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Main Hall to Main St.

Vol. 2, No. 6

Connecting Campus and Community

June 1996

Flying gems

Blue songbirds attract UM researcher, Japanese documentarian

Using the night sky as their roadmap, small blue songbirds find their way each spring from Central America to the slopes of Mount Sentinel and Mount Jumbo.

University of Montana-Missoula biology Assistant Professor Erick Greene is there to welcome his longtime friends to their summer roost. For five years, Greene and wildlife biology students have studied the nesting habits of the lazuli buntings, recording their sweet warbling songs and getting to know their individual personalities.

Not only do the same birds return each year to the local hillsides, they return to the same bushes—even the same branches, says Greene.

Following the North Star and major constellations, the birds migrate at night to western North America. They land in Missoula in mid-May on the slopes near the UM campus and stay until late July.

Named for the beautiful blue gemstone, lapis lazuli, the songbirds resemble bluebirds that shrunk in the wash, Greene says. With electric blue heads and backs, russet breast bands and immaculate white stomachs, the eye-pleasing buntings are easy to spot.

Greene and his students head for the hills each morning with tape recorders and spotting scopes mounted on tripods. They catch the birds in nets, photograph and color-band them, record their songs, then set them free.

Back in his lab, Greene charts the birds' songs on computer, so that he can identify birds he hears later in the field.



Haruko Mukasa Yurky of Seattle, coordinator and interpreter for a Japanese television documentary crew, instructs Research Assistant Professor Erick Green while filming on Mount Jumbo this month.

Each male bird eventually develops his own unique song that serves as an acoustic fingerprint. Juveniles copy the warblings of the older birds, usually the ones who've proved most popular with the females.

"The young males don't know how to sing," Greene notes. "They're in the babbling phase, sort of like babies."

Once their songs "crystallize," or fully develop, the birds end up with their own melody or that of a reproductively successful older male.

"Red," an older male Greene calls "the Arnold

Schwarzenegger of the bunting world," is a favorite target of female flirts and younger male imitators. "A lot of young males copy him," Greene says of the first lazuli bunting he banded five years ago and has seen each summer since. "The females, even if they have a hubby at home, will flock to Red."

Greene's research of the bunting's mating habits led him to study the species' nemesis, the brown-headed cowbirds, on the local slopes and at the National Bison Range 40 miles north of Missoula. The bigger cowbirds may pose a threat to the lazuli bunting's existence because of parasitism, the phenomenon of one bird species laying its eggs in another's nest.

Jacob's Island on the edge of campus is the site of a communal roost that attracts

thousands of cowbirds each night. Before dawn the cowbirds invade the lazuli nests, laying their own eggs and tricking the bunting into raising their chicks at the expense of her own

Biology Assistant Professor Erick Greene's work with lazuli buntings in UM's backyard is being viewed through the lens of a Japanese television camera this summer. Shozo Baba, chief director of science programming for Nippon Hoso Kyokai, the Japanese public broadcasting corporation, is in Missoula with a film crew for two months to record Greene's work for a one-hour documentary to air in Japan.



Greene and volunteer Ron Scholl of Missoula look for lazuli buntings.

UM outreach aids disabled

by Kristin Rodine
University Communications

About one of every seven Americans has a permanent disability, and a third of the population will experience a temporary disability at some point in their lives.

The vast distances, scarce resources and small populations in rural areas present special challenges for people with disabilities, their families and the professionals who work with them. The Rural Institute on Disabilities strives to meet those challenges.

"We're an entrepreneurial organization that's focused on improving the quality of life for people with disabilities."

**Timm Vogelsberg
Rural Institute**

Based at The University of Montana since 1979, the Rural Institute offers a wide range of grant-funded research, services and training projects, from integrated child care to health screenings for senior citizens.

"We're an entrepreneurial organization that's focused on improving the quality of life for people with disabilities," said institute Director Timm Vogelsberg.

The institute gets a small amount of core funding from the federal Department of Health and Human Services, then uses that funding to generate additional federal, state and private grants to fuel its many projects.

Those efforts are highly successful: In fiscal 1995, the institute brought in \$3.9 million in grant funds, more than any other UM program. Vogelsberg expects a similar total for fiscal 1996, which ends June 30.

With 65 employees and 27 separate grants (many of which fund more than one project), the Rural Institute has widespread impact throughout Montana and beyond, working collaboratively with organizations and agencies in 28 states.

The institute's programs fall into five general categories: model systems to demonstrate ways that rural life can more fully accommodate people with disabilities; applied research; interdisciplinary training; direct services; and information exchange and outreach.

Vogelsberg said the institute has steadily increased and improved its interaction and collaboration with other University programs and departments. New training and certification programs are in the works for the College of Technology and Department of Social Work, he said, and existing efforts, including a Human and Family Development minor, continue to grow and prosper.

"In the last five years, from 1990 through 1995, we've generated \$183,609 in tuition through courses we have taught and that we've worked on through our grants," Vogelsberg said.

A key theme that pervades the Rural Institute's efforts is inclusion—helping children and adults with disabilities participate in all aspects of life, including school, work and recreation. Rather than establishing separate programs for people with disabilities or just expecting them to thrive in existing programs, inclusion provides the best of both worlds by providing the support needed to succeed in mainstream systems.

Bowers legacy enriched UM

"The essence of greatness is the perception that virtue is enough."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

by George M. Dennison

The University of Montana and the citizens of Montana lost a good friend and benefactor with the recent passing of Richard C. Bowers, the University's 13th president.

Although nearly 15 years have passed since Bowers ended his seven-year tenure as president, his memory looms large on the campus he loved. The Bowers legacy exists throughout the University, both in such physical landmarks as the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Building and in the spirit of community, outreach and service that continues to inform and enrich our efforts.

As president from July 1974 through June 1981, Bowers helped set the course for the University's future success, launching initiatives that have continued and expanded under his successors. A man of great integrity, honesty and compassion, he ably led the University through a very difficult period. In the late 1970s, a shift in the state's formula for funding the Montana University



Bowers

System forced deep cuts in the University's budget and personnel. Faced with a 12- to 15-percent reduction in faculty and staff in one year, Bowers made the hard choices while keeping the human toll uppermost in mind. In a no-win situation, he sought to protect as much as possible.

The Bowers years brought significant growth to University facilities, including such new construction as the Pharmacy/Psychology Building, the top two floors of the Mansfield Library and the addition to the Law Building.

One of his greatest accomplishments came near the end of his tenure when he secured state funding for the University's long-sought Performing Arts and Radio/Television Building. Completed in early 1985, the project brought state-of-the-art theater and broadcast facilities to the citizens of western Montana.

The sense of partnership between campus and community, so prevalent today, traces its roots to the Bowers presidency. The University of Montana Excellence Fund, which fuels vital University programs through community contributions, provides a shining example of that legacy.

Another Bowers initiative still thriving today involves statewide outreach through community visitation. He worked tirelessly to strengthen and re-establish the University's ties to communities and citizens throughout Montana, traveling widely across the state to meet with community groups and teach classes in local high schools.

Bowers' commitment to the University, to higher education and to the people of Montana continues to inspire those who knew him and those who have been touched by his accomplishments.

Shortly before he left the University, he noted that "the best investment society can make is the education of its citizens." As a responsible and caring steward for that investment, Bowers left the University, community and state much richer for his contributions.

Those who wish to contribute to the University in his memory will do well to remember his great pride and sense of accomplishment in securing the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. It stands as a lasting tribute to the commitment and accomplishments of President Richard Bowers.



Bear Briefs

Main Hall Link—President George Dennison wants to know what's on your mind. Questions, comments, complaints or opinions on any topic can be passed along to the president or any other Main Hall administrator via your telephone or computer. The President's Office has set up opinion lines for community use. Send e-mail messages to prestalk@selway.umt.edu or leave a voice mail message by calling 243-PRES (7737).

Camp Singalong—Teen-agers who would rather sing in a choir than around a campfire this summer are invited to a choral/vocal camp at UM Sunday through Saturday, July 7-13. High school students will have the opportunity to sing together, attend vocal master classes and have private lessons with UM music department faculty members, including soprano Anne Basinski, mezzo soprano Esther England and tenor Gary Funk. For more information, call (406) 243-6880.

Future Scientists—Competing against more than 1,000 U.S. and foreign exhibitors, nine Montana high school students won awards at the 47th International Science and Engineering Fair last month in Tucson, Ariz. The students were among the top 13 science students who took top honors at the state science fair, sponsored by the Missoula Exchange Club and the UM Foundation, administered by UM's computer science department and held annually at UM. Missoula winners were Sentinel High School



Sentinel's Jeff Baitis and winning display

juniors Jeff Baitis and Nicholas Erickson. Baitis took a second place Grand Award from the U.S. Air Force and an honorable mention from the American Chemical Society. Erickson won a second place Karl Menger Award from the American Mathematical

Society. Jerry Esmay, UM computer science professor, accompanied the youths to the international fair.

Fun Science—Kids can weasel their way into the drama of science in a class offered next month by the Montana Natural History Center.



"Dramatic Science," taught by Dorene Might-Dyer, will give students a chance to work with a live weasel and present a self-created play about the curious and playful mammal. The class for kids ages 12 to 14 meets on the UM campus from 10 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday for two weeks beginning July 22. Other July courses offered are "Fun with Physics," "Dinomania," "Reading the Woods," and "Living Wild in the City." Call 243-6642 for more information.

Picture Perfect—UM's Pantzer Hall drew rave reviews last month from the Missoula Historic Preservation Advisory Commission, which singled the building out as an example of excellence in "New Construction Design Compatible With An Historic District." The new residence hall on the southwest corner of campus, designed to blend with surrounding buildings and reflect the historic charm of Main Hall, opened last fall.

Into the World—UM graduated 1,703 students spring semester 1996. The total includes 98 certificates, 107 associate's, 1,079 bachelor's, two education specialist's, 316 master's, 73 juris doctor and 28 doctoral degrees. Fifty-one students earned two degrees each.

Good Grades—Grizzly athletes once again proved themselves good students. More than half of UM's student athletes achieved 3.0 grade point averages or better during spring semester 1996. Four UM women's soccer players earned perfect 4.0 grade point averages to help score the best team GPA with 3.35. Women's

cross country came in second with an average 3.21 GPA, followed by women's golf with 3.17 and women's volleyball with 3.15. Six Grizzly football players posted perfect 4.0 GPAs.

Olympic Helpful—USA Track & Field selected Linda McCarthy, UM assistant sports information director, to serve on the press box crew at the 1996 U.S. Olympic Trials June 15-23 at Centennial Olympic Stadium in Atlanta. McCarthy staffed the USA Track & Field Mobil Championships in Sacramento, Calif., last year and the Junior Championships in Tallahassee, Fla., in 1994.

It's To Be—UC Programming will present the annual performances of Shakespeare in the Park's 1996 Summer Tour with "Julius Caesar" and "You Never Can Tell" Tuesday and Wednesday, July 23-24 on the University's Oval. The free performances begin at 6:30 p.m. each day. Pack a picnic and bring the family. In case of bad weather, shows will be moved to the University Theatre.

Imagine That!

Research on Radio—Find out about predator/prey relationships from a wolf researcher's point-of-view by tuning in to *Imagine That!* on KUFM/KGPR. Dan Pletscher, wildlife biology professor, discusses the effects of wolf reintroduction on Montana's big game herds at 9 p.m. Sunday, July 14. Nancy Hinman, geology assistant professor, will explore the development of methods for searching for life on Mars via analysis of the world's hot springs at 9 p.m. Sunday, July 28. Tune in again Sunday, Aug. 11, to find out about Professor Alan Sponberg's study of the resurgence in Buddhism in India. *Imagine That!* is a joint venture of UM and Montana State University—Bozeman.

Family Affair—Parents and families of UM students are invited to Family Weekend at UM Sept. 13-14. Activities will be offered; call Annie Pontrelli, UM community relations and outreach coordinator, at 243-2488.



UM Rodeo Club standout Rachael Myllymaki, a freshman from Arlee, races between barrels at the College National Finals Rodeo in Bozeman June 9-16. Myllymaki finished sixth in all-around cowgirl competition.

Choral festival promotes international harmony

The voices of 10 nations will come together in song for the popular Massed Choir Concert at UM's Harry Adams Field House at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 20, as part of the fourth annual International Choral Festival.

About 800 singers from foreign nations will gather in Missoula July 17-21 for the festival, which was founded in 1987 by UM music professor emeritus Donald Carey. Individual choir performances will be featured throughout the city; all festival performances are free and open to the public.

Choirs are expected from Austria, Argentina, Belgium, Poland, Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Korea and New Zealand, as well as from Washington state and Montana.

The five-day festival of song and friendship, hosted by the Missoula Mendelssohn Club, is held every three years in the Garden City. The gathering draws large audiences—nearly 31,000 people attended the 1993 festival.

Part of the festival's tradition is that visiting international singers will be housed by local host families, providing excellent opportunities for one-to-one cultural exchanges. A particular need this year is for families to host children in choirs from Hong Kong and Belgium.

To find out more about hosting a choir visitor, call housing coordinator Sophie Lambros at 549-2776. For festival information, call Al Pontrelli at 251-4226.

Tour UM on-line

Join the rest of the world on the Web and find out what's going on in your own backyard.

UM on-line means that you can browse the Paxson Gallery's art collection or find out what's new in campus research without ever having to leave your desktop computer. Or you can check the campus calendar to see what's going on, access a campus map, see what courses Continuing Education is offering this summer, cruise through the UC Bookstore, read the *Montanan*, learn more about the Montana Committee for the Humanities and search for a book in the Mansfield Library with the click of a button. New information is added all the time. You can visit UM's Web site at: <http://www.umt.edu/>.

Champion navigators

UM's ROTC team blazes trail to national title

Armed with compasses and maps, UM's ROTC

orienteeing team captured the first place title at the 24th Annual Intercollegiate Orienteering Championship in Gettysburg, Penn., recently.

The seven UM cadets and their instructor brought home a traveling trophy that had been in the possession of Texas A&M University's ROTC team since 1988. Last year's UM team competed at West Point, finishing in second place behind Texas A&M, which has one of the largest ROTC programs in the country.

Members of the winning team are Ken Darnall of Missoula; Jon Neal of Butte; Cindy Wallace of Seeley Lake; Jennifer Eckert of Red Lodge; Andy Estep of Snohomish, Wash.; Jon Fleury of Seattle; and Jeff Perrault of Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Participants in the competition must find points throughout a designated course within the allotted time using a map and compass. They must rely on their knowledge of terrain and good physical condition to successfully navigate the course.



President George Dennison, left, with members of the championship ROTC orienteeing team: Cindy Wallace, Jon Neal, Ken Darnall, Jennifer Eckert, Jeff Perrault, Jon Fleury and Sgt. Maj. Terry Pohland. Andy Estep is not pictured.



The University of
Montana

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