



asm su *in review*

A comprehensive look
at what
MSU's student government
has accomplished

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Flashbulb



PHOTO BY NICOLE SMITH
Montana Hall lights up briefly on the Wednesday of Dead Week.

Significant Figures ON STRESS



2015

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working days per year
are lost for stress
related reasons

The most stressed cities in America are:



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exercising



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workplace
illness is caused
by stress



25 percent of people by eating



13 percent of
people by drinking



1 in 5 students consider dropping out due to stress

DESIGNED BY NICOLE SMITH
COMPILED BY LOGAN HENKE

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Encapsulating an exciting year for the Office of Sustainability

By DAKOTAH WHITING

From increasing recycling diversion rates to promoting eco-friendly transportation plans, the Office of Sustainability has wrapped a green bow around MSU's campus this year. "Sustainability is the middle ground between taking care of people and taking care of the environment. Looking back on the past three years, it's really cool to see all the changes we've made," Director of the Office of Sustainability Kristin Blackler said. For Blackler, getting involved with sustainability was a no brainer. Even at a young age she understood the importance of sustainability, "As a little kid I remember watching videos of oil spills and wanting to help the animals covered in oil. Learning about the different bacteria and microbial communities used to clean up the oil was so interesting. There really isn't a downside to getting involved with sustainability," Blackler said.

Looking back on the progress of this year, the Office of Sustainability has made major improvements to the health and well-being of our campus environment. The sustainability program worked with MSU to create a compost pile. Along with the new recycling program in Jabs Hall, this has managed to increase the average diversion rate (process of diverting waste from landfills) to 23 percent. "Our new way of recycling in Jabs Hall has really taken off. Other similar buildings on campus have a diversion rate around 12 percent, so to be able to see that kind of change in Jabs Hall is exciting and gives us so much hope for other projects," Blackler said.

In their attempts to expand the recycling

"When people hear sustainability they think things just stay the same, in reality what it means is that we are striving to constantly improve."

— KRISTIN BLACKLER, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

program on campus, the Office of Sustainability received funding from ASMSU to install outdoor recycling bins. "At one point we were using cardboard boxes that had 'recycling' written on them. Last year we got a grant for recycling bins and were able to collect data on if they were working, and they were. If you make sustainability easy for people, they'll do it," Blackler expressed. The team's goal is to eventually see the ratio of recycling bins to trash bins equal one-to-one: if there is a trash bin there should also be a recycling bin next to it. The Office of Sustainability has also sponsored a lot of student projects to work on the bicycle master plan which promotes the idea of educating students and faculty to try different ways of getting to campus. "My favorite part of my job is when I can get students, faculty and staff working together to solve problems at our university," Blackler said.

In the future, the Office of Sustainability would love to see more formalized versions of sustainability awareness in the MSU curricu-



Students gather at the Sustainabilibash on the Mall.

lum. "Climate change is one of the biggest issues facing our generation and the generations after us, so every student should have a basic understanding of the science behind these issues," Blackler said. The team would also like to work with campus to have a net-zero building and to set carbon neutrality targets. "These are big goals but they're achievable. If you don't set goals you'll never get there so we need to come together as a campus community and set a plan to be leaders," Blackler said.

Blackler pointed out that even the smallest of actions can make a world of a difference. "I encourage students to do more of the little things like buying reusable coffee mugs because in the long run that really adds up," she said. The Office of Sustainability strongly advocates for student involvement. "Don't underestimate the power of your student voice. If you have an idea of interest, follow that passion; there's mentors here that want you to succeed," Blackler expressed. She understands that sustainability can be

frustrating in the sense that change can take a long time to see, but encourages everyone to be patient and recognize the importance of sustainable actions. "When people hear sustainability they think things just stay the same, in reality what it means is that we are striving to constantly improve. Things do turn around, there have already been radical changes in the past three years and that is what keeps me going," Blackler said.

For more ways to get involved with sustainability, email sustainability@montana.edu, or look into joining clubs like Sustainability Now (SNow), 1,000 New Gardens or Engineers without Borders.



The Sustainabilibash featured live music as well as booths from student groups.



PHOTOS BY CHRIS SANDISON

Tracy Warneke played the evil bag monster at the Earth Day celebrations on April 22.

MSU students earn high acceptance rates to health professions schools

By DAVID ATKINSON

In recent years, MSU's aspiring health professionals have been rising above and beyond in their education, with students getting into postgrad health professions schools with high acceptance rates.

Over the last five years, on average, 83 MSU students have applied to health professions schools, with large acceptance rates of 74 percent for medical schools, 71 percent for dental schools and a 62 percent for physician assistant schools. These rates are much higher than the 35 percent national acceptance

rate to osteopathic (modern medicine) schools for 2015. Students who applied to other health profession schools, such as pharmacy, optometry and chiropractic schools had an acceptance rate of 88 percent, compared to acceptance rates to allopathic (alternative forms of medicine and healing) and dental schools nationwide in 2015: 35 percent and 50 percent, respectively.

The success MSU's health program students are enjoying, according to Director of the Health Professions Advising Office Sheila Nielsen, is due to the students' strong work ethic along with a helpful infrastructure that lets them

know "where and how high the hurdles are" and provides information on what classes will be required to meet medical school admissions requirements. However, in addition to a personal drive to succeed, the Health Professions Advising Office has provided invaluable assistance to roughly 500 health field students through the years since its creation in 2004. In 2011, the acceptance rates for health field students were 60 percent for medical school, 75 percent for dental school and 89 percent for physician assistant school, where national acceptance rates at the time were between 36 to 46 percent.

Between 2009 and 2011 MSU students secured a third of the 30 medical school seats available from WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho), a partnership between the University of Washington School of Medicine and the states whose names form the acronym to allow cost-effective medical school and facilities for students, with two goals in mind: the first goal being to make medical school possible for students in the WWAMI region, and the other being to encourage those students to practice in rural communities.

Student enrollment rises at MSU, declines at UM

By BECCA MAYVILLE

MSU is growing swiftly. The 2015-2016 academic year set the school's enrollment record at 15,688 students, up 1.7 percent from the record of 15,421 students set the previous year. MSU owes a huge part of this jump to its engineering program, which has grown a remarkable 57 percent since 2010. The College of Engineering alone has 3,611 students. In comparison, the College of Letters and Science, which includes a host of majors such as English, history, physics, ecology, biochemistry and many more, has only 45 more students than the College of Engineering as of 2015.

At its peak in 2010 UM had 15,669 students, nearly as many as MSU has now. But in 2015, only five years later, the number was 13,044.

While MSU attracts many aspiring engineers, UM attracts students with other interests. The College of Humanities and Science at UM currently has 4,707 students, including graduate students, while MSU's College of Letters and Science has 3,656 students including graduate students.

In terms of overall enrollment, UM is not seeing the same growth rates as MSU. In fall 2015, UM's enrollment was down 4.3 percent from the previous year. At its peak in 2010 UM had 15,669 students, nearly as many as MSU has now.

But in 2015, only five years later, the number was 13,044. Because of these losses, UM has been forced to implement a hiring freeze and lay off 201 faculty members in the fall of 2015. The school has also been forced to cut down their programs in journalism, anthropology, geography, liberal studies, art, political science, forestry management and even English, "one of the largest and most dynamic departments at the University of Montana," as the UM website declares. UM is known for its creative writ-

ing program, which was named a program of national distinction in 2013 along with its organismal biology and ecology and wildlife ecology programs.

As student enrollment increases at MSU, the physical campus is growing as well. In the past several years multiple buildings have been added to meet the needs of the expanding campus. Gallatin Hall, a residence hall for continuing students, opened in 2010, and the new freshman residence hall, Yellowstone Hall, is scheduled to open in fall 2016. The new and

improved Miller Dining Hall reopened in the fall of 2015. MSU also opened Jabs Hall, the new of home of the College of Business. A parking garage is also currently under construction, while another dining hall to replace Harrison and Hannon dining halls is in the works.

Additionally, a \$50 million donation was given to the College of Engineering in 2014; this money will be used to build the Norm Asbjornson Innovation Center. All together, MSU is growing quickly, in large part due to the efforts of President Waded Cruzado who set forth the MSU Strategic Plan several years ago in an attempt to further the university's growth.

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STUDENT PROFILE

Darby Lacey makes a significant impact at Sustained Dialogue

By ANN RUPERT

Darby Lacey is graduating this May, but she's leaving behind a big mark on the MSU community.

Lacey grew in up Great Falls, enjoying the outdoors and planning to attend a college on the east coast for her undergraduate degree. Nevertheless, when she visited Bozeman for a scholarship interview, she was drawn to the mountains and academics of Montana State. She came to MSU on the Provost Scholarship, originally as an industrial engineering major.

However, Lacey soon switched to a major in English literature with a minor in biochemistry, finding her passion there. The degree has led to a variety of experiences from performing Shakespeare flash-mobs to analyzing the poetry of World War I. "With literary texts, you get what people were experiencing at that time, which makes it more powerful," Lacey explained. "So much significance can be added to an event by writing a poem about an experience, instead of just stating what happened."

In addition to her studies, Lacey serves as program coordinator for Sustained Dialogue, a student organization within the Diversity Awareness Office. The program brings together students, faculty, staff and Bozeman community members to have meaningful conversations about identity. The dialogues cover the "Big 8" of identity: race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, age and ability status.

Traditionally, the program works through weekly dialogues run by two trained moderators. The group begins by sharing experiences about different aspects of identity, working to find where there are conflicts in their community. By the end of the semester, they focus on creating an action plan to address those issues. This year, the program also conducted a 'Common Ground' training, in which 30 students spent three days at the Rockhaven Retreat Center to discuss issues of identity.

Lacey got involved with the program her sophomore year through happenstance by wandering into a moderator training. Lacey said of the program, "I used to avoid talking to people about difficult things, and now I feel like I found this community of people

who are trying to make our world more wonderful and welcoming for everyone."

Lacey was a moderator at Sustained Dialogue for one year, and has been the program coordinator for two years. She works on recruiting, putting on trainings and working with other student organizations to make their spaces more inclusive. She has trainings with groups across campus, such as the Agricultural Ambassadors, university seminar classes and dorm floors, as well as partnering with organizations with common goals.

Her work has not been without challenges: "Dialogue only works with lots of diverse perspectives in the room, and many people think MSU isn't diverse. Though we might not have a lot of racial diversity, that doesn't mean that other types of diversity don't exist," Lacey said.

Having spent so much of her time working with the program, Lacey feels it has enriched her educational experience here. "Stories are how we make meaning in the world, and without stories, our lives aren't as meaningful and rich," Lacey said. "I love the stories that get turned into incredible pieces of language, but I think the stories we tell each other from person to person are just as important. Sustained Dialogue creates a place for people to tell their story."

In addition, Lacey has volunteered at Eagle Mount, an organization that works to provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and young people with cancer, mentoring participants in snowshoeing, ice-skating, swimming and skiing. She can otherwise be found enjoying the outdoors, skiing, fly-fishing and backpacking.

Lacey is taking a year off before returning to school for a doctorate in literature, and plans to focus her research on identity and how multiples of identity intersect. She will be applying to programs on the east coast, meanwhile enjoying Montana for a little while longer and working to solve problems of identity in Bozeman.

As for students just beginning or continuing their experience at MSU, Lacey said, "There are communities and interest groups for everyone here. Finding the places where you can find people and connect with them is most important, and you can find that adventure at MSU."

The dialogues cover the 'Big 8' of identity: race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, age and ability status.



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FACULTY PROFILE

Ian van Coller photographs the effects of climate change

By LILLY BROGGER

Ian van Coller got his first camera at 13. He now balances teaching at MSU with ambitious personal projects that have been featured throughout the country.

Growing up in South Africa during the apartheid era, van Coller's role as a photographer was influenced by the experience. Upon graduating from high school, he had the option of either spending two years in the military or getting an education. After completing a photography program in South Africa, he was called to the infantry. He would have been patrolling townships, which van Coller described as effectively fighting against his own country. This idea didn't set well with van Coller or his liberal family. His mother is American, which gave him dual citizenship and the opportunity to come to the U.S.

After completing his undergraduate stud-

ies at Arizona State University, van Coller spent time as a professional printer before pursuing his graduate studies at the University of New Mexico. He convinced his wife to move to Montana and was hired as an adjunct professor at MSU. He has since been hired as a tenure track professor. Van Coller teaches several classes, including one where students create their own hand-bound landscape books. "It brings together what I'm most interested in: landscape, environment and the making of books," van Coller said.

Van Coller's latest personal projects have focused on climate change. He recently received a grant from MSU to spend two weeks in August climbing Kilimanjaro with a glacier scientist. Van Coller will be taking photographs of the glaciers as well as the cooks and guides at Kilimanjaro.

With a drive to create something new and significant through his photographs, van Coller

makes large photo books that are 40 inches wide when open. He plans to make a book from his trip to Kilimanjaro larger than anything he has done before. Creating these large books is expensive and challenging. Due to this, very few copies are created. For van Coller, there is a serious purpose behind this. "Few people get to experience the book, but also I think fewer people get to experience the landscape in that way. So, maybe in a small way you get to experience that largeness of the landscape in the physical scale of the photograph."

Previous projects have focused on taking portraits of people and van Coller has now transitioned to a focus on landscape. "I'm obsessed with landscape, I love to be in the mountains. I like people's stories," van Coller said.

One of van Coller's goals is to create a record of the natural things being lost because of climate change. He sees the next two decades as critical: either something will be

done about climate change or there will be major consequences. This is a reason behind his focus on glaciers, "I mean the books to be memorials to what we're losing."

He is also currently working on "Lundi," a collaborative artist book focused on the decline of the Atlantic puffin due the effects of climate change on the birds' food source.

Van Coller recently finished a collaborative project called "The Last Glacier." He spent several summers hiking into the backcountry of Glacier National Park to document its glaciers, which are receding and predicted to disappear in the near future.

Not creating something meaningful with his photographs has never been an option for van Coller. He discovered that he didn't want to be a commercial photographer in school and has since gravitated towards the opposite, "It's an obsession. To be an artist, you need to make art. You can't really do anything else."



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MSU track keeps pace, prepares for conference championships



PHOTO BY CHRIS SANDISON
Martin Ponce (center) looks around the corner during the Men's 1500 meter run.

By JULIA CONNELLEY

The Montana State track and field team competed in the Cat-Griz Dual Meet on Saturday, April 23 in Bozeman, with both the men's and women's teams grabbing first place in a close contest. The men won 100.5 points to the Griz's 93.5 and the women won 104 to 96 points.

The Bobcats had great performances throughout the meet. The women's team placed first in 10 of 19 events and the men placed first in 8 of 19 events. Christie Schiel set a new meet record in the 800 meter with a winning time of 2:10.95, putting her in a position to potentially break the school record of 2:09.75. Newcomer junior Nahjee Matlock, who joined the track team after his first season with the basketball team, finished second in the 200 meter and third in the 100 meter.

After last weekend's great win against the University of Montana, the Cats look to gain another sweep in the Montana Open in Missoula on April 30. The team has two more meets before conference championships to improve and qualify as many athletes as possible. "The next two meets will be crucial for many of our athletes as they try to hold, improve or move into the top twenty on the conference descending order list," Head Coach Dale Kennedy said.

The MSU track team started their outdoor season with a bang on March 26 with the MSU Open in Bozeman. After an exciting indoor season full of great competition, the team is coming off of a fifth place finish for the men and an eighth place finish for the women at the Big Sky Conference Indoor Championships.

Previously, the Cats kicked off the season with five athletes qualifying for the conference championships at the MSU Open meet against University of Montana, MSU Billings

and Rocky Mountain College. Senior Danielle Rider and junior Jessica Chrisp qualified in the heptathlon, with Rider winning the event as well. Sophomore Kyle Douglass won both the shot put and the discuss throw to qualify in both events. Other qualifiers of the meet were sophomore Ty Bermes and senior Tanner Gambill in the men's javelin, and senior Zach Sharp and sophomore Calvin Root in the men's hammer throw.

The team then went on to compete against University of Montana, University of Idaho and Eastern Washington University at the Al Manuel meet in Missoula. The Bobcats beat both Idaho and Eastern Washington with the men winning 122-54 against EWU and 120-49 against Idaho, while the women beat EWU 115.5-68.5 and Idaho 137-52. Both teams fell to Montana.

On April 8, the Cats traveled to Salt Lake City for the University of Utah Spring Classic where the team had 25 athletes place in the top eighth. Although the team had no new qualifiers, the Bobcats had six athletes come away from the meet with new personal records.

Junior Eric Zechenelley ran a career best time of 54.03 in the 400 hurdles and sophomore Luke Middlestadt placed fourth in pole vault with a career high jump of 15-03. On the women's side, sophomore Amanda Jaynes ran a personal best time in the 400 hurdles, Rider and Chrisp both had lifetime bests in the 100 hurdles with times of 14.48 and 14.70, respectively and senior Britnee Grimstad threw 41-08.75 in the shot put to place second with a personal best.

The Cats currently have 22 women and 21 men ranked in the top 20 for their events in the Big Sky Conference. The Big Sky Conference Championships will be held May 11-14 in Greeley, Colorado.

A mixed bag this year for MSU athletics

By ANDREW WATERS and DAVIS CONNELLEY

The 2015-16 athletic season started with a bang when sophomore Mac Bignell wrecked the Fort Lewis running back to kick off the Gold Rush game with a hit that eventually ended up as a number one play on Sportscenter top ten. Though the football team started off the athletic year with the big play, it was other sports that stole the limelight.

For most Bobcat fans the 2015 football season will be remembered as the last in the legendary coaching career of Rob Ash. With the 5-6 record and the third straight loss to the University of Montana, Athletic Director Peter Fields and MSU President Waded Cruzado announced the termination of Ash's contract. He left as the winningest coach at MSU with a record of 70-38 and three Big Sky Championships.

The Bobcat volleyball team welcomed a new head coach this season. JJ Riley came to the Bobcats to revive a struggling program. This year's rebuilding volleyball team only won three games, one of which was against instate rival University of Montana. The team looks to come back better next year with two junior college transfers and six freshman.

Marcus Colbert, four-year starting point guard, led the Bobcat men's basketball team for the last few seasons, but this year he passed the torch to freshman phenom Tyler Hall. During Hall's debut season he averaged 32 minutes per game, 19.2 points per game and five rebounds. He featured in an ESPN highlight after the Bobcats made 25 threes, eight of which came from Hall, beating Northern Arizona 101-58. His impressive season earned him Big Sky Freshman of the Year honors and joined Colbert on the all-league second team. Overall the team finished 14-16 with a conference record of 9-8, doubling their win total from last year. In his second season at the helm Coach Brian Fish imprint on this program is starting to take shape. Players such as sophomore Zach Green and freshman Sam Neumann were key contributors during the season. The men's team looks to make the same jump next year — much like the women's team did this year.

With the addition of NBA legend and

Hall-of-Famer John Stockton as an assistant coach, head coach Tricia Binford and the women's basketball team made 2016 one to remember. After going 15-15 the last two seasons they drastically improved to an impressive 21-10 overall record. They dominated conference opponents 14-4, good enough to earn them the regular season Big Sky Conference Championship. However they lost in the first game of conference tournament and were not invited to the NCAA Tournament. Fortunately, their regular season performance was good enough to get them invited to the NIT. The impressive season earned Binford Big Sky Conference Coach of the Year, senior Jasmine Hommes received Big Sky MVP, junior Peyton Ferris Second-Team All Big Sky and junior Riley Nordgaard earned an Honorable Mention.

The emergence of the Bobcat ski team continues with impressive finishes at the NCAA Skiing Championships. MSU team took fourth overall in the competition and the men's team won both the Alpine and Giant Slalom as well. While the most impressive individual performance came from junior Anika Miller winning the five-kilometer freestyle with a time of 13:06.2. It had been since 1978 when Dan Brelsford captured the slalom crown that the Bobcats recorded a first place finish. She is the first ever female from Montana State to win an individual title in ski competitions. The Bobcats had two second finishes as well with junior David Neuhauser and sophomore Benedicte Lyche both in men's and women's giant slalom respectively. MSU ended the season with 11 All-Americans.

From the Bobcat track and field squad, junior Kaylee Schmitz broke the school record in the women's 800 meter, with an altitude-adjusted time of 2:08.44. The previous record was set in 1998 by Christine Otte. Two weeks after she broke the record, Schmitz won the Big Sky Championship in the 800.

On April 15 juniors Laura Middel and Naomi Holopainen from the women's tennis team finished off their no. 1 doubles match against Eastern Washington 7-5. This win solidified their dominance this season and the pair went undefeated in Big Sky Conference play. Their 11-0 record is a first in MSU history.

A country shaken: How Nepal helped me learn gratitude

By PARKER WEBB

I had just fallen asleep when I was thrown awake from the house violently moving. It felt as if I was the inside of the present for a kid on Christmas morning — getting tossed violently in every direction. The house moaned and groaned. A cold sweat and pounding heart rate; I closed my eyes, held my breath, tense, hoping for the shaking to stop. I could hear my sisters screaming and crying outside, running out of the house. As soon as it started, the tremor stopped, and there was silence again. Downstairs in the dark, a baby began to cry and stray dogs barked in the distance. I had just experienced the largest earthquake of my life while in Nepal, and yet it was a miniscule, baby quake. A 4.3 magnitude aftershock, with the epicenter directly in the village I lived in. Nothing, compared to the earthquake of April 25. It was barely a shake, yet all I could think about how I was going to die in a shoddy house in the middle of the night.

Over the past two years as an MSU student, nothing has made a larger impact on my education and my experience here than my time spent in Nepal. Prior to starting at Montana State, I first went on a gap year to work as the equipment manager at the Khumbu Climbing Center and to teach English and help with farming in Dhading at Her Farm with survivors of domestic abuse. From there, I went into my freshman year excited, but missing an aspect of my life and all of my Nepali friends. Late on April 25 I heard there had been an earthquake. For the next few weeks, through MSU's finals week, I barely slept. A week went by before I knew if certain friends were alive or not. Reports kept coming in: Pemba was safe but couldn't reach his village, Chhomba miraculously survived the avalanche at Everest Base Camp, but suffered severe head trauma. My neighbors in Mankhu lost their home as did most of my students. I was lucky. Of all my friends — all of whom had suffered severe damage to their houses — no one died. But there were still hundreds upon thousands of Nepalis who lost loved ones and were now homeless. In Texts and Critics, during my final speech, I broke down in tears.

Less than a week after school ended, I was on a plane back to Nepal to help with reconstruction in the Solukhumbu, Dhadhing, Sindhupalchowk and Dolakha districts.

Two days before boarding my plane, a 7.3 magnitude aftershock shook the country. Again I dreaded that my Nepali family had possibly lost their lives. For the next three months, I helped with rebuilding hydro-electric plants, building temporary shelters, performing basic first aid and helped in any way I could to assist those affected by the earthquake. As the time to go back to the U.S. for school came closer and closer, I grew guiltier. Despite all the help I did, I still got to leave; to go back to a first world society with intact houses and electricity 24/7.

In regards to MSU, my time in Nepal has helped me realize that it could always be worse. Instead of worrying about their problems, all the people I met who were affected by the earthquake were optimistic. They don't worry, they rebuild. Instead of sitting around waiting for help, they do what they can and carry on with their lives. There is still millet to be planted and corn fields to be weeded. They say "ke garne," or "what can you do?" You can't stop things from happening, so you might as well move on. Despite the constant, everyday reminders of the disaster, in order to feed one's family, they must move on. The earthquake allowed me to recognize that greatness which MSU has to offer through the community. Part of the reason Nepal is so resilient is the importance of communities and looking out for

others. And the more I ponder it, the more I come to the conclusion that my friends, my peers which make up the student population of MSU, are great people which causes this to be a thriving environment. The support I got through friends and fellow students the weeks after the quake was a surprise. Hundreds came and donated at

the event I helped put on. Friends of mine donated hundreds of dollars — no easy task for the poor college student. It amazes me how much the MSU community comes together to support and help each other, even when it is indirectly helping those that live seven thousand miles away. Thank you, MSU.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PARKER WEBB
Krishna Rai walks by a house destroyed in Dolakha while there to build a temporary school for primary school students.



Houses were devastated by the earthquake.



Temporary shelters like tarps and tents are still being used a year after the earthquake.

Addictive undertones: Reflecting on the darker side of skiing

By THEODORE GROVER

There is an element to the sport of skiing that people tend to forget: the addictiveness. And I don't mean addictive in a good way. It is the addictive aspect of skiing that drives the world's greatest ski mountaineers to continually push not just their personal boundaries, but the boundaries of the entire sport. Skiing can be scary at times, but gradually terrain that once appeared impenetrable becomes boring as one's ability levels improve. That's when the darker feature of the sport kicks in. Deep down, skiers and snowboarders long for the rush of adrenaline that comes with descending a puckering slope. That's what keeps them coming back. That's what pushes them into increasingly demanding terrain and that's what inevitably kills the great athletes of the sport.

I can personally speak to the addictive power of skiing. It has driven me to ski increasingly dangerous and technical big mountain lines over the course of the past few years, ultimately culminating with a descent I made on the last weekend of March of this year. On that day, my friend Wylie Picotte and I made a successful summit bid of the Middle Teton via the mountain's Southwest Couloir, and then skied down the East Face Glacier Route. The East Face of the Middle Teton is considered one of the 50 classic ski descents of North America, and for good reason. The route drops fall line right off the 12,804 foot summit of the Middle Teton for 2,000 vertical feet into

the North Fork of Garnet Canyon. The slope angle exceeds 60 degrees at times.

By the time we reached the summit that morning we had been ascending for close to six and a half hours. The morning had started in moonlight in the valley before dawning cold and clear as we skinned through the Meadows below the Middle. My legs were tired from breaking trail up the Southwest Couloir, but the lure of the summit helped push me the last few steps to the top. On top of the Middle, the sky was a brilliant blue, extending uninterrupted by clouds in every direction to the edges of the horizon. The great peaks of the Teton Range sparkled white beneath a fresh coat of snow, illuminated by the radiant March sunshine. However, we dared not dwell long, as the sun would soon warm the shimmering snow, potentially destabilizing it in the process. It was still cold at the summit, but in the mountains, it is always later than it seems.

Clicking into my skis on the top of the Middle Teton was surreal. The South Face of the Grand Teton and the aesthetic Ford Couloir stared me right in the face as we prepared to begin our descent. I gingerly slid off the summit and made a calculated hop turn onto the exposed Upper East Face. From there, I traversed over to the notch between the false and true summits, before hopping over a couple rocks into the notch itself. The heart of the East Face opened up below the notch; 2,000 feet of seriously steep skiing that wrapped down around the Dike Pinnacle and onto the

Middle Teton Glacier. The drop-in from the notch was more or less straight down.

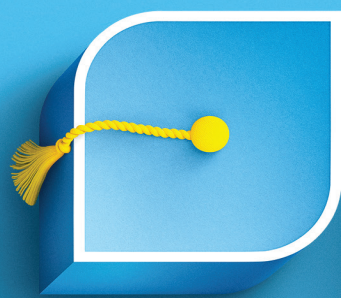
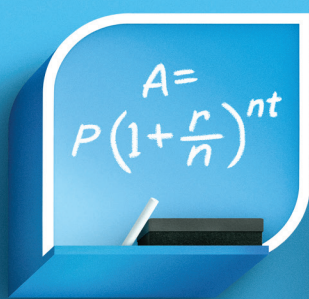
In that moment, my fatigue faded as did my hunger. I felt no emotion, no sensation of pain or thirst. I felt absolutely nothing. I was so dialed and focused on the task at hand that my brain blocked out absolutely everything else. With this absolute state of mind, I dropped in to some of the best turns of my life. The snow was bottomless blower from top to bottom. As I passed the Dike Pinnacle some slough released with my turns. For a second I thought about waiting to let it pass, but ultimately decided to point it. I came flying down to the slopes of the glacier, arcing fast GS turns through the silky snow back into Garnet Canyon. A line I had been drooling over for years was over in a matter of minutes.

My mind still felt calm and emotionless even after we were safely off the face. I was in a state of shock to some degree, as the realization that we had nailed one of my dream lines in all-time conditions had yet to materialize. However, the first real thought that popped into my head afterwards was, "What's next?" And that's the problem with skiing bigger and bolder lines. It's never enough.

I understand how great ski mountaineers are driven to continually push into steeper and scarier terrain. There's no better feeling than nailing a crazy line in good style. Yet, this drive is an addiction, and like most addictions it can consume a person to the point of death. Steve Romeo. Andreas Fransson.

Doug Coombs. All three were modern-day steep-skiing pioneers who were ultimately consumed by their passion. I think most great ski mountaineers at some point acknowledge that this too could become their ultimate fate, myself included. We recognize that the path we walk rarely has a happy ending, yet we continue anyways because we are addicted to the rush of skiing great peaks, of towering high above the clouds.

Eventually there comes a point when risk in the mountains can never be entirely eliminated. Lines like the East Face of the Middle can only ever be skied in safer conditions; they are never 100 percent safe. Paradoxically, this is also what makes lines like these so appealing, so addicting. The day we skied the Middle Teton conditions were about as stable as they ever get during winter, but risk is all relative. A dangerous line is still a dangerous line, even in stable snow. Myriads of other problems can arise, and at times it seems that all that separates life and death in the mountains is luck, and I don't like that. I strive to leave nothing up to chance through meticulous planning and observation, but accidents happen. I have no intention to ever stop skiing big lines, but I hope that by acknowledging that I have a problem, I will be able to exercise a level of objectiveness and control over my decision making that will allow me to return safely from each line I ski in the future, and hopefully avoid the mistakes that cost the lives of those who came before me.



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Examining a transitional year for ASMSU

WRITTEN BY DAVIS CONNELLEY AND ERIN MURDOCK



“I think that one of the biggest challenges for us is engaging with so many student groups on campus, making sure their voices are heard and informing the student body about ASMSU.” — **Garrett Leach, incoming ASMSU president**



“Through our experience we can show the legislators what they should be doing and how to improve the activity and engagement aspect of ASMSU.” — **Geneva Zoltek, incoming ASMSU vice president**

Sitting in a recently renovated office in the SUB, freshly inaugurated ASMSU President Garrett Leach adjusts to his new space. He opens quickly, “Geneva and I ran on a platform of ‘students first.’ No matter what we do, that is going to be at the front of our minds.” Leach and his running mate, Geneva Zoltek, took office with more than twice as many votes as their opponents during the general election. Now that they’ve taken office, they must decide what they aim to accomplish in the position.



Nearly a year ago, a different executive team sat down in the same office and charted out their coming year. Then-junior Gwynn Simeniuk and then-sophomore Levi Birky assumed office in April 2015, an ambitious duo who pieced together many student groups in their competitive bid, cobbled together through Simeniuk’s gravitas and social presence as well as Birky’s significant internal experience as a senator.

“Gwynn and Levi had a very specific plan when they came in, and it was engagement, stewardship and service,” Marianne Brough, the ASMSU director of operations, recounted. “They were great because they did all their envisioning over the summer, so they came in saying ‘we’re strong, we know where you want to go, we’ve got a good network ...’ whereas sometimes it might take a group a month or two to do that.”

However, after just a handful of months in office, Birky ascended to the presidency when Simeniuk resigned on Oct. 1 due to a DUI arrest that happened in August. The transition period, the first in recent memory, represented a shift in leadership, but also a shift in leadership style. Birky, an aspiring government teacher from Kalispell, was

thrust reluctantly into the spotlight.

Simeniuk did not resign immediately after the incident, which she disclosed in a statement she released to the Exponent. Instead she remained in office for a month after the news surfaced. It wasn’t until a number of students and groups on campus demanded her resignation, both through public comment at senate meetings and a number of petitions, that she stepped back from her position. The year was not off to a steady start for ASMSU.

Over the course of Birky’s six months as president, ASMSU shepherded through a number of reforms, both large and small.

“As I end my term and as I get ready to pass on the baton, it made me reflect on the year, to think about the things we accomplished and say, ‘Wow, we’ve accomplished a lot,’” Birky ruminated.

He then highlighted a few of those accomplishments. ASMSU revived the hospitality degree program, oversaw revisions of their constitution and bylaws and passed a student bill of rights. But no event garnered more press than the battle with the Gallatin County Commissioners to move the student polling location to MSU’s Shroyer Gym from Hope Lutheran Church. The commissioners

dragged their feet at every turn, obstinate in their reluctance to move the polling location. “I think the papers called it a spar [with the commissioners],” Birky interjected wryly. Students and voter advocacy groups felt that the proposed location at Hope Lutheran was inaccessible to students and community members without cars due to its distance, lack of public transportation or sidewalks.

The battle lines were drawn on the issue nearly a year ago, but it wasn’t until late October that ASMSU became actively involved. Progress on the issue was slow, but as influential individuals such as MSU President Waded Cruzado aligned to make the move feasible, the inevitability of the move became apparent. The Gallatin County Commission had to back down or face significant public backlash. While ASMSU certainly played a role in the outcome, the student government was only one piece of many moving toward change.

But ASMSU is responsible for far more than petitioning county government. Unknown to many students, they oversee a staggering number of programs and activities from the Streamline bus service to campus entertainment to the Exit Gallery. The challenge though, is to make students aware

of these programs and the many functions of student government. Both Birky and his appointed vice president, Holly Capp, stressed the importance of outreach as a key function of their positions, “What Levi and I tried to work on was reaching out to students rather than students coming to student government ... Most of the work is educating, but that is a challenge in itself,” Capp said.



Student government, arguably more so than any other type of government, is a cult of personality. Only the ambitious seek office, and only those savvy and personable enough can wrangle in the many ‘type A’ personalities that make up the voice of the students. In this respect, Birky is an outlier. “[Levi’s] the kind of guy to say, ‘all right, what’s the big picture here? What do you want and I’ll be the resource and the guide to get you the tools to get there.’ He didn’t want to lead by directing, so what we got was a plurality of things that represented what each senator was interested in,” Brough remarked. Brough is now entering her third year as the ASMSU director of operations, acting as anything from observer to planner and everything in

between. “There’s a stereotype about student government of cliqueness and drama, and maybe for a reason, but there’s always going to be fighting,” Brough continued. “When we’re doing our work well we’re fighting about issues, when we’re doing our work poorly we’re fighting about personal issues.”

Put enough driven and forceful personalities in a room and conflict becomes inevitable. This year, ASMSU was no exception. At one senate meeting, the disagreements became so heated that some individuals resorted to profanities and insults to demonstrate their differences of opinion. “That puts some friction on the team,” Birky said. “A lot of the people that I was friends with a year ago, that’s not the case anymore ... While those relationships haven’t lasted, others have been formed.”

Though colleagues — and even Birky himself — may describe the outgoing president as more of a facilitator than a visionary, he received many accolades over the course of his tenure. Named a Newman Fellow as well as a Truman Scholar, his accomplishments as well as his working relationship with Cruzado earned him recognition and prestige. A reluctant leader, Birky steadied ASMSU during a crucial and tenuous period, but will those accomplishments stand the test of time?



Evaluation inevitably includes bias. No one can look at a list of accomplishments and objectively speak to the merits, except in broad strokes. Furthermore, inaccessible or unreliable records make sheer quantitative analysis of a term difficult. Birky, Brough and Capp each described the year as an accomplished one, and no one cited any notable shortcomings — there were no large projects or goals that fell flat.

Aside from the rocky start, it is difficult to pin a flagship event on the 2015-16 ASMSU executive team. For each big step (polling location move and QSA facilities request to name a few), the credit does not fall squarely on any one group. Student engagement is still on the low end. Voter turnout, while higher than last year and near the national average for a school of MSU’s size, was still only 13.6 percent at its peak. The senate struggled with attendance issues at times, even having to remove four senators from office due to excessive unexcused absences. If one were to levy a criticism against Birky and Capp — either from a place of ASMSU’s role or on an individual

level — it would have to be the lack of a clear and focused executive direction.

However, where one student may see this as a drawback, another may see it as a boon. “Nothing happens overnight, and you’ve got to move inch by inch,” Birky explained. “Ask the average Joe student if student government has made a difference in their lives ... I don’t know if the repercussions or ripple effects are being felt on a broader student level.” But Birky also noted that, “I think I was able to leave the organization in a good place for the next people to make broader impacts.”



Just days into their presidency, Leach and Zoltek have hit the ground running. Their success could be credited to their internal experience — they both spent the past year working together in ASMSU in a different capacity, as senators. Leach, a sophomore majoring in finance and accounting from Missoula, was a senator for the College of Business. Zoltek, a junior from Kalispell majoring in liberal studies, was a university studies senator.

Leach was originally interested in continuing with ASMSU in a different role, and had considered applying for the business manager position. However, Zoltek approached him with the idea of running together, and he decided it was the right choice. “I saw how much you can change campus through student government and the more I thought about the opportunity the more excited I was,” he said.

Zoltek said part of the reason they decided to run was because “we wanted to see all representatives taking more action with their roles.” She cited the successful ASMSU events that she and Leach organized. She created Major Madness, an event that allowed undecided students to explore possible majors, and Leach coordinated Sub Pub, an event where students could partake in responsible drinking on campus while engaging in different activities. “Through our experience we can show the legislators what they should be doing and how to improve the activity and engagement aspect of ASMSU,” she said.

Both Leach and Zoltek were quick to cite how their different personalities will better their leadership. “Geneva and I couldn’t be more different. There is a lot of difference and diversity but that difference of opinion makes our decisions stronger and helps us represent the students better,” Leach said. Similarly, Zoltek explained how she is more drawn to

the people side of campus issues, and Leach excels in the policy side of issues — making them a well-rounded team.

Their unique perspectives as senators provided the pair with a front row seat to the successes and setbacks that ASMSU experienced over the course of the past year. As mentioned, there were internal spats which resulted in palpable tension at a few senate meetings. Both Leach and Zoltek emphasized that they would focus on clear and effective communication between the executives and the senate to strengthen their internal relations. “We won’t always agree but having a good working relationship will allow us to constructively address problems that arise next year, because, undoubtedly, there will be problems,” Leach said.

Brough is confident that Leach and Zoltek have the knowledge and the tools they need to succeed in their roles, partly due to Birky and Capp’s contributions. “Each generation of leadership builds on the space that was left for them by the previous generation of leadership ... Garrett and Geneva have this cool envisioning power to start addressing culture on campus now which is a luxury that they wouldn’t have it if the prior leadership before them didn’t set them up well,” Brough said.

The team has outlined a variety of issues they want to focus on, but they especially seemed to gravitate towards outreach. “It is unfair to expect students will come to us, we have to go to them. I think that one of the biggest challenges for us is engaging with so many student groups on campus, making sure their voices are heard and informing the student body about ASMSU,” Leach said.

In addition, Leach emphasized the importance of having strong relationships throughout MSU: “Building relationships with administrators, students and student leaders is vital to our success as a student organization. I want to focus on building relationships that will do good not just in my term, but the next ten years so it’s easier for the following teams to make impactful changes,” he said.

The new leadership is undoubtedly passionate and enthusiastic for the coming year. They ran on an ambitious platform and boasted their experience as a catalyst for change — now is their time to see what they can accomplish. “The great thing about student government is every day is different, you never know what will come up next. It is always a surprise,” Brough said.



“I think I was able to leave the organization in a good place for the next people to make broader impacts.” — **Levi Birky, outgoing ASMSU president**



“What Levi and I tried to work on was reaching out to students rather than students coming to student government.” — **Holly Capp, outgoing ASMSU vice president**



“The great thing about student government is every day is different, you never know what will come up next. It is always a surprise.” — **Marianne Brough, ASMSU director of operations**

LAYOUT BY KIRA NUBEL
PHOTOS COURTESY OF MSU NEWS



FISH TALES

BY NICK KASSER

Into the wild: Nature as a healer

There is no better smell than pine trees. They have a distinct scent that is both calming and exciting. The scent of pines is a soothing one, but it also smacks of a wilder time, a wilder place. The forest was around long before we were, and it is full of creatures who are more than a match for us. Some are beautiful, some are dangerous, many are both. But I will always be grateful for the opportunity to go into the wild.

We are truly blessed to live where we do. Many people go their whole lives without spending a day on the river. Every day, there are fewer people who know what it's like to enjoy a day outside, enjoy a night outside, to kill and butcher their own food. Every day, more people are spending more time staring at a screen than looking at the stars. People are focused on saving the forest without having any idea what it's like to stand among the trees.

Being outside has always been restorative for me. There are few things in this world as healing to my soul as a day on the river or a night in the woods. Being in touch with nature allows me to clear my

head. Being stripped of all but the most necessary things makes me grateful for the things I have. And it reminds me of what's truly important in life. Things can be replaced, people and experiences cannot. This is why I never worry about losing lures, especially if they catch me fish first. Lures are simply hunks of metal or plastic, and even the most expensive Shadrap is only as valuable as the memories it creates.

Many college students have no trouble staying up until four in the morning after a night out at the bars; very few have no trouble getting up at four in the morning to go hunt or fish. Our generation is among the most entitled to ever exist. We have become a generation of meat eaters whose only experience with farm-to-table is the sticker on pre-packaged chicken. We expect things to be handed to us without having to work for them, not because we have earned it, but because we "deserve" it. How many of us would last if we had to live the way our forefathers did? If we had to provide for ourselves and solve problems without the aid of the internet?

The other day I was fishing in a very crowded section of the Missouri River. Two guys were fishing next to me and one of them hooked into a big spawning rainbow, all bowbacked and full of dark color. He brought it to net and his friend came over. Instead of admiring the fish or complimenting his friend, the fisherman immediately pulled out his phone and started giving instructions to his buddy about the proper filter, focus, angle and zoom to use. Now I'm all for taking a picture of a big fish as much as the next guy, but fish, not the picture should take precedence. Updating your Instagram is not nearly as important as enriching your soul.

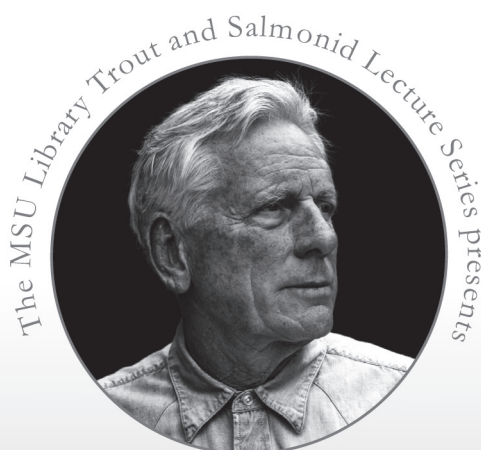
Technology has done a great deal for people, but sometimes I find myself longing for the days when we didn't all have mini cameras, computers, headphones, video and weather apps in our pockets. I find myself longing for days that I never really knew; the days my father and my uncle talk about where super dupers were the fanciest thing they used to catch fish and they had to walk 10 miles to school

every day in the snow uphill both ways. I miss the days when fly rods went in the back of pickups instead of a fancy hood rack. We live in a generation of entitlement and overstimulation. Technology, while helpful, is not always soulful.

But the woods are. No Glade candle can truly capture the scent of actual pines. And no picture of a 28-inch trout, no matter how fancy the filter is, can capture what it's like to feel that fish on the end of your line. And no Instagram photo will ever truly convey what it's like to watch an actual sunrise. Our generation is the most connected — and the most out of touch — that has ever existed. We need to remember the natural beauty of where we are. We need to remember to be grateful for the things we have. We need to unplug to truly connect. Put down the phone and pick up a fishing rod. Turn away from the screen and look up at the stars. Focus not on your touch screen, but on getting in touch with the world. As always, here's wishing you tight lines and no homework. Thanks for reading.



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Intersectionalities of Identity and the Success of QSA

MSU set yet another enrollment record this past fall, with 15,688 students in attendance. From parking to infrastructure to faculty planning, the university's growth has brought with it an onslaught of challenges. One of those challenges is diversity, and students are stepping up across campus to create a better environment for all minority students. A student organization that has been particularly courageous, bold and successful in their efforts is the Queer Straight Alliance (QSA).

QSA is "30 years in the making ... a student-run organization devoted to developing community, fostering education and empowering action." Their mission statement continues, "We are made of diverse individuals who share the belief that the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender person is an equal member of the MSU community."

We live in a vastly complex social institution, the intricacies of which I have just begun to comprehend. Here's where I'm at so far: to be a member of the university community can come with great privilege.

On the flipside, to be an out member of the LGBTQIA+ community can come with great marginalization. According to a campus climate survey conducted by

Ariel Donohue, program manager of the Diversity Awareness Office, a staggering 25 percent of respondents "reported that they had personally experienced hostile, intimidating or offensive conduct at MSU." A large portion of those respondents were members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Marginalization is a human rights issue, and studies such as this climate survey clearly demonstrate that marginalization is an issue that is actively, directly and negatively affecting MSU students. QSA's actions this year and in years past extend well beyond merely changing campus culture or succeeding as a student organization. Their demands to Montana State University have set in motion institutional changes that are necessary as MSU forges its identity in the 21st century.

But further — beyond changing campus identity — QSA's actions tap into the original purpose of a land-grant institu-

tion. From helping rally to pass non-discrimination ordinances across the entire state of Montana, drawing attention from human rights workers in places like the Department of Justice to then bringing that passion back home to MSU for practical and necessary changes such as gender-neutral bathrooms and locker rooms, the greater impact of their actions is massive.

In his executive order prohibiting discrimination in state employment and contracts, Gov. Steve Bullock wrote: "Whereas four of Montana's largest communities have taken steps to expand workplace, housing, and public accommodations protections for LGBT residents and visitors ... I, Steve Bullock, Governor of the State of Montana ... Do hereby order and direct the Department of Administration ... to develop and implement policies necessary to ensure that all persons employed or served by state government are afforded

equal opportunity, without discrimination, based upon any of the above classes." The Bozeman Non-Discrimination Ordinance had an undeniable impact on Gov.

Bullock's Executive Order, and QSA at MSU should proudly put their name on that.

In her address to the Gallatin County Commissioners on Feb. 23, President Waded Cruzado said that the purpose of the land grant institutions is to educate the sons and daughters of the state, and that those who founded land grant institutions "envisioned

a better and brighter future through education." Students in QSA have tackled that mission head-on, plunging through the complex intersectionalities of identity that come with being an LGBTQIA+ university student and ultimately making Montana a much better place to live. I thank them for that, and cannot wait to see how they continue to make Montana better in the coming years.

Students in QSA have tackled that mission head-on, plunging through the complex intersectionalities of identity that come with being an LGBTQIA+ university student and ultimately making Montana a much better place to live.



HALEY COX
Opinion Editor



ILLUSTRATION BY
MAGGIE WEEDMAN

Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies minor easy to achieve, amazing to have

Right now, states are deciding on transgender bathroom bills and abortion legislation. Many arguments focus on women's and transgender rights, but it can be difficult to know why those arguments are important. Enter the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) minor.

Many people aren't aware of what WGSS is. It's a program that teaches students about minority perspectives, particularly those pertaining to women and LGBTQ+ people. According to the department webpage, "The program takes gender and sexuality as categories foundational to understanding culture and society and investigates how these categories intersect with race, ethnicity, class, nationality and other categories of difference. Through engagement with feminism, gender and sexuality studies, queer theory and LGBT studies, the program promotes interdisciplinary inquiry into femininity, masculinity, queerness and normativity." Many of your classes may already do this, such as English literature courses, film classes, psychology and sociology seminars and more.



SONJA BENTON
Staff writer

Guess what? Those may all be part of the courses offered by the WGSS program.

Since the minor is interdisciplinary, it is fairly easy to accomplish all of the course requirements without even realizing it.

There are only a few requirements: taking Intro to Feminist Theory, taking one other upper-level WGSS course and 15 credits of other courses. Those 15 credits have a huge list of options that can be found on the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies homepage, but the department also allows for new courses to be added. Simply shoot off an email to the department heads

explaining why this course represents minorities, attach the class syllabus, and they will review it and ensure that it is teaching diverse perspectives. Most of the time, the course will be approved.

One of the keys to the WGSS minor and program is that the classes aim to be intersectional. Intersectionality is a long, hard to understand word, and not just because it's 17 letters long. Sara Rushing, a WGSS and political science professor at MSU, as well as the current advisor for the student Queer-Straight Alliance, explains, "At a university that has clearly made gender equity and inclusion a top priority, an academic program like WGSS is crucial, because it coheres a community of scholars and students who are rigorously trained in gender studies, feminist theory and theories of intersectionality. Understanding intersectionality is particularly important, because a truly diverse, equitable and inclusive campus community must recognize how race, ethnicity, class, gender, gender identity, religion, physical ability and

sexuality are interwoven dimensions of our existence."

Rushing continued, "While many folks know this intuitively, the opportunity to study this aspect of the human condition — historically, philosophically, cross-culturally — is foundational for our students' intellectual and political engagement at MSU and beyond." This is key to understanding the diverse perspectives and how peoples' experiences with oppression may change based on the identities they inhabit.

The WGSS minor is something useful for everyone, as it displays to graduate schools and jobs alike that one is knowledgeable and informed about minorities and diversity, which is becoming more and more important in school and in the work force. Ekaterina Walter, a contributor to Forbes, writes that, "Diversity is essential to growth and prosperity of any company: diversity of perspectives, experiences, cultures, genders and age. Why? Because diversity breeds innovation." Erica Dungan, the WGSS advising coordinator, weighed in, "The WGSS minor fosters knowledge and skills that are essential for any field. The interdisciplinary research and coursework in the program encourage critical thinking, dialogue, social awareness and an understanding of diverse perspectives and experiences." While one may not personally have much diversity themselves, understanding and recognizing the importance of diversity is still important in the workplace. Being informed of the different perspectives that surround everyone in America is necessary to build successful groups of people and community.

Further, multiple graduate school applications ask about prospective students' experiences with diversity and knowledge of other groups. Universities around the world are paying more attention to diverse student

populations than ever. US News writers Jeremy S. Hyman and Lynn F. Jacobs list the reasons why colleges are starting to focus on diversity: "Successful performance in today's diverse workforce requires sensitivity to human differences and the ability to relate to people from different cultural backgrounds. America's workforce is more diverse than at any time in the nation's history, and the percentage of America's working-age population comprised of members of minority groups is expected to increase from 34 percent to 55 percent by 2050." And that's not all: "Diversity prepares students for work in a global society. No matter what profession you enter, you'll find yourself working with employers, employees, coworkers, customers and clients from diverse backgrounds—worldwide. By experiencing diversity in college, you are laying the groundwork to be comfortable working and interacting with a variety of individuals of all nationalities."

While MSU does not yet offer a WGSS major, achieving a minor in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies along with your major of choice will help prepare you for the future. Start right away by downloading the application on the WGSS department homepage. It will certainly be worth your while. As political science professor Karen DeVries states, "Our world organizes knowledge, politics and conditions of suffering around the imbricated axes of sex, gender, sexuality, race and class. The WGSS minor at MSU provides tools for understanding how these power structures work, and it develops critical and creative skills for transforming and creating environments that enable more flourishing. Our flexible, interdisciplinary minor complements all majors but is particularly well suited for students who care about equity, diversity, society and the world. The more the merrier!"

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To read the full Forbes article on workplace diversity, visit www.forbes.com/sites/ekaterinawalter/2014/01/14/reaping-the-benefits-of-diversity-for-modern-business-innovation/#436e8f846476

To read the full US News article on college diversity, visit www.usnews.com/education/blogs/professors-guide/2009/08/12/why-does-diversity-matter-at-college-anyway

To learn more about intersectionality and other human rights concepts, visit the Diversity Awareness Office at www.montana.edu/diversity

ASMSU brings Watsky to Bozeman

By BROOK GARDNER-DURBIN

Watsky is coming back to Bozeman. The 29-year-old rapper, poet, essayist and general jack-of-all-written-trades performed at MSU several years ago when he was touring as a slam poet, but the concert on Saturday, April 30 will mark his first show in the state since beginning his career as a rapper.

Born as George Virden Watsky in 1986, Watsky first gained nationwide acclaim for his impressive slam poetry. After winning numerous competitions in the Bay Area as a teenager, he was asked to perform on the show “Def Poetry Jam” in 2006, where he performed a piece titled “V is for Virgin,” his humorous, inventive take on virgin pride.

Since 2009, Watsky has transitioned to a musical career, carrying his skill for spoken poetry into a new arena. His first two releases, a self-titled album in 2009 and 2010’s “Guilty Pleasures,” were well received but failed to attract widespread attention. He became well known in 2011 when a video of him rhyming to a Busta Rhymes beat while petting his cat went viral. “I could have made more money, for a while,

just continuing to tour for spoken word,” Watsky said. “I wanted to change things up though,” he added, “I only have so many years on this planet.”

A refusal to be pigeonholed has characterized Watsky’s career from the beginning. Just as he was starting to take flight — his last album, 2014’s “All You Can Do,” sold more than 10,000 copies its first week, and his “Ninjas in Paris” video has racked up more than five million views — he pushed pause to pursue other interests.

While Saturday’s show — with local guests Hemingway and Tucash — will be a concert, Watsky is currently traveling to promote an essay collection releasing later this summer. “How to Ruin Everything” is his second foray into publishing writing, but still feels like new ground to the artist. He released a book of poetry in 2006. “When I write something, it’s meant to be performed or listened to. This is my first time breaking into the page,” he said. “I’d like to continue writing ... I’d love to see how this plays out and see if writing for the page is something I can make a more consistent part of my life.”

The essays cover a wide variety of sub-

jects, detailing everything from his experience growing up with epilepsy to dealing with a friend’s suicide to his relationship with his father, told through the lens of baseball. One of the more humorous essays chronicles his experience on a flight from Anchorage, Alaska, to Atlanta: “I watched two people join the Mile High Club,” he laughed. “The guy sitting next to me and the woman in front of him disappeared together for about 15 minutes, then came back, and then she started up some PDA with the guy next to her, and the first guy was sitting there getting jealous,” he laughed again. “And I was just watching this unfold, trying not to crack up.”

Like any artist that defies expectations, Watsky has heard from his share of fans who were disappointed with his latest career move. “People don’t always know exactly what they want, and even if you give them the same thing they liked before, it’s

never as impactful as the first time,” he said. “You become a hack.”

To keep his creative output fresh, Watsky plans to continue varying his work. He’s produced a mockumentary about making an album and says he’d love to return to screenwriting in the future. He’s currently putting the finishing touches on a new, as-yet-unannounced album even as he’s touring to promote the essay collection.

“When I get ideas that excite me, I’m not gonna worry about what people think about it ... in the past, I’ve tried to have that mentality but I’ve been hung up on what certain people thought about it — the perceived reaction.”

By leaving that behind, Watsky has broken new ground in his career and set the stage for more to come. “What I’ve ended up with is an album that’s more interesting, takes more risks than others,” he said. “It’s more me than anything I’ve done before.”

Watsky will perform with local acts Hemingway and Tucash at Faultline North at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 30. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$20 for general admission.

Teacher, author Glen Chamberlain makes magic with language

By KEEGAN GRADY

“Montanan writer” is a phrase so steeped in stereotypes that it’s sometimes difficult to accept there are people who don’t conform. Our state is full of cowboy poets, Louis L’Amour wannabes, and hopefuls writing desperate love letters to the mountains. Out of all that product, it can be difficult to find truly unique writers. However, when one does find that rare diamond, the result is spectacular — and Glen Chamberlain is just such an artist.

It is easy to call anyone who both writes and lives in the West a “regional writer.” The settings clue a reader in immediately — vast prairies, pine forests and small towns. And then there is the gritty

realism that seems to go with the Western, most easily visualized in Clint Eastwood’s squinted-yet-steel gaze. But, Chamberlain claims, there is so much more than just that. “Are Western writers regional writers?” she asked. “No more than a Midwestern writer or a New York writer.” But even as a non-regional writer, the author admits the landscape is inescapable. Chamberlain has called it “iconic,” and described it “seeping” into her writing. Her stories take place within the beautiful setting she has come to call home, and are informed both by that place and the culture that goes with it.

However, though the landscape makes appearances in her stories, the work never comes off as intrinsically Western. It is poetic,

quiet and eloquent in an almost old-fashioned way. Reading one of her short stories is like jumping into another frame of mind, one that seems to have been lost with our hectic pace of life. They are profound without pretension. They never deal with huge events, but instead focus on the inward emotions and psychologies of the characters, or what Chamberlain calls “subtle shifts in life experience.” Partly, she attributes this to the length — “Small things happen in short stories,” she said. But even more than that, Chamberlain takes pains to not make assumptions. Quoting Jane Austen, she said, “I only write about the little things because it’s what I know.” But in her writing, those little things — a passing flock of geese,

a conversation with a sister, school-room physics — are revealed as a source of change and vitality in our lives.

Chamberlain came late to fiction. She was in her late 30s, teaching, and realized she had no desire to spend the rest of her life doing academic writing. “I was bored,” she said simply. And yet, for having spent so little time in this field, she has a remarkable track record — she’s won a Pushcart Prize, the Gilcrease Prize and the Rona Jaffe Award for both fiction and creative nonfiction. Despite her success, though, she cautions against any interpretation of writing as a glamorous field. “It’s hard work,” she said. “It’s a dog-eat-dog world, and these days everyone’s a writer.” For her students, she has one timeless

piece of advice — “I always tell them, ‘find a wealthy spouse!’”

In her free time, Chamberlain also teaches writing at MSU, mostly in 100- and 200-level composition classes. She admits that she often feels like a priest in the confessional. “There’s a vulnerability to it,” she said, adding that writing makes a student expose personal aspects they wouldn’t verbally. “You get to know them.”

Chamberlain has published two books. “Conjugations of the Verb to Be,” published by Delphinium Press, was released in 2011. “All I Want is What You’ve Got” was released April 8, and is motivated by the music of another MSU professor and Juilliard graduate, Angella Ahn. It is available at Country Bookshelf.

Local

LANDMARKS

Celebrating 60 years in the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse

By SONJA BENTON

Soon students in cap and gown, with tassel and cord, will flock to the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse to receive their diplomas and shake hands with President Waded Cruzado. Family and friends fill the stands, and after a long ceremony, blue and gold balloons fall from the ceiling. It's a time for celebrating each graduate's history here at MSU.

The Brick Breeden Fieldhouse has history too, just like each graduate sitting in the arena May 7.

The fieldhouse was built by architect Oswald "Ozzie" Berg Jr., after the then Montana State College (MSC) President Roland Renne (the namesake of Renne Library and sixth president) dreamed of a building that could house indoor college football games. While, sadly, MSU football fans still have to watch games in the cold, the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, originally named the MSC Fieldhouse, was, at the time of its construction, the largest clear span wooden structure in the world. In other words, it was the largest domed structure in the western hemisphere without a center support.

The fieldhouse opened in 1956, and was named after John "Brick" Breeden, an MSU basketball star player and celebrated basketball coach, as well as a state senator from 1972 to 1974. The arena inside of the fieldhouse, where graduation takes place, is named the Worthington Arena, after Max Worthington, another star basketball player and coach, who also served as an MSU administrator.

Originally, the floor of the Brick Breeden was dirt, which allowed Little League games to be played indoors. The original basketball court was a raised, portable, wooden floor that was assembled in the center of the fieldhouse, along with wooden boardwalks for spectators from the entrance to the court and concession stand. Basketball players were required to wipe their feet before going onto the court, as their dressing rooms had dirt floors as well. It wasn't until 1980 that the fieldhouse got its first floor — a hard tartan-type

Basketball players were required to wipe their feet before going onto the court, as their dressing rooms had dirt floors.

surface. That was also when folding bleachers were installed on the main level.

A large-scale renovation was ushered in during 1998, with \$13.2 million used to modernize the arena. This was the first time that the arena was handicapped accessible with the construction of ramps and elevators. The building was also brought up to modern safety codes. Beyond that, a new main entrance was completed, along with administrative and coaches' offices, locker rooms (with no dirt floors this time), improved concession stands and a Hall of Fame.

The Worthington Arena currently seats 7,250 people and hosts events ranging from sports events, like basketball, volleyball, track and field and rodeos, to concerts, speakers, plays and trade shows. It is also home to the annual Pow Wow.

During the summer the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse will be home to multiple events. To check out the roster, visit brickbreeden.com.

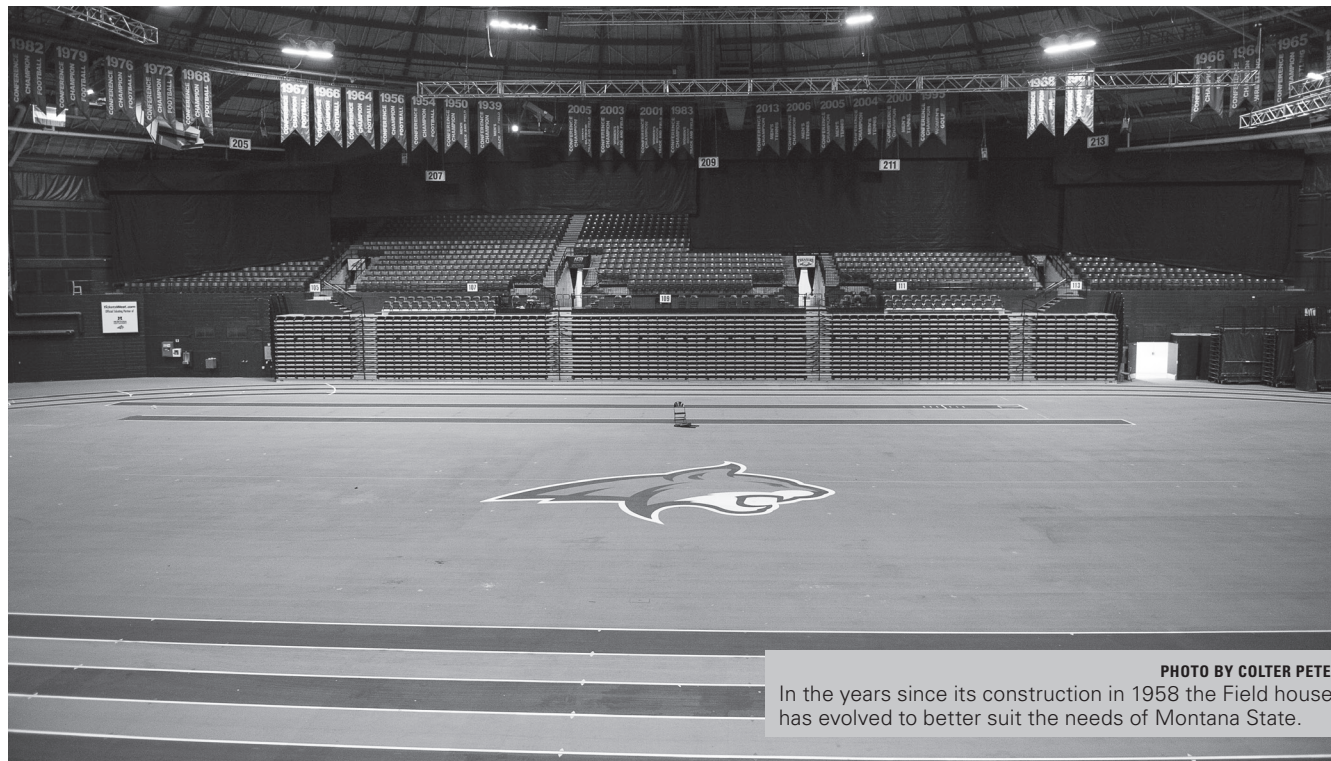


PHOTO BY COLTER PETERSON

In the years since its construction in 1958 the Field house has evolved to better suit the needs of Montana State.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MSU LIBRARY

The original intent of the fieldhouse was to host indoor football games.

Thank you and good luck to graduating seniors

Working for the Exponent isn't exactly glamorous. It requires late nights, early mornings, long meetings and relatively little pay. Every Wednesday night, roughly ten to fifteen students gather in SUB 366 and put together the paper. If we're having a good night, we might finish at 1:30 a.m.; if not, we might be in the office until 5 a.m. It takes a special group of people to work together not only productively, but enthusiastically, at 5 a.m., a group that I was lucky to work with this year.

Considering we don't have a journalism program at MSU and we receive no official training, I am incredibly impressed with the quality of work that our paper has produced. Just recently, a few of our articles won various awards from the Montana Newspaper Association, from Best Editorial to the Mark Henckel Outdoor Writing Award — making this the first year in history that the Exponent has received such awards from the organization. Of course, two weeks ago we spelled 'editor' wrong, but it's about improvement.

The Exponent serves many purposes. We're a student newspaper and our main priorities are to inform, interpret and entertain. In my biased opinion, I think we fulfill our purpose. But, like many extracurricular activities on campus, we're also here to provide a learning opportunity for students. The Exponent teaches students the



ERIN MURDOCK
Editor-in-chief

most necessary life skills that will undoubtedly take them far — how to hit a deadline, the importance of giving and receiving constructive criticism and how to effectively communicate and collaborate with peers, among others.

I'm excited to see what the graduates of this year accomplish, and I can't thank them enough for all of their hard work and dedication. We'll be losing a handful of incredibly talented seniors, including Brook Gardner-Durbin, Davis Connelley, Rebecca Norman, Nicole Smith, Conor Glesner, Seth Urick, Lilly Brogger and Nick Kasser. Davis and Brook, I'll (slightly) miss the constant references to the X-Files but I will not miss you both telling me that Maryland is part of the South (It is in the Mid-Atlantic, y'all). Davis, thank you for the sarcasm, maybe one day you can convince an employer to change your title to 'sports daddy.' Brook, you've

transformed the culture section for the better and your music choices never fail to entertain me. Rebecca, your layout skills are phenomenal and your humor will be missed, no one can make up headlines and captions quite like you. Nicole, thank you for being a constant in the Exponent during my time here — I have fond memories of working together the past three years. You've been a reliable co-worker and your love for sheep and penguins is amusing. Conor, thank you for taking terrific photographs for the Exponent the past three and half years, you set the bar incredibly high for college photographers. Seth, I'm glad I got to know you as a news writer and you've blossomed in the opinion section — we'll miss your thoughtful commentary and well-written contributions. Lilly, you've grown incredibly as a writer and you never shy away from a challenge. Nick, your introspective reflections on outdoor adventures have undoubtedly attracted a reader base for fellow outdoorsmen. Thank you to everyone and best of luck with future endeavors.

Graduating seniors are marked with an *.

Managerial: Logan Henke, Ray Porter, Megan Bernhardt*

Multimedia and Web Development: Zach

Marqua, Tyler Foulkes, Kylie Strandberg, Erick Hinsperger, Lukas Armstrong-Laird. William Backman, Dylan Albans, Colter Peterson, Mikaela Byers, Michael Petty

Photo and Design: Nicole Smith*, Kira Nuebel, Chris Sandison, Bianca El Sa Yeoh, Colter Peterson, Parker Fairey, Conor Glesner*, Rebecca Norman*, Kalie Murphy, Valerie Seelye, Hailey King, Maggie Weedman

News: Julie Donagan, John Trapp, Dakotah Whiting, Lilly Brogger*, Tim Gauthier, David Atkinson, Ann Rupert, Morgan Kuntz, Dave Biegel, Ted Weeks, Ben Finegan, Becca Mayville

Opinion: Haley Cox, Chris Myers, Alex Lei, Elise Byle, Gerrit Egnew, Sonja Benton, Seth Urick*, Emily Kastor, Luke Hunt

Culture: Brook Gardner-Durbin*, Kaycee Cronk, Adam Waldorf, Keegan Grady, Sonja Benton, Isobel Loos, Rolf Tengdin

Sports: Davis Connelley*, Ian Breuner, Sam Hochhalter, Parker Webb, Theodore Grover, Andrew Waters, Patrick Allard, Nick Kasser, Julia Connelley

Advisor: Peter Fox

To the next crazy venture beneath the skies

When I came to MSU, I enrolled in music technology. I soon realized that wasn't for me, however, and took a year off. I got a job, listened to music and read. After working my way through the catalogs of Hemingway and Hunter S. Thompson, I decided to come back to school — this time enrolled in English writing.

Coming back to school, even after only a year away, was a scary experience. I was only a year or two older than most other freshmen, and while that often wasn't an issue, it sometimes felt like quite the chasm. Luckily, I found the professors in the department were amazing, and I'll owe a debt to a great number of them for a great number of things for a great long while.

So before I leave, thanks are in order. Chronologically: Thank you, Robert Bennett, for bringing music and art into the literature classroom, helping me see all kinds of art in a



BROOK GARDNER-DURBIN
Culture editor

light I couldn't have fathomed before beginning classes — and thank you for introducing me to Bob Dylan. Most of the time, though I went to the finest school, all right, when shadows are fallin' and I've been here all day, I realize there's only one thing I did wrong: the pump don't work because the vandals took the handles. Thanks to the now retired Michael

Sexson for believing in me and my writing, and pushing me to apply at The Exponent — it's meant more to me than either of us could have known. Thanks to Doug Downs for volunteering to write a letter of recommendation when I applied to the paper, when the thought of a professor offering their time had never occurred to me. Thanks to Susan Kollin for taking a chance on me, allowing me to enroll in your senior capstone class when I was only a sophomore — it was the most interesting class I've had, bar none. Thanks to Zack Bean and Ben Leubner for classes that fascinated me when others made it hard to get through the day, and thanks to anyone I have forgotten for everything you did.

With all due respect to my many excellent professors, however, none of you came close to The Exponent. When I started working for the paper in my freshman year, I came in with

nothing more than a desire to write about music and movies. Flash forward three years, and I've learned more about good writing than I did in any writing class.

The Exponent gave me the chance, first as a writer, then as an editor, to deal with real writing day in and day out. I had the opportunity to meet and write on a who's who of local favorites, from The Bent Bones to Cure for the Common to the Hollowtops to Hemingway to Rose Gold and, after their breakup, Liv. I sat backstage at "Glengarry Glen Ross," covered a metal concert with 666 words and more. For all of that and so much more, thank you. Thanks to Nicki Duggan for hiring me, #BossBev for keeping me around, all of the production night crew for making every Wednesday night a party and all my writers, past and present, for consistently showing the other sections how it was done. From the culture desk, thank you all.

'Til the end of the line

I joined the Exponent team almost by accident. I moved here the summer of 2014 after spending two years at University of Montana in my hometown and was essentially cornered in the laundry room of my new building by a former Exponent photographer, Roger Miller. He asked me where I was from and what I was studying here; you know, the usual questions one would ask after trapping a new neighbor in a small room unexpectedly. I told him I was here for the graphic design program, a field I had found my junior year of high school. I had tried to make it work at UM by double-majoring in marketing and media arts, but when marketing began slowly stealing my soul to turn me into a creepy capitalist zombie and media arts focused only on web design and animation, I had to change something.

Roger ended our meeting by shoving a copy of the Exponent into my hands and telling me that they were looking for a layout designer. I had no previous experience in layout — my portfolio was definitely weighted heavily towards logo design and posters with bad typography from high school — but the previous editor-in-chief, Nicki Duggan, took a chance on me anyway. I'll always be grateful to her for that.

Working at the Exponent for almost two years has been very, very good for me. It's shown me what I want to do with my life. Through the connections I've made here and the skills I've built, I've already secured a full-time job for myself at the Bozeman Daily Chronicle after I graduate. Not many people can say that they get to move right into a job in their chosen field, especially one that they enjoy in a town they already know.

I've made wonderful friends working here, people who have supported and loved me through a very difficult time in my life. During some of the darkest times I've ever experienced, one of the only bright spots was getting to come in on Wednesday nights, knowing that I would be



REBECCA NORMAN
Lead layout designer

working together with people I liked to build a product we would be proud of.

I'm not really one for gooey goodbyes. As a reformed theatre kid, I know what it's like to be on the receiving end of overly-dramatic, sobbing hugs proclaiming the depth of my feelings for the institution I'm leaving, and I have no intention of going down that path. Still, that doesn't mean I won't miss working here. The late-night snark fights, adding things to the quote board and even making up my own headlines to fill space are memories that will stay with me for a long time. I'll miss the camaraderie that the production night staff built through working towards a common goal together, too. Thank you all for making this job exciting, fun and something that I'll miss. And as writing that last sentence reminded me, I'd also like to apologize for all of the Oxford commas that have been sacrificed to the great AP style gods, especially the ones that made it through all the rounds of copyediting only to die by my hand.

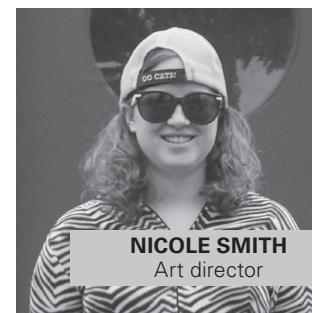
I'm ready to move on to my next chapter, something I know I couldn't have done without the Exponent. I'm kind of a huge nerd, so I couldn't resist putting in a reference to my favorite movie, "Captain America: The Winter Soldier." I was with the Exponent 'til the end of the line, at least the end of my own line. I was never a student at MSU without being part of the Exponent team, and it almost means more to me to be leaving here than graduating. After all, I learned more in the Exponent office than I ever did in any of my design classes. So thanks again, for everything.

Thnks fr th mmrs

People always say how quickly college will fly by. I never really believed them until this last semester, when suddenly the countdown to graduation day hit double-digits. Of course there were days when that 50-minute lecture seemed to last a week and the hours and hours of homework didn't seem to have an end in sight. But now the end really is in sight and it kind of changes everything. Now everything is nostalgic and finite. As the last class of the semester approaches, I think back on all the classes I laughed in, all the classes that intrigued me and all the classes I slept through. As we put together the last edition of the Exponent of my career here, I remember all the frustrations and accomplishments I've had over the last four years.

For the most part, the accomplishments outweigh the frustrations, but working in the newspaper business brings plenty of both. Countless late-night mistakes, computer failures, communication errors and other moments have made me feel like punching a wall. But, like anything in life, the trick is not to let that get you down. There are so many redeeming moments I've experienced working here, so many things I will miss no matter how much I won't miss the stress.

The Exponent has also been a huge stepping stone for my career, but maybe not in the way I originally intended. When I first applied, I was excited about being able to try photojournalism. It was something I always had an interest in in the back of my mind, but never found a way to act upon. Well, after four years of working and photographing for a newspaper, I can wholeheartedly say that desire is gone. And I don't mean that in a bad way, I haven't lost my interest in the field because of all the hassles of this job. Rather, I feel like I've done it all at the Exponent, like I've lived out



NICOLE SMITH
Art director

that desire to its fullest and now it's time to pursue another field in photography. Along with all the incredible professors and peers I've worked with in the photo program, the Exponent has helped me find my feet in the field I love.

The last four years have been full of learning experiences — not only about photography, but also about myself. I know how cliché that sounds, but it really is true. Before college, I barely had the nerve to speak up for myself or get involved in anything. I got involved my first day as an official student, through the Exponent, and it has been one of the key factors in shaping the person I am today. So thank you, to everyone who has been a part of this experience with me. To Trevor Nelson for hiring me in the first place, to Nicki Duggan for all the penguin videos to keep me sane, to Erin Murdock for her undying dedication, to all the photographers and designers I've worked with as art director for doing their jobs so valiantly, to Kira Nuebel for letting me relax knowing my position is filled by hands more capable than my own, to my roommates for dealing with my incessant complaining, to the editorial staff for making Wednesday nights more than bearable and to the entire Exponent staff for their friendship and the memories.

It's been real. It's been fun. And at times, it was even real fun. Nicky Smalls out.



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Au revoir, Bozeman: May your days be long and your troubles few

If my life were a book, then my graduation would mark the close of the fifth chapter. It has been a long road to get to this point, and never an easy one. I remember my first year as being a nervous yet optimistic freshman. I lived in Langford Hall, participated in RHA, made a lot of friends along with one or two enemies, and skipped more classes than I should have. It was an enlightening time.

Since then, I have become a good deal wiser while artfully retaining my signature awkwardness. My class attendance has greatly improved and correspondingly so has my GPA. Where once my world was con-

fined to the spheres of chasing girls and perfecting the art of wasting time, my perspective has since expanded, and while I cannot claim to be the most accomplished student on campus, I certainly can claim to be ending my college career on a personal high note.

Even as I look back on the journey from who I used to be to where I stand now, I am amazed at how far I have come and at everything I have accomplished. I have met all sorts of people, the good, the bad and the weird alike, and I have learned something from each of them. I have



SETH URICK
Staff writer

spent hours exploring the streets and stores of Bozeman, and I have spent even more time wandering the forests and mountains

of the Gallatin Valley, and I know that I have barely scratched the surface of what this community has to offer.

Now my time at Bozeman has come to an end, and, sooner or later, I will have leave my home away from home and start chapter number six of the book that is my life. I do not know what the coming

months and years have to offer me, be it fortune and fame, or ignominy and infamy, but regardless, my time at Montana State will define what is to come for me, and for that I will continue to be thankful.

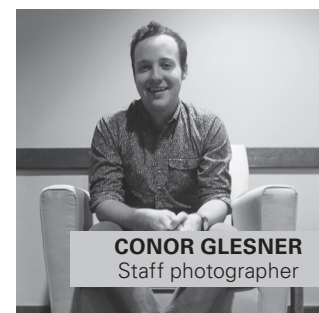
Where once my world was confined to the spheres of chasing girls and perfecting the art of wasting time, my perspective has since expanded ... I certainly can claim to be ending my college career on a personal high note.

It's a long way to the top

It's really hard to see the bottom of a mountain when you've spent 16 years climbing to the top of it. Eventually things get so small and so far away that you just can't quite make them out anymore. Even if you wanted to move back down and try to see them again you just can't. In order to be a properly educated adult in line for a proper job you need to spend 16 years climbing, grade-by-grade, year-by-year, loan-by-loan to the top.

And when someone asks what it's like to be there, at the summit, the answer doesn't come easily. Of course it feels good, but at the same time it feels a little empty. The majority of a life has been spent climbing an academic ladder. No matter what else might be happening in your life, you are still a student; you are still climbing. It's hard to know if something is being missed when you're constantly moving upward.

So the question arises: is there a way to know what is being missed? The best way I have found is to not ask that question. Don't wonder. Just do. Seek out those things that make you happy and prioritize them. That is exactly what I did when I joined the Exponent three and a half years ago. During my time on staff I have photographed everything from rodeos to concerts; the Westboro Baptist Church protest to the annual drag show. I have interviewed fascinating people, reviewed restaurants, coffee, music and movies. I also found a like-minded, hard-working community of peers that is totally



CONOR GLESNER
Staff photographer

unique to campus. Without a doubt my experience at the Exponent has enriched my life for years.

Had I not chosen to seek out the Exponent then all of that experience would have never existed. I applied because of me. Not for my resume. Not because extra-curriculars make me look good. Simply because I knew I would enjoy it. Seeing the editions come out became one of my favorite things of the week. Not just so I could see my own work, but so I could hold the product of a talented, determined group of people that I was lucky enough to be a part of.

For most of us it will take at least 16 years to get to a level of academic achievement that is expected for a good job. During that time I have learned it is essential to be a little selfish. And I know how trite it sounds to "stop and smell the roses." Just do it. When you're at the top someone's going to ask you what it's like. Make sure you have an answer.

I was supposed to write one of these?

In my eternal struggle to push the envelope and blaze new journalistic ground, I want you, dear reader, to know that this headline used to have a profane word in it. Beverly, the Francisco Franco to the Exponent's mid-20th century Spain, likely removed it because she is a dictator and a huge fan of censorship. Fahrenheit 451 is probably her favorite book, mostly because of the book burning.

But I digress. The main reason I joined the Exponent nearly three years ago was for beer money. Okay, it was really to buy chicken sandwiches — I'm not cool enough to buy beer. See, the Exponent isn't for cool kids. Most of the time when I told people that I worked at the Exponent, they said, "The what...?" That's not to say that I haven't met a number of cool people during my time year, but many of them are nerds.

"Wow, what a stellar pitch for the Exponent, Davis," you may say. So I guess I'll give it a better



DAVIS CONNELLEY
Sports editor

shot than that. I started writing for the paper when I wasn't in the best place. I wasn't sure what I was even doing in college except going to class. I wasn't very involved with many extracurriculars and I didn't have a lot of direction. While things didn't change right away, it offered me something to work on each week and lent me space to grow. More importantly though, it gave me something that I could be proud

of each week. I liked seeing work under my name and something that I could send to my parents and my friends. Knowing that people — hopefully a decent number of people — would read my writing held me accountable for my work in a new way.

I know that the first piece of advice freshmen get is to get involved, and that advice is often ignored. But it really does make a difference. I've learned so much working for the Exponent, funded a great many sandwiches and written thousands of words, but the memories and the friends are what I truly treasure. I hope the relationships, both professional and personal, that I've forged here last for a long time. And I will miss all of it, even the parts that I kind of hate now. I guess I should thank people too, but honestly that list is just too long. Thank you for the opportunity, for the column inches, and for all the good times (Yes, I know I left the Oxford comma there — that was on purpose).

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Exponent
Quote Board
Favorites

"I hate when collective nouns let you down."

"That's not my friend, it's a Polish salt miner."

"Fish freak me out. They're so dumb and prehistoric."

"This stupid violin is ruining my life!"

"Did they, like, steal a dorm room?"

"Nothing gets me going like human suffering."

"How do you think snow works?!"

"The worst about being a vegan is when you can't eat the special brownies because of the eggs."

"I went to the farm and planted the font seeds yesterday."

"I don't know where to put these goddamn thumbs!"

"What is that?"
"A loud video on Myspace."

"WHY ARE YOU ON MYSPACE???"

"Idaho is such sh*t."

"I wish we still had medieval names, like Davis the Sports Daddy."

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
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52									53					
				54			55	56		57		58	59	60
61	62	63	64			65			66					
67						68				69				
70						71				72				

Across

1. "What ____!" (grateful buddy's cry)
5. German foreign exchange student on "The Simpsons"
9. Garden products name
14. Confine
15. Intense anger
16. Brief summation
17. ____ Khomeini
19. Phrase of resignation

20. Author of "Pompey's Head"
21. Unsullied
23. Big brand in Detroit
25. Veggie sandwich item
30. Refined
33. Econ. yardstick
35. Eur. republic
36. Beethoven's "____ Joy"
37. "Make ____ for Daddy"
39. Aaron and Raymond

42. Coal-rich region of Germany
43. Former U.N. chief Kofi
45. Defunct British shopping channel
47. Blvds.
48. Invitation phrase
52. Ponder over
53. "____ & the Women" (Richard Gere film)
54. Lady's "man"
57. City in NE France
61. Social blunder
65. Subway entrance
67. Island near Curacao
68. Goldfish in Disney's "Pinocchio"
69. "It's my turn to bat!"
70. Stonewashed stuff
71. Significance
72. Guevara, et al.

Down

1. Call ____ (get transportation)
2. Words before visit or price
3. Kin of khans
4. "I'm ready to leave"
5. Internet add.
6. Soft rock
7. Equal, at an ecole
8. Warm again
9. River flowing through Venezuela
10. Strictly mandated (abbr.)
11. Home of the Horned Frogs, briefly
12. Japanese "yes"
13. ____-out clause
18. ____-Loompa (Dahl creation)
22. WMV alternative
24. Carp family fish
26. Ill-bred bunch

27. Boot camp command
28. Coup finis
29. Stinky emanations
30. Word with cake or bath
31. Cyclones' sch.
32. "Peanuts," e.g.
33. Majestic
34. "What do we ____?"
38. "You've Got ____"
40. Garbled middle?
41. Went after
44. United States football group
46. Tales
49. High crag
50. 2000 film with Brad Pitt
51. It's often heard during storms
55. Horse and donkey's offspring
56. Kind of stock (abbr.)
58. "The Secret of ____" (1982 ani -mated movie)
59. Game with Colonel Mustard
60. Terse assents
61. Flit
62. "Roses ____ red..."
63. Make ____ of
64. "The X-Files" org.
66. Word after waste and want

FUN FACT:
If you lift a kangaroo's tail off the ground it can't hop

E	N	I	L	C	N	I	M	S	E	S	S	O	B
S	W	E	K	S	O	I	K	E	M	I	T	S	I
H	T	I	H	H	T	K	C	V	D	U	A	L	B
T	C	A	S	I	H	N	E	O	B	D	L	C	R
A	R	S	P	E	A	O	U	D	L	U	L	P	E
E	C	H	A	L	R	S	L	O	M	I	S	E	E
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T	I	N	S	C	I	T	E	N	E	G	Y	A	S
Y	S	S	O	M	K	S	D	E	K	C	I	R	T

Acoustic	Glance	Mossy	Skews
Bosses	Hates	Mounts	Smash
Breeds	Heath	Nuclear	Stalls
Climbs	Holiest	Pleased	Staple
Coked	Humility	Plums	State
Crusty	Idiosyncrasies	Quashes	Tricked
Decoys	Illuminations	Serene	Wiser
Doves	Incline	Serve	
Earthy	Jerked	Share	
Emits	Kiosk	Shield	
Genetics	Knock	Showmen	
Gimme	Meddled	Sister	

Easy

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			7				6	2
							9	3
	4						8	
		2	8	9				1
9					3		2	
	3		6	7		4		
		4	5					6
2			9		8	5		3

Hard

			3		1			
	5							
3	1	8					4	
			7		6		8	
							1	4
4	9							
		9			7			6
			8				5	
7		2		1				3

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