Jule Banville joins full-time faculty, brings print, radio & online talents

Jule Banville, the assistant managing editor at Washington City Paper in Washington, D.C., before becoming an adjunct instructor here at the Journalism School, is joining the full-time journalism faculty this fall as an assistant professor.

Banville also served as editor of NewWest.Net, where she was in charge of all editorial duties for the Missoula-based website covering news and culture of the Rocky Mountain West. She also has worked in newsrooms in New York City and Erie, Pa.

"Jule has had a highly successful career that reflects the changing news media industry," said Dean Peggy Ruhr. "She chose a career path that many of our students will follow, from one media platform to another as the industry changed."

Before moving to D.C., Banville worked as a daily reporter for the Erie Times-News. She has worked in radio production as associate producer at WNYC Public Radio in New York City and freelanced as an independent producer for nationally syndicated programs Marketplace, Weekend America and Splendid Table.

Banville has an MS in Journalism from Columbia University in New York, and a BA in Political Journalism from Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa.

"Having the opportunity to teach Montana's young, talented journalists as they try to figure out this constantly changing profession is one of the most exciting challenges I've faced," she said. "I can't wait to join the School of Journalism full-time."

Kuhr pointed out that Banville has established a strong base of teaching as an adjunct instructor for the J-School, and she proposes an innovative and distinctive research agenda looking at alternative news media. As a UM adjunct, Banville taught online news, news editing and an online class in feature writing.

This fall she will teach reporting and news editing, and will develop the School's high school initiatives.

She is married to Lee Banville, who joined the faculty in fall 2009 as an assistant professor. Previously, he was in charge of the Online NewsHour in Washington, D.C. They have two girls, Kate, 2, and Maggie, 4 months.
After three years of dedicated service at the J-School, our intrepid dean’s office manager and do-everything person, Emily Bulger, will be moving on this summer to begin a master’s program in archives and preservation studies at The University of Texas at Austin. She will be accepting SXSW festival visitors.

Alexandria Valdez, a freshman from Eaton, Colo., was selected to participate in this summer’s New York Times Student Journalism Institute in New Orleans. During the 16-day program, 24 students cover events in the city and are supervised by reporters and editors from The New York Times and The Boston Globe. Alex, who was a sports reporter for the Kaimin this year, covered sports during the institute. Her dream is to be a NASCAR reporter.

Brady Moore is part of our J-tech team that keeps the school’s computers tuned up and our temperamental server in a good mood. He also makes videos that have inspired collegiate bloggers to use his work as a how-to model for students everywhere. See what they’re saying at: http://collegemediamatters.com/2012/04/02/10-tips-for-a-great-video-journalism-profile-kaiminnews-bradymoore/.

Alison Metzger-Jones is the new assistant director of development for the J-School. She joined us just in time to attend the Dean Stone Awards Lecture and Banquet in late April, and to sit in on all kinds of classes during the last weeks of the semester.

Previously, Alison was program manager for the Montana Meth Project. Before moving to Missoula in 2011, she was assistant athletics director for ticketing and fan development at the University of California Santa Barbara.

Alison has experience in donor relations, fund development, and volunteer coordination. She grew up surrounded by journalism, as both her parents were alums of the Washington State University communication/journalism program. She received a BA in Sport Management from WSU in 2003 and an MA from Gonzaga University in 2007.

“She is a tremendous addition to the J-School family and she is joining us at such an important time — just as we begin work toward celebrating our Centennial in 2014,” said Dean Peggy Kuhr. “Her aptitude, experience and enthusiasm in working with donors and fund development will help position the J-School for a new century.”

The Master’s program, directed by Associate Professor Henriette Löwisch, graduated its first class of students since it was relaunched in 2010 with a new focus on environmental science and natural resource journalism.

Five grad students completed the four-semester program to earn their M.A. degrees: Ann Fleischli, Montana Hodges, Jason Belts Kauffman, Breeana Laughlin, and Kevin Radley.

Student master’s presentations used multiple media platforms to tell a wide array of stories, all dealing with issues important to Montanans: conservation efforts on the Rocky Mountain Front, fossil hunters, predator management in Idaho and Montana, coming tribal ownership of Kerr Dam, and the coal mining conundrum in Roundup.

Graduate student Apoorva Joshi was selected for a 2012 South Asian Journalists Association student scholarship. She just completed her first year of the two-year Master’s program in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism.

Apoorva has an “externship” to work at The Hindu Business Line this summer. She also is president of the South and Southeast Asian Students’ Association at UM.

Apoorva has an undergraduate degree in environmental science from Fergusson College in her hometown of Pune, located in the state of Maharashtra near Bombay. She launched an organization in India called Wild on Wheels (W.O.W.), which helps underprivileged children connect with the natural world.
Laos premiered last fall on MontanaPBS.

“Smoke” Elser, a retired wilderness outfitter. “3 Miles an Hour” takes viewers on a back country trip into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The show premiered last fall on MontanaPBS.

Freelance journalist and 2011 Pollner Professor Karen Coates '93 and her husband, photojournalist Jerry Redfern '93, have finished the manuscript for their book Eternal Harvest: The Legacy of American Bombs in Laos (forthcoming, ThingsAsian Press). They were selected last fall as senior fellows with the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University and received a grant from the Fund for Investigative Journalism to work on the book.

Eternal Harvest is about unexploded ordnance in Laos where the United States dumped 4 billion pounds of bombs from 1964 to 1973—a third of which did not explode. As Pollner professor, Karen spoke frequently on this issue. Karen and Jerry plan to spend this summer in Southeast Asia and be back in Boulder, Colo., by fall. Next year Jerry will be a Ted Scripps Fellow in Environmental Journalism at the University of Colorado. Karen was a Scripps Fellow in 2010-11.

To view her Pollner lecture go to: http://www.jour.umt.edu/2011-pollner-lecture-karen-coates

Adjunct Instructor Gita Saedi Kiely won a $5,000 Board of Humanities Montana grant to help produce her documentary, “Mossadegh: The Story of Freedom in Iran.” Mossadegh had been elected president of Iran and instituted a democratic government. He was ousted by an American-led CIA covert operation in 1953. The film is now in development.

Political journalists will have their work cut out for them as they try to cover the influence of rising populist movements sweeping the U.S., noted political journalist Dante Chinni said during a panel discussion last fall.

It remains to be seen how great an impact these movements will have on the nation’s electorate, said Chinni, author of Our Patchwork Nation and a contributor to The Wall Street Journal and PBS Newshour. “What happens with the Tea Party and what happens with whatever Occupy (Wall Street) becomes?” he asked. “Does it spread to these smaller communities where people are really hurting?”

The Patchwork Nation project uses demographic, political and economic data to develop 12 different types of counties in the country. It is a resource for reporting on a variety of issues across the country. Chinni is the director of Patchwork Nation, and Assistant Professor Lee Banville is a contributing editor.

Chinni’s advice to students: “Get as many skills as possible. I have no idea what journalism is going to look like in 10 years.”

Adjunct instructor Anne Medley MA ’08 taught multimedia journalism in Tunisia this spring as part of a citizen journalism training project she helped develop called “Speak Out Tunisia.” The project aims to help build a network of ethical, skilled journalists across Tunisia in the wake of the Tunisian revolution one year ago. The project has been featured on PBS MediaShift, Mashable, TV5 World and Tunisia-Live. All funding for the project was raised through Kickstarter.

After Tunisia, Anne once again traveled to the Democratic Republic of Congo to teach multimedia journalism in North Kivu province for the month of May.

Adjunct Instructors John Twiggs and Alison Perkins completed their one-hour documentary about Arnold “Smoke” Elser, a retired wilderness outfitter. “3 Miles an Hour” takes viewers on a back country trip into the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The show premiered last fall on MontanaPBS.

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Thomas Nybo ’95, who has worked in more than 70 countries and now is based in Atlanta and Port-au-Prince, Haiti, presented the annual Dean Stone Lecture on “Danger Lessons: How Embracing Risk Can Lead to Job Security and Personal Fulfillment.”

“I’m a big fan of risk,” Nybo said. “Risk is much-maligned and misunderstood. The best moments in my career have all benefited from embracing risk, whether it was spending a month in the largest garbage dump in Central America, filming a documentary about a fearless girl who lived alone in a refrigerator box, navigating Haiti on a cheap motorcycle or exploring the Darien Gap in a dugout canoe.”

Nybo started his journalism career at the Chateau Acantha. Last summer, he was photographer for New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof during a five-country tour of Africa for a special report in the Times.

Nybo was an embedded CNN war correspondent in Iraq and reported for CNN from Ground Zero during the week of Sept. 11, 2001. He was one of the first CNN journalists to report, shoot and edit his own stories using lightweight digital video cameras and laptop editing systems.
Former Dean Nathaniel Blumberg • 1922-2012

Now critiquing the Kingdom

He is himself to the end. In Kalispell Community Hospital a day before he died, Nathaniel asks his friends to remove a pile of dirt he sees on his bed. We look, then tell him there is no dirt. He keeps asking. Someone gently suggests that he might be hallucinating. After a short pause, he replies in a barely audible yet defiant voice: “You’re all hallucinating.”

Many of the dictionary’s words for praise and disdain have been used to describe Nathaniel B. Blumberg during his multifarious career as a journalist, educator, WWII combat veteran, critic, author, publisher, media gadfly and caring mentor to many of his former students.

When he died of a stroke on Valentine’s Day, sighs of relief arose from his favorite targets in the news media and enclaves of vested interests. Sighs of sadness arose from admirers around the country who sensed a huge vacuum where their friend and spirited ally once reigned.

Nathaniel touched down in Denver on April 8, 1922. He was working his way through the University of Colorado when WWII began. He enlisted and became a forward observer with Charlie Battery, 666th Field Artillery in the Battle of the Bulge. (He once said he hoped the “666” would throw fear into “any God-fearing Lutherans who had joined the Nazi party.”) He returned to Colorado, won a Rhodes Scholarship and made his second Atlantic crossing to Oxford where he played on its first basketball team and got a doctorate in history.

He started teaching at the University of Nebraska, then was recruited in 1956 to become dean of the UM School of Journalism. He retired as dean in 1968 after a bountiful tour (see photo cutline next page). He taught for 10 more years, gave a farewell address, then settled in to his home near Bigfork.

Nathaniel’s “retirement” was his busiest time ever. For 10 years he published his popular newsletter, Treasure State Review, wherein he skewered icons like the Bush family and Lee Newspapers, and encouraged his champions of journalism and justice near and far. He wrote and self-published a controversial treatise on the Reagan assassination attempt by John Hinckley Jr. in his novel The Afternoon of March 30. He transformed his original unit history into a WWII memoir, Charlie of 666. His website, nathanielblumberg.com, is still up.

Then Nathaniel completely withdrew from the fray. After his wife, Barbara, died in 2007, he never quite recovered. He kept up with friends and enjoyed a steady stream of visitors. His later days allowed more time for naps under the apple tree, tracking typos in newspapers and wondering anew at the world passing by.

For complete obits, search “Blumberg” at Missoulian.com

No one could ever walk away feeling indifferent after a conversation with Nathaniel Blumberg. In the early 1980s, my teenage daughter Becky and I had problems getting along. We quarreled constantly, and I was at my wits’ end. We took a family vacation and decided to visit Nathaniel who was living near Bigfork. When I told Nathaniel how hard it was raising a teenage daughter, he put his arm around Becky’s shoulder, and they walked down to the lake and had a three-hour conversation.

When they returned, Nathaniel said something like: You have a beautiful and bright daughter, but the schools in Billings are not teaching her much. It was a transformational moment. I look back on that afternoon as the time my daughter and I began a much closer and healthier relationship.

For complete obits, search “Blumberg” at Missoulian.com

“The world is a sadder (and much less accurate and precise) world without him.”

—Jack Tanner ’72 & ’83

“My father (a doctor) said, ‘I can’t stand this anymore,’ meaning the financial hardship of his patients. He gathered up all the bills owed him, put them into an old wicker basket and took them out into the back yard, and then — with all the kids and my mother watching — he burned them.” (ca. 1930)

From an interview with Steve Devitt in Montana Magazine (Jan-Feb 1985)

—Printer Bowler

—Jim Oset ’64
Few of us will leave such a mark upon our students and profession. He gave our school a national reputation, and, even more important, a recognized and respected attitude.

—Former Dean Jerry Brown

N

athaniel and Bob McGiffert trained a whole generation of Montana journalists, and it seems that now we are the seniors. My dad was killed before I went to J-School, and Nathaniel and Bob and my father-in-law took over as dads. I am now without any.

It was remarkable to us how they trained us, launched us, then kept in close touch and friendship with us these decades, calling newsrooms and yelling at us, calling and sending notes to say we were wonderful.

Ed Kemmick can recite with me the Nathanielisms: “WHEN does the punctuation go outside the quotation marks?! NEVER!” and “STARE at it! Stare at it NAKED!”

—Ginny Merriam ’86

I’m late for class, jogging, short-cutting across a lawn in front of the School of Journalism. A window squeaks open and the unmistakable voice of the Dean, Nathan Blumberg, roars out a second story window: “BARBARIAN!”

Astonished, I plop down on the ground, speechless, chagrined, then leap up and disappear into class. It is the early 1960s. The Dean is, at that time, a man who believes that people should walk on the sidewalks at the University of Montana. He sees a reason for rules, even as he openly questions many of them. . . .

A veteran of World War II, NBB wrote the story of his artillery unit going up against highly trained Nazi soldiers in the Battle of the Bulge. He honored that moment in history, but he approved of the next generation’s resistance to the war it had been handed: Vietnam.

Although he was part of what Tom Brokaw called “the greatest generation,” Nathaniel rejected that label. He preferred the 60s Generation, he told me, because “you did not accept the word of the government as truth.” Nor did we accept, he said, the word of big corporations.

Nathaniel supported anyone trying to create a world based on love.

—Wilbur Wood ’64

Donations to the Blumberg Fund may be made by check or at:
www.jour.umt.edu/former-dean-blumberg-dies-age-89.
To view the J-School’s video tribute to Blumberg:
www.jour.umt.edu/tribute-dean-nathaniel-blumberg.

Shortly after he became the youngest journalism dean in the nation, Nathaniel, 34, established the Dean Stone Lecture series. (That’s Dean Stone in the background.) During his term as dean (1956-68), he founded the Radio-TV Dept., Montana Journalism Review (nation’s first), KUFM Radio, and the Montana Journalism Hall of Fame. Under his direction, the J-School gained national prominence and was regarded by news media professionals and scholars as one of the country’s premier schools.

During the half century that I knew Nathaniel, as a student and close friend, what kept rising to the top was his simple, profound message: “Search relentlessly for the truth, because that’s the only real news there is.” That can get you into big trouble in a world driven by hidden agendas and well-fortified illusions. Anyone who publicly calls out government & corporate disinformation and its propagation by compliant news media will likely be labeled a conspiracy theorist, a radical, an insurgent, a nut case or, in the ironic post-9/11 term, a “truther.”

Nathaniel is proud to have been called all those names and more. With all his hits and misses, his notable virtues and flaws, I proudly call him one of the most catalytic, inspiring and honorable human beings I have ever known. Vaya con Dios, Coach!

—Printer Bowler ’63
Many owe their freedom to his work

Clem to travel, carry on Innocence work

This spring marked another milestone in J-School history: the retirement of Professor Clemens P. Work, who taught here for more than 20 years.

Most alumni know him as the soft-spoken, longtime teacher of the school’s media law course, but the public came to know him as an author, documentarian and vigorous defender of free speech at home and abroad.

Clem will teach the media law course once more next year, and he will help the school make connections with journalists from around the world.

An intrepid traveler, he has already forged relationships between Montana journalists and their counterparts in Nepal, Bhutan and Burma.

Clem arrived in 1990 from a job as deputy business editor at U.S. News & World Report. Before that he was deputy director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press in Washington, D.C. He began his career working for newspapers in the late 1960s in California and in Denver, and earned a law degree in 1975.

For 10 years Clem directed the school’s graduate program. He revived the Montana Journalism Review and created both the Montana Freedom of Information Hotline and the Montana Innocence Project.

But it was Clem’s research into the struggle for free speech in the American West that caught the public’s attention. His 2005 book, Darkest Before Dawn, examined Montana’s free speech fights and the hysteria that led to Montana’s Sedition Act, which banned criticism of the nation’s involvement in World War I.

Clem and Professor Jeff Renz of UM’s law school were inspired to seek posthumous pardons for 78 people convicted under the sedition law. Gov. Brian Schweitzer signed the pardons in May 2006 before an audience that included the descendants of many of those who had been imprisoned.

In a letter to Clem, Gov. Schweitzer wrote that this occasion marked one of his most memorable days.

“The solace brought to those families that day was the direct result of your remarkable project to document this dark period in our history,” he wrote. “You not only gave these families the gift of reconciliation, you gave this Governor one of the most meaningful experiences of his life.”

Clem and his wife, Lucia, will continue to make Missoula their home, but travel is on his agenda. Daughter Cecily and two grand-daughters live in Pasadena. Daughter Alyssa is attending Yale Law School, and son Brendan is a freelance journalist.

Such lessons were not lost on Clem’s students, said alumnuus Bill Heisel, whose career as an investigative journalist includes work for the Los Angeles Times and The Orange County Register.

“I learned from every instructor at UM,” he wrote, “but Clem taught me the most valuable lesson: that being a good journalist was an extension of being a good citizen. And that being a good citizen... meant guarding against threats to those freedoms.”

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“You gave this Governor one of the most meaningful experiences of his life.”
Washington Post critic Hank Stuever is 2012 Pollner Professor

Washington Post popular culture critic Hank Stuever will be the T. Anthony Pollner Professor at the J-School this fall.

Stuever will teach a course on pop culture coverage and will mentor students working at the Montana Kaimin.

The Pollner professorship was created in 2000 to honor the memory of UM alumnus Anthony Pollner. It brings to campus each fall a nationally prominent journalist who teaches for the semester in the journalism school.

Stuever began his career at the Albuquerque Tribune, then spent three years as a reporter for the Austin-American Statesman before joining the Post in 1999. He was a feature writer for a decade before becoming the paper’s TV critic in 2009.

He was twice a Pulitzer finalist in feature writing. Stuever is the author of two books, *Off Ramp: Adventures and Heartache in the American Elsewhere* and *Tinsel: A Search for America’s Christmas Present*.

He’s made numerous appearances on network television news and talk programs and has contributed commentaries on National Public Radio.

“I’ve always secretly hoped I would get a chance like this someday, to not only teach a class and share what I know, but also learn from a group of committed students who care deeply about journalism and writing,” Stuever said. “I'm thrilled to have been chosen. And I’m impressed by what The University of Montana and the Pollner family have created with this unique position.”

Carol Van Valkenburg, a professor emerita at the school who heads the Pollner selection committee, said Stuever was selected from a strong field of nearly 30 applicants, which included several Pulitzer Prize winners.

Paddling 1,200 wilderness miles

Intrepid voyager Nadia White embarks on marathon journey

Two years ago, Associate Professor Nadia White rode her bicycle 2,300 miles from her great-grandmother Josie’s family homestead in Kenton, Okla., to Sumner, Wash. White faithfully followed Josie’s original trail on a strenuous pedal that took 42 days.

Still on Josie’s trail, this summer she’s paddling her sea kayak 1,200 miles from Port Townsend, Wash., to Skagway, Alaska.

Josephine White was a typesetter who married Elmer John “The Stroller” White. Looking for better times, they went to Alaska where he became an editor at the *Skagway News*. With their daughter in tow, they followed the miners down the Yukon River and landed a job at the *Klondike Nugget*.

Nadia hopes to make Skagway in August and take a ferry back home.

Follow her at: travelswithjosie.com.

Nadia White spent a lot of time gearing up and practicing for her kayaking adventure. Here she is paddling across Flathead Lake on one of her many “warm-ups” for the trip.
Native News reviews career opportunities in Indian Country

This year's Native News Honors Project underwent some changes, with the retirement in December 2011 of Professor Carol Van Valkenburg, who founded the course two decades ago. Assistant Professor Jason Begay, who twice worked on Native News as an undergraduate student, co-taught the class in spring semester for the first time. His partner was Associate Professor Jeremy Lurgio who was in his fifth year teaching the class. The two were students in the class in 2000. 

Lurgio and Begay mentored students this spring as they produced the 21st edition, “Open for Business,” which tackles the topic of careers and jobs throughout Montana’s Indian Country. The issue was inserted in the Missoulian and The Billings Gazette. It maybe seen online at: nativenews.jour.umt.edu.

Last year’s Native News project – “Native Lands, Natural Resources” – garnered several national awards, announced earlier this year:

Greg Lindstrom placed seventh in the Hearst Multimedia Feature Competition for his project “Healing Blackfeet Nation.”

Andy Ambelang placed second in the Hearst Multimedia News Competition for his multimedia project “Boom or Bust? Oil on the Fort Peck Reservation.”

In the Region 11 Society of Professional Journalists awards, last year’s Native News also was recognized:

“Native Land, Natural Resources” won first place for best Independent Online Student Publication.

Lily Rabil, won second place in Feature Writing with her entry, “Failure & fortune on the frontier.”

Heidi Groover, won second place in In-depth Reporting with her “Pride and poison.”

Footbridge Forum invites public to discuss sexual assault issues

Journalism students produced and hosted a series of live radio programs this spring, as the university faced a series of investigations into sexual assaults and its handling of them.

“Without Consent” aired on the independent student station, KBGA 89.9 FM. The program series was the most recent installment of The Footbridge Forum, a project that aims to capture public deliberation over the airwaves. Students and their instructor, Associate Professor Denise Dowling, select a community topic in the news and then develop a series of live radio programs featuring members of the community and experts. The hope is to increase communication among stakeholders on campus and in the greater Missoula community.

The spring Advanced Audio class invited listeners to explore the reasons behind sexual assault and work toward solutions to offer policymakers.

Without Consent

It’s not easy to talk about sexual assault. That’s why we’re starting a simple, honest conversation and broadcasting the whole thing LIVE.

All that’s missing is your voice

Join the conversation on KBGA 89.9FM

Listeners also heard from law enforcement officials on challenges that face victims and procedures officers use to investigate cases.

Footbridge Forum has explored community issues since 2004, dealing with topics from development of the South Campus to cheating in college.

In this photo by senior Nick Gast, a Missoula Police officer places an evidence marker in a shattered car window after sophomore Michael Ream accidentally fired a shotgun in the Lommasson Center Parking lot on Aug. 29, 2011. Nick's photo was a finalist in the national SPJ competition's Breaking News category (see page 13).
Under the tutelage of Associate Professor Henriette Löwisch and the leadership of managing editor Billie Loewen, the Montana Journalism Review staff gave the magazine a new look and widened scope.

The 41st edition's theme is “Boom,” focusing on a surge of global interest in Montana’s natural resources and how local and national journalists are covering the changes.

Reporters Amy Sisk, Michael Beall and Dameon Matule traveled across the state to tell the story of the Bakken oil boom through the eyes of a young Sidney Herald reporter.

Photo editor Nick Gast and grad student Emily Wendler reported on how residents of Hysham, an agricultural town, must cross county lines to find food.

In another story, copy editor Kellen Beck reveals how unexploded rounds left from military training in Helena are making for some explosive real estate.

The first-ever MJR web edition went live three months before printing, to give viewers an insight into the production of a student magazine. Web editor Lizzy Duffy’s team used blogs, contests, videos and social media to engage new audiences.

You can read and download the magazine at http://mjr.jour.umt.edu/.

Energy exploration company softens impact with local gifts

Editor’s Note: The oil boom in eastern Montana and western North Dakota – examined this year in the Montana Journalism Review and R-TV student documentary – is edging into nearby towns like Scobey, Mont., 130 miles west of Williston, N.D. This small farming community is bustling with contractors buying oil leases from hungry farmers. How noticeable is the change? Here’s just one example from a recent front page of Scobey’s weekly, the Daniels County Leader:

Shale Exploration Makes Big Donation To Scobey School

It was never officially recorded how many jaws dropped the morning of Friday, March 30, when Scobey School Superintendent Dave Selvig broke the big news at a monthly staff meeting.

The big news was about the big check, dated March 29, 2012, presented by Shale Exploration to Scobey School for the hugely sum of $130,000. The gift will go toward the purchase of Apple iPads for every student in the Scobey School system, K-12.

“We want the people of Daniels County to know we’re serious about partnering with them, and where better to invest than in the children of this area, who are the most important resource,” said Sam Tallis, president of Shale Exploration.

“We’re not visitors here, we’re neighbors,” he said. “We hope our actions will encourage other energy companies to make long-term commitments to our communities.”

BOOM is a landmark achievement by Associate Professor Denise Dowling’s senior documentary class, now showing on PBS. Teams of students went to the Bakken oil fields of eastern Montana and western North Dakota to record the rapidly changing culture and economy. The result is a revealing portrait of small rural towns facing a huge influx of job-seekers, crumbling infrastructures, food shortages, water pollution and more.
Visiting Burmese students enjoy bustling grand tour of UM and western Montana

With the easing of U.S. economic sanctions against Myanmar in mid-May, most observers are taking seriously that government’s efforts at reform, including censorship of the press. That wasn’t the case last August, when eight independent Burmese journalists arrived in Missoula for an intensive three-week reporting workshop, thanks to the U.S. Embassy in Yangon and a grant from the U.S. State Department.

Professor Clem Work and 2011 Pollner Professor Karen Coates put together the grant proposal the previous year. They led the summer workshop, along with 2002 Pollner Professor Tom Cheatham, who has reported and written extensively from and about Myanmar. Joining them on the road and in the classroom was photo journalist Jerry Redfern, Karen’s husband. He and Karen also have worked and traveled in Myanmar.

The visiting students set out on an adventure-packed guided tour of the university and western Montana.

They went on police ride-alongs, toured the county jail, learned about open records from County Clerk and Recorder Vicki Zeier, and went to see local non-profits such as the Poverello Center, the Missoula Food Bank, Missoula Jobs Service, St. Patrick Hospital, the Montana Innocence Project and the Clark Fork Coalition.

For four afternoons, the students were mentored by Missoulian editors, reporters and photographers, who took them on assignments and discussed the role of a free press.

In classroom sessions, trainers Clem, Karen and Tom reviewed the levels of U.S. government, and discussed photojournalism ethics, plagiarism, copyright and freedom of the press.

They visited the Missoula County Fair and rodeo, National Bison Range, took a Missouri River boat ride and attended a powwow on the Blackfeet Reservation. In Glacier National Park, for the first time in their lives these Burmese could touch snow.

Judging by their frequent Facebook updates, our Burmese journalists are excited about their country emerging from its repressive past, and are very busy reporting on developments.

J-School alum
Jerry Holloron on Pulitzer team

Jerry Holloron (BA ’64, MA ’65), a former journalism professor, is part of the team at The Seattle Times that won a 2012 Pulitzer Prize for investigative journalism. Jerry served as desk editor for the Times’ three-part series, "Methadone and the Politics of Pain," about Washington state’s practice of prescribing the addictive pain drug for people on state-subsidized health care.

As a student, Holloron was managing editor of the Montana Kaimin. He came back to the J-School and joined the faculty in 1974. He quickly became one of its most highly regarded teachers and received national teaching awards from the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the Poynter Institute.

Before he taught at UM, he worked as chief of the Lee Newspapers State Bureau in Helena where he was widely known and respected around the state as a trusted reporter and expert on state and local government. He later returned to Missoula to work as city editor of the Missoulian.

Holloron left UM in 1991 to return to newspapers full time, working on the copy desk of the Tacoma News-Tribune before joining The Seattle Times in 1999. He retired from the Times in 2008, but continues on-call editing work for the paper.

Holloron also worked as an assistant director and local government research analyst of the Montana Constitutional Convention Commission and as research director of the Montana Legislative Council.
Dear Friends,

If I were to put a theme to this past year, I'd say it has been a year where we've looked back so we can look forward. And that has played out in several important and wonderful ways.

Our great, good news is that - just before the end of the school year - the national Accrediting Council re-accredited our undergraduate program. That's the final step in a process that started back in fall 2010, when we began to write our self-study - a comprehensive look back at every aspect of our program from 2005-06 on.

Why do we care? Well, we've been accredited since 1948, and I liken that to the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval, or getting a great check-up from your doc. Every six years an outside group of experts takes a close look at us by reading the report we produce about ourselves and then by visiting the School.

The site team had some great comments about your school. Here's just one: "You have a clear focus and a clear mission, and you do it and you do it well."

The team praised the students, the faculty and the overall program. They determined we were in compliance on all of the nine standards but one - diversity. For that standard, they complimented our work with Native American coverage and Native American students and urged us to expand our focus to other groups.

We looked back when we celebrated the careers of two prominent faculty members who decided to retire. As many of you know, Carol Van Valkenburg stepped away in December; and Clem Work followed, retiring in May. Between them, they had more than a half-century of teaching hundreds upon hundreds of students. And that's a big piece of the heart of the J-School.

Thankfully, both will still be active with the School. Carol will continue to oversee our Distinguished Pollner Professorship. Clem will teach media law next spring and work to develop more international opportunities for students and faculty.

We lost one of our most ardent supporters - and the man who made sure we were on the national map - when former Dean and Professor Nathaniel Blumberg died in mid-February. And in a beautiful (to use a favorite word of his) development, we were able to establish a scholarship fund in his name. Alum Rich Kaudy '76 endowed the fund in December with a major gift. When I called to tell Blumberg about the new fund in his name, he was thrilled. "I seek no honors, but I welcome any to come my way," he promptly said.

Blumberg helped determine the fund should encourage students to do investigative reporting. Rich came to the Dean Stone Awards Banquet in April to announce the first recipients of the fund (see page 14). Rich's wish to look back and remember his favorite (and toughest) professor allows us to look forward to honoring Blumberg every year.

Several other alums and friends of journalism made sure in previous years to remember the J-School in their estates; and their generosity now will translate into changing individual lives of journalism students, faculty and staff. We can make plans this next year for new scholarships and new projects because of them, and so I'd like to remember:

Dorothy "Marge" Thayer, a philanthropist, poet and career woman who wanted to honor her parents and her father's newspaper career; and Hildie McGaugh, whose husband was an executive with Hagadone Newspapers and who delighted in meeting J-School faculty and students. We also honor Ted Hilgenstuhler who supported this school, especially the staff and the dean's office; and Frank Milburn, who had an illustrious career as music administrator with the New York Philharmonic and who never forgot his J-School beginnings.

And, as a final note to all of you, I ask you to join us in looking forward to our centennial year, starting in fall 2014. Plans are just getting started, so stay tuned and do keep in touch!

[Signature]

[Note: The text continues with more content related to the school's achievements, faculty, and students.]

[Page 11]
Fraser tops list of Hearst competition winners

Graduating senior and 2011-12 Montana Kaimin editor Jayme Fraser was selected as one of three Hearst Journalism Fellows, an opportunity that will have her working two nine-month stints at Hearst newspapers beginning in September.

Fraser, a senior from Cody, Wyo., was one of seven finalists who traveled to Houston for interviews and tryouts. This summer, she is interning at The Seattle Times. She spent last summer at The Oregonian in Portland.

Fraser said she was well-prepared for the competition, having taken a variety of courses in the School of Journalism in print reporting, photography and multimedia.

"I'm just coming out of the 'pinch-me' stage," she said. "The other finalists were all very talented. It could've been any of us, but I'm honored they chose me."

Fraser also recently received a first-place award in the Humanities-Oral Presentations category at this year's UM Conference on Undergraduate Research. Her presentation, "Access to and Affordability of Transportation on the Fort Belknap Reservation and Its Impacts on the Local Economy and Quality of Life," was based on a video and photo project she finished spring semester with graduate student Emily Wendler for the journalism school's Native News Honors Project.

More Hearst winners

J-School students placed fifth overall in the Hearst multimedia competition in accumulated student points, and sixth in the broadcast competition this year. Individual top winners were:

Andy Ambelang, a spring 2011 graduate, placed second nationally in the multimedia news category with his story "Prize and Poison" about oil drilling on the Fort Peck Reservation. The story was part of the spring 2011 Native News Honors Project, where students cover issues on all seven reservations in Montana.

Clark Hodges, a senior from Billings, won third place and $3,000 in the Hearst finals radio contest in San Francisco this spring. He was one of five national finalists who competed in the category.

His topic was privacy in the digital age. He reported about how phones contain private information and how losing your phone can be as devastating as losing your wallet.

Clark also earned third place in the radio news and features category for his stories on designer drugs and campus diversity issues.

Emily Foster, a senior from Whitehall, earned ninth place in the television features category with stories on topics ranging from the Undie Run charity event on campus to the Brain Zone neuroscience learning center at SpectrUM Discovery Area.

Foster's stories originally aired on "UM News," a weekly television news program produced by journalism students highlighting happenings on the UM campus. The program airs on KPAX-TV in Missoula and other Montana News Station outlets.

Fox News winner Alexandra Schwier also was awarded the inaugural Tricia Moen memorial scholarship from the NATAS-Northwest Chapter. NATAS created this scholarship in memory of Tricia Moen, a young producer at KOMO television in Seattle when she died of cancer in 2011.

Alex was the unanimous choice of the panel of NATAS judges who interviewed scholarship finalists in May.
R-TV entries get the gold at NATAS

Radio-TV students won four first place awards in the categories they were nominated for at the Northwest National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Awards for Excellence in Seattle this June:

- **BEST OF UM NEWS**: Producers Elizabeth Beechie, Faith Cronin, Matthew DeBray, Adrienne Ellsworth, Emily Foster, Annemiek Wilson, Dizhi Ge, Stephanie Hansen, Katherine Kettering, Dustin Klemann, Tara Oster, Brad Peers, Katie Radford, Scott Ranf, Bernie Riggs, Maegan Simmons — Denise Dowling, advisor.

- **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**: Emily Foster, Matthew DeBray, Elizabeth Beechie, Scott Ranf, Annemiek Wilson, Dizhi Ge, Stephanie Hansen, Katherine Kettering, Dustin Klemann, Tara Oster, Brad Peers, Katie Radford, Scott Ranf, Bernie Riggs, Maegan Simmons — Denise Dowling, advisor.

- **SPORTS**: Emily Foster, Brad Peers, Elizabeth Beechie, Faith Cronin, Maegan Simmons, Matthew DeBray — Denise Dowling and Ray Ekness, advisors.

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<th>Award Category</th>
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<td><strong>BEST OF UM NEWS</strong></td>
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Students hosted at Fox News, win cash

Two broadcast journalism students are winners of the Fox News Channel College Challenge this spring. Alexandra Schwier of Bozeman and Kyle Schmauch of Kalispell produced a television news story on Montana’s controversial wolf hunt judged best in the country by Fox News Channel.

Schwier and Schmauch, along with Professor Ray Ekness, flew to New York City and appeared on the “Fox and Friends” program April 27.

For winning the College Challenge, Schwier and Schmauch split a $10,000 award. The R-TV Department received a matching $10,000 gift.

Three SPJ finalists win at nationals

Three journalism students were named national winners and one a national finalist in the annual Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Awards.

In the Feature Writing category, junior Billie Loewen was a national winner for “The girl I killed,” a piece originally published in the Montana Kaimin. She wrote a first-person account about what happened on a night in 2009 when a 15-year-old girl was killed after running onto the freeway in Washington. Loewen will serve as the 2012-13 Kaimin editor.

Seniors Bernie Riggs and Emily Foster were named national winners in the Television Feature category for their coverage of a unique local competition: “Pumpkins Fly Through The Air At Punkin’ Chunkin’ Contest.”

Their coverage depicted an event in which steel cannons shot frozen pumpkins almost a mile toward (and sometimes through) targets such as old minivans.

In the Television Sports Photography category, senior Maegan Simmons was a national winner for “2nd Annual Treasure State Shred Fest,” which covered a freestyle snowboarding event held in Caras Park.

Senior Nick Gast was a national finalist in the Breaking News Photography category for his photo, “Gunshot” (see page 8).

National Mark of Excellence Award judges chose one winner and two finalists in each competition category. At the regional level, UM School of Journalism students won 19 awards, including 10 first-place finishes.

More awards news →
A record feast of scholarships at Dean Stone awards banquet

$139,000 is all-time high mark in student assistance

The School of Journalism gave 73 students a total of $139,000 in scholarships and awards at the 2012 Dean Stone Awards Banquet on April 20.

The total was a record amount, said Dean Peggy Kuhr.

"Thanks to the continuing generosity of alumni and supporters of the J-School, we've been able to help students more than ever," she said.

Kuhr announced two new funds for students. The Blumberg Fund, named for former Dean and Professor Nathaniel Blumberg, will encourage students to pursue investigative reporting.

Alum Rich Kaudy '76 established the endowed fund to honor Blumberg as an outstanding, demanding and compelling professor. Blumberg, who died mid-February, was dean of the journalism school from 1956 to 1968 and a professor until 1978.

The Thayer Fund was established by Dorothy "Marge" Thayer, a philanthropist, poet and career woman who died in Helena in 2011. She created the fund to honor her parents, Louis M.

Dean Peggy Kuhr and former Dean Charlie Hood take a photo op at the 55th Dean Stone Banquet.

Staff and students celebrate at the Dean Stone banquet with Rich Kaudy '76, who kick-started the Blumberg Fund with a major gift. Kaudy (center) is flanked by the first Blumberg Fund recipients (from left) Dameon Matule, Amy Sisk, Lizzy Duffy and Michael Beall.

To support the Blumberg Fund, please make a contribution by check or online: www.jour.umt.edu/former-dean-blumberg-dies-age-89.

Mauk wins a first for news columns

Montana Public Radio (MTPR) News Director and J-Adjunct Sally Mauk won a first place award at the Northwest division of the Society of Professional Journalists for her columns published twice-monthly in the Missoulian. Mauk also conducts interviews on KUFM's "Montana Evening Edition," heard weeknights at 5:30 p.m.

Mediate awarded Murray Scholarship

Daniel Mediate, who graduated in May, was awarded a 2011 Jim Murray Scholarship, which recognizes top collegiate sports journalists nationwide. UM journalism students had won the award the last three years.

Named after the late Pulitzer Prize-winning sports journalist Jim Murray, the award was started in 2000. Judges included writers and editors from NFL.com, The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and USA Today.

J-alums help KREM win Murrow honors

Noah Cooper, the News Director at KREM-TV Spokane, thanked the J-School for the UM alums* who were instrumental in helping the station win an Edward R. Murrow Award for excellence in electronic journalism.

Here's his note:

Thank you! We are very pleased here.
You played a role in our win. Four of your former students that you recommended to us were big parts of our overall excellence entry. Thank you!
Noah

*Leilah Langley, Assistant News Director; Ashley Korslien, Reporter; Jordan Treece, Photographer/Editor; Marianne McCormack, Producer.
Journalists Association conference last year. Wheeler Center about the future of the state legislature in hopes of informing efforts to regulate the substance. He has taken several workshops to strengthen Reznet, a project designed to mentor Native American students in the journalism field.

Assistant Professor Lee Banville served as the moderator of a two-day conference put on by the Burton K. Wheeler Center about the future of medical marijuana in Montana. He also authored a white paper on the subject that was distributed to the state legislature in hopes of informing efforts to regulate the substance.

The university selected Banville to teach an inaugural Global Leadership Initiative seminar, The Net Effect: How the Internet Continues to Change Everything. He also earned a Masters degree in political science this year.

With MacNeil/Lehrer Productions, Lee is writing an e-textbook on presidential debates based on their documentary “Debating Our Destiny.”

Assistant Professor and R-TV department chair Denise Dowling attended a conference on curriculum at The Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Fla., in January and brought home ideas for curriculum changes.

Denise chaired committees working on the J-school curriculum and the five-year strategic plan. She also served on a faculty search committee, and worked with Missoula’s Sentinel High School to create Montana’s first college credit journalism course for high school journalists.

Denise’s advanced audio students produced a series of radio programs to generate dialogue on the problem of sexual assault. The Footbridge Forum’s “Without Consent” aired live on KBGA College Radio in the spring. She also led R-TV seniors in making their documentary, “BOOM,” now on PBS.

Professor Ray Ekness teaches a full class load and supervises student projects, such as UM News and “Business: Made in Montana.” He also produced, photographed and edited stories for the Emmy-nominated television series Backroads of Montana that airs on MontanaPBS. He continues work on “Building Bridges: Back to Ireland,” a television program he developed on sabbatical last year. Ekness also produced and directed a series of conversations with the J-School faculty that may be seen on the school’s website.

Associate Professor Ray Fanning introduced a News Literacy course this year, designed to help students deal with the deluge of print, broadcast and Internet material, and how to distill actionable information from junk news. His course was one of 10 freshman seminars selected for UM’s new Global Leadership Initiative.

Fanning is working on an audio project about wrongful convictions and Montana’s justice system. He’ll also write scripts for a radio project called Fossil Stories, an educational show about the Northwest’s natural history.

Associate Professor Keith Graham is working on a project this summer that has involved his documentary classes for two years.

The FSA Project, sponsored by the U.S. government, hired six photographers to roam Montana between 1936 and 1942 and gather images to show urban populations how badly the depression was hitting rural areas. Its second phase was to show recovery. Keith’s students are shooting many of those same locations and recording how they changed in the past 75 years.

Associate Professor Henriette Löwisch published the second edition of Journalismus für Dummies (Wiley-VCH). She updated it to reflect the changes social media have brought to the profession. It’s available only in German. She also supervised a student team that produced the 2012 edition of Montana Journalism Review.

Assistant Professor Jeremy Lurgio received a $5,000 grant from the board of Humanities Montana for his “Lost & Found Montana,” a multimedia documentation of 18 towns near extinction. Lurgio will develop and publish a website to go live on Aug. 1, coinciding with an exhibit at the Rocky Mountain School of Photography where he will be teaching summer workshops.

Professor Dennis Swibold spent spring semester learning a department chair’s duties since Carol Van Valkenburg retired. He teaches investigative reporting and editing. During state legislative sessions, he oversees student coverage of the lawmakers – a popular service used extensively by state news media.

Last summer Swibold worked as a reporter for a 50-state study of laws and practices designed to prevent corruption in state governments. The report found that Montana and other states lack the means to enforce their ethics laws. It also identified problems with access to public records and in disclosure practices of lobbyists and public officials who control large amounts of public money.

Nadia White’s update is on p. 7.
Selection of works by photoj students

Michael Beall

Kelsey Nelson

Patrick Record

Brady Moore

Thom Bridge
in April show at the Dark Room gallery
Virginia “Ginny” Ruth Archdale ’76, of Wibaux died Friday, April 13, 2012, at the age of 57.


In 1962, the family purchased a farm south of Whitehall where Ginny’s mother, Ruth, taught her to respect the land, appreciate hard work and responsibility and to enjoy the sustaining power of laughter through good times and bad.

Before the children could go swimming, they had to weed two rows of the garden.

She earned her BA in journalism from The University of Montana and went to work at the Bismarck (N.D.) Tribune and the Glendive Ranger-Review, where she was promoted from reporter to editor. A proponent of rural living, Ginny wrote a regular column for Montana Magazine.

In 1979 she met her future husband, Mike Archdale, and on Sept. 2, 1982, they were married in Miles City. They moved to Wibaux, where he worked for the Wibaux public school system, and Ginny began her job at the Ranger Review. In 1990, she became the town clerk for Wibaux. She was elated at the prospect of eight-hour workdays, unlike the 14-hour days she put in on the Review.

She is survived by her husband, Mike; five brothers and three sisters.

Thomas Cleary Ambrose ’52 passed away at his home in Mount Vernon, Wash., on Sept. 22, 2011. He was 79.

He was born on March 6, 1932, and attended school in Kalispell. At age 19, he served as a second lieutenant in Korea with the 1st Cavalry Division. After military service, he returned to work as business editor at the Spokane Chronicle. In 1965 he moved on to corporate communications with the Weyerhaeuser Company where he retired after 28 years.

He is survived by Joyce Ambrose, his wife of 51 years; sons Neal Ambrose of Bellingham and John Ambrose of Monroe; and daughter Bridget Ambrose of Seattle.

Donald Arthur Bartsch ’40, former Great Falls Tribune editor and Navy veteran, died of Alzheimer’s on June 24, 2011. He was 92.

He worked as a reporter for the Helena Record Herald and married his high school sweetheart, Jeanne Schmidt, in 1941. He enlisted in the Navy Sea-bees and in 1944 he received a commission as a Naval officer, studied the Russian language, and was assigned to work in communications and intelligence until 1945.

After the war, Dan and Jeanne returned to Helena and his job at the Record Herald. They moved to Great Falls in 1953 where he worked in various writing and editing positions at the Tribune. Don and Jeanne moved to Bozeman in 2003.

He is survived by wife, Jeanne, son Jeff (Kathy) Bartsch, daughter Susan (Marvin) Backer, grandson Dan (Deena) Bartsch and several great-grandchildren.

Joan (Engelking) Christensen ’47, died peacefully at her home on Flathead Lake on July 29, 2011, with her daughter Margaret at her side.

She was born on Oct. 28, 1925, to Margery and Bob Engelking. She and her sister Shirley spent their early years moving around with their parents to various oil and gas exploration sites where their father worked. She graduated from Oilmont High School in 1943, then attended The University of Montana where she was a member of Alpha Phi sorority and earned a BA in journalism.

She met Robert Henning Christensen, who had enrolled at UM following his service with the Navy during WWII. They were married in Shelby in 1945 and soon moved to New York City where Bob was working on a master’s degree in physical therapy, and their son Dana was born. They moved to Billings where Bob began a physical therapy practice and their daughter Margery was born in 1953.

After Bob died prematurely in 1983 at the age of 58, Joan returned to college and earned a BA in art from MSU-Eastern. When she was 72, she entered the Holy Order of the Diaconate of the Episcopal Church where, after three years of study, she was ordained as a deacon and served in that capacity until retirement in 2005.

Joan is survived by her son Dana and wife Stephanie; daughter Margery and husband John; and several grandchildren. Last year Dana, of Kalispell, was appointed U.S. District Judge, replacing Judge Donald Molloy.

James Millison Edwards ’50 passed away from natural causes at home in Billings on May 23, 2011, with his family at his side.

Jim was born April 1, 1925, and graduated from high school in Missoula in 1943. He enlisted in the Navy in
June 1943, and served on the USS Cecil, a troop transport involved in the assault on Iwo Jima. After his honorable discharge from the Navy, he attended The University of Montana and earned his BA in journalism. During his senior year he met and married Grace McCarten.

Jim worked at Ma Bell telephone company for the next 32 years. He and Grace lived in Butte from 1952 to 1959. Their last move was to Billings in 1963 where he retired from the phone company in 1987.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Grace, and sons, Kelly and Brian. Survivors include sons Mark, Kevin and Brad and their families.

Jean Marie Bartley Freese ’48, died March 12, 2011, at home in Miles City. She was 84.

She was born April 23, 1926, in Miles City to William Hickman and Mary Maitland Bartley. In 1933, the family moved to Great Falls where she attended Great Falls High School. She graduated from the UM School of Journalism in 1948 and worked at the Great Falls Tribune as a reporter and photographer. She was editor of the Western Livestock Reporter in Billings before she married Dr. Martin L. Freese in Great Falls on March 10, 1951.

From 1952 to 1956, Jean worked in the newsroom at the Miles City Star. She left her job to raise their three children, then returned to the Star until she retired in 1991. She also was active in the Barn Players Summer Theater, where she appeared in more than 20 roles, in addition to directing, building sets, handling publicity and programs.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by her children.

Lorraine E. Lindahl ’45 died on March 30 in Minneapolis, Minn. She was born in 1921 to Ed and Emma Griffith in Williston, N.D.

Shortly after WWII, Lorraine met and married Murlin Lindahl. She worked for a brief time in public relations at Pillsbury Mills in Minneapolis, then retired to have her first child. While she was raising three children, Lorraine was employed by Augsburg-Fortress Press as a manuscript editor. She also served with Central Lutheran Church, both Girl and Boy Scout troops and her school library.

She is survived by her children, David, Marcia Lindahl and Sandy Moir; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Quin LaVern Loendorf ’11, died Aug. 24, 2011, in a single-vehicle accident near his hometown of Valier. He was 22 and had just graduated with a BA in journalism. He planned to return to UM in the fall to finish work on his second major in Japanese studies.

Quin was a 2008 graduate of Valier High School and his journalism career began as a reporter, photographer and ad salesman for his school newspaper, The Valerian. As a UM journalism student, Quin was awarded the Albert Erickson scholarship and was one of nine college students in the nation to receive a Dow Jones News Fund internship, which gave him a slot on the sports copy desk of the Denver Post last summer. He was a copy editor for the Kaimin and active in the UM Japanese Student Association, Davidson Honors College, intramural basketball and golf.

Quin twice traveled to Japan to continue his studies in Japanese and visit his girlfriend, Saya. He is survived by his mother, Lisa Loendorf of Valier; a brother, Vincent; of Great Falls; and Sayaka Tada of Tokyo, Japan.

Frank William Milburn Jr. ’55, passed away July 2, 2011, at the age of 84. Frank was born Feb. 2, 1927, in Missoula, son of the late General Frank W. Milburn and Elizabeth Margaret Bamberger.

He earned a BA in journalism at UM and degrees in piano and music history at the Salzburg (Austria) Mozarteum. Frank joined the New York Philharmonic press department in 1959. He later became the Philharmonic’s music administrator, a post created for him by conductor Leonard Bernstein. He was director of press for 17 years, and became a trusted advisor to Bernstein, George Szell, Pierre Boulez and Zubin Mehta.

Frank was known for his unique and detailed knowledge of classical music. From Zubin Mehta’s autobiography, The Score of My Life: “Frank Milburn was my right-hand man and my musical consciousness when it came to programming; he is an invaluable walking encyclopedia of music and a wonderful friend.”


Frank is survived by his brother-in-law, Oliver Griest, husband of his late sister Elizabeth Jane; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his life partner, Raymond A. Ericson.

Frank R. Norberg ’52 died from effects of Alzheimer’s
American Veterans

Janell Robischon of Townsend and several grandchildren. Vem took his military construction skills to work with his where he and Eleta June High were married. After the war, his BA in journalism with a minor in art. Vem enlisted in law in Butte for 32 years. In 1990, Jim was appointed Griz and attended games for 20 years in the "Butte Box." Can Tune Twisters," bid his final farewell on Oct. 26, 2011. Survives, as do his daughters, Jamie Purcell of Belgrade and Longpre Purcell. He graduated from Butte High School in 1947. He attended Montana Tech and graduated from UM in 1952 with a BA in journalism. He served in the Navy from 1952 to 1954, then returned to attend UM Law School, graduating in 1958. He practiced law in Butte for 32 years. In 1990, Jim was appointed District Judge for Butte Silver Bow by Gov. Stan Stephens. He was re-elected twice and retired from the bench in 2000. 

He is survived by his wife, Sharon; sons Jeff, Mark and Patrick; daughters Kay Lewis, Leslie Jennings and Susan Navarro; and 14 grandchildren.

James E. Purcell '52, former Butte Silver-Bow District Judge, died peacefully in Butte on Oct. 29, 2011, at the age of 81. He was born Dec. 29, 1929, to James T. and Ada Longpre Purcell. He graduated from Butte High School in 1947. He attended Montana Tech and graduated from UM in 1952 with a BA in journalism. He served in the Navy from 1952 to 1954, then returned to attend UM Law School, graduating in 1958. He practiced law in Butte for 32 years. In 1990, Jim was appointed District Judge for Butte Silver Bow by Gov. Stan Stephens. He was re-elected twice and retired from the bench in 2000.

Jim was selected by the Montana Supreme Court to serve on the Commission on Practice. He served on the Board of Directors of Our Lady of the Rockies and helped develop the tram to the Lady. He enjoyed cheering for the Griz and attended games for 20 years in the "Butte Box."

Jim married Mary Dawn Sampson on Oct. 11, 1958. She survives, as do his daughters, Jamie Purcell of Belgrade and Janell Robischon of Townsend and several grandchildren.

Vernon Francis Reynolds '43, famed member of "Tin Can Tune Twisters," bid his final farewell on Oct. 26, 2011. Vern enrolled at UM to play football as a starting center for the 1940-42 Grizzlies and get an education. He received his BA in journalism with a minor in art. Vern enlisted in the Navy during WWII, went to Chicago for naval training where he and Eleta June High were married. After the war, Vern took his military construction skills to work with his father-in-law as the business manager of Western Montana Electric. Vern later built a thriving decorative lighting business, Western Montana Lighting.

Vern was a 10-year member of the school board, board member of the Missoula Country Club, member and chairman of the Chamber of Commerce. He was an avid Grizzly supporter and Excellence Club member.

Vern is survived by his four remaining children, Sue Flaig, Bob Reynolds, Debbie Mostek and Bill Reynolds.


He served with the Navy during WWII from 1942-46 and returned to attend the UM School of Journalism. Raymond's first job was as assistant advertising manager for the Mercantile in Missoula. He then moved to California and worked in advertising for Standard Oil Co. For several years he was a reporter for the Appeal-Democrat in Marysville, Calif., and did some freelance work.

His career work was with the California Office of Public Safety as state information officer, for which he received the Governor's Superior Achievement award.

Lucille Fern Adamson-Donaldson '43, died May 8, 2011, in Rockville, Md. She was 90.

Lucille was born Nov. 17, 1920, in Vernon County, Mo. She was a UM journalism graduate and a member of Theta Sigma Phi journalism honorary. During college Lucille met Kenneth C. Donaldson and they married in 1943.

Lucille worked for the Great Falls Tribune and was a columnist for the University of Michigan Daily. She was a Red Cross Volunteer at the National Naval Medical Center for 14 years and a member of the Chevy Chase Chapter of the DAR and Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Bethesda, Md.

She is survived by her daughter Suzanne C. Preudhomme, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years.

Paul Verdon '49, longtime Montana newspaper editor, died Feb. 17 at St. Peter’s Hospital in Helena. He was 85 and had been suffering from Parkinson’s disease.

Verdon was born on a homestead near Wolf Point on March 2, 1926. His mother died when he was two years old and he went to live with family friends Alex and Mary Verdon in Poplar, who later officially adopted him. After he graduated from Poplar High School, Paul enlisted in the Navy and entered the V-12 program that offered trainees a college education and pilot training. He attended Carroll College in Helena for two years and following the war, he went to UM and graduated with a degree in journalism.

After working at the Phillips County News (Malta) and Great Falls Tribune, Paul became editor and publisher of the Western News in Libby from 1960 to 1979. When he was in Malta, he met and married his wife, Elaine Hendrickson. During his tenure at the News, the paper was awarded the state’s outstanding weekly three times by the Montana Newspaper Association.

He sold the paper in 1979 and became a legislative researcher in Helena. Gov. Stan Stephens appointed him to help fix the state Worker's Compensation system.

He is survived by his wife, Elaine; a daughter, Lexie (a J-School alum); sons Robert, Timothy, Kenneth and Michael; a sister and two grandchildren.
John R. “Jack” Hallowell '42

died March 10 in Littleton, Colo.
He was 91.

Jack Hallowell holds a framed letter dated March 31, 1944 - he received from noted war journalist Ernie Pyle shortly before Pyle left for England to cover D-Day. (Denver Post file)

(“The following is adapted from a Denver Post story by Jim Sheeler”)}

From his perch at his regular table in the Red Robin restaurant in Lakewood, the 85-year-old man noticed a uniformed young Marine eating alone. As Jack Hallowell finished his meal, he motioned to the bartender.

“I'd like to buy that gentleman’s lunch,” Hallowell said.
The bartender wasn't surprised. He had seen the older man at the table spark countless friendships with strangers.
The bartender walked over to the Marine: “That gentleman wants to buy you lunch, but before he does, let me tell you who he is.”

During World War II, Jack had stormed bloody beaches in Italy, then fought his way into France and Germany, through a staggering 511 days of combat, documenting as much as he could on a Royal typewriter. He walked through the gates of Dachau with the troops who liberated the concentration camp and returned 60 years later as survivors thanked him through tears.

The bartender escorted the young Marine to the table.

“Sir, you shouldn't have to buy my lunch,” the Marine said. “I should be the one buying yours.”

J-School to WWII

Born in the tiny town of Wilsall, Mont., Jack spent much of his childhood on an orchard helping his mother pick cherries and apples to keep the family afloat. His father died when he was about 10. After an older brother found a job in newspapers, Jack saw a way to meet people and tell stories — something he would do for the rest of his life.

In 1942 he earned a journalism degree from the University of Montana; that same month, he was headed for WWII.

By 1943 he was with the 157th Infantry Division in the battles for Sicily and Salerno, carrying a mortar cannon. That's when a Royal typewriter probably saved his life.

His commanding officer saw that Hallowell had a journalism degree and figured someone needed to document the unit's history. Hallowell soon traded the sounds of gunfire for the clacking of a typewriter as the 157th fought across Europe. After the horror of Dachau, he sat down with a few historians and continued to write the regimental history.

He would spend much of his life trying to keep those words alive.

A “Big Sky” idea

Once he returned home to Montana, Jack continued to pound away on a typewriter as a sports reporter. He soon met a copy editor named Elisabeth “Betsy” Skaar and married her in 1946. They had two children, Leslie and Mike. [Leslie is a 1973 UM journalism graduate.]

He left the newspaper to become advertising director for the state. He met A.B. Guthrie Jr., author of the frontier adventure novel The Big Sky. Hallowell asked if the state could use the book title in promotions, and Guthrie agreed.

“If you're out of the state and you mention Montana, people say, ‘Oh, Big Sky Country.' And it was Jack's original idea,” said former Montana Gov. Tim Babcock, who later hired Hallowell as an assistant and speechwriter.

Hallowell moved to Washington, D.C., to continue speechwriting, but when a public-affairs job opened in 1971 in the EPA’s Denver office, he went for it. He later took a similar job at the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Preserving memories

Despite the decades, Jack hadn't forgotten the stories he had written and those he kept to himself. He used a German soldier’s spoon to eat his cereal in the morning. He used a Nazi knife to dig up dandelions in his yard.

Jack's wife, Betsy, died in 2003, but he remained busy flipping through his massive Rolodex to catch up with friends. He helped organize the most recent 157th reunion in October in Denver.

In 2005, Hallowell traveled back to Dachau for a remembrance ceremony.

“I didn’t think they could reach me after all these years, to make me cry,” Hallowell said afterward. “These people... just stun you for how grateful they are.”

On Jan. 24, Hallowell slipped on a patch of ice and hit his head. He was taken to the hospital and the word spread fast.

Within days, the line of visitors stretching into the hallway mirrored the disparate connections he had kept throughout his life — military officers followed by friends he had known for decades and new ones including most of the wait staff of the Lakewood Red Robin restaurant.

At his request, Jack's body came home to Montana for burial at Montana State Veterans Cemetery, under “The Big Sky.”

*Jim Sheeler, a former reporter for The Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News, teaches journalism at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

1950s

Members of the Class of 1957 are planning a 55th reunion during Homecoming weekend on Friday, Sept. 21, at 3 p.m. in Don Anderson Hall.

Those who have confirmed are John Bansch, of Indianapolis, former sports editor for the Indianapolis Star; Gary Sorensen of Missoula who had a 30-year career with the U.S. Army in public affairs; Bob Gilluly, of Anaconda, longtime writer for the Great Falls Tribune; and Norma Ashby, of Great Falls, producer and host of the KRTV Today in Montana show. Others in the class are being notified and are asked to RSVP to Norma at ashby7@q.com or 406.453.7078.

1960s

John Ellard Frook ’63 jumped into his journalism career as a reporter then bureau chief for Time/LIFE. He soon became LIFE magazine’s entertainment editor and for years hobnobbed with celebrities around the world – a long way from his humble beginnings as a school principal in Gull Lake, Sask.

A prolific writer, he won two Emmys for his work on CBS’s “The Kennedy Center Honors.” He also collaborated on five PBS documentaries, two of which won Academy Awards. John recently retired from teaching at the University of Nevada (Reno), but he’s busy as ever doing what he loves best, chasing a good story.


Wilbur Wood ’64, a former editor of the Kaimin, taught creative writing at Rocky Mountain College in Billings for several years. He’s now in his second term on the Montana Arts Council, re-appointed by the Governor. He and wife, Elizabeth, have lived in his hometown of Roundup for several decades. They are part of Red Truck Writers, a local group that meets monthly. They remain active in the Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO) they helped established in the 1970s.

Wilbur regularly reports on energy and environmental issues for the Billings Outpost weekly paper and the San Francisco Bay Guardian.

1970s

J-School alum Randy Rasmussen ’77 captured the dramatic moment when a police officer’s torrent of pepper spray hit an Occupy Portland protester squarely in the face from only a few feet away. The photo went viral, but Randy didn’t realize he’d captured a compelling image until a photo editor was viewing his digital files. Randy is a photographer for The Oregonian.

The University of Utah Press recently released Rainbow Bridge to Monument Valley: Making the Modern Old West, written by Thomas J. Harvey ’79.

Colleen McGuire ’79 will become executive director of the Delta Gamma national organization in August. Dur-
based in Walnut Creek, Calif. Sam says his reporters, who cover City Hall/local news beats, write both for the daily Times and for two local weeklies, the Walnut Creek Journal and Lamorinda Sun, of which he is the editor.

He reports: "I am quickly learning new ways to incorporate Twitter and Facebook into our reporting, and someone uttered the word 'Pinterest' at a recent social media workshop. My wife, Judith, an elementary school teacher, and I live in Martinez, CA with our son Thomas, daughter Jillian and various tropical fish, newts, frogs and axolotls. I used to have hobbies ... and I used to have time for them!"

After nearly four years at KULR-TV in Billings, Mont., Joel Lundstad '84 is now news director at KSAX-TV in Alexandria, Minn.

Gus Chambers '85 — MontanaPBS producer, RTV alum and long-time RTV adjunct instructor — received a Programming Excellence Award from American Public Television for his documentary “Glacier Park’s Night of the Grizzlies.” The film, co-produced with writer Paul Zalis, chronicles the harrowing night in 1967 when two young Glacier Park employees were killed in grizzly bear attacks while hiking with friends in the park.

Gus also produces the popular MontanaPBS series “Backroads of Montana” and currently is working on a new documentary that follows six young Montana high school students through a year of 4-H activities.

He advises students to “Work as hard as you can to get as much practical experience prior to graduation. Also, don’t burn bridges. This industry is incredibly tight and what you do in one market will follow you for the rest of your career.”

Paul said he’s thankful for "my instructors and professors who still provide sound advice and whose friendship will always be treasured."

ABC News anchor and reporter Meg Oliver '93 stopped by the J-School while she was here for a Journalism Advisory Council meeting. Meg worked with a group of R-TV seniors on their anchoring, reporting and writing skills. She emphasized the importance of teamwork, preparedness and communications. Meg lives in New York City where she and her husband are raising three young children. Meg’s work can be seen on World News Tonight and Good Morning America.

William Heisel '94, is assistant director for external relations at the University of Washington’s Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. A former investigative reporter, he still writes about health issues on his blog "Antidote," featured on USC Annenberg’s "Reporting on Health" site.

Také Uda '94 longtime design wizard at the Great Falls Tribune, has moved to Phoenix to be creative director for Gannett’s regional design studio there. He says he’s still learning the job ("so far no creativity or directing") but eventually expects to help design Gannett newspapers throughout the region, including his old paper.

Tomoko Otake '95, is the mother of an 11-year-old boy and a senior feature writer at The Japan Times.

Courtney Robles '95 has been with Apple for more than two years, and works at Apple’s Austin campus. She reports that it’s home to roughly 3,500 people and she manages all recruitment activities. After graduating from the broadcast program, she worked in television news in Spokane, Billings and Houston. She has been a recruiter for more than a decade.

Shanon Dell '97 is a video editor and producer for msnbc.com. He edits original reporting video packages for the website and encodes MSNBC and NBC News shows for the Internet.

“I've watched 'Nightly' since I was a kid and to be working with them now is really special,” he said. His favorite memory at UM was filming Pearl Jam at the Fieldhouse and shooting all the home games of the 1995 championship football season.

His advice for students? “Work on your writing and storytelling skills now and throughout your career. Even if you are more focused on technical skills, good writing will help you in all aspects of any job you ever have.”

Hollywood screenwriters Tom Mul len '98 and his brother Tim have been picked to write the script for an adaptation of Sullivan's Sluggers, a horror baseball graphic novel by James Stokoe and Mark Andrew Smith. The story about a dysfunctional minor league baseball team and shape-shifting monsters is being billed as "Major League meets Zombieland.”

Matt Thompson '00 is a newly minted officer in the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service. He was hired in November after three years with the now-defunct King County Journal in Bellevue and two years in the Peace Corps in Bulgaria. He also earned a master's degree in Russian, East European, and Central Asia Studies from the University of Washington and spent two years as director of football operations at Northern Arizona University.
Matt quit that job last summer and traveled to Tver, Russia, for three months of intensive language training. He’s headed for Matamoros, Mexico, to work in the consulate. “I anticipate the experience and skills I learned from the J-School will come in handy as I deal with the local media and promote outreach programs in the community,” he says.

Kevin Van Valkenburg ’00 left The Baltimore Sun in January after more than 11 years to take a job as a staff writer for ESPN The Magazine. He and his wife, Jennifer McMenamin, also welcomed daughter Keegan in March, who joins her sister Molly, 2. Kevin continues to live in Baltimore.

Ann Williamson x’00 will mark her 10th year as a photographer at the Topeka Capital-Journal in October and reports that she never imagined she would be anywhere long. “For the past two years I’ve been writing stories as well as taking photos for the paper. It has been quite the adjustment, but I’m grateful that I took all of the reporting and feature writing classes at UM,” she said.

Ann married Alex Wiebel, a University of Kansas journalism grad in July 2011; he recently was named sports director of Kansas First News.

Katja Stromnes-Elias MA ’01, is a lead editor for E.L. Achieve, a company that creates educational material for students of English. She lives in Missoula with her husband and children.

Nate Schweber x’01 spent a month in 2011 reporting on the Penn State sexual abuse scandal for The New York Times. One of his editors said this about him: “I had used Nate on any number of stories when I was Metro editor, from the serial killings of prostitutes in Atlantic City to the attempted subway terror attack of 2009. He’ll go anywhere, ask anything, and almost always come back with the goods.”

Last fall Nate talked with Carol Van Valkenburg’s senior seminar class via Skype about his experiences covering the Penn State story.

Jesse Zentz ’01 is editing the Helena Independent Record’s sports section these days. He returned to Montana in February after six years as a sports reporter with the Idaho Statesman in Boise. He and his wife, Michelle, a former UM soccer player, have been married for 12 years. They have two daughters, Odessa, 8, and Leila, 5.

Holly Pickett ’02 was reporting from Libya when Muammar al-Qaddafi was shot and was the first journalist to see him after his death. She was quoted on CBS News online and interviewed on CBS Evening News.

Jessie McQuillan ’03 is hustling and bustling at the helm of the Montana Innocence Project, a nonprofit that uses DNA and other evidence to exonerate the innocent and prevent wrongful convictions. Based at UM, MTIP brings together UM students studying journalism, law, criminology and paralegal studies to work on wrongful conviction cases statewide. Her husband, Brendan McQuillan, is the staff attorney for MTIP, and out of the office the two are busy raising their toddler daughter, Molly.

Jacob Baynham ’07 is headed back to Montana, where he hopes to do some freelancing and teaching as his wife-to-be, attorney Hilly McGahan, settles into her new job with a Polson law firm. The two plan to marry in September. Since graduation, Jacob has worked as a freelancer, including a year-long stint in Asia. He has also worked in university communications at UM and at Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Will Moss ’07 is now an Assistant Editor for NBC Olympics. He runs his own enterprise, Moss Creative Lab, where he works as a freelance photographer, videographer, web designer and content manager. He can be reached at willmossphoto@gmail.com.

Dan Boyce ’08 won three Northwest Regional SPJ awards, including first place in radio feature news reporting on the 100th anniversary of the birth of legendary Montana-born television broadcaster Chet Huntley. He is capital bureau chief for Montana Public Radio in Helena.

Dan also received a first-place sports reporting award for his story at KBZK-TV in Bozeman. “A Montana Marlin,” chronicled Dan’s paddlefishing trip with his parents. He received a third place for stories during his 2011 summer internship in Germany.

R-TV grad Tyson Bierwag x’09 and Adjunct Instructor Kagan Yochim are producing a recruitment video for the Missoula County Sheriff’s Office. The video involves everything from working with the Explosives Disposal Team, SWAT, Search and Rescue, traffic control, 911 dispatch procedures, and constructing a simulated crime scene.

Colter Nuanez ’09 was named sportswriter of the year by the Washington Newspaper Publisher’s Association and also collected two reporting awards.

In the category for newspapers between 5,000 and 12,000 circulation, Colter’s stories for the Ellensburg Daily Record earned him a first place in sports personality profile and second place in sports features. For the sportswriter of the year competition, Colter was judged against entrants from 83 newspapers of all sizes in Washington.

Colter joined the Ellensburg paper soon after graduation, then in June 2011 took a job as sportswriter with the Bozeman Daily Chroncile, where he’s covering MSU football and other activities.

Rose Stepanek ’09 is a production assistant for the Minnesota Twins base-
Inspired by journalism professors, students raise funds for reporting trip to Nicaragua

J-School seniors Hannah Ryan and Michael Beall set off on a month-long journey to Nicaragua during semester break last winter.

The purpose of their holiday adventure was to investigate and report on the origins of that all-important early morning pick-me-up that so many rely on to get the day started. From the fields of one of Nicaragua's most important coffee-growing regions, they wanted to track the raw beans to their ultimate destination: Craven's Coffee roasters of Spokane, Wash.

After their plane landed in Managua, they went right to work. "We jumped on a bus to Esteli," Hannah said. "We were able to make short trips out to local coffee farmers and producers. It was following the bean from the cup that we're drinking back to its source." (See Mike's Nicaragua photo on page 16.)

Craven's is among a few coffee roasters that source their beans directly from the farmer, Hannah said. Their trip percolated out of an international reporting class Hannah took from Associate Professor Henriette LÖwisch last year. "That's what started things clicking," she said.

Internships kept her from pursuing the story over the summer break as she had originally planned. Then in the Pollner Seminar class taught last fall by freelance journalist and J-School alum Karen Coates, Hannah mentioned the idea to Mike. He was instantly hooked.

During the Pollner class, which focused on practical freelancing skills like securing funding for such things as international reporting, Hannah and Mike developed a campaign to post on Kickstarter, an online funding site for creative projects.

Their effort was rewarded with a $1,250 return. This was on top of a travel grant from the UM J-School's Joe Durso Jr. Professional Projects Fund.

Their first Nicaragua story, "The Living Black Gold," was published in the Kaimin on Feb. 9, featuring Hannah's writing and Mike's photography. Another article by Hannah will be published in the Pacific Northwest Inlander in Spokane.

LÖwisch's international reporting class spurred Hannah's desire to take a chance and try reporting from abroad. "Henriette really got that spark going. I think a lot of things in the journalism school feel hypothetical," she said. "But when your professor says, 'this isn't just for show, this is real, you can do this,' that makes the difference."

They also praised the lessons they learned in the Pollner class that made the idea of a daunting international reporting trip seem possible.

(For full story by Jason D.B. Kauffman, search "Nicaragua" at www.jour.umt.edu.)

You can read these J-School publications online:

- Montana Journalism Review: http://mjr.jour.umt.edu/
- Communique: www.jour.umt.edu/alumni/communique

Send your news to: journalism@mso.umt.edu

Adrienne Barnett MA '10 just got an adjunct teaching job at The Art Institute of San Antonio. She is teaching five classes: Photojournalism, Advertising/Art Direction, Location Lighting, Advanced Lighting and Photography for Graphic Designers. She also has started her freelance photography business.

Bess Brownlee '10 was hired by Africa Inland Mission as a multimedia journalist. She arrived in Kenya for her new job last fall.

Greg Lindstrom '11 won two first place awards in Region 4 of the National Press Photographers Association Quarterly Clip contest. He won first place in the Sports category for his image "Game Winner." Greg was an intern at the Concord Monitor in Concord, N.H., one of the best small newspapers in the country noted for its exceptional photography. He is now working as a staff photographer at the Longmont (Colo.) Times-Call.

Troy Warzocha '11 is working as a sports reporter for Lewiston (Idaho) Tribune, where his duties include traveling across the Palouse to cover the University of Idaho men's football team and Washington State University men's basketball program.
To our many Golden Donors,

Thank you for your generosity and support of the J-School!

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"The best moments in my career have all benefited from embracing risk."

– Tom Nybo ’95, in his address at the 55th Annual Dean Stone Lecture