April 11, 2016

Colleagues,

Despite the many exciting things going on and coming up on campus, we are saddened these last couple of weeks with the passing of several from the Tech community. The passing of nursing faculty member Rae Farrell was a shock and she will be greatly missed. Xiaobing Zhou’s wife, Yan Fang lost her courageous battle with cancer and we mourn with Xiaobing and his family. Then last weekend the loss of Tech freshman Brenden Johnson in the dorm. These deaths affect each of us in different ways, and we encourage all that are struggling to seek help through campus counseling resources and/or from professional and/or clergy relationships.

- **Suicide Prevention**
  Most of our lives have been touched by suicide. A suicidal person may not ask for help, but that doesn’t mean that help isn’t wanted. Joyce O’Neill and Cricket Pietsch, Montana Tech counselors, are completing a course designed to help you know what to say and how to intervene. The “Question, Persuade, Refer Instructor Certification Course” will allow them to provide QPR Gatekeeper Training to the Montana Tech Community. Resident Life Assistant Matt Stafford created the attached suicide prevention poster.

![Suicide Prevention Poster](image)

The next several items are regarding some upcoming and past events on campus:

- **Student Employee Week**
  The week of April 11th we will celebrate our student employees, many of whom provide invaluable assistance in a variety of ways. This is an opportunity to recognize and thank them.

- **Purse Strings**
  Planning for the October 1, 2016 Purse Strings auction and brunch will start soon. Last year’s inaugural event attracted a sell-out crowd from the campus and community. Almost seventy purses were auctioned or in a lottery. Please put this event, which benefits Safe Space for women and children at risk, on your calendar.
If you are interested in volunteering for the fun, contact Carmen Nelson (4129). Photos of the 2015 event are attached.

- **Master Planning**

  We recently initiated a master planning exercise for the campus. You may have seen us showing the consultants around earlier this week. There are more interactions ahead, including a time for campus and community questions and input.

### Upcoming Events

**INTERCOLLEGIATE MINING COMPETITION** – April 1-3. The weather was great and the competition just west of campus was well attended and included teams from Australia, the UK, and Brazil. Montana Tech was represented by two teams in each the Coed and Men’s Divisions and placed 4th & 5th and 3rd & 6th respectfully. The Men’s “Green” Team won the Track Stand event and the Coed “Green” Team won their Jackleg Drilling and Swede Sawing events. Special kudos to the Mining department for an outstanding event.

**GRAD FAIR** – For the second year, students attended a “Graduation Fair,” in the SUB and Highlands Commons. Seniors were informed about several topics, including:
- The Commencement Ceremony
- Financial Aid/Student Account Information
- Planning Your Career
- Enrollment Checkout
- Alumni Affairs
- Graduate School
- Graduation Attire

These events were at Highlands on April 6 and in the Copper Lounge on April 7, both at noon. If there is something you would like to offer to students at this venue in the future, please contact Jamie Housman in Enrollment Services at 4840.

**HUNTING GROUND** – (100mins, 2015). This critically acclaimed US feature-length documentary chronicles the personal stories of students who have reported sexual assault on campuses, and the failure of a number of universities to respond effectively and appropriately to these reports. Watch it at 7 p.m. on April 12th in the Library Auditorium.

**AUTHOR’S RECEPTION** – The library honors all authors on campus by hosting them for an evening social and a reading on Thursday, April 14.

**THE SPE SYMPOSIUM** will be held on April 21 and 22.

**UDDER INSANITY & FOOTBALL SCRIMMAGE** – To be held April 23. Among the events are a chance to win big at Udder Insanity - $10,000 is at stake! The Green and White spring scrimmage will follow at about 1 p.m. Contact Emily Peterson at 496-4105 or e-mail at orediggers@mtech.edu for more information.
DIGGER AUCTION – Incredible auction items are being collected for the event, to be held April 23 in the HPER. Watch for more information, or call Emily Peterson.

TECHXPO – Techxpo will be held on Thursday, April 28 in the HPER from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Support our students by going to the HPER to view the gamut of ideas and projects.

AWARDS TGIF – This annual event, held to recognize employees for their years of service, research careers, merit and other honors, will be held in the HPER from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday, April 29. Four members of the campus are celebrating 35 years at Montana Tech, two at 30 years, and six have been here for 25 years.

We are very excited to announce Tech’s next Goldwater recipient.

- **Goldwater Scholar**
  Montana Tech student Molly Brockway, a junior majoring in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, has been awarded the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship by the Barry Goldwater Scholarship Foundation. This award is given to only about 250 students nationally. We also want to recognize Macy Ricketts who was also nominated this year and was honorable mention last year. Thanks as well to Dr. Marisa Pedulla who chairs Montana Tech’s National Student Awards Committee (NSAC), which supports Montana Tech students for major national and international scholarships.

Finally some housekeeping announcements:

- **Get Your E-mail Signature**
  Every e-mail sent from a Montana Tech account represents our institution to the world, and everyone can take advantage of our new e-mail signature options, found here: Montana Tech Profile (https://www.mtech.edu/app/cts/mtechprofile). This is a new area on our website where faculty, staff and MBMG employees can create a branded Montana Tech or Bureau e-mail signature AND access Montana Tech ID photos. Log into the profile page using your normal Montana Tech credentials. If you have any questions, please contact David Nolt at dnolt@mtech.edu.

- **Flex Benefit – Simplified with a Debit Card**
  If you set aside funds each month in a Health Flexible Spending Account, you may request a card that looks and feels like a debit card to easily access those funds to pay your provider or pharmacist. You will need to retain all documentation such as bills and EOB’s to provide to Allegiance when requested. There is a $10 fee per year for the card. Contact Cathy Isakson (4380) for more information.

**IN CLOSING**, as you may have noticed, Budget Hearings are in process. Deans, directors, and departments are reviewing budgets and will be making presentations including requests for changes to next year’s budget to the
Executive Council in the coming weeks. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend these presentations. The schedule will be out soon.

After the usual busy April, Commencement will soon be upon us. I look forward to seeing you at commencement to celebrate. Thank you for dedication and hard work on behalf of our great students.

Sincerely,

Don and Doug