



MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHERN

Northern Network News

The Official Newsletter of MSU-Northern - March 13, 2026

Alumni Spotlight: Bill Lanier

*Alumni
Spotlight*

**BILL
LANIER**

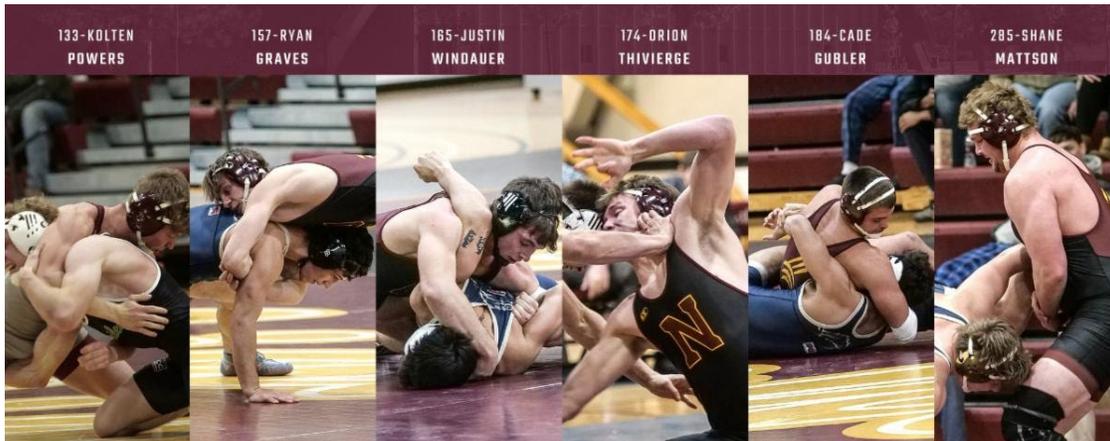
"Finding home at Northern."

 MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHERN

[Watch Bill's Testimony...](#)

Lights Wrap Up Season at NAIA National Championships



The Montana State University–Northern Lights wrestling team wrapped up its season at the NAIA National Championships with six athletes representing the program on the national stage. The Lights qualified five wrestlers automatically and received one at-large selection for the tournament.

National qualifiers for Northern included **Kolten Powers (133)**, **Ryan Graves (157)**, **Justin Windauer (165)**, **Orion Thivierge (174)**, **Cade Gubler (184)**, and **Shane Mattson (285)**.

On the mat, several Lights delivered strong performances during the two-day championship event. At **165 pounds**, Justin Windauer finished the tournament with a **2–2 record**, battling through a tightly contested final match before falling in a narrow **4–2 decision to Vladic**.

At **174 pounds**, Orion Thivierge also posted a **2–2 record**, competing in several close matches before dropping a **5–4 decision to Ross** in his final bout.

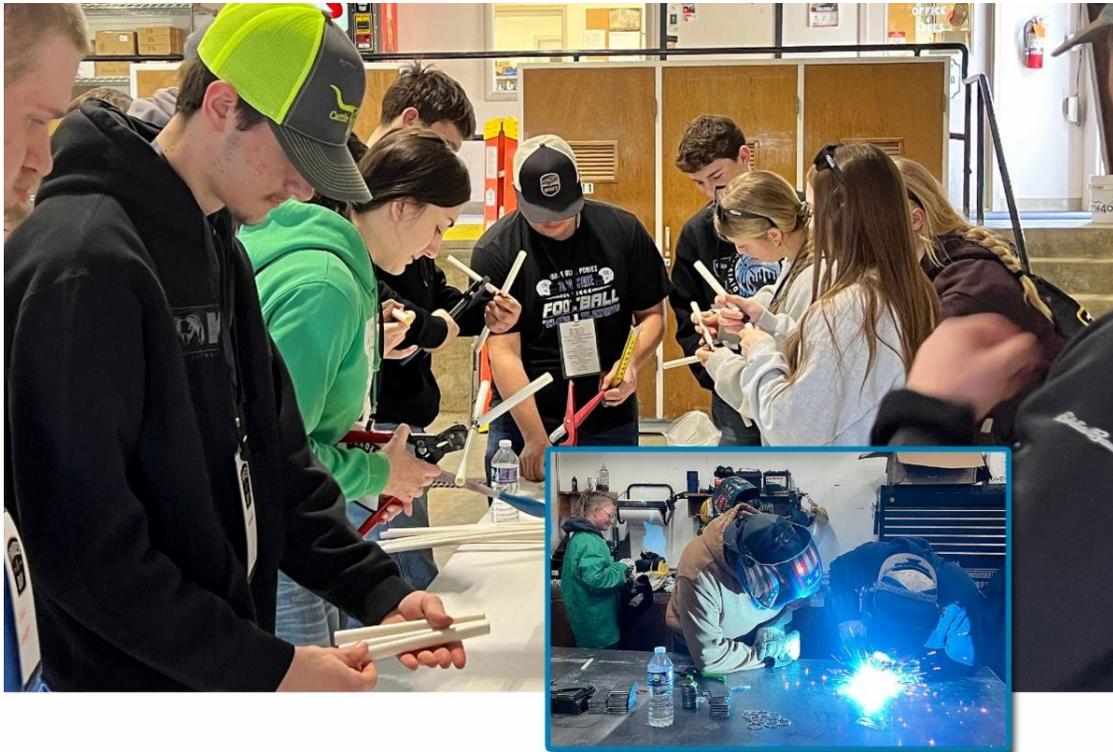
At **184 pounds**, Cade Gubler led the Lights with a **3–2 record**. Gubler highlighted his tournament with a **pin over McDonald at the 3:59 mark** before concluding his run in the following round.

Also representing Northern at the national tournament were **Kolten Powers (133)**, **Ryan Graves (157)**, and **Shane Mattson (285)**, who each earned their spots at the championships earlier in the season and competed against the nation's top wrestlers.

In addition to their efforts on the mat, **Ryan Graves**, **Justin Windauer**, **Orion Thivierge**, and **Cade Gubler** were recognized for their work in the classroom, earning **NAIA Scholar All-American honors** during the national championships.

With strong performances both academically and competitively, the Lights closed out their season with pride while representing MSU–Northern on the national stage.

MSU-Northern Participates in 4th Annual Trade Days



Photos by: Bethany Chinadle

Montana State University–Northern faculty and students recently participated in the 4th Annual Trade Days, an event hosted by Triangle Communications and Hill County Electric that introduced approximately 200 area high school students to career opportunities in the skilled trades.

Held March 2, the event drew students from communities across the region, including Dodson, Chester, and Big Sandy. Throughout the day, students explored a variety of trade-related career paths through demonstrations and hands-on learning activities.

MSU-Northern led workshops in welding, and plumbing. Northern participants included Jason Tanner, Tony Antley, Jessica Myers, Steven Don, and several MSU-Northern students who helped demonstrate skills and interact with participants. Don also addressed students during the lunch program, speaking about careers in the trades and training opportunities available at Northern.

According to Bethany Chinadle, chief operating officer for Triangle Communications, the goal of Opportunity in Trades Day is to expose high school students to the many career options available in the skilled trades. Students rotated through eight different career zones during the morning session and, after lunch, returned to the area that interested them most to participate in a hands-on activity.

The event ran from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and provided students with a firsthand look at the training and career opportunities available in Montana's growing trades workforce.

Spring Break Challenge: Take Northern with You!



Heading somewhere fun for Spring Break? Don't forget to **Take Northern with You!** Pack your favorite MSU-Northern swag, snap a **selfie wearing your Northern gear** wherever your travels take you, and send it our way.

Email your photo along with a **short description of where you went and what you did**, and you might be **featured in the first post-Spring Break edition of the *Northern Network News!*** Send your photos to potteri@msun.edu

Show us **where Northern goes when you go!**

2026 Founders' Excellence Recipients Named



William 'Bill' Lanier



Kyle Leeds



Terry 'T-Bone' Mohn
(posthumous)

The MSU-N Alumni Foundation is pleased to announce the 2026 Founders' Excellence Award recipients, William 'Bill' Lanier, Kyle Leeds and a posthumous award for Terry 'T-Bone' Mohn.

Founders' Excellence is awarded to deserving individuals in honor of their professional accomplishments, loyalty, and service that have enhanced the development of Montana State University-Northern. Founders' Day was added as an NMC tradition in 1976 and the Founders' Excellence Award presentation banquet has continued on a nearly annual basis for the past 50 years.

This year's recipients will be celebrated and presented their awards on Friday, May 1st, at the MSUN Student Union Building. For information about the event or to purchase a ticket to join in the celebration, call 406.265.3711 or email alumni@msun.edu.

MSU-Northern Hosts 51st Annual Montana Economic Outlook Seminar



Montana State University–Northern hosted one of the statewide stops of the 2026 Montana Economic Outlook Seminar (EOS), bringing together economists, industry leaders, and community members to discuss economic trends affecting the state and region. The event featured presentations from economists with the Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BBER) at the University of Montana, who provided forecasts on national, state, and local economic conditions. Speakers addressed key sectors shaping Montana’s economy, including tourism, health care, housing and real estate, agriculture, manufacturing, high-tech, and forest products.

BBER Director Jeff Michael joined a lineup of experts including economists Derek Sheehan and Samuel Scott, MSU Extension specialist Joel Schumacher, and tourism researcher Melissa Weddell. The keynote address was delivered by Bob Story, executive director of the Montana Taxpayers Association and former president of the Montana Senate, who discussed state tax policy and its implications for Montana’s economic future.

The seminar was part of a nine-city tour held across Montana and offered insights into economic opportunities and challenges facing communities statewide.

Guest Lecturer Highlights Occupational Therapy Careers for Health 101 Students



Students in Montana State University–Northern’s *HTH 101: Opportunities in Health Professions* course recently welcomed a special guest speaker from the local healthcare community. **Kendyll Van Wyk, Director of Rehabilitation Services at Northern Montana Health Care**, visited the class to share insight into the field of occupational therapy and the many career paths available in rehabilitation services.

The course, taught by **Nicholas Despot**, introduces students to a wide range of careers in the health professions, including health and fitness, allied health, rehabilitation, coaching, and sports management. Throughout the semester, guest speakers from various health fields are invited to give students firsthand perspectives on their professions.

During her presentation, Van Wyk discussed why she chose occupational therapy as a career and explained the differences between **occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy**. She also highlighted the diverse opportunities available to occupational therapists, including specialty certifications and work in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and community health settings.

At Northern Montana Health Care, the Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Department provides services that help patients recover mobility, regain independence, and improve daily functioning. The department offers **physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy**, working with patients recovering from injuries, surgeries, neurological conditions, and other health challenges.

By bringing experienced professionals like Van Wyk into the classroom, the Health 101 course helps MSU-Northern students explore potential career paths and better understand the real-world impact of health professions.

Teachers' Pathways to the Profession and Their Attitude Toward Diverse Classrooms



Dr. Praveen K. Dubey, Assistant Professor of Education and Director of Clinical Experience and Partnerships at Montana State University–Northern, presented the second Brown Bag Lecture of the semester on Thursday, March 12, in the ATC Hensler Auditorium. His presentation, titled *“Teachers’ Pathways to the Profession and Their Attitude Toward Diverse Classrooms,”* was held from 12–1 p.m.

Drawing on data from the 2018 Teaching and Learning International Survey, Dubey examined two major trends in K–12 education: professionals transitioning into teaching and the growing diversity of today’s classrooms. His findings highlighted differences between first- and second-career teachers’ perspectives, as well as gender differences in priorities and approaches to diverse learning environments, with implications for teacher recruitment and preparation.

Dubey’s research focuses on multicultural education, diversity and inclusion, digital equity, STEM education, and teacher quality. He has presented his work nationally and uses advanced statistical methods to help improve learning experiences for diverse student populations.

MAT Produces Dinner Theatre with a Comic Mystery



Montana Actors' Theatre invites audiences to enjoy an evening of food, fun, and fast-paced intrigue as it launches its new touring dinner theatre production, *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* by Ken Ludwig. Blending suspense with comedy, the production brings a fresh and hilarious twist to the classic tale inspired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

In this madcap mystery, five actors portray more than 40 characters in a whirlwind of wild chases, eerie moorland scenes, and outrageous disguises. The result is a lively, high-energy performance that delivers both laughs and suspense while keeping audiences guessing until the very end.

Guests will enjoy a full dinner while attempting to solve the mystery alongside the world's most famous detective. The menu features broasted chicken, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, and dessert — all served as the mystery unfolds.

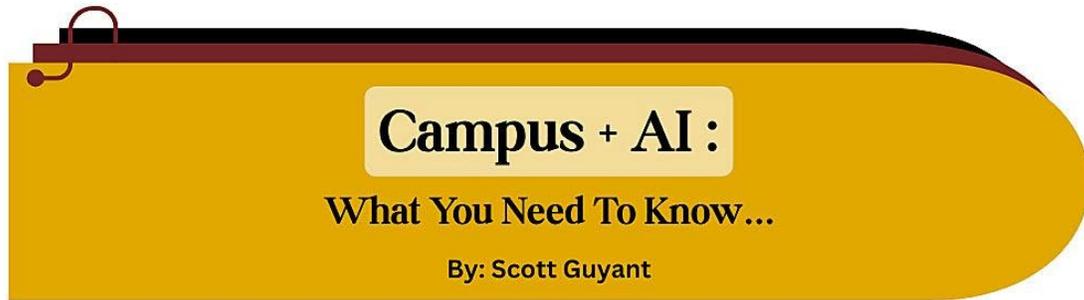
With its inventive staging, quick-change comedy, and engaging audience experience, Montana Actors' Theatre's touring dinner theatre offers a unique night out for communities across the state. Guests are encouraged to come hungry, bring their detective instincts, and see if they can crack the case before Holmes does.

The tour opens in Havre, with performances March 6–7 and March 13–14 at Vic's Place. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Following the Havre debut, the dinner theatre will travel to communities across north-central Montana:

- Chinook — Blaine County Fairgrounds: March 20–21
- Winifred High School: March 27
- Grass Range High School: March 28
- Great Falls College: April 18
- Shelby Dessert Theatre: April 19

[Get your tickets...](#)



Verification Is the New Research Skill: How to Check AI Before You Trust It

Imagine turning in a research paper only to discover that half your sources never existed. This can happen if you have an AI chatbot write the paper. A 2023 study at the University of Mississippi found that 47% of AI-generated citations submitted by students contained fabricated or incorrect titles, dates, or authors (Goddard, 2023). As AI tools like ChatGPT become embedded in everyday academic life there are surveys showing nearly 90% of students are using AI for coursework (Argyris, 2026). The ability to verify what these tools produce has become just as important as any traditional study skill.

The core problem is what researchers call “hallucination or hallucinations,” in which AI models generate content that sounds authoritative but is entirely fabricated. These systems work by predicting the most statistically likely next word in a sequence, not by retrieving verified facts (Flagler College, n.d.). That means a chatbot can invent a court case or a research article complete with realistic names, dates, and legal reasoning, as a Stanford study demonstrated when language models fabricated over 120 fictitious rulings (AllAboutAI, 2025). Even among the best-performing models, the average hallucination rate for general knowledge questions hovers around 9.2% (AboutChromebooks, 2026). For students working in specialized domains such as law or medicine, the error rates can quickly climb significantly higher.

What makes hallucinated content so dangerous is its persuasive packaging. Research from MIT found that AI models actually tend to use more confident language when generating incorrect information than when providing accurate answers (AllAboutAI, 2025). Students describe these fabrications as

convincing, specific, and logical, which leads to acceptance without verifying. This is what researchers have termed the “chat-chamber effect” (Argyris, 2026). Unlike a search engine, which returns multiple sources a reader can weigh against one another, a chatbot delivers a single, polished response that implies truthfulness and seems to discourage further checking.

Educators should respond to this by treating verification as a teachable competency. Duke University now encourages students to cross-verify AI outputs against credible, human-written sources such as academic articles and reputable websites (Duke University Center for Teaching and Learning [Duke CTL], 2025). Florida International University’s Center for the Advancement of Teaching recommends assignments that require students to explicitly critique AI-generated content for accuracy and bias (Florida International University Center for the Advancement of Teaching [FIU CAT], n.d.). MIT Sloan’s teaching technology team also advises using structured prompts and chain-of-thought techniques to expose logical gaps in AI reasoning before relying on the output (MIT Sloan, 2025).

The bottom line here is straightforward: in an era when a chatbot can produce a flawless-sounding paragraph built on invented evidence, the students who thrive will be the ones who learn how to check the work. Verification is the process of cross-referencing claims, confirming sources exist, and questioning confident-sounding assertions. This is no longer optional. It is the research skill that will define the AI digital age.

Full references and further reading for this column are available at:

<https://libguides.msun.edu/c.php?g=1502960>

As always please reach out to me with questions, comments, or topics you would like me to address next.

Scott Guyant

Research Librarian

Assisted by Claude Sonnet 4.6 extended model

Edited by **Professor Valerie Guyant**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No NNN Next Week - Spring Break

Last Day for Student Excellence Nominations

The Student Excellence Awards recognize Northern students who have exemplified a commitment to the pursuit of high academic achievement and significant student engagement. These students hold themselves and others to a high standard, strive for integrity in all areas of their lives, and model for others a commitment to holistic learning and engagement.

This year, we will be awarding the Student Excellence awards as part of the Scholarship Awards Day celebration, scheduled for April 17th.

[Nominate a student and review criteria](#)

The deadline for submissions is March 13th, 2026.
If you have any questions please contact Taryn Wallon, Dean of Students.

Northern Network News Disclosure:

The NNN is produced with the assistance of ChatGPT

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Wellness Workshop: Mindful Journaling – March 26

Date: March 26th

Time: 4:00 PM-6:00 PM

Location: Vande Bogart Library Makerspace (Main floor by the study rooms!)

The Winter Wellness Workshop Series concludes with a mindful journaling session using the handmade books created earlier in the series. Participants will explore journaling and mindful doodling as creative, low-pressure ways to reflect and unwind.

This session is beginner-friendly and open to all, with no expectation to share or write in any particular way. All materials are provided, and no prior experience is required.

Brown Bag Lecture Series

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 12 pm-1 pm in ATC Hensler Auditorium - Presented by Dr. Kasthuri Udayakumar

Annual Casino Night – Mar. 25

ASMSUN is excited to host its Annual Casino Night on Wednesday, March 25, 2026. Student registration begins at 5:30 pm, with the Casino and Lights Lounge opening at 6:30 pm. The gaming floor will close at 9:30 pm. This year's theme is **Speakeasy/Great Gatsby**, and guests are encouraged to dress the part. Prizes will be awarded for standout costumes, adding to the fun and festive atmosphere.

ASMSUN is also seeking volunteers to help make the evening a success. Opportunities include serving as game dealers, mocktail bartenders, cashiers, and faculty/staff hosts to mingle and engage with students.

Registration Begins – March 27

Spring Fling – April 3

First S.O.A.R. – April 10

Scholarship Ceremony – April 17

Powwow – April 24-25

Finals Week – May 4-8

Commencement – May 9

CAMPUS SCHEDULE

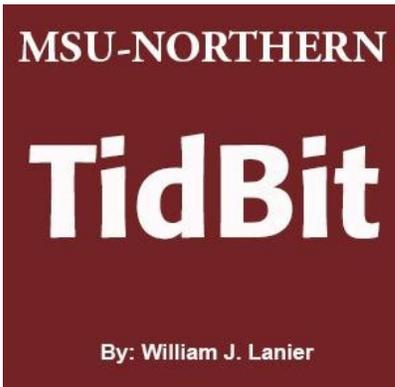
Friday, March 13

- *Sherlock Holmes Mystery* – Vic's Place 5:30 PM

Saturday, March 14

- *Sherlock Holmes Mystery – Vic's Place 5:30 PM*

March 16-20 - Spring Break



(#455) Chris Inman

Recently, Northern Alum Chis Inman retired from her position as the City of Havre Park and Recreation Director. Chris has been one of those people who put their heads down and get the job done. Having picked up from Dave Wilson when he retired and with her staff, the City of Havre Parks have continued to be a pride of Havre.

She had a remarkable career as the Havre Blue Pony Swim coach for 25 years. When she retired from coaching in 2013, the June 5th, 2013 edition of the Havre Daily News summarized her coaching career as follows: *"Inman began coaching the Lions swim team in 1988, and then took over the Havre High program in 1999. Overall, she has earned 19 team state championships, including 16 with the Ponies. And in the midst of her great reign, the Ponies had a couple of very impressive streaks. From 1999 to 2010, the HHS girls won 10 consecutive Class A team titles. And from 1999 to 2003, the HHS boys also won four consecutive team titles. To top it all off, Inman was also nominated as the Montana Coaches Association Specialties Coach of the Year every year she coached, and won the coveted award six times."*

To read the entire article, click here: [Leaving the pool deck: HHS's Inman retires from coaching- Havre Daily News](#)

While attending Northern Montana College, Chris Inman, as a freshman, won four events at the Frontier Conference Swimming Championships. She won the 50-meter butterfly, 100 freestyle, 100 backstroke, and the 200 freestyle. Leading NMC to a runner-up finish right behind Carroll College, 221-219.

Here is an article from the April 7th, 1987 edition of the Havre Daily News:

NMC swimmers edged by Carroll for Frontier title, All-Sports award

BUTTE — The Northern Montana College swim team came within an eyelash of capturing their first-ever Frontier Conference swimming championship last weekend at the Montana Tech Physical Education Center.

NMC freshman Chris Inman of Havre turned in an amazing performance, winning all four of her events. But it wasn't quite enough as the outnumbered Northern contingent was edged for the team title by Carroll College, 221-219.

"We just needed one girl in one race to finish higher than fifth, but it didn't happen," said NMC swim

coach Mike Welch.

It was the fourth year for the conference meet and the fourth year that Northern placed second.

Northern would have won the Frontier Conference All-Sports title with a victory in the swim meet, in which Montana Tech also competed. With the victory, however, Carroll won its first All-Sports title.

Carroll had 22 swimmers (16 women), compared to just 12 for Northern, which had just four women.

Inman won firsts in the 50 meter butterfly, 100 freestyle, 100 backstroke and the 200 free.

Dylan Honnold, a sophomore from Washington, captured firsts in the 200 individual medley and the 400 free.

The men's relay team of Honnold, Pat McCormick, Jeff Beaver and Ron Anderson won the 200 medley and the 200 free events.

Other individual placers for Northern included Debbie Rice, Dawn Stroh, Patrice Seubert, Larry Crowder, Cory Broere, Dave Parsons, Andy Sokolowski and Rick Holloway.

In diving competition, Stroh placed second, Beaver third and Anderson sixth.

In addition to swimming, Chris Inman was an outstanding basketball player for the Northern Skylights. The January 29, 1987, Havre Daily News had the following article when she was selected as the Frontier Player of the week her freshman season.

Chris Inman Frontier player of week

Northern Montana College freshman Chris Inman has been named the Frontier Conference women's basketball player of the week for her contributions in helping the Northern Skylights to four straight close victories last week as the team stretched its unbeaten league record to eight games.

The announcement was made by conference commissioner Sonny Holland, who also announced that Rocky Mountain College's Tim Kohn had earned player of the week honors for the men.

Inman, a 5-foot-10 forward who starred at Havre High, scored 46 points on 17-of-41 field goal attempts in leading Northern to sweeps over Rocky and Carroll. She also was good on 12-of-16 free throws, grabbed 33 rebounds, made five steals and had six assists in the four games.



We would like to wish Chris Inman well and congratulate her on a lifetime of accomplishments! You make Northern proud, Chris.

If you have an idea for the NNN TidBit, send me an e-mail at wjlanier1963@yahoo.com

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