



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**NORTHERN**

## Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - March 29, 2024

### Flint Rasmussen Announced as 2024 Commencement Speaker



Renowned entertainer and former professional rodeo clown Flint Rasmussen has been selected as the commencement speaker for the 2024 MSU-Northern graduation ceremony. Rasmussen was born in Havre and raised in Choteau, Montana where he was an All-State football player and track star at Choteau High School.

Rasmussen pursued higher education at the University of Montana Western, where he completed a double major in history and math. During his college years, he gained early experience as a sports announcer for the UMW Bulldogs and showcased his talent as a barrel clown in western Montana rodeos.

Following his graduation, Rasmussen returned to Havre, Montana, where he taught math and history at Havre High School, coached football and track, and acted as the public address announcer for home basketball games at MSU-Northern. However, his passion for entertainment eventually led him to pursue a full-time career as a rodeo clown, a decision that proved to be immensely successful.

Rasmussen's career in entertainment reached new heights when he became the exclusive Arena Entertainer for the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) in 2006, a role he held until his retirement in the summer of 2023. Throughout his

career, Flint has hosted numerous stage, TV, and radio shows, including the popular According to Flint Podcast.

Currently, Rasmussen serves as the Senior Vice President of Fan Engagement for the PBR, where he continues to make significant contributions to the Western sports world. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Rasmussen takes pride in his role as a father to Shelby and Paige, both graduates of Montana State University and College Rodeo National Champions for the Bobcats.

Flint Rasmussen's inspiring journey from a small town in Montana to the pinnacle of the entertainment industry makes him an ideal choice to impart wisdom and encouragement to the graduating class of 2024. The MSU-Northern Commencement Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 4, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the Armory Gym.

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## COTS Advisory Board Meetings Underway



MSU-Northern's College of Technical Sciences has begun to host its biannual advisory board meetings for each of the college's major program areas. This past Wednesday, March 27, the Automotive Technology Board met to conduct a mid-term ASE review and discuss other initiatives impacting the Automotive degree programs. Other advisory board meetings include:

- April 4 – Diesel Advisory Board Meeting
  - April 16 – Agriculture operating Technology Advisory Board Meeting
  - April 17 – Civil Engineering Technology Advisory Board Meeting
  - April 19 – Business Administration Advisory Board Meeting
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## Students Embark on Quest to Capture the Beast



Last Wednesday, March 27th, the Student Engagement Committee hosted the highly anticipated Capture the Beast event on campus. With the Beast set free to roam for one exhilarating hour, teams of students scoured every corner of the campus in search of the elusive creature and other hidden treasures. Student teams raced against the clock, earning points for capturing video footage with the Beast and snapping photos of various hidden items scattered across the campus grounds.

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## Northern Faculty and Students Shine at Hockey Tournament

Over the recent break, faculty and students from MSU-Northern enjoyed a thrilling weekend of hockey at the Middle of Nowhere Tournament in Glasgow. Two Havre teams, the Honey Badgers and the River Rats, both represented by members of the MSU-Northern community, showcased their skills and sportsmanship in the novice-level competition.





In an exciting turn of events, both Havre teams emerged victorious in all their games, setting the stage for an epic showdown in the Championship game. The final face-off saw the Honey Badgers and the River Rats, both boasting Northern talent, battling it out for the title. Despite a valiant effort from both sides, the River Rats clinched victory by a single goal.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Fri., Mar. 29 University Day - No Classes, Offices OPEN**

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### **FALL 2024 CLASS REGISTRATION**

Monday, April 1 - sophomores (students who have earned 30+ credits)  
Wednesday, April 3 1st-year (students who have earned <30 credits)  
Monday, April 8 - students new to MSUN

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### **Nomination for the 2024 Student Excellence Awards are now being accepted!**

For over 40 years, staff and faculty have taken time to recognize the achievements of students who have exemplified a commitment to the pursuit of high academic achievement and significant engagement with MSU-Northern and the greater community.

Any member of the Northern community can nominate a student they believe exemplifies excellence. To nominate a student, please submit the nomination form by 8AM on Monday April 5th. Electronic submissions are preferred and

may be sent to me at [amber.spring@msun.edu](mailto:amber.spring@msun.edu). If you prefer to submit a hard copy, they can be delivered to the Student Wellness Center in the SUB (right off of the ballroom).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### **MSUN Extreme Bares and Broncs – Mar. 29 & 30**

The MSU-Northern Rodeo Boosters are pleased to present PRCA Sanctioned Bareback and Saddle Bronc Riding event. This event will feature some of the best Pro Rodeo talent in the nation, so don't miss it. It will be at the Great Northern Fairgrounds in the Bigger Better Barn. Tickets are \$25 in advance, or \$30 at the door, Children 10 and under are free. Performances both nights start at 7:00 pm. Tickets are available at Norman's Ranch and Sportswear and Western Trailer Sales. For more information call 406-262-2422.

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### **Spring Fling – April 5**

Join the Northern Lights Athletic Scholarship Foundation (NLASF) for the 19th annual Spring Fling dinner and auction. All the items are donated to the Northern Lights Athletic Scholarship Foundation (NLASF). After an amazing dinner the NLASF presents awards of excellence to the student athletes of Montana State University-Northern. The evening is filled with games and fun and is a wonderful way to support the Student-Athletes that are on-hand to help throughout the evening. The Spring Fling is located in the MSU-Northern Gym. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Cost for a table for 8: \$800, All-inclusive Drink Table for 8: \$1,100, General Seating Single: \$75, General Seating Couple: \$150. Tickets can be purchased through the NLASF Website.

### **MSU-NORTHERN FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2024 FOUNDERS' EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS - Apr. 26**



**Fran Baltrusch**



**Pam & Dave Wilson**



**Vickie Clouse**

The MSU-Northern Foundation is proud to announce the recipients of the esteemed 2024 Founders' Excellence Awards. This year, the Foundation honors Fran Baltrusch, Pam and Dave Wilson, and bestows a posthumous award on Vickie Clouse for each of these individual's outstanding contributions to both Montana State University-Northern and the broader community.

The public is invited to attend the award celebration on April 26th, which will take place at the MSUN Student Union Building. The evening will commence with a cocktail hour at 5:30 PM, followed by dinner at 6:30 PM. Tickets for the event are \$40 per person, and attendees are kindly requested to RSVP by April 19th to secure their spot.

For those wishing to join in celebrating the 2024 Founders' Excellence Award recipients, please reserve your seat by calling the MSU-Northern Foundation at (406) 265-3711 or sending an email to [alumni@msun.edu](mailto:alumni@msun.edu).

[More Info...](#)

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## **Voices of the Hi-Line, International Poetry Reading - Apr 24**

Campus and community members are invited to celebrate a love of poetry and languages at the International Poetry Reading, "Voices of the Hi-Line," on the evening of April 24th, at 7.00 pm in the Cowan Hall Theatre. Co-organizers Valerie Guyant, associate professor of English and Gwen Hart, assistant professor of English, invite members of the community, students, faculty, and staff to celebrate our collective linguistic and cultural diversity in the form of a poem, song, or chant. All pieces will be read/performed in any language other than standard modern English. Ancient languages, modern languages, and fictional languages are all encouraged.

If you are interested in performing, please email [valerie.guyant@msun.edu](mailto:valerie.guyant@msun.edu). Kindly include the name of the poem (if you already know it) and the language you will be using.

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## **CALENDAR**

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### **Friday, March 29**

- University Day (No Classes, Offices OPEN)
- ASMSUN Student Senate Elections \*\*\* VOTE ONLINE \*\*\* 12:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- MSUN PRCA Extreme Bares & Broncs Challenge - 6:00 PM

## Saturday, March 30

- MSUN PRCA Extreme Bares & Broncs Challenge - 6:00 PM

## Monday, April 01

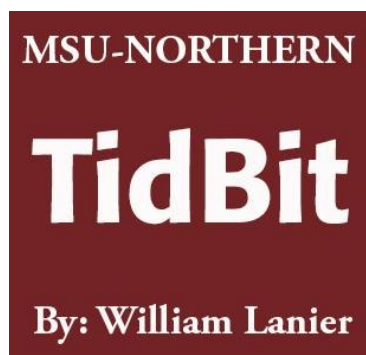
- Registration for Fall Semester 2024 – Sophomores - 8:00 AM

## Wednesday, April 03

- Registration for Fall Semester 2024 – Freshmen - 8:00 AM
- Athletics Banquet - 5:00 PM
- ASMSUN Student Senate Meeting - 7:00 PM

## Friday, April 05

- Spring Fling - 5:30 PM



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## Northern Athletic Hall of Fame

Did you know that this is the 30th anniversary of the Northern Athletic Hall of Fame? Since its inception in 1994 the Northern Athletic Hall of Fame has now inducted 93 individuals and three teams. Before you know it the 2024 nomination deadline of June 6<sup>th</sup> will be upon us.

**Do you see/know someone that should be in the Hall of Fame?** By my really rough estimate Northern has probably had more than 4,600 Student Athletes and coaches in its history. If you have followed Northern athletics over any period of time, you probably can think of a few that you strongly believe should be in the Hall of Fame. Here is a link to see the entire list of all current Hall of Famers; [MSU-Northern Athletic Hall of Fame List](#)

**Did you know that anyone and everyone can submit a nomination?** Here is the form if you are interested in submitting a nomination. [MSU-Northern Hall of Fame Nomination Form](#) As mentioned the deadline is June 6<sup>th</sup> for nominations for the 2024. Now is the time to be thinking and getting those nominations together.

While there are other items needed to complete the nomination, it all starts with the initial nomination. Read below for the Selection Committee Guidelines and Criteria.

### **MSU-Northern Athletics Hall of Fame Selection Committee Guidelines**

The Athletic Hall of Fame recognizes players, managers and coaches who have made outstanding contributions to athletics at either Northern Montana College or Montana State University-Northern. Other individuals, for

outstanding and meritorious service to MSU-Northern Athletics, may also be recognized.

Hall of Fame honorees are presented with a commemorative award in ceremonies on campus and are included in the Athletic Hall of Fame display in the Armory Gymnasium.

The MSU-Northern Athletics Hall of Fame selection committee includes two representatives from the MSU-Northern Athletics Department, the Athletic Director at MSU-Northern, one MSU-Northern faculty member and two or more community representatives. Membership of the committee may be adjusted at any time by vote of the MSU-Northern Athletics Department.

The Selection Committee meets at least once each year to consider nominations for election to the Athletic Hall of Fame. The election of any person into the Hall of Fame requires a quorum consisting of four of the six members and a three-fourths (3/4) vote of those voting representatives for induction. For convenience, voting may be completed by electronic voting (including but not limited to the use of e-mails).

Before election of any person to the Athletic Hall of Fame, the Selection Committee requires a written "nomination" consisting of the following:

- collegiate and/or coaching records of the nominee, including conference, district and national honors and awards;
- achievements and honors since graduation/leaving Northern;
- professional and service accomplishments;
- other honors and awards;
- and a biographical sketch;
- three letters of support, with preference of, but not required from any of the following: the president, chancellor, dean or athletic director of the nominee's institution, present or past coaches, or present or former teammate.

Once made, nominations are kept among the permanent records of the MSU-Northern Athletics Department and may be carried forward in subsequent years at the discretion of the committee.

The main criteria for selection into the Athletic Hall of Fame is the achievement of individual athletic honors in the sport being considered. Consideration will be given for years participated at Northern and the number and type of All-Conference, All-District, and All-American honors achieved at Northern.

Once selected, the recipient will be required to submit a recent photograph of themselves.

### **Categories & Criteria for Election**

The Selection Committee will use the following criteria whenever possible. If there are extenuating circumstances and the Selection Committee feels that a nominee is deserving, they may waive certain aspects.



**Athlete:**

1. The nominee must have graduated from an accredited four-year, degree granting institution.
2. At least two (2) years of his or her intercollegiate athletic competition must have been at Northern.
3. The nominee is eligible for nomination five (5) years after he or she has completed collegiate eligibility.
4. The nominee must have attained recognition in a sport. This recognition may include academic All-American designation.
5. The nominee must be of high moral character.

**Coach:**

1. The nominee must have coached a sport or sports a minimum of ten (10) years.  
OR  
The nominee must have coached at Northern for at least five (5) years.
2. The nominee must have attained recognition in their sport.
3. The nominee must be of high moral character.

**Meritorious Service:**

1. The nominee must have been involved in a sport for a minimum of twenty (20) years.
2. The nominee must have a maximum of their service to Montana sports.
3. The nominee must have attained state or national recognition.
4. The nominee must be of high moral character.

If you would like assistance with completing a nomination form, researching information or any questions please let me know and I will be more than happy to help you out. Please contact me at [wjlanier1963@yahoo.com](mailto:wjlanier1963@yahoo.com)  
Have a great day!

if you have an idea for the NNN TidBit, send me an e-mail at  
[wjlanier1963@yahoo.com](mailto:wjlanier1963@yahoo.com) .

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