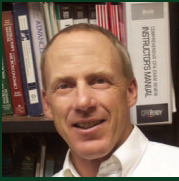


Get Into It!

Alumni BIT

Here's to 2009



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 you folks are making the best of this New Year. I once again have the distinct pleasure of bringing you up to date regarding the news and events of the department of Business and Information Technology.

The Business Department remains as one of the largest programs on campus and we have continued to focus on ways to improve our offerings. Last year, if you recall, we completed a fairly significant revision in our options and this year we are making an effort to improve both our internship program and our undergraduate student research opportunities.

We continue to produce some highly qualified graduates as evidenced by the national standardized business Major Field Test. This test is administered by 564 schools across the country that offer undergraduate business programs. I am very pleased to report that our BIT graduates from this past year scored in the 75th percentile when compared to the institutional mean for all schools using this assessment tool. Additionally, our students also performed above the national mean in each of the nine individual test disciplines. This direct assessment is a great testament to the hard work of our students and faculty.

I am very happy to welcome Professor Gordon Flanders to our faculty. Gordy emerged as the top candidate from a nationwide search last spring and started this past fall and has proved to be a great fit for our department. In addition, I would like to express my continued thanks to all the faculty of this Department for their dedication and hard work over this academic year. These individuals continue to do all of what is asked and more in terms of advancing the business program and as a result we continue to move forward as a department. Our faculty also owes a great deal of thanks to the members of our Industrial Advisory Board. These individuals have been a great help to the faculty of the Department as we work to improve our program.

Finally, I want to emphasize that I see this newsletter primarily as a vehicle to reconnect past students with both the business department and other alumni. While we continue to receive a few messages, there are still plenty of you that have yet to respond. Please consider contacting one of us at the department or starting your connection through the alumni center and letting us know what is going on in your personal or professional lives.

I wish you the best for the current year.

Tim

Mike Johnson Named as 2009 BIT Distinguished Alumni



Mike Johnson was the 2009 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni award for the Business Department. Mike received a Bachelor of Science degree from Montana Tech in Business Administration

1990 and graduated as the valedictorian of his class. Mike continued his education by completing his MBA from the University of Montana and he currently is working on his dissertation as part of his doctoral studies at the University of Montana. Mike had an accelerated career in industry before he elected to join the business faculty at Montana Tech in 2006. He currently is the Vice Chancellor of Development and Student Services as well as the President of the Foundation at Montana Tech, but continues to help the Department as an instructor of the Department's Strategic Management capstone course.

The Alumni Recognition Award is awarded annually by all undergraduate degree programs at Montana Tech. The award is designed to honor more recent graduates (within the past 5-20 years) who have shown exceptional promise in their chosen profession and are reasonably expected to continue their career success. Additionally, the graduate must have shown an interest in supporting Montana Tech and be reasonably expected to continue her or his institutional support. This is a huge honor and the BIT Department would like your help in the selection process. Nominations for this award are always accepted and can be communicated formally or informally to any Department member.



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 are always accepted and can be communicated formally or informally to any Department member.

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



Thank you to our
2009 Advisory
Board Members

Doug Abbott
Montana Tech

Karen Byrnes
Butte Silver Bow

Chris Curran
Northwestern

Shelly Davis
Sage Accounting LLC

Kevin Dennehy
St. James Healthcare

Tim Dilworth
Coldwater Creek

Annette Hill
AZ & Company

Mike Johnson
Montana Tech

Brodie Kelly
360 Networks

Sheila Knutson
Sage Accounting LLC

Bing Opie
SKG

Randy Simkins
Summit Financial

Judy Staudinger
Northwestern

Gary Mannix
Montana Tech

Jim McKenzie
Newland & Company

Jim Smitham
Butte Local
Development Council

AZ and MT Tech Interns ~ A Recipe for Success



One of the most rewarding and beneficial activities Business students can participate in is an internship. Course material will provide required knowledge but, the transfer of this academic knowledge into real world experience is priceless. To gain an advantage in today's markets, Montana Tech's Business students need to obtain the gift of real world work experience prior to graduation. The Business and Information Technology academic team is gearing up to begin making internships a requirement prior to graduation. This cannot be accomplished without the expansion of the base of current internship business opportunities available via Montana Tech's Career Services office. Internships are extremely beneficial for the student but, they also provide many advantages to/for the business. In an effort to provide insight into the preceding business based benefits, Annette Hill the Office Vice President, CPA and shareholder with Anderson Zurmuehlen (AZ) was interviewed. Below is a summation of her thoughts relative to AZ's long standing relationship with Montana Tech's Business Internship program.

Anderson Zurmuehlen utilizes interns year round and even more during tax season. Most of the interns put in approximately 15 to 20 hours per week depending on their school course load. AZ has taken advantage of Montana Tech's internship program for approximately 10 years. Over the past ten years, AZ has employed seventeen college level interns. Twelve of these seventeen were Montana Tech business students and seven of these students were offered and accepted full-time positions with AZ after graduation. AZ's goal with their use of interns is to expose each student to the full range of services they offer such as tax, attest, and accounting services. Use of internships has presented a win-win situation for both the student and AZ. It allows AZ to "try out" the student as a potential employee and the student to try out the organization with-

out any long standing commitment. Ideally, it allows the student to gain real-life experience into the field of public accounting to determine if accounting is truly their field of interest or whether they would rather work in private or government related industry

Annette offered a few suggestions to any new business interested in establishing an internship program. First, develop an internal process for each intern that includes formal company orientation along with an established work schedule. Provide the intern with a mentor who has been recently hired and familiar with the internship experience. The success of an internship program on the part of the business depends greatly on internal planning and supervision.

In terms of student expectations, AZ, and Montana Tech, Annette noted that the internship program truly functions best with a team approach. From the standpoint of the student, Annette requires AZ's interns to have a genuine interest in accounting with the future goal of passing the CPA exam; excellent computer and communication skills; a GPA above a 3.5 and involvement in community and campus activities/events. From the standpoint of AZ, Annette expects each intern will gain a great deal of experience if all AZ employees follow the company's core values and performance standards as well as, align their personal goals with the organization's goals. Lastly, on the part of Montana Tech, AZ expects Montana Tech to assist their recruiters' efforts to determine which students are the best candidates for their opportunities. Additionally, Montana Tech must provide the opportunities for students to meet and interview with their company.

Internships are a wonderful opportunity for both employer and student. The benefits far exceed the expenses associated with training and candidate screening. Please contact Sarah Raymond, Director of Montana Tech's Career Services (406.496.4384) or Traci O'Neill, Assistant BIT professor (406.496.4892) for additional information on how your company can get involved in this wonderful program.



Sigma Beta Delta

Sigma Beta Delta is an international honor society of management and business students. Membership in Sigma Beta Delta is the highest national recognition a business student can receive at a college or university with a Sigma Beta Delta chapter. 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.

We have inducted 55 members since our first semester. The Sigma Beta Delta Induction ceremony was held on February 24th in the Copper Lounge. Those inducted were as follows: Justin V. Azure, Tana C. Craigle, Michelle Davis, Gordon Flanders, Roberta M. Kaldor, Skyler M. Knuchel, Shiela Knutson, Whitney A. Lott, Samantha R. Maloney, Cari A. McCarthy, Maggie Peterson, Theresa A Schultz, and Scott T. Yogodzinski.



Alumni Donations to the Tech Foundation

The following is a list of the BIT department alumni who donated to the support of the department during 2009. Your support, currently and in the future, is greatly appreciated. If there are any errors on the list or your contribution does not show on the list – please let us know.

William Alger
 Joseph & Lynette Casagrande
 Dr. Douglas Coe
 Christopher Curran
 Michelle Curran
 Tim & Amy Dilworth
 Mary Dudley
 Catherine & James Falvey
 John & Toni Finstad
 Michael Hart
 Peggy Hawkes
 Annette & Steve Hill

Tim & Valerie Kober
 Joseph & Autumn Kondelis
 Andrea Ledin
 Tammi & Joseph Lester
 Brandon McLean
 Jaclyn O'Connor
 Traci O'Neill
 Maggie & Henry Peterson
 Mary & Don Petritz
 Raymond & Debbie Puccinelli
 Janet Smyth
 Brad & Rosemarie Spear

Lea Stillwagon
 Colleen Talbott
 Jeffrey & Norie Tochiara
 Janelle & Joshua Vincent



Thank you for your generous contribution and support!



Business Students Score Impressive Results

Tech business students from the class of 2009 took part in the **Business Major Field of Study** exam, a standardized business exam administered to undergraduate business students at over 550 institutions offering four year degree programs across the country. Overall, Tech students as a group scored in the 75th percentile and specifically Tech students outperformed the mean in all nine of the individual business disciplines. The results are presented in the following table:

2009 Business Major Field of Study Exam Results			
	Institutional Mean Score	Montana Tech Mean Score	Montana Tech Percentile Ranking
Overall Results	151.6	157.0	75
Accounting	49.8	59.0	90
Economics	47.4	52.0	70
Management	54.7	55.0	50
Quantitative	46.2	49.0	65
Finance	54.9	61.0	70
Marketing	52.0	55.0	60
Legal Environment	46.1	50.0	70
Information Systems	58.0	64.0	85
International Issues	54.0	59.0	65

The results appear to offer a testament to the overall strength of our program and in particular it reinforces the focus of our program on information technology related disciplines. Congratulations to the class of 2009!

Undergraduate Research

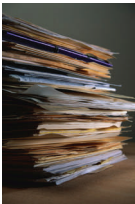
Three students are conducting business related undergraduate research projects for Spring 2010. The Undergraduate Research Program (URP) gives motivated undergraduates a chance to participate in research and scholarly activity that goes beyond the usual classroom activities. Students submit proposals in the Fall semester and conduct their research in the Spring semester. The final results will be presented to the URP committee in April. Ed Mercado, Nicole Naasz, and Ruslan Idrisov will be working with mentors from the Business department on the following projects:



- ⇒ **Ruslan Idrisov**: “An Investigation to Determine Whether Changes in Oil Prices Affect Stock Market Performance”

- ⇒ **Edwin Mercado**: “A Qualitative Investigation into Factors Impacting a Student's Motivation Level”

- ⇒ **Nicole Naasz**: “The Future of the Business and Information Technology Department at Montana Tech - a Research Study to Support Program Evolution and Enhancement”



Alumni Happenings

The Department is continuously assessing its offerings and is currently seeking information from all past graduates. An online survey has been set up at [surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com) and your help is needed. This short survey should take no more than ten-minutes to complete and will provide the Department with valuable information. Please go to the following site to complete the questionnaire: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=FImoOi4uq21YV4J2x1ITYg_3d_3d. Also, feel free to contact any of the Department faculty members and let us know about your personal and professional lives. We would love to hear from you!

Montana Tech Welcomes Students from Saudi Arabia

This past fall, the BIT department welcomed 18 students from Saudi Arabia who are at Montana Tech of The University of Montana to earn four-year degrees in Business and Information Technology. The government of Saudi Arabia generously supports these students by providing scholarships that includes money for tuition, housing and living expenses. The government provides this scholarship for six years with the first year in the United States focused on learning English and then each student has five years to complete their undergraduate degree. The students at Montana Tech completed their English training at the English Language Institute at University of Montana in Missoula and then enrolled at Montana Tech for their undergraduate degree. These 18 students represent a contingent of over 100 students from Saudi Arabia on the Montana Tech campus this year and have been a major part of the record enrollment on campus this year. Together these students represent a significant enrollment in many BIT classes and they are a welcome addition to the Montana Tech campus.



Get Into It!



Student Profile: Nate Lester

The proud owner of the new two-wheeler is Business and Information Technology student Nate Lester. A Butte native, Nate is a “super senior” in the accounting program at Montana Tech, busily working on the 150 credit hours necessary for being licensed as a certified public accountant.

Although born in Butte, much of Nate’s childhood was spent in Texas. Nate and his family returned to Montana during his junior year in high school, and Nate graduated from high school in Twin Bridges in 2006. It was during these last years in high school that Nate was exposed to accounting as a possible career option.

Nate began his college career in the fall of 2006. As with many students, Nate’s choice of Montana Tech was influenced in part by its lower cost and the availability of scholarships, in part by the smaller size of the institution, and in part by a fondness for Butte and the surrounding area. Of course, it also helped that Nate’s uncle built a successful career on his Montana Tech degree, and that Nate’s grandfather taught humanities at Montana Tech and served there as athletic director and coach as well.

Although he had heard that Montana Tech was a hard school, Nate has come to appreciate the advantages that a smaller school brings: the ability to get more out of classes and to know professors and fellow students better. Even in classes not on his favorite list, like Applications Programming, Nate has learned the value that the class brings to his chosen field.

In addition to his academic work, Nate is working as an intern for the Montana Tech Foundation. There he is putting his accounting knowledge to good use, helping the Foundation staff account for purchase orders, payables, and disbursements and generate monthly financial reports. As part of this work, Nate is helping keep track of members and receipts for Digger Athletics on QuickBooks. Last summer, Nate worked as an accounting intern for Rio Tinto Energy America in Gillette, Wyoming, where he helped track mining inventory warehoused there.

After finishing the 150 hours needed for a CPA certificate, Nate hopes to put his accounting knowledge to use locally, either in public or private accounting. Work on a masters degree is also in the mix, with an eye on a longer term objective of going into teaching.

When not buried with homework, Nate likes to snowboard, fish on the Jefferson River, and go four-wheeling. And of course, now he can do two-wheeling, too!

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

toneill@mtech.edu

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406-496-4401

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Butte MT, 59701

**Montana Tech
Business &
Information
Technology
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*"The class is intended to
be one means of helping
small local businesses
succeed ..."*



BIT Alumni Happenings
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