QPR Suicide Prevention Training, 1-3 pm, SUB 233

Presenter: Brian Kassar, Psy.D., MSU Counseling & Psychological Services
Capacity: 50
This training is open to students, staff, and faculty and will discuss basic skills to help recognize someone who might be suicidal, then how to:

Q uestion (ask if they’re suicidal)
P ersuade (help them access resources)
R efer (learn local resources and refer them)

March 9 – Energy and Resource Use at MSU - A 300 Million Year Journey, 1-3 pm, SUB 233

Presenter: Duke Elliott, Resource Conservation Specialist at MSU
Capacity: 50
Join us for an exciting look at energy and resources starting 300 million years ago and up to the present day. See and understand the invisible pathways of energy. You’ll never turn on a light switch again without knowing where the energy came and why it matters. Learn ways you can have a positive impact while saving money and resources at work and at home.

Professional Council Spring Social

Please join us for our annual gathering, which will be held on March 23rd, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm in the Leigh Lounge. Always a fun event, come enjoy food, drinks, and great conversation. Don’t miss this opportunity to meet your professional colleagues from around campus in a relaxed, informal setting. Watch for an email invitation to hit your inbox soon.
Upcoming Professional Council Speakers

February 8 - - Yvonne Rudman, Director of International Partnerships & Grants
Yvonne will be joining us to provide an update on the President’s Commission on the Status of University Women.

February 22 - - Walt Banziger, Director of Campus Planning, Design & Construction
Walt will be joining us to provide an update on the Planning Council.

March 8 - - Matt Caires, Dean of Students
Matt will be joining us to provide an update from the Dean of Student’s Office.

March 29 - - Sara King, Human Resources
Sara will be joining us to provide an update on the staff reclassification process.

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