

### THE DIRECTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Springtime always brings much change to our campus. This year we will not only be sending our class of 2010 off to new adventures, we have also learned that our beloved Chancellor, Dr. Ron Sexton, will be leaving us to explore some well deserved relaxation and time with his beautiful family.

Dr. Sexton's fingerprint will be forever on too many aspects of MSUB to list here. What I want to focus on is his commitment to you, the alumni of EMC and MSUB. He has a clear understanding that your relationship to this University is crucial to its success, and that is why three years ago he created the Office of Alumni Relations whose very purpose is to reach out to you and explore ways for you to continue your relationship with MSUB.

Dr. Sexton knows that you are our greatest asset, and not just financially. Each of your successes adds value to the degree you received from this University, which benefits every one of us. Every time you proudly tell someone you are a graduate of EMC or MSUB you add value to the investment we all made to get our education here.

I want to personally thank Dr. Sexton for entrusting me with the incredible job of being the liaison between you all and MSUB. Working with him, and you, has changed my life in more ways than I can say, and I know that I am not alone. An astounding number of former EMC and MSUB students' lives have been forever altered because of the vision of Ron Sexton.

In keeping with his dedication to our students, Dr. Sexton has graciously agreed to chair the Opportunity Campaign for MSUB Scholarships which is in the planning stages and will be kicked off soon.

Please take the time to read about Dr. Sexton's tremendous career, and in his honor proudly tell someone that you are a graduate of this fine University!

<http://www.msubillings.edu/urelations/releases/2010/2010Feb26Chancellor.htm>

May your spring be filled with exciting growth and change!

*Julie Schetter Seedhouse '89*

Director of Alumni Relations



# THE ALUMNI JACKET

## SPRING 2010

### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT—Major Dennis M. Small '89

#### **Year you graduated from EMC and with what degree:**

I graduated in December of 1989 with a BA in Organizational Communication and an extended major in Management. I received my commission as a Second Lieutenant through the Army ROTC program on the 15th of December. I had been selected to serve on active duty and I reported to Fort Sill, Oklahoma the following March.

#### **Tell us about your career since you graduated.**

My career has afforded me things I had never thought possible while in college. I have lived in five states and four foreign countries. Additionally I have had the opportunity to travel and work temporarily in 28 different countries. My first ten years in the Army I served in the Field Artillery and since 2000 I have been working in Human Resources for the Army. As a young Artillery Lieutenant I had the privilege to shoot a firepower demonstration for the King of Thailand. I also sat in Applebee's in Kuwait City and had dinner with former Ambassador Ron Newman. I was an invited guest at the 1300th birthday party for the city of Wurtsburg, Germany. I even managed to get a Masters in Human Resources Management along the way. I could write a long list of things I've done and places I've been but let's just say that it has been a great ride since leaving EMC and I am richly blessed with friends all over the world as a result.

#### **What made you choose EMC?**

I chose EMC because I was living in Billings at the time and I did not want to move to a new town for school. I had worked a variety of jobs ending with tending bar at Grammas' of all places when it became clear I had better get back in school because bartending was not going to be a career for me. Also, EMC had an Army ROTC program and I wanted to look into that. Little did I know; that the Army ROTC program would become my main reason for finishing college.

#### **In what way did your experience at EMC contribute to the person you are today?**

I had been out of college for a year and a half before starting at EMC. Returning as a "non-traditional" student was a little intimidating until I realized that EMC had significant nontraditional population. That experience was the foundation of my attitude toward life-long learning. I have engaged in military or civilian education every year on some level ever since leaving EMC. My recent professional education includes certification in basic mediation from the Atlanta Center for Conflict Resolution and graduation from the Department of Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (Program Manager Course).

#### **Do you have a most memorable moment or a person who was most influential while you were here?**

Yes, during my last semester at EMC I took a course from Vicky Coffman in Theater Therapy. The end of course project was a reminiscence project with an elderly person. I wanted to interview my grandmother in California but was unsure about the plan because of the cost and it would involve missing a couple classes. Vicky insisted that I go and do it and she offered to talk to my other instructors. Well I made the trip and spent a wonderful 4 hours with my grandmother listening to her tell stories about growing up and living in south Alabama. I recorded every word on cassette tape. That school project is memorable to me because it was the last time I saw my grandmother. In September of 1990 I was on lockdown at Fort Campbell, KY preparing to deploy to Saudi Arabia with the 101st ABN DIV. My grandmother died the week before I left. Had it not been for Vicky Coffman I would not have those memories of my grandmother. Thanks again Vicky!



Major Dennis M. Small '89 at Camp Slayer, Iraq

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### Letter from the President

At MSU Billings, we have produced thousands of graduates who have successful careers. We have also produced thousands of graduates who contribute to, enhance and support the communities in which they live. This past February I had the opportunity to see our alumni show how much they support the Billings community during Service Saturday, which is an ongoing project of the MSUB Office for Community Involvement. Service Saturday was our chance to get together and support the Montana Rescue Mission Women's and Family Shelter. Over 60 alumni, their family members, and students from the HEROES group at MSU Billings joined together to make sandwiches, Valentine's Day decorations, and prepare and serve a spaghetti lunch. This was the first time the Alumni Association has participated in an event like this and with such a great turnout, it will be an event to continue. A big thanks to all those who joined us!



Kris Aschim '99, '06, '10, and her dad, Dan Aschim '76 working at the shelter

Each year we honor alumni, just like those that helped with Volunteer Saturday, at our Outstanding Alumni Brunch. This is our chance to honor a select few of outstanding alum for all of the contributions they have made to their communities and MSU Billings. Please come join us on the MSUB campus for brunch, Saturday, April 10th at 10:00 am, where you can meet and hear from some of our most outstanding MSU Billings graduates.

We are pleased to announce that we have updated our Alumni Gold Card program. We have a new look and many exciting new benefits provided by Billings merchants.

The prices are still the same, and these funds go directly toward the cost of our most important endeavors: scholarships, the Outstanding Alumni Awards, and the many alumni events we host throughout the year. Your support is genuinely appreciated!

Single, One Year is \$30

Couple, One Year is \$50

Single, Lifetime is \$100 annually for 3 years or \$300 full payment

Couple, Lifetime is \$100 annually for 5 years or \$500

To get your Alumni Gold Card, submit an application at [http://www.msubillings.edu/alumni/gold\\_circle.htm](http://www.msubillings.edu/alumni/gold_circle.htm), call 406-247-5780, or email [jseedhouse@msubillings.edu](mailto:jseedhouse@msubillings.edu).



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### MSUB in YOUR Community Miles Avenue Elementary School

Of the certified staff and Miles Avenue Elementary School in Billings, 59% are EMC/MSUB graduates! Amid the happy chaos of their morning, these gracious educators took time for us to take their photo. Favorite moment? One little boy wrapped his arms around the legs of Guidance Counselor, Noreen Burris '88, and said, "Why does school have to close in the summer?"

Back row: Melissa Soucy, Heather Hackey, Kristina Stiles, Sandra Abraham, Noreen Burris, Connie Jensen, Trish Harper, Craig Thompson, Lyn Bitney  
Front row: Ruth Ferris, Pat Janz, Candace Kautz, Lana Henrichs, Kristin Richert  
Not pictured are: Mary Meyer, Clair Snyder, and Lynn Ehresman

Would you like the alumni at your workplace to be featured in our next newsletter? Send an email to [jseedhouse@msubillings.edu](mailto:jseedhouse@msubillings.edu) to make arrangements. (We will bring treats!!)



Women's  
Soccer Alumni  
got together  
after the  
RMC Indoor  
Tournament

Next event:

**Saturday, April 10, 2010**

Outstanding Alumni Awards Brunch  
MSUB Student Union Building  
Champagne Reception at 10am  
Brunch at 10:30  
Tickets are \$25

Stay current: <http://www.msubillings.edu/alumni/events.htm>

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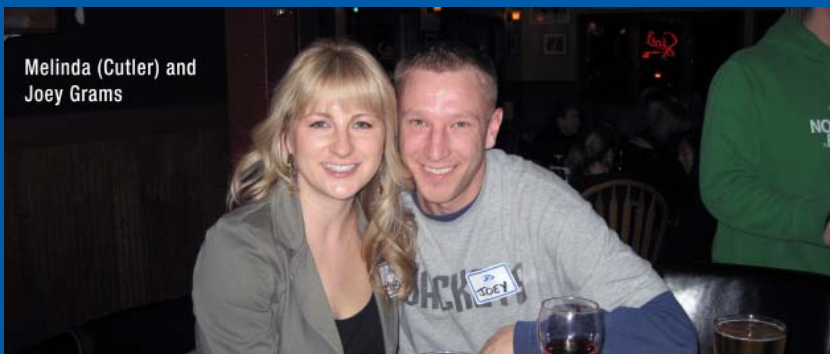
Julie Seedhouse and  
Donn Rupp



Katie and Jason Idhe; Todd Stark

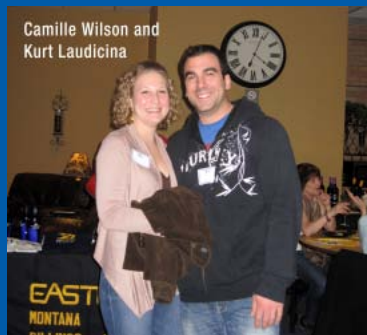


Lauren (Hibbs) Lutz and Seth Maristuen

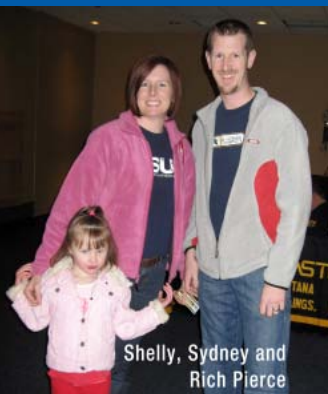


Melinda (Cutler) and  
Joey Grams

(above) Pre-game gathering of Seattle area alumni before the MSUB men's basketball game vs Seattle-Pacific University



Camille Wilson and  
Kurt Laudicina



Shelly, Sydney and  
Rich Pierce



(above) Pre-game party the Student Union before our men's basketball game vs. Alaska-Anchorage on 2/27



Christina Smith, Thomas and Monica Tavener, Kyla Bauer



Sue Bogunovia and Janet Uriacher

Alumni and students joined forces to serve lunch at the Women's and Family Shelter

We're on  
facebook. Join  
our  
Alumni  
group!

