
UNIVERSITY HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Major Events of the University Since 1998

1999

- Online courses begin
- First family housing units completed
- Property Acquisition of a large parcel on Normal Avenue was approved by Board of Regents
- Peaks to Plains Park opens; Quarry built including rock quarries and waterfall
- Implemented Banner Finance, Accounts Receivable, Human Resources, Student and Financial Aid
- New Programs approved – Master of Science in Psychology, Master of Science in Public Relations, Associate of Applied Science in Practical Nursing
- The Music Department has a successful accreditation review by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)
- Dr. Gary Gray hired as Director of Athletics

2000

- New fitness facility opens
- BOR authorizes MSU Billings to establish the Commercial Space Policy Institute as part of the function and purpose of the Urban Institute
- Building project (COE) approved by legislature
- Addition to College of Education and Human Services Building completed

- MSU Billings establishes the state's first and only NCAA, Division II women's softball program
- Demolition of campus school
- COE and Human Services begins preparations for 2002 NCATE evaluation
- Renovations initiated on space in North Wing of COB
- New Programs approved – Associate of Applied Science in Automobile Collision Repair & Refinishing Technology, Associate of Applied Science in Computer Systems Technology, Associate of Applied Science in Diesel Technology, Minor in Business Geographic Information Systems
- Dr. George White hired as Dean, College of Education

2001

- Reaccreditation of the Music program by the National Association of Schools of Music
- Information commons area added to Library; 85 computers added for use as student lab
- MSU Billings Foundation receives large contribution towards establishing a childcare center on the campus
- Academic Support Center opens
- COT hosts an ACT center; main emphasis will be Adult Literacy/Employability Skills, Computer Basics, Information Technology, ESL, Management and Leadership, Personal and Professional Development, Industrial Technology, Occupational Training and Safety Skills
- MSU Billings begins their 75th Anniversary; continues through Fall 2002
- Collaborative NIH/BRIN grant awarded. MSU Billings receives a \$150,000 for the purchase of lab equipment and lab renovations
- Recipient of 5-year \$133,000 grant from Department of Education for student childcare scholarships
- Cenex Stadium, home of the Lady Yellowjacket softball team, opened
- William R. Lowe Childcare and Enrichment Center opened
- New program approved – Associate of Science Program of Study in Fire Science

2002

- Opening of ACT center at COT
- Men's and Women's Basketball teams qualified for NCAA regional tournament in California
- John Cech hired as Dean, College of Technology
- Grand opening of Cenex-MSU Billings Women's Softball field and new indoor tennis facility
- MSU Billings receives a \$5 million Talent Search Grant
- U.S. Department of HUD granted \$1 million to renovate COT; to provide an innovative support system and environment to meet the needs of new local, regional, and statewide technology industries. Another \$1 million is pending
- Sam E. and Judith McDonald Family pledges \$1.4 million to benefit the College of Business (largest charitable donation to the university)
- McDonald Hall Building renovated
- \$3 million renovation in the Liberal Arts Building
- College of Education received a very successful accreditation review

achieving perfect scores at the graduate and undergraduate levels – the first time in our school's history – from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (N.C.A.T.E.)

- New programs approved – Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Performance, Master of Science in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, AAS in Computer Desktop and Network Support, Master of Science in Athletic Training
- The Department of Art has a successful accreditation visit by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD)

2003

- MSU Billings joins with MSU in Bozeman to offer a graduate program called Master of Public Administration (MPA)
- Facilities Services completes conceptual design for new McMullen Bridge
- MSU Billings Downtown campus opened
- Janet Simon hired as Director, Human Resources
- Gwendolyn Braun hired as Director of Academic Support Center
- Cheri Johannes hired as Director of Advising Center
- Construction at COT for "High Tech Outreach Center" completed. Includes: two new computer labs, student study lounge, conference center to accommodate 120 people
- The College of Professional Studies and Lifelong Learning moves to downtown Billings
- College of Education receives the National Award for Best Practice in Support of Teacher Education from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (A.A.C.T.E.)
- New program approved – Masters in Public Administration

2004

- The rim of Peaks to Plains complete; includes ornamental railing, wall, seating, and trees commemorating 76 years of class graduations
- Five new inductees to Hall of Fame and Distinction: Dr. Rick Billstein, Cal Crawley, Megan Dickerson, Michelle (Taylor) Lipp, and Dr. Ronald Sexton (this brings number to 100)
- Department of Health and Human Performance acquires space in Physical Ed Building for new human performance lab
- Completion of new athletic training room
- COT receives two Congressional-directed grants to expand Process Plant Tech program and Health Tech programs
- U.S. Senator Max Baucus tours COT in the area of Process Plant Technology, Welding, Auto Tech, Diesel Technology, Tool Room, HVACR Lab/Classroom, Computer Systems Tech, and Health Occupations
- In partnership with MDU, MSU Billings demonstrates fuel cell energy units
- Establishment of the College of Allied Health Professions, the University's sixth college
- \$1 million renovation completed at the College of Technology
- Kelly Gatzemeier, a senior Marketing student and Adrienne Mayer, a senior Accounting student authored the business plan that netted the pair a first place win at the 15th Annual John Ruffatto Montana Business Plan

- Competition at The University of Montana
- Jacquelyn Weitz, senior Piano Performance student, was in the Netherlands where she was chosen as one of 30 students from across the globe – the only student from the United States – to compete in the Young Artists’ Competition of the Netherlands
- Reno Charette, Director of the Big Horn Teacher Projects at MSU Billings, named “Indian Educator of the Year” by the Montana Indian Education Association
- MSU Billings Outreach office opened in Red Lodge
- Fulbright Scholars: Dr. Matthew Benaquista, Dr. Ernesto Randolfi, Dr. Brian Dillon and Dr. Jeffrey Sanders.
- New programs approved – Minor in International Studies, Minor in Finance, Minor in Marketing, Minor in Accounting, Minor in Information Systems, AAS in Application Development

2005

- Gov. Brian Schweitzer visits COT; particularly interested in Process Plant; joint House and Senate Long Range Planning Committee recommend \$9 million be allocated to COT
- Dr. George White, Dean of College of Education and Director of Graduate Studies named Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs
- Dr. Mary Susan Fishbaugh was named Interim Dean for the College of Education
- Dr. Kirk Lacy named Interim Dean for the College of Professional Studies and Lifelong Learning
- Montana Center on Disabilities and Bighorn Teacher Projects receives \$1.1 million from U.S. Department of Education to implement Teacher Education for All in Montana (TEAM)
- For the 6th consecutive year, MSU Billings ranked as one of the nation’s “Best Colleges” in U.S. News and World Report
- Two-year Medical Assistant Program at COT received national accreditation by Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs
- MSU Billings Downtown campus celebrated official opening
- Dr. Tasneem Khaleel was appointed permanent Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
- Dr. David Garloff hired as Dean, College of Allied Health Professions
- Brent Roberts named Associate Director of Library Services
- Cheri Johannes, hired as Director of Admissions & Records & Registrar
- Dr. David McGinnis hired as Co-Director, Grants & Sponsored Programs
- John Walsh hired as Co-Director, Grants & Sponsored Programs
- Men’s NCAA Division II baseball program begins
- Shelly Andersen hired as Director, New Student Services
- The Athletic Training Program received initial accreditation from the Commission of Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).

2006

- Dr. Karen Heikel hired as Dean, College of Professional Studies and Lifelong Learning
- Dr. Gary Young Hired as Dean, College of Business

- Dr. Stacy Klippenstein hired as Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
- Dr. Rita Kratky, hired as Director, Advising Center
- Judy Chapman hired as Director of Financial Aid & Scholarships
- Julie Seedhouse hired as Director, Alumni Relations
- New programs approved – AAS in Construction Technology, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Science in General Science, AAS in Medical Coding
- A record number, 9,000, students served in online enrollments
- Record year in grant receipts totaling \$8.5 million
- Major improvements made to the soccer field at West Campus
- Fulbright Scholar – Dr. Susan Barfield
- Chancellor Ronald Sexton received the 2006 Distinguished Leadership Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE)
- For the 7th consecutive year, MSU Billings ranked as one of the nation’s “Best Colleges” in U.S. News and World Report

2007

- Bachelor degree in Political Science developed and approved
- Teaching option in Political Science developed and approved
- Bachelor degree and minor in Outdoor Adventure Leadership
- New Criminal Justice program approved and advisory board formed
- Completion of new Health Sciences Building at the COT West Campus
- The Master’s degree in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling completed its reaccreditation with Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE)
- Reno Charette hired as Coordinator of Native American Studies
- Paperwork filed by Dr. David Butler and Dr. Kurt Toenjes to secure the first patent for MSU Billings
- New degree in Power Plant Technology Approved
- Dr. Barbara Wheeling, accounting professor, authors ag accounting textbook

2008

- Dr. D’Ann Campbell hired as Provost and Academic Vice Chancellor
- Scott Forshee hired as University Police Chief
- Liz Tooley hired as University Budget Officer
- Kirk Lacy hired as Associate Dean of the College of Technology
- Tim Tirrell hired as Director of eLearning Operations
- New online learning tool for faculty — Desire2Learn — adopted
- Jessica Smothers hired as Student Success Coordinator to improve retention
- Murdock Charitable Trust awards \$251,000 grant to MSU Billings College of Technology for science lab equipment
- Linda Christensen, MSU Billings special education professor honored for lifetime achievement
- Accounting major Wayne Scharnhorst picked as top student employee in Montana
- New state-of-the-art Management Information Systems lab — developed with grants and community support — dedicated at the College of Business
- Dr. Ken Miller, professor of education, receives \$625,000 grant to update the way science is taught in Montana elementary schools