

Tim Kober Department Head



Lance Revenaugh Associate Professor



Todd Tregidga Assistant Professor



Rita Spear Assistant Professor



David Hood Assistant Professor



J.J. Adams Assistant Professor



Paige Payne Administrative Assoc.

# MontanaTech Business Department

Academic Year 2016-2017

# Alumni BIT

#### From the desk of Department Head, Tim Kober

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I hope all is well with you and your family as we get deeper into 2017. The Business Department has been active and I would like to share some of the highlights with you in this letter.

We have three new faculty members in the Department this year. We were fortunate to hire our top three choices from last year's faculty search and all three have done a great job for us this year. Ms. Rita Spear joined us from the Department of Health Care Informatics. Mr. J.J. Adams and Mr. David Hood are new to the Tech campus. Please join me in welcoming all three into our Department. At the same time, we are saddened to see three long-time faculty members leave the Department. I would like to thank Dr. Traci O'Neill, Dr. Gordy Flanders, and Mr. David Ottolino for their distinguished service to our Department and the Tech campus and wish them the best going forward. They are missed.

I am excited to report that the Department has stepped up its association with SAP and is now a member of the SAP University Alliance. This membership gives us access to SAP software as well as existing applications to provide exposure to SAP for our students. We currently are the only business program in the state that is member of the alliance and the faculty has been working diligently this year to incorporate SAP into the curriculum. I would like to commend the faculty for their efforts in this endeavor. Their hard work and dedication will most definitely help our students going forward.

Our students have continued to become more active outside of the classroom. I would also like to thank the Business Guild, our student business club, for their efforts this year. The Guild will be competing in the National DECA competition this month and has worked to fund a student scholarship. Also, J.J. Adams has traveled with a number students to a case study competition at Harvard University and Lance Revenaugh has traveled to present a paper that was written with a student and will have a student group competing in the University of Montana entrepreneurship contest.

Finally, I have started working to reconnect with our past business graduates. We are fortunate to have over 600 alumni and I would like to develop an improved relationship as I believe you folks could help us do a better job with our current students. I will plan on reaching out to you folks by early next academic year. In the meantime, I would love to hear from you if you have the time.

Best wishes going forward,

Tim

### **New Faculty**

# Page 2 of 8

#### <u>Thank you to our</u> <u>2017Advisory</u> <u>Board Members</u>

Dean Bentley Northwestern Energy

Karen Byrnes Butte Silver Bow

Shelly Davis Michele K. Davis LLC

Kevin Dennehy St. James Foundation

Annette Hill Anderson Zurmuehlen

Mike Johnson Mgt. Consultants, Inc.

John Kasperick Northwestern Energy

Brodie Kelly Northwestern Energy

> Gary Mannix Montana Tech

Jim McKenzie Newland & Co.

Luke Meyer Montana Tech Foundation

> Bing Opie SKG

Jerry Rapp Town Pump

Tom Renouard REC Group

Randy Simkins Summit Financial

John Tierney Harrington Bottling

IAB Board Meeting was Friday, March 10, 2017

The B.I.T. Department is always looking for more members. Contact Tim Kober



**Joseph J Adams** is a consultant with 18 years of start-up, business, research, and policy experience. He founded several small businesses in a variety of industries, was the National Economic Director for the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, produced the 2013 Montana Jobs Summit, and helped craft landmark legislation including the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the 2010 Small Business JOBS Act. He holds an MBA from the University of Montana where he serves on the Management and Marketing Advisory Board.

**Meet Our Newest Faculty** 

**David Hood** is an Assistant Professor in the Business and Information Technology department at Montana Tech. Prior to this appointment, he served as a student mentor for Western Governors University in the MBA program. David is currently working towards his terminal degree in Educational Leadership at Missoula and expects to complete in the next two years. In his academic career he has taught over 20 business courses and currently he is teaching Business and Account. He is a proud father of five children who reside in the mid-west and in Missoula. His research interest is in special education dispute resolution. When not studying he enjoys outdoor activities and visiting with his family.





**Rita Spear** is a Butte native with over 30 years of industry experience. Her background in management includes: General Manager of Tetragenics (a company specializing in supervisory control and data acquisition), Vice President of Network Engineering and Operations for Touch America, Vice President of Information Technology for MSE Technology Applications, President of Ingenium Data Techniques, Inc., and Chief Information Officer for Providence Health and Services (Western Montana region). She received her B.S. in Computer Science from Montana Tech and her M.S. in Computer Science from Montana State

University. She is currently pursuing her Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from the University of Montana. The use of telepresence robots in distance education is the theme of her current research. Rita and her husband Bob enjoy spending time with their six grandchildren. Georgetown Lake is their favorite place for year-around fun and activities.

### **B.I.T. Department News**

# Page 3 of 8

### **B.I.T. Faculty News and Travel**



The entire business faculty attended the SAP Winter Workshop over Christmas break. The workshop took place on the campus of Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. The workshop provided an intensive four-day introduction to the SAP University Alliance program and its Learning Hub for the faculty. The Workshop also gave us an indication as to just how large of an undertaking the Department is starting with the implementation of SAP. Nonetheless, the mood of the faculty coming out of the Winter Workshop was positive and the faculty will continue to work on the implementation of SAP into our curriculum.

(Pictured left to right; Todd, J.J., Tim, David, Rita, Lance & Sam Houston)

### Lance Revenaugh—Keynote Speaker in Hong Kong

In December of this year, **Dr. Revenaugh** traveled to Hong Kong to give a keynote address and present a paper at the International Conference on Economics, Business and Trade (ICEBT). The paper was an investigation of the use of SAP Enterprise Systems in the NFL, and specifically with the San Francisco 49ers. The paper was later published in the Journal of Economics, Business and Management (JOEBM). The keynote address focused on critical questions to consider as we continue to live in the information age.

#### **Refereed Conference Proceedings**

"Enterprise Systems in the NFL: An In-Depth Look at the San Francisco 49ers Partnership with SAP." Proceedings of the International Conference on Economics, Business and Trade (ICEBT), Hong Kong, China, Dec 6-8, 2016.

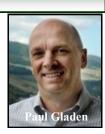
#### **Refereed Journal Publications**

"Enterprise Systems in the NFL: An In-Depth Look at the San Francisco 49ers Partnership with SAP." Journal of Economics, Business and Management (JOEBM), Vol: 2, No: 1, 2016.

### **Spring Lecture Series**



"Montana Business Start-up Challenge and Other Entrepreneurial Opportunities" was the title of the lecture on March 3, 2017 delivered by Donald Gaumer and Paul Gladen. For the past ten years Mr. Gaumer has been working as a financial consultant, business consultant and Adjunct instructor in both Finance and Management at the University of Montana. Paul Gladen is the director of the Blackstone Launchpad which seeks to assist students faculty and alumni in starting businesses. He is also the Chief Executive Officer of the MADE (Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs).



"Career Strategy" was the itle of Jerry Rapp's lecture on April 21, 2017 in the NRB. He was introduced by his daughter, B.I.T. senior, Annika Rapp. Jerry is the CIO of Town Pump. Town Pump owns and operates over 200 gas station and convenience stores, casinos, hotels and car wash properties throughout Montana and Idaho. Jerry's technical career started in the US Air Force. He later graduated with an Information Systems degree from Tech. Jerry went on to work for Entech and Fidelity Investments before moving back to Montana. He is a Six Sigma Black Belt and LEAN certified.





**Jason Willams** is the CEO of Blackfoot, a Missoula-based company that operates a world-class regional voice and data network throughout Montana and the Pacific Northwest. Jason's lecture "The Future of Broadband in Montana" was on April 28, 2017 in NRB 122. Jason shared his perspectives on the evolution of voice and data networks and communications over the last 20 years and provided insights on the future of broadband data networks in Montana and the region.

### **Business Guild & Mock Trial**

# Page 4 of 8

#### Montana Tech Student Business Guild

The Montana Tech Business Department has been fortunate to have an active student club this academic year. The members of the student club, formally known as the Business Guild, have worked closely with the Butte community to enhance their education with real-world business experiences.

The primary goal of the club is to establish a sustainable program that will continue to thrive into the future. The Guild has worked had to establish networking opportunities for the students as well as to take on a number of projects for local businesses.

The Guild has created a scholarship for an incoming business student. This unique student initiated scholarship is the first one of its kind on the Tech campus and is scheduled to make its first award this fall. The Guild also organized and hosted the Montana State DECA Competition. The event proved to be a success and the winners advanced to the National DECA competition in Anaheim, CA during April.

The mission of the Guild is to work for the benefit of the community by applying skills and knowledge learned at Montana Tech. They help by assisting local businesses with:

Formulating ideas

Beginning, strengthening, and completing a formal business plan

Creating a cash flow projection and organizing a budget

Researching market pricing, segment targeting, and SWOT analysis

Creating marketing promotions

Please contact any business faculty member if you are interested in supporting the Guild or know of any business that would benefit from their services.

### **BGEN 285 Mock Trial**

Students in BGEN 285 Critical Thinking, Decision Making, and the Art of Leadership staged a mock trial to help develop their critical thinking skills.

Rick Anderson, a local attorney, served as the judge.

Members of the prosecution: Dennis Berczyk, Michael Davis, Zachary Dichtel, Tess Frey, Shari Leedom, Colton Johnson, Gabriel McClafferty, Amanda Ortiz, Sebastian Perduss, Kellee Prouse, Jordan Sweeney, and parker Vandewark. Michael Clague, the Deputy County Attorney, helped the prosecution team develop their case and assisted with cross examination.

Members of the defense: Will Davey, Kellen Davis, Zach Dennehy, James Foote, John Foster, Aaron Harwood, Chris Johnson, Jackson King, Monica Landdeck, Danee Leary, Danny Mannix, Jared Peters, Tucker Rauthe, and Connor Wines. Mark Vucurovich, a local attorney, provided assistance for the entire defense team, including cross examination.

Members of the jury: Jonathan Allen, Corey Dennehy, Jessica Flammand, Amanda Gilcher, Sadiq Inuawa, Jason Johnston, Chris Kelly, Danielle McGee, Cameron Nissen, Bobbie Osterman, Tyler Paffhausen, and Ashley Thompson. The jury was required to deliberate the case in the presence of the prosecution and defense teams and then to explain their reasoning beyond their verdict.



JURY



ATTORNEY WILL DAVEY



ATTORNEY MICHAEL DAVIS

### **Student News**

## Page 5 of 8

#### Montana Tech DECA State Competition



From left to right DECA Judges & Participants: J.J. Adams (Tech), David Toth (DECA), Cassandra Sunell, (Head Frame Spirits Chief Marketing Officer), Tech Prof. Tim Kober, Tech Prof. Lance Revenaugh, Joe Willauer (Headwaters RC&D), Tech Prof. Todd Tregidga, Tech Prof. Rita Spear, Coner Dolan, (DECA) Jessica York (DECA), Sebastian Perduss (DECA Pres.), Keaton Wray (DECA). February 10, 2017 at Montana Tech.

#### **DECA State & National Collegiate Competition and Alumni Bash**

**The Montana Tech Business Guild** is an association of students with an interest in marketing, finance, and related fields. We're a collegiate DECA chapter and act in coordination with the Montana Tech Business & Information Technology Department. It is our mission to work towards the benefit of our community by applying the skills and knowledge we have learned at Montana Tech. Since 2015 we have administered the state position in collegiate DECA. The international association is comprised of high school and college students in business, management, finance, hospitality, entrepreneurship, marketing sales and service. Every year, more than 200,000 participants from more than 3,500 high schools and 1,500 collegiate chapters compete in DECA state and national competitions. Montana Tech, as the

only collegiate chapter in the State of Montana, hosted the DECA state competition for the second time in February. The Tech DECA competition winners, Sebastian Perduss, Coner Dolan, David Toth, Keaton Wray and advisor, Lance Revenaugh traveled to Anaheim California in April for the DECA national collegiate competition. Jessica York was not able to accompany her colleagues, but was there in spirit. There were1800 college students at DECA Nationals. John Stiles, the Montana director for DECA, graciously took the Montana contingent out to dinner to discuss and plan Montana Tech's leadership role in Montana. After the competition, the DECA team hosted an Alumni and potential student bash at Huntington Beach Pier funded by Tech's Alumni Foundation. We would like to thank the Foundation for their support and the Alumni for their donations that make an event like this possible.



John Stiles, Lance, Coner, David, Keaton, Sebastian



Sebastian Perduss, Coner Dolan, David Toth, Keaton Wray



### **Sigma Beta Delta and Donations**

## Page 6 of 8

#### Sigma Beta Delta

**Sigma Beta Delta** is an international honor society of management and business students. Membership in Sigma Beta Delta is the highest national recognition a business student can receive at a college or university with a Sigma Beta Delta chapter. Faculty members in the BIT department elect and invite students to become members; it is our way of recognizing students' outstanding scholastic achievements.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for membership, a business student must rank in the upper 20 percent of the junior, senior or master's class and be invited to membership by the faculty officers. Additionally, one chapter has been established in the United Arab Emirates, the first international chapter. Montana Tech of the University of Montana became a charter member in September 2005.

We have inducted 155 members since our first semester. The Sigma Beta Delta Induction ceremony was held on March 29, 2017 in the Copper Lounge on the Montana Tech Campus. Those inducted were as follows: Jonathan Allen, Austin Bowling, Sean Brown, Taryn Campbell, Kaylynn Cloverdell, Levi Dawes, Amanda Gilcher, Kale Guldseth, Danee Leary, Shari Leedon, Andrew Loudenback, Bobbie Osterman, Tyler Paffhausen, Amanda Peterson, Wenruizi Koch and Jessi-



#### Alumni Donations to the Tech Foundation

Dan Owens Marcia Lubick Mary Petritz Debra Gunter Julie Kirkpatrick Staci Costin John Dunn Judy Staudinger Michael Blakeley Carol Reed Kathy Williams Lorie Axelson Stephen Devoti Brendan McDonough Charity Kohler Theresa Nadeau Rhonda Parent Ezechiel Bambolo Kelly Sinkbeil Heather Salusso Michelle Keith Robert Moodry Sherri Stepan Tammi Lester Lynn Rustad Colleen Croghan Margaret Dudley Anne Warner Kristina Sullivan Colleen Rabson Courtnie Massar Tyler Shaffer Corey McGreevey Tyler Sandru Drew Waltee Timothy Kober

Brodie Kelly Kimberly Brown Michelle Curran Timothy Dilworth Jodi Driscoll Jack Duffield Todd Enev Joseph Gray Daniel Haney Michael Hart Tedd Little Amy Babb Daniel Petritz Carole Stoltz Jake Verlanic Tyna Wright Joshua Williams Donna Kukay Diana DeWitt Korey Gillis Katherine Cassese Patricia Parker Julia Nadeau David Leeper Marcie Jany Brandon McLean Todd Neighbor Jaclvnn Neumann Dirk Okland Mike Schumacher RuthAnne Shope Margaret Aguirre Katelyn Dean Shayne Shaules Brianne McClafferty Nick Hinch

Krystal Ackerman Rikki Patch Erin Angove Daniel Beatty Bryan Cetraro Jeffrey Dahood Tamara Curran Chad Dubs Kara Baker Shelley Haslip Dana Rogers Matthew Shea David Stillwagon Julie Vincent Brandi York Ed Brown Shawn Muffich Megan Casey Allen Chatriand Kimberly Darrah Nick Hinch Tammy Jangula Joe Kondelis Donald Kuszmaul Kelly Kuszmaul Mike Maesar Katherine Manning Shaun Seedhouse Charlie Archer Benjamin Kohler Jacob Moe Colter Bennett Skyler Knuchel Robert Stagnoli Hunter Kerkes David Ottolino

Kelsie Goodwin Adam Sackman Joshua Woltermann Amanda Booth Neil Butori Renzy Kelly Scott Mansanti Abby Osborne-Albrecht Joanne Lee Patricia McGuire Siobhan Duhame Kaila Minehan Brandon Smith Kyle Pettigrew Doug Grant Jerrold Haxby Annette Meagher Luke Mever Theresa Seccomb Matt Stepan Shane Sutton Colette Rambur Albert Curtis Joy Brickzin Wavne Butori Christopher Curran Pauline Giacomino Tressa Johnson Daniel Merrick Brad Spear Roseann Popovich Wacy Deegan Whitney Lott Whit Smith Matthew Blank Colleen Talbott Mike & Mindy Maesar

Lynnsey Bondi Ruth Schelin Judy Allenkunz Robert Redekopp Thadd Tokerud Brandon Wood Dustin Langford Jaclyn Giop Melissa Vaira J. Eric Anderson Jenelle Sandford Craig Tippett Nicole Cronnelly Teague Egan Bo Bolstad Kyle Carter Stephen Donaldson Michael Huotte Eric Mahugh Marissa Bentley Justin Stratton Francis Affor Ryan Carmody Janet Friesz Christopher Ingram Steven Kambich Dan Villa Anthony Garman Nate Lester Cara Mittleider Joel Wilson Matthew Komac Nathanial Truzzolino Anderson ZurMuehlen Doug Coe Todd Tregidga Maggie & Henry Peterson

Thank you for your generous contribution and support!

# Page 7 of 8

#### William A. Squires Legacy Endowment

Blackfoot Telecommunications and Jason Williams (CEO), has pledged to establish a \$100,000 endowment with a goal of

reaching \$250,000. The William (Bill) A. Squires Legacy Endowment will be used in support of student and/or faculty who shall meet

#### the following eligibility requirements while attending Montana Tech:

#### **Student**

- 1. Student (s) shall be in the Business & Information Technology program at Montana Tech
- Student (s) shall have a 3.0 GPA or higher
   Student (s) shall have financial need based
- 3. Student (s) shall have financial need based on the FAFSA

#### <u>Faculty</u>

- 1. Faculty shall be conducting research or other scholarly work in a high-tech related area
- 2. Faculty shall be from one of the following departments: Business & Information Technology, Computer Science, Soft ware Engineering, Information Technology & Design or Data Science

#### Selection Criteria

The recipients of the scholarship shall be selected by the Montana Tech Scholarship Committee upon the recommendation of the Financial Aid Office in accordance with the eligibility requirements of the Donor. Upon being advised of the selection by the Scholarship Committee, the Montana Tech Foundation shall pay the award to Montana Tech for the receipt. The recipient (s) of the faculty award shall be determined through a competitive process, with the final selection being made by the Dean of the College of Letters, Sciences, and Professional Studies and Provost.

### **MTA Scholarship Endowment Fund**

The **Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA)** announced the establishment of the MTA Scholarship Endowment Fund at Montana Tech. The MTA Scholarship Fund will award \$1,000 annually to qualified students entering Montana Tech's Business and Information Technology program. "We're excited to help students achieve their educational goals with this scholarship fund," said MTA President, **Jason Williams.** "By targeting students entering Montana Tech's Business and IT program, we hope to expand Montana's pool of talented future employees, who might make a career out of working in Montana's rural telecom industry." MTA represents rural telecommunications companies providing advanced broadband services covering nearly 70 percent of Montana. These companies have invested over \$250 million in advanced broadband infrastructure in the last five years alone and have deployed approximately 25,000 miles of fiber optic facilities throughout the state and employ nearly 1,000 Montanans with rewarding careers. Learn more at <u>www.BroadbandMT.com</u>. MTA's General Manager, **Geoff Feiss**, said that "Montana's rural broadband providers are leading the nation in many areas of broadband service deployment. We already know about Montana's fabulous quality of life and enviable work ethic. The MTA Scholarship Endowment will help sustain a future skilled workforce that Montana's employers seek."



Pictured from left to right:
Mike Sheard, GM, Northern Telephone Co-op. Shelby, Montana.
Mike Dolezal, CEO. Range. Forsyth, Montana.
Brad Veis. CFO. 3 Rivers Communications. Fairfield, Montana.
Mike Kilgore, CEO. Nemont. Scobey, Montana.
Randy Wilson, GM. InterBel Telephone Co-op. Eureka, Montana.
Craig Gates, CEO. Triangle Telephone Co-op. Havre, Montana.
Geoff Feiss, GM. Montana Telecommunications Association. Helena, Montana.
Dave Gibson, CEO. 3 Rivers Communications. Fairfield, Montana.
Luke Meyer, Montana Tech Foundation. Butte, Montana.
Larry Mason, GM. Southern Montana Telephone Co. Wisdom, Montana.
Jason Williams, CEO. Blackfoot. Missoula, Montana.
Mell Petersen, NW Mgr. Preformed Line Products. Cleveland, Ohio.
Remi Sun, CFO. Nemont. Scobey, Montana.
Ben Boreson, Director. Nemont. Glasgow, Montana.



#### BIT Outstanding Student for 2017 is Cooper Fisher



Cooper Fisher, a senior in the Business and Information Technology program and brand manager for the **Butte.Elevated** Campaign, won the Montana Tourism Award for Marketing Campaign of the Year at the 2017 Governor's Conference on Tourism and Recreation. Presented by the Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development, the award recognizes an outstanding tourism-related marketing campaign with a commitment to the promotion and development of tourism in Montana. Fisher joined local leaders to develop a new marketing campaign and brand for Butte, referred to as **Butte.Elevated**, establishing Butte as the community of choice for tourists, businesses, and residents. The effort consisted of creating a shared vision and message about how to grow our economy and enhance our community. Since its establishment in late October of 2015, the **Butte.Elevated** campaign has been able to completely change the dialogue in Butte from one of a "superfund site" to one of quality tourism opportunities and livability.

**Cooper Fisher & Colleagues.** 

#### The Montana Tech Finance Club

The Montana Tech Finance Club was formed to help students complement their technical studies with strong financial skills. The Finance Club recently participated in its first Harvard Global Case Competition at Harvard Business School. Alex Melshko, Thor Montgomery and Colin Russell, all PE Majors, presented an evaluation of a \$120 million dollar corporate acquisition in the biotechnology space. They competed against 127 schools from around the world, including Harvard Business School, Wharton, Rotterdam School of Management, Indian School of Business, London Business School, and HEC Paris. The club's adviser, Joseph (JJ) Adams has provided a wealth of business insight with years of experience from being an independent consultant and serial entrepreneur. He has founded several small businesses in the real estate, television production, and agriculture industries. More recently, JJ worked as the National Economic Director for the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee and won the University of Montana's *John Raffatto's Business Plan*" entrepreneurial competition.



#### **Dual Credit BGEN 105 On-Line Course**

An introductory course that surveys the nature of business, its functions, as well as its various environments and challenges will be offered this Fall 2017 online for the first time. This section is intended for dual credit and non -traditional students. Topics covered include basic concepts in the areas of finance, management, ethics, accounting, and marketing. Non-business majors are encouraged to enroll in this course. B.I.T. faculty member, David Hood will be the instructor.

### Washington D.C. Presentation

Dr. Lance Revenaugh and Erik Mason attended the ICIRS (International Conference on Interdisciplinary Research Studies) in Washington DC.in March. Erik presented a paper titled "The Impact of Enterprise Systems on Mergers and Acquisitions in the Oil and Gas Industry." Erik is a Petroleum Engineering major.



Erik Mason

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Business and Information Technology Department is to prepare tomorrow's business leaders for the challenges of a dynamic global business environment through the innovative integration of a traditional business curriculum with state-of-the-art information technology. We are on the web! http://www.mtech.edu/clsps/bit/

ppayne@mtech.edu E-MAIL: NEWSLETTER

> ₩7074-864-7704 XAF

406-496-4401 ЪНОИЕ:

1300 W. Park St Butte MT. 59701

Montana Tech Business & Information Technology Department

BIT Alumni Happenings Montana Tech 1300 West Park Street Butte, MT 59701 "The class is intended to be one means of helping sanall local businesses succeed ..."

UNIVER NI