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Main Hall to Main St.

Vol. 5, No. 2

Connecting Campus and Community

February 1999

Montana students shoulder more higher ed costs

Getting an education costs a lot more than it used to. In the Montana University System, costs have rapidly outpaced the state budgetary appropriations for higher education, according to figures from the past 20 years.

In making their case for budget requests before the Montana Legislature recently, UM officials presented a report comparing numbers from the 1998-99 school year with 1978-79, when House Speaker John Mercer earned his degree at UM.

In 1979, Mercer would have spent \$626 for a year's worth of tuition and fees. Adding in the cost of meals, dorm and books, he'd have paid \$2,504. In comparison, a student in 1999 will spend \$2,777 for the year's tuition and fees, or \$7,292 including meals, dorm and books.

State appropriations have not risen accordingly. In 1978-79, Montana appropriated \$11.81 per \$1,000 of personal income to higher education. In 1998-99, higher education rated only \$7.50 per \$1,000 of personal income. By contrast, three of Montana's border states spent considerably more per \$1,000 of personal income on higher education in 1998-99: North Dakota, \$13.25; Wyoming, \$12.88; and Idaho, \$10.77.

Another method of comparison shows that when Mercer received his degree in 1979, the Legislature appropriated 21 percent of the state budget for higher education. In 1999, higher education accounted for only 11 percent of the budget.

UM President George Dennison said that students are paying the price — figuratively and literally — for the budget decreases. Undergraduates now leave UM burdened with an average of nearly \$15,000 in student loans.

"We haven't kept pace with the costs of educating a student, and an increasing amount of the cost has been shifted to the student," Dennison said.

Financial aid and the minimum wage haven't kept up, either. In 1979, Pell Grants to UM students averaged \$1,600; in 1999, that amount has risen to only \$1,726, an increase of less than 8 percent. During the same time, the minimum wage has risen from \$2.90 an hour to \$5.25, an increase of 81 percent.

Financial aid also represents an important part of the equation. The average loan amount in 1979 was \$2,500, compared with

\$3,206 today, while the average Pell Grant was \$1,600 then, compared with \$1,726 in 1999.

In other words, the average student in 1979 could have qualified for a Pell Grant of \$1,600 — 64 percent of the cost of attendance — and worked eight weeks at \$2.90 per hour to earn the remaining 34 percent, which would be \$903.50. In 1999, however, a student who qualifies for a Pell Grant of \$1,726 — only 24 percent of the cost of attendance — must take out a loan of \$3,206 (44 percent of the cost) and work 11 weeks at \$5.25 per hour to earn the remaining 32 percent, or \$2,360. The key difference between the two students is that the 1999 student ends up with a \$3,206 loan burden after one year of college, while the 1979 student had no loan burden.

Dennison would like to see the report make an impact on the Legislature and on Montanans in general.

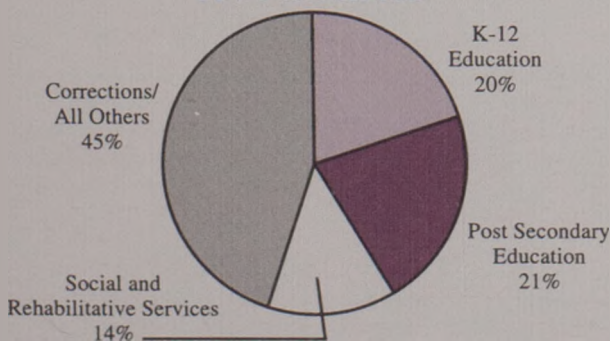
"I hope people will understand that we're not making enough of an investment in higher education, which is the future of the state and the future of society," Dennison said.

Below are charts that show cost comparisons and state general fund appropriations for the 1979 biennium and the 1999 biennium.

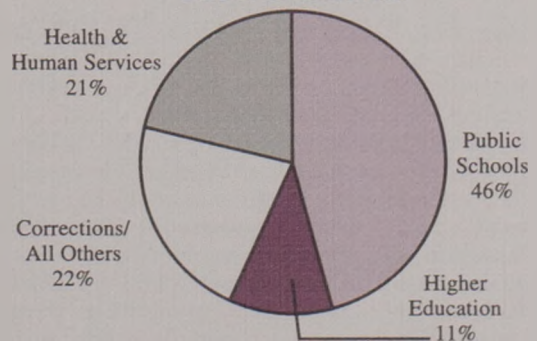
Academic Year Cost Comparison Between 1978-79 and 1998-99

	1978-79	1998-99
Tuition (12-18 credits)	\$333	\$1,963
Fees	\$292	\$813
Meals (14 per week)	\$1,013	\$2,020
Residence hall	\$565	\$1,975
Books	\$300	\$520
TOTAL	\$2,503	\$7,291

1979 Biennium



1999 Biennium



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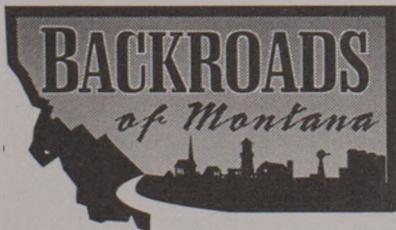


Bear Briefs

Off And Running—Beginning in March, UM's Center for Continuing Education will offer an ongoing series of programs about horses — their behavior, training and care. Over the coming year three experts will offer clinics on topics such as horsemanship, abnormalities in gait and imprint training of foals. First on the schedule are three daylong clinics and one evening clinic by Dr. R.M. Miller, a retired veterinarian and author of many articles, videos and books. The daylong clinics are on Friday, March 5, in Kalispell; Saturday, March 6, in Great Falls; and Sunday, March 7, in Missoula. An evening clinic also will be in Missoula on March 7. For more information, call Rita Black at (406) 243-4470.

Sounds In Bloom—UM music faculty and students will usher in spring with concerts and recitals during March. Those of note include performances by the Jazz Bands at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 5, in the University Theatre; the University Orchestra at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, in the Music Recital Hall; and baritone Stephen Kalm in a faculty recital at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 30, in the Music Recital Hall. Admission to the Jazz Bands concert is \$4/general and \$2/students and senior citizens, while all faculty recitals are \$5/general and \$3/students and senior citizens. The University Orchestra concert is free and open to the public.

National Winner—Four programs produced by UM's Broadcast Media Center recently were honored by Communicator Awards, a national organization that recognizes outstanding work in the communications field. The programs are "How the West Is Fun: Artists in the West," "Growing Up in Japan," "Backroads of Montana" and "Building Bridges." "Growing Up in Japan" also won a Crystal Award of Excellence. The "Backroads" winner, "Pancakes and Polo," is the 11th and most recent in the Montana anthology series about interesting people, places and events across the state. The entire series is available at more than 140 city, county and college libraries throughout Montana.



Italian Research—History Professor Richard Drake has received a prestigious National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship to continue

researching and writing about Italy's past. He will use a year-long NEH Fellowship for College Teachers and Independent Scholars during the 1999-2000 academic year to finish a book on Italian radicalism in the 1960s. He will divide the year between Rome and Missoula.

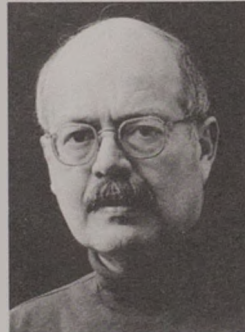
Widely recognized for his knowledge of Italian history, Drake served as chief historical consultant for two television documentaries — "Lucrezia Borgia" and "Ancient Mysteries: The Borgia Family" — which were broadcast in 1997 on the History Channel.

Drake was named UM's Distinguished Scholar in 1996 and Most Inspirational Teacher by graduating seniors in 1991. In 1989, he received the Burlington Northern Award for Teaching. For the past 12 years, Drake has organized UM's popular President's Lecture Series, which draws world-class speakers to campus to talk about diverse topics. Although Drake will be on research leave during his NEH fellowship, he will organize the 1999-2000 lecture series as well.

Regional Recognition—UM won three awards in the 16th annual Council for Advancement and Support of

Education's District VIII Juried Awards Competition. Gordy Pace, associate director of Admissions and New Student Services, won a Silver Award in the promotional copywriting category for the 1998-99 viewbook. University Relations won two Bronze Awards, one for its quarterly research newsletter,

Research View, and one for UM's main Web page, www.umt.edu, which is updated daily by the UM News Bureau and Web Development support staff. CASE District VIII comprises professionals in fund raising, alumni associations, communications, government



Drake

relations and student recruiting services at educational institutions in five western states and four Canadian provinces.

Break Away—If Missoula streets suddenly seem deserted in mid-March, it's because UM students have left town. Monday, March 15, through Friday, March 19, is the University's annual spring vacation. UM offices will remain open during the break. Spring semester ends Friday, May 14, with Commencement ceremonies set for Saturday, May 15.

Experimental College—After a successful fall semester premiere, the Experimental College has returned with a new series of short, noncredit, inexpensive classes offering an easy and fun way to learn new skills. Here's a sampling of class titles: Making Sense of the Millennium; Basic Guitar; Swing Dancing; Dealing With Divorce; and Living Intimacy — The Way We Think of Marriage. Classes range from one-day seminars to four-day courses, and most are offered evenings or on weekends. Fees range from \$10 to \$29. Call 243-2005 for more information. Advance registration is required.

National Negotiators—Representing the tobacco industry in talks with a mock legislative committee, a negotiation team from the UM School of Law recently won third place in the final round of the National Negotiation Competition. Mike Green, a third-year law student from Malta, and Phil McCreedy, a second-year law student from Kalispell, are now hoping for an invitation to the International Negotiation Competition, where the team is an alternate. The competition will be held in London, England, in July. In the final round, the duo competed against a team from Southern Methodist University, which went on to win first place among the 24 teams in the competition. It was held in conjunction with the midyear meeting of the American Bar Association in Los Angeles Feb. 6-7. The UM team is coached by Klaus Sitte, deputy director of the Montana Legal Services Association.

Array Of Art—More than 70 artists and crafters from Montana and the Northwest will display and sell their handcrafted creations in the University Center atrium during the Spring Art Fair. This year's fair will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, March 25-27.



Residents of San Juan Bautismo, a small agricultural community located in the southern province of Choluteca, receive free food from a Honduran charity organization called Sociedad Amigos de los Niños. (Photo by UM student James V. Shipley)

Photojournalism students record Honduran hurricane devastation

The heartbreak of poverty and nature's destruction in Honduras was documented by three University of Montana photojournalism students during winter break. Juniors Jennifer Sens and James Shipley and senior Stuart Thurlkill traveled to Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, in early January to participate in and document the relief efforts of the Sisters of Mercy and Habitat for Humanity.

Already the second-poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Honduras suffered huge setbacks when Hurricane Mitch struck late last October. The country is now struggling to rebuild.

"There was severe devastation to most structures near water, but it was the conditions before the hurricane that were most disturbing to me," Sens said. "It seems like natural disasters come and go in Central America while the social catastrophes stick around."

The UM trio saw areas, mainly along rivers, where flooding had completely wiped out nearly every home and business. The students pushed through language barriers and culture shock to form bonds with Honduran orphans, children with AIDS and others who had lost everything in the hurricane.

Funding for the students' trip came from a number of sources, including the Associated Students of The University of Montana, the Latin American Human Rights Network, UM President George Dennison, the Joe Durso Special Projects Fund of the School of Journalism and personal donations from professors, family and friends.

UM journalism students aim for top of national competition

After the most recent rounds of competition sponsored by the Hearst Journalism Awards Program, UM journalism students have landed their school in fourth place in the nation in both the print and broadcast competitions and in fifth place nationally in photojournalism.

The Hearst awards — widely referred to as the "Pulitzers of college journalism" — are open to students from more than 100 accredited journalism programs across the country. Students enter periodic competitions in print, photojournalism, television news and radio news. Winners are awarded points that reflect schools' national rankings as the yearlong competition progresses, ending with the national championships in May in San Francisco.

UM Calendar

Monday, March 1

Art exhibit—"Language and Other Accumulations," mixed media works by Jennifer Reifsneider, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon.-Fri., through March 12, University Center Gallery; also "Montana Defined by Images," 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri., through March 27, Meloy Gallery, Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center. Free.

Concert—bluegrass legend Peter Rowan with the Judith Edelman Band, 8 p.m., University Theatre. Tickets \$10/UM students, \$12/general; available at TIC-IT-EZ locations or call 1-888-MONTANA.

Tuesday, March 2

Dance production—Montana Transport Co., 7:30 p.m. nightly through March 6 (2 p.m. Sat. matinee), Open Space, Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center. Tickets \$9; call 243-4581.

Wednesday, March 3

Plum Creek Lecture Series—"Securing Wildlife's Water," by Alan Wentz, group manager for conservation programs, Ducks Unlimited, 5 p.m., Science Complex Room 131. Free.

Thursday, March 4

Art exhibit—Fourth Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Mon.-Sat., through March 11, Gallery of Visual Arts, Social Science Building. Free.

Saturday, March 6

Children's Story Hour—11 a.m.-noon, The Bookstore at UM, University Center. Cookies provided. Free.

Concert—Missoula Symphony Orchestra, with duo pianists David Morgenroth and Lucien Hut, 7:30 p.m.; also 3 p.m. Sunday, March 7, Wilma Theatre. Call 721-3194 for ticket information.

University Theatre Productions—The David Grisman Quintet, 8 p.m., University Theatre. Tickets \$21/advance, \$23/day of show. Call 243-4051 or 1-888-MONTANA.

Tuesday, March 9

Drama production—"Romeo & Juliet," 7:30 p.m. nightly through March 13 and March 23-27, Masquer Theatre. Tickets \$9/general, \$8/students and senior citizens.

Monday, March 15

Art exhibit—"Montana Defined by Images," 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri., through March 27, Meloy Gallery, Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center. Free.

Spring Break—through March 19.

Monday, March 22

President's Lecture Series—"Mothers of Invention: Writing Women into the Civil War," by Drew Gilpin Faust, Annenberg Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania (in conjunction with the Women's Studies Program for Women's History Month), 8 p.m., University Theatre. Free.

Friday, March 26

Evening of Comedy—comedian Paula Poundstone, 8 p.m., University Theatre. Tickets \$26/reserved seating. Call 1-888-MONTANA or 243-4051.

Five honored for service to UM

The University marked its 106th anniversary Thursday, Feb. 18, with a daylong Charter Day celebration to commemorate UM's founding in 1893.

UM President George Dennison and his wife, Jane, served birthday cake to the public in the University Center's south atrium. Student leaders — past and present — spoke during a brief program that also celebrated the UC's 30th anniversary.

Kicking off the entire celebration was an annual highlight, the Charter Day awards ceremony. This year's award recipients — Paul B. Blomgren, Ernest "Ernie" B. Corrick, Joan Watts Datsopoulos, Robert L. Deaton and Amie Thurber — were recognized for outstanding service to UM.

Blomgren received the Robert T. Pantzer Award, named after UM's president during 1966-74, for making the University a more open and humane learning environment.

Blomgren, who lives in Missoula, taught business and was dean of UM's School of Business Administration during 1959-64 and from 1977 until 1985, when he retired. He also served on many task forces and committees, including search committees for deans and a University president.

The Neil S. Bucklew Presidential Service Award, named for UM's president during 1981-86, went to Corrick for his efforts to foster understanding of UM's needs and strengths. A

Missoula resident, Corrick earned a bachelor's degree in forestry at UM in 1948 and later became vice president and general manager of Champion Timberlands' Rocky Mountain Operation. For UM he has chaired the Excellence Fund's Missoula Business Drive and served on the President's Advisory Council and the



Blomgren



Corrick

committee to coordinate UM's Centennial celebration.

Datsopoulos received the Montana Alumni Award for her longtime support of the University. A Missoula resident and a 1966

UM graduate in art, Datsopoulos has been president of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors and president of the School of Fine Arts Advisory Committee.

She currently co-chairs the UM Capital Campaign Gala Auction.

Deaton, a UM social work professor, received the Montana Faculty Service Award. A faculty member since 1969, Deaton has served on the Faculty Senate, the

Academic Standards and Curriculum Review Committee and the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. Since 1986 he has coordinated the annual statewide training conference for the social work department. Off campus he's been active in many organizations, among them the Child and Family Resource Council and the Montana Critical Incident Stress Management Network.

Thurber of Portland, Ore., earned the ASUM Student Service Award. A senior in art, Thurber is

program coordinator for the UC Multicultural Alliance and interim director of the Missoula Chapter and UM team of the National Coalition Building Institute. She also develops and directs community art programs, working mainly with youths at risk.



Datsopoulos



Deaton



Thurber

UM sponsors Keillor show in Butte June 5

National Public Radio celebrity Garrison Keillor will broadcast two performances of his live, two-hour, radio variety show, "A Prairie Home Companion," from Butte's Motherlode Theater Saturday, June 5. Nearly 2,200 tickets are available for the performances, which will be held at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The live broadcast is being sponsored by UM and Montana Tech of UM.

"A Prairie Home Companion," which is produced by Minnesota Public Radio, is heard Saturday evenings by more than 2.5 million fans on 450 public radio stations throughout the country.

The 4 p.m. show in Butte will be a live nationwide broadcast. The 7:30 p.m. performance will be for the theater audience only. To ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to gain admission, tickets are being offered through a mail-in drawing with a limit of two tickets per name selected. Tickets cost \$35 apiece.

To enter the drawing, payment should be mailed to Prairie Home Tickets, c/o U.S. Bank, P.O. Box 4507, Missoula, MT 59806. Name, address and phone number should be included, as well as a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Payments can be made with a check payable to KUFM or by credit card. Credit card payments should include the card number and expiration date, and only Visa, Mastercard and Discover will be accepted.

The deadline for postmarks is March 12. When someone's name is drawn, the check or credit card will be processed, and the tickets will be mailed by March 31. If a name is not drawn, the check or credit card information will be returned. Seats will be assigned based on when names are drawn. For example, the first names drawn will go to the first show.



The University of
Montana

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