

## MASTER'S DEGREE IN C & I GETS A NEW LOOK

More and more people who are wishing to further their career with a master's degree are looking to universities that offer online programs. With family commitments, work commitments, and financial considerations, prospective graduate students want education to fit with their busy lifestyles. For the last year-and-a-half, **Dr. Jayne Downey**, associate professor of education, has been redesigning the master's degree in curriculum and instruction at Montana State University. Last fall, Downey began talking with the stakeholders—principals, superintendents, teachers, and current and former students—about what they wanted and needed in a graduate program. From their ideas, as well as input from Montana's Office of Public Instruction (OPI), the C&I faculty began the process of drafting a cutting-edge program that would be able to respond to the needs of practicing teachers. Every group agreed that the program needs to be online. The faculty created a "Professional Educator Option" within the master's degree program that can be delivered online and is designed to accommodate individual interests and areas of study.

When reviewing the new C&I options, students will find graduate faculty committed to offering multiple avenues for students to fulfill their goals and expectations for advance study in teaching, learning, and curriculum design. The programs require students to take 30 credits in one of three options: professional educator, educational research, and technology education.

The first group of graduate students began taking classes online in the summer of 2008. As a result of the new program, students will be able to share their strengths, develop new instructional strategies, study theory and best practice, and examine current issues in education. All of this without leaving their communities and their busy lives.



*Dr. Jayne Downey, photographed at a poster session in November 08*

## GENEROUS SPIRIT HELPS FOOD BANK

When the Gallatin Valley Food Bank announced they needed 1,000 turkeys for area families for Thanksgiving and they only had 56, **Dr. Holly Hunts** and **Rozan Pitcher**, from the Department of Health and Human Development, decided to ask their students to donate their pocket change and dollars to help the food bank buy turkeys. From two of Pitcher's classes and two of Hunts' classes, they raised \$484.43. Hunts also noted that, "not only did we raise all of that money, but I know some students worked to announce the food drive on the radio, some students worked with their employers to find matching funds, and some students donated actual turkeys." Several faculty members also donated to the cause. Hunts turned the money into the Office of Community Involvement so that it would count for the annual Cat/Griz food drive, which the Cats won. Thanks to



the generous spirit of students, faculty, and staff at MSU, 11,668 pounds of food was donated so food bank families could enjoy a Thanksgiving feast.

# FACULTY IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

## EHHD FACULTY PROMOTED

Three faculty members from the College of EHHD were informed by the President's Office on Oct. 7 that the Board of Regents had approved their recommendations for promotion. The new associate professors are **Bethany Letiecq**, Department of Health and Human Development; **Jayne Downey** and **Art Bangert**, both from the Department of Education. The College congratulates its newest tenured faculty.

## SPRING BREAK IN ENGLAND

**Dr. Joyce Herbeck**, associate professor in education, has been selected to attend the Oxford Round Table held in Oxford, England, in March 2009. The Round Table is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote education, art, and science by holding academic conferences and publishing scholarly works. This year's 20th anniversary conference will focus on the topic of "Children's Literature: Allusions to Culture and Religion since 1850." Herbeck will be presenting a paper comparing ministers from two children's books, *Lizza Bright and the Buckminster*, and *Elijah of Buckston*. Attendees come from around the world and stay in the dormitories on the historic Oxford campus.

## OWENS GUEST SPEAKER AT CHAMBER MEETING

**Dr. Lynn Owens**, associate professor in health and human development, recently spoke at the Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce "lunch and learn" meeting. She presented research and applications on understanding the connection between personality and performance. Currently, Owens and her graduate students are seeking to understand "how to harness the strengths of a person's personality to maximize their performance." The overall result of this work suggests that "personality matters." She also was interviewed by KBZK news station and appeared on their nightly local news broadcast. Owens teaches classes at MSU in the area of health enhancement.

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## NEW INTER-COLLEGE DEGREE APPROVED BY BOR

At the fall meeting, the Board of Regents approved a new undergraduate degree, Bachelor of Science in Sustainable Food and Bioenergy Systems (SFBS). This new intercollege program brings together coursework in plant sciences, agriculture, food and nutrition, and ecology as well as promoting student experiential learning through hands-on internships. The College of Education, Health and Human Development and the College of Agriculture are partnering to provide three options: Sustainable Food Systems (Department of Health and Human Development), Agroecology (Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences), and Sustainable Crop Production (Department of Plant Science and Plant Pathology).

**Dr. Alison Harmon**, assistant professor in health and human development, is one of four committee members working on designing the curriculum for the new degree. Harmon says "an interdisciplinary systems approach is exactly what we need to address current food, agriculture and energy issues." An informational open house for prospective students is planned for Thursday, December 11 from 5-6pm in the SUB, Union Market South.



**Katie Thomas** joins the Department of Education as the new graduate program assistant, providing program support for graduate students and faculty. Thomas, a Bozeman native, received her bachelor's degrees in English and linguistics (with a focus on Native American languages) from Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash. She returned to Bozeman in 2001 and has worked for the ACE Language Institute, a law firm, and for the last five years, an architectural firm. Her mother teaches French at

*Katie Thomas*

Bozeman High School and husband Jed is an MSU architecture alumnus who works for Pearson Design Group. In her spare time, Thomas enjoys trail running, kayaking, and cooking.



*Poster session guests and attendees.*

## INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL POSTER SESSION HELD

Over the last two years, **Dr. Jioanna Carjuzaa**, associate professor of education, has been organizing and hosting a series of workshops to introduce faculty to the Indian Education for All mandate for higher education.

In culmination of a series of workshops, a number of faculty members and graduate instructors showcased their lesson plans at a poster session held at the MSU Foundation Great Room on November 7. Dr. Holly Hunts, with help from her family and consumer science students, developed a lesson on "Star Quilts, A History of the Plains Indians Quilting Traditions." Bill Mendoza, an ILEAD graduate student, created a lesson called "A Lesson to Dye For." His lesson incorporated microbiology and chemistry as a way of understanding the history and process of natural dyeing among Montana tribes.

Guests included members from the MSU Council of Elders, the Office of Public Instruction, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, teachers and administrators from the Bozeman Public School District as well as faculty, staff and students from across campus.



*Bill Mendoza, ILEAD graduate student*



*Micki Abercrombie and Cathy Dorgan review a poster*



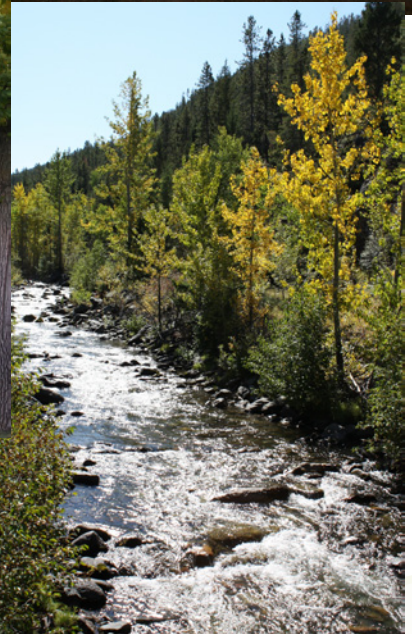
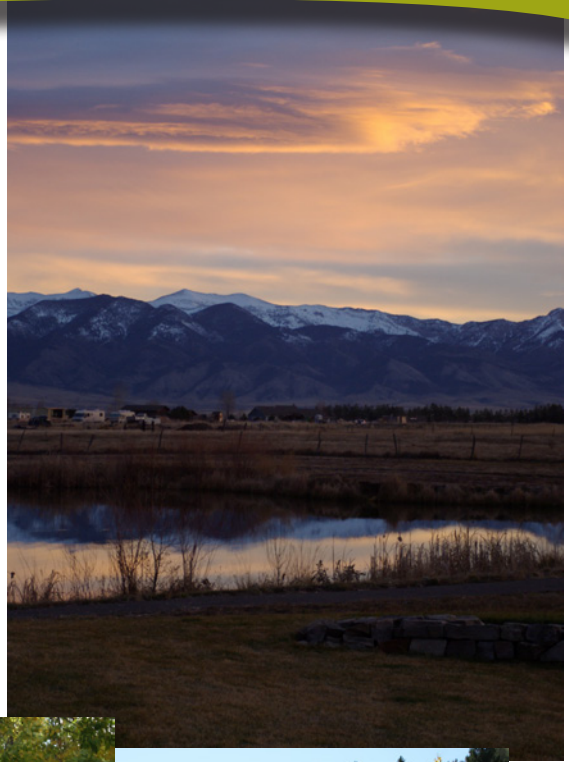
*Dr. Holly Hunts*

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# Fall in Montana!

*“And we  
get  
to live here”*



## TTT EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Lewis and Clark Troops to Teachers (LCTTT) program in the College of Education, Health and Human Development has earned national recognition for the best web site out of all 31 regional and state offices, and even the national office. While attending the mid-year meeting in Florida recently, program manager *Le Gaub* received an engraved desk clock as the award for winning the surprise “no notice” evaluation for web sites. Over the past four years, Gaub has used several technology education and computer science work-study students from MSU and Connie Campbell, web master for LCTTT, to update and maintain the site. Gaub said, “In this day and age, people find you through your web site, so it’s important to keep a good web site.” Gaub said he owes a thank you to the College of EHHD and MSU for their support in making this achievement possible.

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