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TELLING SOUTH KOREA’S STORIES
Students sharpen reporting skills on latest J-School trip abroad p. 4-5

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Investigator, photographer named 2018-19 Distinguished Pollner Professors

TWO EXCEPTIONAL JOURNALISTS will join the faculty at the University of Montana School of Journalism in fall and spring semesters during the 2018-19 academic year as T. Anthony Pollner Distinguished Professors.

Ben Montgomery, an investigative reporter in Florida for more than a dozen years, will be the Pollner professor in the fall semester. As a reporter for the St. Petersburg Times, Montgomery and a colleague were finalists for a Pulitzer Prize for local reporting in 2010 for their series about decades of abuse at a Florida reform school for boys. He’s also won a number of other national awards, including a Columbia University Dart Award for reporting about trauma and a Casey medal for reporting on disadvantaged youth and families. He was also a finalist in 2011 for a Livingston Award, which honors outstanding work by journalists under the age of 35.

Montgomery was most recently a reporter for the Tampa Bay Times. His final investigative project before leaving in November was titled “Why Cops Shoot,” a review of six years of Florida police shootings that revealed how fear and bias breeds confusion, how order quickly dissolves into chaos, and ways to avert the violence. He’s finishing work on his third book, “The Man Who Walked Backward: An American Dreamer’s Search for Meaning in the Great Depression,” which will be published this year by Little Brown & Co.

At UM he will teach a course on investigative techniques and narrative writing. He will also serve as an adviser to students at the Montana Kaimin.

The spring Pollner professor will be Preston Gannaway, winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for feature photography. Gannaway was a photojournalist at the Concord (N.H.) Monitor when for more than a year she undertook the documentary project “Remember Me,” which the Pulitzer committee described as an intimate chronicle of a family coping with a parent’s terminal illness. In addition to working at the Monitor, Gannaway was subsequently a staff photographer at the Rocky Mountain News and the Virginian-Pilot. At present she is a freelance documentary and fine arts photographer based in Oakland, California. Her book, “Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea,” about the changing character of a seaside neighborhood in Virginia, was released in 2014.

Gannaway’s work has been exhibited across the United States and internationally, and is a part of the permanent exhibits at museums and schools in several locations. She, too, will advise the students at the Montana Kaimin. Her class will focus on intimacy and long-form journalism, examining how to form relationships that lead to sensitive and in-depth pieces and build networks that foster bringing those pieces to publication.

The professorship was created in 2001 to honor the memory of T. Anthony Pollner, a 1999 School of Journalism graduate who died in a motorcycle accident in England.

Montgomery and Gannaway succeed 2017-18 Pollner Professors Cheryl Carpenter and Deborah Potter.

Carpenter is a former Washington bureau chief for McClatchy newspapers who helped edit the organization’s contribution to the Pulitzer Prize-winning Panama Papers investigation. She is now a faculty member of the Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg, Fla., where she directs the organization’s growing leadership and local news innovation initiatives. Her Pollner seminar at UM focused on the ethics of investigative journalism.

Potter was a former network correspondent for CNN and CBS. She founded NewsLab in 1998. An experienced teacher and consultant, Potter also served as executive director of RTDNF, the research and training arm of the Radio-Television-Digital News Association. Her Pollner seminar examined strategies for combating the “fake news” challenge, among other topics. She and her husband live in the Washington, D.C., area.
A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

JOURNALISTS ALWAYS WISH for interesting times. We crave political ups and downs. But be careful what you wish for, right? The recasting of the political landscape over the past year or two has made it hard for all of us to figure out which way is up. At the J-School, we are working hard to turn this into a teachable moment, and our curriculum has been evolving rapidly to keep up with changing attitudes toward the news media in the “post-truth” era.

Both of our Pollner professors this past school year confronted these issues head on. In the fall, McClatchy veteran Cheryl Carpenter examined the role of anonymous sources, which have become more important than ever in an era where government is building new walls to keep reporters away from sensitive information. This spring, broadcaster Deborah Potter pushed the conversation forward with a provocative class focused on restoring trust in journalism; you can see some of her students’ work at trustingjournalism.com. Rather than simply bemoaning the growing public mistrust of the media, Deborah and her students bravely explored positive steps journalists can take to restore trust between us and our consumers. The discussions both of these media professionals sparked were a great validation of the Pollner professorship, one of our most prominent donor-sponsored efforts to keep our curriculum current.

We put a cherry on top of this dialogue by getting a real catch for the Dean Stone Lecture: Adam Entous. Now with The New Yorker, he shared the extreme measures he now takes to ensure that he and his sources do not become victims of the government surveillance efforts that he has covered, and uncovered, for many years.

While outstanding guest speakers and professors continue to keep us on our toes, we still teach the fundamental reporting skills many of you know so well. We still tell our students to get out of the classroom and explore the world around them, because that’s where the stories are. As I write, Professor Joe Eaton is preparing to head to South Korea with students in his class on international journalism. Their trip coincides with history-making events on the Korean peninsula. Our students’ stories will be appearing on the “CityLab” website of The Atlantic magazine, so be sure to check out their contributions to this exciting story. The Korea trip is the latest installment of “Montana Journalism Abroad,” an annual project that has taken our students to Germany, Japan and India.

Our graduate program in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism continues to attract some of the country’s most interesting environmental writers to campus. Many have become local media stars through their work on Montana Public Radio. Our state airwaves ring with names like Nicky Ouellet, Beau Baker, Nora Saks, Maxine Speier and Olga Kreimer; all grad students who have picked up the radio bug (see related story, pg. 8). Olga and Beau also benefited from the mentoring and scholarship support of The Crown Project.

This donor-funded effort focuses on stories about environmental challenges in the Crown of the Continent. Beau and Olga’s pieces made a big splash when they appeared in High Country News, and Olga’s won recognition from the Society for Professional Journalists. We’ve already picked next year’s Crown scholars, and their stories are just as promising.

All of this work helped the school win re-accreditation this spring, but we won’t rest on our achievements. Many of you have asked how the J-School is faring under the leadership of new UM President Seth Bodnar. He has already visited a number of J-School events, and voiced his support for our nationally recognized work. He’s explained his plans for the future of UM in interviews with the Kaimin, and our students have asked him hard questions. I know President Bodnar respects the work they do, and values the critical role that journalism plays, particularly at this point in history. I’m optimistic that he will help us protect both the quality and the independence of our program.

Best wishes from Missoula.

Larry Abramson, Dean

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Students report on life in South Korea

With tension between the U.S. and North Korea mounting, journalism students looked behind the headlines for stories of daily life south of the DMZ.

OVER SEVERAL MONTHS during the fall semester, a team of three University of Montana student journalists worked to find North Korean sources to interview for a story about how defectors adapt to hyper-modern South Korea.

In late May, these students met their first North Korean defectors in Seoul, only hours after arriving from Montana. The nonprofit relief organization that helped arrange the interview promised the students only a half-hour, far less than they needed.

But the students kept asking questions, listening and turning a few sources into many. More than eight hours later, the student reporters returned to their hostel after interviewing a number of adults and children who described their harrowing escapes from North Korea through China and their difficulty adjusting to their new home in Seoul.

“This feels more important than anything I have ever worked on,” said Samantha Weber, a School of Journalism graduate student who worked as a reporter for the story. “I feel incredibly lucky to have had this opportunity during school.”

Weber is one of 14 School of Journalism students who spent more than two weeks in South Korea as part of a collaboration between the school and CityLab, a Washington, D.C.-based web publication owned by Atlantic Media that focuses on urban issues. Associate Professor Joe Eaton led the project with help from Linda Poon, an editor at CityLab, who also made the journey to Korea.

Eaton, who lived in South Korea from 1995 to 2001 and often returns, said the reporting trip was a great chance to introduce students to a country that means a lot to him. “I traveled to Korea a few months after graduating from college,” Eaton said. “It was my first trip overseas, and it changed the course of my life. I hope that my students have had a similarly eye-opening experience.”

Waving flags of the U.S. and South Korea, conservative South Koreans gather near Seoul’s Deoksugung Palace to support a tougher stance against North Korea.
The summer program is the most recent foreign reporting trip sponsored by the School of Journalism. In recent years, the school sent students to Fukushima, Japan, to report on the lingering impact of the 2011 nuclear disaster; to Berlin, Germany, to report on the country’s refugee crisis; and to India to investigate environmental challenges at the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve.

In Korea, the students not only worked on stories about North Korean defectors, but also other stories such as South Korean doomsday “preppers,” the proliferation of indoor climbing gyms in Seoul and the tiny low-income apartments known as goshiwon. The group traveled to Pyeongchang to write about the economic hangover the county is facing after sponsoring the nearly $13 billion 2018 Winter Olympics. Students also published a story on local reaction to the on-again, off-again summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

“I was interested in going to Korea because it’s an interesting country, especially right now,” said Winter Ramos, a nontraditional student from Idaho who made the trip. “It happens to be the perfect time to be there as a journalist.”

But the program was not all work. Students took a tour to the Demilitarized Zone that separates North and South Korea and hiked in Seoraksan National Park in the rural northeast corner of the country. The program also featured many group dinners where students are traditional Korean cuisine, often together with interpreters and faculty from Hanyang University in Seoul.

“I wanted to go on this trip because I would like to be a foreign correspondent,” said Juliana Sukut, a senior in the School of Journalism. “It’s not something you usually get to do at a journalism school. We can both study abroad and do journalism.”

Ramos, a photographer, and Jiakai Lou, a videographer and international student from China, spent much of their time exploring Seoul’s climbing culture. Ramos and Lou arrived in Korea with oversized bags filled with climbing gear. They put it to good use ferrying Lou’s video gear to the top of the largest ice climbing gym in the world for a video that Lou is producing for CityLab.

Lou and Ramos, who are both accomplished climbers in Montana, climbed at several of the more than 100 indoor climbing gyms in Seoul during their trip. After returning from their first of many interviews with North Korean defectors, Weber, along with photographer Eli Imadali and videographer graduate student Mikensi Romersa, sat at their hostel processing the experience.

“I haven’t cried during an interview before,” Romersa said.

“There are all these kids there, and they are just left to their own devices,” said Imadali. “There weren’t a lot of adults around. They all went through these crazy experiences in a place that is less than an hour from us. It felt really heavy.”

Stories from the project will be published in CityLab throughout the summer and into fall, and can be read at mjakorea.com. The J-School is currently planning its next summer reporting project. In 2019, adjunct professor Jeff Gailus, an environmental reporter who teaches in the school’s environmental journalism graduate program, is planning to lead a trip to Canada for a project on Alberta’s tar sands.

“I traveled to Korea a few months after graduating from college. It was my first trip overseas, and it changed the course of my life. I hope that my students have had a similarly eye-opening experience.”

— Associate Professor Joe Eaton
UM School of Journalism launches Media Lab, hires founding director

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA School of Journalism has established a new media lab to serve as a center of innovation offering skills-based journalism training to members of the public interested in multimedia storytelling and audience engagement.

Journalist and filmmaker Anne Bailey, a former Pollner professor and a graduate of the J-School, will become the founding director of the Montana Journalism Media Lab. This new center marks a major expansion for the century-old journalism school, which regularly ranks among the top journalism programs in the nation.

The J-School will create the lab as an interdisciplinary center that will make the school and its work more accessible to other units on campus and to storytellers around the state and the nation.

Journalism Dean Larry Abramson announced the new effort, saying it would help the school push boundaries and expand its influence beyond the student body.

“For over a century, we have trained some of the nation’s top journalists,” Abramson said. “Under Anne Bailey’s leadership, the Montana Journalism Media Lab will help train scientists, entrepreneurs and businesspeople how to tell their stories in the most effective way.”

Plans for the lab include workshops taught by outside experts who will share their expertise in subjects such as web design, data visualization and social media strategy. The Media Lab is supported by private donations and will be the focus of major fundraising efforts in the years to come.

Bailey graduated from the School of Journalism master’s program in 2008. She has taught and practiced journalism all over the world: from a smartphone video course for Libyans in Rome to a multimedia journalism project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She has taught courses at the SALT Institute for Documentary Studies in Portland, Maine, and served as the Distinguished Anthony T. Pollner Professor at the UM School of Journalism in the spring of 2017. She also has filed regularly for the PRI news program “The World.”

As founding director, Bailey will have a strong voice in designing the lab and in finding initial partners.

“I’m excited to be in on the ground floor of this exciting opportunity,” Bailey said. “I believe the lab could make UM and Missoula a center for innovative media projects.”

The lab will be housed in Don Anderson Hall.

Anne Bailey ’08, left, reporting on climate change and its effects on nomadic herders in Mongolia in 2016 for “The World” and Deutsche Welle. Bailey is now working to launch a new interdisciplinary Media Lab at UM.

“Under Anne Bailey’s leadership, the Montana Journalism Media Lab will help train scientists, entrepreneurs and businesspeople how to tell their stories in the most effective way.”
— Dean Larry Abramson

Shane Thomas McMillan
Crown project pairs grad students with mentors

THE CROWN REPORTING PROJECT sponsors students at the University of Montana to produce stories about the environment in the Crown of the Continent region. By pairing students in UM’s graduate program in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism with seasoned editors, it aims to advance excellent storytelling on climate, communities and conservation in the Rocky Mountain region of Montana, Alberta and British Columbia.

Now entering its fourth year, the Crown Reporting Project selected a pair of students who will explore what a new genetic discovery might mean for Montana’s highest forests and what a boom in national park visitation could mean for tribal communities near Glacier National Park.

This donor-supported fellowship pairs students with professional mentors to produce significant work at the intersection of community, conservation and climate change in the Crown of the Continent region. This year’s winners are:

- Breanna Roy, a videographer who will work with National Geographic program leader Chris Johns to explore the implications of new research by UM bark beetle expert, Professor Diana Six.
- Samantha Weber, a print reporter who will work with Graham Lee Brewer. Brewer lives in Oklahoma, where he covers Native American communities, will work with graduate student Samantha Weber this year.
- Graham Lee Brewer, who lives in Oklahoma where he covers Native American communities.

Last year student fellows reported in-depth stories from the Flathead region.
- Olga Kreimer reported on a controversial proposal to permit a bottled water plant on the northeast side of Flathead Lake. Her mentor was Michelle Nijhuis, a science journalist whose work appears in The New York Times, The New Yorker and The Atlantic.
- Beau Baker followed contentious state and tribal efforts to keep invasive mussels from gaining a foothold in Montana’s rivers. He worked with Laura Krantz, a multimedia journalist out of Denver who has worked as an editor and producer for National Public Radio.

Both stories appeared on High Country News online, part of a partnership with that regional reporting powerhouse.

The Crown Reporting Project continues to be inspired by the work and memory of philanthropist Ted Smith, who felt stories about communities and conservation across Montana’s large landscapes would improve the way people manage and engage with the state’s wildest places.
J-School grad students get attention behind the microphones at MTPR

BY JOSH BURNHAM
MTPR online editor

AT MONTANA PUBLIC RADIO, student journalists get real-world experience producing news every day. They report from the field and help produce stories for daily newscasts, podcasts and online. The partnership is a win-win. Students get to hone their skills in a working radio newsroom, and MTPR’s listeners get more—and better—local coverage.

The students extended the depth and breadth of MTPR’s reporting, says News Director Eric Whitney.

“At minimum they read our newscasts on air and help convert our broadcast stories into digital content, but they frequently also report stories for us, and occasionally NPR,” he says. “Their work frees up our staff reporters to spend more time reporting, which is crucial when we’re trying to cover all of Western Montana with a small staff.”

Last summer MTPR’s reporters were scrambling to cover daily news of the wildfires burning across Montana. Graduate student Nora Saks took the opportunity to dig deeper. She produced a series of stories—including three feature-length reports picked up by NPR—about the health impacts of wildfire smoke, and who should cover the costs of cleaning indoor air.

These are big stories that were out of reach for reporters caught in the daily grind of wildfire coverage. Saks’ work made it possible to get these in-depth features to audiences in Montana and across the country.

Saks has also been reporting on Superfund cleanup issues from Butte for the past year and a half. In addition to the community meetings and policy prescriptions she’s covered, she produced an audio gem on plans to use lasers, drones and cannons to haze birds away from the toxic waters of the Berkeley Pit.
And she’s not done. She’s now working with MTPR on a podcast focused on Butte that she says “will explore the Treasure State’s collapsed pride and efforts to process its toxic shame and legacy into a new identity and economy.” Stay tuned.

For graduate student Beau Baker, who earned his master’s degree this year, the blend between his course work and his radio work for MTPR is ideal.

“Working at MTPR while going to school was the best possible package,” he says. “It’s the perfect pairing of getting an education in the J-School and then putting it to work in the newsroom.”

Baker can often be heard reading morning and evening news on Montana Public Radio. At MTPR he reported on how governmental budget cuts are making stream-flow monitoring impossible in some places, complicating life for irrigators, fishermen, floaters and recreation managers. He also wrote, produced and photographed a popular story about a program aimed at training more Montana women for the trade industries.

“Working here made me a better writer and helped me focus on what the news is,” Baker says. “There’s no time to beat around the bush or second guess yourself. You just have to find out what the news is and write that.”

First-year graduate student Maxine Speier, who worked for MTPR this year as a reporter, echoed that sentiment. She says the pace of work in the newsroom isn’t something you can learn in a classroom.

“Covering daily news or breaking news, you don’t always have time to write five revisions,” she says. “The news has to be reported. This is an actual thing that people listen to. It’s not just an exercise.”

Speier quickly found her rhythm carving out a wildlife news beat at MTPR, including a series of reports about the first chronic wasting disease outbreak in wild deer discovered in Montana.

“It was a really fun moment getting to be a part of a news story that was unfolding,” she says.

You can find their good work by searching for each student’s names at mtpr.org.
STUDENT PROJECTS

Student doc focuses on crowded jails

STUDENTS PRODUCING this year’s television documentary program picked a tough topic. “Montana Jails Slammed for Solutions” looks into the problem of overcrowding in county jails around the state.

Students profiled three people serving their sentences in three different ways: lockdown drug treatment in Glendive, work release in Lake County and inmates sitting behind bars in the Lewis & Clark County jail. The piece explores the costs and effectiveness of these programs in reforming people, then getting and keeping them out of the system.

Professors Denise Dowling and John Twigg of MontanaPBS guided their students through research, reporting, shooting, writing, editing and post-production to get the program ready to air. “Slammed” premiered on MontanaPBS on May 17 and aired several more times this summer.

Special thanks to the Greater Montana Foundation for funding this and many other broadcast projects produced by students in the School of Journalism.

Student podcast features Missoula’s ‘alt’ high school

WHAT IS “ALTERNATIVE” education? What does that even mean? The advanced audio capstone class this year did a project unlike any the journalism school has taken on with “Willard: An Alternative Podcast About a High School.”

Ten undergrads in the class taught by Jule Banville returned again and again to the only public alternative high school in Missoula. Through their reporting and in collaboration with students in the journalism class taught at Willard by English teacher Lisa Waller, the podcast dug in on the ed beat and told stories that were important, but not boring. Multiple many-sourced features and several creative multimedia stories explored Willard’s approach to reaching students who don’t thrive in bigger, traditional high schools.

It also happened as Willard closed an important chapter. This summer, the current school, originally an elementary, became rubble to make way for a new school built next door, one designed for the way these teenagers learn.

The podcast resulted in three episodes, each about 25 minutes long, and a “bonus track” about infamous Vampire Jim, who turns out to be the day custodian at the school. The stories were presented at a special event at the Roxy Theater and repackaged as a 30-minute special that aired on Montana Public Radio. Binge all the episodes on iTunes (apple.co/2KvdLSq) or listen at willardpodcast.com.

Students publish series on pregnancy, addiction issues

STUDENTS IN Assistant Professor Joe Eaton’s investigations course teamed up with J-School alumna Jayme Fraser during the fall semester to report on the lack of addiction services for pregnant women in Montana.

They produced a six-part series, which ran in the Missoulian in December, showing that pregnant women in Montana face some of the greatest obstacles in the nation to receiving addiction treatment services, including hours-long drives to treatment clinics and waiting lists that last longer than the terms of their pregnancies.

Reporters, photographers and videographers crisscrossed the state interviewing survivors of chemical dependency as well as advocates, physicians and other health care industry sources.

Their reporting uncovered a systemic failure within the health care industry in Montana, where the number of babies born with addictions has grown tenfold since 2000—one of the fastest growth rates in the nation—leading to a dramatic rise in the number of children in foster care.

Fraser, who served as an editor and reporter for the series, is currently an investigative reporter at the Malheur Enterprise in Oregon.
NOW IN ITS 26TH consecutive year, “Business: Made in Montana” profiles companies that create products in Montana and do business around the state, the country and the world. It airs on MontanaPBS.

The remarkable thing is that it's researched, produced, shot and edited by students, mostly sophomores and juniors, from the School of Journalism's Intermediate Videography and Editing class (JRNL 350).

Each fall and spring semester, students new to video broadcast production work in teams to produce five different profiles about businesses “Made in Montana.” It's a great introduction to many of the elements that go into telling a quality story on any subject. And it is most students’ first “published material,” great for their résumés.

Thanks, as always, to the Greater Montana Foundation for its support.

“IN THEIR HANDS,” the 27th edition of the Montana Native News Project, was published May 19 as a full-color tab inserted in both the Missoulian and the Billings Gazette. The project featured nine stories focusing on self-governance on several levels from throughout Montana’s Indian Country.

The project was originally intended to focus on the government-to-government relationship that tribes, as sovereign entities, have with the federal government. However, during reporting, students found stories of individual people, programs and communities taking control of their self-governance even in the face of dwindling support from outside funding.

The project features stories from each of the seven tribal reservations in Montana, as well as a story focusing on the federally unrecognized Little Shell band of Chippewa and an audio package from the Blackfeet reservation. The class also welcomed a student staff member who focused on cartography and produced a series of maps that illustrate how Montana's tribal lands have changed throughout their history.

The project can be found online at nativenews.jour.umt.edu.

Business: Made in Montana showcases area entrepreneurs

Native News class examines sovereignty on reservations

“IN THEIR HANDS,” the 27th edition of the Montana Native News Project, was published May 19 as a full-color tab inserted in both the Missoulian and the Billings Gazette. The project featured nine stories focusing on self-governance on several levels from throughout Montana’s Indian Country.

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Covering Campus: Taking on tough stories makes for great learning

BY MATT NEUMAN
Montana Kaimin Editor-in-Chief

Editor’s note: We asked Kaimin reporter and incoming editor-in-chief Matt Neuman to write about the challenge of covering his alma mater, something Kaimin journalists have done throughout the paper’s long history.

MY COVERAGE OF UM’s administration began two years ago with an attempt to catch former president Royce Engstrom’s early morning reaction to the pumpkin that was once again speared atop the spire on Main Hall. This unsanctioned prank has become a fall tradition at UM.

My final reporting piece this past spring semester dove deep into the UM Foundation’s investments in offshore tax havens as part of the “Paradise Papers” leak, working in collaboration with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. Needless to say, my relationship with the administration has evolved since I caught Engstrom grinning up at the spiked squash.

As I’m sure many Kaimin reporters before me would agree, covering our little campus’ politics may be the most challenging, yet most rewarding, assignment one gets at the J-School. I’ve been insistent, critical, honest and, probably to some folks, a nuisance. People in power on campus know me, and that’s crucial. It’s been a tumultuous few years over here under Mount Sentinel. And while the university is still figuring out the best way to right the ship, few times in UM’s history have been more exciting and more dependent on accurate, timely coverage.

The J-School prides itself on the fact that students here learn by doing—not by watching or mimicking—but by being on the front lines and writing that first rough draft of history. At the Kaimin, while the draft we write is sometimes particularly rough, the experience couldn’t be any more authentic.

It’s not always easy to be taken seriously as a student journalist, and sometimes we can easily be brushed off, especially when we start asking the tough questions. It’s all too easy for officials to hold off on granting a public records request until winter or summer break. It wasn’t always smooth. A few times I called my media law professor (thanks, Lee), such as when a UM committee was secretly voting on what majors should be cut. Or the time that requested...
financial records for UM Dining were edited to make them seem better, but luckily we had a leaked copy with which to compare it. Generally, UM officials have come around when pressed, and I like to think they can see what a great, vigorous journalism school they are supporting.

Learning by doing also means making mistakes by doing. And in our line of work, that means making mistakes people are eager to pounce on and tear apart. I’ve heard it a hundred times: Don’t read the comments section. Maybe I’m a narcissist or just a glutton for punishment, but I can’t help but read every comment my stories receive. While I do get support from a few mainstay commenters, often the Kaimin’s loyalty to our alma mater is called into question due to our critical coverage of UM.

It’s hard not to see our campus as a microcosm of the current national climate. Its citizens are divided (albeit between the sciences and humanities) and there’s an ever-present resentment and mistrust of those in power. And to top it off, the media are working overtime to keep everyone informed and aware while being called liars or traitors. Despite being in journalism school and having interned for a couple of newspapers in Montana, I’ve never really thought of myself as a member of the big-M Media. But lo and behold, I’ve found myself being called out as fake news, sensationalist, biased and so on.

Sometimes, I do question the effect my reporting has on the university’s public image, and whether I should take any heed to that. Does my reporting, which more often than not is critical of UM, contribute in small part to the enrollment decline? Does that put any blood on my hands for the people losing their jobs as a result of low enrollment? Of all the things that keep me up at night, this is a big one.

I only need look to our counterparts covering the national administration and how they are treated for their work to remind myself of the harsh reality that comes with seeking and dispersing the truth. Do reporters like David Fahrenthold or Maggie Haberman worry about being perceived as disloyal to the United States when writing true, but critical stories about the president? Something tells me they don’t. And beyond that, nothing helps stoke the fire quite like rewatching “All the President’s Men” for the eighth time.

I don’t pretend to be the next Woodward or Bernstein, but it is fun to treat my job covering UM like it is of the same magnitude and importance. And to the thousands of students and staff on campus whose jobs and majors hang in the balance, it can be just as important in defining their day-to-day lives as anything happening on the national stage.

As I begin my new position at the Kaimin as editor-in-chief, I intend to remind our reporters the best thing we can do for the school we love is to shine a light on the problems that need fixing, not ignoring them in the name of school spirit.
KEITH GRAHAM capped off a busy academic year by earning a promotion to full professor. It also included publishing a book on one-room schools in Montana. He and photographer Neil Chaput de Saintonge traveled more than 12,000 miles to capture the living stories of vanishing one-room schools, including the smallest—Hawk’s Home, a school servicing one second-grader—to the largest, Kester, where 15 students from seven ranch families attend school on Haxby Road, 26 miles north of Jordan.

In Keith’s freelance photography class, students flew drones, photographed adventure sports, landscapes, fashion, food, products and travel. His intermediate photojournalism class got a variety of assignments ranging from diversity and sports to creating photo stories. His design class worked on resumes, logos, infographics, magazines, title graphics and posters for the Student Documentary class, new brochures for our graduate program, and their own websites. He also co-taught the 27th edition of the school’s award-winning Native News Honors Project with Associate Professor Jason Begay.

LEE BANVILLE also earned a promotion to full professor in April 2018, helped by his two-volume encyclopedia on the media and American politics that was published in 2017, and political reporting that ran on “PBS NewsHour,” “The Conversation” and elsewhere.

The news came as he was wrapping up the second semester of a new line of courses he teaches on audience research and social media. His students spent the fall learning how to understand audience behavior and create compelling, fact-based content that will more likely appeal to them across multiple social media.

In the spring, many of those students worked with Montana news organizations like Montana Public Radio, the Missoulian, the Missoula Independent and the nonprofit investigative service Montana Free Press to help those organizations do a better job creating compelling content on social media.

Associate Professor DENISE DOWLING ended the academic year by airing a project close to her heart. For several years now she’s been working on a radio documentary, “Alex not Amy: Growing up transgender in the rural West.”

The program aired on Montana Public Radio in May. The documentary follows a 10-year-old boy in the rural West making a gender transition. Dowling witnessed the family struggle for several years as Alex changed his gender at home, at school and on his swim team.

Dowling says she enjoys teaching advanced projects courses like intermediate audio and the student documentary. She’s also often at the helm of Ethics and Trends in the News Media, formerly known as senior seminar. In this dynamic course Dowling and her students follow current events in politics, the media—and the intersection of the two.

She also rejoined the school’s management team as Director of Student Success.

During his sabbatical in spring 2017, Fanning produced, reported, wrote and edited an hour-long radio documentary on race in Montana, titled “Facing Race.” It looked at specific racial problem areas including implicit bias, the criminal justice system and Montana’s racial history. It also profiled groups working to promote acceptance and understanding.

Montana Public Radio broadcast the program in February, and it’s available at MTPR.org.

Fanning also developed JRNL 100H (Media History and Literacy) as an online class and taught it for the first time during the spring 2018 semester.

Associate Professor NADIA WHITE became director of the master’s program in Environmental Science and Natural Resource Journalism this past year, overseeing the progress of 20 graduate students, partnerships across campus and the J-School’s Crown Reporting Project.

She also teaches Reporting as well as Global Current Events, an honors course catering to undergraduate news junkies. At the graduate level, White teaches Story Lab, a science reporting course that embeds journalism graduate students in research labs to learn the process, pace and practice of science.

She also works with researchers to teach young scientists how to communicate their work to the public. Her service to UM expanded this year with her selection to sit on the University Planning Committee, which makes strategic recommendations to President Seth Bodnar.

Associate Professor JULE BANVILLE earned tenure this spring, and she continues to teach reporting fundamentals, feature writing and audio storytelling. This year she also took on advising the Kaimin and re-introduced an opinion-writing course.

Her story, “Owning Pray,” about a woman who owns a town in the Paradise Valley south of Livingston and can’t find someone to buy it, won the Best of Competition-audio documentary category in the faculty division of the Broadcast Educators Association awards. It ran on the podcast Banville launched in 2015, “Last
ABOVE: Keith Graham, right, reviews draft proofs with students of the 27th edition of the school’s award-winning Native News Honors Project, which he co-taught with Associate Professor Jason Begay, second from right.

AT LEFT: Associate Professor Jule Banville and Adjunct Professor Courtney Lowery show off their auction winnings at the Butte Press Club’s annual meeting in 2017. The auction benefits the BPC’s J-School scholarship fund.
Best Stories,” which focuses on sound-rich features about Montanans, and has been downloaded more than 15,000 times.

She also led efforts to introduce audio programming to both the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival and the International Wildlife Film Festival, which featured her in its innovative “Wild Sounds” series. In addition, Banville works as a contract copy editor for the Missoula Independent because she really does love commas that much.

JOE EATON had a busy and productive year that included his promotion to associate professor.

In the fall his Investigations course teamed with the Missoulian to produce a series of stories on the hardships faced by pregnant women fighting substance abuse.

Following that effort, Joe prepared 15 UM students who traveled to South Korea immediately after the spring semester’s end to produce multimedia stories that are being published on CityLab, an urban-focused news site owned by Atlantic Media. The trip is part of the Montana Journalism Abroad program, which provides an opportunity for student journalists to gain real-world international journalism skills in a breaking-news environment.

Once that trip concluded, Joe traveled to Vietnam on a Fulbright grant to teach at Tra Vinh University in the Mekong Delta. He taught journalism to faculty and local journalists and assisted with developing the school’s journalism curriculum.

“The School of Journalism has always had a strong international focus, and many of our students are interested in becoming foreign correspondents,” Eaton said. “During the past three years, we have taken students to Japan, Germany and India. Our professors have taught in China and other countries. I look forward to building bridges with Tra Vinh University and developing an ongoing relationship between our schools.”

Associate Professor JASON BEGAY co-wrote a massive project for The Nation magazine, “Confronting the Native ‘Harvey Weinsteins,’” which ran March 30. The piece is the result of seven months of reporting on sexual harassment policies in Indian Country, focusing particularly on how female tribal employees often have no recourse for filing complaints.

Begay also wrote a study analyzing the Missoula Festival of the Dead and the concerns that the event appropriates the traditional Day of the Dead. He was also invited to speak in Phoenix in April about covering health issues in Indian Country at a convention of the Association of Health Care Journalists.

In May, he spoke at a daylong media symposium at the University of North Dakota on media coverage of last year’s pipeline protests at Standing Rock, N.D.
Associate Professor **JEREMY LURGIO** was on sabbatical in New Zealand this year with his family. Based in Wellington, he pursued both creative and teaching work in the areas of multimedia storytelling and reporting from indigenous communities.

Lurgio taught a multimedia storytelling workshop at University of Canterbury’s journalism program. He also developed and taught an 11-week multimedia storytelling course in Massey University’s post-graduate journalism program.

He worked on two creative projects. The first was a multimedia story about the Whanganui River, which was the first river to gain legal personhood in the world through the *Te Awn Tūpua* Bill. The other was a documentary about The Whanganui River Outrigger Canoe Club started this year by former New Zealand national Waka Ama coach Howard Hyland on the river where his grandmother lived.

Jeremy took a Māori language course and met with Māori journalists. In June he was part of a roundtable about indigenous journalism hosted by the U.S. Consulate. He also did some freelance video story editing.

Lurgio and his family have enjoyed many adventures around beautiful New Zealand. He’s learned how to surf and has hooked the occasional large trout.

Assistant Professor **KEVIN TOMPKINS** successfully completed his first year teaching at the J-School. He joined the permanent faculty in the fall after teaching as an adjunct the previous spring.

He came to UM after more than three decades of television production experience, most of it at Spokane’s KREM-TV.

He taught videography and directing this year, producing the school’s annual “Business: Made in Montana” show for MontanaPBS. He also oversaw episodes of the school’s “News Brief” show, which breaks into the MontanaPBS schedule each weeknight with stories of statewide interest.

“The opportunity to share the knowledge I’ve gathered over my 30 years of broadcast TV experience was something I always wanted to explore in an academic setting,” he said. “The School of Journalism gave me that chance.”

He says he enjoys working with the students and passing on all that he has learned.

“Being here challenges me like never before,” he said. “I’m re-invigorated professionally. This is just what I wanted and needed.”

In January, Professor **DENNIS SWIBOLD** stepped down as the school’s Director of Faculty Affairs after serving in that post and as chairman of the former Print and Photo Department for six years.

He’s also been traveling the state recently for Humanities Montana, making presentations on changes in the news media and helping people get their bearings in an era of false news.

He continues to teach sections of the school’s required beginning news writing and reporting courses, along with Ethic and Trends, which examines the controversies swirling around the profession.

This fall, he and Professor Lee Banville will oversee students covering the 2018 general election for a partnership of commercial and public Montana news organizations. 😊
Montana Journalism students win top honors for initiative, enterprise

HEARST FOUNDATION AWARDS
• University of Montana School of Journalism, 10th place in Hearst’s intercollegiate multimedia contest.
• UM student Derek Minemeyer won eighth place in the Hearst Foundation’s national competition for multimedia enterprise work.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF TELEVISION ARTS AND SCIENCES (NORTHWEST CHAPTER STUDENT EMMYS)
Newscast
“UM News,” UM News Class for Fall 2017, reporters, producers, directors, photographers and editors.

News: General Assignment-Serious
“Farm to College,” Maria Anderson, reporter/writer; Tiffany Folkes, photographer/editor.

Public Affairs/Community Service

BROADCAST EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
• Rosie Costain won second place in BEA’s audio feature reporting category for her portrait of UM’s “Accordion Man.”

SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS’ MARK OF EXCELLENCE
NATIONAL HONORS
Online In-Depth Reporting
National Winner: “The Meth Effect” (Metheffect.com) University of Montana School of Journalism, editors Jule Gardner Banville and Lee Banville.

Non-Fiction Magazine Article

Radio News Reporting
SPJ’S REGION 10 MARK OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

University of Montana student journalists at the School of Journalism were winners and finalists in the Society of Professional Journalists’ Mark of Excellence Awards for large universities (10,000 or more students) in the Northwest’s Region 10.

Student reporting and production was honored in three group projects led by University of Montana School of Journalism faculty.

- “The Meth Effect” won for best online in-depth reporting. The project examined the Montana people and programs affected by an influx of cases caused by methamphetamine use in Montana. It was led by School of Journalism faculty Jule Banville and Lee Banville.

- “UM to Fukushima: Finding Home After Fallout” won for Online News Reporting. This project examined the challenges the people of northeastern Japan faced as government support ended for people evacuated after the Great Northeast Earthquake and related nuclear plant meltdown. It was a part of the annual Montana Journalism Abroad undertaking and was led by faculty members Nadia White and Denise Dowling, with staff support from Cameron Bucheit and in-country support from photojournalist and UM J-School alum Keiji Fujimoto ’08.

- “UM News” was a finalist for the Best All-Around Newscast. “UM News” is a weekly television and online news production created by reporting and production teams of students. It is overseen by faculty Kevin Tompkins and Ray Fanning.

Seven graduate students won individual awards or participated on winning teams. These include:

- Nora Saks in radio news, features and with “The Meth Effect” team.

- Olga Kreimer for her article published in High Country News about a proposed bottled water plant in the Flathead Valley. It was funded by the J-School’s Crown Reporting Project.

- Zachariah Bryan, Katy Spence and Jana Wiegand as part of “UM to Fukushima: Finding Home After Fallout.”

Undergraduate winners include:

- Matt Blois, Beau Baker and Nora Saks as part of “The Meth Effect.”

Undergraduate finalists include:

- Rick Rowan, radio news.

- Cal Reynolds, general column writing.

- Tailyr Irvine ’17, breaking news photo.

- Hope Freier, breaking news photo.

- Kate Cier, radio feature.

- Rosie Costain, radio feature.

- Mederios Whitworth-Babb, TV feature reporting.

CLARY J. CORY ’43, who worked in newspapers and television in Great Falls, died April 7, 2018, at the Village Senior Residence in Missoula, where she had lived for nearly two years. She was 96.

She was born Clary Jean Kaufman on Dec. 10, 1921, the only child of Fred and Bernice (Fish) Kaufman, and graduated from Great Falls High School in 1939. Four years later, she earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Montana. She was a member of Alpha Chi Omega.

On July 23, 1942, Clary and her high school sweetheart, Harlan T. Cory, eloped in Fort Benton. Soon afterward, Harlan was drafted and served three years with the U.S. Army in Australia during World War II. At the time of Harlan’s death in Aug. 2008, they had been married for more than 66 years.

Clary had always dreamed of becoming a writer. In high school, she wrote a column for the school paper and worked on the yearbook. She was active in publications throughout her college years. During summer breaks from college, she volunteered as a proofreader for Montana Magazine and as a vacation reporter at The Great Falls Leader, which then hired her on after graduation.

In the 1960s, she made the jump to broadcast as a guest host on KFBB-TV’s morning show. Her greatest public involvement was through the Great Falls Advertising Club where she was a member for nearly 51 years. She served as women’s vice president in 1966-67, and was a board member for years. Clary was a loyal Grizzly fan who sat in front of her TV every game day wearing her team sweatshirt.

Her experience on TV, her performances and her willingness and a total lack of stage fright led to a secondary career as a convention speaker. Clary traveled across the United States presenting humorous programs to a wide variety of audiences. She spoke on advertising, current events and family life with a natural humor that had audiences asking for more. At one point, she was even considered for a guest spot on the Johnny Carson show.

In 1967, Clary returned to journalism with a weekly column called “Clary Cory” that appeared in The Leader and later in the Tribune. It covered people and events around town and surrounding areas for eight years. “I wrote about everybody,” she said. Clary was a fixture on local Great Falls TV after 2000, and many people there will recognize her as the Dusty’s Sprinkler Lady.

JOAN VAN RENSSELAER SMITH ’50, died Oct. 4, 2017, of natural causes in Rochester, Minnesota. She was 89. She was formerly from Missoula.

LORRAINE DEVEE “LEE WYN” KURFISS REMINGTON ’50, a columnist and artist who helped UM journalism students with internships and scholarships, died Oct. 16, 2017. She was 89.

According to her obituary in the Billings Gazette, she was born Feb. 28, 1928, to Harry and Gladys Kurfiess in Dillon and grew up in Sheridan, Montana.

She graduated from the University of Montana with a bachelor’s degree in journalism. She was a member of the Delta Gamma sorority and a member of the Theta Sigma Phi, a national honorary for women in journalism.

Lorraine was hired in 1950 by the Montana Fish and Game Department, where she edited its first magazine. She married George Remington in 1951 and they moved to Honolulu, Hawaii. She was assistant director of advertising at Aloha Airlines until their son, David, was born in 1954. After living in San Francisco and Fresno, Calif., they eventually returned to Helena, where their daughters Leslie and Larisa were born.

Lorraine wrote weekly columns on arts for the Helena Independent Record under the pen name Lee Wyn. She was also a freelance editor and writer for several businesses and publications.

She also was a member of the Helena Arts Council, Helena Civic Center Board, Helena Symphony Society and Montana Arts Council Advisory Committee. She also studied pottery at the Archie Bray Foundation.

While George was president of the Montana Newspaper Association, she founded an annual scholarship program with the Women of the Press Association. It funded summer newspaper employment for a junior in journalism at the University of Montana. The program was funded through sales of arts and crafts, and other donations from the association. This scholarship later became the Pat Burke Scholarship in memory of an association member.

The family moved to Billings in 1976, when George became publisher of the Billings Gazette.

Lorraine set up her own pottery studio at home and spent many happy hours with clay—throwing pots, developing her own custom glazes and firing them in her kiln. She continued to do some freelance and creative writing as well.

George and Lorraine traveled to France and England, and bought property in the piney hills near Columbus, Montana. They built a hexagonal log home where they spent weekends and summers. When George retired in 1986, they moved there for the next 10 years.

After her first bout with breast cancer, the couple opted to move back to Billings in 1997, but maintained their “cabin” as a retreat until its sale in 2012. Lorraine and George enjoyed many trips visiting kids and family in Oregon, Illinois and North Carolina, and traveling to see friends in their beloved Hawaii.

JULIAN LEONARD DERBY ’51, who taught journalism at Flathead Valley Community College and worked for the Terry Tribune, the Hungry Horse News and the Daily Inter Lake over a long career, died of natural causes on Aug. 28, 2017, at The Springs of Whitefish. He was 89.
He was born April 9, 1928, to Leonard L. and Inez M. (Ryan) Derby in Missoula. He attended Missoula schools, displaying an early aptitude for military science. He joined and loved Scouting and attended Scout camp at Camp Paxson on Seeley Lake, where he later worked as a lifeguard. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in high school, and after graduation he enrolled in the University of Montana School of Journalism through ROTC.

Before his graduation, he took a weekend skiing trip where he met his future wife Corky (Mary Diane Caldwell) on Big Mountain. They kept in contact for the next several months.

Upon graduation in 1951, he was commissioned to Fort Lewis, Washington. He was called to active duty in September 1951 to Fort Benning, Georgia, to attend infantry school and was assigned to Fort Ord, California, as a cadre in an infantry battalion.

During a one-month leave before being deployed overseas, he returned to Montana and promptly called Corky. They dated that month and faithfully communicated while Len was stationed in Germany.

In Germany, Len was assigned to the 43rd Infantry Division with duty stations at Nuremberg, Munich, Berchtesgaden and Bad Tolz, Bavaria. Upon his return to the states, he proposed to Corky. They celebrated 61 years of marriage before Corky died in 2014.

Len balanced his home life with his military and civilian career over the next several decades. He began his journalism career in Terry, Montana, working at the Tribune before landing a job with Mel Ruder at the Hungry Horse News. He joined the staff at the Daily Inter Lake in 1954 and spent 14 years working with offset print. During this same time, he was active in the Army National Guard and the Army Reserves. He and Corky also started a family.

In 1968, he was asked to join the staff at Flathead Valley Community College as the journalism instructor and as director of public relations, a position he held for the next 12 years.

During this time, he organized and taught at the first USAR School in the Flathead Valley, and he taught two cycles of the Branch Officer Advanced Course to Army Reservists and members of the National Guard.

In 1974, he began the first Command and General Staff College courses and taught in Kalispell for several years. He also taught the summer phases of Command and General Staff College at the University of Nevada - Reno. In addition, he served as a liaison officer for West Point Military Academy.

He was also an award-winning photographer. Many of his photos reside in the archives of the Daily Inter Lake, Hungry Horse News, FVCC, University of Montana and the U.S. military. He retired from the military after 29 years of service and at the rank of lieutenant colonel. He retired the same year from FVCC.

Retirement didn’t suit him and before long he was testing for his real estate license. He sold real estate for the next several years, retiring for a second time in 2000.

ROBERT GILLULY ’57, who worked in Montana newspapers for seven decades and was the son and grandson of Hall of Fame Montana journalists, died of natural causes in Anaconda on February 14, 2018. He was 84.

Born in Glasgow, Montana, in 1933, Bob graduated from Glasgow High School in 1951. He attended UM from 1951-1952 before he was drafted in the United States Army in February 1953. Bob served at Fort Lewis, Washington, and Fort Ord, California, before his honorable discharge in December 1954. Bob then returned to and graduated from the University of Montana journalism school in 1957.

After the J-School, Bob joined a long line of Gillulys who devoted their lives to Montana journalism. His father, Sam, and grandfather, John, are both members of the Montana Newspaper Hall of Fame.

Bob began his work in journalism as a high school junior, working for his father at the Glasgow Courier. As a UM student, he worked for the Montana Kaiman and for the university’s sports information director. After college, Bob worked for the Great Falls Tribune until 1963, when he moved to Hamilton and joined the staff of the Ravalli Republic for 13 years, eventually becoming its editor. He rejoined the Great Falls Tribune in 1976.

Back at the Tribune, Bob worked as sports editor, editorial page editor and columnist until his retirement in 1997. He moved with his wife, Mary Ann, to Anaconda and became a contributing writer for the Anaconda Leader. He also served as vice chairman of the Anaconda Railroad and Mining Museum and was a member of the American Legion.

During his career, Bob served as the president of the Montana Newspaper Association from 1993 to 1994 and was named a Master Publisher/Editor by the MNA. He published two books during his life, “The Grizzly Gridiron” (1960) and “One Man’s Montana” (1999).

Bob’s writing focused on what he loved most—Montana and its rich, colorful history. His captivating and simple style of storytelling was his signature.

Bob was a loving husband, father and family man. He loved all things sports—from baseball to his Montana Grizzlies. He had the gift of gab and relished his time in retirement having daily coffee with the “boys” in Anaconda. He took great delight in helping to raise his four children and encouraging his many adored nieces, nephews and grandchildren to be independent thinkers and hard workers.

PENELOPE ANN WAGNER PEABODY BA ’61 AND MA ’67, a former journalist who had a long and distinguished career in public service in Washington state, died on Oct. 21, 2017, at her home on Mercer Island, Washington. She was 78.

Penny was born Feb. 4, 1939, to parents Pauline and Claire Wagner, in Billings.
A 1957 graduate of Billings High School, Penny went on to earn degrees from the University of Montana’s School of Journalism in Missoula. In 1961, she became a reporter for The Associated Press State Bureau in Helena, and in 1966, she began reporting for the Kent News Journal in Kent, Washington.

Returning to Montana, Penny earned a master’s degree in journalism, and was a driving force to establish KUFM, UM’s public radio station. She also worked as a crime reporter for the Billings Gazette. Moving to Seattle, Penny began an accomplished career with METRO in numerous leadership positions, including two stints as executive director and chairman of the METRO Council.

She also served as chairman of the board for Washington Dental Service, Washington Dental Foundation, Group Health Cooperative Community Foundation, University of Montana Foundation, Copper Canyon Press, president of the Seattle Rainier Club and executive director of Seattle/King County Economic Development Council.

Penny’s support for UM and the J-School was extraordinary. She received UM’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 1990 and served four terms on the UM Foundation Board of Trustees, starting in 1996. She also served for years on the J-School’s advisory board.

Penny and her husband Jerry lived on Mercer Island, where they attended the Congregational Church. They spent summers cruising to Alaska on their motor yacht, the Kindred Spirit, with friends and family. Winters were spent in their home in La Quinta, California, where she played golf with friends from Seattle and Montana. The Peabodys loved to spend time at their motor yacht, the Kindred Spirit, spent summers cruising to Alaska on their home in La Quinta, where they enjoyed friends, the local culture and salmon fishing.

In recent years, she was a strong supporter of Seattle’s Museum of History and Industry. As board president, she pushed for a new, larger home for the museum in the Navy Armory Building on Lake Union, where it now resides.

Longtime community newspaper editor and publisher WILLIAM “DICK” CROCKFORD II ’75, of Dillon, Montana, died Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018. He was 65.

Crockford had served as the publisher of the Dillon Tribune since 2007. Active in the Montana Newspaper Association for 35 years, he was elected as its president in 2007 and was named a Master Publisher and Editor in 2009.

Crockford was born in Los Angeles, California, on May 2, 1952, and grew up in Fort Benton. He married Debbie Westby in Missoula in 1974 and graduated from UM’s School of Journalism a year later.

Before coming to Dillon, Crockford worked for five years as the editor and publisher of the Big Horn County News in Hardin. He lived before that in Anaconda for 13 years, working for seven and a half of those years as editor of the Anaconda Leader. He also served as editor of the Shelby Promoter after acting as farm editor for a pair of Idaho newspapers.

He remained active in the Catholic Church throughout his life, volunteering for the Catholic Youth Coalition and teaching confirmation classes to high school juniors and seniors for Anaconda Catholic Community for a dozen years. For many summers, he and family members helped build homes for the poor in Tijuana, Mexico.

He is survived by his wife, Debbie, and by his three daughters, Heather Boese, of Butte, Montana; Theresa Unbehend, of Taylorsville, Utah; and Rebecca Combs, of Fort Myers, Florida.

ANNE LOUISE THOMAS DAVID ’59 died from complications of a broken hip and Alzheimer’s disease on April 2, 2018, at Los Robles Medical Center in Thousand Oaks, California, surrounded by her husband and daughters. She was 81.

Anne was born in Butte on February 9, 1937. She graduated from Butte High School in 1954 as salutatorian and earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Montana in 1959. She was honored as one of the Outstanding Women on Campus partly for work as the business manager for the Montana Kaimin. After graduating, she worked a few years as a journalist, but found her true loves were family, art and service to her community.

She was an artist whose work was displayed in shows, shops and galleries in Montana and California. Her quilt work was routinely accepted into juried exhibits such as the national quilt show in Paducah, Kentucky, where she won a prize for her Christmas quilt titled “Hark The Herald Angels.”

She also taught art and was a devoted 63-year member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, a philanthropic educational organization for women.

She loved mothering her two daughters, Brenda and Kelly, and “thoroughly enjoyed her carefree role as a fun gramie, where artful messes were always allowed.” Survivors include her husband of 59 years, Larry, her daughters, sons-in-law, and her grandchildren.

JAMES EDWARD OSET ’64, who worked at newspapers in Wisconsin, Montana and Idaho, died Oct. 18, 2017, at the Riverstone Hospice House after a lengthy illness. He was 75.

Born Nov. 28, 1942, in Billings, to Tony and Mary Bele Oset, he attended grade school in Klein and graduated from Roundup High School in 1960.

He attended the University of Montana, graduating in 1964 with a degree in journalism. Afterward he worked in Idaho Falls for the Post Register and for the Montana Standard in Butte as a photographer.

He also served in the Montana National Guard. On one of his weekend guard duty trips to Great Falls, he met Karen Schlesener. They were married there on Aug. 27, 1967, at Peace Lutheran Church.
In 1967, they moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where James worked as a reporter for the Wisconsin State Journal. After two years, he joined the staff of The Milwaukee Journal. After the birth of his daughter, he accepted a job with the Billings Gazette in October 1971, becoming a copy editor. His wife gave birth to their son, Jonathan, in 1983.

James retired in December 2004 after 33 years of editing copy and writing headlines for the Billings Gazette.

He was proud of his Slovenian heritage and speaking the language, which he learned from his mom and dad. And so he was extra happy in 2007 when he, his wife and son were able to travel to Slovenia and visit relatives. He also enjoyed visiting with cousins via Skype.

WAYNE WARREN MONTGOMERY JR. ’73, who served in World War II and the Korean War, died July 11, 2018, in Helena, Montana, from a sudden illness. He was 91.

According to the Montana Standard, Wayne was born in Los Angeles, California, on Dec. 20, 1926. He grew up on his family’s cattle ranch and among the orange groves in the Simi Valley.

Near the end of World War II, at age 17, he joined the Merchant Marines and worked as a kitchen helper on a Liberty ship. He joined the Marine Corps at the beginning of the Korean War and achieved the rank of major.

Just before his deployment, Wayne married his first wife, Frieda Annelies Menge, and together they had five children. They later separated.

Wayne was wounded in battle and returned highly decorated from Korea. After his recovery, Wayne moved to Montana to help with his father’s cattle ranch. He raised his family in Lakeview, in the Centennial Valley.

Wayne loved politics and worked on Montana congressional and gubernatorial campaigns. He left ranching for a series of adventures that included earning a journalism degree from UM, working underground in Butte’s Kelley Mine, owning and operating a trucking company, and managing a construction camp during the building of the Alaskan pipeline. He also managed the sewer system at a Wyoming ski resort.

One of his adventures led him to San Francisco where, in 1983, at an opera, Wayne met Carol Ann Boertje. They were married in 1985 and had just celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary before Wayne’s death.

While in San Francisco, Wayne worked as a security guard at the Fairmont Hotel. Carol and Wayne finally settled in Helena, Montana.

JUDY LOUISE SCOTT MA ’82, who had a career in public relations and marketing, died Oct. 24, 2017, in Missoula after a long struggle with Lewy Body Disease. She was 67.

She was born in Missoula to Hartley and Betty Lou Scott. Her earliest memories were of playing in Greenough Park and climbing nearby Mount Jumbo. As a Hellgate High School student she was editor of the yearbook and the school newspaper. She also was a delegate to the Model U.N. and a member of the speech club.

She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in journalism at the University of Montana, and went on to work for the UM Alumni office. In 1969 she married Jim Hensel and had two sons, Brian and Cody. As public relations officer for Missoula County Public Schools, she worked with adult education and organized an annual parenting conference.

In 1999 she married Paul Harte and they honeymooned in Europe. Together they made a music video that won a national award for public relations. Later in her career she was director of marketing at Alma College in Michigan and a writer and editor at Oregon State University.

She had a passion for painting impressionistic watercolor inspired by nature. Judy was a very spiritual person, and yoga played a key role in her life.

MARK JAMES BOATMAN ’73, an independent journalist who covered disability issues, died on Monday, Dec. 8, 2017. He was 42.

Born on Aug. 16, 1975, in Jamestown, North Dakota, to Jim and Linda Boatman, Mark was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy in 1980.

Mark graduated from Jamestown High School in 1993. According to his obituary in the Missoulian, he was one of the first students with a significant disability to attend all 12 years in the Jamestown school system.

After graduating, Mark moved into his own apartment in Jamestown. He enjoyed his independence and the many friends he made there. In 2003 his need for a full-time ventilator forced him into a local nursing home. That began Mark’s fight to regain his freedom.

In 2006, he moved to Missoula to live with friends Dustin Hankinson and Theresa Martinosky. Living here offered Mark opportunities that were unavailable to him in North Dakota. He enrolled at the University of Montana in 2007 and graduated from the School of Journalism with high honors in 2012.

After graduation Mark freelanced for New Mobility magazine, one of the largest disability publications in the country. He also contributed articles for Quest magazine and the Missoulian, and maintained a blog. Mark was a tireless advocate for people with disabilities, serving on various committees, participating in organized actions, writing letters to elected officials and testifying before the Montana Legislature.

Mark is survived by his parents, Jim and Linda Boatman, of Jamestown, North Dakota; one sister, Becky (Jason) Faller, and beloved nieces Mallory and Lucy, of Casselton, North Dakota; also special friends Theresa Martinosky, Susan Ferrara and his “heart” pug, Frankie, of Lolo.

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1940s

BILL COONEY ’49 offered this response to our plea for news from alums: “If reaching the nonagenarian status qualifies as Big Personal news…then I guess I can send along this note with some justification.” Thanks for the note, Bill, and for kicking off Class Notes for 2018.

1950s

TOM ANDERSON ’52, has retired from a 25-year Army career and again from a Virginia real estate computer company. He is enjoying retirement between homes in Springfield, Virginia, and Flat Rock, North Carolina. His wife, Pat (Riley) ’53 passed away in 2016.

ANN BEAMAN ’55 says she’s spent the last 20 years ballroom dancing and traveling, mostly for snow skiing. She has also taken some non-skiing trips to Japan, Hong Kong, Machu Picchu and the Galapagos.

1960s

ZENA BETH MCGlashan ’61 is working with the Friends of the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives to reissue Sarah McNelis’ 1968 book “Copper King at War: The Biography of F. Augustus Heinze” this fall. The University of Montana Press holds the copyright, which its board generously loaned for the Golden Anniversary edition to be published by Riverbend Publishing of Helena.

1970s

KEN DUNHAM ’70 is executive director of the West Coast Lumber & Building Material Association, based in Folsom, California. He’s recently published a book on the Western lumber
industry. The work commemorated his organization’s 100th anniversary.

**J.F. Purcell ‘72** retired in 2015 to help his son and family take care of twin grandsons in Alexandria, Virginia. He’s joined the Oceanside Garden Club and volunteers at the Nassau County Photo Archives.

**Margie Mcdonald ‘74** is a Montana state senator from Billings, which she also represented for eight years as a member of the Montana House of Representatives. She’s proud of her work on “justice reinvestment” initiatives that more effectively allocate resources in the correctional and justice system and the community, reduce incarceration, and invest the savings in efforts to lower crime and support victims.

**Paula Walker ‘75** recently marked her 17th year as a jazz DJ at KMHD jazz radio in Portland, Oregon. For the past four years she has hosted CineJazz on Sunday afternoons, featuring jazz from films and TV.

**Rich Landers ‘75**, a former Kaimin editor, retired this spring after nearly 41 years as Outdoors editor for The Spokesman-Review in Spokane.

**Moraine Byrne ‘78** has joined WellAge Senior Communities to lead the organization’s strategic planning, development and operations nationwide. She is currently working to develop six new senior communities in Colorado. Moraine’s new book “Road Warriorress - tips and stories from a woman business traveler,” is expected to be available through Amazon this fall.

**1980s**

After more than 18 years, **James Bruggers ‘81** has left The Louisville Courier-Journal and the USA Today Network in Louisville, where he covered the environment, for a staff position at the national, nonprofit, nonpartisan InsideClimate News. He will cover the South while helping to create an environmental journalism network and looking for newsroom collaborations.

**Bill Lundgren ‘83** retired in 2014 after selling the family business, West Glacier Mercantile, to Glacier Park Inc. Bill writes: “A journalism degree was not the obvious choice for a business owner, but I would choose it again. Communication was the key to training and coordination of our 175 staff members, and my first exposure to taxation, zoning, local government, finance and personnel management was through journalism and electives. Like journalism, business management was an exercise in judgment. I’ve often wondered, ‘How would Jerry Holloron or Bob McGiffert navigate this topic?’”

**Carlos Pedraza ’85** celebrated the premiere of his third feature film, “Something Like Summer,” in Sydney, Australia, at the Mardi Gras Film Festival. The film, which he wrote and produced, is touring in dozens of film festivals on six continents. It has won 11 awards so far for directing, producing, soundtrack and acting, among others. Also, on a
journalistic front, Carlos began publishing a news wiki, AxaMonitor.com, in 2016 to cover CBS’s and Paramount Pictures’ landmark copyright infringement lawsuit against a fan film, “Star Trek: Axanar.” His coverage has been cited in such publications as Forbes, Quartz, Newsweek and Los Angeles Magazine.

SHANE BISHOP ’86 spent a month in South Korea working for NBC Sports as a producer at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang. He worked on the sports desk producing features as well as breaking news. It was the second Olympic assignment for Bishop, who’s a 24-year staff producer for the NBC newsmagazine, “Dateline.” Shane was named a UM Distinguished Alumnus in 2007.

CAROL ROBERTS ’88 and MARK DOWNEY ’89 were married late last year. They worked together at the Kaimin in 1988.

SCOTT CRANDAL MA ’88 retired in 2016 as assistant managing editor for the Daily Inter Lake in Kalispell. He previously worked at the Great Falls Tribune, Hungry Horse News and The Denver Post. He is now devoting his life to hiking and skiing.

SCOTT SLOAN ’88 is currently president and founder of Market Vision Advertising Agency in Spokane. The firm specializes in design, brands, website, social media and public relations, handling accounts regionally and beyond. He is also a partner at the CDA Window Company, a Spokane manufacturer of vinyl windows. Scott played football for the Grizzlies during his time at UM.

After spending more than two decades working in newspapers, DAN CARTER ’89 transitioned to public affairs work. He worked at MSU-Billings from late 2004 through early 2013 and is now the manager of public and government affairs at the ExxonMobil refinery in Billings.

1990s

ALAN JOHNSON ’91 has retired from practicing law. He worked as a reporter and editor for newspapers in Montana, Oregon and Washington from 1978 through 1991. He received a JD from the University of Montana in 1994 and practiced primarily criminal defense law for 21 years. He lives in Missoula with his wife, Carol Gordon.

AMY RADONICH JOYNER ’91 returned to Montana two years ago after spending five years in Oregon, where she was the entertainment reporter for the Salem Statesman Journal. She also worked as a freelancer for their Willamette Valley community weeklies. Now in Kalispell, she continues to freelance, most often for the Billings Gazette, where her daily news career began in 1993.

LT. COL. MATTHEW COOPER ’92 recently completed his 20th year as an attorney in the U.S. Army (JAG). He was recently selected for promotion to colonel. “My career path has been significantly different than those I imagined sitting in class,” he wrote, “but one for which the journalism school prepared me well. I use the lessons I learned in precise, concise and clear writing every day.”

SCOT SCHUCKERT ’95 is a lecturer in the Landscape Architecture Department at Iowa State University, where
he teaches classes in landscape ecology and ecological design. “I use my writing and photography skills every day,” he wrote.

MATTHEW MCKINNEY ’97 is teaching Spanish at Capital High School in Boise, Idaho. He earned his M.A. in education in 2004. He taught at Boise’s Riverglen Junior High from 2000 to 2015, where he also oversaw the school newspaper class. One of his students was Allison Maier ’10.

NANCY DE PASTINO ’99 ran to represent House District 91 in the Montana Legislature. She has also been active in promoting gun control legislation and other issues.

2000s

TODD JACKSON ’00 is now a communications manager for the Montana Department of Commerce in Helena.

AARON MURPHY ’01 has been serving as U.S. Sen. Jon Tester’s chief of staff in Washington, D.C., since the start of 2017.

SAM DEWITT ’01 is Colorado access campaign director for Compassion & Choices, a nonprofit organization that educates people about end-of-life choices, including medical aid in dying, which passed in Colorado in 2016. He lives in east Denver with his wife, Rebecca, and dog, Missoula.

BRAD GARY ’03 joined the University of Idaho at Moscow in 2016 to work in communications and media relations. He previously worked 10 years as a reporter and editor at the Lewiston Tribune in Lewiston, Idaho.

YOSHIKA NOHARA MA ’03, a Tokyo-based economics reporter for Bloomberg News, has been selected as one of 27 Nieman Fellows by the Nieman Foundation. He will spend two years at Harvard University, where he will study depopulation and its economic consequences for Japan as a case study for the trend in other nations.

AARON FLINT ’04 recently returned from his fourth military deployment overseas. He started a new statewide radio show with Townsquare Media called “Montana Talks.” The show launched early this year in Billings and has since expanded to Bozeman, Livingston, Missoula, Kalispell and Glendive.

BRYAN HAINES ’04 is a communications consultant with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana in Helena, where he handles internal communications. He is also the race director of the Governor’s Cup, a running event held every June in Helena.

ERIKA KIRSCH ’04 is the marketing and communications manager at an international school in Hong Kong. Previously she was in public relations at a multinational trade fair company in Hong Kong.

MOLLIE BOND ’05 had a busy 2017. She was married in May, two months before successfully defending her doctorate work titled “Mentoring Women of Generation X: Program Elements to Increase Success for Principals or Non-profit Leaders.” She works for Moody Global Ministries in Chicago where she serves as director of foundation and corporate relations.

NATALIA KOLNIK ’05 recently joined the Bozeman Children’s Museum and STEAMlab as its education director. She designs, develops and manages various educational programs.

JEFF WINDMUELLER ’05 has been promoted to captain in the U.S. Army, and is attending his career course in Virginia. His wife, Sarah Windmueller ’07, is communication coordinator for a local parish and private school, handling all website and social media management. They have two children.

STAN PILLMAN ’06 decided to join fellow Grizzly Brian Oestrike ’02. He is now in charge of marketing and public relations for Hypoxico, a world leader in altitude training systems.

KRISTIN KNIGHT PACE ’06 is publishing a memoir, “This Much Country,” due out in March 2019 from Grand Central Publishing, an imprint of Hachette Book Group. It chronicles divorce, adventure, finding love again and running two 1,000-mile sled dog races (The Yukon Quest and the Iditarod). The book is set in remote rural Alaska, where she lives with her husband, daughter and 30 dogs on a 10-acre homestead.

SHANNON COMES AT NIGHT ’06 reports that he is happily married and has five children. He is on track to graduate with another B.A. at UM, this time in creative writing. He says he has yet to publish the Great American Novel that Denny McAuliffe encouraged him to write.

ALLISON FRANZ ’07 is the communications coordinator for Missoula County. She and her husband, Zach Franz ’07, J.D. ’12, an attorney at Boone Karlberg in Missoula, welcomed the birth of their second child, Nora, in June.

CAITLIN COPPLE MA ’07 is public relations director for Oliver Russell, which builds brands for purpose-driven companies and is a certified B Corp and public benefit corporation. She’s also a co-founder of The Token Women Project, an online media company dedicated to educating women about cryptocurrency and the underlying technology, blockchain.

After several years as a reporter for the Flathead Beacon, DILLON TABISH ’08 has become regional information and education program manager for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks in northwest Montana.

CHRISTOPHR SPENCER ’08 works as a consultant for Missoula’s Advanced Technology Group.
ELIZABETH HARRISON  MA ’09
was recently promoted to communications manager in the University Communications office at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In addition, she reports that her side business as a website content and social media strategist is growing rapidly.

2010s

After a brief newspaper stint, PAS-SANG NORBU  MA ’11 became media director for the Bank of Bhutan. “My stay at UM’s J-school was the best learning experience. Back in the newsroom of Bhutan’s leading newspaper, Kuensel, I could write better stories and covered the nation’s second parliamentary elections in 2013 more wisely.”

JAYME FRASER ’12 left the Missoulian in January to join the Malheur Enterprise, a weekly paper in Vale, Oregon, where she is working on a yearlong investigative project as part of ProPublica’s Local Reporting Network. Previously, she collaborated with J-School Professor Joe Eaton’s investigations class on a series detailing Montana’s failures to help mothers and mothers-to-be who use drugs.

AMY SISK ’14, a former reporter for Prairie Public Broadcasting and Inside Energy, based in Bismarck, N.D., is now covering energy, environment and rural issues for Stateline Pennsylvania and for WESA, NPR’s Pittsburgh affiliate.

JESSE FLICKINGER ’15 recently graduated with honors from UM’s School of Law. He will clerk for the Montana Supreme Court this fall.

DEREK MINEMYER ’17 has joined KTUU-TV in Anchorage, Alaska, as a multimedia journalist. He won eighth place nationally in last year’s Hearst multimedia enterprise competition.

MADISON DAPCEVICH MA ’16 is in San Francisco, where she works as a science writer for IFLScience, and reports on “pretty much anything, because everything is science,” as her editor once said. Previously she was a reporter and producer for NBC Montana. Her recent feature for Alaska Magazine appeared this June.

OLIVIA VANNI ’18 has been hired as a staff photographer at the Daily Herald in Everett, Washington.
New Yorker reporter and former Washington Post journalist Adam Entous tells a campus audience about his role in the Post’s Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the Russia investigation. Entous said today’s journalists have to be more careful in their reporting of national security issues.

This summer students from Shanghai International Studies University visited Montana for a short course taught by Adjunct Professor Jeff Gailus on environmental science and natural resource journalism.

“Singing” at Dean Stone Night: Dean Larry Abramson, adjunct professor Lido Vizzutti and Pollner professor Deborah Potter join professors Denise Dowling and Jule Banville in belting out a rendition of “Don’t Go Takin’ My Job” for students and friends at the 2018 Dean Stone festivities.
Thank you to our donors!

EVERY DAY, I SEE the impact of donor support on our students. Some of our biggest efforts, like the Media Lab described elsewhere in this issue, would not exist without the generosity of our alums and supporters. Other projects, like Native News and Student Doc, provide a much richer learning experience thanks to outside support for travel and publication costs. The scholarships you support help our students stay focused on their journalism, and help many graduate on time. Most importantly, all these donor-backed initiatives remind us all that we are part of a community of people dedicated to quality journalism. Regardless of how you give to the UM J-School, thank you for keeping us close to our roots, for supporting fact-based journalism, and for keeping us in your hearts.

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