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COMMUNIQUE

**Students tell
refugees' stories
from the streets
of Berlin**
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Nick Ut, best known for his Pulitzer Prize-winning image that became known as "Napalm Girl," visited UM as part of a nationwide centennial celebration of the Pulitzer Prizes.

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CALLING ALL ALUMS:

Join us during Homecoming for two J-School events on Friday, Sept. 30. We'll be hosting an Alumni Showcase at 2 p.m. in Don Anderson Hall 210, followed by our Homecoming Reception from 4 to 4:40 p.m. in Don Anderson Hall 210. We hope to see you in the fall!

Stories that matter

J-School strives to help cover an increasingly diverse world

Journalism is no longer a single culture's conversation. Today's professionals must tell stories that serve a more diverse and complex world, where the interest is always human.

Doing that well means immersing students and faculty in cultures they may not know or can barely imagine. The School of Journalism is working hard to meet that ever-growing challenge.

This year, the J-School celebrated 25 years of telling stories that matter on Montana's seven tribal reservations through its Native News Honors Project. It also sent 18 students to Germany to detail the struggles of Syrian and Iraqi refugees making new lives.

Back in the classroom, Nick Ut, a Vietnamese-born journalist, showed students the enduring power of his iconic Vietnam War photo "Napalm Girl." Meanwhile, seniors in our ethics course studied the impact of a photo showing a dead Kurdish boy lying

on a Turkish beach. Freshmen in our Global Current Events course explored the context behind the world's breaking news.

Seniors in our Student Documentary Unit told stories of Montana parents struggling to ensure lives of independence and meaning for their autistic offspring as they become adults. Meanwhile, Professor Denise Dowling researched a story on the lives of transgender youth in the Northwest.

Last fall, students in the school's Diversity in Media class kick-started a conversation about race in a state where nine of 10 residents are white. Students found that Montana's lack of racial diversity does not mean a lack of diverse voices.

As you catch up with classmates and faculty in this edition of *Communique*, you will also see stories about our school's ongoing commitment to serving an increasingly diverse and interesting world. We hope they inspire you as much as they do us.

Award-winning editor, digital producer named distinguished Pollner professors

A former deputy managing editor of the *Los Angeles Times* and a multi-media documentarian will be the T. Anthony Pollner Distinguished Professors at the University of Montana School of Journalism in the fall and spring semesters of the 2016-17 academic year.

Melissa McCoy spent 17 years at the *L.A. Times*, advancing from metro copy editor to a deputy managing editor supervising 250 journalists. In addition to overseeing the paper's award-winning copy desks, graphics department and researchers, she was frequently the final editor for major projects, a number of which won Pulitzer Prizes. During her newspaper and magazine career, McCoy also has been a reporter, copy chief, news editor and assignment editor.

Since leaving the *Times* in 2009, McCoy

has worked as a media consultant, writer and editor. She also was a visiting faculty member at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, where she'd previously served as an Ethics Fellow. Her fall semester seminar will focus on reporting and writing about sensitive topics like rape, murder, suicide and mental illness.

Anne Bailey is a digital producer and visual journalist for Public Radio International/The World's "Across Women's Lives" series. She recently reported from Brazil on the Zika virus and its effect on pregnant women and newborn babies. Other recent projects include stories on women's rights in India and women and business in Kenya.

Bailey has taught multimedia storytelling at the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies; at the Freedom Forum Diversity Institute; in the Democratic Republic of

Congo, Tunisia and France; and at the UM School of Journalism. She will teach a spring semester course on producing video across media platforms.

Both professors will work with the staff of the *Montana Kaimin*.

The Pollner professorship endowment was created in 2001 by the family and friends of T. Anthony Pollner, a 1999 UM journalism alumnus who died in a motorcycle accident two years after graduating.

So far the program has brought 17 distinguished journalists to the school for a semester to teach a seminar and serve as a mentor to the students at the *Kaimin*. Several former Pollner professors have won journalism's most coveted awards, including Pulitzer Prizes and National Magazine Awards.



MELISSA MCCOY



ANNE BAILEY

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

We use many measures to make sure our program is producing graduates who are ready to work in today's media market. But the best litmus tests are to see students in action and to see how they deal with other people. Judging by this measure, our students are ready to take on the world.

I had a number of experiences with students this year that underscored the role of self-confidence in our profession, and was glad to see just how poised our students are in real-life journalism situations. When UM announced it would cut positions because of a budget shortfall, reporters from the *Montana Kaimin* knew what they had to do: bang on doors to find out who was facing the ax. One of those doors was mine. Now, it's a lot more fun to ask questions than it is to answer them. Still, I was glad to see the *Kaimin* was asking the right questions. They were aggressive but respectful, and had the self-confidence to challenge the administration, which was closed-mouth about the actual victims of these cuts.

I had the same sorts of encounters with students working on the *Montana Journalism Review* last fall. This annual, student-produced magazine has put in place a rigorous fact-checking process to make sure every detail is accurate. Those fact-checkers also showed up at my door and posed tough questions that challenged me to check my own memory banks.

One of the great things about our program is that we push students to explore our campus and quiz experts in



Dean Larry Abramson explains the complexities of navigating Berlin to student Shannon O'Hara, one of 18 students reporting on the refugee crisis there this summer. Abramson covered the fall of the Berlin Wall in the early 1990s and speaks fluent German. He helped students share stories of this complicated moment in global politics (see related story, pgs. 6-7).

the many majors UM offers. When I bump into these experts, I regularly hear praise for our students' persistence and curiosity. That was the case when our documentary students completed a fascinating look at the lack of services available to adults on the autism spectrum. Ann Garfinkle, a friend and nationally recognized autism expert at UM, worked closely with our students and told me how impressed she was with the resulting doc, which viewers around the state recently saw on Montana PBS. And this year, we have two students who are finalists for the prestigious Kroc

Fellowships at my alma mater, NPR. That's another clear sign that our students stand out from the crowd, and do well in interviews.

Presenting yourself well is a critical skill in journalism—actually, it is essential in just about every profession. The J-School will keep stressing that it takes more than reporting and research skills to make great journalists.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Larry Abramson".

— Dean Larry Abramson

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Paul Queneau '02

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Allison Bye '14

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Send news and Class Notes to:

Communiqué
UM School of Journalism
Don Anderson Hall
Missoula, MT 59812
406-243-4001

Contact us:

email: journalism@mso.umt.edu
Visit us at: jour.umt.edu
Facebook and Twitter: @umjschool

MONTANA
Journalism
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

2015-16 Pollner profs raised the bar for students, *Kaimin*

This year's Pollner professors blazed a trail for their successors to follow and inspired students in their seminars and at the *Kaimin* to do award-winning and attention-getting work.

Kevin Van Valkenburg '00, a senior writer at *ESPN The Magazine* and our fall 2015 Pollner professor, took his charges on a tour of some of the best writing in the business. His reading list, which he posted on Medium (<http://tinyurl.com/hq5jghv>), makes for a great self-guided course in storytelling.

"It was a wonderful experience, one that I will always cherish, simply because, twice a week, I got to sit in a beautiful classroom with a window that looked up at the mountains and talk about some of my favorite writing with smart students," Van Valkenburg wrote.

"Classroom discussions are great, but I didn't learn how to write features in a classroom. I learned because I obsessed over the structure and the details of certain magazine stories for a decade before I ever wrote a magazine piece. A lot of people think it's pointless to teach 'longform' (a term I've grown to dislike in recent years, because of how often it's abused) because of space restrictions and people's iPhone attention spans. But they're wrong. You can apply the storytelling techniques in these pieces to stories of almost any length: tension, action, dialogue, detail, character development."

Stories his students began in his seminar included senior Sojin Josephson's "Finding Feller," a profile of UM basketball star and adoptee McCalle Feller. The piece won second place in the national personality writing competition of the Hearst Awards, collegiate journalism's Pulitzer Prizes.

The course also inspired first-year graduate student Ben Polley to pursue a profile of one of his literary heroes, the legendary author and poet Jim Harrison. When Harrison died this March, Polley's profile was published by *Esquire.com*, where it received national attention.

One of the semester's highlights was Van



Kevin Van Valkenburg '00, a senior writer at *ESPN The Magazine* and fall 2015 Pollner professor, with program donor Alice Thorpe.

Valkenburg's Pollner lecture, titled "Why Storytelling Matters." You can find that on Medium too (<http://tinyurl.com/hnt9sx>).

Spring Pollner Professor Sally Stapleton, a Pulitzer Prize-winning former executive photo editor for The Associated Press whose international résumé includes covering the Rwandan genocide, also encouraged her students to aim higher.

They produced multimedia pieces they shared with the Missoula community in a showing at the Roxy Theater titled "The Value of the Moment" (see pgs. 16-17).

Her semester included Skype visits with some of the world's best photojournalists, but the highlight was a day spent with veteran AP photojournalist Nick Ut, whose Pulitzer Prize-winning photo "Napalm Girl" became an icon of Vietnam War coverage. His visit with students and a public lecture that evening celebrated the 100th anniversary of the most famous award in journalism.

Stapleton found the students in her seminar and at the *Montana Kaimin* inspiring, even daunting. At the *Kaimin*'s first meeting of the semester, the challenge of producing a robust paper and online news operation in tough financial times was stark. But the students decided to do the best job they could.

"The symbolism of that moment—50



Spring Pollner Professor Sally Stapleton was a Pulitzer Prize-winning former executive photo editor for The Associated Press.

promising journalists and the future of journalism—was evident," she wrote later. "Not lost on me that Tuesday evening in February was a well-placed photo in the newsroom of Anthony Pollner, for whom this teaching experience is named. His *Kaimin* successors had worked as a team and prevailed, as did my multimedia storytelling class of 15. Isn't that why all journalists view ours as one of the singularly great ways to spend a life?"

In the end, the students' example proved uplifting, she added.

"My students took risks because they know good journalism matters," she wrote. "They inspired me to keep doing it too."

Kaimin wins student fee increase, crucial support from donors

The student vote to increase fees was a show of confidence for the *Montana Kaimin* and a badly needed extension of financial support. It was vital to the *Kaimin*'s long-term plan to re-envision the newspaper as a multi-platform news, entertainment and opinion outlet, and to continue its tradition of training student journalists to hit the ground running in contemporary newsrooms.

Led by Hunter Pauli, the assistant managing editor for print, the *Kaimin* sustained focused coverage on the University of Montana's budget woes and staffing challenges. The year-long reporting effort used freedom of information requests, personality profiles and insightful analysis to keep the campus community informed about changes in faculty and staffing levels.

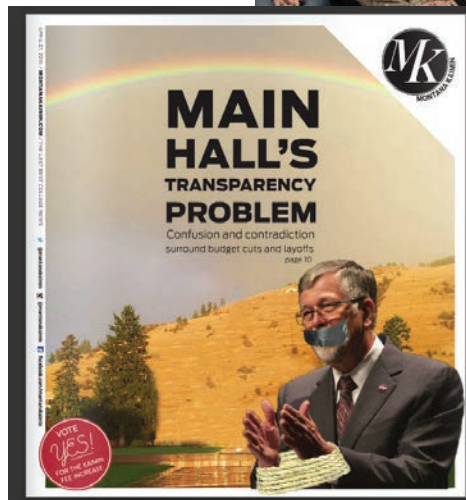
By the end of the 2015-16 school year, the *Kaimin* was live streaming ASUM debates on Facebook, using geotagged SnapChat promotions to campaign for the student fee increase and printing an award-winning weekly newsmagazine.

Editor-in-Chief Cavan Williams and Business Manager Megan Dowaliby forged a strong working relationship between the business and news sides of the *Kaimin*.

Fall semester Pollner Professor Kevin Van Valkenburg, a senior writer at *ESPN The Magazine* and former *Kaimin* sports editor, helped reporters find their voice through long-form narrative pieces that



The *Kaimin*'s dedicated 2015-2016 staff worked hard to cover a tumultuous year at UM.



led the weekly publication. Senior *Kaimin* sports reporter Sojin Josephson proved an especially astute disciple of Van Valkenburg's. Her profiles of UM athletes won

second place in the Hearst Competition's Personality/Profile category and first place in the regional Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence awards.

Former Associated Press executive photo editor Sally Stapleton brought her "adapt, survive and thrive" approach to the *Kaimin* as Pollner Professor for the spring semester. Before long, she had allies on campus ranging from drone pilots to the IT leader in charge of the all-campus online bulletin board known as Moodle. Stapleton led by example.

"Within your first week on the job you

will be judged by your ability to think online first," she told students. "There are those who get it, and those who don't," and Stapleton made it clear where she expected her students to land.

Reporters Andrew Houghton and Peregrine Frissell also earned awards in Hearst competitions this year, leading UM to a seventh place overall finish in the Hearst Competition for 2016.

The Pollner professorship is supported by the family and friends of Anthony Pollner '99, a *Kaimin* reporter and web editor who died in an accident in May 2001. The Pollner professors work closely with the *Kaimin* staff and teach a seminar of their own design.

Anthony Pollner's brother Edward Pollner and sister Amy Moritz provided additional vital support this year to help the *Kaimin* cover operational expenses that will be covered in the future by the newly approved student fee increase. Their bridge grant spurred students in their own fundraising and campaigning efforts.

Missoula to Berlin

J-School students relate refugees' stories from the streets of Germany's largest city

Last year, more than one million asylum seekers made their way to Germany. This summer, 18 journalism students from the University of Montana followed them.

For three weeks, the students and four local translators shared stories of this complicated moment in the lives of refugees and in global politics.

The project was born at the kitchen table of Professor Henriette Löwisch, a former Berlin editor for Agence France-Presse, with alum Shane Thomas

McMillan '10, a free-lance photojournalist based in Berlin. They dreamed of getting UM journalism students to the city to document the refugee experience.

The resulting "Missoula to Berlin Journalism Workshop" blended Löwisch's focus on international reporting, McMillan's experience covering refugees, and the skills of former NPR correspondent Dean

Larry Abramson, who covered the fall of the Berlin Wall in the early 1990s.

Arriving on May 25, students dove headlong into a week of lectures, meetings and tours designed to give them a deeper understanding of Germany's migration situation. They visited the initial registration point for asylum seekers in Berlin, a school working to integrate refugees, and an emergency shelter in Berlin's suburb of Karlshorst. Students finished the week by volunteering at a refugee shelter near their hostel.

In Week Two, groups of students began working on stories that included the challenges facing unaccompanied minors, the role religion is playing in the humanitarian response, and how Berlin's refugees are dealing with the city's housing crisis.

Guided by their instructors, the



Historian Ysanne Choksey gives student reporters a history of the Berlin Wall, visible behind her. One goal of the workshop was to give historical context to the current humanitarian crisis.



Translator and asylum seeker Anmar Ismail explains his route from Syria to Germany.



Student Ian Strahn takes notes during an interview with an organization working to combat racism in the state surrounding Berlin. Strahn and two other UM students will be following up their time with the workshop as interns at ZDF, one of Germany's prominent news channels.

For three weeks, 18 students shared stories of refugees in this moment in global politics.

students produced articles accompanied by photo stories, photo essays, multimedia pieces and other elements. Stories were made available for syndication and the project will be housed on a dedicated website.

To make this project happen, the students relied heavily on the networks of the University of Montana and the School of Journalism, and on the generosity of citizens from Missoula and Berlin who supported the project with donations.

See the students' work at:

- facebook.com/MissoulatoBerlin
- instagram.com/missoula2berlin
- twitter.com/missoula2berlin
- mtpr.org/term/missoula-berlin-project#stream/0

For more about this project, see:

- jour.umt.edu/student-projects/missoula-berlin

Next summer's trip? Japan!



University of Montana student Kira Vercruyssen interviews children at a refugee camp in the Berlin neighborhood of Karlshorst with Aimal Noori (left), a member of the translation team.



J-School professor Henriette Löwisch and a group of her workshop students listen to the vice principal of Berlin's Johanna-Eck School. With so many new arrivals, many Germans realized that schools are going to play a major role integrating refugees into their society.

Grad program alums tell stories of science in many ways, places

Nicky Ouellet, Katy Spence selected for the Crown Reporting Fellowship

Since the J-School reinvented its master's program in 2010, more than 30 students have graduated with a focus on Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism, and they are telling the story of science on multiple platforms across the United States.

Some joined the staffs of online publications, as did Abbey Dufoe MA '15, a web producer at Climate Central, or Krysti Shallenberger MA '14, an associate editor for Utility Dive, a trade publication reporting on transformations in the energy sector.

Others report for radio or print publications. Emily Wendler MA '13 is at KOSU in Oklahoma City, Tom Kuglin MA '14 reports for Montana's *Helena Independent-Record*, and Kasey Rahn MA '15 until recently reported for the *Buffalo (Wyoming) Bulletin* and is now assistant editor for *Bugle* magazine at the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Rahn joins other grads who write or edit for magazines, like Kevin Dupzyk MA '15, of *Popular Mechanics*, or Sam Lungren MA '13, of *Backcountry Journal*. And then there are the freelancers like Kate Walker MA '14, who recently produced a video for an exhibit on the human microbiome at the American Museum of Natural History.

"Our graduates turn out to be incredibly versatile," said Professor Henriette Löwisch, the program's director. "Not only do they understand science and policy, they also have broad storytelling skills, with particular expertise in their area of choice."

Now in its sixth year, the master's program continues developing opportunities for students to practice their craft.

In 2016, Nicky Ouellet and Katy Spence were selected for the Crown Reporting Fellowship, which pairs graduate students with professional mentors as they pursue stories in the Crown of the Continent region of Montana, Alberta and British Columbia.



Grad student Ben Polley talks with Jim Harrison in one of his final interviews before the author's death. Polley published their conversation in an article for *esquire.com* and *The Whitefish Review*.

NPR Senior Health and Science Producer Jane Greenhalgh worked with Ouellet, while Hillary Rosner, an independent science and environment writer, will mentor Spence.

Professors Löwisch and Nadia White also worked with scientists on the University of Montana campus to embed journalism graduate students in research teams.

For example, when University of Montana biogeochemistry Professor Cory Cleveland begins a new project in Panama in 2017, a journalism student will go along for the ride. With financial help from the National Science Foundation, the student will document Cleveland's research on whether tropical plants are able to get more nutrients from the soil than scientists have previously thought.

"It's an innovative model of collaboration between journalism and the sciences that we hope will serve as a model for other research efforts at the University of Montana," Löwisch said.



For the the 2016 Crown Reporting Project, NPR's Jane Greenhalgh (top left) mentored Nicky Ouellet (top right), while Hillary Rosner (bottom left), a science and environment writer, will mentor Katy Spence (bottom right).



Montana podcasters and fans celebrate audio storytelling

The First Missoula Podcast Festival, which was sponsored by the J-school, packed the Roxy Theater in downtown Missoula in early November.

The fest featured the best of the best from the school's audio students of the past few years, especially those pieces that ran or would run on "Last Best Stories," a podcast launched in July by Associate Professor Jule Banville. That podcast tells the unexpected stories of Montana. Student stories are mixed in with Banville's work and stories created by professional and independent producers in Montana.

Banville produced the event, creating loosely related "story blocks" and allowing time for intermission when the crowd could talk about what they heard and buy a beer and some popcorn. The sound-wave visuals changed with each story coming in over the speakers, thanks to Associate Professor Lee Banville, who designed them.

Like "Last Best Stories," the fest leaned heavily, but not exclusively, on high-quality student work. Professional stories heard that night included those from Clay Scott, who's produced more than 180 stories—mostly lovely and short audio profiles—around the Rocky Mountain West. His work has aired for several years on Montana and Yellowstone Public Radio. The evening also included a story by Amy Martin, who introduced listeners to a podcast she's developing that will air on MTPR and a story from "Tell Us Something," a series of first-person storytelling events held in Missoula and recorded for a podcast audience.

The event sold out early, and people seemed eager for the next opportunity to sit in the dark together, listening to stories. Planning has begun for Montana's second podcast festival in the fall. Keep your ears open for details.



Associate Professor Jule Banville orchestrated the first-ever Missoula Podcast Festival, which featured the best of the J-school's audio students on Banville's "Last Best Stories" podcast.

Ray Ekness named head of university's Broadcast Media Center



RAY EKNESS

Professor Ray Ekness, former chairman of the Department of Radio-Television and a faculty member since 2000, has been named director of UM's Broadcast Media Center, home of KUFM-TV and Montana Public Radio.

He succeeds J-School alumnus William Marcus '74, who retired as BMC director last year after 40 years in Montana public broadcasting.

"Ray has the talent, personality and work ethic to help guide the Broadcast Media Center through an evolving public media landscape," said Mario Schulzke, the UM official who oversees the center.

Ekness worked in radio in his native North Dakota and at KUFM as a UM student in 1982 before becoming a commercial producer and newscast director at television stations in Montana and Idaho.

In 1989 he joined the Broadcast Media Center, where he worked for 11 years while serving as an adjunct professor and earning a master's degree in journalism. After joining the J-School faculty, he served as chairman of the Radio-TV Department for six years. He was the school's director of student success this year.

He helped produce MontanaPBS's popular "Backroads of Montana" program, and he oversaw scores of student productions, teaching hundreds both the basics and finer points of radio-TV production.

"The good news of course is that Ray won't be far, and that we will know we have the best of friends running the BMC," Dean Larry Abramson told the faculty. "The bad news is that, well, it's hard to think of this place without Ray at the center of it, and that someone like Ray cannot be replaced."

Student TV project profiles businesses

UM journalism students produced two more episodes of the television magazine “Business: Made in Montana” during the past year, the 23rd year of production for this program that has now featured more than 200 Montana-made businesses.

The production is part of the J-School’s Intermediate Video Photography and Editing class each semester. Student teams research, produce, photograph, write and edit the stories using only natural sound and sound bites from their characters. Four to six businesses are featured in each program.

In the fall, teams traveled to businesses in Kalispell, Bigfork, Deer Lodge, Columbus, Bonner, Helena, Polson, Gardiner, Potomac and Missoula. All program costs are covered by a grant from the Greater Montana Foundation.

Students Caryn Foehringer and Mederios Whitworth-Babb hosted this year’s programs that aired statewide on MontanaPBS. Segments of the program are also being shown to waiting passengers in the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport.



Ethan Fitzgerald shoots video for the “Made in Montana” project.

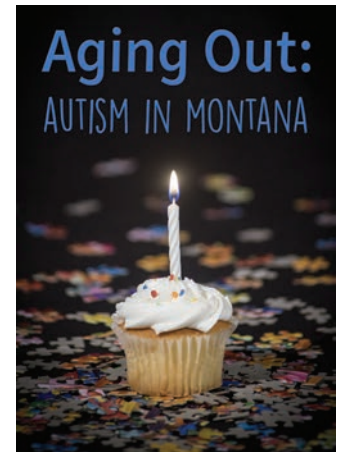
Student doc explores struggles of autistic youth

The 2016 Student Documentary Unit spent the last few days of the semester under deadline making last minute script changes, re-editing, adding graphics and creating promos. They finished just in time for the premiere of “Aging Out: Autism Care in Montana” before an emotional crowd at UM’s University Theater.

The moving hour-long documentary told the story of Montana families struggling to find help for their autistic children as they age out of the public school system and transition into adulthood. Student documentary teams traveled across the state to find stories of Montana families

trying to piece together a future for their autistic sons and daughters. It also details the effort to place the issue before Montana’s lawmakers.

Student producer Keiko Sagami and director Peter Riley, both seniors, led a team of 13 broadcast journalism students who took the project from idea to completion in a single semester. Adjunct Professor John Twiggs led the class with help from Associate Professor Denise Dowling.



Native News Honors Project examines tribes and politics

The Native News Honors Project published its 25th edition, “Across the Divide,” on May 21, 2016. The project focused on politics in Montana’s Indian Country, an important but often overlooked topic made relevant by the national election in the fall. Students produced stories on how well Montana’s Native Americans are represented in Montana’s Legislature; the fallout of an era of massive government misspending; and the process by which one tribe is trying to draft a new constitution, which includes implementing a three-branch government.

The project’s co-teachers, Professors Jason Begay and Jeremy Lurgio, and their students showcased the project during

finals week. Later that day, Begay, Lurgio and photography student Jake Green watched as the tabloid-sized publication rolled off *The Missoulian’s* press. It was inserted in newspapers statewide. An online version of the project is on the school website.

Meanwhile, the 2015 Native News project, “Intertwined,” which focused on relationships and the bonds that hold people together, won several awards this year. Among them



was third place in the Large Group Multimedia Project at the College Photographer of the Year awards. Students also won national Hearst Awards, including a ninth place for Bronte Wittpenn’s multimedia project about domestic violence on the Fort Peck Reservation and a

17th place in feature writing for Kolby Kickingwoman’s story about a transgender high school student on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation.

Montana Race Project challenges residents to start a conversation

Adjunct Professor Kathy Weber-Bates '01 accepted the challenge last fall of starting a conversation about race in a state where nine in 10 residents identify themselves as white. She and students in her Diversity in Media course asked Montanans to submit six-word stories describing their experiences and attitudes about race.

The resulting Montana Race Project reached students enrolled throughout the Montana University System and others. The short stories forced writers to distill their feelings. Responses ranged from disbelief ("Race is not an issue here.") to fear ("Better stick to your own kind.") to pleas for inclusion ("Black. White. We all bleed red.")

Participants followed the project on Facebook, and versions of the program are planned at other campuses. The project was an eye-opener for students, who presented their findings during UM's DiverseU Week last fall.

Montana might not be diverse racially,

they found, but it does have a diversity of voices. Weber-Bates found that Montanans had plenty to say—even when they said race was a non-issue.

"Growing up mixed race in Montana, I remember almost every time I met someone new they would ask, 'What nationality are you?' she wrote in a blog post. 'No one meant any harm by asking. But, they didn't realize they were suggesting I was somehow less American than they were. I realize now that if you were never asked that question in your life, you would probably never even think about race in Montana.'"

Journalism student Mia Soza said the class made her realize how little the mainstream news media cover minority communities—except in times of crisis.

That means it is missing out on a lot of interesting stories and concepts. "We're all just people," she told listeners at the DiverseU forum. "We're on a rock spinning around the sun. At the end of the day, we're all in this thing together."



Charli White, a student in the Montana Race Project, helped solicit six-word stories from across Montana that were included in this class poster.

Montana Journalism Review looks at wildfire coverage

Every year, reporters nationwide tell stories of spreading wildfire. Increasingly, they become trapped on a merry-go-round of coverage that is merely reactive instead of critical. Following a particularly volatile wildfire season, the 2016 issue of *Montana Journalism Review* analyzed how journalists could better inform the public, especially when it comes to illuminating the links between climate change, politics and fire science.

In addition to following reporters covering Montana wildfires, staff and contributors of Issue 45 probed ways journalists are feeling the burn, from a legacy publisher closing its statehouse bureau to newsrooms in the West lighting up with reviews and commentary on legalized marijuana. Cutting-edge scientists spoke out on overlooked stories; freelancers got tips on how to make their work pay, and radio

icon Ira Glass offered career advice.

For the first time, some of the stories were published on Medium.com, an alternative story platform that specializes in long-form work.

Students on the MJR staff receive a crash course into the world of producing a high-quality magazine.

"Creating MJR is one of the most authentic experiences students can have while still in the classroom," said Managing Editor Nicky Ouellet, a graduate student in UM's master's program in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism. "I'm really proud of what we've created, and the immense energy and dedication our staff poured into this issue."

The 2016 MJR team worked to improve the fact-checking and copy-editing system for increased accuracy and a more effective

workflow. Corrections now are easy to find on the magazine's newly designed website. All stories and past issues are available at mjr.jour.umt.edu. The print magazine, which is sent to subscribers nationally, can be ordered through the MJR website. Associate Professor Henriette Löwisch serves as MJR's editor-in-chief.



MJR, SPRING 2016

Associate Professor **Lee Banville** has finished work on his 800-page “Covering American Politics in the 21st Century: An Encyclopedia of News Media Titans, Trends, and Controversies.” The two-volume book investigates how a mix of technology and money has fundamentally altered political campaigns and the media that cover them by exploring some 200 different topics. The work will be published by ABC-CLIO in October 2016. This effort also led Cowles Montana Media Company, which operates seven stations throughout Montana, to tap Banville as its on-air political analyst throughout the 2016 elections. He also continued to explore how digital games are becoming more and more of an effective teaching tool through his work with the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop. As editorial director of the Games and Learning Publishing Council he oversees the reporting and production of the niche news site gamesandlearning.org.

Newly promoted Associate Professor **Jule Banville** launched her own podcast project, “Last Best Stories,” in July. *The Missoula Independent* featured the project, and the podcast was recommended for “binge listening” by *The Audit*, an independent Australian newsletter that recommends podcasts from across the world. To date, six episodes are available at lastbeststories.org. Listeners can also subscribe and download episodes through iTunes. Jule’s advanced audio students launched their own podcast last spring, “Rest Stop Radio,” featuring stories from travelers along I-90, the country’s longest interstate, in the state with its longest stretch. Jule also wrote articles for the website MediaShift about teaching audio journalism and podcasting. She continues to teach Elements of News Writing and Feature Writing classes, in addition to audio. She is also the school’s internship supervisor, serves on the Faculty Senate and is a member of KBGA radio’s board of directors.



Associate Professor **Jason Begay** spent the year as the president of the Native American Journalists Association, which entailed organizing the 2016 Excellence in Journalism conference, the organization’s joint event with the Society of Professional Journalists scheduled for September in New Orleans. Working with NAJA, he also helped organize a smaller weekend media regional summit in April with UNITY Journalists for Diversity in Phoenix, focusing on regional media coverage of Southwest tribes and immigration issues. Begay was promoted to associate professor in April, based in part on his work with NAJA and its Native American Journalism Fellowship student program, which he helped create. Throughout the 2015-16 academic year, Begay welcomed more than 100 Native American high school and middle school students from throughout Montana to Don Anderson Hall to discuss the need for journalism in tribal communities. He continues to co-teach the school’s award-winning Native News Project, which marked its 25th anniversary. This fall, he will teach the school’s Diversity in Media course.

Associate Professor **Denise Dowling** spent the 2015-16 academic year on sabbatical. She’s working on a radio documentary profiling transgender youth in the rural West. Her work on the project has taken her to Arizona, Washington and California to talk with young transgender people, families and friends, medical doctors, coaches, teachers, researchers and program directors. Denise spent March at KING-TV in Seattle where she studied the station’s approach to social and digital media. The National Association of Television Program Executives awarded Dowling

a grant to return to a broadcast newsroom and bring current knowledge and practices back to UM. Denise says social media, apps and online news have drastically changed the way newsrooms share information with their audiences, and she’s eager to bring that approach to her teaching. Dowling and husband Chris Johnson sent their daughter Erin off to college in the fall. In her free time Denise still plays a mean game of tennis, a lousy game of golf and is a frequent spectator and sometimes stadium announcer at her son Kellen’s baseball games.

Assistant Professor **Joe Eaton** published a cover story in the January edition of the magazine *Pacific Standard*. The piece explores the failure of a federal government initiative to use data analytics to crack down on Medicare fraud, which costs the program at least \$60 billion a year. The story details the success of the credit card industry in using so-called predictive analytics to catch criminals and explains why Medicare has struggled to follow its example. Eaton continues to cover energy issues for *National Geographic* and regularly writes about crime and aging for *AARP the Magazine*. In addition to teaching courses in public affairs reporting, editing and investigations, this spring Eaton taught a class called “Marketing your Work,” a course on entrepreneurial journalism.

Associate Professor **Ray Fanning** serves on the UM General Education Committee, which is working on revitalizing the general education perspectives and making them more relevant to students. During the School of Journalism’s annual High School Journalism Day, he presented a workshop on mobile newsgathering. The presentation, titled “The Reporting Gear in Your Pocket,” focused on ways to gather better video and audio using smartphones. He also served as the chair of the Faculty Evaluation Committee for the School of Journalism, organizing the annual peer and student reviews. Fanning applied for and won a sabbatical for spring

semester 2017. He's currently researching race in Montana in preparation for a multi-part audio reporting project. The scope will include historical, cultural and legal perspectives. This year, students in his UM News course have won multiple nominations and awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, the Hearst Journalism Awards and the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Associate Professor **Keith Graham** continues to work on a book and video documentary about Montana's one-room schools. A photo exhibit on this project, "Chasing Time: The Last of the Active One-room Schools in Montana," was in the Missoula Art Museum this summer and fall. It moves to three more cities in Montana, beginning in December. Meanwhile, he continues to serve as judge for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's national design contest and the National Press Photographers Association's photo contest. His teaching highlights this year included a studio session in which his Freelance Photography students photographed food dishes prepared by Chef Patrick Browne. The class also created official portraits of members of the University of Montana's rodeo team. He added instruction in Adobe Illustrator to his Publication Design course this spring so students could learn to create logos and news graphics.

Associate Professor **Henriette Löwisch's** busy year culminated in a study abroad trip to Berlin with a bevy of UM students to explore Europe's refugee crisis. It began last fall with her oversight of the Montana Journalism Review, the J-School's student-produced magazine and online publication, and continued with her leadership of the J-School's 6-year-old master's program in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism, which produced student works that made headlines nationally and across the globe, and is anticipating its largest class this fall. She also teaches the program's graduate seminar on en-

vironmental journalism; the J-School's freshman-level Global Current Events class, supported in part by UM's Davidson Honors College; and a senior course in International Journalism. She continues to serve as the school's major link to UM's international and scientific community.



Associate Professor **Jeremy Lurgio** recently earned a merit award from UM for excellence in teaching. The student projects he mentors regularly garner national awards. The 2014 Native News Honors Project finished second as a national finalist at the Society for Professional Journalists' Mark of Excellence student awards. The 2015 online version placed third in the Large Group Multimedia category at the College Photographer of the Year contest. A portrait project, "A Century of Stories," placed fifth in the Hearst competition's Team Multimedia category. An exhibit of those portraits of Montana centenarians toured the state. This year Lurgio worked with colleague Erik Peterson on a documentary about Bob Hayes, an 89-year-old who runs 30 races each year, cuts his own firewood and does things the hard way to remain active and alive. The film is scheduled for release this fall. Lurgio also helped teach a five-day outdoor workshop for rural high school students and teachers in Oregon's John Day River watershed.

Professor **Dennis Swibold** continues to serve as one of the school's two directors, in addition to teaching a couple of courses each semester. This year he taught two sections of Ethics and Trends, a required course for seniors, and sections of the school's introductory

news writing and reporting courses. This fall he and Professor Lee Banville will co-teach the school's capstone course on election coverage, which produces stories for professional news organizations across Montana. This spring he won a grant from Humanities Montana to speak to civic groups and schools statewide, explaining the radical changes facing the news media. He was also selected by the National Endowment of the Arts to review applications from the states to digitize historical newspapers. Outside the J-school, he is a director of the Montana Innocence Project, which investigates wrongful convictions.



Associate Professor **Nadia White** earned a merit award this year for her work as faculty adviser to the *Montana Kaimin*. She helped the *Kaimin's* student staff expand its online presence, refine the voice of its now-weekly news magazine and move into live event coverage. Students in her graduate-level science journalism class provided coverage of the search for a new dean of the College of Forestry and Conservation, asking candidates what they would do to continue a tradition of transparency and cooperation with journalists. The answers proved more surprising than anticipated, a reminder to journalism students that you don't know if you don't ask. White spent part of winter break in Dawson, Yukon Territory, to continue work on "Travels with Josie," her adventure biography of her great grandmother. She looks forward to leading students on a trip to Fukushima, Japan, in May 2017. That trip will explore the impact that Japan's triple disaster of March 11, 2011, has had on young people thrust into a historic cycle of crisis and reconstruction.

SPJ Winners

Society of Professional Journalists

NATIONAL FINALISTS

Television Photography

Student Documentary Unit,
"Changing Home: Small Town
Survival"

Television Sports Photography

Peter Riley, "Cross country runner
Makena Morley"

REGIONAL WINNERS

General News Photography

Evan Frost

Sports Photography

Will McKnight

Breaking News Reporting

Kasey Bubnash

Feature Writing

Kolby Kickingwoman

In-Depth Reporting

Erin Loranger

Sports Writing

Sojin Josephson

Best Affiliated Web Site

Fall 2015 UM News class

Online Feature Reporting

Bronte Wittpenn

Online In-Depth Reporting

Sam Waldorf and Bethany Blitz

Online News Reporting

Nicky Ouellet and Kristin Kirkland

Radio News Reporting

Cheri Trusler

TV General News Reporting

Sean Robb

TV In-Depth Reporting

UM Student Documentary Unit

TV News and Feature Photo

Andy Anderson

Television Sports Photo

Peter Riley

UM students earn Hearst honors again

Students grab eight more "college Pulitzers"

As a sports reporter at the *Montana Kaimin*, Sojin Josephson was used to fast turnover between stories.

But with some encouragement from ESPN reporter and fall 2015 Pollner professor Kevin Van Valkenburg, she took a swing at long-form features.

Her feature story, "Finding Feller: A family on and off the court," delved into the life of McCalle Feller, a senior player for Lady Griz, focusing not on her impressive career stats, but on the fact that Feller was adopted and had been trying to connect with her birth parents while at college. Josephson interviewed Feller and her adoptive parents together, and managed to get in touch with Feller's birth-father.

After appearing in the *Kaimin* in February, the story went on to win second place in the Hearst Awards personality/profile category, granting Josephson a \$2,000 scholarship and national recognition.

She joined seven other UM students recognized by Hearst this year, adding to the J-School's reign as one of the top finishers in this college version of the Pulitzers. UM finished seventh overall.



From print to broadcast, Sojin Josephson is getting noticed for her student work, taking second place at the Hearst Awards and a first in the regional SPJ's sports reporting category. She starts work soon as a news assistant at "CBS Evening News."

Hearst Journalism Awards

Personality/Profile Writing

Sojin Josephson, second place
Andrew Houghton, 11th place

Multimedia I - Features

Kaci Felstet, sixth place

Sport Writing

Peregrine Frissell, seventh place

Multimedia II - News

Bronte Wittpenn, ninth place

Broadcast II - Radio News & Features

Emily Proctor, ninth place

Broadcast III - Television News

Sarah Yovetich, 12th place

Writing I - Feature Writing

Kolby KickingWoman, 17th place

Photo I - News & Features

Evan Frost, 18th place

UM grad student first from Montana to win prestigious journalism scholar award

Katie Riordan, a master's degree candidate in journalism at the University of Montana, received an Overseas Press Club Foundation Scholar Award at the 2016 Annual Scholar Awards Luncheon held at the Yale Club in New York City.

A graduate of the University of Colorado, Riordan was among 15 aspiring foreign correspondents selected by a panel of leading journalists out of 175 applicants from 50 different colleges and universities. She is the first student from a college in Montana to win the award.

Riordan's winning application told how she worked in Yemen and then went to the Republic of Somaliland in the Horn of Africa and covered the effects of drought on nomadic tribes, among other environmental and political stories. Her interest lies in reporting on the impact of climate change and the growing number of climate refugees.



Katie Riordan

Riordan earned an OPC Foundation fellowship with *The Wall Street Journal* in London. She also received the Flora Lewis Fellowship, named for the former Paris bureau chief of *The New York Times*, presented by Michelle LaRoche, editor of development at *The Wall Street Journal*.

The award winners received risk management and situational awareness training from Global Journalist Security at AP headquarters in New York City and met privately with editors from BuzzFeed, AP and Reuters at a special breakfast and during a post-luncheon panel. Other media organizations at the luncheon included Bloomberg, CBS News, GroundTruth Project, IBT Media and *The Wall Street Journal*.

The OPC Foundation is the nation's largest and most visible scholarship program encouraging aspiring journalists to pursue careers as foreign correspondents.



NATAS Awards

National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences - Northwest Chapter
2016 College Student Awards for Excellence

Sports

Sean Robb, reporter/producer;
Pete Riley, photographer/editor;
"Makena Morley Leads
UM Cross Country Team"

Video Essay

(Single Camera Only)

Jamie Dittmar;
Producer/photographer/editor;
"Meissenburg Designs"

NATAS-NW

Regional Scholarships

Mason Birgenheier
and Ethaniel Fitzgerald

CBYX Fellowship

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange

Young Professionals Fellowship

Katie Riordan, full-ride award to study and work in Germany from July 2016 through August 2017

CPOY Awards

College Photographer of the Year
Large Group Multimedia
Project competition

Native News, third place
2015 online multimedia
publication

BEA Awards

Broadcast Education Association
International Festival of Media Arts

Best of Festival

Nicky Ouellet,
student audio competition

Nicky Ouellet's radio feature "An 80's Cover Band with Global Dreams" was awarded "Best in Festival" at the Broadcast Education Association International Festival of Media Arts.

Value the Moment



Adam McCaw

Dr. Mike Kremkau, a senior medic on the Missoula County Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team, squeezes off a well-aimed shot from the 25-meter line, in February.



Olivia Vanni

Stu Williams, a local boatmaker and owner of Montana Boat, takes his newly finished boat out on March 26 to check for leaks before handing the boat off to a customer.



Kayse Angel

Kevin Benhart Brown, co-owner of Strongwater Surf, rides Brennan's Wave in downtown Missoula. He said he tries to surf every day.

Students in UM Pollner professor Sally Stapleton's class worked to capture multimedia stories that portrayed "the value of the moment," a term Stapleton used to encapsulate the class. That culminated in a showcase of visual stories by the student journalists in May at the Roxy Theater in Missoula.

Here is a small collection of some of the images her students captured.



Jeff Stevens hammers a clamp into the neck of a wood-carved pony for Butte's Spirit of Columbia Gardens Carousel.



UM student Dac Cederberg wears an outfit resembling Little Bo Peep for a drag competition.



A volunteer feeds a wood-fire kiln at The Clay Studio of Missoula. Missoula is home to one of the largest wood-fire kilns in America, and because of its size, it must be constantly stoked during the seven- to nine-day firing. The kiln is only used a few times per year due to this time commitment.

COL. WILLIAM SWARTZ '42, who flew combat missions during World War II and in support of the Berlin Airlift, died Dec. 30, 2015, in Bloomington, Minnesota. He was 96.

He was born in 1919 in Sheridan, Wyoming, but later moved to Pryor, Montana, where his father served as agent for the Crow Tribe. William graduated from high school in Fromberg, Montana, before earning a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Montana.

He enlisted in the U.S. Air Corps in 1942, serving in Europe until after the Berlin Airlift. He also was commander of Charleston Air Force Station in Maine, an air traffic control adviser in Taiwan, a systems officer in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and a space systems staff officer at the Pentagon.

He married Deloris Debner in 1946 in Billings, Montana. Their daughter Roxana was born during a posting in the Seattle area. Daughter Jeanne was born in Frankfurt, Germany.

He retired from the Air Force in 1967, after 24 years of service, during which he won the Distinguished Flying Cross, among other commendations. He moved to Bloomington with his family, working in real estate in the Twin Cities area for 14 years.

GERALD THOMAS LESTER '45, who worked as a communication specialist in agricultural economics at the University of California-Davis, died on Aug. 3, 2015, in Rollinsford, New Hampshire. He was 95.

He was born in 1920 in Seattle, Washington, but was raised in Montana, where he met his wife of 60 years, Geraldine Fahey Lester, his "Stardust girl."

He earned his bachelor's degree in journalism in 1945. After their marriage, Jerry and Jeri lived briefly in Rhode Island before settling in San Francisco to raise a family. He worked for many years for the California university system.

He liked to sail and was a lover of zeppelins, planes, trains and automobiles.

DOROTHY JEAN MCKENZIE ALLEN '48, whose career as a journalist included stints at several newspapers in Washington state, died Jan. 3, 2016, in Seattle. She was 90.

She was born on May 5, 1926, in Philipsburg, Montana, where she graduated as valedictorian from the local high school. She enrolled at the University of Montana, studying journalism and communication. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority and Theta Sigma Phi, the honorary society for women in communications.

After earning her degree, she moved to Spokane, Washington, where she met and married Roy Allen. They were together for 57 years. In retirement they traveled to Central and South America, Europe and Asia.

She worked as a journalist for many papers, including the *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, the *Wenatchee Daily*, the *Renton Chronicle* and the *Renton News-Record*. She also worked as a district director for the Camp Fire Girls.

WALTER R. ORVIS '49, who worked on many small-town weekly newspapers, died on Feb. 1, 2015, in Clinton, New York. He was 92.

He was born on Oct. 22, 1922, in Newberg, Oregon, but raised mostly in Missoula, Montana, where he attended high school and enrolled in UM's J-School. He married Mary Lou Mars on May 11, 1946 in Missoula.

He spent his early professional life working as a journalist, primarily in small-town weekly papers. For many years he was the editor of *The Montclair Tribune* and later of *The Chino Champion*, both in southern California, where he and his wife lived for 50 years.

The couple moved to Clinton, New York, in 2004, to be near their son and grandchildren. Walter enjoyed watching his grandsons grow up during his decade there. He also enjoyed the quiet small-town life and the friends he and Mary Lou made at the Clinton United Methodist Church.

ROSS HAGEN '52, a former Associated Press newsman and manager who covered the civil rights march on Selma, Alabama, and the 1964 Republican Convention, died May 9, 2015, in Iowa City. He was 86.

He was born in Glendive, Montana, where his parents were wheat-farming homesteaders. He joined the Navy at 17, serving for two years before enrolling at the J-School. After graduation, he returned to Glendive where he met his future wife, Jackie, while selling her father newspapers ads for his furniture store.

He soon joined The Associated Press, and the couple traveled to assignments that ranged from Helena to Colorado, Alabama and Georgia (twice) before becoming a news director in New England. In addition to the Selma story and the '64 GOP convention, he covered Vietnam War protests, the Chappaquiddick Island incident, sports stars such as Alabama head coach Paul "Bear" Bryant and quarterback Joe Namath, and the pennant-winning 1967 Red Sox.

He left the AP for a second career in public relations, working for Massey Ferguson, the American Bar Association, the FMC Corp. and the University of Iowa and its hospitals and clinics. He retired in 1997.

KEN BYERLY '56, who reported for *The Washington Post* and *Newsday* before becoming a New York stockbroker, died Nov. 17, 2015, at his home in Jericho, Vermont. He was 81.

He was born in 1934 in Stokes County, North Carolina, the first of three sons born to newspaper publisher and



owner Kenneth Rhodes Byerly Sr. and Louise Hanes Byerly. In 1940, his father bought a paper in Thermopolis, Wyoming. In 1947, the family moved to Lewistown, Montana, where Ken Sr. had purchased the *Lewistown Democrat News*.

Young Ken played football for and graduated from Fergus County High school. He went on to play football on an athletic scholarship for the University of Montana, where he majored in journalism.

After serving briefly in the peacetime Army, he became the editor of *The Tidewater News* in Franklin, Virginia, a paper his father had purchased. He moved from there to *The Washington Post*. He quit to spend a year traveling and writing in Europe, returning to the U.S. in 1963 to take a reporting job with Long Island's *Newsday*. It was there that he met and married Raquel Gill. Their marriage lasted three years.

He later became a Wall Street stockbroker, working for several firms before settling at Merrill Lynch.

In 1977, he married a junior high Spanish teacher, Priscilla Morse, whom he met while skiing in Vermont. They lived in Tarrytown, N.Y., for 10 years, before they retired and moved to Bozeman, Montana. In 1990, they bought a house near Burlington, Vermont, which served as a home base for their hiking adventures.

EDWARD H. FOLKWEIN '70, of Columbia Falls, died Monday, July 27, 2015, in a bicycle accident in Washington state.

He was born on Nov. 25, 1947, in Youngstown, Ohio, and graduated from Struthers High School in 1966. He earned a degree in radio-television from the University of Montana in Missoula in 1970.

He married Shirley (Rogers) Folkwein



on June 13, 1970, and they moved to Lubbock, Texas, after his commissioning in the U.S. Air Force. He received an honorable discharge from the Air Force in the spring of 1973. The couple then moved to the Flathead Valley where he worked in radio and television. It was there that their daughter, Laura, was born.

Ed worked as a district executive with the Boy Scouts of America and then enrolled in seminary at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver in 1980. He earned his Master of Divinity degree in 1983 and was ordained as a pastor in the Yellowstone Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1985. The family served churches in Troy, Valier, Harlowton/Judith Gap, Whitehall, Hardin/Ashland and Sheridan/Twin Bridges. He retired from the ministry in 2011 and also served as manager at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Billings.

As a pastor, Ed's ministry reached beyond church doors in service to the rural people and communities where he served. During the same time, Ed began bicycle touring. He toured well over 8,200 miles, and he died doing something he loved.

Ed and Shirley moved to the family farm in Columbia Falls in 2010. They built a home and grew a market garden to sell produce through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and the Columbia Falls and West Glacier farmers' markets.

Ed was an amateur photographer and enjoyed hiking, bird and wildlife watching, and singing with the Flathead Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus.

DAVID EDWARD STENERSON '74, a defense attorney, Vietnam vet and one-time weekly newspaper editor, died Feb. 23, 2016, in Hamilton, Montana, of a sudden illness. He was 66.

He was born in Billings in 1949, the youngest of four children. He graduated from Billings Central High School in 1967 and briefly attended Eastern Montana College. Due to his driving record, a Billings city judge strongly encouraged him to join the military.

He served in the U.S. Navy, which led to a stint in Vietnam with the Mobile Riverine Force at the height of the war. He was awarded a Purple Heart and Silver Star for throwing an enemy grenade off his boat, saving many lives.

After the war, he married his high school sweetheart, Debra Neiss, and they moved to Missoula where Dave earned a



journalism degree in 1974. He became editor of eastern Montana's twice weekly *Sidney Herald*. His daughter, Rachel, was born there. The family moved to Missoula in 1978 so Dave could work on a master's degree in journalism.

A year later they moved to Florence, Montana, where Dave built a log home and worked in carpentry and drywall until he decided to enroll in the University of Montana's School of Law. He earned his J.D. in 1989 at the age of 36, and worked briefly in the Missoula County Public Defender's Office before becoming a contract public defender in Ravalli County.

In 1999 he and Debra divorced, and Dave married Diane Gearhardt that July. The couple worked together in the Stenersen Law Office until 2006, when they both joined the Public Defender's Office in Hamilton. In 2011, Dave became a regional deputy public defender, responsible for Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral counties and a staff of 35.

"I like fighting for the underdog," he once said. He and Diane also liked riding their Harley motorcycles. He also enjoyed gardening and cooking his famous baked beans. When he wore a tie, it was always a red one, in honor of his optician father, who wore a red tie and red socks every day.

JEFFREY ALLEN GERRISH '89, who specialized in photography during his time at the School of Journalism, died Jan. 18, 2016, at his home in St.

Ignatius of a gunshot wound. He was 53.

He was born in 1962 to Dorothy and Duff Gerrish of Kalispell and St. Ignatius.

RUSSELL “WILL” GETELMAN '91, a brilliant student who worked for the *Montana Kaimin* and interned at *The Missoulian* in the summer of 1991, died Sept. 23, 2015, at Hillside Manor in Missoula.

SHARON ROSE NEVATT SCURRY '93, who owned a delicatessen and worked as a night editor for *The Ravalli Republic*, died on Dec. 16, 2016, in Rocklin, California, of a sudden illness. She was 63.

She was born in 1949 in Springfield, Missouri. She married John B. Scurry Jr. in the summer of 1976, and they moved from California to Montana, where she lived for 33 years.

After earning her journalism degree, she owned the Farmhouse Delicatessen and worked as a night editor for *The Ravalli Republic* in Hamilton. She also taught school in Darby and Missoula.

She eventually moved back to California to be near her daughter, Staci, and four grandchildren, who survive her.

ALBERT BYRON PRICE, who worked as a custodian at the J-School and supported its students with special scholarships, died May 5, 2016, at his home in Missoula. He was 79.

He had moved to Missoula to be near his aging mother after working for many years in Alaska. He was a school counselor in Barrow, Alaska, and he also worked on the Alaska pipeline and helped clean up the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Al was born in Butte in 1936. He graduated from high school in Wallace, Idaho, and joined the Marine Corps. He returned to Missoula to work in the Anaconda Company's Bonner lumber mill and to earn bachelor's and master's degrees from UM.

RUSSELL BRYAN HICKS '00, a commercial real estate developer and manager, died Dec. 1, 2015, in Missoula. He was 38.

He was born Feb. 8, 1978, in Missoula and attended Valley Christian School from kindergarten through graduation in 1996. He graduated from the University of Montana in 2000 with a double major in journalism and English. In 2006 he graduated from St. Thomas Law School in Florida.

Russell was the president and general manager of a local business, which consisted mainly of commercial real estate development and management.

He was active in the Missoula Exchange Club and was a board member and secretary of Missoula Parenting Place. He was passionate about helping children and worked to prevent child abuse.



Courtesy of the Wisconsin State Journal

ANN FLEISCHLI MA '12, a Wisconsin attorney who fought for the environment and against poverty and development, died March 20, 2016, in Arizona of cancer. She was 73.

A native of Kankakee, Illinois, she started her professional life in the South as a poverty lawyer, and came to Madison with her husband, George, about 50 years ago. She ran unsuccessfully for City Council and used her legal training to battle in the courts against developers and miners.

In 2009, she moved to Missoula, where she enrolled in the new master's program in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism. Her master's project focused on efforts to preserve wild areas on the Rocky Mountain Front.

According to *The Wisconsin State Journal*, she made her environmental

feelings known at countless legislative hearings in Wisconsin. A book lover and library advocate, she opposed an effort to close neighborhood libraries. She also battled for the homeless and those without health insurance.

She wrote her own obituary, in which she says she started sticking up for the underdog in fourth grade by socking a bully on the chin, “and kept it up her entire life.”

According to the *Journal*, she was injured two years ago when a state capitol police officer treated her roughly, dragging her from her spot collecting signatures for a ballot measure to limit subsidies for developers in Madison.

She wrote that she hoped to be reincarnated as “a 6-foot-4 warrior for good with her own super PAC.”

SPENCER VEYSEY '12, a dogged investigator for the Montana Innocence Project, died Friday, Oct. 2, 2015, while climbing Long's Peak in Colorado. He was 26.

He attended Fellows, Ames Middle, and Ames High School in Ames, Iowa, before heading west, first to work on a commercial fishing boat in Alaska, and



finally to Montana, where he floated rivers, climbed mountains and earned a journalism degree at the University of Montana. He worked as a reporter for the *Montana Kaimin* and played rugby, serving as president of the UM Jesters rugby club for two years.

After college, he worked for three years as the Montana Innocence Project's first full-time investigator, skillfully re-examining evidence in potential cases of wrongful conviction. His work helped win a new trial for one Montana inmate. Other cases that he developed are still working their way through the post-conviction process. **-30-**

Outstanding journalists shared with students

Here are some of last year's important visitors.



Special correspondent Susan Stamberg, one of the "founding mothers" of National Public Radio, offered tips to future journalists at the J-School's annual Dean Stone Lecture this spring.



Ira Glass, host and producer of "This American Life," conducted a master class for journalism students last fall. He also delivered a lecture to raise funds for Montana Public Radio.



Author and ex-Wall Street Journal reporter Ken Wells gave the spring's Jeff Cole Distinguished Lecture.



Award-winning author and producer Hedrick Smith (center) visited our senior ethics seminar this spring.

Editor's Note: In December 2015, Professor emeritus Carol Van Valkenburg and Professor Denise Dowling put out a call to alumni on Facebook, asking them to tell us what they were up to. Here's what we heard.

1950s

John Bansch '57 is retired. He worked 41 years at *The Indianapolis Star*.

1970s

Chuck Johnson '70 almost retired in May 2015 after 43 years as a journalist in Montana, mostly as a statehouse reporter for the Lee State Bureau and *The Great Falls Tribune*. He's scheduled to cover the 2017 Legislature for *The Bozeman Daily Chronicle*.

J. F. Purcell '72 retired to help take care of twin grandsons and volunteer to help save regional photos and help dogs get adopted.

Jack Tanner '72 is a page designer and presentation desk editor at the *Naples (Florida) Daily News*.

Ronnene Anderson '73 worked 14 years as a part-time copy editor for the daily *Edmonton Journal* in Alberta, Canada, before retiring.

Peggy Kuhr '73 resigned as the University of Montana's vice president of integrated communications in May and will retire from UM in January. She served five years as J-School dean.



Peggy Kuhr

Kay Balmer '74 worked for 15 years at *The Oregonian* before retiring.

Kevin S. Giles '74 is a reporter and editor at *The Star Tribune* newspaper in Minneapolis-St. Paul. He's also published three books with more on the way.

Bob Anez '75, now retired, was a longtime statehouse reporter for The Associated Press in Helena and communications director for the Montana Department of Corrections.

John Kafentzis '75 is a senior lecturer in the Integrated Media Department at Gonzaga University, teaching journalism and public relations.

Rich Landers '75 has been an outdoors editor for *The Spokesman-Review* in Spokane, Washington, since 1977.

David Allan Cates '79 is a novelist, poet, part-time director of Missoula Medical Aid and part-time teacher for the Rainier Writing Workshop at Pacific Lutheran University.

Debra McKinney '79 is a freelance reporter and is trying to get a farm-based charter high school off the ground.

1980s

Mike Dennison '81 is chief of the Montana Television Network's Capitol Bureau. He was a statehouse reporter for Lee Newspapers until May of 2015.



Mike Dennison

Pamela Bennett '82 is a senior media planner and strategist for the Wendt Agency in Great Falls.

Romney Dunbar '82 is the founder of Dunbar Productions. The company is known for TV programs like "100 Mile Meals" and "Great Homes TV."

Paul VanDevelder '82 spent 20 years as a photojournalist on four continents. Paul now writes columns for the *LA Times*, *New York Times*, *Esquire*, *Audubon* and *Forbes*.

Pam A. Boyle '83 has been in the military since 1993. Pam is also a doctoral student in management.

Carol Hyman '83 was the news director for UCSF Medical Center.

Gary Moseman '83 retired after 24 years at *The Great Falls Tribune*. Gary is now living and writing in Lincoln, MT.

John Bulger '84 is an attorney in Pocatello, Idaho.

Marlee Miller '85 is a chief operating officer at M+R, a public affairs consulting firm, in Missoula.

Jeremy Sauter '85 works in entertainment marketing. He lives in Missoula and L.A.

Shane Bishop '86 is a national producer for "Dateline NBC."

Verina Palmer Martin '86 retired after a long and varied career. Verina was a GA and medical reporter for Tribune newspapers in Arizona, editor of custom health magazines, freelance writer/editor for newspapers and magazines, writer for national medical imaging magazine, and a PR specialist/writer/editor at Arizona State University and a community college.

Michael Lee Moore '87 was a coordinator for Reaching Home, Missoula's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Missoula.

John Engen '88 is the mayor of Missoula, his hometown.

Scott Fralick '88 is a managing editor for CTV News Edmonton in Alberta.

Kevin McRae '88 is a deputy commissioner of higher education.

Michele Troxel '88 is a unit manager and show producer for KING TV's "Evening Seattle."

Mark Downey '89 is a fishing guide. He says he still aspires to professional whistling.

1990s

Amber Underhill Beckner '90 is the marketing and grant coordinator for NeighborWorks Great Falls & NeighborWorks Montana (affordable housing nonprofits). Previously she was a business planning manager at D.A. Davidson and an editor at *The Great Falls Tribune*.

John MacDonald '90 is a strategic communications and government affairs consultant focusing on media training and crisis communications.

Beth McLaughlin '90 is a Supreme Court administrator in Helena.

Beth Brennan MA '91 is a lawyer and occasional law professor. She says she is a constant grammar nerd.

Marlene Feist '91 works for the City of Spokane as the director of strategic initiatives.

2000s

Shelli Johnson '91 is an entrepreneur building her second business: Epic Life, a leadership development, coaching and adventure guiding business. Her first business was a tourism publishing company (*Yellowstone Journal* and *YellowstonePark.com*) which she sold to Active Interest Media in 2008.

Julie Walker '91 manages business and communication services at Take Control in Missoula.

Gary Jahrig '92 is now the lead billing analyst for Consumer Direct Management Solutions in Missoula.

Joe Kolman '92 is the director of the nonpartisan Environmental Policy Office for the Montana Legislature.

Carlos Pedraza '92 is a screenwriter and producer.

Gina Boysun Pinnock '92 is the online director at *The Spokesman-Review*.

Roger Renville '92 is an appellate attorney for the Montana Public Defenders' Office in Helena.

Karen Coates '93 is an independent journalist, author, editor and media trainer, and a senior fellow at the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism.

Francine Lange '93 is a tourism information specialist in New York City. She's also a street photographer, writer and election poll worker.

Chris Dawson '94 is a news and sports editor for Baytoday.ca in North Bay, Ontario. He is also a freelance TV reporter for Canada's Weather Network and the owner of Dawstar Video Productions.

Nick Ehli '94 is editor of *The Bozeman Daily Chronicle*.

William Heisel '94 is the director of global engagement at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. William says he still writes on the side for the Center for Health Journalism and HealthNewsReview.org.

Libi Sundermann '94 worked for *The Missoulian*, then returned to UM for a history degree. She then worked for the Japanese Exchange and Teaching Program before earning a master's degree and doctorate from UC-Davis.

Kim Benn-Hilliard '95 is doing corporate affairs work for Husky Energy, a Calgary-based oil and gas company.

Thomas Nybo '95 is a freelance photographer, videographer and filmmaker for UNICEF, *The New York Times* and CNN. He is about to launch a VR production company with three NYT journalists.

Linn Parish '95 is the deputy editor at the *Journal of Business* in Spokane, Washington.

Patricia Snyder '95 is a program manager at a library.

Tim Thompson '95 is a freelance photographer in Alabama.

Ralph P. Bartholdt '96 is the crime and court reporter at *The Lewiston (Idaho) Tribune*.

Tracy Johnke '96 is a business news anchor for Bloomberg Radio, serving WCBS, WBZ, KCBS and KRLD.

Kortny Rolston '97 is a business and strategic communications manager for the clean energy research division at Idaho National Laboratory.

Erica Curless '98 covers baby boomers and aging for *The Spokesman-Review*. She also owns a horse and dog bodywork business.

Bruce Ely '98 is a photographer for the Portland Trail Blazers and a freelancer.

Justin Grigg '98 stepped down recently as city editor at *The Missoulian*.

Tom Mullen '98 is a Los Angeles screenwriter and a partner in a government software startup.

Sonja Lee Nowakowski '98 is a research analyst for the Montana Legislative Environmental Policy Office.

Kim Ochsner '98 is a marketing director for United Way of Cascade County.

Matt Ochsner '98 is an audience analyst for *The Great Falls Tribune*.

Jason Asteros '99 is a photographer and video producer at Habitat for Humanity International.

Kerri Lee O'Farrell '99 is an executive producer for the TV show "Well Read," which airs nationally on PBS and World Channel.

Brandi Lynn Wilkinson '99 is a professor of English, literature and speech at Fort Peck Community College, and a broadcaster at KVCK Radio.

Matt Gouras '00 is now a banker living in Seattle.

Julie Sarasqueta Hahn '00 is a freelance marketing writer.

Emily Heffter '00 does PR for Zillow in Seattle.

Hilary Hutcheson '00 is the marketing director and principal at "Trout TV" and Outside Media.

Paige Parker '00 is the proposal writer for an early childhood education company in Portland.

Benjamin Shors MA '00 is a clinical associate professor at the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication at Washington State University.

Lorie Hutson Stucke '00 is a registered nurse in cardiac rehab at Providence Sacred Heart in Spokane.

Linda Thompson '00 is the program director for the undergraduate program in photojournalism at Mid Sweden University.

Matt Thompson '00 is a cultural affairs officer for the U.S. Embassy in Riga, Latvia.

Kevin Van Valkenburg '00 is a senior writer for *ESPN The Magazine* and ESPN.com.

Karl Vester '00 is a writer and editor for the U.S. Forest Service, and a photographer at Buckaroo Photography Oregon, specializing in rodeos and horse shows.

Ann Williamson '00 is a public information officer/webmaster/social media manager for the Kansas Department of Transportation. She had worked as a photojournalist at *The Topeka Capital-Journal* and nearly two years at *The Birmingham Post-Herald*.

Andres Bentley '01 is a graphic design and journalism high school teacher in Fort Worth, Texas.

Sam DeWitt '01 is the director of communications for the Colorado Health Care Association.

Ryan Divish '01 is a Mariners writer for *The Seattle Times*.

Cory Myers '01 is a "consumer experience director" at Argus Leader Media in Sioux Falls, S.D. He says that's "newfangled code for an editor in the newsroom with wide-ranging responsibilities."

Erik Olson '01 is a business reporter at *The Billings Gazette*.

Nate Schweber '01 is a "permalancer" for *The New York Times*, an author and a freelancer for a host of other publications. He also describes himself as an "opportunistic troubadour."

Krystal Spring Steinmetz '01 is a writer for *Money Talks News*.

Katja Stromnes-Elias MA '01 is a freelance editor and an independent consultant who works mainly for an educational consulting company.

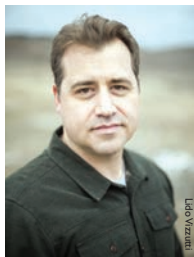
Casey Temple '01 is a fourth-grade teacher.

Olivia Bucks '02 is a La Leche League Leader and is planning to become a certified consultant to mothers.

Kash Cashell '02 is an investigative and special projects photojournalist at WOAI/KABB in San Antonio, Texas.

Trisha Drobeck '02 is a West Coast and Canada sales representative for Spectrum Aquatics.

Chad Dundas '02 is a lead writer for *Bleacher Report.com* and author of a new novel, "Champion of the World," published by G.P. Putnam's Sons.



Chad Dundas

Leilah Langley '02 is an assistant news director for KREM 2 News in Spokane, Washington.

Peet McKinney '02 is the director of IT at UM School of Journalism and owner of Artichoke Consulting.

Jared Miller '02 is a lawyer in Seattle.

Kevin Mitchell '02 is a pilot for the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority.

Laura Parvey-Connors '02 is communications director for the Montana State Auditor's Office. She also owns a small business that focuses on graphic design and website development.

Holly Pickett '02 is an independent

documentarian and photojournalist. She is currently based in Istanbul, Turkey.

Paul N. Queneau '02 is an editor for *Bugle* magazine and served as editor for this publication.

Tiffany Aldinger '03 is the night editor at *The Great Falls Tribune*.

Andrea Barlow '03 is chief business development officer for Vandervert Construction.

Josh Carstens '03 is the owner and producer of Altitude Films in McHenry, Illinois.

Ian Costello '03 is the executive producer of the morning show at KOIN Portland, Oregon.

Courtney Lowery Cowgill '03 is managing editor of MediaShift, an adjunct professor at the J-School and farmer and owner of Prairie Heritage Farm.

Tara Dowd '03 works in Spokane, Washington, as a cultural competency consultant after many years in the non-profit world.

Kristen Inbody '03 is a reporter for "Montana Mystique" at *The Great Falls Tribune*.

Lance Johnson '03 is a video broadcast journalism teacher at Lee High School in Huntsville, Alabama.

Pete Nowakowski '03 is a proposal writer and content developer at Healthcare Service Corp.

Kim Dobitz Oliver '03 is the director of network management for First Choice Health Network.

Jenny Schultz '03 is the senior project manager of audience growth at *The Seattle Times*.

Keila Szpaller MA '03 has been a reporter for *The Missoulian* since 2006. Keila also does freelance writing and editing.

Lido Vizzutti '03 is a freelance photojournalist who works for national and international publications. He also works as a digital strategist for clients that include the Montana Boy Scouts.

Kristen Cates '04 is the Montana Democratic Party's communications director.

Aaron Flint '04 is spokesman for Republican gubernatorial candidate Greg Gianforte.

Matthew Friend '04 is a news producer for WSOC in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Shirstie Gaylord '04 is the lead promotions and marketing photographer for KGTV in San Diego, California.

Beth Gorder '04 is a news and public affairs producer for Montana PBS.

Bryan Haines '04 is administrator of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana Care Van program.

Keagan Harsha '04 is a weekend anchor and reporter at FOX31 in Denver, CO.

Danielle Hunt '04 is a lawyer at Miller Nash Graham and Dunn LLP in Seattle.

Crystal Ligori '04 is a host and announcer at Oregon Public Broadcasting and a producer for the Literary Arts Archive Project.

Marina Mackrow '04 is an original programming producer at TWC Sports Net LA in Los Angeles.

Ali Mandell '04 is an AVP marketing officer for Opportunity Bank of Montana.

Kate Medley '04 is a photographer and filmmaker for Whole Foods Market.

Fred Miller '04 is a postal service clerk. He is also working on a series of science fiction novels.

Phil Stempin '04 is the chief sales officer for ColdAvenger in Missoula.

Dax VanFossen '04 is the bureau chief for KAJ in Kalispell.

Stephen Abatiell '05 is a field seminars program manager for the Yellowstone Association in Gardiner.

Mollie Bond '05 is the director of foundation and corporate relations at Moody Global Ministries.

Tyler Christensen '05 is an opinion editor at *The Missoulian*.

Chelsea Anne DeWeese '05 is a naturalist with the Yellowstone Association field institute. She also writes for its magazine and helps with marketing.

Joseph Friedrichs '05 is a reporter and producer at WTIP North Shore Community Radio in Grand Marais, Minnesota.

Christine Tutty Johnson '05 owns the only certified woman-owned logging company in Montana, and she owns a

business strategy and corporate event planning company.

Sheri Johnson '05 is a registered nurse for Benefis in Great Falls.

Dave Kirkpatrick '05 is teaching and tutoring refugee high school students from Nepal and various African countries.

Lisa Kunkel '05 is a work-at-home mom of three kids and a freelance photojournalist for the local newspaper. She also runs Lisa Kunkel Photography.

Angela Marshall '05 is a creative content manager and anchor for ABC Fox Montana in Missoula.

Jennifer McKee '05 is the communications manager for the Montana Lottery.

Nathan Petersen '05 is the production manager for K2 Productions in North Carolina.

Katherine Sather '05 is the digital marketing manager for The Nature Conservancy's North America Marketing team.

Eric Schreibeis '05 is a store team leader for Target.

Lee Squires '05 is vice president of Park City Ski Valet and owner of Park City Boat Rentals and Ski Tuning Express in Park City, Utah.

Natalie Storey '05 is a high school English teacher and occasional essay writer in Livingston.

Andrew Weed '05 is a director of photography for Warm Springs Productions in Missoula.

Rajendra Dev Acharya MA '06 is the director of state television in Nepal.

Andy Atkins '06 owns 730 Eddy Studios, a full-service video and media production company in Michigan.

Luella Brien '06 worked as a communication arts instructor at Little Big Horn College for almost five years. Now she's the youth and family services community outreach coordinator for St. Labre Catholic Academy.

Rachel Van Blankenship '06 is a Designer III at the Gannett Design Studio in Phoenix and was named the Arizona Designer of the Year.

Carey Proctor Brandenburg '06 is the digital director for a boutique advertising agency in Seattle.

Ryan Brennecke '06 is a staff photographer for *The Bend (Oregon) Bulletin*.

Anne Pettinger Cantrell MA '06 is assistant director of Montana State University's News Service.

David Erickson '06 is a reporter at *The Missoulian*.

Gabe Ferguson MA '06 is the chief photographer at KHQ-TV in Spokane.

Eva Dunn-Froebig MA '06 is the events and outreach coordinator at Adventure Cycling Association.

Erin Madison Granger '06 is a marketing specialist at Great Falls College MSU.

Courtney Hanson '06 is a portrait and wedding photographer for Carlmark Photography in Sacramento, California.

Paola Kulrud '06 is a project manager and scrum master in software development at Surge in Bellevue, Washington.

Louis Henry Montclair '06 is a reporter for the *Fort Peck (Montana) Journal*.

Amy Nile '06 is a reporter at *The Daily Herald* in Everett, Washington.

Kristin Knight Pace '06 is a wilderness planner for the National Park Service in Alaska. Kristin is also a professional long distance dog musher.

Scott Poniewaz '06 is in business development with Hawke Media, a digital marketing company.

Chelsea Rabideau '06 is a public relations coordinator at ISCO Industries in Louisville, Kentucky.

Christina Rust '06 is the event manager at Montana ExpoPark.

Aaron Simtob '06 is a freelance camera operator.

Tiffany Toepper-Reppenhagen '06 is an editor for Northstar Travel Media.

Cory Walsh '06 is the arts editor for *The Missoulian*.

Jacob Baynham '07 is a freelance journalist based in Montana.

Eli Bierwag '07 is a senior colorist for Warm Springs Productions in Missoula.

Cal Conrad '07 is a customer relations supervisor for Portland General Electric in Portland, Oregon.

Caitlin Copple MA '07 is a principal at

Hilltop Public Solutions, a lobbying and consulting firm. She is based in Boise, Idaho.

Danny Davis '07 is a sports reporter at *The Austin American-Statesman*.

Dianne Dotter '07 is primarily a stay-at-home mom, but also does portrait photography.

Patrick Duganz '07 is the father engagement specialist at Gallatin City-County Health Department in Bozeman.

Heather Hintze '07 is a photographer and reporter at KTVA 11 News, CBS affiliate in Anchorage, Alaska.

Ian Graham '07 worked in digital strategy and digital communications for the Department of Defense and for nonprofits (most recently a super PAC supporting the Clinton campaign). He just started a skateboard company.

Eric Jochim '07 is a news director for KPVI, an NBC affiliate in Pocatello.

Chandra Johnson '07 is a features writer for *The Deseret News National Edition*.

Tim Kupsick '07 is a producer and director for Spectrum Reach.

Kerstin Lock '07 is a news producer for CBS13 in Sacramento, California.

Andrea Lutz '07 is a news director for KTMF/KWYB in Missoula.

Erin Miller '07 is a chief meteorologist at KPAX-TV in Missoula.

Brenna Moore '07 does public and media relations for Visit Albuquerque.

Jennifer Reed '07 is now the copywriter and editor for the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA).

Christopher Rodkey '07 is safety communications manager for Alaska Airlines.

Emilie Ritter Saunders '07 is a communications director for Montana's superintendent of public instruction.

Becca Sayre '07 is a freelance web designer and developer.

Keriann Lynch Strickland '07 is a marketing communications manager for an education technology company.

Christa Turski '07 is a freelance photographer who covered NASCAR for seven years. She now owns Christa Leigh Photography.

Kerry Allen '08 is an integrated media supervisor for Disney Theme Parks & Resorts.

Anne Bailey MA '08 is a digital producer and visual journalist at Public Radio International's "The World."

Diego L. Bejarano '08 is a user-experience designer, focused on designing digital products.

Dan Boyce '08 is a reporter for *Inside Energy* in Denver, Colorado.

Rachel Cook '08 is the niche content editor for *The Post and Courier* in Charleston, South Carolina.

Steve Dent '08 is a multimedia journalist for CBS Green Bay.

Ashleigh Ebert '08 is the executive producer at KTUU in Anchorage, Alaska.

Eleena Fikhman '08 is a manager at H&M.

Layne Fisher '08 is the communications director for the Bozeman Amateur Hockey Association in Bozeman.

Jake Grilley '08 is a graphic designer at Hammer Nutrition.

Jason Hendrickson '08 works inside sales for G.S. Long Co. in Yakima, Washington. He recently moved back west from Virginia.

Kimberly Hogberg MA '08 is a producer at North by Northwest.

Amber Krempel '08 is a stay-at-home mom and independent Jamerry Nails consultant in Helena.

Karl Krempel '08 is a technical editor for the Montana Legislature in Helena.

Katie Marshall '08 is the external communications manager for the American Red Cross, Midwest Blood Services Region.

Jessica Mayrer '08 is earning a master's degree in public administration at the University of Montana.

Tess McEnroe '08 is teaching photography and art at Dunn School, a boarding school on California's central coast.

Angela Monroe '08 is a weekend anchor and senior video journalist for KMIR News, Palm Springs.

Christian Murdock '08 is a photographer for the *Colorado Springs Gazette*.

Cristin Nielsen '08 is the owner of Nielsen Property Management in Butte.

Kaylee Porter '08 is copy chief at *The Vail (Colorado) Daily*.

Ashley Rhian '08 is a freelance photographer and the owner of Ashley Rhian Photography.

Alex Sakariassen '08 is a staff writer at Missoula's alternative newsweekly, *The Independent*.

Emma Schmutz '08 is an international development proposal writer for Chemonics International in Washington, D.C.

Chris Spencer '08 is a case manager for DirectTV and AT&T.

Dillon Tabish '08 is a staff writer at *The Flathead Beacon* in Kalispell and a freelance magazine writer. "Thanks to many red pens cleaning up my copy in J-School classes."

Ryan Widdekink '08 is a morning news producer at KOMO in Seattle.

Murphy Joseph Woodhouse '08 is a reporter and photographer for *Nogales International*.

Marnee Banks '09 is the communications director for U.S. Sen Jon Tester, D-Mont.

Whitney Bermes '09 is the cops and courts reporter for *The Bozeman Daily Chronicle*.

Kelsey Bernius '09 does content marketing writing for a digital PR agency.

Sean Breslin '09 is the county initiatives manager at Philabundance, a food bank in Philadelphia.

C.M. D'Angelo '09 works for *The Huffington Post* in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Amanda Eggert '09 is a staff writer at Outlaw Partners, publisher of *Mountain Outlaw* magazine and *Explore Big Sky*, a bimonthly newspaper in Big Sky.

Amanda Ferrucci '09 is a veterinary technician studying to get her veterinary license.

Carmen George '09 is a features reporter and columnist at *The Fresno Bee* in California.

Kelly Hanson '09 is a franchise producer for NWCN, KING5, KONG TV in Seattle.

Elijah Hermann '09 is a ranger with the National Park Service.

Amy Knob '09 is a counselor at a junior-senior high school in Washington state.

Carli Krueger '09 is a copy editor, designer, graphic maker and illustrator for *The Bend (Oregon) Bulletin*. She also does freelance graphic design, primarily for romance novelists.

Trevon Milliard '09 is the K-12 education reporter at *The Reno Gazette-Journal* in Reno, Nevada.

Kayla Matzke Newbanks '09 was a journalism instructor and newspaper adviser at a Colorado community college.

Colter Nunez '09 is the founder and creative director at Skyline Sports, an online multimedia site covering the Big Sky Conference.

Bill Oram '09 is a Los Angeles Lakers beat writer for *The Orange County Register*.

Nathan Rott '09 is a reporter for National Public Radio, based in Los Angeles.

Breanna Roy '09 is a news editor at the University of Montana in Missoula.

Lauren Russell '09 is an attorney at a mid-size firm in Portland, Oregon.

Melissa Swalla '09 works with the InterVarsity Christian fellowship in Wyoming and Colorado.

Charlie Thomas '09 is an executive producer of the "Erick Erickson Show," Atlanta's Evening News, and co-host of the Mark Arum Show on News 95.5 and AM 750 WSB Radio in Atlanta.

Jordan Treece '09 is a photojournalist at KOMO4 in Seattle.

Holly Wulf '09 is a stay-at-home mom in Great Falls.

Ashley Zuelke '09 is helping U.S. businesses as a senior adviser at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

2010s

Vince Bagby '10 is the sports director at KECI in Missoula.

Charlie Baser '10 is in her last year of law school at the University of Chicago and will soon join a law firm in Santa Fe.

Kimball Lynn Bennion '10 is the assignment editor at KUTV in Salt Lake City.

Jaime Berg '10 is the 6 p.m. producer for Denver7 News and The Denver Channel.

Brenna Braaten '10 is a copy editor for *The Billings Gazette*.

Hugh Carey '10 is a staff photographer for *The Wyoming Tribune Eagle* in Cheyenne.

Sarah Cauble '10 is a freelance graphic and web designer in Livingston.

Daniel Doherty '10 is a freelance interactive producer at AKQA in Portland, Oregon.

Ashley Douville (Korslien) '10 is an anchor and reporter for KGW in Portland, Oregon.

Carly Flandro '10 is a high school English teacher and cross country coach.

Karen Garcia '10 is a reporter at *The Chilkat Valley News* in Haines, Alaska.

Mike Gerrity '10 is an afternoon and evening web producer for KPAX-TV in Missoula.

Katrina Heser '10 is a partner relations manager at Avitus Group in Billings.

Josh Jaeger '10 is the vice president of operations for Digital Lizard. He lives in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Katrina Johnson '10 is the owner of Amplify Film Group. The company does media, film and content marketing in Portland, Oregon.

Allison Maier '10 is communications and outreach manager for the Idaho Humane Society.

Greg McDonald '10 is a contracting officer for the U.S. Air Force in Great Falls.

Shane Thomas McMillan '10 is a freelance documentary photographer and filmmaker. He also manages a studio for photographer Nan Goldin.



Shane McMillan

Joe Paisley '10 is a college hockey and Olympics sports writer for *The Gazette* in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Greta Rybus '10 is a freelance photographer.

Rose Stepanek '10 is a project manager for Sport Ngin in Minneapolis.

Troy Warzocha '10 is a solutions manager for Verizon Wireless in Spokane, Washington.

Shande Wiest '10 is a story producer at Warm Springs Productions in Missoula.

Scott Youngbauer '10 is a freelance entertainment journalist in Pasadena, California.

Tyson Alger '11 is a college sports reporter at *The Oregonian* in Portland.

Steel Brooks '11 is a photographer at *The Gillette (Wyoming) News Record*.

Casey Chaloupek '11 is a membership specialist and auto travel counselor with AAA MountainWest in Missoula.

Ben Coulter '11 is a freelance wildlife photographer and videographer.

Alisia Duganz '11 is a paralegal at Goetz, Baldwin and Geddes, a Montana law firm that helped bring a lawsuit against the state of Montana that led to marriage equality.

Justin Franz '11 is a staff writer and cops and courts reporter for *The Flathead Beacon*.

Brittany Griffin '11 is a communications specialist for the Ogden, Utah, City Council. She also works as a teaching assistant at the University of Utah.

Heidi Groover '11 is the city hall reporter for *The Stranger*, Seattle's alt-weekly.

Keith Hensley '11 is a video editor for Warm Springs Productions in Missoula.

Dan LaDue '11 is a freelance shooter, editor and director in New York City.

Camillia Lanham '11 is the editor of *SLO New Times* in San Luis Obispo, California.

Greg Lindstrom '11 is *The Flathead Beacon's* photographer, based in Kalispell.

Katie Mansfield '11 is a national sales director for Launch Digital Marketing and Dealer Inspire.

A. J. Mazzolini '11 is a "professional college football watcher" for *The Missoulian*.

Bess Pallares '11 is an editorial assistant for Oni Press in Portland, Oregon.

Joe Pavlish '11 works for a college ministry called Cru.

Brad Peers '11 is a former sports broadcaster and current garage door installer in Missoula.

Shaun Rainey '11 is a sports reporter for ABC FOX Montana.

Drew Stanley '11 is a digital communications manager at NARAL Pro-Choice Texas and a freelance video producer.

Heidi Williams '11 is supervising digital producer at *The Oregonian*.

Beth Beechie '12 is the marketing director at Hummel Architects PLLC in Boise, Idaho.

Emily Creasia-Worden '12 is a refugee resettlement case manager in upstate New York.

Lt. Victoria Edwards '12 is a logistics officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Alex Schwier '12 is working with the Peace Corps.

Michael Beall '12 is a snow reporter for Whitefish Mountain Resort.

Jackie Coffin '12 is an executive producer for ABC FOX Montana in Missoula.

Matt DeBray '12 is a photographer for KRNK in Reno, Nevada.

Adrienne Diede '12 is an assistant line producer at Warm Springs Productions in Missoula.

Lizzy Duffy '12 is a digital content production manager at Sparkloft Media in Portland, Oregon.

Jayne Fraser Ford '12 is a state government investigative and data reporter for Lee newspapers of Montana. She does freelance photography, graphic design and typesetting on the side.

Ali Murray '12 is a copy editor and page designer at *The Vail (Colorado) Daily*.

Tara Oster '12 is a 911 dispatcher in Montana's Flathead County.

Anna Penner-Ray '12 is a concierge at Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

Katie Radford '12 is the owner and operator at Art of Observation Photography in Yucaipa, California.

Justine Schulerud '12 is a marketing manager at an investment firm in Denver.

Erik C. Anderson '13 is a sports producer at *The Oregonian*.

Jonathon Ambarian '13 is a reporter for KXLH in Helena.

Taylor Anderson '13 works for *The Bend (Oregon) Bulletin*. He is the government reporter in Salem.

Thom Bridge '13 is a photo editor and photographer for Helena's *Independent Record*.

Nate Chapman '13 works for Consumer Direct Care Network and is a sports and entertainment podcaster in Missoula.

Marcus Chebul '13 is a news operations manager for Missoula's KECI-TV.

Grady Higgins '13 is a sports writer at Montana's *Great Falls Tribune*.

Brooks Johnson '13 is a business, ports and economy reporter at *The Columbian* in Vancouver, Washington.

Apoorva Joshi MA '13 is an independent journalist and an environment and science correspondent for Mongabay.com.

Dillon Kato '13 is the cops and courts reporter for *The Missoulian*.

Candace Rojo Keyes '13 is assistant editor and photographer at Prince George's *Sentinel* in Seabrook, Maryland.

Billie Loewen '13 is director of marketing and communications for Holt International, a non-profit working to prevent child abandonment and care for orphaned and homeless children.

Jessica Murri '13 is a staff writer at the *Boise Weekly*.

Cody Proctor '13 is a weekend anchor and reporter at KRTV in Great Falls.

Aaron Rains '13 is an SEO and digital marketing consultant in Austin, Texas.

Patrick Record '13 is a freelance photojournalist and photography director in Los Angeles.

Emily Wendler MA '13 is an education reporter at KOSU Radio in Oklahoma City.

Ketti Wilhelm '13 is a freelance travel writer.

Emily Adamson '14 is director of development for the Humane Society of Western Montana.

Dustin Askim '14 is a program coordinator for the nonprofit group Riding on Insulin.

Conor Ballantyne '14 is a production assistant at the NFL Network in Culver City, California.

Jackson Bolstad '14 is marketing communications manager for Black Hills Federal Credit Union in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Allison Bye '14 is a copy editor and designer for *The Bend (Oregon) Bulletin*.

Hunter D'Antuono '14 is the photo editor for Montana's *Livingston Enterprise*.

Alexander Deedy '14 is a freelance journalist in Hawaii.

Jenna Heberden '14 is a morning reporter at ABC Fox Montana.

Louise Johns '14 published photographs of Yellowstone National Park in the May 2016 issue of *National Geographic*.

Seaborn Larson '14 is a business and city reporter and a page designer at Kalispell's *Daily Inter Lake*.

Ashley C. Mackey '14 is a professional tennis player.

Tommy Martino '14 is a staff photographer for *The Missoulian*.

Allison Molin '14 is the 10 p.m. news producer at KULR-8 in Billings.

Jordon Niedermeier '14 is a reporter for *The Billings Gazette*.

Megan Petersen '14 is an arts and education reporter for *Ketchikan (Alaska) Daily News*.

Kyle Schmauch '14 is a field representative for U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont.

Amy Rose Sisk '14 is a North Dakota-based reporter for *Inside Energy*.

Kate Walker MA '14 is a freelance producer.

Madelyn Beck '15 is a reporter for the *Idaho Mountain Express and Guide* in Sun Valley.

Tim C. Blodgett '15 is a photojournalist at KHQ Local News in Spokane, Washington.

Sarah Chaput de Saintonge '15 is a co-deputy director, instructor and social media manager for Missoula's Rocky Mountain School of Photography.

Mahkia Clark '15 is a news producer at KPAX-TV in Missoula.

Eric Clements '15 is an evening reporter at KPAX in Missoula.

Abbey Dufoe MA '15 does web production and social media at Climate Central in Princeton, New Jersey.

Jesse Flickinger '15 is a student at the University of Montana School of Law.

Sydney Gillette '15 does social media for Artsy in New York City.

Ryan Groh '15 is a radio and marketing intern with Sub Pop Records in Seattle.

Katheryn Houghton '15 is a staff writer at *The Daily Inter Lake* in Kalispell.

Mackenzie McKinney '15 is a morning producer at FOX40 in Sacramento, California.

Paul Nocchi '15 is a SEO analyst at Performics in Chicago.

Jeremy Pool '15 is the Associate Video Director for the Jacksonville Jaguars in Jacksonville, Florida.

Kylie Richter '15 is the editor of the weekly *Lake County Leader* in Polson.

Ric Sanchez '15 is a social media editor at *The Washington Post*.

Austin Schempp '15 works in marketing at a software company in Portland.

Holly Sinnema '15 is a producer at KTMF/KWYB in Missoula.

Alex Valdez '15 is a sports reporter for *The Mason County Journal* in Shelton, Washington.

Michael Wright '15 is an environmental reporter at the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*.

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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Fourteen thousand people made a difference. To be exact, 14,014 people made gifts to the University of Montana during the last fiscal year. That's quite a crowd. Their gifts totaled more than \$50 million. But what does that mean for the School of Journalism?

It means that Sachi can report directly from Berlin on the Syrian refugee crisis in Germany. It means that Jake can document stories that could change the world through photojournalism. It means that Ken can research ecological issues and publish lengthy features in local media.

Each donor's gift made a difference this year, no matter how great or small. Combined, those gifts helped enhance UM overall, including the School of Journalism programs, faculty and students. Together we helped achieve important goals.

Dean Larry Abramson's vision is that all journalism students will have an international reporting experience before graduation. Two years ago, students reported from India. This year, a group reported from Berlin and next year other students will report from Japan.

The dean also wants students to have a safe place to invent the

future of media—a Media Entrepreneurship Lab (MEL)—where journalism, business, media arts and technology students can come together to create. The world of media platforms is changing daily. UM J-School students must be prepared for that world.

UM students need the skills required to report in a very diverse environment. They need a global perspective, a solid understanding of other cultures, different ideas, and a historical perspective on what drives today's news. That knowledge will make our students better reporters. The dean envisions a diversity issues program to help accomplish that.

All-important scholarships help students achieve their dreams. Four new scholarships emerged this past year and we anticipate more in the future. Donors honor loved ones, alumni, faculty, and favorite programs with scholarships awarded at the annual Dean Stone Banquet in the spring.

Partnerships with our donors make their dreams and ours a reality. We extend our deepest thanks to all of the following donors to the J-School:

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