

## Introducing INNOVATION

*The Business & Information Technology Department is pleased to introduce to you our new e-newsletter, INNOVATION*

*We hope that this publication will be a great forum for us to share information about our programs, students and faculty.*

*Our goal is to inspire you with our innovations in business education; promote greater awareness of the activities and research of our students and faculty; and expand our audience to potential new students and businesses.*

*Our intent is for this newsletter to be published on multiple platforms including electronically through our social media, our university website and via hardcopy (for those of us who still prefer to hold real paper in our hands). If you have any ideas about future articles, please know that we would welcome being able to cover those topics. Just let us know!*

*Happy reading!  
The BIT Faculty*



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## Montana CPAs Speak to Tech Business

The Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA) spoke to Montana Tech business students and faculty at a luncheon on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. At the event, the MSCPA leadership and Tech BIT alumni discussed the current state of affairs and opportunities for CPAs and reminisced about their time at Tech.

The Tech alumni were: Jessica Short (BAS, 2014) of Anderson ZurMuehlen, Melissa Rushetti (BS, 2015) of Moss Adams, Tyler Paffhausen (BS, 2018) of Newland and Company. Also speaking was Kevin Markovich of NorthWestern Energy. Representing the MSCPA were Allen Lloyd (Executive Director) and Molly Holahan (Communications Director).

“We were thrilled to have the folks from the MSCPA again here at Montana Tech,” said Dr. Tim Kober,

Chair of the Business & Information Technology Department. “We have a number of students who are pursuing their CPA licensing as well as students who are curious about it as a career option. This was a great opportunity for students to have invaluable contact with current CPA practitioners.”

Accounting is one of the options available at Montana Tech in the Business & Information Technology Department, along with Health Information Technology, Management of Information, and Management of Natural Resources.



## Butte Attorneys Assisting with the Student-run Mock Trial

### Rick Anderson

Attorney at Law  
Retired from  
Private Practice

### Samm Cox

Attorney at Law  
Staff Attorney with the  
County Attorney's Office  
for the City-County of  
Butte-Silver Bow

### Mark Vucurovich

Attorney at Law  
Private Practice with  
Henningsen. Vucurovich

### Critical Thinking:

"The students must be very disciplined as they conceptualize, apply, analyze, synthesize and communicate significant amounts of information in real time."

Associate Professor  
Rita Spear



## Business students conduct mock trial

Local attorneys help students  
with trial preparation.

The Montana Tech students in the Business & Information Technology Department held a mock trial as part of a course to help them develop advanced critical thinking skills. The mock trial, which was free and open to students, faculty, staff and the general public, was held over two days: Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, in the Poore Room of the Gilmore University Relations Building on the Tech campus.

In the mock trial, students acted as witnesses and as attorneys for both the Prosecution and the Defense. The case in the mock trial involved a criminal matter. The rest of the students in the

class served as jurors on the case. They took copious notes during the trial and then openly and publicly conducted their jury deliberations.

**"Our students take this event very seriously."**

"Our students take this event very seriously," said Associate Professor Rita Spear. "Their participation in this mock trial demands superior critical thinking on their parts. In preparation for this mock trial and during the trial, the students must be very disciplined as they conceptualize, apply, analyze, synthesize and communicate significant amounts of information in real time."

Assisting the students with the trial are Butte attorneys, Rick Anderson, Samm Cox and Mark Vucurovich. The attorneys volunteer their time and function as the Judge, and consultants for the Prosecution and the Defense.

"We are thankful to have the participation of attorneys from our own area," said Dr. Tim Kober, Chair of the Business & Information Department. "They are helping our students on a volunteer basis and their good counsel has been invaluable."



## A Message from our BIT Chair, Dr. Tim Kober



Dr. Tim Kober

**ATTENTION  
ALUMNI  
BIT Fall  
Meet and Greet  
Save the Date!  
Butte Brewery**  
465 East Galena St.  
Thursday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 – 7:00 pm

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I hope all is well with you and your family as we get deeper into 2019. Under a new approach, this is the first of four quarterly newsletters that will be published throughout the current academic year. The purpose of this new approach is a first step by the Department to develop a stronger relationship with our alumni. We are fortunate to have over 600 alumni and frankly I have not done a very good job staying in touch with you folks after graduation.

The Business Department has been active and I would like to share some of the highlights with you from the past year.

We have two new faculty members in the Department as a result of a campus wide restructuring effort.

Dr. Charie Faught has officially joined us from the Department of Health Care Informatics. Charie has already proved to be a great addition to our faculty and will be heading up our option in Health Information Technology. Dr. John Garic, who actually joined the Department last academic year, has worked to develop our Management in Natural Resources option. In addition, he has created a five course Petroleum Landman Certificate program that can be done online. Please join me in welcoming these two faculty members into our Department.

I am excited to report that the Department has formally received accreditation from the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE).

Additionally, the Department has continued its association with SAP. We are on schedule to start awarding SAP Certificates to the graduates of our Bachelor of Science program starting with the Spring 2020 semester. I would like to thank all of the faculty for their commitment to the SAP project, and single out Professor Rita Spear as the individual leading the charge.

I look forward to another strong year and in the meantime, I would love to hear from you if you have the time.

Best wishes going forward,

Tim



## INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Dan Mannix, a May 2019 graduate in accounting, accepted a 2019 summer internship with NorthWestern Energy as an energy trader. Dan originally came to Tech from the family ranch in Helmsville, Montana and played football for the Orediggers. Dan was also the recipient of the Strategic Management CEO Award at the spring 2019 board meetings.

According to Dan, the position requires shift work as the trading desk is staffed around the clock. Every day is different as trading has to be balanced out each hour. It is not uncommon to trade hundred thousands of dollars of energy every hour. The internship proved to be successful for both Dan and NorthWestern as Dan was offered a full time position this past September which he accepted.

Dan had also completed an internship at NorthWestern the previous year in the auditing department. NorthWestern sponsored an evening on the Tech campus early in 2019 which is where Dan learned about the trading internship. We are very fortunate to have an employer such as NorthWestern in our backyard and they have been an outstanding supporter of Tech and our students over the years.



Danny Mannix

## Students Assist Local Company with Social Media

Learning through hands-on experience is possibly the best way to learn and it can provide great benefits for all parties involved. The Business and Information Technology Department (BIT) is always open to and looking for ways to provide such experience to our students. We have provided opportunities for students to work on real life projects provided by local businesses as part of course assignments and the BIT has had great success placing students into internships provided by a variety of businesses both local and out of state. These are win/win experiences as the employers can gain as much from the opportunity as the student.

At the start of spring 2019 semester an outstanding experiential opportunity presented itself to the BIT. It started out as a simple request for an intern to do some social media marketing for a local Real Estate business – Coldwell Banker Markovich Real Estate (Markovich). After a little digging it became obvious that Markovich needed more social media help than just an intern as they really were unsure of exactly how they were going to use the intern and seemed to be lacking an overall social media strategy. Therefore, it was suggested that there may be an opportunity for the BIT to deliver to Markovich more than just an intern. It so happened that the BIT had a group of students registered for a special topics integrated marketing course as they were finishing up their BIT marketing option degrees. They were going to be assigned to help the BIT with

its own Marketing objectives. However, there were more students registered for the course than was needed for the BIT's project. Therefore, it was decided to split the group into two and assign half to Markovich and half to the BIT project.

Markovich really embraced the idea of a group of our students developing for them an overall Social Media Strategy. Sidni Markovich, owner, expressed "I cannot tell you how excited we are to work on this project with your students". Tucker Rauthe, Erin McGeehan, Chris Kelly, Jackson King, and Danny Peoples were assigned to the Markovich project. The project was led by Todd Tregidga an Assistant Professor in the BIT. While Todd does not have a social media marketing background, he does have project management background and managed the project as if the students were marketing consultants and it was an actual marketing consulting engagement.

The project was kicked off with a scoping meeting at Markovich's office on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The student group listened intently and asked excellent questions. Immediately following the meeting the students met on campus and quickly identified individual responsibilities that would support the agreed upon deliverable. Every Friday after that the group met to discuss progress, integration, and any problems encountered. The final Strategy was presented to Markovich's office on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to the Strategy, a PowerPoint was developed by the team to explain the Strategy and all students took the opportunity to participate in the presentation. The team really represented themselves, the BIT department, and the campus very well and the Markovich team was thoroughly pleased and impressed by the efforts of the team.

**"I find exceptional value in both the Strategy and the presentation and I plan to keep it close to me as we implement it".**

- Sidni Markovich

The week following the presentation, Sidni expressed "I find exceptional value in both the Strategy and the presentation and I plan to keep it close to me as we implement it". In the end Markovich not only took possession of a Social Media Marketing Strategy, but they got their intern after all as both Danny Peoples and Chris Kelly accepted part time marketing positions, Danny's was only through the summer as he is continuing his studies this Fall, but Chris had graduated and continues to provide social media marketing services to Markovich. Overall, this serendipitous opportunity turned into a great success for all parties involved and we will continue to look for similar experiential opportunities in the future.

### Students Working on the Markovich Media Project:

Chris Kelly

Jackson King

Erin McGeehan

Danny Peoples

Tucker Rauthe

Faculty Mentor:

Assistant Professor  
Todd Tregidga

### **FYI BIT** **Enrollment Data:**

**Fall 2015 – 167**

**Fall 2016 – 175**

**Fall 2017 – 161**

**Fall 2018 – 158**

**Fall 2019 - 146**



## BIT Awards First Professional Landman Certificates

Montana Tech and the BIT Department awarded its first two Professional Landman Certificates. The students are: Jack Hape, December, 2018 BS Management of Natural Resources Option and Inuwa Sadiq, May, 2019 BS Management of Natural Resources Option.

The BIT began developing the Professional Landman Certificate Program in the Summer of 2017 and offered its first class in the Fall of 2017. Since then, all five classes of

the PLC Program have been developed and are offered online.

Jack is currently working in the industry for Extraction Oil & Gas (EOG) Corporation based in Denver, Colorado. Inuwa worked as an intern this past summer for EOG. As an international student, he is currently working on his necessary paperwork to allow him to stay and work in the US and will probably return to EOG at that time.

“This work is so interesting and exciting,” said Inuwa. “This work combines the complexity of contracts with the intricacy of reading and interpreting maps and with the fascinating and unique story told by each piece of land.”

“The demand for professional landmen is robust,” said Dr. John M. Garic, Tech’s advisor to the PLC Program. “I foresee a bright way ahead for this program and its future graduates.”

## BIT FACULTY

TIM KOBER  
PROFESSOR/CHAIR

LANCE REVENAUGH  
ASSOCIATE  
PROFESSOR

RITA SPEAR  
ASSOCIATE  
PROFESSOR

CHARIE FAUGHT  
ASSOCIATE  
PROFESSOR

TODD TREGIDGA  
ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR

DAVID HOOD  
ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR

JOHN M. GARIC  
VISITING PROFESSOR

DARLENE VOSS  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSOCIATE

## Big Upcoming News!! He’s coming back!!

### Dr. Doug Abbott, Provost, returning to the Department

After serving as Montana Tech’s Provost for 13 years, Dr. Doug Abbott will return to his faculty roots in July, 2020. His faculty roots, of course, are in the Business & Information Technology Department!

“We are looking forward to having Doug back in our department,” said Dr. Tim Kober, BIT Chair. “Doug will add his Forensic Economics expertise to our academic portfolio. He is a well-known and court-approved expert in this field.”



**MontanaTech**  
means BUSINESS!  
And BUSINESS  
is everywhere!

For further information  
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# MontanaTech

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