



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHERN

Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - April 21, 2023



Assistant Professor Aaron Riggan and Instructor of 3D Printing Emilee Luke talk about their different approaches to teaching 3D Printing at MSU-Northern and how it's a valuable skill for students to learn.

Johnson and Veis Received Founders Excellence Awards



Last Friday (April 14), the Northern Alumni Foundation honored Kurt Johnson and Pam Veis with an excellent prime rib dinner and the presentation of the 2023 Founders' Excellence Award. Jim Anderson, Amber Spring, and Joel Soiseth presented the awards and Dr. Joseph Todd played music during, before, and after the awards ceremony.

[More Information...](#)

ASCE Students Participated in the 2023 Pacific Northwest Student Symposium



On April 14 and 15, the MSU-Northern student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) participated in the 2023 Pacific Northwest Student Symposium. The event was hosted jointly by the four Montana schools (Carroll College, MSU-Northern, MSU-Bozeman, Montana Tech) with an ASCE Student Chapter. The symposium took place at the Montana State University campus in snowy Bozeman, Montana.

The Symposium included student chapters located in Alaska, Arizona, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Fifteen universities participated in the various competitions such as Surveying, Concrete Canoe, Steel Bridge, Sustainable Solutions, and Timber Strong Design/Build.

The MSU-Northern students chose to leave their mark in the Surveying competition held on Friday. The four teams in this event completed five separate tasks in a three-hour time-period. The MSU-Northern ASCE Student Chapter members participating were Greg Rhines, Hadley Plummer, Trae Kennerly, and Adam Solberg. The MSU-Northern team performed well, with the highest score of all teams in the Sewer Staking event. They also achieved a perfect score in the Differential Leveling event and scored 90 out of 100 points in the Building Stakeout event. The MSU-Northern team fell short in the Pacing and Mapping events, but overall, represented the school well in the competition. The strength of the MSUN team was its ability to work together to overcome the challenges set before them at the symposium. The event

illuminated the student's exceptional problem solving, team building, and surveying skills.

During the Friday evening banquet, MSU-Northern Student Chapter President Hadley Plummer was presented an award for MSU-Northern's contributions in planning and co-hosting the competition. The keynote speaker at the dinner was Mack Long, the director of the Montanan Department of Transportation.

Havre Literary Night Celebrates Our Talented Artists



Montana State University-Northern and Montana Actors' Theatre presented the Havre Literary Night last Friday, April 14, in the MSUN Little Theatre. It was a night of fiction, poetry, and photography featuring three local and award-winning authors:

- Charles Finn – 2022 Montana Book Award Winner
 - Barbara Michelman – 2022 Montana Book Award Winner (Photographer)
 - Gwen Hart – X.J. Kennedy Poetry Award Winner
 - Roger Hart – McGlenn fiction contest Winner
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Student Art Show Draws a Large Crowd



Ninety-five people came out on a Monday night (Apr. 17) to attend the opening reception for the student art show in the Vande Bogart Library. The art exhibition features close to 70 pieces, comprised of paintings, drawings, ceramics and graphic design works created by about 50 different student artists. A composite piece done by the students of the 3-D printing class is also included in the show.

“Thanks to my colleagues Mary and Bethany Ward and all who attended on opening night,” said Joel K. Soiseth.

The show will run until April 28 and is free to the public.

Dr. Gwen Hart Provided a Virtual Lecture on Poetic Inspiration



Dr. Hart presented the last Brown Bag Lecture of the semester virtually because she had a cold and did not want to expose anyone. One of the benefits of COVID is we now have the ability to do a live lecture over the internet and keep everyone healthy. She talked about how inspiration can come from anything and everything. Therefore, I thought I would put her teaching to the test and try to write a poem inspired by the last Brown Bag Lecture of the year...

Ode to the Brown Bag Lectures

You get a lecture and a lunch
Some knowledge with a punch
You get a sandwich to munch
And some chips to crunch
You get two cookies to nibble
And some water to dribble
At the end of the hour
Your knowledge does tower
At least you learned something new
While scarfing down some food
We thank everyone who shared their knowledge over lunch
And look forward to next year's lectures a whole bunch

Three MSU-Northern Instructors to Receive the Excellence in Graduate Studies Award

The Excellence in Graduate Studies Award at MSU Billings celebrates the diversity of accomplishments by the graduate students of MSU Billings. To qualify for this award, students must have at least a GPA of 3.75 and must be nominated by their program in recognition of outstanding academic scholarship, contributions to the classroom or online learning environment, or community engagement within their field of study. MSU-Northern is honored to have three faculty be nominated for this award: Mr. Keith Jensen, Mr. Brandon Matson, and Mr. Charlie Mack, who are all completing their graduate program on May 6, 2023. The awards are handed out on May 5, 2023. On behalf of MSU-Northern, Congratulations to Keith, Brandon and Charlie! You make MSU-Northern proud!

Teresa Brockie Helps Northern Understand Vulnerable Populations



Teresa Brockie, PhD, RN, FAAN, is an Assistant Professor at Johns Hopkins School of Nursing with a joint appointment in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg Center for Indigenous Health. During her visit to campus this week (April 18), she met with the HTH 101 Opportunities in Health class and conducted a lunch lecture where she shared her personal and inspirational rags to riches story.

She also shared some of her research as an Indigenous nurse scientist and educator whose research focuses on achieving health equity through community-based prevention and intervention of suicide, trauma, and adverse childhood experiences among vulnerable populations. Her visit was sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Little River Institute at MSU-Northern.

Retirement Reception Honors Nine Retirees



On Tuesday afternoon (April 18), MSU-Northern hosted their annual retirement reception in the MSU-Northern SUB Ballroom. Friends and family members were on hand to honor the retirees and tell stories about the many years they have enjoyed together. Collectively they have contributed 183 years of dedicated service, and have made MSU-Northern the school it is today.

Pictured above (L to R)

- Gregory Clouse - 36 Years of dedication
- Cynthia Small - 33 Years of dedication
- Keith Richardson - 15 Years of dedication
- Margaret Christofferson - 17 Years of dedication

- Debra Bradley – 11 Years of dedication
- Thomas Kase - 19 Years of dedication (Not pictured)
- Richard Dorcheus - 15 Years of dedication (Not pictured)
- Kevin Carlson - 37 Years of dedication (Not pictured)
- Dr. R Neil Moisey (Not pictured)

Thank you for all of your many years of hard work and congratulations! You make Northern Proud!

Last Weekend for Havre Dinner Theatre



Montana Actors Theatre is pleased to present, *Almost Austen or Basically Bronte: A Farce in Two Acts*. Jane Austen has writer's block. Just as she's fallen into a slump, her study is invaded by the Bronte sisters. They're all ghosts, forced to roam the world until one is deemed the greatest writer. They try to outdo each other in writing an original short story. The audience chooses the winner. The grand prize? Paradise! The resulting tales are strewn with off-color jokes, nausea-inducing puns & the occasional appearance of an unexpected fruit. Let the best woman win!

All Dinner Theatre tickets are \$35 for one or \$65 for two. Reserved tables of 8 for \$300. Add 8 tickets to your cart and we will automatically reserve a table for you! Price includes dinner and the performance. Havre Eagles Club – April 21, 22 at 6:00 p.m.

[Click here for tickets...](#)

Northern Spotlight on Amy Smith



Aside from teaching, Dr. Amy L. Smith, education professor, has always had a love for animals. Upon moving to Havre, she sought out an opportunity to volunteer at a local animal shelter and was welcomed with open arms from PAWS of Chinook. “The team at PAWS was grateful for my inquiry to volunteer. They immediately put me to work walking dogs and cuddling puppies! Who could ask for a better way to spend a few hours on the weekend,”

said Smith.

Since starting volunteering at PAWS in January of 2022, Amy has helped the shelter care for and adopt out nearly 100 dogs and will continue to support PAWS’ efforts to help stray and surrendered dogs as well as to support folks along the Hi Line that participate in vaccination and spay/neuter clinics offered to pet owners. PAWS was responsible for 357 spays/neuters and vaccinating 511 cats and dogs in one year; “I love being able to contribute to the positive impact on animal’s lives and providing such services to the community.”

A highlight of volunteering at PAWS is bringing puppies to campus for students (staff and faculty too) to de-stress a bit by loving on a puppy or two or three or six. “It is so fun seeing students melt when they are at the bottom of a dog pile!” While volunteering at PAWS brings Amy joy, she states that it is often heartbreaking, hard work but that is also the motivator to continue to help. The most rewarding part of volunteering at PAWS – “all of it; hanging out with the amazing people that run PAWS, knowing these dogs are going to find a good

home, seeing the gratitude from people that have participated in a clinic, simply just all of it.”

Amy has three dogs of her own. Monk, her ‘grumpy old man,’ was rescued from a box on a street corner in Phoenix, AZ. Kairos, the Greek God of Opportunity, definitely took advantage of an opportunity when Amy discovered him in a bad situation about two hours north of Athens, Greece. Her most recent rescue is Tonka, who was found in a dumpster on the Ft. Belknap Reservation and taken to PAWS for care. “I have special bond with all of my boys; I think they know I helped them and now we are just trying to live our best life ever,” said Smith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seeking Student Submissions for Student Symposium Adjacent to Commencement



We had a great turnout at the inaugural student symposium adjacent to the Spring 2022 Commencement. We are in the planning stages for the second

year of this event NOW! We would like to encourage you to submit student projects you would like to include.

The goal is to provide avenues to promote awareness of student centered campus activities and projects, combined with opportunities for students to present professional level work - something they can highlight on their resumes and in other professional activities. As a commencement adjacent event, projects from our 2022/2023 graduates are especially sought, but recent projects involving all students are encouraged.

Students are finishing various projects, or may have completed something last semester you feel is exemplary. Many of those are presentation ready. Others, with a little more work, can also be shared in a venue, which will highlight all the wonderful things going on at Northern to other students, to our faculty and staff, and to parents and alumni.

We are aware that some projects are too large or difficult to transport to the venue to make a true presentation possible. Last year, we also included a slide show of graduating projects and events. If you gather anything of this nature, please forward to Valerie Guyant at valerie.guyant@msun.edu for this year's presentation. For inclusion of other projects, posters, or projects, please contact Tony Gryffin at tony.gryffin@msun.edu

We ask that people let us know by the Monday of finals week (May 1st) if they anticipate submitting any projects for display or if they will have photos or videos for the slideshow. Setup for the event will take place Friday, May 5th, at 4:00 pm inside the library breezeway.

Thank you for supporting our students!

UPCOMING EVENTS

De-Stress Fest – April 24-30

April 24 - MINDFUL MONDAY - SUB Ballroom - 6-8pm

Use your 5 senses to self-soothe & relax with:

Aromatic play dough, Herbal teas, Stress balls, Glitter calming jars, A calming playlist

FEED YOUR MIND & BODY WITH: "Blaze the Trail to Finals" Mix

April 25 - CAFFEINATED CREATIVITY - SUB Ballroom - 6-8pm

Let your creative juices flow w/ Emilee Luke:

watercolor, rock painting, mandalas, collages, photography
thank you cards for staff, faculty, coaches, friends & family
FEED YOUR MIND & BODY WITH: Iced coffee & cookies

April 26 - WELLNESS WEDNESDAY - SUB Ballroom - 6-8pm

Be mindful of your "MEDDSS" to manage daily stress:

Mastery, Exercise, Diet, Drugs (prescriptions caffeine, nicotine, alcohol & other substances), Sleep, Spirituality

7-7:30pm: Simple Tai Chi for Stress Release & Test Anxiety w/ Prof. Tony Gryffin

FEED YOUR MIND & BODY WITH: "Finals Pop" popcorn bar, popsicles & pop

April 27 - THURSDAY PLAY DAY - SUB Ballroom - 6-8pm

Embrace your inner child & relax as you:

build w/ Legos, work on a puzzle, color, board games, video games

7-8pm: Zentangle w/ Prof. Amy Smith

FEED YOUR MIND & BODY WITH KID FAVORITES:

Ants on a log, Goldfish, Fruit Snacks, PB&J, Juice boxes

April 28 - FRIDAY FIELD DAY - SUB Field - 4-7pm

Take a break from studying and get some fresh air with outdoor rec:
cornhole, spikeball, kickball, bubble soccer

April 30 - SUNDAY - "BEAT" YOUR STRESS w/ RD Brailynn & RA Sarah

SUB Ballroom - 6:30pm

Beat your stress out on piñatas & enjoy a sundae!

LATE NIGHT BREAKFAST - SUB Dining Hall - Time TBA

Take a break from studying & enjoy a FREE meal served by staff & faculty

Finals Week – May 1-5

[Click here to download Final Exam Schedule...](#)

45th Annual Sweetgrass Society Powwow – April 28-29

Montana State University-Northern's Sweetgrass Society will be hosting their 45th annual Powwow. Grand entry times will be 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

There are dance categories for males and females, golden age dancers, men's fancy, traditional and grass dances and women's jingle, fancy, and traditional dances. Junior boys and girls, teen boys and girls, and tiny tots also dance.

Admission is free of charge and you will be able to browse a selection of vendors while you enjoy the Powwow.

Graduation and Student Symposium - May 6th

Graduation is scheduled for **May 6th at 10:00 a.m. in the Armory Gymnasium**. Attention all required attendees, please meet in the basement of Cowan Hall **no later than 9:30 a.m.** to line up and process into commencement. There will be a Student Symposium adjacent to commencement in the Library breezeway.

Industry Night – May 19

Are you interested in a career in the technical fields? From diesel, agriculture, business and much more, Industry Night is designed just for you! Bring your parents along with you to talk with industry professionals about career opportunities in the technical field. Learn how Industry and MSU-Northern work together to prepare you for your future and your career. Each event will have representatives from Modern Machinery, Tractor & Equipment Co, and RDO Equipment Co!

Additional Dates, Times, and Locations

May 18th from 6 pm-8 pm, in Great Falls - hosted by Tractor & Equipment Co

[More information...](#)

NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

Friday, April 21

- MSUN Rodeo @ Miles Community College

Saturday, April 22

- MSUN Rodeo @ Miles Community College

Sunday, April 23

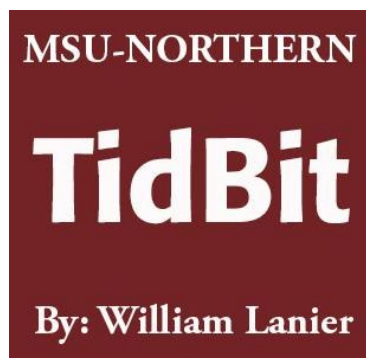
- MSUN Rodeo @ Miles Community College

Friday, April 28

- MSUN Rodeo @ University of Montana
- SOAR Event for New Students - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- 45th Annual Sweetgrass Society Powwow - 7:00 PM

Saturday, April 29

- MSUN Rodeo @ University of Montana
 - 45th Annual Sweetgrass Society Powwow
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(#393) 2023 Founder's Award Recap

As many of you know, last Friday Kurt Johnson and Pam Vies were honored as the latest recipients of the Northern Founder's Excellence awards. The selection committee picked two amazing people for this year's recipients. Both have given of their time, energy, and personal

resources for both the Northern and Havre communities for more than three decades each!

[Click here if you missed their biographies...](#)

One of the great aspects of the Founder's Excellence Award dinner is to see those who have received the honor in previous years. Here is picture of those who attended this year's event to honor Pam and Kurt.



To see a complete list of those who have received this honor and to see how to nominate others for next year, please click on this link to go to the Northern Foundation website:

[Info on Founder's Excellence award...](#)

As an extra to this week's TidBit, here is a picture from the 1984 Northerner (yearbook) of Pam and her now husband, Gerry Vies (2015 Founder's Award Recipient)! Pam was elected the 1983 homecoming queen and was on hand at the 1984 coronation. In case you were wondering the 1983 Northerner had no homecoming pictures.

If you or you know of a fellow Northern Alum that should be featured or an interesting Northern TidBit, please send me an e-mail at wjlanier1963@yahoo.com

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