On February 1st MSU Billings and the Department of Justice released two new ways that the people of Montana can show their support for the University. The two new designs are a upgrade from the late 1990’s logo. The new plates will showcase both the University’s athletics logo and the four-year campus skyscape.

When you go to renew your vehicle registration or purchase license plates for a new car you will have the option of owning your own MSU Billings plates. Already a proud owner of a MSU Billings license plate and want to upgrade? Do not worry! The option for an upgrade is available to anyone at any time. A portion of the proceeds from the license plates will help fund scholarships and other university support endeavors. For more information check out the following website [http://doj.mt.gov/driving/plate-designs-and-fees/](http://doj.mt.gov/driving/plate-designs-and-fees/)
What's happening at the CAHP?

The close to another academic year is approaching fast and excitement is in the air with graduation just around the corner. The College of Allied Health Professions is anticipating 122 students to graduate. Each year, the number of students graduating through CAHP's programs continues to increase approximately 10%.

Faculty updates continue within the College of Allied Health Professions. Dr. Jon Carling joined the CAHP team in January and will move into a tenure track position in the Health and Human Performance department in the fall. Dr. Carling previously worked at St. Vincent Healthcare as a Physical Therapist and Supervisor. Dr. Carling will continue to provide ongoing professional services to St. Vincent Healthcare in conjunction with teaching. Welcome Dr. Carling! Dr. Suzette Nynas, Athletic Training Director, in the Health and Human Performance department has completed her doctorate. Congratulations Suzette! Ms. Amber McDermott has been promoted to a tenure track position in the Rehabilitation and Human Service department. Ms. McDermott anticipates the completion of her doctorate in the upcoming year. Also in the Rehabilitation and Human Service department, Mr. Tom Dell, is working towards his doctorate and should complete it by the end of the year. The Health Administration program continues to grow and a new tenure track position has been approved. The search will take place this summer with hopes of hiring for the upcoming academic school year.

Name: Holly Wolff
Graduation Date: Spring 2012
Hometown: Bozeman, MT

Please describe your experience while attending MSUB?
This experience has been challenging, intellectually stimulating and perfectly structured for my hectic life. As a wife, mother of two and working professional, the MSUB experience with the MHA online program provided an array of courses in health related topics that gave me a solid foundation to be a success in my chosen field.

Was there anything in particular that you enjoyed most about CAHP Major?
The broad range of people in my cohort included varying personalities and professional experiences that allowed for unique and diverse discussion groups as well as resource sharing and camaraderie.

What are your goals after graduation?
I recently have been accepted into the PhD program for Health Policy and Management, Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina with a graduation date set for spring 2016. I intend to stay involved with my current organization, Montana Area Health Education Center and Office of Rural Health, through some distance collaboration. I am planning my doctoral research around rural and frontier health issues in hopes of providing relevant and meaningful data applicable for Montana.

Please describe the field of work you want to work in after graduation.
My area of research and professional goals all surround advancing and promoting the health needs in rural and frontier communities. I intend to work in rural health policy, either through meaningful research or policy development and analysis.

Do you have any "words of wisdom" for current students in the College of Allied Health Professions?
Take this time in your program to really identify areas of interest, however inconsequential they may seem, and work it into your curriculum. This can be done every time you have a project or paper. As you progress through the undergraduate or graduate program, you'll find each of these projects will build upon one another until you have a solid foundation of knowledge within your chosen field.

CAHPS' Distinguished Partner Award

This year's winner of the CAHP Distinguished Partner Award is Dr. Douglas Carr, MD, MMM, Director of Clinical Operation for Billings Clinic. CAHP has established this new award to recognize individuals or organizations for outstanding support and dedication to the College of Allied Health Professions at Montana State University Billings. Dr. Douglas Carr, MD, MMM has had significant ongoing service to CAHP. Congratulations and Thank You from CAHP for all you do!

For More Information about the CAHP, visit our webpage at: http://www.msubillings.edu/cahp/About.htm
Name: Chris Stine  Graduation Date: April 28, 2012
Degree: Health and Human Performance, Teacher Licensure Option
Hometown: Loveland, CO

Please describe your experience while attending MSUB?
My experience at MSUB was very positive and fun. It allowed me to become independent and learn how to deal with obstacles and difficulties that came my way. Overall, I've enjoyed my experience at MSUB and found it to be fun and enlightening.

Was there anything in particular that you enjoyed most about CAHP Major?
I enjoyed the relationships that I established with my professors and instructors within the department. The instructors make the entire experience enjoyable in the way they interact with the students. I also enjoyed the relationships that I acquired with classmates and the environment that the department created.

What are your goals after graduation?
After graduation, I would like to get a teaching job in Northern Colorado in a secondary setting, I also plan to coach baseball and football. I would also like to start graduate school and earn a master’s degree that will help further my knowledge and become an expert in the field.

Please describe the field of work you want to work in after graduation.
I want to work in a high school setting that allows me to interact and influence students in a positive way. I want to teach physical education and health all while coaching football and baseball using those pedestals to influence students in a different setting.

Do you have any “words of wisdom” for current students in the College of Allied Health Professions?
Go to class because there is so much information to understand and going to class is vitally important for comprehension. Establish relationships with instructors and classmates because others bring a different angle to the same topic or subject being discussed. Take each class seriously and understand that it is not just an inconvenience to go to class, but that you are a being trained to be a professional in a field and that it is a privilege to be a part of the CAHP department.

Wilderness First Respond
Wilderness First Responder (WFR), a vital addition to the Outdoor Adventure Leadership degree curriculum, was offered for the first time on the MSUB campus. Instructors from the Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) led an intensive 80 hour, 9 day class during spring break 2012. While most were getting away from the books, 11 MSUB students joined 12 individuals from Billings and the surrounding area, to learn how to make critical medical and evacuation decisions in remote locations. Classroom lectures and demonstrations were combined with realistic scenarios where mock patients challenged the students to integrate their learning. The design of the course continually placed students in situations requiring thinking and analysis, rather than merely rote memorization. A huge success, the WFR course will be offered every two years.

For More Information about the CAHP, visit our webpage at: http://www.msubillings.edu/cahp/About.htm
Name: Kira Fercho        Graduation: Spring 2010
Degree: M.S. Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling
Hometown: Billings, Montana

Often when one thinks of art they do not think of the College of Allied Health Professions, but Kira Fercho is the common denominator. Kira is a renowned artist who has had an unusual educational background which included obtaining a Master of Science in Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling (MS-RMHC).

Over the years, Kira has spent many hours creating her art pieces for the public to enjoy. “I attempt to bring the viewer in and push them toward another direction through movement, vivid color, brush stroke, and image.” Kira has shown her artwork in many galleries around the United States where she has “had the opportunity to know and enjoy many professional artists.” Most recently, Kira has donated a painting to the MSU Billings Foundation 2012 Food and Wine Festival. Her painting will be showcased in the Live Auction held Saturday May 19th, 2012.

Kira first received her Bachelor of Art in Art Education. She then worked for Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch and Tumbleweed. From these experiences she soon found herself back in school working towards her MS-RMHC in the College of Allied Health Professions. Kira accomplished her goal in becoming an art therapist after receiving her Master’s degree in 2010. She is a full time artist with a private counseling practice in Billings, Montana, where she incorporates art therapy into a healing process. She works with a broad age range, but her focus is on teenage girls with whom she works in a group setting. Her group sessions incorporate art and other therapies that heighten the girls’ quality of life.

In talking with Kira she had some words of wisdom for future and current students in the CAHP programs, “education is the grounding foundation that has opened so many doors for me and has only enriched my life. Don’t hold back, strive to make your goals happen and always enjoy what you are doing.”

CAHP Part-Time Faculty Service Recognition Gathering
April 23, 2012 the College of Allied Health Professions hosted a recognition gathering to congratulate the part-time instructors. CAHP recognized the following individuals for their continuous service and dedication for being a part-time faculty member for five or more years.

~ Brad Beauvais            ~ Steve Johnson            ~ Dale Rumph
~ Becky Davis             ~ Roland Loudenburg         ~ Joe Walsh
~ Deana Fuller           ~ Shane McCullough          ~ Gayle Whittenberg
~ Dan Gray               ~ Mary Helen McSweeney       ~ Kevin Woodin
~ Laura Harper           ~ Jim Rott

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OLYMPICS OF ACADEME

This year the College of Allied Health Professions “took home the gold” for this academic year. A number of CAHP graduating students were awarded with some of the most prominent awards honored at the University. Both the Golden Merit and Outstanding Graduate Student are University recognized awards given to two deserving students, one graduate and one undergraduate. Also, CAHP students received the CAHP Outstanding Graduate Student and the MSUB Cooperative Education Student of the Year. Faculty and Staff in CAHP would like to congratulate these students for all their hard work!

### MSUB Outstanding Graduate Student

**Name:** Holly Wolff  
**Degree:** Master of Health Administration  
**Graduation:** Spring 2012

### CAHP Outstanding Graduate Student

**Name:** Mike Paulson  
**Degree:** Master of Science in Athletic Training  
**Graduation:** Spring 2012

### MSUB Golden Merit

**Name:** Sarah Harshman  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Science in Health Administration  
**Graduation:** Fall 2011

### CAHP Cooperative Education Student of the Year

**Name:** Lori Burton  
**Degree:** Bachelor of Science in Health Administration  
**Graduation:** Fall 2011

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**Health and Human Performance Athletic Training Certification**

The MSU Billings Athletic Training Education Program (ATEP) is pleased to report a 100% first time pass rate for the April 2012 Board of Certification (BOC) national certification exam for athletic training. The BOC establishes the standards for practice, reviews standards for continuing education, and serves as the only certifying agency for athletic trainers (www.bocatc.org).

While the national pass rate for first time test takers for the BOC certification exam is approximately 50%, the MSUB ATEP is proud to boast a 94% first time pass rate since 2010.
CAHP Connections Feedback Form:
http://www.msubillings.edu/cahp/Feedback.htm

Refer a Student:
http://www.msubillings.edu/cahp/Questionnaire.asp

For more Information about the CAHP, visit our webpage at:
http://www.msubillings.edu/cahp/About.htm

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**CAHP total headcount 548 for Spring 2012**