

Family newsletter

Dear families,

Welcome to Bozeman. College is such an exciting time and MSU has so much to offer. But you will find yourself within a larger Bozeman community too, and we look forward to your visits.

If you love the outdoors this is definitely the place for you. From skiing just minutes away, to hiking, camping, mountain biking, rock climbing and canoeing; it is here for the taking! There are many cultural activities as well. We have our own symphony, opera company, and live theatre performances at the historic Ellen theatre downtown. We also have live comedy with the Equinox theatre. Even our new public library has become a gathering place with its art galleries and coffee/book shop. And if you're into food, we have a great variety of restaurants. From fast food, to ethnic food, to elegant dining out for those special dates, we have it. We have an active lively downtown with many historic structures and 50 miles of walking trails that connect the downtown with many scenic parks and beyond.

I am confident that you will enjoy and become a part of our greater Bozeman community. Please visit our web page for information regarding city ordinances, commission meetings, neighborhood conservation clubs and more. www.bozeman.net

In sincerity,

Kaaren Jacobsen

Mayor



Registration open for Parent/Family Fall Weekend, October 30—November 1, 2009

Make your reservations and plan to visit campus for this fun-filled weekend. Whether you are a Montana native or alum who has spent a great deal of time at MSU, or are new to the university, there is something for you. Enjoy great panels featuring leaders from MSU and the community, enjoy a social with faculty, take in an afternoon of Bobcat football and an evening of volleyball or spend a day shopping in beautiful Bozeman or floating the Madison or Yellowstone rivers. You'll meet other MSU families and have ample opportunity to connect with your students and meet their new friends.



[2009 Weekend Registration](#)

[2009 Schedule of events](#)

[2009 General Information](#)

[2009 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Important dates and deadlines

August 31 Classes begin at 8:00 am

September 4 ****[Last day to add classes using the Web; late fee assessed at 4:30 pm to students who registered after July 31](#)**

September 7 Labor Day—no classes

September 9 [Freshman Convocation](#)

September 11 [School of Film and Photography 50-year Celebration](#)

September 12 [Gold Rush Football Game](#): Bobcats vs. Dixie State

September 14 ****[Last day to DROP classes via Web; last day to add classes \(even with instructor signature\)](#)**

September 18 [College of Business Golf Tournament](#)

September 21 ****[Last day to drop classes without a grade; last day to request health insurance refund; students who have not confirmed attendance \(paid fees or been approved for deferred payment plan\) will be dropped from classes; last day to be refunded for dropped classes](#)**

Sept 22—Nov 20 ****[dropped classes are graded W](#)**

****[Details located in Fall 2009 Registration Handbook](#)****

[Click here for more important dates](#)

Academic spotlight

'The Soloist' selected for MSU 2009 freshmen convocation

March 26, 2009

"The Soloist: A Lost Dream, an Unlikely Friendship and the Redemptive Power of Music," by Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez has been selected as the Montana State University's 2009 Freshmen Convocation book.

Lopez will speak at the MSU Convocation, set for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9, at MSU's Brick Breeden Fieldhouse. The event is free and open to the public.

The book's selection means that it will be required summer reading for MSU's 2,400 incoming freshmen and will be discussed in classes and venues throughout the MSU campus next fall.

Lopez's book is also the Bozeman Public Library's One Book-One Bozeman selection. The university and Bozeman Public Library will sponsor several joint events during Lopez's appearance at MSU and Bozeman including an appearance by Lopez at a community discussion at the library set on the morning of Thursday, Sept. 10.

"The Soloist" is a factual account that traces the development of a four-year friendship between Lopez and homeless musician Nathaniel Ayers, a former Julliard prodigy living on the streets of Los Angeles. Initially, Lopez sees Ayers, whom he meets on a chance encounter, as a source for material for his column. The relationship between the two disparate men develops and becomes the topic of several years of columns. Ultimately, the columns evolved into a book, which is about "friendship, second chances, the power of human connections and the healing power of music and art."

The book, "The Soloist," is the basis for a major motion picture by the same name to be released in April starring Robert Downey, Jr., and Jamie Foxx as Lopez and Ayers.

Lopez is an award-winning journalist who has written for Time, Sports Illustrated, Life, Entertainment Weekly, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The San Jose Mercury News and The Oakland Tribune.

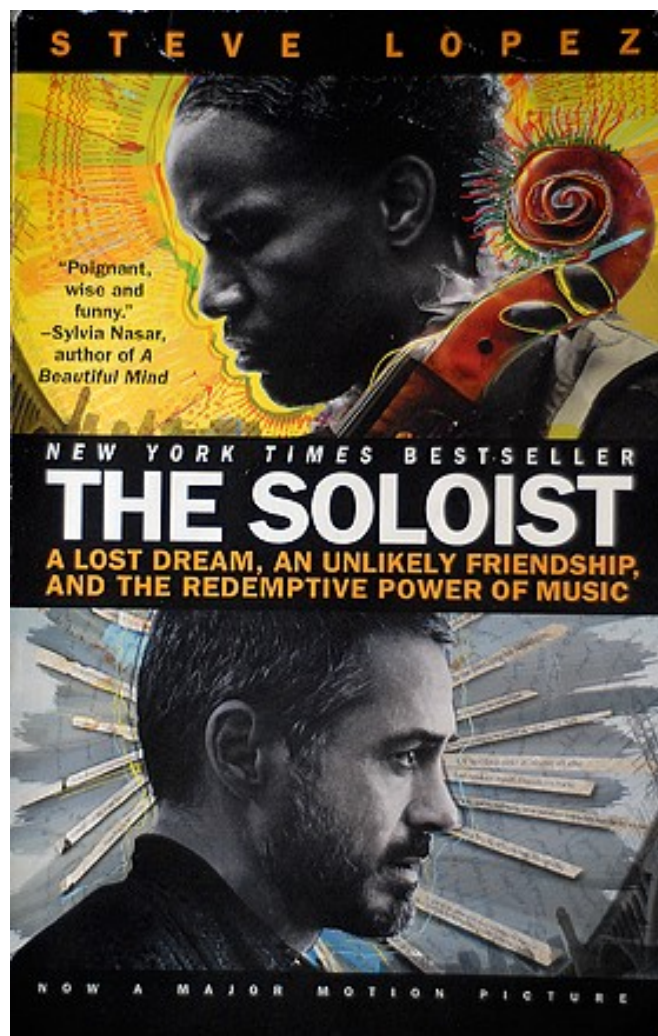
According to Greg Young, MSU vice provost, the book's message about one person having the ability to make a difference makes it an excellent choice for the convocation.

"I think we want our students to think broadly about the possibilities for their futures and what might inspire them to make the world a better place, and this book does that," Young said.

Paula Beswick, director for the Bozeman Public Library Foundation and coordinator of One Book-One Bozeman activities concurred.

"Whether your interest is in mental health care, homelessness, poverty issues, music therapy or any related societal issues, this book can inspire you in new ways and provide for a rich community discussion," she said.

Beswick said the One Book-One Bozeman committee is developing programs, book discussions, film series, music performances, and much more throughout the month of September. Some of the activities are sponsored,



in part, by The Bozeman Daily Chronicle, she said. Details will be posted as soon as they become available on the Website www.onebookonebozeman.org.

The September event will be MSU's third convocation. In 2008 the university hosted Stephen R. Covey and discussed his book, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change."

The first MSU Convocation featured Bozeman resident Greg Mortenson, co-author of the hugely popular "Three Cups of Tea," and the founder of the Central Asia Institute that has built schools in remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The MSU Leadership Institute of ASMSU and the MSU Alumni Association have provided additional sponsorship for the event. For more information, go to <http://www.montana.edu/convocation/>

Greg Young (406) 994-6057, gyoung@montana.edu



Parent Tip: Read 'The Soloist' with your student this summer and discuss with them before they leave. It'll be a great tie into their first college academic work.

Campus Resources

Greetings Bobcat Parents and Families!

I wanted to take this time to welcome you (or welcome you *back*) to Montana State University! I see numerous amazing stories of student success on our campus and I feel extremely fortunate to work with you and your students on a daily basis.



Parents enjoy some camaraderie during the Family Reception at summer orientation.

The Dean of Students Office and the [First Year Initiative \(FYI\) Program](#) are two offices that strive to make the MSU experience enjoyable and enriching. Both programs assist students in navigating the university experience, help them discover collegiate opportunities, and ensure that each student's rights and responsibilities are respected and upheld. The staff in both offices works tirelessly to provide students with appropriate resources and advice.

The Dean of Students Office website may be found at www.montana.edu/wwwds. One important document that the Dean of Students office provides is the [Student Conduct Code](#). All students are instructed to educate themselves with this document. While the office works with conduct issues, we deal with far more occurrences where students are simply seeking help. The Dean of Students provides advocacy and support to all students at MSU.

Our FYI program works closely with the [Parent/Family Association](#) to guarantee that parents have reliable resources during this exciting and possibly confusing period of transition, growth, and education. FYI works with students at all levels through private one-on-one meetings, workshops on a number of topics, and events which allow students to connect with faculty, staff, and other MSU students. We also operate a Parent Family hotline. Students, parents and family members are welcome to call, chat, instant message, email, or make an appointment with myself or any of our staff. Please visit our website for further information regarding our [Resource & Referral Guide](#) and services at www.montana.edu/fyiparents or www.montana.edu/freshmen.

It is clear that this generation of students makes many decisions based on your advice and assistance, believe it or not! With that fact in mind, our offices understand the great importance of working with you in a partnership that fosters student success. We thank you for this opportunity and look forward to working with you from orientation to graduation.

If you have a first year student entering MSU this fall, I have two assignments to help ensure success. For you, view our [College Expectations presentation](#) online and discuss it with your student. Your student will have attended this session at Orientation which helps students understand what last year's first year students struggled with and outlines primary differences between high school and college. Secondly, have your student come in and pick up their [College Student Inventory \(CSI\) results](#). Your student will meet with a trained FYI advisor to talk about their own strengths and concerns coming into college. The FYI advisor will work with your student to create personal recommendations for services and activities on campus which will help your student succeed both in and out of the classroom!

Erika Swanson
Erika.swanson@montana.edu
Assistant Dean of Students
First Year Initiative (FYI) Coordinator

Bike to School!

The ASMSU Sustainability Center encourages students to bring their bikes to school and leave the car at home. Cycling is not only great exercise and recreation, it's an inexpensive and eco-friendly form of everyday transportation. You can forget about parking tickets and expensive permits when you use the many bike racks throughout campus.



In addition, all Streamline busses include racks for carrying bicycles, extending the cyclists range and offering a free alternative in foul weather. For regular maintenance of your ride, visit the ASMSU Bicycle and Ski Workshop at the Outdoor Recreation Center. Use of the shop, tools, and basic supplies is free. You can also drop off your bike for "tech" service at reasonable rates. Visit <http://www.montana.edu/outdoorrecreation/bikeski.php> for more information.

Gallatin Valley Bicycle Club

Welcome to Bozeman from the Gallatin Valley Bicycle Club! Bozeman is a great place to cycle, with many cycling options to choose from. We have miles of mountain biking trails, many that you can access by riding right from town. We have great in town trails that are fun just for riding, or for commuting to shops and restaurants in town. We also have many scenic road cycling routes with little traffic. If you are looking for other cyclists to enjoy these rides with, look into the many events organized by the Gallatin Valley Bicycle Club. GVBC has a variety of events from spring through the fall, starting with the Bike Swap in April. Come buy or sell used mountain, road and commuting bicycles at the Swap.

The Gallatin Valley Bicycle Club is dedicated to providing cycling activities that promote recreation, individual health, education, and advocacy and encourage a more bicycle friendly community in the Gallatin Valley. As well, the Club supports shared-use trails in appropriate and accessible locations. Check out our website [here](#).



Student Health Service: Information on influenza and swine flu

The following is a letter to the campus community from MSU's Student Health Service:

Influenza viruses causing both seasonal and the novel H1N1 (swine) flu are likely already circulating in the community. In light of this, we want to provide this basic background information about influenza so that you can be better prepared. It's important that all members of the community be aware that all information to date indicates that H1N1 influenza is no more serious an illness than seasonal influenza. For the rest of the letter, [click here](#).

Community Spotlight

Question & answer

Hello Jodie:

I am the parent of an incoming freshman at MSU and I am wondering if you could tell me who I need to contact to have information regarding his account sent to me.
Thank you.

A parent

Dear parent,

Welcome to the MSU family! I think there are a couple of things that can be done to keep you informed about happenings at MSU. First, we can add your email to our [Parent list](#) so that you receive the monthly Family Newsletter and any alerts that go out through that means. We can also add your email to the [Bobcat Bulletin](#), a weekly e-newsletter with the latest information about MSU success stories, programs and events. This will give you lots of general information and regular updates on MSU.

[Click here to continue reading...](#)

Hi Jodie,

I'm trying to find a school calendar so I can work on airfares and timing, etc. When are the breaks, dorm closings, weekends of importance, etc.? Could you tell me where to look for this on-line?

Thanks,

A parent

Hi parent,

Most definitely! The calendar is located at <http://www.montana.edu/aircj/facts/calendar.html>. It is a link called CALENDAR OF EVENTS found on the left side of the home page about half way down under the Quick Links box and Bobcat Athletics. The term calendar shows all the academic dates you need to know and the calendar of events includes things like concerts and lectures – as well as Parent/Family Weekend which will be October 30-November 1st.

[Click here to continue reading...](#)

Downtown Bozeman Welcomes You!

Welcome MSU Families! We encourage you to explore the great community of Bozeman, Montana! Make your way to Downtown...take the free bus or an afternoon stroll to breathe in the fresh mountain air and enjoy the hundreds of downtown amenities we have to offer! Whether you are looking for a quick bite to eat at lots of great cafes and restaurants, a trendy new outfit at numerous retail shops and boutiques, sporting goods for all your outdoor adventures or just a place to relax and browse the internet at our eclectic array of coffee shops...Downtown Bozeman is the place to find it all! You can also stop by the Downtown Visitor Center at 224 East Main Street (right next door to MacKenzie River) for information about the entire Yellowstone region, community events and much more! Or check out our website at www.downtownbozeman.org or call 586-4008. Life is Downtown...Downtown Bozeman that is!



Parent Tip: If your student is living off-campus, encourage him/her to meet the neighbors in person as soon as possible. This can be a critical step if problems arise down the road; and is a good idea for anyone who moves into a new area. Plan a barbecue or get-together of some kind and invite them over. We all understand people better if we know a little about them!

Parent/Family Association update

Dear Families!

Welcome to, or back to, Montana State University. My name is Jodie DeLay. I have met many of you at summer orientations or PFA Weekend events. I am very sincere about doing whatever I can to help your student be successful at MSU. The great news is that I'm not alone. There are countless people throughout the campus who will go out of their way to be of assistance. Please contact me with any questions or concerns – or even great ideas you might have for doing things better. We are here to assist you.

One of the best parts of my job is working with the PFA Board. This is a group of highly effective people from all over the country who give a little extra of their time to share their thoughts and experiences as parents of MSU students. They do most of their work via the internet or telephone and don't need to have any experience. We welcome freshman parents—all the way through senior parents and truly value families from Montana and across the nation and even world. In fact, the more diversity on the Board, the more we are able to meet the needs of all families.

We very much need to have some new, energetic families step up to participate on the Board. Please consider joining us. The time commitment is minimal, yet the experience can be very rewarding. Not only do you have the opportunity to work closely with other families going through similar experiences as yours, but you get to forge a close relationship with university administration and ultimately, you have an impact on making Montana State University a better place to study and grow.

Contact me at your convenience if you have any questions, or please sign up [here](#) if you're ready to commit.

With Bobcat spirit,

[Jodie](#)

Published by the MSU Parent/Family Association and distributed electronically every month.

Editor: Jon Esslinger, Parent from Virginia

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please visit: www.montana.edu/pfa/listserv/listserv.php