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## Montana Tech Library- is YOUR Library

By Frances Holmes, Marcia Lubick and Kate Peck

Did you know that all campus employees are welcome to use the services offered by the Library?

The Library has over 130,000 books, MBMG, State and Government documents available to you; with subjects covering most areas of interest from the Aardvark to Zyzzogeton. In addition, we have leisure reading books and magazines, over 800 movies on DVD and more than 80 books on tape available to you for check-out. Plus, using your employee ID# you may access our 140 databases, which include over 130,000 E-books, 84,000 E-documents and 41,000 E-journals, from any computer on or off-campus. Reference services are available to help Staff with their research.

The Library has two self-service walk-up scanning stations for books, documents and photos that you want to scan. They are easy to use and you have the option to email or save your documents to your USB device.

During the Academic year, the Library is open 7 days a week. Last year had over 110,000 patron visits to the library. They checked out close to 10,000 items, and accessed over 65,000 E-resources.

Each month we have special displays to highlight the library's leisure reading collections as well as materials that support classroom instruction and research.

We just completed our wildly popular February display "Blind Date with a Book". This was the 5<sup>th</sup> year we have done this display for February and it generated record breaking circulation. The display consists of staff favorite February

reads wrapped in brown paper and paired with lonely hearts advertisements describing the contents and topped with chocolate. Read the advertisements, check out the book that seems like the right read for you, go to your favorite reading nook and discover if you have found your book soulmate.

You may have missed out of the February fun but come in and check out March's display on our collection of Graphic Novels that range from stories based on historical events to epic fantasy tales.

Graphic Novels are a rapidly growing genre and draw interest from all ages. Not only considered

a literary feat they also contain elaborate illustrations thousands have come to appreciate. Truly a style all unto itself and not just for the comic book enthusiast anymore.

Don't forget Stax Coffee Shop is in the Library/ Auditorium Lobby. Stax is open M-W-F 7a.m.-1p.m. and T-TH 7a.m.-noon. They offer Coffee and Latte's as well as quick grab beverages including bai, pop, juice, tea, water, Frappuccino and pastries.

The Library website is a great place to begin your exploration of the collections and services available to you <https://www.mtech.edu/library/>.

So stop by the Library and say "Hello".



## MBMG—Service, Collaboration, and Excellence By Denise Herman

The Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) is a unique department of Montana Tech's campus community. Although its staff members fulfill many functions across campus, the MBMG sometimes seems separate from the rest of campus. The Montana Legislature created the MBMG in 1919 with the specific mandate to collect and publish information about Montana's geology. Such an overarching mission could become overwhelming, but 60 full- and part-time staff members combine their research, technical, and clerical skills accomplish it.

Raw geologic or hydrologic data is of use to only a select few. By the time that data leaves the MBMG, it has passed through the hands of many staff members, each enhancing the accuracy, clarity, and accessibility of the information.

Although the review process for any publication created by the MBMG is detailed and thorough, we can follow a streamlined version to highlight some of the MBMG staff's contributions to a project from fieldwork to final publication.

For our example, we will track Mary Sutherland, a hydrogeologist who studies Montana's aquifers.

With landowner permission, she records information on any given well one to three times each month. She documents well locations, well depths, and collects water samples—a single sample can contain as many as 6 bottles. After she pumps the well, she records the well depths and collects water samples again. That data can inform scientists about how water moves through that aquifer system and effects geology

The water level measurements go to Stacey Konda. Stacey is a computer software engineer in the Ground Water Information Center (GWIC),



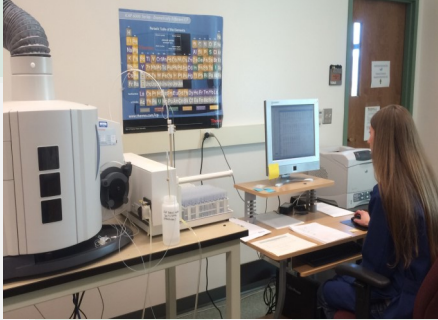
and she makes the information gathered in the field available to the public. GWIC is the official State of Montana Well Log Repository, which means that Stacey helps manage the wealth of information provided by MBMG researchers, Montana Department of Agriculture, DNRC, tribal governments, county governments, consulting companies, and drilling companies.

When Stacey enters the data from Mary, Ashley Huft, a chemist in the MBMG laboratory, receives that information in a linked program and begins her analyses of the samples Mary delivered. Ashley verifies that every entry and sample correspond with each other, and she begins her analysis process.

After Ashley calibrates her instruments, she enters the sample and calibration data. Most of the instruments can auto sample up to 50 samples at a time. Among other tests, Ashley tests pH, specific conductivity, and water isotopes. She verifies the results, exports them to Excel, and converts the numbers to be useful for Mary.



After well locations, water levels, and water quality data are entered and verified, the public has full access to that information. Digital GWIC searches are most the common, but some



people make inquiries by phone. Montana Tech students have searched this information for class projects, members of the

public want to know more about the wells on their properties, and realtors and other individuals seek information about water in properties they are buying or selling.

MBMG researchers use that same information to start putting together maps and reports that make the information more meaningful to a general audience. Mary creates hand drawn or digital visual charts from her data, but Yiwen Li, an MBMG GIS specialist, helps to give those visual aids context.

Yiwen uses GIS technology to layer the information from field researchers onto maps or aerial photos.

The different layers might include geologic information, aerial photos, contour shading, county lines, latitude/



longitude information, or township and range information to provide a real world reference. After Mary's data is layered onto the backgrounds, she can review and adjust the drawings to more accurately represent her field observation and notes.

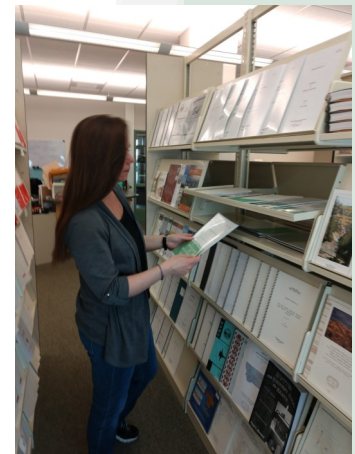
Susan Smith is a geologic cartographer. In addition to helping create digital maps, Susan creates figures, charts, graphs, and diagrams to illustrate relevant points in the text.

Once the report has gone through all these steps, and the scientific research has been peer reviewed, it is delivered to the MBMG Publications Editor, Susan Barth. Working with Mary, Susan arranges the layout and edits the text. When they are both satisfied, Susan releases the report to the public.



In addition to the usual Administrative Associate duties, Cathy McKillips staffs the Publication Sales office. Except for the most popular reports, the MBMG publications are usually printed on demand.

People can purchase these in person, or they can order by phone or from the MBMG's website. Cathy processes the sales and promptly prints and mails these requests.



From the fieldwork to final sales, the MBMG staff work to serve the public at large and fulfill their legislative mandate. As they accomplish these goals, they contribute to the Montana Tech community with service, education, and student employment and mentoring. You can learn more about each of these members of the MBMG staff, access GWIC information, browse the Publication Catalog, and more at: <http://www.mbmq.mtech.edu/> .

# Pat on the Back



Janet Friesz, Assistant Director of Enrollment Services and Montana Tech Alumna, has been an Oredigger since 2005 when she played Montana Tech Volleyball while working on her BS in Business & Information Technology. She completed her degree in 2009. She and her husband Chad are active members of the community and have always enjoyed belonging to this campus.

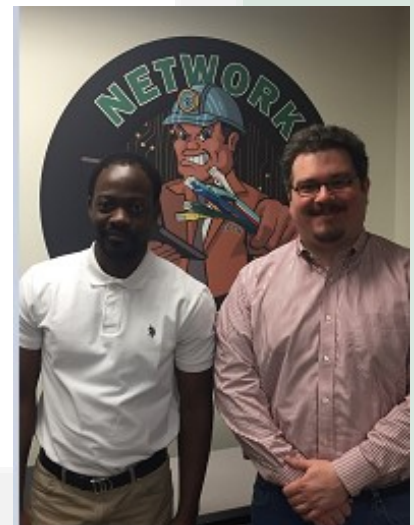
In 2011 she joined the team in the Enrollment Services Office where she is surrounded by a supportive group of people who make coming to work enjoyable. One of her favorite responsibilities is being a School Certifying Official in which she assists and educates our veterans and active duty members in how to use their VA Educational Benefits. As she says “These students have made many sacrifices for this country and it is my honor to assist with their transition to college life.” A naturally helpful person with an easy smile, she is mindful of treating people with respect and tries to make the students first experiences with Montana Tech positive.



Network Services includes:

Ledoux Okamba, Wesley (Troy) Scott, James (Cal) Snow, Yvonie Laughery, Nick Barney, Eric Luther, and Jason Kolpin.

“I am nominating this department as with the recent restructuring changes and new personnel, this department has improved their communication and customer service. We are impressed with how great you all have been and the continued improvement. Your new personnel have been very accommodating and pleasant to work with. Thank you IT!”



Pictured above: Ledoux Okamba and Wesley (Troy) Scott

**Pat on the Back** recognizes individual staff members and/or teams who have performed beyond expectation, making exceptional efforts toward achieving the mission of Montana Tech. Submit here: [https://www.mtech.edu/app/staff\\_senate/Nominate.aspx](https://www.mtech.edu/app/staff_senate/Nominate.aspx)

## REMINDERS

### Ask the Senate

As an advisory group to the Chancellor, the Staff Senate recommends policies or changes to policies for consideration by the Chancellor and facilitates effective communication between Montana Tech administration and staff. Please use this forum as a neutral conduit to share your ideas, concerns, and ask questions about Montana Tech issues. The Staff Senate will forward each submission to the appropriate department for response and share the information on the Staff Senate webpage. We hope to hear from you!

Submit here: [https://www.mtech.edu/app/staff\\_senate/AskSenate.aspx](https://www.mtech.edu/app/staff_senate/AskSenate.aspx)

**MontanaTech**  
**STAFF SENATE**

**LUNCHEON**  
**LEARNING**  
**SERIES**

Montana Tech's Staff Senate along with the Chancellor's office hosts a Luncheon Learning Series highlighting different subjects of interest to the staff.

Staff Senate now has **Mail Box #28** in the Mail & copy Center; this is the first step to open communication with staff who don't wish to communicate through email.

You may send your printed Pat on the Back nominations or Ask the Senate Questions to this mail box.

## Important Dates

- **March 14** - Staff Senate Lunch and Learn 12:00 p.m.— Copper Lounge
- **March 18-22** - Spring Break- Classes resume Monday March 25th
- **March 26** - 50th Day of class - last day to withdraw from a class with a 'W'
- **March 28** - Marie M Moebus President Scholarship Reception
- **March 29** - Scholar's Day
- **April 1** - Pre-registration begins for Continuing Students
- **April 5** - Spring Tech Day
- **April 8**- Deadline to submit graduation application for December graduation
- **April 11-13** - 24th Annual Spring SPE Symposium <https://inkd.in/ehrnizG>.
- **April 13** - 2019 Oredigger Auction— HPER Complex 496-4105 for tickets or reserve a table
- **April 19** - Spring Mini break
- **April 17** - Montana Tech Services Awards 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. HPER
- **April 25** - Montana Tech Expo
- **April 29-May 3** - Finals
- **May 4** - Commencement
- **May 14** - Grades post to Orediggerweb

### **Staff Senators 2018-2019**

President— Peggy McCoy  
Vice President— Niki Wilcox  
Secretary— Marcia Lubick  
Scott Forthofer  
Frances Holmes  
Debbie Luft  
Marilyn Patrick  
Kathy Stevens  
Casey Vanatta  
Denise Herman