

*in recognition of excellence  
in teaching, research, and service  
to the campus and community*

# *Faculty* EXCELLENCE

**MARCH 22, 2018**

MSU BILLINGS | ACCESS & EXCELLENCE





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## PROGRAM

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### Welcome and Opening Remarks

Dr. Ronald Larsen  
Interim Chancellor

### Ceremony

Dr. Robert Hoar  
Provost, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

### Presentation of Awards

Katelyn Focht, ASMSUB President, and Savannah Merritt, ASMSUB Student Resolution Officer, will present the ASMSUB Outstanding Faculty Awards

Dr. Matthew Redinger, Vice Provost,  
will present the two

MCIE Awards for Support of Students with Disabilities

Dr. Paul Foster, Director of International Studies, will present the Promoting International Student Success award

Dr. Joy Honea will present the  
Tasneem Khaleel Award for Mentoring Young Female Professionals

Dr. Clifford Coppersmith, Dean, City College, will present the  
City College Leadership Award

Dr. Christine Shearer, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, will present the  
Excellence Award for Non-Tenured Faculty

Dr. Robert Hoar will present the Faculty Excellence Award

Dr. Christine Shearer, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, and Dick Cox  
will present the Winston & Helen Cox Fellowship Award

Chancellor Ronald Larsen, Dick Cox, and Dr. Robert Hoar will present  
the Pippenger Award Winner

### Years of Service and Retirees

### Closing Remarks

Dr. Ronald Larsen  
Interim Chancellor



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**ASMSUB OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARDS**

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**Dr. Joy Honea**

Professor

Sociology

College of Arts & Sciences



**Dr. Sougata Das**

Assistant Professor

Finance

College of Business



**Mr. David Blair**

Adjunct Professor

Educational Theory & Practice

College of Education



**Mr. Lance Mouser**

Professor of English

English, Philosophy and Modern Languages

City College



**Mr. Bruce Brumley**

Instructor

Computer Technology

City College



# Dr. Jennifer Lynn

*Associate Professor, Department of History, CAS*



**A**cknowledged for going the extra mile in her support of students who need of extra assistance, Dr. Jennifer Lynn has been awarded with a Faculty Award for Exceptional Support of Students with Disabilities.

The award was created to honor faculty who have administered outstanding support to a student with a disability, and Dr. Lynn has done just that. While serving Montana State University Billings for over six years, she has continually been recognized for her phenomenal support of all students, especially those with disabilities.

In addition to her exceptional support of students, Dr. Lynn has also been acknowledged for her dedication to the improvement of this institution through the creation of new courses for the history curriculum. These courses are becoming more and more popular among students at MSUB, which explains her consistently high student evaluation scores.

Her efforts to assist students were the sole reason that one student with disabilities stayed at MSUB and completed his degree. “She reassured me in my ability to handle the course material, was available to talk anytime I needed, and provided latitude in my assignments.”

This student-oriented attitude is not only recognized by her pupils, but her colleagues as well. “Dr. Lynn is fair and thorough and goes out of her way to help students,” one says.

Dr. Lynn’s commitment to university and community service is another endeavor of hers that does not go unnoticed. She works tirelessly to contribute to the prosperity of both MSUB and the city of Billings in all that she does. Some of her service activities include: serving as the Gender Studies Club advisor, speaking at community events, serving on the Women’s Faculty Caucus Steering Committee, and organizing programming and events like film viewings, panel discussions, and outreach with community groups as the Director of the Women’s and Gender Studies Center.

It is obvious that Dr. Lynn is devoted to the success of all students at MSUB, offering both emotional and academic support to anyone who may need it. As one of her colleague notes, “Dr. Lynn will continue to be a valued colleague, an outstanding teacher, and an active scholar in her field.”



# Christopher A. Craig, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor, Management, COB*



**A** lifesaver — empowering, understanding, encouraging, yet firm is how one recipient of the Faculty Award for Exceptional Support of Students with Disabilities was described.

Students are at the heart of his efforts as an Assistant Professor of Management in the College of Business. He came to Montana State University Billings in 2016.

Christopher A. Craig, Ph.D., firmly believes in the abilities of all students and trusts them when they call for help.

His students-first approach is evident as “Professor Craig bent over backward to accommodate my unique disability needs and stepped up as an academic mentor, providing me much needed support,” shared one of his students.

Dr. Craig listens to his students, hearing their concerns, helping them find solutions, and providing accommodations for their disabilities. He gives students with disabilities the benefit of the doubt.

A crucial part of teaching is making sure students understand the course material and are successful learners. Dr. Craig embodies this philosophy, taking time for students and treating them with respect.

Students view Dr. Craig as a professor who is approachable, supportive, an open source of assistance, and someone who checks in on their progress.

“He treats each class like they are his first class of students, not his 100th,” a student commented. “His enthusiasm and concern for our learning are much appreciated, and I wish there were more like him.”



## Dr. Susan J. Gilbertz

*Professor, Geography and Advisor to Environmental Studies, CAS*



**A**tireless champion for both international students and international studies throughout her tenure at MSUB, Dr. Susan J. Gilbertz is this year's Promoting International Student Success award recipient.

In her nearly 15 years in the College of Arts and Sciences as Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, Dr. Gilbertz has earned recognition as an avid supporter of international students and persistent advocate for international studies among administrators and faculty.

Students play an active role in her fieldwork and her conference travels. Dr. Gilbertz strives to connect international students with students from Montana in meaningful ways. In one of her classes, students are required to interview an international student which is often a mutually beneficial assignment, as both students connect socially, learn more about each other, and some even develop friendships.

"Thanks to the efforts of professors like Dr. Gilbertz, our international students have been exposed to more American students and have had more opportunities to learn about Montana," a colleague said.

Her professional work has taken her to China, Indonesia, Oman, Ukraine, Italy, France, Netherlands, Germany, and Luxembourg. In June, she will travel to Warsaw, Poland as a lecturer. She openly shares her international experiences on campus and in the Billings community.

Last fall, she hosted a group of German colleagues and their students. She coordinated their visit to campus and organized a river tour that began at Pompey's Pillar and ended where Canyon Creek drains into the Yellowstone. Her personal attributes of being considerate, open, gracious, and having a warm heart lend themselves well to accommodating international visitors and welcoming international students.

"Dr. Gilbertz has played a leading role in supporting our international students by creating a campus atmosphere and even 'culture' where international studies, international engagement, and study of international topics are part of our campus internationalization strategy," her nominator shared.



# Dr. Jennifer Lynn

*Associate Professor, Department of History, CAS*



**R**igorous, demanding, and passionate are all attributes possessed by this year's recipient of the Dr. Tasneem Khaleel Award for Mentoring Young Professional Women.

Dr. Jennifer Lynn is an accomplished Associate Professor in the Department of History. An active scholar with a demonstrated track record of successful publication and grant writing, Dr. Lynn is recognized by her peers as an excellent teacher.

Her "wholly enviable and even exceptional" university and community service is rooted in empowering women. Dr. Lynn was instrumental in officially establishing the

Women's and Gender Studies Center on campus and serves as its director, a role she has held since 2014.

Dr. Lynn has built strong connections at Montana State University Billings and in the Billings community while working tirelessly towards a goal of ending of all discrimination and promotion of equality for everyone.

One example is the partnership she formed with Zonta Club of Billings, with support from the MSUB Phoenix Center, to create a program called "16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls." This included inviting two Montana filmmakers to screen a documentary on the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women. This was followed by a panel discussion, with guests and support from the Native American Achievement Center. She also partnered with Global Village to discuss the problem of human trafficking in Montana, inviting individuals from the Yellowstone County Area Human Trafficking Task Force to share their expertise.

In the Women's and Gender Studies Center, she has organized lectures, events, seminars, special speakers, panel discussions on a variety of topics related to women's health, career opportunities, elevating the image and self-esteem of women, and advancing the status of women.

It is clear to colleagues and community members alike that Dr. Lynn is passionate about uplifting women and advancing their status by examining the expectations and achievements of women on local, regional, and national levels.

"She puts a positive face forward to our community and her work with women students in particular has garnered substantial praise from a variety of sources," a colleague noted.



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## CITY COLLEGE LEADERSHIP AWARD

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# Dr. Heather Thompson-Bahm

*Business and Human Resource Instructor, City College*



**D**r. Heather Thompson-Bahm, instructor of business and human resources, has shown a tremendous amount of dedication to her students as well as her program at City College. Preparing students for future employment is a main focus of her efforts, along with ensuring the success of each class she instructs.

Serving as the sole full-time business faculty member at City College, she has advised over 100 students in the areas of Business and Human Resources.

It is evident that her efforts are appreciated, as Dr. Thomson-Bahm has received positive feedback from many of her students through exemplary student evaluation scores.

“Her program is well organized and effectively delivered, and she is an excellent teacher in both traditionally delivered and distance learning environments,” says one of her nominators.

Dr. Thomson-Bahm is dedicated to improving City College and works to accomplish its mission of providing quality learning opportunities and “becoming a true comprehensive two-year college,” another nominator said. She serves as a true leader, inspiring others to follow in her footsteps.

Outside her duties as an instructor, Dr. Thompson-Bahm continues to be actively engaged in the advancement of the Billings community through various acts of committee and community service.

Volunteering as a Girl Scout Leader and board member of the Yellowstone Chapter of Human Resources Management, “Heather epitomizes service and leadership at City College and in our local community,” a colleague states.

Several other activities that Dr. Thomson-Bahm has been involved in include: serving on the City College Curriculum Committee, assisting in youth soccer, and participating as an Academic Senate representative at MSUB. She also values the creation of relationships throughout the community, which is a testament to her continuous loyalty to this institution.

It is evident that Dr. Thompson-Bahm is more than deserving of the City College Leadership Award, as she continues to exert her valuable time and effort into the improvement of MSUB.



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## EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR NON-TENURED FACULTY

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# Michele T. McMullen, M.S., M.A., R.D., L.N.

*University Lecturer, Biological and Physical Sciences, CAS*



**M**ichele McMullen guides her students through the constant flow of information about nutrition and biology that they encounter every day. Her goal is to develop their critical thinking skills so they can make intelligent decisions long after they have left her classroom. She offers a wonderful learning experience to every student that she comes in contact with and exerts an admirable amount of dedication to both her students and her work, earning her the Excellence Award for Non-Tenured Faculty.

“Michele brings an energy and enthusiasm to her courses that few can match,” her nominator says. “It seems she is rarely alone in her office during the semester, as students constantly stop by to not only talk about the course material, but also just to have a friendly chat.” By being approachable and supportive, lasting relationships are created between her and her students.

Although her courses are rigorous, students are appreciative of her ability to make learning fun. Her exuberant delivery and passion for knowledge explains why her courses are consistently well-received by her pupils.

McMullen began teaching nutrition for MSUB as an adjunct in the spring of 1997 and joined the faculty as a University Lecturer in the Fall of 2011. Since then, McMullen has created several original courses for MSUB including a clinical nutrition course which drew upon her decade of work experience as a dietitian at both of the local hospitals. Her tremendous commitment to improving this institution is evident in her latest offering, “Fundamentals of Biology: The Nature of Nutrition”, a new Life Science general education category offering aimed at sparking an appreciation for the living world.

Although not required, McMullen has gone above and beyond her faculty duties through collaborating with her colleagues in numerous scholarly and service activities. In 2015, when colleagues needed assistance on a project investigating the relationship between colorectal cancer and intestinal flora, they turned to her for assistance on nutrition quantification methods. She participated in the 2016 Library Lecture Series alongside Dr. Matt Queen in an entertaining and informational presentation on culinary chemistry.

She is a member of the MSUB Women’s Faculty Caucus and presented “A Trip Down Food Guide Lane: A Retrospective” at their 2016 Scholarship Showcase. Since 2008, she has contributed her energy multiple times to the Science department’s Girls-n-Science (formerly Chicks in Science) station, and looks forward to assisting Dr. Sarah Friedman with this year’s dinosaur discovery activity. She enjoys helping Dr. Steven Wiles and Dr. Stuart Snyder with their Exploring Space events, and finds it rewarding to mentor newer faculty members.



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## FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARD

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# Dr. Rachael Waller

*Associate Professor, Literacy Education, COE*



**D**r. Rachael Waller is described as leader in both the College of Education and in her professional field of literacy. Beyond her leadership capabilities and roles, Dr. Waller “exemplifies excellence in teaching,” which is one reason she was chosen as a Faculty Excellence Award recipient.

Dr. Waller came to MSUB in 2011 and was promoted to Associate Professor this year, a nod to the impressive work she has been doing in the areas of teaching, scholarly development, and service.

Her philosophy of teaching guides her in her daily endeavors as an Associate Professor of Literacy Education and act as the frame through which she analyzes student feedback.

Her students reflect the passion that Dr. Waller has for reading and teaching of literacy courses as their evaluations are consistently high and full of positive comments.

Beyond the classroom, Dr. Waller has made significant contributions and scholarly developments. She has given presentations at the state, regional, national, and international levels.

Dr. Waller has authored and co-authored six publications over the last several years. Her involvement with the National Technology Leadership Summit, by invitation only, resulted in attending the 2016 White House Summit on Technology Integration in Teacher Education. She also serves as President of the Organization of Teacher Educators in Literacy and the Montana State Reading Council.

Dr. Waller is leading the charge on several endeavors within the College of Education to update and promote programs, develop courses, initiate an Advisory board, and build new community partnerships. In addition, Dr. Waller directs the Reading Clinic on campus.

“Dr. Rachael is a rising star in the College of Education and a future campus leader,” a colleague noted. “Her work radiates Faculty Excellence!”



# Dr. Melissa Boehm

*Assistant Professor, Communication and Theatre, CAS*



An outstanding teacher with breadth of expertise, energy, and enthusiasm as an instructor, she is revered by students as “an excellent instructor, adviser, and project coach.”

Dr. Melissa Boehm is this year’s Winston and Helen Cox Fellowship Award recipient, a well-deserved honor for this promising and inspiring scholar.

An Assistant Professor since 2014, Dr. Boehm is a versatile faculty member of the Communication and Theatre Department. The ability to teach a wide variety of subject material, incorporate service learning, and embrace online teaching demonstrate her essential value and wide

skillset that she brings to the department and university.

Her service to the University is impressive. Last year, she advised 28 students and was the faculty mentor for over 30 student presentations in the Research, Creativity, and Community Involvement Conference.

Dr. Boehm has fulfilled active roles on and off campus by serving as a Fake News panelist in January 2017 at the Billings Public Library and as a table host for their annual fundraiser in June 2017; providing media literacy workshops for Park City High School students in May 2017; volunteering each summer for Night on the Van with the Salvation Army; serving on the Friends of Yellowstone Public Radio board; acting as a judge for the Model United Nations in May 2017; and chairing the Women’s Faculty Caucus.

She maintains a strong record of publication, alongside her vast service to the university and community, and teaching roles. One of her recent publications, “The Framing of Health and Poverty in Appalachia” was voted one of two top papers at the Association for Marketing and Health Care Research annual conference in 2017. Dr. Boehm has published a book chapter, presented at nine conferences, and has been a repeat presenter for Library Lecture Series.

Embracing technology is a strong theme of Dr. Boehm’s teaching and service. Outside of teaching students, she gave the Board of Regents a demonstration of the TEIL room in Fall 2017, and has received e-Learning and professional development grants.

Dr. Boehm is hailed by colleagues as a “most valuable colleague who should be honored with a Cox Fellowship Award. The University can be proud of her accomplishments and acknowledge the actualization of her potential as revealed in her stellar performance.”



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## YEARS OF SERVICE RECOGNITION

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### 5 YEARS OF SERVICE

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**Dr. Saroj Aryal**

*Assistant Professor, Mathematics Department,  
College of Arts & Sciences*

**Dr. Salem L. Boumediene**

*Associate Professor, Accounting/Business  
Administration, College of Business*

**Mark Earnhart, MFA**

*Assistant Professor, Art, College of Arts & Sciences*

**Joshua P. Hill, Ph.D.**

*Assistant Professor, Economics Business  
Administration, College of Business*

**Dr. Patricio Mori**

*Assistant Professor, Management Business  
Administration, College of Business*

**John J. Roberts**

*Assistant Professor, Low Brass Music, College of  
Arts & Sciences*

**Andy Sullivan**

*Instructor, Process Plant Technology, City College*

### 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

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**Sue Winn**

*Instructor, Nursing, Health and Public Safety, City  
College*

**Cheryl Young-Pelton, Ed.D.,**

**BCBA-D**

*Associate Professor, Special Education; ABA  
Educational Theory and Practice, College of  
Education*

**Dr. Ying Wang**

*Professor, Accounting Business Administration,  
College of Business*

**Dr. Mark Fenderson**

*Associate Professor, High Brass, College of Arts &  
Sciences*

**Elizabeth C. Fullon**

*Instructor, General and Related Education, City  
College*

### 15 YEARS OF SERVICE

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**Dr. Susan J. Gilbertz**

*Professor, Geography and Advisor to Environmental  
Studies; Social Sciences and Cultural Studies,  
College of Arts & Sciences*

**Dr. James Barron**

*Professor, Evolutionary Biology; Biological and  
Physical Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences*

**Joy Crissey Honea, Ph.D.**

*Professor, Sociology; Social Sciences and Cultural  
Studies, College of Arts & Sciences*

**Dr. A.J. Otjen**

*Professor, Marketing; Business Administration,  
College of Business*

**Katherine Pfau**

*Instructor, Automotive Technology; Transportation  
and Welding Metal Fabrication, City College*

**Debra M. Schoenfeld, J.D.**

*Professor, Accounting/Business Law; CPA Business  
Administration, College of Business*

**Gregory Allard**

*Lecturer, Special Education; Educational Theory &  
Practices, College of Education*

### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

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**Lonnie Schrag**

*Instructor, Anatomy & Physiology; Nursing, Health  
and Public Safety, City College*

**Patricia Vettel-Becker, Ph.D.**

*Professor, Art, College of Arts & Sciences*

### 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

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**Bruce Brumley**

*Instructor Level IV, Computer Technology, City  
College*

**Craig M. McKenzie**

*Instructor Level IV, Computer Technology, City  
College*

### 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

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**Dr. Scott Harris**

*Associate Professor, Economics; Business  
Administration, College of Business*

**Nafisseh Heiat, Ph.D.**

*Professor, Information Systems, College of Business*

### 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

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**Dr. Oliver Chen**

*Professor, Mathematics, College of Arts & Sciences*

**Dr. Deborah Beth Schaffer**

*Professor, English; English, Philosophy, & Modern  
Languages, College of Arts & Sciences*

**Dr. Rachel Schaffer**

*Professor, English; English, Philosophy, & Modern  
Languages, College of Arts & Sciences*



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## **RETIREES**

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Dorothea Cromley  
Dr. William Kamowski  
Dr. Judith McEnany

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## **UPCOMING RETIREES**

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Gregory Allard  
Dr. Stephen Coffman  
Dr. Daniel Yazak  
Dr. Terry Blackwell  
Dr. Kenneth Miller

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## **IN MEMORIAM: THOSE WE LOST IN THE LAST YEAR**

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Dr. Roland Grant  
Dr. Craig Wilson  
Mr. Randall Pugh  
Dr. Krista Mougey  
Dr. James "Doc" Friguglietti  
Dr. St. John Robinson

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## **AWARD SPONSORS**

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The Winston & Helen Cox Fund  
Montana State University Billings  
Associated Students of Montana State University Billings  
Montana State University Billings Foundation

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## **SPECIAL THANKS TO**

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Debbie Brown  
Sydney Brost  
Bailey Solberg  
Kelsi Gambill  
Joy Ott

and all those who nominated faculty for these awards







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