



Alumni BIT

Here's to AY 2010-11...



Tim Kober
Department Head



David Ottolino
Assistant Professor



Traci O'Neill
Assistant Professor



Jon Chesbro
Assistant Professor



Gordon Flanders
Assistant Professor

Dear Montana Tech BIT Alumni:

I hope all is well with you and your family as I take this opportunity to let you know what is happening in the Department of Business and Information Technology. The Department remains one of the largest programs on campus and this year we said goodbye to one of the largest graduating classes I can remember. We had approximately 40 students cross the stage at graduation. Overall, they have been a great group of students and we are excited to see them start their careers.

The Department has had a strong year and things look bright for both the Department and the entire campus for next year. Highlights for this past academic year include the formation of an endowed scholarship. We were able to award the first endowed scholarship for academic year 2011 -12 thanks to the very generous support from our alumni and friends. Additionally, I am very excited to state that we are currently in a search to add another full time faculty member to the Department. The position will start this fall and should add strength to the information technology component of our degree. Also, with the help of Professors Dave Ottolino and Gordy Flanders we have increased the rigor of the Strategic Management capstone course. The Professors brought in a critical thinking component coupled with a strong emphasis on a strategic business simulation but the real credit goes to our students. The expectations of the course were significantly raised and I am very proud to say the performance by our students exceeded my expectations. I believe the new approach to this course will help make our students business leaders of the future.

The focus for the coming academic year will be on assessment as we attempt to find better ways to meet our mission and measure our objectives. Please look for a survey instrument sometime this summer that will help us in this process.

Finally, I am very thankful for all the support given to our Department. Our Industrial Advisory Board continues to offer valuable insight. We are blessed with an outstanding group of adjunct instructors who do a great service for our students. Most of all I am very proud of the work and accomplishments of our faculty members. It truly is a joy to come up the hill and work with these people every day.

I wish you the best for the remainder of the year.

Tim

Maggie Peterson is the 2010 BIT Distinguished Alumna

The Department is very pleased to announce that Maggie Peterson was the recipient of the BIT's 2010 Alumni Recognition Award. Maggie graduated from Montana Tech in 1996 under the Business Information Systems option (then a computer science degree). She began working at Montana Tech in 1988 as administrative assistant to the Vice President performing administrative and budget analytical duties. She was promoted just shortly after to Budget Analyst where she prepared and monitored all departmental budgets. After receiving her degree, Maggie was promoted to Director of Budgets and Human Services, a position she held for 10 years until she was appointed to Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance overseeing all aspects of Montana Tech financial and human services offices. Maggie has always been an active participant at Montana Tech functions and continues to be a great supporter of the Business Department.

The Department is always accepting nominations for this award. Please send us the name of an alumnus or alumna who you would like to be considered for this great honor.



Thank you to our
2010 Advisory
Board Members

Doug Abbott
Montana Tech

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Northwestern

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Kevin Dennehy
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Past Alumni Award Winners

The Alumni Recognition Award is awarded annually by all undergraduate degree programs at Montana Tech. This award is a relatively new honor and is designed to compliment the Outstanding Alumni award which has generally been given at the college level to honor a lifetime of work.

The Alumni Recognition Award is designed to honor more recent graduates (5-20 years) who have shown exceptional promise in their chosen profession and are reasonably expected to continue his or her institutional support. This is a huge honor and the BIT Department would like your help in the selection process. Nominations for this award can be communicated formally or informally to any Department member at any time.

2009—Mike Johnson
Class of 1990

2008—Bing Opie
Class of 1993

2007—Timothy Dilworth
Class of 1999

2006—Annette Hill
Class of 1994

2005—Abby Osborne
Class of 2004

2004—Samm Cox
Class of 1992

2003—Sheila Knutson
Class of 1995

2002—Jeffrey Tochiara
Class of 1995

2001—Peter Boyce
Class of 1997

2000—William Robinson
Class of 1984

1999—Michele Davis
Class of 1986

1999—Jennifer Haley
Class of 1990

1998—Kevin Dennehy
Class of 1986

1997—Martin Calvert
Class of 1988

1996—Mark Willse
Class of 1987

1995—Heidi Wright
Class of 1988

1994—Laurie Neils
Class of 1984

BIT Internship Program

Hosting an internship provides wonderful benefits for small as well as large businesses. A successful internship provides students with an unparalleled opportunity to apply their classroom learning to the workplace. Additionally, an Internship provides host organizations with high-achieving workers who bring a fresh perspective and new ideas. A few of the most significant benefits for each business and manager include but are not limited to:

- Enthusiastic and motivated temporary workers
- Develop a pool of potential employees
- Evaluate interns before hiring for a full-time position
- Low total cost for student interns compared to permanent employees

The Business and Information Technology department is looking for summer as well as academic year student internships. Internships can include any aspect of business such as accounting, marketing, human resources, and/or advertising work duties. Montana Tech prides itself on the type of students and graduates produced via our institution. Gaining real work experience is incredibly valuable to a student's academic as well as career success beyond college learning. If you are interested in learning how an internship can benefit your company now or in the future please contact Traci ONEill in the BIT department toneill@mtech.edu, 406.496.4892 or Angela Stillwagon in Career Services ASstillwagon@mtech.edu 406.496.4831.



Student Profile: Whitney Lott

For a second time in almost as many years, Montana Tech is sending one of its own to Washington, D. C. to be an intern on the staff of the United States Senate Finance Committee. Whitney Lott, who will be graduating in May with a degree in Business and Information Technology, will join the Senate Finance Committee staff early next year.

Whitney, born in Sheridan, Montana, grew up on the family ranch and attended school in Twin Bridges, where she graduated from high school in 2007. In high school, Whitney participated in basketball and track and assisted her father who was coaching football. Off the athletic field, Whitney participated in student government and 4-H, and became a member of the National Honor Society.

Whitney's athletic abilities landed her a basketball scholarship at Montana Tech, where she chose to go into the business program. Although three knee surgeries put an early end to her basketball playing, Montana Tech's reputation as a challenging school and its relatively small size – and the relationships that can be developed in such a setting – convinced her to continue her education at Montana Tech.

In addition to basketball, Whitney repeated her high school experience by getting elected to the student senate of the Associated Students of Montana Tech. Last year, after serving for three semesters as a senator, Whitney was elected ASMT president for the 2010-2011 academic year. Intermural sports, working in the Athletic Department, working with Big Brothers and Sisters of Butte, and participating in the Business Club have also been parts of her busy schedule. Added to all of those activities was her participation as a member of the search committee for the new basketball coach. Currently, she is serving as a member of the Business and Information Technology Department Search Committee as it looks to add a sixth full-time member to the faculty of the department.

After graduation, Whitney will be student teaching to complete her teaching certification under the joint program sponsored by Montana Tech and the University of Montana Western. Following student teaching comes the Washington, D. C. internship and then, perhaps, graduate school.

Like many Montanans, the great outdoors holds great appeal to Whitney, so camping and river rafting are on the recreation list. A recent course in rock climbing added to that list of outdoor activities. Currently, Whitney is finishing up a course in boxing.

The Business and Information Technology Department is proud of Whitney's many accomplishments. And perhaps – just perhaps – boxing will be useful when she's in Washington next year!



Sigma Beta Delta

We have now inducted a total of 65 members into the Montana Tech chapter of Sigma Beta Delta. This year we added 9 student members and 1 honorary member at the ceremony on February 23rd. The new members are: Robert Finstad, Brianne McClafferty, Shaunda Wilson, Thane Tokerud, Zachariah Wichman, Jason Silvernale, Margie Aguirre, Lea Stillwagon, Ashley Rowberry, and Annette Hill (honorary).

Sigma Beta Delta is an international honor society of management and business students. Faculty members in the BIT department elect and invite students to become members; it is our way of recognizing students' outstanding scholastic achievements.

Eligibility: To be eligible for membership, a business student must rank in the upper 20 percent of the junior, senior or master's class and be invited to membership by the faculty officers. Additionally, one chapter has been established in the United Arab Emirates, the first international chapter. Montana Tech of the University of Montana became a charter member in September 2005.



Financial Support

We greatly appreciate the financial support provided by the alumni and friends of the BIT department. Every gift matters, regardless of the size. The average annual gift amount was over \$250 per donor. The following is a list of alumni and friends who contributed to the BIT department through the Montana Tech Foundation in the 2010-11 year. Please let us know if there are any errors or omissions in the list so that we can give credit to all of our generous donors. **THANK YOU!**

Alumni Donors

William J. Alger
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Gordon Flanders
Carla A. Jirges
Dr. Timothy L. & Valerie J. Kober
Traci & James O'Neill
David N. Ottolino
Colleen L. Talbott



Thank you for your generous contributions and support!

Miles For Mariah

What began as a small, crazy idea in 2009 has resulted in over 85,000 miles clocked and \$158,601.24 raised for local high school graduating senior scholarships and more importantly, the spark of a national movement. One mile

at a time and one great cause at the heart of each runner, the Miles for Mariah Marathon team took to the streets of New York City. Every marathon team member in 2009 (50 runners) and 2010 (62 runners) completed the 26.219 mile course with a look of pride exhibited by tears, smiles, and a little pain.



Mariah's Challenge is a local charity started as a promise to Butte youth on November 7, 2007 by Leo McCarthy. On October 28, 2007 Mariah Daye McCarthy was tragically killed by an underage drunk driver. At the funeral, Mariah's father Leo McCarthy issued a challenge to the Butte Community, especially to Butte's youngest and most valuable asset, its youth. His most common theme to the students is "grow old" and "be true to yourself." These can be accomplished by living the ideals proposed by Mariah's Challenge; no drinking and driving and no underage drinking.

The Butte community has embraced the challenge. To date, Mariah's Challenge has spread to over thirty Montana cities, across multiple states and into the hearts of many. Mariah's Challenge is the only Montana based non-profit charity to date to be accepted to and run in the New York City Marathon. The race is organized by the New York Road Runners Association and has been run yearly since 1970. One of three elite events, the New York Marathon is considered one of the top international sporting events along side the Boston and Chicago marathons. In its beginning, the NYC Marathon had a mere 127 runners taking on the challenge of running 26.219 miles. Mariah's Marathoners carried the Butte torch running among 42,000 people before a NYC based crowd of over 3.5 million spectators.

Montana Tech has been a proud supporter of the Miles for Mariah Marathon team. Montana Tech faculty and students continue a yearly marathon contagion. Current plans include a team of 15 to run in the Chicago Marathon on October 9, 2011; and a team of 40 runners to the New York City Marathon on November 6, 2011. Each runner is tasked with raising \$1,200.00 for Mariah's Challenge as well as paying for all travel expenses required to attend the running event. If you would like to sponsor a Montana Tech alumni, faculty or student runner please contact Traci O'Neill at 406.496.4892 or toneill@mtech.edu.



MontanaTech
THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Rubbing Elbows

Montana Tech and the students and faculty in the BIT department had the opportunity to connect with community business leaders when they hosted a business card social for the local Chamber of Commerce. The event was held on February 16 in the lobby of the new Natural Resources Building on the west edge of campus.



Get Into It!



We are on the web! <http://www.mtech.edu/clsp/s/bit/>

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Montana Tech
Business &
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Department

*"The class is intended to be
one means of helping small
local businesses succeed ..."*



BIT Alumni Happenings
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