

HOMECOMING AWARDS —&— ACADEMY *of* DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

NORM ASBJORNSON HALL



ABOUT THE AWARDS

Each year, the Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering identifies a select group of alumni who have distinguished themselves professionally and have a record of exemplary service to the community and/or Montana State University to be inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Alumni.

The Young Alumni Award recognizes alumni whose early career accomplishments have distinguished themselves professionally and demonstrate extraordinary achievements relative to their peers.

The Distinguished Faculty Award recognizes a former engineering college faculty member who has distinguished themselves by meritorious service to the college in areas of teaching, research, leadership, achievement, mentoring, and outreach. The award recognizes one exceptionally accomplished faculty member and highlights the contributions they have made to the college.

The Distinguished Staff Award recognizes a former engineering college staff member for having distinguished themselves in the areas of leadership, achievement, outreach, and/or meritorious service to the college. The award recognizes exceptionally accomplished staff members and highlights the contributions they have made to the college.

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SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

NORM ASBJORNSON HALL · INSPIRATION HALL
ROOM 201

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Dean Brett Gunnink

PRESENTATION OF HOMECOMING AWARDS

Dean Brett Gunnink

and

Associate Dean Christine Foreman

CLOSING REMARKS

Dean Brett Gunnink

RECEPTION

COVER PHOTO BY ADRIAN SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ

YOUNG ALUMNA

LISA SCHLEUTER, '14



Lisa Schleuter is a 2014 graduate of Montana State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering with minors in aerospace engineering and Spanish, graduating first in her class.

Since joining The Boeing Company in 2014, Schleuter has progressed through roles in structural design, product development and management. She began as a structural design engineer on the 787

and 777X programs, contributing to FAA certification and onsite supplier support, and holds eight U.S. patents for manufacturing techniques and mechanism designs. Progressing to managerial positions, she led and developed large engineering teams, optimizing aircraft configurations, resolving production issues and driving cost savings. In 2020, she received the 777X Wing High Flyer Award for her leadership during challenging transitions.

Schleuter furthered her academic learning with a graduate certificate in design and analysis of composite materials from the University of Washington (2019-2020). And, as a Boeing-sponsored student in MIT's Leaders for Global Operations program, she earned an MBA from MIT Sloan and an SM in civil engineering (2023). Her dual thesis focused on site material supply chain optimization, informed by a research fellowship at Symbotic.

A licensed professional engineer since 2020 and Boeing representative on Montana State University's Civil Engineering Industry Advisory Board, Schleuter is committed to fostering STEM education. She recently authored and published the children's book "Ollie the Civil Engineer" through Inventive Minds Media, inspiring young readers with engineering adventures.

Schleuter is married to an MSU alumnus, and together they have two sons.

ACADEMY OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

EMILY DAVIS, '04



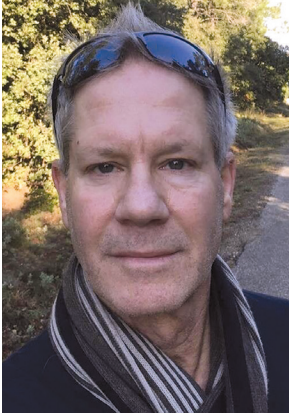
Emily Davis is the vice president of performance, West Division at CRH Corporation. Headquartered in Dublin, CRH is the world's largest building materials provider. In this role, she supports growth initiatives, leads the performance team and drives innovation and process improvement. She is passionate about driving for results, continuous quality improvement and innovation.

Prior to joining CRH, Davis worked in engineering and product development in the defense, mining and manufacturing industries, most recently leading the new product development and advanced engineering team at McNeilus Truck and Manufacturing. In 2020 she received a STEP Ahead award, honoring her as one of the top 100 women in manufacturing in the United States.

Davis is a champion of women in engineering, serving as a mentor and advocate. She also enjoys serving on nonprofit boards. In addition to her current role on the advisory council for the Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering at MSU, she has served on the mechanical and industrial engineering industry advisory board (2012-2021), and on boards for the Girl Scouts of River Valleys in Minnesota, and the Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southern Washington.

Originally from Minnesota, she attended Montana State University, graduating with an honors degree in mechanical engineering technology and a minor in French. While attending MSU, she met her husband, Justin Davis, who is a Montana native and an alumnus of the college of business.

In her free time, Davis enjoys reading, camping with her husband and two kids, skiing and coaching her daughter's hockey team.

KENT FERRE, '78

Kent Ferre is the founder and principal at KSF Structural, a small consulting firm created in 2017 that specializes in residential and industrial structural design for earthquake risk mitigation.

Ferre served as the manager of the geosciences department at Pacific Gas and Electric Company in San Francisco. He managed PG&E's earthquake risk management program for the gas, electric and corporate real estate business units. Ferre was the project manager for the Diablo Canyon Seismic Hazard Update project.

He worked for more than 35 years at PG&E as a design engineer, project engineer and project manager in many departments, including substation engineering, gas transmission and power generation. He is a registered civil and structural engineer in California.

Ferre was a project mentor for the MSU Engineers Without Borders during the summers of 2012 and 2016. He also was a student mentor for four years and served on the Department of Civil Engineering's external advisory board.

Ferre earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from MSU.

DEVIN GRAY, '14

Devin Gray holds two degrees from Montana State University, a Bachelor's of Science in computer science with honors and a Master's of Science in computer science.

The son of two Air Force officers, Gray grew up moving frequently before settling in Great Falls. He chose Montana State University to pursue his passion for engineering and focused on computer science. As a Presidential Scholar in the Honors College, he earned his bachelor's degree and University Honors distinction in

2004, followed by his master's degree in 2014.

Gray has built a distinguished career as a software engineering leader and is currently the director of engineering at Figure Technologies. Gray previously held senior engineering leadership roles for Bozeman-area software companies including Brightvine, Land id, Workiva and RightNow/Oracle where he earned the Spirit of RightNow award for his work. Gray is also serving on the board of directors for the Montana High Tech Business Alliance.

A lifelong Bobcat, Gray is deeply committed to giving back to MSU. For the past seven years he has taught the popular one-credit Industry Methods seminar in the Gianforte School of Computing, a course inspired by his wife, Tara Gray, a public school teacher and MSU alumna. He serves on the Industry Advisory Board for the Gianforte School of Computing, the External Advisory Council for the Honors College at MSU and is on the Advisory Board for Computer Tech at Great Falls College-MSU, helping shape the future of MSU programs.

Gray lives in Great Falls with Tara and their four daughters. Outside of work, he enjoys golfing, billiards, chess, video games and family time.

ROBERT JOHN PECCIA, '65

Robert John Peccia is a distinguished civil Engineer and founder of Robert Peccia & Associates, a Helena-based firm recognized nationally for excellence in engineering and workplace culture. A graduate of Montana State College (the last class before it became Montana State University) with a Bachelor's of Science in civil engineering, Peccia holds professional engineering licenses in several states including Montana, California and Washington, and has completed graduate coursework in Montana and California.

Throughout his career, Peccia has demonstrated exceptional leadership and

innovation in civil engineering, transportation planning and water systems. His early work with the Montana Department of Transportation and later with the National Park Service led to more than 100 task orders across 58 park units nationwide. His firm also contributed to projects for NASA and the Federal Highway Administration, showcasing his national impact.

Peccia's pioneering work includes the Butte Water System project converting the private water system to a public system, which he managed with technical and political finesse.

Beyond engineering, Peccia is a civic leader and philanthropist. He established endowed scholarships at Carroll College, Montana State University and Flathead Valley Community College, and transitioned RPA into Montana's first 100% employee-owned engineering firm. His conservation efforts include donations and easements to protect Montana's natural beauty and restored wetlands.

Peccia is an organizer of the Valley Bank of Helena and has served on numerous boards including Carroll College and Valley Bank.

MIKE SHERICK, '86

Mike Sherick graduated from Montana State University in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and later earned a master's degree in chemical engineering from University of Idaho.

Along with his wife Susan, Sherick recently retired after a 38-year career, including 32 years with 3M Company. He also spent six years at the Idaho National Engineering Lab. He was recruited out of MSU as a process engineer and found that he really enjoyed the challenges of manufacturing. Sherick stayed in manufacturing but transitioned from a technical role into management with more of a business focus. Sherick's career

took him and his family to several locations across the United States. He also spent three years as plant manager in 3M's Antwerp, Belgium, plant. Later, Sherick became plant manager at 3M's largest chemical processing facility in Cordova, Illinois. The last phase of Mike's 3M career was at the company headquarters in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he was a global manufacturing/value stream director.

Mike and Susan's pride and joy are their two children, Matt and Sydney, both of whom graduated from MSU. Mike and his entire family are devoted Bobcat supporters and continue to maintain strong ties to the university. Sherick helped establish the Twin Cities Area MSU Alumni Chapter. He is also a member of the MSU Chemical and Biological Engineering Department Advisory Committee, and recently joined the MSU Alumni Foundation Board of Governors. Mike's parents, Jack and Diane, are Blue and Gold Award recipients. In 2021, the Sherick family established an endowment at MSU supporting the College of Education.

In retirement Mike and Susan are enjoying international travel and spending more time visiting family and friends dispersed across the U.S. They continue to live in the Twin Cities area with their 11-year-old yellow lab, Cody.

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

RONALD W. LARSEN, '79



Ronald W. Larsen is a retired senior administrator and chemical engineering professor with more than 39 years of experience in higher education leadership and academic excellence. Larsen served as senior vice president at the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities from 2020 to 2024. There, he provided institutional liaison services to over 45 colleges and universities while advancing accreditation processes and leading innovative technology initiatives.

Throughout his career, Larsen held numerous administrative positions at Montana State

University, including interim chancellor of MSU Billings from 2017 to 2018, where he raised nearly \$3 million for a new science building and implemented retention initiatives that showed measurable improvements in student success. His leadership roles also encompassed positions as vice provost, interim dean of the Graduate School and associate provost, where he maintained curriculum quality, managed accreditation processes and built comprehensive assessment programs.

As department head of the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering from 2002 to 2011, Larsen transformed a department facing faculty retirements and declining research funding into a thriving program with \$2 million in annual research expenditures. He successfully recruited research-active faculty, established an innovative dual-degree bioengineering program with Istanbul Technological University and increased female student representation in the department from 35% to 50%.

Larsen is a prolific author with multiple commercially published textbooks. His commitment to student success earned him numerous teaching awards.

He holds a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Pennsylvania State University and a B.S. in chemical engineering from Montana State University. He resides in Montana where he continues his passion for education and engineering innovation.

DISTINGUISHED STAFF

KATHY CAMPBELL, '81



Montana State University is truly an amazing place to work, exclaims Kathy Campbell!

She grew up on a Wyoming guest ranch, graduated from University of Wyoming, then went on to work at the Wyoming Supreme Court, a large bank in Dallas Texas, a ski hotel near Glacier National Park and a Bozeman adventure travel company. Each of those roles brought challenges and opportunities to learn, but at MSU Campbell found something

unique: a blend of challenge, camaraderie and real accomplishment.

She joined the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering during a pivotal time in MSU's history. When she started in May 2009, the department had about 600 students and by Spring 2025, that number had doubled to more than 1,200. Over the years, she moved from her first position as front desk administrator to her final role as program coordinator II, where she was able to contribute ideas, solve problems and collaborate with an incredible team of faculty and staff.

In MIE, her role was to be a helpful, approachable resource for students navigating a demanding curriculum. She managed class schedules, oversaw the graduate program, coordinated faculty searches and helped keep the many moving parts of the department running smoothly.

MSU's growth — with new buildings and bold goals — has been exciting and energizing, but what has mattered most to her, she said, is the support and sense of community. Campbell was "deeply honored" to receive Classified Staff Awards for Excellence from the College of Engineering and to be recognized as one of eight 2019 MSU Employees of the Year. More than anything, she'll "treasure the friendships I built with our exceptional faculty and the pride I feel in our remarkable students, who are sure to make the world a better place."

