

From the
BIT Faculty
and Staff

*with much
appreciation*

WE THANK YOU

and

WISH YOU A

Happy

new

YEAR

and

Happy

new

DECADE



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Business Guild Students Prepare Fundraiser

The BIT Business Guild worked diligently on their latest fundraising efforts, putting together Cookie Mix Jars for the annual Montana Tech SPE Christmas Bazaar and Trade Show which was held at the Maroon Activity Center (MAC) on December 8th.

“Our primary fundraising goal is to fund our trip to the National DECA Competition,” said Annika Rapp, President of the BIT Business Guild. “This year, the Nationals are in Atlanta, Georgia. We love the tough competition but it is also a great opportunity to meet other Collegiate DECA students from across the country.”

The Collegiate Distributive Educational Clubs of America (DECA) prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. The national competition pits student teams in these business areas. Currently there are more than 15,000 college students from across the world who are DECA members.

Montana Tech was the first Montana college with Collegiate DECA competitors. The Business Guild was created to be a space for students to expand their business education and experience. Members have the opportunity to develop skills such as researching, team-building, presenting, and strategizing. The Guild offers free consultation to entrepreneurs and small business owners in the Butte community.

Regarding the fundraiser, this is the 32nd year which the Society for Professional Engineers have sponsored this annual fundraising event which attracts other Tech student clubs as well as vendors from across the state.



MontanaTech

Some Sample BIT Jeopardy Questions & Answers

Accounting Item:
Is responsible for providing accurate financial information to potential Investors and Creditors of a business.

Correct Question:
What is an Accountant?

Business Potpourri Item:
The social science concerned with how individuals, institutions, and society make optimal choices under circumstances of scarcity.

Correct Question:
What is Economics?



Accounting Option	Health Information Technology Option	Information Management Option	Natural Resources Option	Business Potpourri
100	100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300	300
400	400	400	400	400
500	500	500	500	500
		Team 1		
		0		
		+ -		

High School Students Play BIT Jeopardy on Tech Day

Prizes were at stake in the stiff competition of the BIT Jeopardy Game!

Montana Tech held its second TECH DAY on November 15th and close to 200 people attended and got to experience what life is like as a Montana Tech student. Students and their parents got to choose to attend 3 experiential learning sessions and got the opportunity to meet the faculty that they'll get to study with when they get to campus next August!

One of the experiential learning sessions was sponsored by the BIT. The session was a competitive game of BIT Jeopardy.

The BIT Jeopardy Game was developed and coordinated by faculty members, Rita Spear, Charie Faught and John Garic. The iconic Jeopardy music was provided by Logan Smith from Tech's Recruiting Office.

"It was a lot of fun for the high school students and for us as well," said Charie Faught, Heath Information Technology faculty.



Dr. Tim Kober

A Message from our BIT Chair, Dr. Tim Kober

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I hope all is well with you and your families as we approach the new year. This has been a productive year for our Department and we are looking forward to 2020 with great excitement.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that my focus this year is on the development of an improved relationship with our alumni. This coming spring semester, the Department will be working to tie the business curriculum together and we are counting on some help from our alumni in this important process. This project will include an assessment of the skills our graduates should possess as they leave us for the professional world and your input in this process would be extremely valuable. I will be sending out a link to a short alumni survey toward the end

of January and would very much appreciate your help.

Additionally, we are in the process of forming advisory boards for each of our majors (accounting, management of information, management of natural resources, and health information technology) and will be asking the individual boards to perform a thorough review of the curriculum for the purpose of recommending changes. Please let me know if you would be interested in serving on one of these boards.

The new year will also see the launching of a new Department social media platform. We hope to provide both a way to get information to current and potential students as well as to provide a platform to communicate

with our alumni. Also, we will also be initiating an alumni spotlight section in these newsletters. Please send any information, either personal or professional, that you would like to share with other alumni and friends of the Department.

Finally, we will be planning a number of informal meet and greets events in the spring for our local alumni. Please look for announcements of these events.

I am looking forward to a productive spring semester. Thank you for all that you do for us and I wish you the best for the new year. In the meantime, I would love to hear from you if you have the time.

Best wishes going forward,

Tim

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT:

JESSICA FLAMAND

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Jessica Flamand, a May 2019 graduate in accounting, completed two internships with the Butte Office of Anderson ZurMuehlen & Company in 2019. Her spring position focused on income tax preparation and the summer internship was based in the attestation function. The two internships resulted in an offer for a permanent position that started this past October.

Jessica grew up in Butte and graduated from Butte High in 2015. She started at Tech that fall unsure as to a degree program so she enrolled in both Traci O’Neill’s introduction to business and Rita Spear’s introduction to health care informatics. It was an assignment related to a financial reporting project in the introduction to business that sparked her interest in accounting and she decided to pursue the accounting option as a major.

Jessica entertained thoughts of continuing her education by pursuing a masters of accountancy or a law degree toward the end of her baccalaureate career, but her internship experience led her to accept the full-time position at AZ. Jessica is very happy with the thought of working at the Butte office for the foreseeable future. She is current taking some additional coursework to complete the 150-hour CPA requirement and studying with hopes of starting the exam in the near future.

Montana Tech and MT HIMSS Speaker – Dr. Jonathan Griffin, MD



Dr. Griffin and Professor Faught in the AVI Teleconference Room



“If I wasn’t part of this online class, I would have never gotten this opportunity to attend. I liked hearing from the other healthcare professionals about how the field is changing and what is coming next.”

- Student observation

Montana Tech’s BIT and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) jointly sponsored an open house event on Friday, November 1st on Tech’s campus in its very high tech AVI teleconference room.

The keynote speaker for the event was Dr. Jonathan Griffin. His lecture connected both in person and via distance students, academics, and industry professionals. Dr. Griffin led a lively discussion on the current issues and trends in health information technology.

In his talk, he indicated that it is a great time for HIT students to participate in projects at his facility and across Montana.

Current issues and trends included health information exchange and the efficient and effective use of patient data to make needed improvements in our health care system.

Dr. Griffin is the Chief Medical Innovation Officer at St. Peter’s Health. He received his doctorate and masters of health administration from the University of Washington and completed residency at the Family Medicine of Residency of Idaho Rural Training Program.

Dr. Griffin has been practicing medicine for nine years in addition to serving on both hospital system and health insurance plan leadership teams.

He was a physician champion for Montana’s first HIE, HealthShare Montana, and has helped spearhead efforts to re-establish a statewide HIE since March 2015.

Dr. Griffin currently maintains a private practice, he serves as medical director of innovation and technology at St. Peter’s Health, he is medical director of five skilled nursing facilities, and served as past-President of the Montana Medical Association.

Montana Tech is an Academic Organizational Affiliate of HIMSS.



BIT Speaker Series - CEO of Lonewolf Energy

Trent Sizemore, Founder and CEO of Lonewolf Energy, Inc., spoke at Montana Tech to 65 students on Tuesday, December 3rd in the Poore Room of the University Relations Building as part of the Business & Information Systems Department Speaker Series.

Mr. Sizemore spoke about his career as a Professional Landman and as a Montana oil and gas operator and producer.

Headquartered in Billings he has worked all over the U.S. As Montana Tech and the Business & Information Technology Department have recently created and developed the Professional Landman Certificate Program, Mr. Sizemore's lecture was both timely and highly anticipated.

"We are truly honored to have Mr. Sizemore speak here at Tech," said John Belland, President of the Student Association of Professional Landmen. "As students who are studying for careers as Professional Landmen, Mr. Sizemore is an ideal role model for us to see what can be accomplished both as a landman and as an entrepreneur in the oil and gas industries."

Mr. Sizemore joined the professional landman ranks in 1981. He is a member of both the American Association of Professional Landmen (AAPL) and the Montana Association of Professional Landmen. In addition to his years of success as a Professional Landman, Mr. Sizemore expanded into oil and gas operations and production with a variety

of acquisitions of oil & gas producing assets and facilities, focused in Blaine & Hill Counties and North-Central Montana.

"Montana Tech prides itself in helping students understand the theory and the application of their academic learning," said Dr. Tim Kober, Chair of the Business & Information Technology Department. "It through the generous participation of successful practitioners like Trent Sizemore that we can be more successful with our application efforts."



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