



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHERN

Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - April 25, 2025

MSU-Northern Women's Rodeo Team Shines at Home Rodeo



The MSU-Northern rodeo team hosted a high-energy event at the Bigger Better Barn, competing against schools from Montana and Wyoming as part of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association circuit. Despite being one of the smallest schools in the region, Northern outperformed several larger universities.

The Northern women's team took second place overall with 340 points, finishing just behind the University of Montana-Western, which led the standings with 395 points. Montana State University followed in third with 200 points.

Individual standout Georgia Francis Orahoad took third with 190 points after a two-way tie for first, each with 200 points.

The rodeo featured events including Saddle Bronc Riding, Bareback Riding, Bull Riding, Tie Down Roping, Steer Wrestling, Team Roping, Barrel Racing, Breakaway Roping, and Goat Tying.

The competition took place just a week after the Montana Legislature officially declared rodeo the state sport.

[Click here for full rodeo results...](#)

MSU-Northern Honors Retirements of Mary Brown and Trygve “Spike” Magelssen



On Tuesday, April 22, MSU-Northern held a retirement celebration in the SUB Ballroom to honor the dedicated service of Mary Brown and Trygve “Spike” Magelssen, who together contributed over three decades to the university.

Mary Brown retired after 15 years of service to the College of Technical Sciences (COTS). She began in 2009 under the Wind Montana and Youth Build grants and later worked with the TAACCCT III grant. In 2015, she transitioned into a full-time Administrative Associate III position, where she remained until retirement. Known for her attention to detail and extensive knowledge of university procedures, Brown was a vital support to faculty and leadership in the college. Her career also included work in law offices, radio, and faith-based organizations. She consistently sought professional

development through trainings and conferences, contributing to the efficiency and professionalism of COTS operations.

Trygve “Spike” Magelssen retired after 19 years at Northern, having joined the faculty in 2006 as an Assistant Professor of Electrical Technology. Over the years, he was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2013 and Full Professor in 2021. An MSU-Northern alumnus, Magelssen played a key role in developing the electrical program's curriculum and lab spaces. His diverse background includes service in the U.S. Navy, roles in the private sector as a systems engineer and master electrician, and past work at Northern as a computer technician. He was deeply involved in campus life, serving on committees, organizing Yuri's Night events, and volunteering with KNMC radio. In 2009, students recognized his dedication with the Golden N award—the highest honor a faculty member can receive from students. Dr. Margaret Campbell, and Dr. Terri Hildebrand are also planning to retire this year. MSU-Northern thanks all our retirees for their commitment, professionalism, and lasting impact on the university community.

Comedy Hits the Stage Tonight: The Prisoner of Second Avenue Opens in the MSUN Little Theatre!



Get ready to laugh until it hurts—The Prisoner of Second Avenue by Neil Simon opens tonight at the MSUN/MAT Theatre, and it's the perfect night out for anyone who loves smart, fast-paced comedy with heart.

Running April 25–26, May 1–3, and May 8–10, this hilariously relatable play dives into the chaos of 1970s Manhattan, where Mel Edison is losing his grip—

on his job, his sanity, and his air conditioner. As the city outside spirals into madness, Mel's home life turns into its own pressure cooker, with his endlessly patient wife Edna stepping in to try and hold it all together.

Directed by Audrey Barger and starring Jay Pyette and Serena Dawson alongside a phenomenal cast, this production is packed with sharp wit, wild twists, and moments that will leave you in stitches. Pyette and company absolutely knock it out of the park, delivering one of the most entertaining shows of the season.

Don't miss this rollercoaster of a comedy that will have you laughing, nodding, and maybe even rethinking your thermostat. The Prisoner of Second Avenue is pure fun—see you in the Cowan Hall Little theatre!

[Click here for tickets...](#)

MSU-Northern Researcher Publishes Study on Turning Cooking Oil into Bio-lubricant

MSU-Northern is proud to share that Dr. Randy Maglinao's research has been published in the Journal of Supercritical Fluids. His paper, titled "Lignin valorization in biorefineries: A techno-economic analysis of a novel process for bio-lubricant production from lignin and waste cooking oil," explores a new, eco-friendly way to create lubricants from materials usually thrown away—like waste cooking oil and by-products from bioethanol production.



Dr. Randy Maglinao explains the financial viability of making lubricants from used cooking oils.

This breakthrough could change the lubricant industry by providing a sustainable alternative that turns waste into valuable products. Dr. Maglinao, from MSU-Northern's Advanced Fuels Center, worked with researchers from the University of Padova in Italy (Dr. Elena Barbera and Dr. Alberto Bertucco) and Old Dominion University in Virginia (Dr. Sandeep Kumar) to study the process he first introduced in 2019.

Their research proves the process is both technically sound and economically viable, opening the door for future commercial use. This innovation not only helps reduce waste but also has the potential to create jobs and boost local and national economies.

This is a major achievement for MSU-Northern and a strong example of the university's commitment to solving real-world problems through research.

[Click here to read the full article](#)

Revitalizing Campus Resources Highlighted in Brownbag Lecture

On Wednesday, April 23, Assistant Professor Aaron Riggin presented a Brownbag Lecture titled *Idle Assets to Active Learning: Revitalizing Campus Resources for Student Engagement* in Hensler Auditorium. During the session, Riggin shared how he retrofitted, updated, and revitalized campus equipment to enhance student learning and engagement. He was able to upgrade an old robotic welder and use it in his manufacturing class to weld the frame for a gas-powered minibike.

The 2025 Battle of the Best Beast Burger Has Begun!



Havre's meatiest, messiest, most mouthwatering showdown is BACK — and it's bigger, bolder, and beastlier than ever! Six local restaurants are throwing down in the Third Annual Beast Burger Competition, each crafting their own jaw-dropping take on what it means to be the best burger in town.

From April 14–30, you become the judge. Dine in, chow down, and cast your vote for the burger you think deserves the crown — but remember: you’ve gotta try at least one to vote!

Here’s the lineup of legendary contenders ready to throw you into a food coma:

A - The Stack – The Smashing Full Monty: A sweet and savory monster featuring smashed patties, honey ham, raspberry preserves, Swiss, cream cheese, and powdered sugar on a raspberry bagel bun.

B - 40Below – The 406 Cheddar Bomb Burger: Double cheddar bomb patties oozing with jalapeños and cheese, loaded with poppers, onion rings, bacon, and smothered in jalapeño cheddar sauce.

C - Bow and Marrow – A breakfast-lover’s dream burger with sausage and beef patties, hash browns, a fried egg, bacon, pepper jack, hot honey, and maple syrup between two pancakes.

D - PJ’s Restaurant and Casino – A triple-cheese BBQ-loaded double burger packed between garlic Texas Toast and topped with onion rings.

E - Murphy’s Pub – The Holy Cow!: Four smash patties, crispy bacon, fried mozzarella, sautéed whiskey onions, and drizzles of sriracha honey.

F - Parker’s BBQ Pit – Beef patty stuffed with brisket and mac n cheese, pulled pork and bacon on top and lettuce

Vote for your favorite beast by April 30 and help us crown the 2025 Beast Burger Champion!

[Click here to vote...](#)

Student Spotlight: Dominic Paribello



For Dominic Gregory Paribello, a native of Kirkland, Washington, choosing Montana State University-Northern was more than a practical decision—it was a chance to pursue a meaningful future. Encouraged by his brother, a former student-athlete at Northern, Dominic found the university to be close to home and rich in academic opportunities. Among the many programs offered, Northern’s Education program stood out, aligning perfectly with his passion for health, wellness, and working with youth.

Dominic is currently completing his degree in Education, preparing to become a Physical Education and Health teacher. He is driven by the desire to help the next generation build lifelong healthy habits and develop the discipline needed to thrive, both in and out of the classroom.

Although he completed his coursework online, Dominic never felt distant from the campus community. He found strong support from both his professors and his academic advisor. The faculty’s dedication to student success helped him stay on track, navigate challenges, and remain confident in his academic goals.

One of the most impactful parts of his Northern experience has been the guidance of his advisor, Jennifer Anderson. She played a key role in helping him select the right courses, connect with the right professors, and ensure he met every requirement on the path to graduation.

Now in his final semester, Dominic is student teaching while completing the certifications needed to become a licensed educator. He plans to graduate in May 2025 and step into a career focused on educating and empowering young people.

Dominic’s journey reflects the strength of MSU-Northern’s close-knit community, personalized academic support, and flexible learning options. For students considering where to begin their own journey, Northern offers an environment where success is not only possible—but personal.

STRONGER TOGETHER

Enhancing Health & Wellbeing at Northern

By Dr. Tiffany Vickers



Congratulations to Dr. Kasthuri Udayakumar – 2025 MUS Teaching Scholar!



The College of Health Sciences at MSU-Northern is proud to announce that Dr. Kasthuri Udayakumar, Associate Professor of Nursing, has been named a 2025 Montana University System (MUS) Teaching Scholar. This prestigious recognition honors faculty who are leading the way in advancing excellence in teaching and learning across the state.

Now in its fifth year, the MUS Teaching Scholars program elevates high-quality, innovative teaching as a signature element of MUS education. Dr. Udayakumar was selected from a highly competitive, system-wide pool of candidates for her commitment to the

program's 2025 theme, "Teaching Practices and Pedagogies for All Learners." Her proposed Faculty Learning Community (FLC) will explore strategies to enhance inclusive education and address the diverse needs of today's student populations—especially non-traditional, minority, and underrepresented learners.

Through the use of a Design-Enhance-Optimize framework, Dr. Udayakumar will guide cross-disciplinary faculty in adopting Universal Design for Learning (UDL), culturally responsive teaching practices, and evidence-based instructional strategies. Her work will not only foster innovation within the nursing program but also expand impact across multiple disciplines at MSU-Northern and beyond.

As part of her role, Dr. Udayakumar will facilitate campus-wide learning opportunities, including workshops and lecture series, and contribute to statewide and national dialogues through white papers and peer-reviewed publications. Her leadership exemplifies the college's dedication to shaping inclusive, learner-centered education for the 21st century.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Kasthuri Udayakumar on this well-deserved honor and in celebrating her continued contributions to student success and excellence in nursing education at MSU-Northern!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next week will be the last NNN of the school year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2025 Founders' Excellence Award – April 25



T. Wayne Koepke & Renelle Braaten

Arnold & Joy Hokanson

Don Holst

2025
Founders' Excellence
Award Recipients



NORTHERN
ALUMNI FOUNDATION

The MSU-Northern Alumni Foundation is proud to announce the recipients of the 2025 Founders' Excellence Awards: Don Holst, T. Wayne Koepke & Renelle Braaten, and a posthumous awards for Arnold & Joy Hokanson.

The Founders' Excellence Award recognizes individuals whose professional achievements, loyalty, and service have greatly contributed to the advancement of Montana State University–Northern.

Recipients will be honored at a special celebration on Friday, April 25 at the MSU-N Student Union Building. Cocktail hour begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. For tickets or event information, please call 406.265.3711 or email alumni@msun.edu.

[Read more...](#)

Voices of the Hi-Line, International Poetry Reading - Apr 29

Campus and community members are invited to celebrate a love of poetry and languages at the International Poetry Reading, "Voices of the Hi-Line," on the evening of April 29th, at 7.00 pm in the Cowan Hall Theatre. Co-organizers Valerie Guyant, associate professor of English and Gwen Hart, associate professor of English, invite members of the community, students, faculty, and staff to celebrate our collective linguistic and cultural diversity in the form of a poem, song, or chant. All pieces will be read/performed in any language other than standard modern English. Ancient languages, modern languages, and fictional languages are all encouraged.

If you are interested in performing, please email valerie.guyant@msun.edu. Kindly include the name of the poem (if you already know it) and the language you will be using.

CAPTURE THE BEAST SCAVENGER HUNT – April 30

6:30 pm Gather your team (max 5 students) & Check-In @ SUB Front Desk
7:00 pm "Capture the Beast" Campus Scavenger Hunt begins...
8:00 pm All teams report back to SUB & upload photos/videos
8-10 pm BEARPAW BEAST AFTER PARTY & AWARDS, SUB Lights Lounge

Team members w/ the most points win \$50 Havre Chamber of Commerce gift certificates

Team members w/ the best costumes win \$50 Havre Chamber of Commerce gift certificates

Science Saturday Series - May 3

The “Science Saturday” series provides teachers of grades 5-12 with tools to grow STEM opportunities in classrooms across the Hi Line. Participants can earn 5 hours of Professional Development Units each Saturday. This series is offered at no cost to participants.

Science Saturday III: Medicinal Plants of Montana May 3, 2025: 10am 4pm

[Click Here for more information...](#)

Nurses Pinning – May 9

The annual Nurses Pinning will occur at the Prairie Farms on May 9. This event is by invitation only as it has limited space available for guests. Please family and friends of the Nursing graduates only.

Montana Constitution Roadshow Coming to MSU-Northern – May 13

Upper Seven Law will present the Montana Constitution Roadshow on Tuesday, May 13, from 12:00–1:00 PM in Hensler Auditorium at MSU-Northern.

This engaging, hour-long presentation explores Montana’s unique constitution, government transparency, and the rule of law. Hosted by nonprofit law firm Upper Seven, the event invites everyone to join the conversation about what makes our state’s foundation of government so distinctive.

[Click here to register for the free event...](#)

Advising and Registration

SOAR (Student Outreach Advising & Registration)

- Sessions will be broken down between virtual and in-person events
- Virtual sessions will have the option of zoom or over-the-phone if zoom is not an option
- Information about all of our support services will be sent to each student that attends virtual (hopefully in the form of short video clips)
- Going forward – SOAR, Housing, & Orientation dates will be selected and open in the fall for students to register for the events

Virtual Session Dates

- Friday, May 16, 2025
- Friday, June 27, 2025

- Friday, July 25, 2025
- Friday, August 1, 2025

In-person Dates

- Friday, April 25, 2025
- Friday, June 13, 2025
- Friday, July 11, 2025
- Monday, August 18, 2025 (During Navigate Northern Orientation)

NEXT WEEK

Friday, April 25

- MSUN Rodeo @ Miles City Community College
- SOAR Event for New Students - 9:00 AM
- Founders' Excellence Awards Dinner - 5:30 PM

Saturday, April 26

- MSUN Rodeo @ Miles City Community College

Tuesday, April 29

- Voices of the Hi-Line, International Poetry Reading - 7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 30

- Eco-Innovators: Reduce Reuse, Re-Invent Contest Deadline

Thursday, May 01

- Spring Deferred Payment Schedule: 100% Due

Friday, May 02

- MSUN Rodeo @ University of Montana

Saturday, May 03

- MSUN Rodeo @ University of Montana
 - Science Saturday - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
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MSU-NORTHERN

TidBit

By: William J. Lanier

(#436) Northern 1964 MCC Swimming Champions

Did you know that prior to the Frontier Conference Northern Montana College was a member of the Montana Collegiate Conference (MCC)? Prior to the Montana Collegiate Conference, the conference was known as the Montana Small College Conference (MSCC).

Northern was a charter member of the MSCC in 1934 and transitioned to MCC in 1936. In 1966 MCC became the Frontier Conference.

Also, did you know that NMC was the MCC swimming Champions? Here is an article from the March 2, 1964 edition of the Havre Daily News:

NMC Wins First MCC Swim Crown

Northern Montana college's swimming team won the first Montana Collegiate conference swimming championship at the NMC pool Saturday when the Maroon and Gold tankmen edged the Eastern Montana College Yellow-jackets, 98-95, in what amounted to a two-way meet since other conference teams failed to put in an appearance.

The six-college conference adopted swimming as a regular sport this year for the first time.

Better balance and greater squad depth spelled the difference as Coach Arnold Keck's Northern squad maintained a slight edge in points throughout most of the meet. Eastern's squad carried off more first places. The splashers from Billings held a momentary 13-8 lead at the very start, fell behind immediately, and then regained the lead only once at 74-72.

In the first conference meet, all marks automatically became conference records. And in winning the meet, the NMC team broke three of its own college marks. Gary Funk splashed to a 1:14 in the 100-yard backstroke and a 2:47.9 in the 200-yard backstroke. Then, in the final event of the meet, the Northern team composed of Richard Sapp, Larry Saksa, Ric Richter, and Ron Nessland, swam the 400-yard free-style relay in 4:22.1.

The individual event results

were as follows:

200-yd. free style—Lonnie Kock, EMC, first; Richard Sapp, NMC, second; John Downs, EMC, third; Bill Fisher, NMC, fourth; Lloyd Florence, EMC, fifth. Time, 2:14.5.

100-yd. backstroke—Gary Funk, NMC, first; Ron Brodshaw, EMC, second; Larry Saksa, NMC; Sapp, NMC, fourth. Time, 1:14.

50-yd. free style—Nyle Gentry, EMC, first; Ron Nessland, NMC, second; Rich Richter, NMC, third; Bob Hancock, NMC, fourth; Florence, EMC, fifth. Time, 25.7.

100-yd. breast stroke — Downs, EMC, first; Cal Hill, NMC, second; Hancock, NMC, third. Time, 1:23.8.

100-yd. free style — Kock, EMC, first; Gentry, EMC, second; Nessland, NMC, third; Florence, EMC, fourth; Hancock, NMC, fifth; Fisher, NMC, sixth. Time, 56.7.

200-yd. backstroke — Bradshaw, EMC, first; Funk, NMC, second; Saksa, NMC, third. Time, (2:45.

200-yd. breast stroke — Downs, EMC, first; Hill, NMC, second. Time, 3:01.5.

500-yd. free style — Kock, EMC, first; Sapp, NMC, second; Gentry, EMC, third; Fisher, NMC, fourth. Time 6:42.7.

200-yd. individual medley — Bradshaw, EMC, first; Rickter, NMC, second; Saksa, NMC, third. Time, 2:43.5.

Diving — Steve Kender, NMC.

If there is anything that you would like me to highlight, please let me know by e-mailing me at wjlanier1963@yahoo.com Thank you.

Visit our website

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