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# Main Hall <sup>to</sup> Main St.

Vol. 2, No. 11

Connecting Campus and Community

December 1996

## KUFM aims for the eyes

*UM, MSU connect to bring Montana Public Television to viewers statewide*

For the first time, viewers in the Missoula and Bitterroot valleys have a public television station broadcasting from their own backyard.

Years of preparation reached a high point when KUFM-TV, based at The University of Montana—Missoula, went on the air in a testing stage.

KUFM-TV currently is tapping into the signal used by KUSM's Montana Public Television under program test authority from the Federal Communications Commission. The station broadcasts on Channel 11 for Missoula viewers — with or without cable.

Meanwhile, local viewers may experience interruptions in KUFM-TV's service while adjustments are being made between now and Jan. 18, when the station officially debuts with a sign-on celebration.

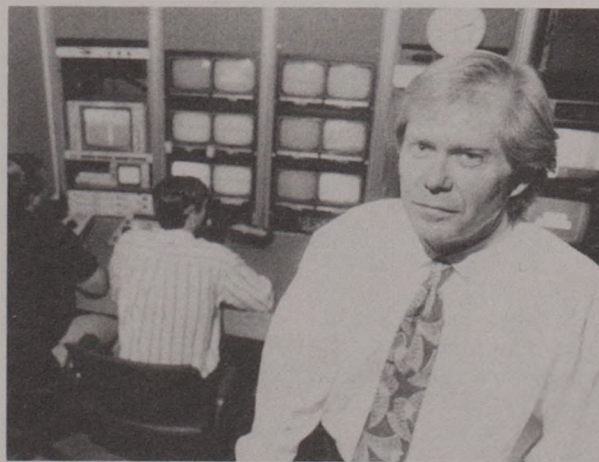
KUFM-TV will operate as a partner with KUSM-TV, which is licensed to Montana State University—Bozeman, to comprise Montana Public Television. MPTV will operate as a statewide network, providing viewers with informative, educational and entertaining programming.

The station will be identified on air as a joint venture between UM and MSU, said William Marcus, director of UM's Broadcast Media Center, which oversees KUFM television and radio.

While MPTV is similar to other public television stations, it also will offer locally produced programs such as "Backroads of Montana," "Montana Profiles," "Montana: The Second Cen-

turey," "Montana Ag Live," "Montana Voices" and the award-winning documentary work of UM Radio-TV students. Montana viewers also can look forward to public service specials including "Your Voice, Your Vote: Montana's Statewide Debates" and "Planning Montana: A Town Meeting."

KUSM-TV will serve as MPTV's primary operations center, while KUFM-TV will use its resources to produce news and informational programs for statewide distribution. A state-of-the-art digital interlink will be used as a pipeline for programming and information exchanges between stations.



**William Marcus, director of UM's Broadcast Media Center, oversees KUFM-TV, located in the Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center.**

The cooperative effort maximizes state resources to provide educational broadcasting as well as high quality local and regional programs statewide, said Daniel Dauterive, KUFM-TV operations director. The new station is funded by \$1.6 million in grants.

KUFM-TV's studio is located in the Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center on the UM campus.

It is the only TV station in Missoula to have its antenna and transmitter located on Mount Dean Stone south of Missoula. This will improve broadcast reception for many viewers over other Missoula TV stations.

Organizers hope KUFM-TV will be as successful as KUFM, Montana Public Radio, which has served Montanans for 31 years. Viewers can expect the same dedication to quality broadcasting from KUFM-TV that they have come to expect from Montana Public Radio, Marcus said. World Wide Web users can track KUFM-TV's progress at <http://visions.Montana.edu/kufm>.

**Turn On** Missoula's newest television station — KUFM-TV, Channel 11 — today, then join campus and community friends for the official sign-on celebration Saturday, Jan. 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Montana Theatre in the Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center. Refreshments will be served and sneak previews of special UM-produced programs will be shown, including the latest installment of the award-winning "Backroads of Montana." Call 243-4101 for more information.

# University system proposes legislation to help ease student financial woes

By Becky Shay  
University Communications

As a 25-year-old in the workforce, I made the decision to attend UM because I knew earning a journalism degree would land me a better paying job.

I've studied more than two years and am eyeing graduation this spring. Sadly, along with graduation comes about \$28,000 in debt. Or in other words, payments of about \$350 a month for the next decade.

My scenario is not unique. A task force on financial aid reform, established last year by former



Shay

Commissioner of Higher Education Jeff Baker, found that students graduating with an undergraduate degree do so with an average debt of \$15,000, but many students amass more than \$20,000 in debt.

Why? According to the task force report, what students and their families can contribute to an education — for nearly half of the students the contribution is less than \$2,500 a year — falls well behind the approximately \$6,500 it takes to cover the costs of tuition, room and board.

In my case, the bulk of my federal financial aid has gone to cover living expenses, but I've still had to juggle two quarter-time jobs to make ends meet. According to a study cited by the task force, part of the gap is because the cost of tuition has increased 200 percent over the last 25 years, while median family income has increased a modest 7 percent.

The task force has proposed creating a Montana Tuition Assistance Program which would fund state financial aid grants to eligible students. The grants would go to low income students who do not receive enough grant assistance from other financial aid programs to cover the costs of tuition, mandatory fees and books in full, and also to lower middle income students who marginally exceed the maximum family contribution permitted for Federal Pell Grant eligibility.

Mick Hanson, director of the UM Financial Aid Office and chairman of the task force, says one of the strong

points of MTAP is that students must show a minimum of \$2,500 in student-earned income from the previous calendar year. But financial aid administrators could waive this requirement in special circumstances, such as for a single parent.

Hanson speculates that because the grants are small, ranging from \$100 to \$500, some people may think they won't offset enough student debt. In my case, is there really a difference between \$26,000 and \$28,000 in debt? Hanson says yes.

For me, the additional grant money would have lowered my loan repayments around \$50 a month — living on a college student's budget, that money is the difference between easily paying a monthly utility bill and scratching to cover the living expense.

At current enrollment levels, it would probably cost about \$2.6 million to fund the program. The task force offered a variety of funding options, ranging from a statewide mill levy to a driver's license surcharge to a student fee. Hanson says the group is interested in funding from any source.

One of the main propositions is to shift interest on tuition and fee money from the state general fund, where it currently goes, into a fund that would create a state financial aid fund, says Dick Crofts, interim commissioner of higher education. But it will be an "uphill fight" to get the proposal past Gov. Marc Racicot, Crofts says.

The governor has given his nod of approval to the task force's idea of feeding the fund with any money saved by making the university system's administrative process more efficient. The problem, Crofts says, is there won't be enough money generated to create and maintain a state financial aid fund.

Crofts says the commissioner's office will take the MTAP idea to the Legislature this session. His office called for funding proposals, which were due in December. The state already subsidizes each resident student's education to the tune of about \$4,000 a year, which Hanson calls "very generous."

Montana Associated Students is working on a proposal calling for funding MTAP with remanded tuition, the money that colleges bring in from nonresidents over and above their predicted enrollment. When a school has this excess, the money is

distributed by the Board of Regents of Higher Education, usually to help schools that experienced a shortfall.

Jason Thielman, UM student body president and vice president of MAS, says remanded tuition has "generally been a Band-Aid to solve short-term problems." He says using the money to fund state financial aid would not only help more students, it would return student money to students.

Another task force recommendation is to develop a Family Educational Planning Program to help educate families about the cost of higher education and to provide them with investment opportunities.

"This is where the real work has to take place," Hanson says. "How are we going to change America's attitude about spending? We need to save more and spend less."

On the days that Hanson's three children were born he opened savings accounts in their names and started putting aside \$10 a month. Subsequently, he has two children attending UM without debt and a third child in high school who will do the same. Parents today earning 7 percent interest would have to put away \$20 a month from the day the child is born to pay for the bare-bones costs of tuition, fees, books and supplies. The monthly figure jumps to nearly \$48 if parents include the costs of food and lodging.

MTAP also would inform families about the varied costs of an education. Making the right financial choices is as important in choosing a college as a child's first car, Hanson says. Not many parents will allow their children to purchase a BMW simply because he or she wants one, but they fail to pull in the reins when their child seeks an education with a BMW-like price tag.

In retrospect, one of the easiest things I could've done to save money was to continue working full-time and take more classes at Flathead Valley Community College before transferring to UM.

Federal financial aid and state subsidies made it possible for me to get my degree. While the debt seems overwhelming — frightening, in fact — it has brought more than a degree. I've earned an education. What I've learned and the ways I have evolved as a person are a bargain at \$28,000.

*Becky Shay, a senior majoring in journalism, is an intern for University Communications.*



# Bear Briefs

**Giving Back**—The University of Montana and the Missoula community have close ties, and faculty and staff have proved it through UM's Charitable Giving Campaign. The 1996 campaign already has garnered \$45,083 for area organizations, and more donations are coming in. The campaign, which last year raised a record \$46,645, allows UM faculty and staff to donate to their choice of 71 organizations.

**Tour America**—On Jan. 23, UM's theater-in-residence will open its most extensive national tour yet with the American classic, "To Kill A Mockingbird." The Montana Repertory Theatre's annual tour begins in Lancaster, Calif. The cast of 15 actors and seven crew members will visit

almost 20 states from coast to coast before the tour ends May 3 in

Virginia. The tour stops in Thompson Falls, Havre, Cutbank, Helena, Billings, Lewistown, Great Falls, Butte and Bozeman Feb. 17-26, before heading out of state again. Missoula patrons may catch the play Feb. 13-16 at the Montana Theatre in UM's Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. Call 243-4581 for ticket information.

**Science Promoter**—Jerry Esmay, chair of UM's Computer Science Department, was recently honored for his dedication to the students and science teachers of Montana. Esmay was awarded the Montana Science Teachers Association Organization Award for 1996 in recognition of his work on the Montana Science Fair. The fair brings 450 to 500 sixth- through 12th grade students to UM to compete for numerous prizes. The 42nd annual Montana Science Fair is set for April 7-8 at the Field House.

**Legal Lectures**—A new lecture series created in memory of two distinguished federal judges will bring leading jurists and legal scholars to UM's School of Law next fall. The Judge William B. Jones and Judge

Edward A. Tamm Judicial Lecture Series is designed to enhance understanding of the judicial system for law students, faculty and practicing lawyers with topics ranging from judicial ethics to judicial decision-making. Speakers will be selected by an advisory committee that includes U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, U.S. District Judge Jack Shanstrom of Billings, Montana Supreme Court Chief Justice Jean A. Turnage, and businessman Dennis Washington and attorney Milton Datsopoulos of Missoula. Fundraising, spearheaded by Washington, D.C., attorney Robert Bennett, is under way. Both Tamm and Jones had strong Montana ties: Tamm grew up in Butte and Jones practiced law in Helena.

**Healthful Advice**—Find out how a bell pepper can help ease arthritis pain or what effect Echinacea has on the immune system by tuning in to KUFM, Montana Public Radio, at 7 p.m. Saturdays. Hosted by UM pharmacognosy Professor Rustem Medora, "The Plant Detective: A Phytomedicinal Whodunit" is a four-minute weekly radio program designed to educate listeners about the wonders and dangers of plants. Future programs include discussions about sassafras, allspice, cocoa and basil.

**Last Best Plates**—UM's new maroon license plates are available from your local Montana Department of Motor Vehicles. Get your new plates for an extra \$22.50 when you renew your registration, and the UM scholarship fund will receive \$20. If you don't want to wait, take your current UM plate in before your renewal month and pay \$2.50 for the exchange. For more information, call Annie Pontrelli, UM Community Relations and Outreach coordinator, 243-2488.

**School's In**—The long Christmas break may yield more than rest and recreation for many UM students this year, thanks to a newly developed intersession. Students and community members are offered opportunities to explore educational territory from ski slopes to cyberspace. The three-week session runs Jan. 6-24. Spring semester classes begin Jan. 27.

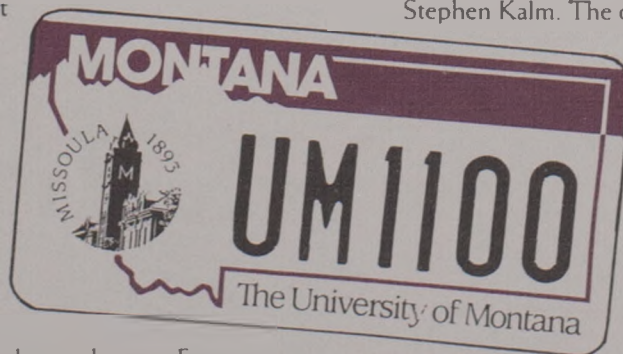
**Guiding Peers**—Hilary Lange, a UM freshman majoring in journalism, was recognized by Gov. Marc Racicot for outstanding work in educating the public about HIV/AIDS. The governor presented awards to Lange and eight of her former classmates from Columbia Falls High School, where the students and their teacher formed a peer mentoring program to serve the community.

During her senior year, Lange provided age-appropriate information about HIV prevention to a wide range of community members, from kindergartners to grandparents. She was honored in a ceremony in Helena Dec. 2 as part of the governor's World AIDS Day observances. Lange is a member of UM's Cheer Squad.

**Musical Assistance**—UM music faculty members took center stage in a performance of the Christmas portion of Handel's "Messiah" in a benefit concert for Habitat for Humanity of Missoula Dec. 1. Gary Funk, UM choral activities director, led the event, which featured a choir of more than 175 singers and a 30-member orchestra. Soloists included UM voice professors Anne Basinski, Esther England and Stephen Kalm. The orchestra included

violin Professor Margaret Baldrige as concertmaster and featured music faculty Steve Bolstad on trumpet, Don Beller on bass and Nancy Cooper on harpsichord. Visiting Professor Luanna Stroh sang in

the chorus. The event raised more than \$7,000 for Habitat for Humanity to start building a new house in the spring.



# UM After Dark: It's never too late to learn

Should you shoot your TV? If you really want to know, UM has the course for you spring semester: Philosophy and the Media or "Should I Shoot My TV?" It's one of 68 community-oriented courses in the newly designed, user-friendly night school package UM's Center for Continuing Education will unwrap in January.

"This is a first effort at a night school designed specifically for the community," said Dan Smith, director of the center's extended studies and summer programs. "These are innovative courses with real substance for lifelong learning."

Gateways to Learning, The University of Montana Community Night School will bring together, for the first time, credit and noncredit offerings of the University and its College of Technology, he said. Students will have 12 credit and 56 noncredit offerings to choose from, and — here's the kicker — they can take courses from either category or both without being formally admitted to the University.

"The ease of the community member taking classes for credit is what we're focusing on," he said. Students already enrolled at UM are welcome to attend, he said, but their regular UM tuition will not cover night school courses.

"This is different from courses that simply extend the daytime schedule," Smith said. "The credit courses will not be

geared to fill general education requirements; however, they will count toward elective credit."

Students with practical interests and needs can choose from noncredit courses in computer applications, photography, real estate, hazardous materials and intravenous therapy, to name a few areas. Courses for credit incorporate areas such as anthropology, creative writing, finance and foreign languages as well as more unusual topics like Dance, Drum and Song of the African Diaspora.

Catalogs with complete course listings and registration information will be available at the College of Technology and on the UM campus at Continuing Education, Admissions and New Student Services and the Bookstore at The University of Montana, located in the University Center.

Classes will begin Jan. 27. The cost for credit courses is \$80 per semester credit. Fees for the noncredit courses will vary and will be listed in the catalog. Financial aid will not be available.

Registration is now open. To request a catalog, call (406) 243-6431 or (406) 243-7875. Information is also available at [www.umt.edu/ccesp/essp/night](http://www.umt.edu/ccesp/essp/night).

A special preregistration is set for 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 8 and 9, at the College of Technology, 909 South Ave. W.

—Terry Brenner, University Communications

## UM, Missoula mark King legacy

Campus and community will come together to celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., with a series of public events in January.

UM's Martin Luther King Day Committee, the African American Studies Program and the Jeanette Rankin Peace Resource Center are organizing the events.

Students in grades three through 12 are invited to submit artwork or written pieces of 250 words or less explaining a local community problem such as hunger, homelessness, violence or racism, and possible solutions. Entries, due by Jan. 6, can be in the form of a painting, drawing, essay, letter, poem or song. Cash prizes, provided by the UM Excellence Fund, will be awarded to contest winners.

A rally and program will be held on

Martin Luther King Day Monday, Jan. 20, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, 300 E. Main St. A forum on conflict resolution will be held in conjunction with the Montana Human Rights Commission, which will meet on campus Jan. 20-21.

On Thursday, Jan. 30, the UM President's Lecture Series will feature Robert Booker, director of the Beck Cultural Exchange Center at the Museum of Black History and Culture in Knoxville, Tenn. Booker will examine "The Black Struggles of the 1960s and the 1990s Compared." The free lecture will begin at 8 p.m. in the Montana Theatre in UM's Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center.

For more information, call Ray Carlisle at 243-4202.

## UM Calendar

### Thursday, Jan. 2

**Basketball**—Lady Griz vs. Idaho State, 7:30 p.m., Harry Adams Field House.

### Saturday, Jan. 4

**Basketball**—Lady Griz vs. Weber State, 7:30 p.m., Harry Adams Field House.

### Thursday, Jan. 9

**Basketball**—Grizzlies vs. Northern Arizona, 7:35 p.m., Harry Adams Field House.

### Saturday, Jan. 11

**Basketball**—Grizzlies vs. Cal State-Northridge, 7:35 p.m., Harry Adams Field House.

### Friday, Jan. 17

**Basketball**—Lady Griz vs. Portland State (PSN-TV), 8:07 p.m., Harry Adams Field House.

### Saturday, Jan. 18

**Basketball**—Lady Griz vs. Eastern Washington, 7:30 p.m., Harry Adams Field House.

### Monday, Jan. 20

**Holiday**—Martin Luther King Jr. Day; UM offices closed.

### Wednesday, Jan. 22

**Spring orientation**—through Jan. 24.

### Thursday, Jan. 23

**Board of Regents meeting**—Helena, January 23-24.

**Basketball**—Lady Griz vs. Cal State-Sacramento, 7:30 p.m., Harry Adams Field House.

### Saturday, Jan. 25

**Basketball**—Grizzlies vs. Montana State Bobcats (KPAX-TV), 8:05 p.m., Harry Adams Field House.

### Tuesday, Jan. 28

**Faculty recital**—pianist John Olsen, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall. Tickets \$5/general, \$3/students and senior citizens.

### Wednesday, Jan. 29

**Basketball**—Grizzlies vs. Weber State, 7:35 p.m., Harry Adams Field House.



The University of  
**Montana**

Main Hall to Main Street is published monthly by University Communications at The University of Montana-Missoula. Send questions, comments or suggestions to Rita Munzennder, editor, 317 Brandy Hall, Missoula, 59812, or call 243-4824. Photographer is Todd Goodrich.