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# Main Hall to Main St.

Vol. 3, No. 2

Connecting Campus and Community

May 1997

## Centennial celebrations

### UM marks 100th Commencement, Main Hall's birthday

**O**n the morning of June 8, 1898, community members and state leaders gathered at the Union Opera House in downtown Missoula to mark The University of Montana's first commencement and honor a pair of graduates — Mrs. Ella Robb Glenny and Miss Eloise Knowles. The first two degrees ever awarded, a bachelor of arts to Glenny and a bachelor of philosophy to Knowles, were presented by the University's first president, Oscar Craig.

That afternoon, a crowd gathered on what is now the Oval to lay the 7-ton cornerstone, inscribed with the date "1897" for the year construction began on University Hall.

This year, almost 1,500 graduates and their families and friends will mark UM's 100th Commencement. Increasing enrollment over the past decade has forced UM to conduct separate commencement ceremonies throughout the day.

Since Glenny and Knowles carved out their legacy as the first graduates, UM has awarded undergraduate degrees to more than 50,000 students.

Over the years, University Hall became known informally as Main Hall. It was, and still is, the heart of UM.

**Editor's note:** At first glance, you might think the 100th Commencement falls in 1998. If you do the math, you'll see this is the year for the Commencement Centennial — don't forget to count the 1898 ceremony.

#### A grand old building

The University had no permanent home when it was chartered in 1893. Classes began in 1895 in the old Southside School, which had been condemned but was reconditioned to serve as the temporary quarters for the University. Plans were laid for construction of a building on 40 acres of "bumpy, scrubby land at the base of Mount Sentinel," donated by the estate of Col. C.P. Higgins and the South Missoula Land Co. through E.L. Bonner.

In 1895, one of the University's first professors, Frederick Scheuch, designed the Oval, specifying that all immediate and future buildings surround it with their entrances facing the center.

In 1897, four years after the University's founding, construction began on its first building. It was University Hall, and although Science Hall beat it to completion in 1898, only University Hall remains today. Science Hall, later the Venture Center, was razed in 1983. (In 1996, the Davidson Honors College opened on the site.)

### IT WAS A BIG DAY

#### CORNERSTONE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA LAID YESTERDAY AFTERNOON

**There was a Big Turnout, Music, Speeches, Etc. It Was an All Important Event**

*Amid pomp and ceremony the cornerstone of the University hall was laid yesterday afternoon and until the dedication of the fine building, the work on Montana's University will go on without more ado. At 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon all the business houses in the city were closed and at 2 o'clock the parade was formed. A great turnout was made, most of the civic societies being represented and a large string of carriages (sic) made up the line. The procession reached the grounds soon after and the ceremonies of laying the cornerstone of Montana's highest educational institution were commenced.*

—Daily Missoulian  
June 9, 1898

In its first year, University Hall housed an auditorium, classrooms, a gym, laboratories, the library, a museum and offices.

Today, with Mount Sentinel as a backdrop, University Hall stands prominently on the east end of the axis that cuts through the Oval and projects into University Avenue. It houses the President's Office, Academic Affairs, the offices of the provost and vice presidents, the Graduate School and a host of services ranging from international programs and the Wilderness Institute to Faculty Senate and the University Teachers' Union.

*(continued on page 4)*

# UM recognizes honorary doctora

*One of the nation's most successful businessmen and an internationally acclaimed author will receive two of The University of Montana's highest honors at 100th Commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 17. President George Dennison will confer honorary doctorates on Dennis R. Washington, philanthropist and founder of Washington Corp., and James Welch, a Browning native and accomplished writer of novels about the West and Native Americans.*

## **Dennis R. Washington** Doctor of Business Administration

An honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree recognizes Washington's accomplishments in construction, mining, shipping and railroad business ventures.

A native of Spokane, Wash., he overcame a bout with polio as a youngster to embark on a career in construction at the age of 15. With a \$30,000 loan from Missoula businessman William Gallagher 15 years later, Washington launched his own construction firm in 1964 with three employees.

His first contract came from the U.S. Forest Service to pave the parking lot at the Glacier National Park visitors' center atop Going to the Sun Highway. By 1969, Washington Construction was the largest contractor in Montana. His firm continued to grow in the 1970s with federally funded interstate highway system projects.

Washington expanded into mining, buying and resurrecting the Anaconda Co.'s copper mines. Later, he purchased Burlington Northern Railroad's southern Montana rail system and renamed it Montana Rail Link. Today, Washington Corp. employs more than 3,000 people and generates more than \$700 million in sales annually.

In 1988, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation was established to help disadvantaged youths and promote education. Washington has invested resources in support of causes that inspire and motivate young people to maximize their personal potential.

While chair of the American Academy of Achievement, Washington expanded its reach through telecommunications and computer technology to classrooms and communities nationwide. Washington received the Horatio Alger Association's Distinguished Americans Award in 1995.

Washington has been especially generous to The University of Montana with contributions that are visible across campus. The Washingtons were major contributors to Washington-Grizzly Stadium and are financing the renovation of the historic Prescott House. They financed the softening of the dangerous "S" curve on Campus Drive as it winds past the Prescott House. The couple also donated the Center at Salmon Lake, which the University now rents to the public for conferences.

"He is proof that great things can still be done in this country of ours," said former Montana Gov. Tim Babcock, who wrote a letter supporting Washington's nomination for the honorary doctorate.



**Washington**

## **James Welch** Doctor of Letters

Among the most recognized graduates of The University of Montana, poet and author Welch brought life on Montana's Hi-Line to the attention of readers worldwide with critically acclaimed novels, "Winter in the Blood," "The Death of Jim Loney," "Fools Crow" and "The Indian Lawyer." His books have been translated and published in France, Italy, Germany, Holland, Japan, Sweden and England.

UM English Professor Gerry Brenner, who spearheaded the nomination, calls Welch "one of the most influential and accomplished authors of our time."

"Jim Welch is one of the most prominent, influential and admired writers dealing with the Native American experience," wrote William Farr, associate director for humanities at UM's Center for the Rocky Mountain West. "He has contributed greatly, and from within the experience itself, to a more balanced, rich and nuanced understanding of tribal life as it has persevered."

A 1965 graduate of UM with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts, Welch was nominated for the honorary doctorate by the Department of English and the College of Arts and Sciences.

"Mr. Welch has brought, and will continue to bring, honor to our institution..." wrote James A. Flightner, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

A cornerstone of Missoula's famed writing community, Welch has taught writing at the University of Washington and Cornell University.

His work has earned him honors and accolades around the world. In 1995 Welch was knighted by the French government when he received a "Chevalier de L'Ordre des Artes et des Lettres."

He won the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award for Poetry in 1975, and for fiction in 1987 and 1990. His many other honors include the Montana Governor's Award for the Arts in 1981, the Los Angeles Times Book Award for Fiction in 1987, the Montana Award in Humanities in 1988, the Native American Literature Prize in 1991 and a Doctor of Fine Arts degree from Rocky Mountain College in 1993.

Welch served for a decade as vice chair of the Montana State Board of Pardons.

"Jim Welch," wrote former Gov. Ted Schwinden, "is a true Montana treasure."



**Welch**

# recipients — present and past

*On Saturday, May 24, Margery Hunter Brown, UM law professor emeritus and champion of human rights, will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree at the School of Law's hooding ceremony at the Montana Theatre in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center.*

## Margery Hunter Brown Doctor of Laws

Brown has gained a national reputation as a scholar and advocate for her work in Indian law. She nurtured and encouraged the development of strong tribal courts on Montana's reservations.

A Libby native, Brown earned a master's degree in history from UM in 1953. She worked as a reporter for the Great Falls Tribune and taught history and political science at Montana State University, Northern Montana College and UM. She helped found the Bigfork Summer Playhouse.

Her first job upon graduation from UM's School of Law in 1975 was as an attorney for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Court. She returned to UM a short time later to teach law, and under her guidance, the school's Indian Law Clinic was established. Her tenure at the law school included stints as associate dean and acting dean.

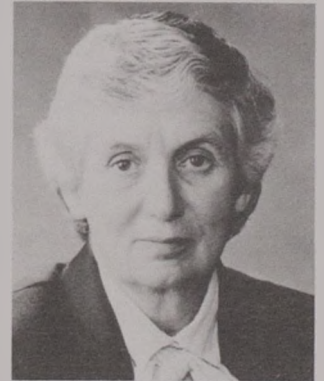
Through her counsel and example, Brown inspired generations of UM law students, faculty and tribal judges, said law Dean E. Edwin Eck in nominating her for the honor.

With James Lopach, a UM faculty colleague, Brown wrote "Tribal Constitutions: Their Past — Their Future," and "Tribal Government Today: Politics on Montana Indian Reservations."

Brown was one of 16 Montanans appointed to the Constitutional Revision Commission to study and evaluate the need for revision of Montana's 1889 Constitution. She then was appointed to the Constitutional Convention Commission to gather materials for the Constitutional Convention. Brown and Lopach later penned "We the People of Montana: The Working of a Popular Government."

In 1981 then-Gov. Ted Schwinden appointed Brown to the Human Rights Commission, where she served eight years, including six years as chair. During her tenure, the commission developed rules regarding sex discrimination in education and initiated projects designed to counter discrimination in housing, particularly discrimination against Native Americans.

"With the possible exception of Jeannette Rankin, no one in this state's history has contributed more to the cause of gender equality than Marge Brown," wrote retired District Judge Gordon R. Bennett in a letter supporting the nomination. "Nor can anybody that I know of be singled out for a greater contribution to the cause of human rights in general than Marge Brown."



Brown

The Honorary Doctorate Circle commemorates individuals who have received UM's highest honor since the first degree was conferred in 1901. Following are the names of recipients: **Sen. Thomas H. Carter**, 1901, **Gov. Joseph K. Toole**, 1902, **Judge Hiram Knowles**, 1904, scientist **Howard T. Ricketts**, 1909, **Perley M. Silloway**, 1913, artist **Charles M. Russell**, 1925, writer **Frank Bird Linderman**, 1927, journalist **John Hurst Durston**, 1928, forest and hydro-electric engineer **Frank E. Bonner**, 1928, educator **James M. Hamilton**, 1930, scientist **Emil A. Starz**, 1932, scientist **Guy Sheridan**, 1933, chemist **Harold C. Urey** and UM President **Edward O. Sisson**, 1935, businessman **James H. Rowe**, 1936, educator **Melvin A. Brannon**, 1936, scientist **Ralph R. Parker** and **Oliver S. Warden**, publisher of the Great Falls Tribune, 1937, UM Professor **Frederick C. Scheuch**, 1938, writer **Clarence K. Streit** and forester **Fred E. Thieme**, 1939, and economics scholar **Gordon S. Watkins** and regional forester **Evan W. Kelly**, 1940 Also **Judge Justin Miller**, 1941, scientist **Herald Rea Cox** and writer **John M. Brown**, 1942, composer **Herbert R. Inch**, 1943, **George H. Greenwood**, composer of "Montana My Montana," 1944, scientist **Josiah J. Moore**, 1945, scientist **Reynold C. Fuson**, 1946,

scientist **Robert C. Guthrie**, 1947, UM President **Carl McFarland** and Judge **Walter L. Pope**, 1949, scholar **Earl J. McGrath** and journalist **Chester C. Davis**, 1951, Judge **William J. Jameson**, attorney and banker **William L. Murphy**, and **Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Bovey**, founders of Virginia City restoration, 1952, attorney **Russell D. Niles** and UM law Professor **Albert N. Whitlock**, 1953, forester **Charles A. Joy**, scientist **Carl L. Larson** and attorney **William M. Allen**, 1954 **Dr. Otis O. Benson, Jr.** and Judge **Charles N. Pray**, 1955, **Sen. Mike Mansfield**, 1956, scientist **Philip R. White**, 1956, businessman **Russell B. Hart**, 1957, geologist **Ralph W. Imlay**, 1959, educator and Rhodes Scholar **Virgil M. Hancher**, 1960, **Tom C. Clark**, Judge **George H. Boldt**, Judge **W.D. Murray** and **John C. Satterfield**, 1961, **Charles E. Erdmann**, 1962, UM faculty member **Harold G. Merriam** and **Franklin A. Long**, 1963, **Louis J. Fischl** and UM President **James A. McCain**, 1964, **George W. Bartelmez**, anthropologist **John C. Ewers** and **Peter H. Odegard**, 1966, UM graduate **Jessie M. Bierman**, 1967, accountant **Hugh D. Galusha** and **Herbert E. Robinson**, 1969, **Jack H. Vaughn**, 1970, author **Dorothy M. Johnson** and **Sen. Lee Metcalf**, 1973, musician **Maury Lowndes**, social worker **Edna Rankin McKinnon** and forester **William R. "Bud" Moore**, 1974, **C. Leo Hitchcock** and

faculty member **Edmund L. Freeman**, 1975, librarian and UM graduate **Lucile E. Speer**, 1977, Native American leader **John Wooden Legs**, Judge **James R. Browning** and faculty members **Melvin S. Morris** and **Edwin T. Mertz**, 1978, Judge **Russell E. Smith**, 1980, author **Norman Maclean** and faculty member **Gerald W. Prescott**, 1981, UM graduates **Jean'ne M. Schreeve** and **William H. Forbis**, 1982, scientist **Frederic G. Renner** and journalist **Harold G. Stearns**, 1983, scientist **Richard Remington**, 1984, actor **Carroll O'Connor**, news correspondent **Aline Mosby** and dancer **Michael Smuin**, 1985, geologist **John Horner**, 1986, opera singer **Judith Blegen Gniewek**, 1987, conservationist **Daniel Poole** and historian **Wayne Rasmussen**, 1988, artist **Paul Dyck**, 1989, sports broadcaster **Brent Musberger**, 1990, **Margaret Kingsland**, 1991, conservationist **Arnold W. Bolle**, conservationist **John J. Craighead**, tribal leader **Earl Old Person**, art critic **Genevieve K. Renner** and historian **David A. Walter**, 1994, **Alex Stepanzoff**, **Kenneth E. Ryan** and Montana Supreme Court Chief Justice **Jean Turnage**, 1995, and geologist **Edward T. Ruppel**, anthropologist **Joe Medicine Crow**, attorney **Margaret H. McDowell**, Law Dean Emeritus **Robert E. Sullivan** and businessman **Gerald Grinstein**, 1996.

# Original University Hall time capsule never found

**M**issoulians and state leaders gathered on the Oval 99 years ago to watch Edward C. Day, grand master of the Grand Lodge of Masons, enclose a solid copper box inside the cornerstone of University Hall for future generations to find.

Despite repeated attempts to find the box during UM's Centennial in 1993, the time capsule remains hidden under the massive cornerstone. While University officials are unsure of its location, they know exactly what's in the box, thanks to their counterparts' carefully written recording of the time capsule's contents. The capsule contains the following items, among others:

A list of members of Missoula Masonic Lodge No. 13; a list of members of the Christian Church of Missoula; a Bible from Oscar J. Craig, the University's first president; a 5-cent piece from the first sale of the Anaconda Standard on June 8, 1898; copies of the Daily Missoulian, Weekly Missoulian, Anaconda Standard, Democrat Messenger, Montana Fruit

Grower and the first issue of the Montana Kaimin; a Confederate \$100 bill; Knights of Pythias Jewel from the Hon. John M. Evans, chancellor-commander of the Grand Lodge of Knights of Pythias in Montana; Grand Army badge from Winthrop No. 11; constitution and bylaws of the Grand Lodge of Montana and a list of its officers; photographs of tree planting on University grounds; photograph of architect A.J. Gibson; and a photograph of Chief Charlo of the Flathead nation.

In preparation for the next century, University officials hid a second time capsule during the 1993 Centennial celebration.

Determined not to put those who come after them through a frustrating search, University leaders left clear directions so their successors can find



University Hall under construction in 1898 was one of two buildings on campus that year.

the time capsule during UM's bicentennial. A bronze plaque showing the way has the following inscription:

"To commemorate The University of Montana's 1993 Centennial, a time capsule in this stone contains items from the campus community as a gift to future generations; to be opened in 2093."

## Grand building

continued from page 1

### Built to last

Built of granite from Whitehall, Mont., and red, sand-faced bricks that were made on campus grounds, the four-story hall boasts the Richardsonian Romanesque style that was popular for public buildings in the 1880s.

The 1897 Legislature had approved the issuance of \$50,000 in bonds to finance the building project, and a detailed construction contract made sure the job was done right. The contract, on file in Mansfield Library Archives, declared that "nothing but good, sound, even-colored brick can be used on the outer walls" at a cost of \$7 per thousand bricks. It further specified



Eloise Knowles, one of UM's first two graduates

that "mortar for all exterior work will be made with good, fresh, white lime and Bitterroot sand."

Montana granite and dormers with arched windows detail the building, but University Hall's dominant feature is its 112-foot bell and clock tower. A lighted, round clock with an iron "M" appears on all four sides of the tower. For more than 50 years, the tower housed a single bell, which was removed in

1953 to make way for the Memorial Carillon. The original bell is still used today for parades and homecoming and to proclaim victory at football games.

The carillon's 47 bells, scaling four octaves and weighing 12 tons, were cast in Holland. The largest bell, "The Alumna," weighs one ton; the smallest bell weighs only 17 pounds. The tower's floor had to be reinforced with steel and concrete to hold the bells' weight.

The carillon, which tolls at the top of every hour and is played at noon each weekday by UM carillonneur Nancy Cooper, was dedicated to UM students who died in World War II.

In 1992 the University named the carillon tower in honor of John C. Ellis, music professor, university organist and carillonneur. Ellis, who served the University from 1969 until his death in 1992, restored the carillon with money from a grant brought in by a student.

"The tradition of the carillon lends an international flavor to the University," a student wrote about Ellis and the carillon. "I can't see Dr. Ellis at the clavier, but I know he is there. The man, his music and his instrument are so woven into the fabric of the campus that they are like the trees, the grass, the old buildings."

—Janelle Lamb, University Communications intern, and Annie Pontrelli, UM's Centennial coordinator and Community Relations and Outreach coordinator, contributed to the research and writing of this article.



The University of  
**Montana**

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