



# NORTHERN NETWORK NEWS

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern

August 29, 2014

## *This Week on Campus*

### **Welcome to the NNN**

The Northern Network News is MSU-Northern's weekly newsletter designed to keep you informed of all the things happening on our campus. It comes out every Friday during the school year with the exception of vacations and holidays. If you want something included in the NNN, please submit it to [potterj@msun.edu](mailto:potterj@msun.edu) by Wednesday at noon and make sure you indicate in the subject line "For NNN."

### **MSU-Northern Chancellor Announces Resignation**

Dr. James Limbaugh announced his resignation as Chancellor of MSU-Northern effective 5:00 p.m. today (August 29).

During his tenure at Northern, Limbaugh was able to increase enrollment in the fall of 2013. He also advanced campus renovations that include a stabilization project of Donaldson Hall, the rebuilding of the campus' tennis courts, an extensive remodel of student dining facilities, the conservation and display of an impressive collection of Native American artifacts, as well as an extensive renovation of the gym floor and bleachers in the Armory Gym.

Montana State University President Waded Cruzado thanked Limbaugh for his dedication and service to Northern and its students.

"Chancellor Limbaugh is a life-long educator and he has always striven to do the best for students. Even in his resignation, he is putting students first so MSU-Northern can continue to move forward," Cruzado said. "I want to thank Chancellor Limbaugh for his dedicated service to MSU Northern and for his collaboration with the MSU campuses."



## Student Orientation Reports Record Numbers



This year Northern's student orientation was attended by 190 students and many of their parents bringing the overall total to over 325 people, which is more than double last year's attendance. Ashley Betzel, the Student Orientation Coordinator, and her team did an outstanding job informing new and transfer students about Northern and all it has to offer.

## "Big N" Competition



The Havre Chamber of Commerce and Montana State University-Northern have teamed up to launch the "Big N" decorating contest. This contest is designed to "N"lighten, "N"vision, "N"hance, "N"vigorate, and "N"ergize Northern school spirit throughout Havre. Any person or business that wants to participate can pick up an assembled or unassembled "Big N" kit from the Chamber of Commerce between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Mon.-Fri.) Campus clubs and departments can get their kit through Denise Brewer in the SUB. The unassembled kit costs \$30 and contains pre-cut

wood to build and paint an "N." This kit offers more liberty in creativity. The assembled kit costs \$50 and is designed for those who just want to get decorating.

People are encouraged to decorate their "N" in a way that promotes their business or demonstrates who we are as a community. They will display their "N" in front of their store or residence throughout Havre's Festival Days and during all home athletic events. Participants are also encouraged to incorporate their "N" into their Festival Days float, so more people will be able to see the winning designs. Voting ballots will be in the Festival Days insert of the Havre Daily News. The votes will be tallied and the winners announced during half-time of Northern's Homecoming football game on Saturday, September 27. The competition categories will be: Best Overall, Most Creative, and Best Use of Color. The winners will receive two season tickets to every Northern home athletic event for the 2014-2015 athletic season.

## Wet Willy



Northern's Chi Alpha seventh annual Wet Willy event created quite a splash. Wednesday afternoon, the sun came out to create enough warmth to generate a non-stop line of people for four hours. Everyone who braved the slippery college hill received a free T-shirt courtesy of Chi Alpha.

## Student Handbook/Calendars

If you did not get your student handbook/calendar during orientation, they are available at the SUB Info desk or in the Admissions Office (Cowan Hall 213).

## Show Your Colors

Friday is Northern Logo Day! Everyone is encouraged to wear Maroon and Gold and logo gear. We want to show off our school spirit and support our student athletes.

## Follow Northern 24/7

Do you want to stay connected to the happenings of Northern 24/7? Follow @msunorthern on Twitter. You can also get updates through Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/msunorthern](http://www.facebook.com/msunorthern). This is your school. Be in "the know." #GoLights

## Pickle-ball

The ASMSUN Intramural & Recreation would like to introduce you to pickle-ball. You may be wondering, "What is pickle-ball?" We thought you'd ask. Pickle-ball is played on our newly renovated tennis courts with square-like paddles and a perforated polymer ball. The ball is served diagonally and points are scored the same as tennis. The first side scoring eleven points and leading by at least two points wins. Like tennis, pickle-ball can be played in singles or doubles. Though this sport is similar to tennis and other racquet sports in some regards, it also has its own unique rules, for instance, the "no-volley zone" which limits severe spiking. This is a sport for all ages and is on the rise. Be on the lookout for upcoming pickle-ball tournaments, and get ready to try out a fun and easy-going activity with other Northern students.



## MSUN Nursing Students Have Highest Pass Rate in Montana

MSU-Northern has been proud of its nursing students for many many years, but this year marks an achievement of special importance. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing has reported that year-to-date (January 1-June 30, 2014), MSUN has the highest pass rate of any nursing education program in the State of Montana-92.68%. Of 41 students taking the test, 38 passed.

"This success is a testament to the commitment and tireless efforts of our nursing educators to ensure that our students graduate from our program with the skills necessary to enter the health professions as qualified, confident nurses," explained MSU-Northern Chancellor Dr. James Limbaugh. "I would also like to recognize and congratulate Arlys Williams, our interim director, for her leadership in this achievement."

All nursing candidates for the ADN (Associate Degree in Nursing) are required to take and pass the NCLEX-RN (National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses) for licensure in order "to ensure public protection" through measurement of "the competencies needed to perform safely and effectively as an entry-level nurse" (as quoted from the NCLEX website). Congratulations to the dedicated nursing and their hard-working, quality instructors.

## Alisha Schroeder, you are PURE GOLD!

Alisha Schroeder is a staff member of the MSU-Northern campus. The following is her Pure Gold Award nomination submitted by colleague Norton Pease.

Northern has one of the most talented and respected individuals at the helm of the registrar's office. I would like to introduce you to my nominee for Pure Gold: Alisha Schroeder was hired at MSU-Northern as the assistant registrar in 2010, and by 2013 she was asked to serve as interim registrar. Needless to say, Alisha stepped into her new and demanding role with poise, competence and energy. We all discovered that she was a perfect fit.

Instrumental in all facets of our academic process, I am thankful that as of last December her role has become official. However, her ability to do her job well does not warrant her nomination alone. Rather, it's how she goes about her daily business. She proves her competency every minute, and truly does so with a smile and without misstep. No matter what issue is at hand, she maintains an extremely calming demeanor, a trait truly beneficial during emergencies. For many of us at Northern, Alisha is the go-to person when solutions or assistance are needed.

One of our busiest administrators, Alisha is always available to everyone. She will drop whatever project she's working on and never make anyone feel like they are interrupting her. Basically, she is thinking about others and how to best serve our students, her needs secondary. Despite this, she always gets the job done with the utmost professionalism and a smile. As registrar, she must frequently navigate tricky waters. She's able to do so with integrity, discretion and a sound moral compass. These traits also define her as a great leader. Alisha consistently inspires us to lead with grace and compassion, all the while maintaining a student-centered focus. Alisha is pure gold, but I'll add that I believe she's platinum.



## New Employees at MSU-Northern

**Alyssa Frei** is the new Assistant Certified Athletic Trainer. She recently finished her position as a Graduate Assistant Athletic Trainer at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. While there, she obtained her Master's degree in Education Administration. She also has her Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training from the University of Montana.

**Amanda Lawyer (Meyer)** is the new accounting Clerk. Previously she worked as an Assistant Manager for South Side Bank in Peoria, Illinois and an Account Manager with CDW in Chicago, Illinois. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Business Management from Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, Illinois.

**Arne Sippola** is the new Elementary Education Faculty member. Sippola was an Associate Professor of Education at Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota. He has a Ph.D. in Reading/Language Arts (K-12) from the University of Washington and graduate degrees in early childhood education from the University of Washington and special education from the University of Alaska, Southeast.

**Arthur D. Smith III** is the new Assistant Men's Football Coach. Smith attended the University of Mount Union where he started at linebacker for two years and led the Raiders into two national championship games, while being honored with first team all-conference. He majored in Physical Education with a minor in Health and Multi-Age Education.

**Bill Rugg** is the new Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. Previously he was the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. He has his Ph. D. in Higher Education Administration and Student Services from the University of Mississippi.

**Carissa Brown** is the new Welding Instructor. She has been working for Central Machine and Welding since receiving her Welding Technology associate's degree from Helena College of the University of Montana.

**Chad Spangler** is the new HP Faculty. Chad has instructed sophomore-level students in epidemiology at Carroll College and worked at St. Peter's Hospital in Helena. He received his PhD from Walden University in Public Health with an emphasis in Epidemiology, an MS from The University of Montana in Health Promotion/Psychology, and is a Northern alumnus.

**Christian Rago** is the new Assistant Men's Football Coach. Coach Rago graduated from Aurora University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. He will be coaching the running backs for the Lights.

**Clara Osborne** is the new Catering Supervisor. A student of Cut Bank High School and Stone Child College, Osborne most recently has been employed at PJ's Restaurant, where she gained 6 years food service experience.

**Cody O'Neill** is the new Assistant Men's Football Coach. O'Neill played college football for the University of South Dakota. Coach O'Neill will be coaching the offensive line here for the Lights. He attended the NFL Minnesota Vikings rookie minicamp in early May of 2014.

**Cristina Underwood** is the new Director of Diversity Awareness and Multicultural Programs. She holds a Master's Degree in Teaching English as a Second Language from Eastern Washington University and her undergraduate degree from Universidad LaSalle Laguna. Underwood has extensive teaching experience including TESL and Spanish instruction.

**David Bokor** is the new Residence Life Coordinator. He worked extensively in residence hall life as an undergraduate at Michigan Technological University, where he received a BS in Psychology, and at Northern Michigan University.

**David Hildebrand** is the new Maintenance Supervisor. He has many years of experience in carpentry, small engine repair, and construction, and an AS from Minot State University.

**Emily Richmond** is the new Administrative Associate III in the Student Union Building. A Havre High School graduate, she has 8 years of experience in customer service, most recently at Tilleman Motors.

**Gage Aker** is the new Assistant Men's Basketball Coach. He is a 2013 graduate of Concordia University in Portland, Oregon, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a minor in mathematics.

**Gail Shatkus** is the new Design Drafting Technology Faculty member. She has a Master's in Education from Ashland University and a BS in Industrial Education from Bowling Green State University. She most recently taught at Chester Joplin Inverness School District with twenty years of teaching experience and ten years in the private sector.

**James Erickson** is the new Assistant Men's Football Coach. A native of Boise, Idaho, Erickson attended Boise State University for 2 years before transferring to MSU-Northern. He is currently a senior and will graduate with a degree in Health Promotion

**Jamie Friedank** is the new Student Success Advisor. She has a BA in Criminal Justice from SUNY-Albany, and an MS in Criminal Justice from Niagara University. Friedank has an extensive background in education and criminal justice, most recently at colleges and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America in Vermont.

**Jan Starr** is the new Director of Nursing. Dr. Starr comes to Northern with many years of experience in nursing education. She holds several degrees, including a BSN from Indiana University, an MS from New Mexico State University, an MSN from University of Texas El Paso, and a doctorate from the American Institute of Holistic Theology.

**Jillian Barber** is the new Accounting Clerk. A Chinook High School graduate, she holds a BS in History and Political Studies from MSU-Billings. She most recently served as administrative associate for the Montana Environmental Training Center at Northern.

**Joey Todd** is the new Health Promotion Faculty. He has been employed at colleges in New Jersey for several years as instructor and admissions specialist. He received a BA in Philosophy from Temple University, an MEd from Montclair State University, and is a doctoral candidate at Montclair State University in Pedagogy and Philosophy.

**Josh Gomez** is the new Computer Support Specialist. Gomez has over 14 years of experience in computer maintenance and operation, and most recently was employed at Office Equipment in Havre.

**Karen Terrell** is the new Financial Aide Specialist. Terrell has extensive experience with teaching, as well as working in the private sector and managing budgets.

**Kevin Ruby** is the new Automotive/Diesel Faculty member. He received his BS in Automotive Services from MSUN, and has many years of automotive services experience as well as teaching automotive technology for the past 8 years in Georgia.

**Kirk Olson** is the new Technical Mathematics Coordinator. He has been an instructor for the past few years at Northern, where he received his BS in Math and Biology in 2012 and tutored for Student Support Services and the Learning Center.

**LaVon Myers** is a new Admissions Specialist. A 2014 graduate of MSU-Northern in Health and Physical Education, Myers was a stand-out basketball player on the Lights squad, and has worked at Wells Fargo Bank, Wolfers Restaurant, and Master Sports.

**Lindsey Brown** is a new Admissions Specialist. She has worked in print journalism since obtaining a Communications degree from the University of Miami in Coral Gables. She wants to promote the college and Havre so others will come to love it as she has.

**Margaret Mahoney** is the new Criminal Justice Faculty member. She holds a BS in Criminal Justice from Eastern Kentucky University, an MS in Justice Administration from the University of Louisville, and is a doctoral candidate in Criminology at the University of Delaware. She has several years of teaching as part of her educational path.

**Mel Edwards** is the new Energy Sector Curriculum Developer. She holds a degree in English and Education from the SUNY College at New Paltz, and a MA from East Tennessee State University in Education: Storytelling/Reading.

**Melissa Haymaker** is the new Cashier for Food Services. Haymaker, a Havre High School graduate, has worked for over 7 years in food service, most recently at Northern Montana Hospital.

**Michael Woronik** is the new Information Management Systems Manager for the Computer Help Desk. Woronik graduated from Havre High School, and has strong computer maintenance and operation skills. He is a welcoming face at the Help Desk!

**Nicole Yazzie** is the new Assistant Women's Basketball Coach and Sports Information Director. She is a 2013 graduate of Westminster College where she earned a degree in psychology and a minor in business.

**Rebecca Bunnell** is the new Administration/Human Resources Support staff. Bunnell is a Havre High School graduate and has attended MSU-Billings and MSU-Northern. She has extensive banking and customer service experience.

**Terri Hildebrand** is the new Biology Faculty member. She holds a BS in Biology and Math from Black Hills State University, and a PhD from the University of Kansas in Botany. She was most recently an assistant professor of Biology at Southern Utah University.

**Val Ridgeway** is the new Clinical Resource Registered Nurse in Lewistown. Ridgeway has 30 years of experience as a nurse, and received her nursing degree from Northern Montana College.

## *Important Announcements*

### **Last Day List**

If you need to add a full semester class, the final day to do so is: September 4, 2014

To drop a first-half class, without a "W," you must do so on or before: September 4, 2014

In order to drop a full semester class, without a "W," do so on or before: September 9, 2014

### **Confirm Your Attendance**

Students, please make sure you've confirmed your attendance for fall 2014 in order to avoid late fees and being dropped from your courses. You can confirm your attendance online through MyInfo, or stop in and do so at the Business Office in Cowan Hall. Also, please print, complete, and return the [Student Insurance & Tuition Payment Form](#) to MSU-N Business Services today!

### **The Pin-n-Cue and Fitness Center Hours**

The Pin-n-Cue and Fitness Center in the SUB will be open Monday- Friday from 7 a.m.-9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Hiking and Canoeing - Aug. 30 & Sept. 6**

MSU-Northern Intramurals/Recreation will be sponsoring two fun-filled events on August 30 and September 6 for students, faculty and/or staff to attend.

On Saturday, August 30, a canoeing trip is scheduled with a departure time of 1 p.m. Please sign up at the SUB Information Desk by Friday, August 29 by 5 p.m. We will meet at the SUB Lobby to caravan out to the mountains for a wonderful day of canoeing, swimming, and fishing (bring your fishing poles, if you choose). Northern will also be hosting a BBQ with all the fixings that evening.

Saturday, September 6, 2014 at 9 a.m., a hike up the infamous Mt. Otis in the Bears Paw Mountains is planned. Those interested in attending must sign up at the SUB Information desk by Friday, September 5 by 5 p.m. The group will be meeting at the SUB Lobby at 9 a.m. and caravanning out to the Bears Paw Mountains. Lunch and refreshments will be provided for those who attend. We hope you can make it!

### **MSU-Northern Community Orchestra Begins - Sept. 2**

The Montana State University-Northern Community Orchestra will have its first rehearsal of the season on Tuesday, September 2 at 7 p.m. in the Pershing Hall music room at MSU-Northern. Musicians of all levels of proficiency are welcome to attend within the age-group of: middle school through

adult. Rehearsals will be every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. and a concert performance will be held November 18- "A Tribute to Rock & Roll." If you're interested, please contact Rhonda Minnick at 265-5987 or Sharon Dolph at 390-4562 for more information. New musicians are always welcome.

### **Bingo is Back- Sept. 3**

The Associated Students of MSU-Northern are hosting monthly bingo nights this semester. The first bingo night will be September 3 at 7 p.m. in the SUB Ballroom. Students will play several rounds of regular bingo for prizes, and a 7" Android tablet will be given away to the winner of the blackout bingo at the end of the evening. Snacks and refreshments will also be provided.

### **Involvement Fair Scheduled- Sept. 4**

The Associated Students of MSU-Northern Inter-Organizational Council (IOC) is hosting an Involvement Fair for the students of MSU-Northern. Northern clubs will gather together to present information about their organization on September 4 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on the Pershing Lawn (weather permitting). If the weather does not cooperate, we will move the event into the SUB Ballroom.

Several community organizations will also be on site to share their services for new and returning MSU-Northern students. Some of these organizations are Family Planning, Early Head Start, Energy Assistance, Child Care Link, Employment & Training, Job Service, Radio Shack, Boys' & Girls' Club, Wells Fargo Bank and the Hill County Democrats.

MSU-Northern clubs available with information are:

- Bacchus Club
- Venturing Club
- Ambassadors
- ASMSUN - Student Senate
- Sweetgrass Society
- Student Health
- Diversity & Multi-Cultural Center
- ASMSUN Intramurals & Recreation
- ASMSUN Program Council
- Student Education Association
- KNMC
- Enactus (Business Club)
- PAS (Post Secondary Ag)
- Chi Alpha
- Sustainability Council
- Nursing Club
- SkillsUSA
- Northern Diesel Racing

### **Flag Football Rosters Due - Sept. 5**

Sign up your team for Intramural/Rec 4 on 4 Flag Football by Friday, September 5, 5 p.m. at the SUB Info

Desk. Play will begin Monday, September 8 at 6 p.m. on the SUB Lawn and continue on Tuesday night at 6 p.m. If you would like to be put on a team, let us know and we will put a team together.

Call 265-3732 for more information.

### **MSU-Northern Community Choir Begins - Sept. 8**

The Montana State University-Northern Community choir will be directed by Angela Pratt on Monday nights from 7-9 p.m. in the Pershing Hall music room at MSU-Northern. Come be a part of the fine arts at Northern through blending and harmonizing with the other voices of Havre and Northern. The choir will prepare music to be performed at the annual Piano and Pipes concert accompanied by Mary Stevens.

### **"Big N" Painting Party - Sept. 9**

The Student Senate is providing a way to help clubs and departments build and decorate their "Big N." They are hosting a party on September the 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in front of the SUB. They will have paint, tools

and of course the "N" kits available. Departments and clubs can charge the cost of their "N" to their campus or foundation accounts. The unassembled kit costs \$30 and the assembled kit costs \$50.

### **Want to be a KNMC DJ? - Sept. 10**

Northern's radio station, KNMC, is looking for more disc jockeys. If you think you would like to have your own radio program, then you need to attend their first meeting to find out how you can get involved. Their first meeting will be Wednesday, September 10 at 5:30 p.m. in the S.U.B. Ballroom, or call 265-3709 to see how you can get your own show.

### **Death by Chocolate - Sept. 20**

The Montana Actors' Theatre is pleased to present their 6th annual Death by Chocolate at 5:30 p.m. on September the 20th in the St. Jude's Gym. The evening will feature games, auctions, raffles and a murder mystery dinner theatre based on the classic detective game, "Clue." The dinner will be hosted by the St. Jude's Booster Club. They tell me the menu is to DIE for. Tickets are \$35/person or \$50/ couple and are available at Angie's Wildflowers or at [www.mtactors.com](http://www.mtactors.com).

### **Homecoming - Sept. 27**

MSU-N STUDENT CLUBS - Register your organizations and nominate your Homecoming candidates by September 12. For more information - check the website:

<https://www.msun.edu/stuactivities/homecoming.aspx>

### **The 2014-2015 Chancellor's Lecture Series begins with a Comedy!**

The Montana State University-Northern, Chancellor's Lecture Series, will host the Montana Repertory Theatre's Fall Educational Outreach performance, "Once Upon a Time in Ancient Greece," on Monday, September 8, 2014. The performance will be at the Applied Technology Center, Hensler Auditorium, at 7:30 p.m. The presentation is free and open to the public.

"Once Upon a Time in Ancient Greece" is a comedy by Laramie Dean. Stheno, one of three sisters turned into hideous Gorgons by Athena for catching the eye of Poseidon, is not going to take her sister Medusa's murder lying down! Told in under 50 minutes, this epic story is played out by three actors donning a variety of Greek masks and employing puppetry, shadow play, and illusion to create this highly inventive theatrical experience.

For more information, please call MSU-Northern at (406) 265-3700.

Please visit the website to see the fall 2014 Chancellor's Lecture Series:

<http://msun.edu/news/calendar/events2014/ChancellorSeries.aspx>

## *Weekly Articles*

### **@ Your Library**

By Vicki Gist

Welcome to MSUN's Vande Bogart Library! Starting September 6, the library will be open on Saturdays. The library's hours will be Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Friday-Saturday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00-10:00 p.m. Regular, holiday and extended finals week hours can be found on the library's webpage at: <http://www.msun.edu/infotech/library/hours.htm>.

The Coffee Cart closes one hour before the library. Tutoring services are also available in the library. Contact the Learning Success Center at 265-4133 for tutoring times.

The library will be closed August 30-September 1 for the Labor Day weekend. Have a fun and safe weekend.

## Career Center Opportunities

By Mary Heller

Did you know that the Career Center provides a comprehensive network of employment services for students, graduates, alumni and employers? Students who take advantage of the Career Center's resources have a competitive advantage in achieving their career goals. We encourage you to take advantage of these services on a regular basis.

Let us help you:

- Sign up for CareerExpress, the online system that will allow you to post your resume, build a profile and search for job openings while you are a student, graduate or alumni.
- Hold a mock interview so you are prepared for the real experience.
- Sign up for Cooperative Education credits.
- Assist you in your job search and provide tips based upon experience and current trends.
- Edit and create that perfect resume and cover letter.
- Attend the two Career Fairs that will give you the experience of networking with potential employers.
- Participate in an on-campus interview with the many employers who come to campus to recruit Northern students and alumni.
- Get a part-time job off campus or a work study position on campus.

Come see Mary Heller and Jennifer Henderson in the Career Center located in Cowan Hall Admissions area, 213F.

## Multicultural Opportunities

By: Chistina Estrada-Underwood

**Hello! ¡Hola! Bonjour! Hakona!**

I'm Cristina Estrada-Underwood, and I'm the new of Director of Diversity Awareness and Multicultural Programs. I'm very excited and honored to join the Northern family particularly in this endeavor since multiculturalism in all its expressions is one of my passions. I'm a firm believer that the more we get to know each other's cultures, the more wise, empathetic, and well-rounded human beings we will be.

As the restructuring of this office develops, you will find out that this office will continue supporting long standing multicultural events, such the spring annual powwow; however, we will also have a variety of activities planned. Some of these activities will be academic, others artistic, and some others, simply social and fun. I cordially invite you to join us at every single activity we host. I'd like to thank those of you who have already made the commitment to work together in some of these activities.

Additionally, I'd like to invite faculty, staff, students, and community members to join the Diversity Committee, which will be formed by two faculty members, two staff members, two students, and two community members. Some of these seats have been filled already but there are still some available, so please inquire-we are always looking for allies. The Office of Diversity Awareness and Multicultural Programs (ODAMP) and the Multicultural Center are located in Cowan Hall 326 and 308 respectively. The phone number is 265-3589. Visits us when you can!

## Grammar Gal

By Kimmi Boyce

I must begin this fresh, new column with a disclaimer. Though I've studied English and graduated with a teaching degree, I still make grammatical errors. I still don't quite understand all the ins and outs of our great language; therefore, I accept any constructive criticism and direction I receive after making errors (which I'm bound to do). My aim in writing this little weekly section is to address some of the common mistakes we all struggle with and offer ways to fix these issues using simple instructions that will not confuse my audience even further.

### **Me vs. I**

Mothers and teachers generally instruct their children and students not to use phrases like "me and Jonny" or "Jonny, me, and the girls" when speaking or writing about themselves and others. The only

problem is, once people switch over to using phrases like "Jonny and I" or "Jonny, the girls, and I," the usage of "me" seems to disappear, even when it is appropriate. Consider the following sentence:

"When you are finished with your ballots, please bring them to Heather and I."

Many people would believe this sentence to be correct, but omit Heather from the picture. You get: "When you are finished with your ballots, please bring them to I." That doesn't work.

Use "I" when you are including yourself as part of the subject, like this: "Heather and I will count your ballots." When you are not the subject of the sentence, but rather the object, use "me." If this rule confuses you, just try this trick: Always omit the other person's or people's names and read or say the sentence including just yourself. Does "I" or "me" make sense? I hope this tip helps.

## *Mission Statement*

"MSU Northern, a teaching institution, serves a diverse student population by providing liberal arts, professional and technical education programs ranging from certificates through master's degrees. The university promotes a student centered and culturally enriched environment endorsing lifelong learning, personal growth and responsible citizenship. The university partners with a variety of community and external entities to enhance collaborative learning, provide applied research opportunities, stimulate economic development and expand student learning experiences."

**MSU-Northern does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability.**