



orientation

MONTANA
STATE UNIVERSITY

— BOZEMAN • MONTANA —

Traveling the winding road to Adulthood...

Dr. Matthew R. Caires, dean of students

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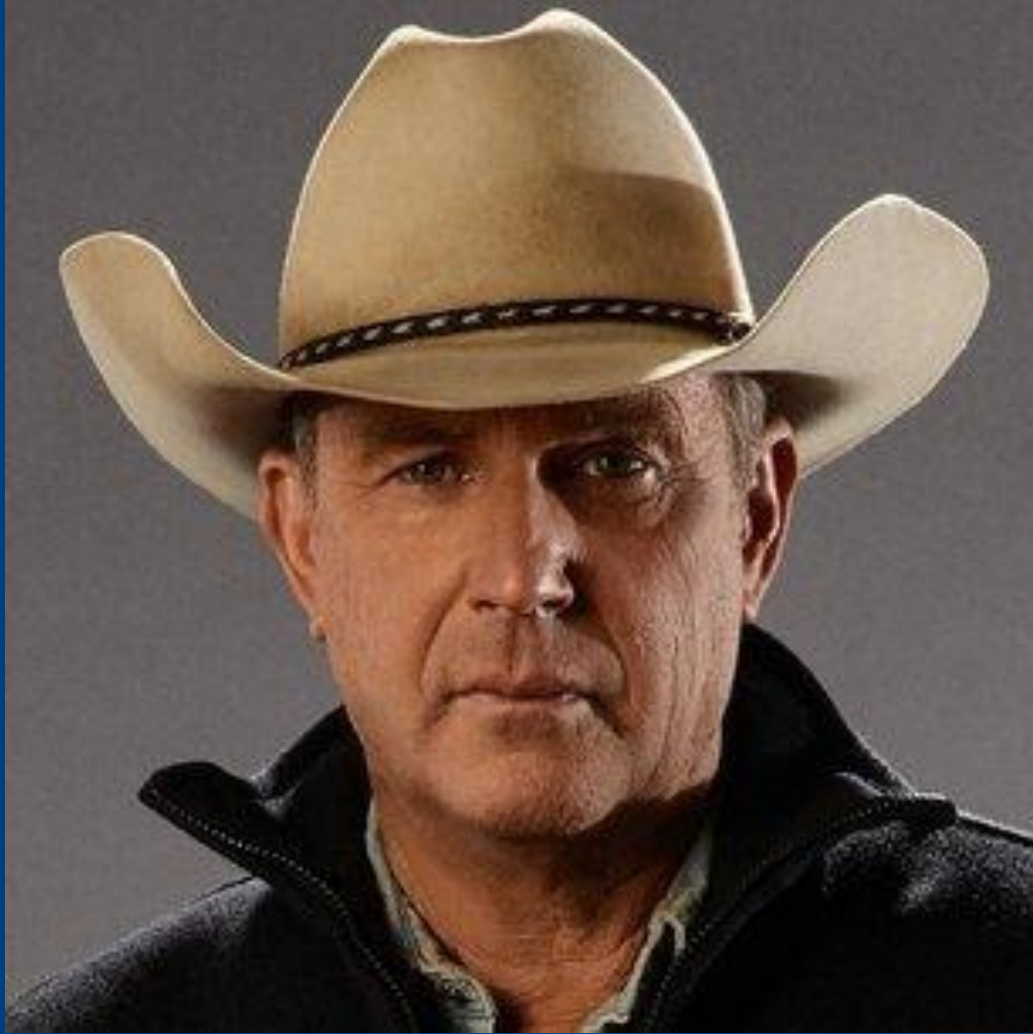


YELLOWSTONE



DUTTON RANCH

MONTANA





The Parents' Guide to a Successful Freshman Year

1. A historical perspective
2. From Rights to Responsibilities...
3. Campus rules and resources
4. Advice from the Dean of Students

First, a little truth telling...





The Evolution of Higher Education in America

What and when was the first college founded in N. America?

- Harvard College, 1636

What did it generally look like?

- Generally, colleges were small, residential, religious affiliated, and all men
- Teaching vs. Research

What were the “student life” issues during this time?

- Attending class
- Adhering to community standards
- Alcohol

What did campus discipline look like?

- Flogging
- Boxing

Higher Education's Legal Relationship with College Students

In Loco Parentis - “In the place of the parent”

Sir William Blackstone - 1765

“A father may also delegate part of his parental authority during his life to the tutor or schoolmaster of his child; who is then *in loco parentis*, and has such a portion of the power of the parent committed to his charge, viz. that of restraint and correction, as may be necessary to answer the purposes for which he is employed”

Higher Education's Legal Relationship with College Students

Did students have “rights?”

Gott v. Berea College, 161 SW. 204 (Ky. 1913)

“Colleges stand *in loco parentis* concerning the physical and moral welfare and mental training of the pupils, and ... to that end [may make] any rule or regulation for the government or betterment of their pupils that a parent could for the same purpose unless unlawful or contrary to public policy.”

The Fall and Fallout of *In Loco Parentis* (1900s - 1960s)

Changing demographics and role for colleges and universities

- Research mission and the role of Faculty
- Co-Education
- Deans of Women and Deans of Men
- Intercollegiate Athletics, Depression, WWII, GI Bill, returning veterans, fraternities
- Older students and desires for new freedoms (visitation, expression, etc)

The Fall and Fallout of *In Loco Parentis* (1900s - 1960s)

Dixon v. Alabama State Board of Education, (5th Cir. 1961)

“In this case, six black students at Alabama State College (ASC) were notified in a letter from the college President that they were expelled for participating in civil rights demonstrations that sought to desegregate a variety of public services. They were not told what specific misconduct they were charged with or for what reason they were expelled.”

The Fall and Fallout of *In Loco Parentis* (1900s - 1960s)

Dixon v. Alabama State Board of Education, (5th Cir. 1961)



Students as adults (1960s – 1980s)

FERPA - 1974

Voting at 18 years old

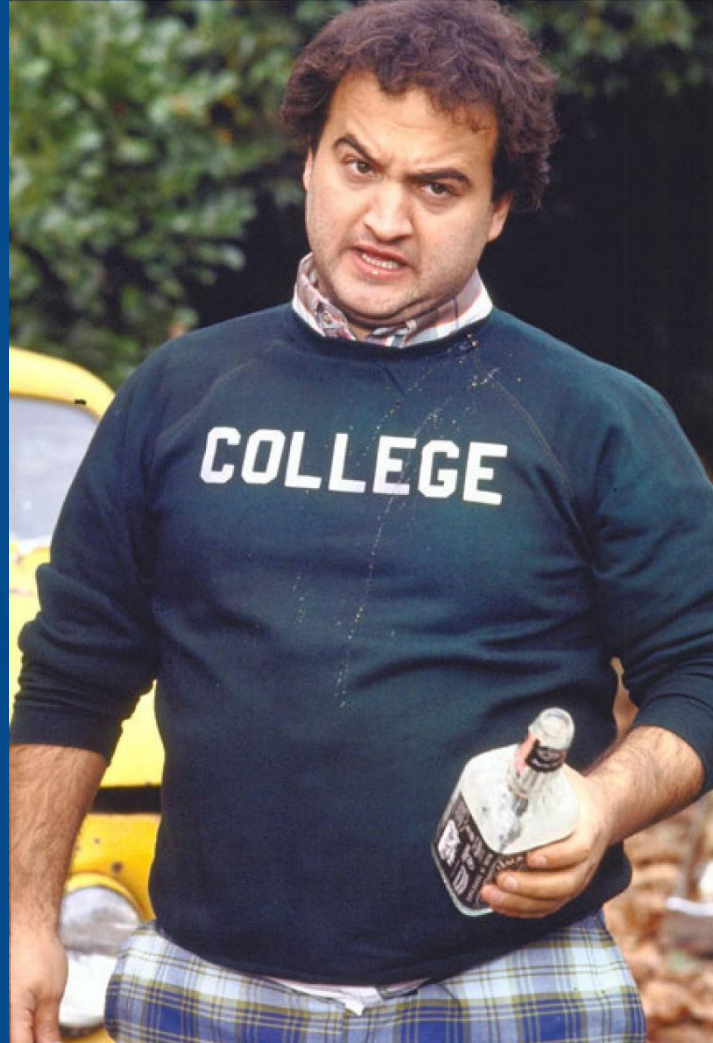
Drinking age? - Depended on the state

Vietnam and Civil Rights

Disengagement of college deans and faculty from traditional “student life” issues

But with more freedom.....

Animal House



But with more freedom.....

Animal House

Binge drinking and the rights of passage

Student injuries

Drugs, counter-culture, sexual revolution, “The Man”,
and then Kent State.

Campus life was in “chaos”

Legal relationship with students - Bystander

Students as adults (1980s and beyond)

The pendulum starts to swing back

From rights to more responsibility...

Drinking age? - 21 years old

FERPA revisited

A new In Loco Parentis?

Legal relationship with students - Facilitators

**Where does this leave
US today?**

Parents as Partners

Who are our students today?

Are they adults?

Are they still children?

How do we know???

Jeffrey Arnett “*Emerging Adulthood*”



Who are our students today?

Are they adults?

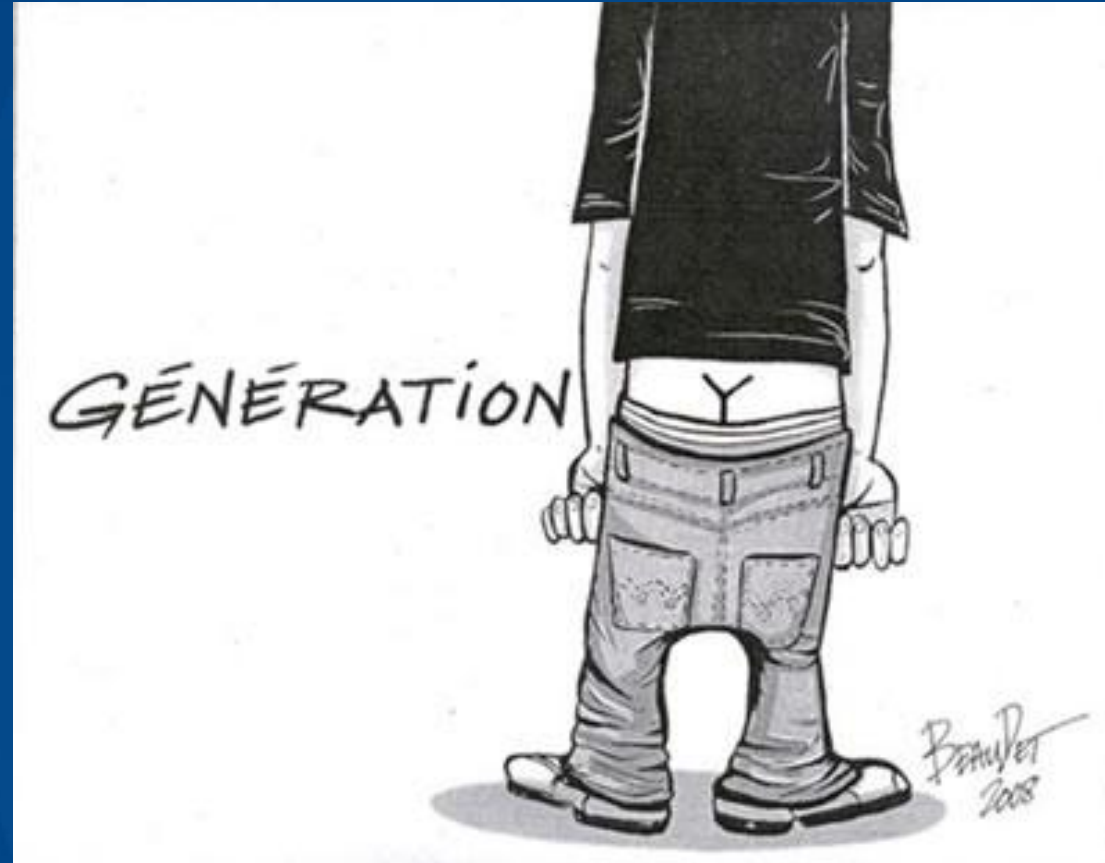
Are they still children?

How do we know???

Jeffrey Arnett “*Emerging Adulthood*”

“*Generation Z*” Goes to College

Gen Z? – Today's College Students



Services and Resources

Office of the Dean of Students

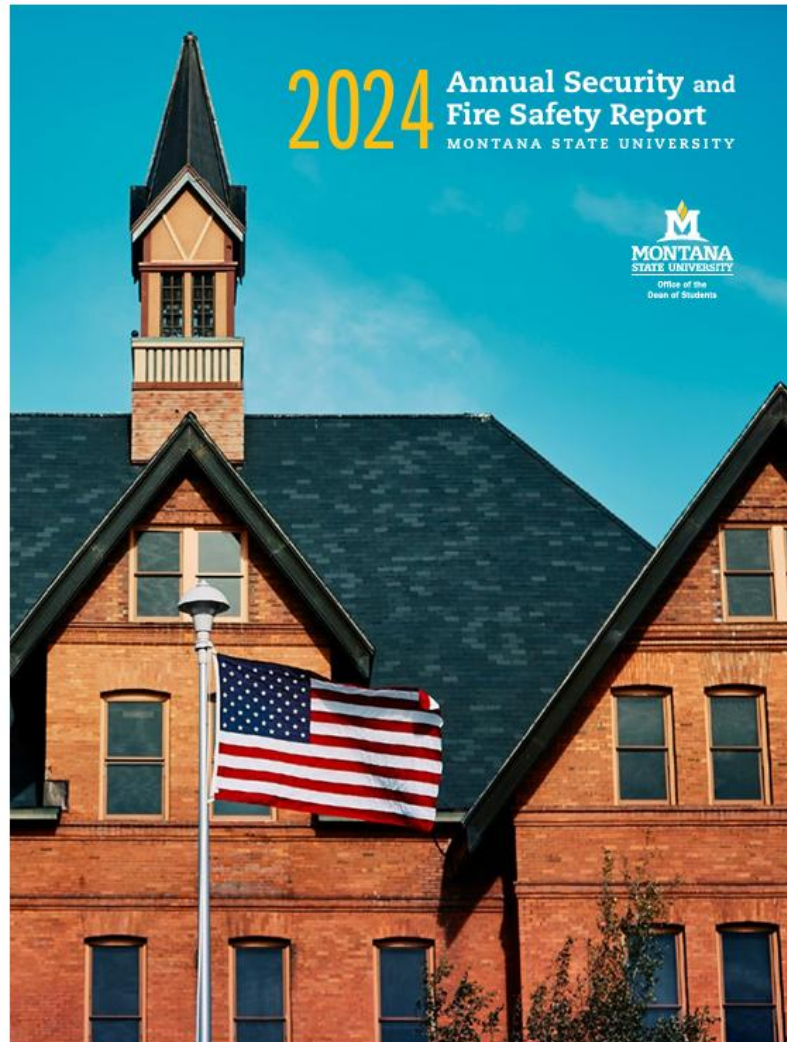
Strand Union Building 174

- Student support in times of “crisis.”
- Parent and Family Relations
- Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Student Conduct & Safety
- Student conflict resolution

Student Code of Conduct

- Educational process
- Alcohol and drug policy
- Sexual misconduct, violence, weapons or hostile acts towards others
- Office of Institutional Equity
- University Police Department
- Clery Act – Crime Statistics

Annual Security Report



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY



President Cruzado and Champ



Waded Cruzado

To the members of the Montana State University Academic Community:

Our highest priority at MSU is the safety of our students, faculty, staff and visitors while they spend time on our campus. I am extremely proud of the partnerships we have established to advance the collective safety and security of our campus; but we must never slow our efforts. This requires all our cooperation and a willingness to communicate with each other. Please, when you see something of concern, say something. **University Police may be reached 24-hours a day at 406-994-2121 or in an emergency at 911.**

I encourage you to read the information contained in this, our Annual Security and Fire Safety Report. I especially want to bring your attention to our policies and procedures for reporting crimes and other emergencies on campus, along with the numerous safety programs designed to prevent injuries or other dangerous incidents. If you have any suggestions on how to improve campus safety or security, please email me at president@montana.edu.

Together, we can continue to ensure the safety and well-being of our entire campus.

Sincerely,

Waded Cruzado, President

Firearms on campus?

- Guns are allowed to be stored on campus
- Guns are not allowed anywhere else
- No weapon storage in cars

Tips for Parents

- Move-In! - **August 17-18, 2025**
- Go away!
- Attend Parent & Family Weekend - **October 10-12, 2025**
- Ask open ended and difficult questions
 - Social life, roommates, classes, alcohol, advisors, asking for help – **Parents' Guide to Difficult Questions**
 - Read our emails!
 - Thriving Together – Online Education



Thriving Together

Online Prevention Education Training for Incoming Bobcats

Summer Homework

Please encourage your student to complete Thriving Together as soon as possible. This required 60- to 75-minute online training will help your student prepare for their time as a Bobcat. Students can access the course through Canvas using the QR code below. Students should complete it after orientation so they are ready to start classes.

Thank you for helping us create a culture of safety & wellbeing at MSU!



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- Ask open ended and difficult questions
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 - Read our emails!
 - Thriving Together – Online Education
- Eating ramen builds character

Tips for Parents

- A university experience is SUPPOSED to be challenging.
- Bring a bike to campus
- Meet their professors, all their professors, go to their office hours
- Go to class, and tell their friends they need to go to class
- Encourage campus involvement in a club or a campus organization
- Go get a job!

Tips for Parents

ASK US FOR HELP!

Parent and Family Hotline
(406) 994-7359

www.montana.edu/parents

Parents@montana.edu

Parents as Partners @ MSU

Reception tonight!

5:00 pm @

Bobcat Stadium

Brought to you by the Bobcat Family Fellows

Office of the Dean of Students Montana State University

www.montana.edu/deanofstudents

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(406) 994-2826