



2010 "Meet, Greet & Eat" a Success

Kari Foreman, Marketing Intern
Career Services Fall 2010

The third annual etiquette dinner, hosted by Career Services, MSU Billings Alumni Association and Sodexo took place November 16 in the SUB Lewis & Clark Room. "Meet, Greet & Eat" was an opportunity for students to learn more about dining etiquette while interacting with professionals from their major fields.

The Lewis and Clark room resembled a high-class restaurant where 35 students and 7 guests from MSU Billings administration enjoyed a gourmet meal. Each student table was hosted by one of Career Services' **2010-2011 Employer Partners: Augie Aga from Connoisseur Media, Rachele Elliot from Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch, Debbie Potter from EideBailly, Carol Bergquist from KPMG, Heather Brenden from Saint Vincent Healthcare and Jill Blattie from EBMS.**

Conversation filled the room amid entertaining instructions from the guest speaker, Martin Bustamante who serves as the catering director for Sodexo at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington. The enthusiastic professional flew to Billings for this event and shared useful information on dining and social etiquette. His step-by-step details helped put students at ease as he offered information ranging from what fork to use when, to what to wear to a business dinner.

MSUB students came dressed for success and the atmosphere remained professional, yet relaxed. Bustamante added humor to his presentation, and as the five-course dinner continued, more discussions began to open up between students and employers.

The Employer Partners welcomed questions from students and offered useful advice. Augie Aga from Connoisseur Media informed his table about the radio industry and offered guidance, from acing interviews to hitting the ski slopes. "The dinner was fabulous," Aga commented. "The student attendees were very friendly; we had some good conversation, and I think that they learned a lot."

Heather Brenden from Saint Vincent Healthcare enjoyed the great food and fun conversation noting that "Meet Greet & Eat" is a good opportunity to "spend a few hours and enjoy good food with inspiring students!"

Students agreed that the dinner was a success. Jesse, a senior finance major at the EBMS table commented, "The dinner was a lot of fun. It was a great chance to get a better idea of what employers are looking for. I liked the low pressure environment; it gave me an opportunity to open up to employers, which in another situation might be intimidating." Jordan, a senior psychology major at the Saint Vincent Healthcare table added, "It was a great experience. I enjoyed talking with Heather, and I learned a lot that I didn't know about proper dining etiquette, not to mention the food. The meal was delicious."

The 2010 "Meet, Greet & Eat" was successful in educating students on the "do's and don't's" of proper etiquette, as well as providing them with insight from professionals in the areas where they hope to work one day. Students left the dinner with business cards, full stomachs, and the confidence that they will know what to do on the day they are presented with the opportunity to land their first professional job.