Professor Mary MacLaughlin arrived at Montana Tech in 1996 having earned her bachelor’s degree in geological engineering from the University of Minnesota and master’s and doctoral degrees in civil engineering with an emphasis in geotechnical engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. She greatly appreciates the opportunities she has had at Montana Tech to integrate teaching, research, and service, and will take this opportunity as she embarks on her 25th year at Tech to highlight some of her research accomplishments made with students, focusing on the themes of “inspiration, collaboration, and transformation.” In particular, she plans to summarize recent work and future plans involving drones and other new technology to develop enhanced procedures for engineering characterization of rock in the lab and in the field.