

BECON
4/4/25

A light crowd today. Weather must have kept people home.

Guests

- Our guests today included our speakers Abby Cook from the International Studies office at MSUB, and one of her students, Monsee Luthra, a foreign student from India.

Announcements

- Shawnee told us that the signups for the PBR are on the website so jump on and mark your availability.
- Bill K. reminded us that April is child abuse prevention month. Today was a pinwheel planting day at the lawn of the Courthouse (sorry, wish I could have got this out earlier). Also remember April Mondays are blue Mondays (wear blue).
 - On the 28th we have the all-clubs fundraiser at Hooligans that includes silent auction items for which we need some baskets please – we need these by the 26th.
 - On May 26th there will be Memorial Day ceremonies at Montview Cemetery (9:45) and at the National Cemetery at 11:45.
 - Armed Forces Day is May 17th and will include a lunch at the Legion.

Nominations

Nominations were asked for again today – for the last time. Nominee speeches and voting will take place next week.

- Foundation Brd – one more nomination today – Craig Burke for the 3-yr term.
- BEC Brd – Bob Dalrymple and Cordell Harmon were added to the list. And I think Scott Krauszer was also added after the fact.
- Secretary – Tanya Tweeten is still running unopposed.
- Prez Elect – Shannon Johnson is also still running unopposed.

Speakers

Abby Cook of MSUB spoke first about the Office of International Studies (OIS), which is the international leg of the college. Their goal is to internationalize the campus as well as the community with the objective of

- broadening global learning,
- creating bridges between the community, MSUB and the world.

The OIS obviously has an international curriculum that prepares students to compete on a global scale and offers study abroad programs that last a couple weeks to a year and, by the way, is open to community members. It should also be mentioned that study abroad is affordable as the students pay the same tuition elsewhere as they would pay at MSUB.

The OIS includes a Themed Semester Program that highlights a country/region for one semester and has included as many as 14 associated events (dinners, music, etc.) where most participants are community members.

The OIS includes BFFs, which in this case, stands for Billings Friendship Family, and connects a family with a foreign student – not in a living/host capacity, but rather short-term or longer term relationships where the family gets to know the student, their lives, their culture and visa versa, where the two can hang out and learn from each other and have fun.

Then we had a chance to hear from Monsee Luthra, a foreign student from India who spoke to us about her experiences at MSUB. Monsee is graduating this semester with an Associate Degree at City College and will continue her studies (3.9 GPA) to get a degree in Health and Human Performance. Although Monsee misses her food and family she always has someone to talk to and stays busy and engaged in the many clubs she's involved in including being a dorm RA. Her biggest challenge is funding her college education as there are not many scholarships available for foreign students and the \$17,000 tuition is about three times more expensive than local students due to the India to US exchange rate.

Bob Dalrymple won the raffle this morning – a reward for stepping up and running for the Board I think.

Have a great weekend.