

SEPTEMBER 2016

Announcements—Email EAR@montana.edu with project suggestions or submissions.

Mentoring Program Application is open!

This is the first annual cycle of the Division's mentoring program! Check out the program on our website, and apply by **October 14th!**

Apply at our website here: <http://www.montana.edu/studentsuccess/mentoring.html>

Name our Mentoring Program!

We are extending our contest to **October 7th!** Name our mentoring program and if your name wins, you'll receive a gift card to the Bookstore! Email ear@montana.edu to enter your submission!

Halloween

The Registrar's Office will be hosting a Halloween gathering & casual costume contest. Questions/excited for Halloween? Contact Jerri Weston at jweston@montana.edu.

Division Projects—Email EAR@montana.edu with project suggestions or submissions.

Hilleman Scholars Program

Carina Beck—Allen Yarnell Center for Student Success—[MSU Article Here](#)

Fifty-one Montana high school seniors from across the state have been selected for their effort and potential as the inaugural class of Montana State University's [Hilleman Scholars Program](#).

In honor of Hilleman's legacy, MSU is inaugurating the Hilleman Scholars Program for Montana residents. Hilleman Scholars are selected based on personal essays, nomination letters, grades and financial need. But paramount in the selection process is evidence of significant academic, leadership and career potential.

The Hilleman Scholars come from more than 26 cities and towns across Montana that include many small towns in the state such as Circle, Chinook, Stanford, Valier, Conrad and Pinesdale.

Hilleman Scholars are eligible for up to \$8,000 for their first year and \$4,000/year for each year thereafter. Contingent upon satisfactory academic progress and exemplary commitment to the program in the first three years, scholars can also be eligible for an additional \$3,000 at the end of their junior year to apply toward a study abroad experience. Scholars are expected to graduate in four years. The program is administered through MSU's Allen Yarnell Center for Student Success. The scholarship website is:

www.montana.edu/hillemanscholars.



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MSU Debut

Chelsey Wilson—Office of Student Engagement



MSU Debut is the official name for Fall Opening on the MSU campus. The program was built with the intention of advancing student engagement opportunities, better integrating the myriad of university programs and services to optimize the undergraduate experience, and guiding students to craft their identity as a Bobcat.

MSU Debut hosted 13 signature events that took place between August 24th and September 10th. This resulted in over 16,000 unique student engagements, over 100 staff engagements, and over 50 faculty engagements. MSU Debut was an institutional success thanks to the entire MSU community. To learn more about

MSU Debut, please visit www.montana.edu/msudebut or read an article on the program launch [HERE](#).

MSU named one of best universities for veterans

Disability, Reentry and Veteran Services—[MSU Article Here](#)

A ranking published Sept. 9 in USA Today listed 1,427 of the best colleges and universities for veterans, with MSU being ranked 136th. The ranking places Montana State in the top 10 percent nationally. MSU was the highest-ranked university in Montana on the list.

“MSU works very hard to help its veteran students and their families succeed. We are pleased to be recognized nationally for these efforts,” said Brenda York, director of the MSU Office of Disability, Re-entry and Veteran Services.



The MSU Office of Disability, Re-Entry and Veteran Services helps student veterans coordinate their finances and get the support they need to succeed in school. The office helps veterans with GI Bill funding and other issues, such as housing and employment. Dedicated scholarships for veterans and/or their spouses are also available, as are dedicated counseling services.

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New Faces



Please join Rec Sports in welcoming Spencer Sorensen, the new Recreation Manager for Club Sports, Intramurals, Camps & Life-guards. He joined us on August 22, moving from Portland with his wife Holly, and children Paige (4), Claire (3) and Sam (1 month). Previously he worked at Portland State as the Intramural & Special Events Coordinator. He's looking forward to being closer to family in Montana and working with the terrific folks in the Student Engagement Office.

Submitted by Michele Cusack, Recreational Sports & Fitness



Announcing the newest member of the Rec Sports & Fitness family. Svea June Holm arrived on Saturday, September 10, 2016. Weighing in at 5lbs 10oz, she was welcomed by her parents Abbey and Ryan Holm. Abbey is the Assistant Director of Recreational Sports & Fitness and ACT Coordinator Montana State University.

Submitted by Michele Cusack, Recreational Sports & Fitness

More warm welcomes to:

- Heidi Dahn (*Office of Student Engagement*),
- Randi Maiers (*Office of Student Engagement*),
- Julia Rizzo (*Counseling & Psychological Services Intern*),
- Katie Eichner (*Counseling & Psychological Services Intern*),
- Megan Saab (*Counseling & Psychological Services Intern*), and
- Emily Stimac (*Dean of Students Student Intern*)
- Shane Nelson (*Office of Student Engagement Intern*)

Have a new employee in your office?

Hiring Managers: remember to fill out our Division new employee form! ↓

<http://www.montana.edu/studentsuccess/newemployee.html>

Office Interview

Office of Student Engagement—*Join OSE for their Coffee Corner 10/12, 9AM!*

To serve students better, ASMSU teamed up with the Office of Activities and Engagement to combine for one super-hero office now known as the Office Student Engagement. We are the HUB for campus events and programs, student organizations, community involvement, and student body government. Our goal is to help students find their fit on campus, no matter what their interests or goals are. When students feel connected to their campus community outside the classroom they are more likely to succeed inside the classroom. Next time you're talking to a student who wants to get involved, but they don't know how, please send them our way. Make sure to stop by newly remodeled office to check us out.

What does your office do for students?

- "Everything"
- "All of the things that make college memorable"
- "Out of class experiences, helping students to connect outside the classroom"
- "Provide engagement and leadership opportunities"
- "Help students find their fit"

When would you say your office is busiest?

- "Right now!"
- "Usually, August through November, then March through April"

What's one thing the Division might not know about your office?

- "Student Senate has the ability to make real positive change, and are in charge to make a lot of decisions"
- "We pay students to do a lot of work"
- "Legal Services & Notary Services are both available through our office"
- "There are 250+ clubs students are able to join, and students are always able to create their own club (and get funding for that club!)"

What is your favorite office memory?

- "We had a retreat during our re-organization. I enjoyed it because it helped us connect, and it was a non-stressful time coming together and learning more about what everyone is doing"
- "We have a fun relationship with students, including some pranks along the way"
- "Adding to the quote book!"
- "Celebrating together after big events"
- "Rockin' the M is always great. It was intense during my first event, to hear the history of the M, and see students listening and helping with this important project."
- "Seeing the huge amount of canned food collected from Can the Griz the night before the Cat/Griz game"

What gets you up in the morning?

- "The students!"
- "PSL's from Starbs [Pumpkin Spice Latte's from Starbucks]"
- "Caffeine and students!"
- "My alarm clock!"



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Process, Process, Process

New Deadlines for 2017-2018 FAFSA—Alice Brown

In September 2015, President Obama announced significant changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) that will impact a majority of our student population. Those changes are:

Earlier FAFSA filing: Student will be able to file their 2017-18 FAFSA beginning October 1, 2016 (instead of Jan. 1, 2017). This is a permanent change that will allow students to complete their FAFSA on October 1st every year going forward. In response to the earlier filing, MSU's new priority filing date is **December 1st**.

When a Student Is Attending College (School Year)	When a Student Can Submit a FAFSA	Which Year's Income and Tax Information Is Required
July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	January 1, 2015–June 30, 2016	2014
July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	January 1, 2016–June 30, 2017	2015
July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018	October 1, 2016–June 30, 2018	2015
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019	October 1, 2017–June 30, 2019	2016

Use of earlier income and tax information: Beginning with the 2017-18 FAFSA, students and parents will be asked to provide their income and tax info from two years ago, not one year ago. See the chart below

These changes are expected to make filing the FAFSA easier for students and parents as well as giving them more time to explore their options regarding their college decisions. By asking for earlier income and tax info, students and parents will not need to estimate their tax information and be able to make better use of the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to import tax info into the FAFSA.

Spread the word! I know it seems too soon for us and the students to start thinking about the 2017-18 academic year. Please help us put these FAFSA changes on students' radar. If you use Work Study students, remind them to file by the new priority filing date, December 1st, to retain eligibility of limited awards. **Refer students to the Office of Financial Aid Services if they have questions.** And if you have questions, do not hesitate to contact us as well.

Shout-Outs

Send us your quick Shout-Outs or Kudos to fellow staff for a job well done! They can be serious or silly, professional or personal achievements!

- ⇒ **Betsy Asserson and Jeff Bondy** for finding and bringing online new space in South Hedges for our CPS program.—Matt Caires
- ⇒ **Chelsey Wilson, Isaac Hunter, and the entire MSU Debut committee** for pulling together an amazing array of support programs and activities during MSU Debut. —Matt Caires
- ⇒ **Career Services Team**—congrats for a great Student Employment Job Fair! Over 260 students had an opportunity to apply for on- and off- campus positions with 53 organizations.
- ⇒ **Alli Gidley**—congrats on your bike race a few weeks ago! You're a star. —Kate Cowart
- ⇒ **Office of Financial Aid Services** had one of the best fall starts ever due to the great team effort by its amazing staff. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the needs of our students and families!

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The Month in Photos

Send photos to EAR@montana.edu to get them featured in next month's newsletter!



Aaron Grusonik from the Dean of Students office getting excited about our first day of school & Ask Me Tent!



DRV's Vet Center celebrated 5 years of serving our vets! Shout-out to Hannah Stark of the Voice Center for creating this beautiful cake!



Rec Sports had the privilege of hosting an MSU Debut event on August 30th for the new Class of 2020. Students participated in "The Amazing Race", based on the television show of the same name.



Our beloved M photo, as part of MSU Debut!



CPS staff members co-sponsored and volunteered at the September 17 Out of the Darkness Walk for Suicide Prevention and support for survivors of suicide loss. The CPS Team raised \$1,180, contributing to the \$41,000 raised by Bozeman. Thanks for taking time out of your Saturday to make a difference!