



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**NORTHERN**

Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - February 21, 2025

## ASMSUN Members Participated in Rotunda Day



*(pictured left to right) President Bridger Beach, Vice President Aiden Perkins, At-Large Senator Garret Bliss, At-Large Senator Martin Manuel and First-Year Senator Desarae Toombs*

On Thursday February 13<sup>th</sup>, five members of ASMSUN Student Senate participated in the Montana Associated Students' (MAS) Student Rotunda Day at the state capitol. MAS is the collective student voice for the entire Montana University System. This opportunity underscored the importance of students being involved in the legislative process and voicing their opinions on issues that affect higher education in the state of Montana.

Students planned to express their opposition to Senate Bill 210, which would have eliminated the Student Regent on the Board of Regents. However, the bill died in committee prior to Rotunda Day. Participants had hoped to speak directly to their elected officials at the event. "Even though we weren't able to

speaking with any legislators, it was interesting to learn about the different bills and observing the process at the capitol,” said MSUN junior, Aiden Perkins. Throughout the legislative session, ASMSUN has representation from MAS lobbyist, Emmett Jeschke, senior at UM-Western. Raina Mortenson also at UM-Western, provides the student voice, as the Student Regent. Mortenson is a native of Malta and sibling of former ASMSUN President, Riley Mortenson (Brekke).

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## Career Fair Participants Unwind and Connect at "Wine'd Up"



The Career Center hosted the Wine'd Up social event on Wednesday, February 18, from 5 to 7 PM in the DTC Foyer. Originally introduced in Fall 2019, this event has been an important part of our career fair ever since. It provides employers and industry leaders with a relaxed setting to network, build relationships, and prepare for the Career Fair after a long day of travel. Attendees of this year's event enjoyed a selection of beverages and hors d'oeuvres while engaging in meaningful conversations with fellow participants.

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## MSU-Northern Hosts Successful Spring 2025 Career Fair



The MSU-Northern Career Center hosted the Spring 2025 Career Fair on Wednesday, February 19, from 9 AM to 12 PM in the Gym. This event provided students and alumni with a valuable opportunity to network with potential employers, explore job opportunities, and share their resumes with hiring professionals. With 62 companies in attendance, many of which traveled long distances to be in Havre, participants had a unique chance to make meaningful career connections.

This year, the Career Center used several techniques to enhance student-employer engagement:

- Colored name badges helped employers easily identify students preparing for careers in their specific industries.
- Northern alumni pendants were placed at tables where company representatives were MSU-Northern graduates, allowing students to connect with alumni and learn about their career journeys after graduation.
- QR code signage at each table enabled students to quickly log into the employer's profile on Handshake, making it easier to follow up and apply for opportunities.

A special thank you to our corporate sponsors—Barnard Construction, Nevada Gold Mines, Benefis Health System, Enterprise Mobility, RDO Equipment, and Frontline Ag Solutions—for making this event possible. Your support underscores the strong industry partnerships that continue to shape career opportunities for Northern students.

## Four MSU-Northern Instructors Shared Innovative Teaching Techniques



The Innovative Teaching and Learning Festival, hosted by MSU-Northern's Office of Teaching and Learning Excellence (OTLE), took place on Wednesday (Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>), in the Hensler Auditorium. The event featured presentations from several MSU-Northern professors, each showcasing unique teaching techniques and technological tools aimed at enhancing student learning and engagement.

**Dr. Casey Donovan** discussed "Recording Math Video Lectures," highlighting the benefits of using recorded lectures to enhance comprehension in online math courses. He demonstrated his process of recording lectures with YuJa Video while utilizing Ziteboard and a drawing tablet for problem-solving. He also shared strategies for efficient video editing to streamline lecture content without excessive re-recording.

**Kristi Peterson** explored the impact of peer teaching in the classroom. Her presentation emphasized how having students teach concepts to their peers deepens understanding, improves communication skills, and fosters collaboration. She outlined how this method promotes active learning and engagement by requiring students to clarify ideas and anticipate questions from classmates.

**Grant Bowker** introduced "Low-Stake Daily Assessments" as a strategy to increase student engagement and responsibility. He explained how these short, daily assessments serve as an alternative to attendance tracking while

providing students with opportunities to practice new skills and receive instructor feedback. He also discussed how allowing students to use their notes on assessments encourages active note-taking and enhances retention.

**Dr. Valerie Guyant** presented on the role-playing game "Call of Cthulhu" as an assessment tool in a speculative fiction classroom. She detailed how this tabletop role-playing game encourages narrative construction, problem-solving, and genre immersion. By engaging with the game's mechanics, students develop critical thinking and creativity while exploring speculative fiction's literary and cultural themes.

The festival provided valuable insights into innovative teaching strategies, offering attendees practical methods to enhance student learning and engagement across various disciplines. The diverse presentations underscored the importance of creativity, technology, and interactive learning in higher education.

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## MSU-Northern Awarded Grant to Study Violence in Rural Montana

In a significant step toward addressing domestic and sexual violence in rural Montana, Dr. Samantha Balemba, an Associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at MSU-Northern, has been awarded a \$10,000 "Pilot Planning Project" grant from INBRE (Idea Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence). The grant will provide funding for a research initiative with a long-term goal of improving how victims of these crimes interact with law enforcement and healthcare systems in the region.



Titled *Echoes from the Mountains: Reporting Domestic and Sexual Violence in Rural Montana*, the first year of Dr. Balemba's project seeks to build community partnerships through the establishment of a community advisory board. With the involvement of key local organizations—including HRDC, Havre Police Department (HPD), Bullhook Community Health Clinic, and Havre Fire Department (HFD)—the research will gather essential data to inform a larger grant application in the following year.

[Read more....](#)

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## Black History Month Film Series Continues

This Tuesday the library showed the third film in their Black History Month Film Series. The film is called *Uppity: The Willy T. Ribbs Story* it is a 2020 documentary that chronicles the life and career of Willy T. Ribbs, the first Black driver to qualify for the Indianapolis 500. Directed by Adam Carolla and Nate Adams, the film explores Ribbs' rise in motorsports despite facing intense racism and resistance

within the predominantly white racing world. It highlights his talent, determination, and outspoken personality, which often put him at odds with the establishment. The documentary features interviews with Ribbs, his supporters, and industry insiders, offering an inspiring and candid look at his groundbreaking journey and the obstacles he overcame in pursuit of his dreams.

Throughout February the MSU-Northern Vande Bogart Library is celebrating Black History through cinema. Attend film screenings on Tuesday each week at 3PM near the Northern Brew coffee shop on the library's main level. Drop by and stay as little or as long as you like! To watch on your own, all films can be found on Kanopy through the library's A-Z databases.

The final film in the series will be shown next Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 3:00 in the library and is called *The Black Emperor of Broadway*.

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## Student Spotlight: Madyson Warburton



Madyson Warburton always knew she wanted to work with her hands. Growing up in Havre and Malta, Montana, she was surrounded by welding—from her father, who worked as a mechanic/welder, to other family members who had built careers in the trade. It was only natural that she gravitated toward the craft herself.

Throughout high school, Madyson immersed herself in welding, taking four years of classes to develop her skills. She loved the process—the precision, the problem-solving, and the sense of accomplishment that came with every completed project.

When it came time to decide on her next steps after graduation, the choice was clear: MSU-Northern's welding program was the perfect fit.

"It's close to home, and it has a great welding program," Madyson said. "It was a good place to start and keep learning."

Now in her second year at Northern, Madyson has continued to build on her foundation, gaining hands-on experience and refining her technique. She appreciates the opportunities the program has provided and the supportive learning environment that has helped her grow.

"It's been pretty great. I've learned a lot this year and last year," she said. "I'm really grateful for the experience."

Looking ahead, Madyson hopes to start her career in a welding shop or with a welding company, applying her skills in the field and continuing to learn from those around her. While welding remains a male-dominated industry, she encourages other women to explore the trades and not be discouraged by traditional expectations.

"It's definitely worth trying," Madyson said. "It's something fun to learn, and women should explore these fields even though they've been mostly male-dominated. You never know what you might enjoy until you try it."

For Madyson, choosing MSU-Northern wasn't just about convenience—it was about finding the best place to pursue her passion. Right in her backyard, she discovered the training and support she needed to turn her love for welding into a career. And with her determination and skill, she's well on her way to making a name for herself in the industry.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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### **Now Seeking Student Excellence Awards Nominations**

Each year, Northern recognizes students who exemplify excellence. This year, we will be presenting awards to students as part of the Awards Day celebration, scheduled for April 11th. To nominate a student and review criteria, please use this online link: [CLICK HERE](#)

Nominations will be accepted until February 28th.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### **Blood Drive – Mar. 5**

Give blood and save a life. There are still open appointment times available for the upcoming blood drive, and here are three easy ways you can help us meet our goal on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 from 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

1. Schedule your appointment at [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) using sponsor code msu northern or download the Blood Donor App.
2. Invite your spouse or significant other. Share the love as you share the lifesaving gift of blood together.
3. Invite a friend to our drive. Donating blood is always more fun with a friend, so bring one along!

Each donation can help save up to three lives, so please consider donating to help us meet our goal.

If you have any questions, please contact Wanda at: 406-265-3599 or [wandameredith@msun.edu](mailto:wandameredith@msun.edu). We'd love to see you there!

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### **2nd Annual Casino Night – Feb 26.**

After the success of last year's inaugural event, MSU-Northern is once again holding a Casino Night for students. Students are invited to come and play various casino games and try their luck at winning over \$5,000 in available prizes. Games include Texas Hold 'em, Roulette, Blackjack, Poker, and more! The event will be held in the SUB and doors will open at 6:30 pm, with tables opening at 7pm. Live music will also be heard throughout the evening, played by Velvet Skyline from 8-10pm in the Lights Lounge. A Vegas themed mocktail bar and snacks will also be available! You must be a current MSUN student and provide your student ID to be permitted into the event.

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### **OTLE Brown Bag Lecture Series – Mar. 4, Apr. 2, 23**

Back by popular demand, The Office of Teaching and Learning Excellence is pleased to present their 4<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Brown Bag Lecture Series Lineup.

### **Teaching and Learning at the AI Crossroads - Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

This Brownbag Lecture will be taught by the Teaching Scholars Group which consists of Dr. Gwen Hart, Kristi Peterson, Dr. Praveen Dubey, Dr. Chad Spangler, Kenny Wait, Mary Ward, Erin Markus, and Dr. Mattius Rischard.



***Qach Rresh: A Neo-Assyrian (950-600 BCE) Site Full of Post-Assyrian (600-323 BCE) Trash on the Erbil Plain - Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>***

Don't miss this Brownbag Lecture where Dr. Kyra Kaercher will be sharing some of the findings from Qach Rresh, a rural site founded in the late Neo-Assyrian period, located just 15km south of modern-day Erbil (Iraqi Kurdistan) as well as exciting new ceramic research.

***Idle Assets to Active Learning: Revitalizing Campus Resources for Student Engagement - Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>***

In this Brownbag Lecture, Aaron Riggin will share some of the ways he has retrofitted, updated and revitalized campus equipment to expand and enhance student learning and engagement.

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## NEXT WEEK

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### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

- LIGHTS WRESTLING @ CCC CHAMPIONSHIPS

### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

- LIGHTS WRESTLING @ CCC CHAMPIONSHIPS
- SKYLIGHTS BASKETBALL VS CARROLL COLLEGE - 2:00 PM
- LIGHTS BASKETBALL VS CARROLL COLLEGE - 4:00 PM

### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

- TRIO DAYS CELEBRATION – SSS

### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

- BLACK HISTORY MONTH FILM SERIES – LIBRARY - 3:00 PM

### **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

- 2ND ANNUAL CASINO NIGHT - SUB - 6:30 PM

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MSU-Northern | 300 13th Street West | Havre, MT 59501 US