

# MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

BOZEMAN | BILLINGS | NORTHERN | GREAT FALLS COLLEGE

**CAMPUS REPORT** | Board of Regents Meeting | September 13-14, 2017 | Butte



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MSU welcomed 50 Montana students to the [Hilleman Scholars Program](#) for the summer success academy. This intensive program provides training to boost college-level math, writing, and critical thinking skills to equip students for success during the academic year.

John Priscu, Regents Professor and renowned polar scientist, has contributed to research [published in Nature Ecology and Evolution](#) that suggests that even abrupt, short-lived climate events can cause long-term changes in polar regions over several years and change the trajectory of an ecosystem.

Professor Ed Schmidt published [new findings in the journal Cell Reports](#). Said paper is built upon Schmidt's earlier discovery of a backup system in mammals that sustains the liver during a crisis and may explain how cancerous tumors persist after treatment.

MSU graduate students in civil engineering are testing the use of wetlands to treat wastewater at the [Bridger Bowl ski area](#) and the [Ennis National Fish Hatchery](#). Early results show that constructed wetland technology performs nearly as well as expensive, energy-intensive mechanical wastewater treatment plants and better than other, lower-tech treatment methods such as sewage lagoons, which serve much of rural Montana.

MSU's [online master's program](#) in environmental science has earned the No. 2 spot on a list of the top online colleges offering environmental science degrees in 2017.

MSU was recently featured in the prestigious journal [BioScience](#) for its program that [trained female faculty](#) to find success in winning research grants.

[The MSU-led Eclipse Ballooning Project](#) brings together 55 teams from across the country to capture aerial video of the total eclipse from high-altitude balloons and live-stream the footage to [NASA's website](#). MSU [students played a key role](#) in designing and producing the equipment for the nationwide project.

Education students and faculty supervisors participated in an intensive, weeklong teaching [practicum focused on rural schools](#). The pilot program introduces students to teaching in small, rural school districts, where qualified teachers are in great demand but are hard to recruit.

Associate Professor Nicolas Yunes has received [\\$750,000 from NASA's EPSCoR](#) for his project that aims to answer fundamental questions about the universe.

Two [graphic design students won silver awards](#) for their designs in the student division of the 2017 national [American Advertising Awards](#), or ADDYs, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

MSU's Lewis and Clark [Troops to Teachers regional program](#) has received a \$716,000 federal grant to continue assisting veterans who are interested in becoming certified teachers.

Hikmet Budak, MSU's Winifred Asbjornson Plant Sciences Chair, is among a global team of scientists that has successfully [mapped and sequenced the genome of wild emmer wheat](#) for the first time in history.

Two installations of public art were completed at the new MSU parking garage. The walls were [transformed with art](#) from two Latin American graffit muralists. Several new art installations are in the works.