



THE DATE DIGEST



THE NEWSLETTER OF AGRICULTURAL & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

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VIRTUAL



Photo by Tracy Akeret

Focus on Key Topics

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- New Graduate Student Spotlight
- Student Spotlight
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A Message from Dr. Perry

“Welcome to the inaugural edition of our departmental newsletter!”

We’re excited to share our latest updates with students, faculty, staff, family, friends, and alumni.

This year marks an exciting time of growth as we work to expand undergraduate enrollment and welcome new faculty, staff, and graduate teaching assistants to our team. Our commitment remains firmly rooted in providing a unique, hands-on educational experience that supports each student on their path to success.

Thank you for being part of our community, and we look forward to sharing our journey with you!”

~ Dr. Perry, Department Head



NEW FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

MEET YOUR NEWEST DATE MEMBER

Emily Sewell, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor



Photo by University Communications

Dr. Emily Sewell taught school-based agricultural education in Oklahoma for six years before earning her doctorate in Agricultural Education, Communications, and Leadership from Oklahoma State University. As a former member of both 4-H and FFA, as well as a high school ag teacher, Dr. Sewell is deeply passionate about shaping the future of agriculture through education. She is excited to be a part of the Bobcat Family and enjoys working with students in her courses. Dr. Sewell looks forward to meeting and connecting with each of you!



From left to right | Kacie, EmmaLee, & Macey

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

We have some new faces in our department! Kacie hails from Oklahoma State University, EmmaLee received her bachelor's from our department, and Macey attended Fresno Pacific University. We're very excited to have them!



STUDENT & SPOTLIGHT

We are proud to recognize students who are making a meaningful impact both within our department and beyond. For our first student spotlight, we are excited to highlight Faith Droszcz, a member of our graduate master's program who has been at MSU since 2019.

Faith contributes to our department's social media efforts, teaches courses in Lab Management, Construction Technology, and Community Building, and is just getting started on the foundation of her thesis!



Photo by Tracy Akeret

MEET FAITH DROSZCZ

Faith's Favorite Memory

"One of my favorite memories from the department is our mini-lessons that used to be done! It was always so much fun, interactive, and a chance to be goofy in class! I also loved when Dr. Igo dressed in a Buccee's onesie for class, that always kept things interesting. In all, the department is a place I'm happy to call home and they've provided critical knowledge while keeping things fun and enjoyable. The department also emphasized bonding with my cohort, which I'm grateful for because they've become my closest friends." ~ Faith Droszcz



ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Dr. Walach Leads Drone Workshop at MSU

In October, Dr. Walach led a detailed 10-hour drone workshop for faculty, staff, and graduate students. This in-person training prepared participants to take the Federal Aviation Administration's Part 107 Remote Pilot exam, an essential piece for obtaining a commercial drone license. The Part 107 Certificate allows MSU researchers to utilize drones for data collection in their studies and facilitates commercial drone operations.

Dr. Walach, who serves part-time as the director of the BOREALIS lab—a NASA-funded research facility at MSU—looks forward to offering more opportunities like this in the future.



Photo by Tracy Akeret

National Teach Ag Day Celebration



On Thursday, September 19th, DATE students gathered in Linfield 231 to celebrate National Teach Ag Day. Attendees had fun taking creative photos at our photo booth, sharing their personal interests, and discussing the importance of agricultural education. The event also featured a screening of the new Teach Ag documentary, complemented by fresh popcorn. Dr. Sewell led the festivities, creating an engaging and inspiring atmosphere for all.

TEACHING & RESEARCH INSIGHTS

Dr. Arnold Advances in Agritourism

Dr. Arnold was on approved sabbatical this past Fall, during which she was actively engaged in research. In May, she co-hosted the first statewide agritourism conference with the Agritourism Fellows, a cohort of agricultural producers and professionals working to promote agritourism in Montana.



She has been writing grants to support the growth of the agritourism industry, focusing on establishing a statewide association and providing training for agricultural producers to host on-farm agritourism events.

Paraglider Demo Inspires TE 250CS Class

On October 22, 2024, Dr. Walach's TE 250CS class participated in an engaging paraglider demonstration. He showcased how he flies using a simple yet technologically advanced ultralight aircraft. The lesson aimed to teach and inspire students to learn more about aviation technology and explore the ways aviation has shaped our modern world.



Photo by Tracy Ackeret

Dr. Walach has been a paraglider pilot since 2021, a paramotor pilot since 2022, and a private pilot since 2016, having flown a variety of aircraft from helicopters to sailplanes. He shares, "I love to connect my passion for the hobby of flight with my instruction here at MSU when it makes sense to do so. I think it is important that we all find our passion in life, and aviation is certainly mine."

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



- The MSU Department of Agricultural and Technology is proud to receive the NAAE Outstanding Postsecondary Agriculture Program Award at the 2024 National Association of Agricultural Educators Conference in San Antonio, TX.



- Emily Sewell
 - November CoA Faculty of the Month





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Thank You For Reading



SOCIAL MEDIA



SCHOLARSHIPS



We Want to Hear From You!

If you have any news, achievements, or stories you'd like to share in the next edition, please reach out to us!

We are excited to look for fresh content to highlight our amazing department.

Contact: DATE@montana.edu