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Vol. 4, No. 8

Connecting Campus and Community

December 1998

Protecting A Beautiful Place

UM assists landowners with unique conservation easement

Nestled in the Blackfoot Valley, the E Bar L Ranch is a special place. Deer, elk and bears wander there among the Ponderosa pines, where the Clearwater and Blackfoot rivers come together.

People from all over the world also visit the E Bar L, which is one of the oldest continually operated guest ranches in the West. It's a place with the power to renew mind, body and soul.

Ranch owner Bill Potter said his dad fell in love with the area while working as a surveyor for the Milwaukee Railroad in 1913, and the family has been a prominent fixture in the valley ever since.

Potter knows the ranch is special — England's Prince William even vacationed there a few years ago — and he wants to ensure the area is preserved for future generations. So his family entered into a conservation easement agreement this fall with the Nature Conservancy and The University of Montana to forever shelter 4,000 acres from development.

"What we are trying to do is establish something for perpetuity," Potter said, gesturing at a stand of timber on the ranch while white-tailed deer grazed behind him. "You can't just walk away and think this will always be the same."

The easement, which prohibits subdivision and new homes, is unique because it allows for harvesting ranch timber resources in a sustainable, ecologically based manner. The easement also requires active forestry management from the Potter family, the Nature Conservancy and UM.

The land is about six miles northeast of UM's 28,000-acre Lubrecht Experimental Forest, which is used by the University's School of Forestry for research, demonstration projects and education. Lubrecht director Hank Goetz was instrumental in developing the conservation easement for the Potters.

"We basically view this as an extension of the Lubrecht Forest," Goetz said. "We have had a good working relationship with the Potters for the past 25 years or so, and this agreement will help us maintain that relationship. Bill has always been good about allowing us to use the ranch for research and demonstration — basically the same things we use Lubrecht for."

Goetz said the easement is cutting-edge because it requires

active forest stewardship. It's the only conservation easement of its kind in Montana.

The Nature Conservancy is an organization committed to preserving plants, animals and natural communities and diversity. The organization will contract with UM to help manage the ranch's timberlands.

One clause in the easement limits cutting on the land to annual growth. Goetz said new growth is about 150 board feet per acre annually in that area, so about 500,000 board feet — roughly 100 truckloads of logs — still could be harvested each year. UM staff and possibly forestry students will monitor the easement to ensure the proper amount of timber is harvested.

"We wanted to set a limit but not tie the hands of future landowners," Goetz said. "Who knows? Markets and technology may change in the future, so we wanted to leave a little leeway."

The Potters, UM staff and Nature Conservancy officials will meet every September to decide together how to best manage the easement land.

Signing the easement gave the Potters benefits other than good forest management and preservation of their land for the future. Since the land can't be subdivided, its value has dropped, which gives the Potter family tax breaks.

Goetz said Bill and Betty Potter are role models for how private landowners should strive to increase the health of their timberlands. The Potters have developed their own logging methods, and Goetz said they are moving toward an uneven

management style, in which trees of different ages are located together, creating a healthier forest.

The Potters often leave the best trees in a stand, making the forest more like what occurs in nature. Their method of logging also provides a long-term flow of income that is sustainable over the years. Bill said his ranch was one of the first places logged in the Blackfoot Valley back in 1885, and he dreams of returning his forests to prelogging condition.

"It takes four or five generations to establish a good stand of timber," Potter said. "What I'm trying to do is establish a tradition."

—Cary Shimek, University Relations



Bill and Betty Potter harvest timber on their land near Lubrecht Experimental Forest.



Hank Goetz

Saving and paying for college in the '90s

Whether you're the parent of a newborn or an adult thinking about going back to school, new developments in financial aid and tax laws have made paying for a college education a little easier.

These developments include a new state education savings program, changes in IRA rules, two new tax credits, and increased Pell Grant awards and eligibility. All are in response to steadily rising costs of attending an institution of higher learning and the increasingly heavy debt burden carried by college students.

Here's the lowdown on new ways to save and pay for college:

• **Montana Family Education Savings Program.** Created by the 1997 Montana Legislature, the Family Education Savings Program allows families to prepay for a college education at significant savings. Parents or other relatives may open CollegeSure CD accounts with a minimum deposit of \$250. Earnings are tax-deferred, and individuals may receive up to a \$3,000 annual tax deduction (\$6,000 for married couples filing separately). Proceeds — which are guaranteed to meet future tuition, fees, room and board — may be used at any eligible institution

of higher education in the United States. Information is available by calling the Montana Family Education Savings Program toll free at (800) 888-2723 or at its Web site: <http://montana.collegesavings.com>.

• **Hope "Scholarship" tax credit and Lifetime Learning tax credit.** These credits allow qualified taxpayers to deduct tuition from the amount of federal income taxes they owe. The Hope Scholarship, which isn't really a scholarship but a tax credit, lets taxpayers deduct up to \$1,500 per student in his or her first and second academic years. The Lifetime Learning credit is worth 20 percent of the first \$5,000 paid in tuition and fees, up to \$1,000 per tax return. For more information on these credits, contact the IRS or an accountant.

• **IRAs for education.** Money in Individual Retirement Accounts can now be withdrawn penalty-free to pay for higher education. New education IRAs also have been established with annual contribution limits of \$500. For more information on using IRAs for education, contact a financial adviser.

• **Student-loan tax deduction.** Starting with the 1998 tax form, taxpayers will be able to deduct interest paid on student loans. For more information on

this deduction, consult the 1040 tax instruction booklet, the IRS or an accountant.

• **Increased Pell Grants.** More students are now qualifying — and they're receiving more money — thanks to the U.S. Congress, which has expanded eligibility and increased awards. The maximum Pell Grant award for the 1999-2000 school year will be \$3,125, up from \$3,000 in the 1998-99 school year. For more information, contact a campus financial aid office.

These new and improved ways to pay for a college education are just a few of the options available to students and their families. Other avenues to explore include savings bonds, which require a minimal investment but increase greatly in value upon maturity; federal student loans, which often have lower interest rates than private loans; work-study; and scholarships from schools, foundations and businesses. More information on these options is available from a campus financial aid office or by calling the U.S. Department of Education at (800) 433-3243 to request a free financial aid booklet.

—by Patia Stephens, University Relations

Professor and dog volunteer for community program

She snorts, snuffles and snores and can be a bit odoriferous at times, but Mike Jakupcak believes his 4-year-old English bulldog, Honey Bear, may be just what he needs to connect with students and people with disabilities.

Jakupcak, a UM associate professor of curriculum and instruction, recently completed training to become a volunteer for Delta Society Pet Partners. The national organization uses pets to provide therapy, support and recreational activities in hospitals, rehabilitation clinics, schools and residential facilities for persons with disabilities.

Jakupcak helps oversee UM's student teachers, and he also supervises area special education classes. He said joining Delta Society Pet Partners and incorporating Honey Bear into his work was a natural fit.

"I visit schools a great deal, and it's nice to take her in and let people enjoy her," Jakupcak said. "She gets a great response from people and is 100-percent safe. It's fun because kids



Volunteers Mike Jakupcak and his friend Honey Bear.

and adults in restricted environments don't always have access to pets."

He said it's becoming more common in his field for teachers to use pets as tools, encouraging people with disabilities to become more involved in their environment — to talk and react to the animal.

Jakupcak said his first gig with Honey Bear was at Missoula's Meadow Hill School. Jakupcak and his dog were the students' reward for doing well at their studies.

Honey Bear wasn't just thrown

snorting, wheezing and drooling into the classroom. Jakupcak said she was first given a one-day training session by Deni Elliott-Cramer, director of UM's Practical Ethics Center, who has been involved with Delta Society Pet Partners for several years. She made sure Honey Bear had the right temperament for being around students, people in wheelchairs and noisy environments. The dog will receive a little tag that says "Authorized Pet Partner."

"Bear is pretty laid back,"

Jakupcak said as he fondly looked down on his sleeping dog, who had drool bubbles gathering in the corner of her jaws. "Part of the reason I volunteered for this is that I thought it would be fun."

Jakupcak has had Honey Bear for 10 months. He came across her in the Missoulian's giveaway section, making her quite a deal, since bulldog puppies can sell for more than \$1,000. The full-breed dog weighs about 60 pounds.

—Cary Shimek, University Relations



Bear Briefs

New Offerings—At its November meeting the state Board of Regents gave the green light to two graduate programs offered by UM's Center for Practical Ethics. The Master of Arts in Philosophy with a Teaching Ethics Option is the nation's first graduate program in teaching ethics. It is geared for ethics officers in corporate settings, medical centers, governmental agencies and tribal councils. Its companion program, Advanced Graduate Studies in Teaching Ethics, does not award a formal degree but certifies that the recipient is accomplished in a primary field and has demonstrated competency in teaching ethics. The regents also approved a proposal to offer an undergraduate degree in environmental studies. UM now offers only a master's degree in the field.

Moot Points—A trio of UM law students placed first in regional moot court competitions held Nov. 3-8 in Seattle and will head to New York City in January to compete in the national contest. The UM team, coached by law faculty members Melissa Harrison and Larry Howell, beat out 11 teams from nine law schools. In New York the team will compete against 26 teams from 14 regions.



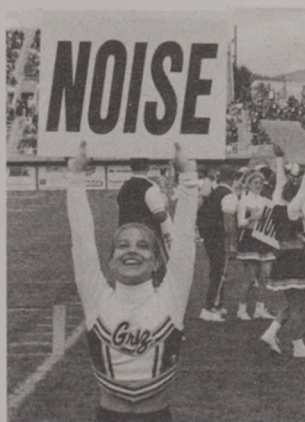
Moot Court Team members are law students Brandy Cutting, Rod Souza and Karen Bridges.

Another Grizzly Win—While the Grizzlies were defeating the Montana State Bobcats for the 13th consecutive time last month, Grizzly fans were posting an even bigger win over opposing fans at the stadium gates. The gates were collection points for the first annual Grizzly/Bobcat Food Drive, pitting fans in a contest to see which side could donate the most pounds of nonperishable food. The Griz fans ran away with the victory — 1,436 pounds to 247 pounds — but the Missoula Food Bank was the day's biggest winner.

Award-winning Administrator—Barbara Hollmann, UM vice president for student affairs, traveled to Texas in early December to receive a National Interfraternity Conference Silver Medal Award. The award recognizes her leadership in bringing together national fraternity and sorority leaders with campus administrators to address the need for cultural — alcohol-related, in particular — changes within campus Greek communities.

Go Griz—For the first time in school history, the UM cheer squad has qualified for the Universal Cheerleaders Association National College Championships. The squad will compete in the Cheerleading and Dance Team Championship in Orlando, Fla., Jan. 7-10.

The cheer squad qualified for nationals by submitting a video tape to the UCA national office in Memphis, Tenn. Griz cheerleaders have spent several months perfecting a cheer, a sideline chant, tumbling routines, partner stunts, pyramids and basket tosses. Judging is based on the team's synchronization, crowd appeal, timing and practicality.



A Grizzly cheerleader sparks noise from the crowd.

Resident Journalist—Dennis McAuliffe Jr., a veteran editor on the Washington Post's foreign desk, will be the first Native American journalist-in-residence at UM's journalism school. The school is trying to attract more Indian students and do a better job of educating journalists, Indian or not, about Indian issues. Starting spring semester McAuliffe will teach courses for one year at UM and Salish Kootenai College in Pablo. A grant from the Freedom Forum pays his salary and related costs.

Winning Welders—Three welding students at UM's College of Technology recently received national awards during the 1998 School Shop Arc Welding

Awards Program, which distributed \$25,150 this year. The students brought home the \$1,000 Best of Program Award, a \$250 Silver Award and a \$125 Bronze Award.

Calling Campus—The 1998-99 UM telephone directories arrived last month. Anyone interested in getting a directory can call or e-mail Korla McAlpine at University Relations, (406) 243-2522 or korlam@selway.umt.edu. The cost for shipping and handling is \$3. The Information Desk at the University Center also has free copies for pick up.

COT's A Cut Above—UM's College of Technology launched two new programs this fall — barber styling and human services. The barber-styling program gives students the theory and practical skills required for a career in barbering and satisfies requirements of the Montana Board of Barbers' 2,000-hour curriculum. The program, which is now enrolling students for spring semester, also prepares students to pass the state's barber certificate exam.

In conjunction with UM's Rural Institute on Disabilities, COT now offers a human services program to teach students all aspects of helping people with disabilities, whether it be in educational, vocational or residential settings. Students will learn how to provide support services, teach new skills and help clients improve their existing ones.

For more information about either program, call (406) 243-7882 or visit COT's Web site at <http://www.umt.edu/mcot/>.

UM Gives Back—UM employees set a donation record during the annual Charitable Giving Campaign. The campaign earned \$59,084, which is \$9,716 more than a year ago. The level of employee participation increased to 29 percent from 27 percent. In addition to more bighearted employees involved in the campaign this year, the average donation jumped \$16 from last year.

Charities receiving donations from the campus community are Families First, Missoula Developmental Service Corp., Montana Shares, Planned Parenthood, the Poverello Center, United Way, Lutheran Social Services, Montana Natural History Center and the Mullan Trail District Boy Scouts.

Campus hosts Year 2000 conference

The year 1999 is just around the corner, leaving only 12 short months before the advent of potentially devastating Y2K problems.

In an effort to discuss some of the challenges presented by the year 2000 computer bug, UM will host the Year 2000 Forum Wednesday through Friday, Jan. 13-15, at the University Center.

The forum will discuss how serious the problem is likely to be — whether utilities, food supplies and transportation will be affected



— and examine possible solutions. The forum's opening session Wednesday evening will feature two keynote speakers. Thursday's and

Friday's seminars will cover topics such as Y2K community preparedness, grassroots approaches, technology, banking and credit.

The fee for Thursday and Friday sessions is \$25; one-day registration costs \$15. Lunch is included.

For information, call (406) 243-5249 or send an e-mail to helpdesk@selway.umt.edu.

1999 BBER seminar explores Montana wages

Fifty years ago when UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research started monitoring the state's economy, Montana was ranked 10th in per capita income. Today, as the bureau celebrates its 50th anniversary, Montana's per capita income has fallen to 48th in the nation.

Montana's average annual earnings per worker are about \$24,000, ahead of Arkansas and West Virginia and well below the U.S. average of \$34,000. Within the state, transportation and communication workers earn about \$29,000 annually, while service and retail trade workers earn about \$19,000 and \$14,000 respectively. What does this mean for Montana, and what can Montanans do about it?

This year the bureau's economic outlook seminar will examine the pay decline, looking specifically at the shifts in Montana's employment base. Stephen Seninger, BBER's director of economic analysis, also will discuss current and past trends in jobs and wages and the outlook for working and earning a "living wage" in Montana.

A panel of experts will relate such trends to specific industries, including agriculture, forest products, manufacturing and tourism.

The seminar, titled "Work and Pay in Montana," will be held Jan. 26 at Helena's Colonial Inn; Jan. 27 at the Great Falls Holiday Inn; Jan. 29 at the Missoula Holiday Inn Parkside; Feb. 2 at the Billings Radisson Northern Hotel; Feb. 3 at the Bozeman Holiday Inn; Feb. 4 at Butte's Ramada Inn Copper King; Feb. 9 at Cavanaugh's in Kalispell; April 6 at the Sidney Elk's Lodge; and April 7 at Miles City's Town and Country Club.

Registration for the seminar is \$70 and includes a one-year membership to BBER's Montana Business Quarterly. For more information or to register, call (406) 243-5113 or visit BBER's Web site at <http://www.bber.umt.edu>.

Math curriculum project wins governor's award

An innovative mathematics project created in part at UM recently was honored for its role in AIDS/HIV education.

The SIMMS Project, which integrates real-world math, science and technology in high school textbooks, earned the Governor's Award with a "module" — chapter — on AIDS and HIV.

On behalf of the Montana Council of Teachers of Mathematics, UM math Professor Johnny Lott accepted the prestigious Governor's Award from Superintendent of Public Instruction Nancy Keenan at a World AIDS Day luncheon in Helena Dec. 1.

Lott is co-director of the SIMMS Project, a mathematics curriculum funded through MCTM with a grant from the National Science Foundation.

The award-winning module, "AIDS: The Preventable Epidemic," uses information from the U.S. government's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to demonstrate death rates and probabilities of contracting the disease.

"It's real-world data," Lott said. "We

approached it from a purely mathematical standpoint. What we tried to do is to let (students) reach their own conclusion that the best way of being safe is to avoid risky behavior."

The SIMMS Project curriculum is being used by students across the country, including about 8,000 students at 75 high schools in Montana. "AIDS: The Preventable Epidemic" is part of the SIMMS Project's goal of helping students use mathematics to make better decisions.

"I think most young people ... really appreciate the honesty in it," Keenan said. "And it has survived criticism from those who think that we should not have any discussion about HIV and AIDS in schools."

Ten Governor's Awards were given out this year — five by the Office of Public Instruction and five by the Department of Public Health and Human Services. The Governor's Award recognizes Montana's exemplary educators on AIDS and HIV issues.

—Patia Stephens, University Relations

UM spends less than most

The President's Office recently compiled a list of the most frequently asked questions and answers about the University, including the following. Future issues of Main Hall to Main Street will carry others.

Question: How does the University compare with similar campuses from other states regarding its expenditures on higher education?

Answer: UM conducted a survey of 16 regional institutions in May 1998. The results ranked UM 15th in the cost of education (expenditures) per full-time equivalent students. Idaho State University was below UM. Topping the list were the University of Wyoming, University of Colorado at Boulder, University of New Mexico, Washington State University and the University of Oregon.



The University of
Montana

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