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Main Hall ^{to} Main St.

Vol. 5, No. 5

Connecting Campus and Community

May 1999

Pharmacy student helps build new building between classes

The past school year has been an interesting time for University of Montana pharmacy student Keith Persicke. Between classes the senior helped construct the new \$10.4 million addition to UM's Pharmacy/Psychology Building — a structure he likely will be taking classes in next January.

Persicke works for Anderson's Masonry Commercial Construction of Kalispell, the company that laid the bricks for the multi-story addition between November 1998 and April 1999. In between his classes — which have names like pharmaceuticals, pharmacy law, and applied anatomy and physiology — he would don a hard hat, dust mask, goggles and ear plugs and help get the building off the ground.

The future pharmacist did little actual bricklaying — that job is reserved for the full-fledged masons — but he did tasks

such as build scaffolding, mix mud, operate forklifts and cut bricks.

"I'm called a hod carrier or mason tender," Persicke said. "Working on campus like this was real convenient for me. But I would have to shower before heading back to class."

A 1994 graduate of Missoula's Loyola-Sacred Heart High School, he landed a job with Anderson's Masonry right after graduation, and he has worked stints with the company ever since. Persicke has worked on a variety of UM construction projects, including the Gallagher Building, Pantzer Hall and the basement of the Lodge. He also has assisted with construction at Montana State University-Bozeman, and his employer has whisked him away for jobs to points as far-flung as Babb, Hamilton, and Spokane, Wash.

"The best part of this job is traveling and the summer, because it's a nice break from



Keith Persicke helped build the new Skaggs Building.

the books," Persicke said. "But by the end of summer you realize the value of a good education, and it's nice to get back to UM. It's a nice contrast."

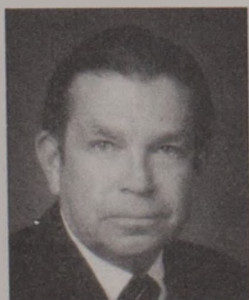
—Cary Shimek

Philanthropist Skaggs receives honorary doctorate

Entrepreneur and philanthropist L.S. "Sam" Skaggs Jr. received the University's highest honor during May Commencement ceremonies.

UM President George Dennison conferred an honorary Doctor of Science degree

on Skaggs, who is known for his contributions to biomedical research nationwide and pharmacy education in the West. He also has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to providing scholarships for minority students attending Western universities.



Sam Skaggs

largest pharmacy chains. Before rising to the top of the family-owned business in 1962, he worked at Skaggs pharmacies in Billings and Great Falls.

"Sam Skaggs has set a wonderful example of support for higher education," Dennison said. "Not only has he contributed funds to assist in the construction of facilities, but he also has helped colleges and universities open new opportunities to students from groups and places typically not well represented in the health professions."

In 1996 Skaggs and his wife, Aline, made one of the largest gifts ever for medical research — \$100 million to San Diego's Scripps Research Institute to establish the Skaggs Institute for Chemical Biology.

Pharmacy buildings at the universities of Arizona, Colorado and Utah bear his family name and pay tribute to his support. UM has joined that list, naming the pharmacy and physical therapy

addition now under construction in honor of its chief benefactor. The 70,000-square-foot addition, scheduled for completion next fall, will provide much-needed space for research labs and classrooms for programs within UM's School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences. Skaggs' philanthropic organization, the Salt Lake City-based ALSAM Foundation, contributed \$5.7 million to the \$10.4 million project. The philanthropist also helped secure a \$2.5 million gift from American Stores Co.

"Mr. Skaggs has made available the tools to assist faculty in providing UM students with outstanding educational experiences in the entry-level and graduate programs, both in pharmacy and physical therapy," said Dave Forbes, the school's dean. "Additionally, the new large lecture hall will be used by the entire campus and will add immeasurably to the utility of the entire lecture hall complex."

UM students claim three prestigious Udall Scholarships

Three UM students are among 75 undergraduate sophomores and juniors from 42 states to receive prestigious Morris K. Udall Scholarships.

Nicholas Kujawa of Butte, Bethany Poulin of Hollis, N.H., and Annette Soup of Cardston, Alberta, were chosen to become Udall Scholars by the Morris K. Udall Foundation. They were nominated for the award by UM faculty.

The one-year scholarships will cover the cost of tuition, fees, books and room and board, up to a maximum of \$5,000.

With three Udall Scholars this year, UM is second only to Kansas State University, which had four.

Udall Scholars are chosen on the basis of excellent academic records and a commitment to fields related to the environment, health care or tribal public policy.

Kujawa is majoring in physics and philosophy, Poulin is in biology and Soup majors in psychology and pre-physical therapy. All three students are juniors.

The Udall Foundation was established by Congress in 1992 to honor Congressman Morris King Udall and his legacy of public service.

Baker Grants: Financial aid program's name changed to honor former higher education leader

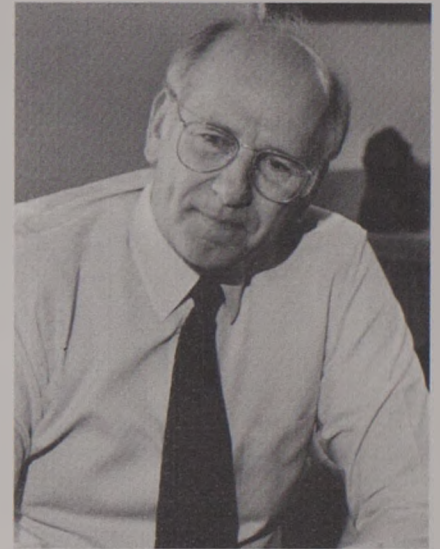
The name of relatively new financial aid grants for Montana students has been changed to honor the memory of a former state commissioner of higher education.

The Montana Tuition Assistance Program (MTAP) offers grants to low- or middle-income students who often must work while attending school because they don't qualify for federal Pell Grants.

The state Board of Regents decided to change the name of MTAP grants to Baker Grants in honor of Jeffrey Baker, who died March 22 of lung cancer. Baker, who was 57, served as Montana commissioner of higher education from 1993 to 1996. Up until days before his death he was serving as the eighth president of Iowa's Luther College.

Baker was instrumental in starting MTAP. In 1995 he created a task force to investigate how to make higher education more affordable for the average Montana student. Task force chairman Mick Hanson, director of financial aid at UM, said, "Baker was the man who gave us the vision, authority and freedom to think outside the box. The 14 task force members collectively came up with some unique ideas, and MTAP was one of the results."

The first MTAP grants were distributed to qualifying Montana students during the 1998-99 academic year. UM gave 200 grants.



Former Montana Commissioner of Higher Education Jeff Baker.

The Legislature recently appropriated \$3 million to fund Baker Grants for the next biennium. Financial aid departments will decide how to distribute the grants without any additional requests from students. The grants are normally for \$500 or less. Hanson said the large increase in state appropriation will allow financial aid administrators to expand the scope of Baker Grants to many more students. UM's four campuses funded the program last year primarily through a one-time distribution of \$100,000 in excess interest earnings.

Sidney accountant named business school outstanding alum

The state's oldest practicing certified public accountant received the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the School of Business Administration earlier this month.

Hu Williamson, 76, owner of a Sidney accounting firm, was presented the award during the business school's 52nd Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet. Williamson also was the keynote speaker at the event, regaling students with tales of what it was like starting a business 50 years ago.

Williamson graduated from Missoula County High School in 1940 and from UM in 1948. Between those two dates he served in World War II as an airplane navigator, flying cargo to the South Pacific and ferrying aircraft to the European Theater.

After finishing his UM studies, he started his career with the firm of Jacobson, Jentz and Rector in St. Paul, Minn. In 1949 he moved to Sidney to open his own accounting firm, which is now called Hu Williamson, P.C., A Professional Corporation.

Over the years Williamson has been extremely active in his local community, serving on the Sidney School Board and the Sidney Chamber of Commerce board and directing the Richland County Economic Development Corp. He also was a charter member of the Sidney Jaycees and was elected its first president in 1955. In addition, he helped form the Sidney Elks Lodge in 1949, acting as its first secretary for many years.

Williamson also has been instrumental in the formation of several charitable foundations in Sidney, and he currently serves on boards for the Svarre Foundation and the Dayton Foundation, which were formed to award scholarships to students in need. While volunteering to direct these foundations, he has generously donated time, money and energy. He also has served for years on the board of Richland Opportunities Inc., an organization devoted to helping people with disabilities. Williamson also has raised substantial funds



Accountant Hu Williamson (left) accepts the 1999 Outstanding Alumnus Award from Larry Gianchetta, dean of the School of Business Administration.

for the St. Coletta School of Jefferson, Wis., a school for the disadvantaged and people with disabilities.

Williamson has been a vocal supporter of and contributor to UM, and he was a charter member of UM's Council of 50.



Bear Briefs

Resounding Support—Thanks to its loyal supporters, Montana Public Radio surmounted the seemingly unsurmountable \$315,000 goal for its annual pledge drive, held April 17-24. The grand total soared to more than \$324,000. Dogs won the ever-popular Pet Wars this year.

Continued Funding—Promoting Excellence in End-of-Life Care, a year-old national program based at UM, has received a \$799,904 grant from its parent organization, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The program, directed by UM Research Professor Ira Byock, M.D., is one of the first and largest to offer financial and technical support for projects around the country to demonstrate innovative, comprehensive end-of-life care in various systems and settings. In its first year the program supported 22 projects ranging from very rural to very urban. Among them is a project in 32 native villages in Alaska, which are accessible only by air.

West Rotunda—The University Theatre's new rotunda was named for Alfred and Loree West of Paoli, Pa., during a dedication ceremony in early May. The Wests gave \$200,000 to UM in 1997 for renovation of the theater. Another \$300,000 from the Wests paved the way for developing the School of Fine Arts' Master of Media Arts degree program, which graduated its first two students during UM's May 15 Commencement ceremonies. West Rotunda is a popular spot for receptions and other special events.

Giving Back—Various Greek fraternities and sororities received kudos at a recent Greek Awards Banquet on campus. Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and Kappa Alpha Theta sorority received the Kliber Philanthropy Award for raising money and volunteering time to organizations such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the American Red Cross and Special Olympics. Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and Delta Delta Delta sorority won the Campus Involvement Award for their members' outstanding interaction with campus organizations. Spring semester scholastic awards went to Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Sigma Nu fraternity and Delta Gamma sorority received the awards for fall semester.



History Associate Professor Mehrdad Kia.

Top Teacher—Students who have never taken a class from Mehrdad Kia are missing out, judging from the teaching accolades the associate professor of history has collected over the past two years. Kia is among the most-decorated UM faculty members in history, after receiving two awards at this year's Faculty/Staff Awards Reception. Silent Sentinel, a senior honorary society, chose Kia to receive its coveted Most Inspirational Teacher of the Year Award. He also received this year's Tom Boone Town and Gown Award for campus and community involvement. Now he's won every teaching honor UM has to bestow. Kia won the 1997 Distinguished Teaching Award and has been named professor of the month by two student groups. Kia's work with the local school district and his participation in the inaugural Community Lecture Series earned him the prestigious Tom Boone Town and Gown Award.

Appealing Site—A three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals was on campus May 7 to hear four cases in the Law Building's Castles Center. This was the second year that the judges have convened court at UM. Circuit Judges Harry Pregerson and A. Wallace Tashima of Los Angeles and Sidney R. Thomas of Billings heard three civil appeals and one habeas corpus case in the morning, then stayed for a legal seminar at the School of Law that afternoon. Thomas is a graduate of UM's law school.

Top Stories—For the second year running, KUFM news director Sally Mauk received a regional Edward R. Murrow Award for excellence in electronic journalism from the Radio and Television News Directors Association. She won the award for a series of reports on wolves in Yellowstone National Park. As a regional winner, Mauk qualifies as a candidate for the national Murrow award. The national winner will be announced in June.

New Deans—UM has named three new academic deans, after a yearlong, national search. Longtime UM German Professor Gerald Fetz is the dean of the Davidson Honors College, a position he has held on an interim basis during the 1998-99 academic year. Jerry E. Brown, professor and journalism department head at Alabama's Auburn University, is the new dean of the School of Journalism. Shirley Howell, currently associate dean of the College of Performing and Visual Arts at the University of Northern Colorado, is dean of the School of Fine Arts. Brown and Howell will assume their new positions this summer.

Quiz Bowl Champ—UM freshman Carl Beatty beat out students from Stanford University and the University of California, Berkeley, to earn the top score at a Quiz Bowl Tournament last month at the University of Washington. Quiz Bowl, a fast-paced question-and-answer competition similar to College Bowl, tests students' knowledge of history, science, literature and other fields. UM's team was sponsored by the University Center, Davidson Honors College and the President's Office.

Honors Institute—The 1999 K.R. Schwanke Honors Institute will open June 20 on campus with three UM faculty members teaching their specialties to classes of top-notch high school juniors and seniors. The two-week program offers three courses: Lights, Optics and Lasers; Approaches to Film; and Critical Reading and Writing. Students will take one course, which will earn them two semester college credits if completed successfully. Scholarships are available for tuition and on-campus housing. For more information, call the Davidson Honors College at (406) 243-6140. The application deadline is June 7.

Restored Prescott House wins Historic Preservation Award

The historic Prescott House on the UM campus was in serious disrepair four years ago when local interior designer Phyllis Washington launched a yearlong renovation project. This month UM and Washington picked up an award from the Missoula Historic Preservation Advisory Committee for the house's new look.

The Prescott House was among the honorees during the 1999 Missoula Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony at the Boone and Crockett Club May 14. The renovation project was recognized with an award in the "Adaptive Reuse, Residential" category.

The stately, historic house at the base of Mount Sentinel was treated to a face-lift and filled with elegant antiques, hand-picked from all over the world by its decorator and benefactor, Phyllis Washington. The \$1 million Prescott House renovation project, financed by Washington and her husband, philanthropist and businessman Dennis Washington, was started as part of UM's Capital Campaign in 1996.

James McDonald was the project's architect, and Garramone Builders was the contractor.

The interior reflects classic American Victorian design and retains its original appearance with extensive woodwork, fireplace, fixtures and details intact. Original light fixtures hang in the dining room and parlor, and original beveled mirrors and tiles adorn the elaborate oak fireplace. A



The Prescott House on the UM campus.

handmade wooden staircase leads to the second floor.

A family residence for nearly 100 years, the Prescott House now provides a home for some of UM's most prestigious events and receptions.

The 11-room home was built by Clarence Prescott Sr. in 1898 for his wife, Julia, and their four young children. The couple's son, Clarence Jr., lived in the family home — as the UM campus grew up around him — until his death in 1993. UM bought the house from Clarence Jr.

Music faculty host summer camps

Junior high and high school musicians are invited to study with some of the top music educators in the state during three summer camps offered by the UM music department.

The programs — Piano Camp, Band Camp and Musical Theater Camp — provide individual attention by a specialized faculty, with daily classes and lessons held in University facilities. Optional private lessons are available.

Piano Camp, held June 13-19, is for ninth-through 12th-grade keyboard players. The camp offers classes in music theory, music technology, keyboard improvisation and performance relaxation techniques, in addition to master classes.

Piano Camp is \$175 for "commuter campers" and \$355 for "resident campers." Application deadline is May 28. For more information, call Nancy Cooper, Piano Camp director, at (406) 243-2080.

Band Camp, June 20-26, is for concert and jazz band musicians entering grades seven through 12. Classes include music theory, conducting, jazz improvisation and

history of popular music. Students may participate in clinics, recitals and concerts, and small ensembles that include percussion, woodwind and brass.

Band Camp is \$135 for commuter campers and \$315 for resident campers. Application deadline is June 4. For more information, call Steve Bolstad, co-director, at (406) 243-4382, or Maxine Ramey, co-director, at (406) 243-2155.

Musical Theater Camp, July 5-11, is for students age 14 to 18. Classes include movement, acting and singing, plus master classes in auditioning, make-up, improvisation and musicianship. Students may participate in scene performances and recitals.

Musical Theater Camp is \$135 for commuter campers and \$315 for resident campers. Application deadline is June 15. For more information, call Anne Basinski, co-director, at (406) 243-5192, or Stephen Kalm, co-director, at (406) 243-4382.

All prices include tuition, a T-shirt and a photo; room and board are included for resident campers. A limited number of scholarships are available.

UM Calendar

Thursday, May 27

Art exhibit—"Bill Stockton: Montana Impressions" through June 14, Henry Meloy Gallery of the UM Museum of Fine Arts, Performing Arts and Radio-TV Center. Free.

Monday, May 31

Holiday—Memorial Day, UM offices closed.

Wednesday, June 9

Summer Orientation—through Friday, June 11. Also sessions June 23-25 and July 7-9. Call Admissions and New Student Services at (406) 243-6266 or (800) 462-8636.

Monday, June 28

Summer session—second 5-week session, June 28 through July 30.

Monday, July 5

Holiday—Independence Day observance; UM offices closed.

Saturday, July 10

Open house—Flathead Lake Biological Station at Yellowbay, in honor of the station's 100 years of operation. Call (406) 982-3301 for information.

Sunday, July 11

Birthday party—Flathead Lake Biological Station celebrates its centennial with the public. Call (406) 982-3301 for information.

Thursday, July 29

Concert—Taj Mahal and The Phantom Blues Band, 8 p.m., University Theatre. Tickets \$21/advance, \$23/day of show; call (888) 842-4830 or 243-4999 for more information.



The University of
Montana

Mam Hall to Main Street is published by University Relations at The University of Montana. Send questions, comments or suggestions to Rita Munzenrider, editor, 317 Brantly Hall, Missoula, MT, 59812, or call (406) 243-4824. Photos are by Todd Goodrich, Terry Brenner, David Purviance, Cary Shimek and Patia Stephens are contributing editors and writers.