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# Main Hall to Main St.

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Connecting Campus and Community

March 2001

## Simply The Best: *History professor, football coach earn state, national recognition for their work*

### The state's top professor

A member of the University of Montana history faculty who already has won all of UM's awards for teaching now is recognized as one of the best college teachers in all of Montana.

Mehrdad Kia, a professor specializing in the history of the Middle East, has been named the 2000 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching/Council for the Advancement and Support of Education Montana Professor of the Year. He already owns UM's 1997 Distinguished Teaching Award, the 1999 Most Inspirational Teacher of the Year Award, the 1999 Tom Boone Town and Gown Award and two teacher of the month awards, one in 1997 and one in 1999.

A native of Iran, Kia has been western Montana's resident expert on the Middle East since coming to UM in 1989 and often is sought out by media for perspective on conflicts in that part of the world. Colleagues regularly use "brilliant" to describe him as a teacher, and students flock to his classes.

"Mehrdad's courses draw exceptionally well," said Harry Fritz, professor and chair of UM's history department, "and he teaches a subject that most Americans don't know anything about and, in fact, they are hostile toward — Islamic culture and the Middle East. Yet he's won every teaching award that the University can offer, and if his students could vote, he'd win them all again."

When he arrived at UM in 1989, Kia said, most of his students thought of the Middle East and North Africa as a "vast desert populated by camels, terrorists, religious fanatics and 'crazy zealots' aiming to undermine the economic and political interests of the United States. So in his classes he set out to humanize those peoples and their cultures, but without glorifying and apologizing for the violence and inhumanity in their societies.

Kia holds master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and taught there and at Cornell College in Iowa before coming to UM.

CASE established the Professor of the Year program in 1981 and administers it with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. UM Regents Professor Paul Lauren won the award for Montana in 1991, and UM health and human performance Professor Annie Sondag earned it again in 1998.



History Professor Mehrdad Kia

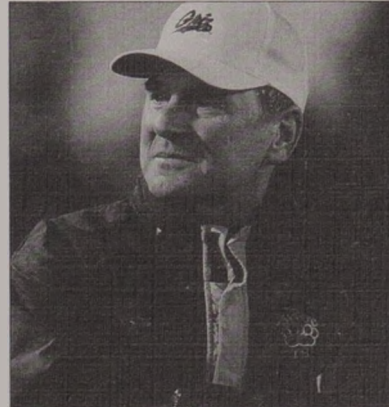
### National coach of the year

In between Montana Grizzlies football playoff games last December, first-year head coach Joe Glenn jetted to New York City for a date with Ditka.

Da reason? Da Bears — da Griz, dat is. NFL football coaching legend Mike Ditka introduced Glenn as the Division I-AA coach of the year during a Dec. 4 awards ceremony at the New York Downtown Athletic Club's Heisman Room.

Glenn became the first Grizzly coach to receive the Eddie Robinson Award. Only one other coach in the Big Sky Conference has earned the award, and that was in 1991.

The Grizzlies' Don Read was a finalist in 1995, the year UM won the national championship, but the award went to Murray State's coach.



Grizzlies Football Coach Joe Glenn

"Words simply cannot express how grateful and honored I am to receive the Eddie Robinson Award," Glenn said after claiming his award. "Coach Robinson is one of the greatest gentlemen of the game, and to receive this award in his name is overwhelming. I accept this great award on behalf of the football team and coaching staff here at The University of Montana."

The award was established in 1987 by the Sports Network to honor Robinson, a legendary coach at I-AA's Grambling State University.

On the job exactly one year at the time the honor was presented, Glenn led the Grizzlies to a 10-1 regular-season record, a Big Sky Conference championship, a No. 1 ranking in the National Top 25 poll, the top seeding in the I-AA playoffs and national championship runner-up. In the 103 prior seasons of Grizzly football, no coach had put together as impressive a record in his first season.

The Grizzlies, often noted before Glenn's tenure for their offensive proficiency, became one of the nation's top defensive clubs under Glenn's tutelage. Montana allowed 265 yards per game on the season, a figure that ranked eighth best in I-AA.

Glenn, 50, came to UM with a winning record. He was twice named GTE Division II national coach of the year after his Northern Colorado Bears captured national championships in 1996 and 1997.

Glenn is active in the Missoula community. His penchant for piano playing at gatherings and community events has earned him the nickname "Piano Joe."

# Griz gridders gave fans a season to remember

by Cary Shimek  
University Relations

Head football coach Joe Glenn said it first: The 2000 team was one of the best to ever don Griz uniforms. Consider that the Grizzlies were 13-2. Consider that their two losses were by a combined total of 3 points. Consider that they fell behind 20-3 in the championship game and then battled back to shock the Georgia Southern Eagles with a 23-20 lead early in the final quarter. And when the Eagles — the powerhouse defending national champions — reclaimed the lead, the Griz three times drove deep into GSU territory, threatening to score.

The Griz made 'em sweat, but it wasn't to be. When the clock ran out in rainy Chattanooga Dec. 16, UM was on the wrong end of a 27-25 score.

"(GSU) beat a good football team, a team with a lotta heart, a lotta spirit, a lotta desire, and no quit," Glenn said after the game. "I'm very proud of our football team. We gave a great team effort, the old college try."



"We Believe" was the theme about town the week before the championship game. Griz fans carried the message to Chattanooga.

## Getting There

Few fans would have predicted a trip to Chattanooga for the 2000 Griz after their first game of the season, a disheartening 10-9 home loss against Hofstra. People muttered that the usual Griz offensive juggernaut had been hamstrung by a new coaching staff and tentative play-calling.

But fans were lured back into the fold the following week when the Griz toppled the Division I Idaho Vandals 45-38 on the road. The offensive floodgates had been opened, and the wins piled up — 53-3 against Cal Poly, 41-31 vs. Eastern Washington. The Griz proved they could come from behind during the Homecoming game against Sacramento State, when they were losing 20-0 at halftime only to rally for a 24-20 win.

UM knew their Griz were for real, especially after they downed Portland State 33-21 and Weber State 30-28 — both on the road. During the 100<sup>th</sup> Griz/Cat game, the Bobcats were bombed 28-3, and the Griz rampaged into the playoffs.

The UM team was fueled by a unique cast of characters. There was Drew Miller, the strong-armed quarterback with the laser-like accuracy; Jimmy Farris, the speedy redheaded receiver with the amazing hands; Andy Petek, the soft-spoken defensive end sackmaster who became an All-American; Yo Humphery, the running back who ran all over the UM record books; Thatcher Szalay, the intimidating lineman who was named to the I-AA Sports Network first team; and Adam Boomer, the bruising linebacker whose fans delighted in yelling "boooooommm" whenever he made a tackle. Every player on the team contributed to the unique chemistry — Glenn calls it "heart" — that propelled the Griz through the playoffs.

As the No. 1-ranked team going into the post-season, the Griz earned three home playoff games. They knocked off Eastern Illinois 45-13 and Richmond 34-20, only to wind up in a real dogfight against Appalachian State, a team that finally submitted 19-16 in overtime. Video of Farris making the winning catch and being carried around by jubilant fans made all the networks. And coach Joe Glenn had silenced all the doubters by being named the NCAA I-AA Coach of the Year.

## The Chattanooga Charter

Thousands of fans lined the street leading to the airport as the Griz departed for their title shot. Grandmas and small children waved "Go Griz" and "We Believe" signs. Glenn said the sendoff left him teary eyed.

But in Chattanooga, as the Griz practiced and attended an awards luncheon, they learned few Southerners gave them much of a chance against GSU. At a pep rally the night before the game — attended by about 2,000 Griz fans — Farris said, "A lot of people don't respect the type of football we play around these parts. But these guys aren't all they're cracked up to be. They'll find out tomorrow."

Many Chattanoogaans were rooting for UM to knock off GSU, a team that routinely trods on their University of Tennessee Mocs, and many Griz fans commented on the Southern hospitality. Take this example: UM financial aid director Mick Hanson said he cracked one of his contact lenses before the big game and hurried to get replacements from one Dr. Murray Porter. When Hanson tried to pay, Porter said, "I don't need your money — your smile and thank you are more than enough. Welcome to Chattanooga and enjoy the game!"

## Soggy, Boggy Football

Griz fans couldn't have enjoyed the first half of the championship game. On GSU's first play from scrimmage, an Eagle slotback went on a 73-yard romp that set up a Georgia touchdown three plays later.

UM responded by driving to the GSU 6-yard line, but a penalty moved them back. Then Miller threw into double coverage, and GSU picked off the ball.

The day was gray and drizzly, and the field was quickly churned into mud. The gloom deepened for Griz fans near the



Quarterback John "Johnny Montana" Edwards couldn't hide his disappointment during a post-game ESPN news conference.

end of the first quarter, when Miller was sacked for a 7-yard loss. As he was dragged down, his leg bent at a funny angle, and he left the game with a sprained knee.

That thrust sophomore quarterback John Edwards into the game. "Johnny Montana" had served the Griz admirably in a backup role during the year, and UM fans knew they still had a shot. But it was tough for Edwards to get heated up, especially when the heavens opened in the second quarter to drop monsoon-like rain on Finley Stadium.

When the Griz left the field at halftime, they were losing 20-3. A Fox Sports writer on the sideline commented, "I really thought Montana would make it more of a game."

*(continued on next page)*

## The Comeback

The Griz came out growling in the second half, especially the defense, which allowed the Eagles only 72 total yards of offense the rest of the game. Edwards also got rolling by completing 20 of 31 passes.

Hope started glimmering for the Griz when Edwards engineered an 11-play, 79-yard drive that culminated in a screen pass to junior wide receiver Etu Molden, who rambled 17 yards for the score. At last the soaking Griz fans in the stands had something to cheer about. The extra point went wide, so the score was 20-9 GSU.

A Griz drive bogged down to start the fourth quarter, but then coach Glenn went into his bag of tricks for a fake punt. The next snap became a play for the ages, when junior safety Vince Huntsberger dropped the snap, recovered the ball, got hung up in the line and then sprinted 65 yards for a score.

The rowdy GSU crowd became quiet as a tomb; the Griz fans went ballistic. The smiles and energy among the players, coaches and crowd became electric. It was going to happen! The football gods were smiling! UM momentum was an avalanche, and GSU had better get out of the way!

The extra point was missed, but the Griz were suddenly within a touchdown, trailing 20-15. The Eagles fumbled on their next possession, giving the Griz the ball on the GSU 18-yard line. UM spectators reached new heights of ecstasy when Humphery punched it in from 2 yards out and the 2-point conversion was good.

The Griz led 23-20. The aforementioned Fox Sports writer muttered, "Wow, you just never know." The comeback in the national championship game had been one of the greatest moments in Griz football history.

Fans got to savor it for all of 24 seconds.

## Horseshoes, Hand Grenades

After the kickoff, the Eagles gave the ball to their premier running back, Adrienne Peterson, a tough, single-minded running machine who had something like 11 tacklers bounce off him on one play during the 1999 championship against Youngstown. ESPN dubbed that play "The Run." Against UM, Peterson broke a dive play up the middle for a 57-yard score to give the lead back to GSU for good. ESPN dubbed it "Son of the Run."

But there were still 11 minutes left in the game, and UM fans chanted "We still believe." The Griz still had plenty of time, and the team drove deep into Eagle territory three times. The first time, the Griz couldn't convert a fourth-and-3. Then Edwards was picked off in the GSU end zone with 6:45 to play. On the third drive, UM made it to the GSU 14 with 1:15 to play, but UM couldn't convert a fourth-and-6 play.

They say close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades, and the Griz found that out as the Eagles took a safety to run the clock down to 15 seconds. UM tried a few last, desperate passes, but the final score was 27-25 GSU.

## Homecoming

The Griz had won respect from most Georgia Southern fans, but they were still understandably subdued on the plane ride home. Back in Missoula, they were taken directly to a welcome-back ceremony in the Adams Center where thousands of fans greeted them.

Governor-elect Judy Martz, one of several speakers, said, "They really did represent us well. There's no way I could be any more proud of this young group of athletes."

The Tatanke Oyate Singers, an American Indian singing group from Poplar, sang the Griz an honor song. Roughly translated, it said: "Look at me, I had a hard time, but we did well."



Gov. Judy Martz was on hand to welcome home the team.



# Bear Briefs

**Germany Bound**—Barbara Hollmann, UM vice president for student affairs, will head to Germany in May for the 2001 U.S.-Germany International Education Administrators Program. Conducted by the prestigious Fulbright Commission, the two-week seminar on German higher education and society is designed for university administrators whose responsibilities have a direct relation to international exchanges. Hollmann oversees UM's Foreign Student and Scholar Services. "I am very excited — not only to be learning about German higher education, but also to be making personal contacts with colleagues in German institutions for potential student and faculty exchanges," she said.

**Blazing Trails**—UM's Earth Observing System Education Project will join forces with the U.S. Forest Service's Region 1 to gather data about the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The EOS Education Project's Lewis and Clark Education Center, formed last year, will pair the information with geographic-information-system technologies to teach K-12 teachers and students about the Corps of Discovery. The Forest Service will provide historical and current photos of Lewis and Clark's route, share information useful in developing curriculum guides and work with UM on conferences, seminars and workshops about the expedition. To sample the information offered by the Lewis and Clark Education Center, visit [www.lewisandclarkeducationcenter.com](http://www.lewisandclarkeducationcenter.com).

**Hall Of Famers**—Lady Griz basketball coach Robin Selvig, famous hoopster Michael Ray Richardson and ace distance runner David Morris became members of the Grizzly Sports Hall of Fame in a ceremony in early February. They join 32 earlier inductees, including Harry Adams, George "Jiggs" Dahlberg, Jud Heathcote, Marti Leibenguth and Shannon Cate-Schweyen. Richardson has spent the past 13 years in Europe, where he retired as a player in 1999 at age 45. He now is an Italian citizen living in France and working for NBA Europe. Morris also has spent time abroad, training for three years in Japan in an attempt to make the 2000 U.S. Olympic team. The Alaska native came to UM in the late 1980s and left in 1993 with the school's first and only NCAA indoor track championship. Selvig is the first to be inducted while still doing what he's being inducted for, coaching the Lady Griz basketball team. He played for the Grizzlies in the 1970s.

**Easing Parking**—The Associated Students of UM received a Best Practices Award from the Transportation Policy Coordinating Committee for working to promote transportation alternatives for traveling to and from the University. ASUM and the University sponsor free rides on the Mountain Line for students, staff and faculty. ASUM and the UM Office of Public Safety also sponsor the Dornblaser Park-n-Ride program, which cuts down on campus traffic. The student association also operates Cruiser Co-Op, which allows students to check out bikes at no cost. UM also created a special parking lot for vehicles with at least three occupants to encourage car-pooling to campus.

**Winning Theme**—Campuswide use of UM's new institutional theme "The Discovery Continues" has earned one of the highest honors presented by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's District VIII Communications Awards Program. University Relations representatives received the Grand Gold award for special projects during the annual CASE conference in Victoria, B.C., Feb. 24-27. University Relations introduced "The Discovery Continues" in January 2000 with the 1999 President's Report. On the report's cover, a Charles M. Russell painting titled "Lewis and Clark Expedition" merges into an image of the Earth and NASA's recently launched Terra satellite, which includes software developed by UM scientists.

## UM Calendar

**Tuesday, March 6**

**UM Authors' Party**—4-6 p.m., Davidson Honors College. Hosted by the Mansfield Library.

**Drama production**—"The Tempest" by William Shakespeare, 7:30 p.m., Masquer Theatre, Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center, through March 10. Tickets \$9/general, \$7/students and senior citizens, \$5/children 12 and under. Call 243-4581.

**Wednesday, March 7**

**Comedy/science show**—"An Evening of Weird Science" with NPR's Dr. Science and guest appearance by Missoula's own Science Woman, 8 p.m., University Theatre. Tickets \$10/adults and \$8/children 12 and under. Call 243-4051 or (888) Montana or visit any TIC-IT-E-Z location.

**Thursday, March 8**

**University Center Spring Art Fair**—10 a.m.-6 p.m. through March 10, University Center atrium. Free.

**Friday, March 9**

**Concert**—University Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., University Theatre. Free.

**Saturday, March 10**

**Concert**—Missoula Symphony Orchestra and Chorale, featuring soprano Mary Logan Hastings, tenor Thomas Poole and bass George Evelyn, 7:30 p.m., University Theatre. Call 721-3194 for ticket information.

**Monday, March 12**

**President's Lecture Series**—"Globalization: The Clash Between Economics and Politics," Benjamin Friedman, William Joseph Maier Professor of Political Economy, Harvard University, 8 p.m., Montana Theatre. Free.

**Tuesday, March 13**

**Concert**—Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 7:30 p.m., University Theatre. Free.



**Main Hall to Main Street** is published by University Relations at The University of Montana. Send questions, comments or suggestions to Rita Munzenrider, editor, 327 Brantly Hall, Missoula, MT, 59812, or call (406) 243-4824. Photos are by Todd Goodrich. Terry Brenner, Brenda Day, David Purviance, Cary Shimek and Patia Stephens are contributing editors and writers.

## UM vice president proposes CFL franchise to bring home Dickenson

by **Bob Frazier**

**University Executive Vice President**

**H**e led UM to its only national championship in football. He won the Walter Payton Award in 1995 as the nation's best player in Division I-AA.

While he didn't have the moves of "Sweetness," he could run the table like few before or after him. He is an unassuming human being, almost shy. By his own admission, he's a little bit nerdy, having also been chosen as an academic All-American while at UM. Last November in his adopted hometown of Calgary, Alberta, Dave Dickenson was named the Most Valuable Player in the Canadian Football League.

Only a week before, his favored Calgary Stampeders, champions of the regular season West Division, were defeated in their quest for the Grey Cup by the British Columbia Lions.

The Grey Cup is the Canadian equivalent of the U.S. Super Bowl, complete with all that is Canadian. For me it was my first. It will not be my last.

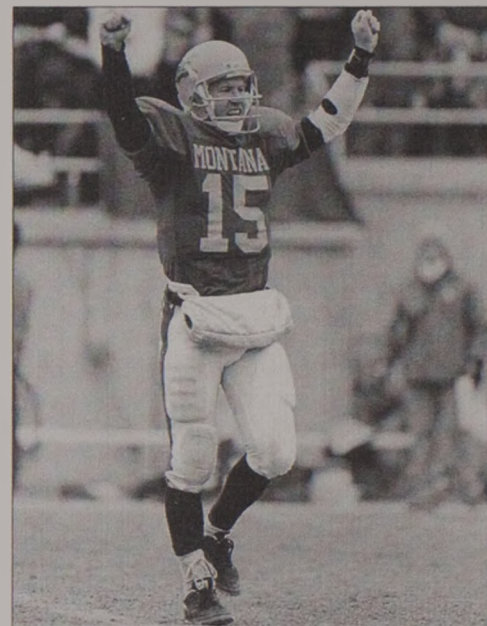
When comparing the CFL with the NFL, there are few similarities. Salaries in the CFL are capped, with the highest players earning at \$150,000 Canadian or about \$100,000 American. They are the I-AA players of North America, playing for the love of the game and not the love of the money.

From what I saw in the 88<sup>th</sup> Grey Cup, teams are highly competitive and driven players equal in quality to many NFL teams. A number of CFL players have gone on to enjoy outstanding NFL careers including, Warren Moon, Doug Flutie and Jeff Garcia. Bud Grant, who coached the Minnesota Vikings to four Super Bowls, was once the coach of the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

This year's Grey Cup game was as exciting as any in the NFL, when the British Columbia Lions defeated the Montreal Alouettes 28-26. It was certainly a much more exciting game than many of the Super Bowl yawners of the past few years. And with the Grey Cup half-time and pre-game shows featuring Tina Turner and Manitoba's own Guess Who, the entertainment equaled anything the Super Bowl has to offer. So much for the Grey Cup. Let's take another look at Dave Dickenson.

Dave holds many of the passing records at the University, not the least of which is yardage. In the CFL he continues his onslaught on the record books, most notably for passing efficiency, which combines passing attempts, completions, touchdowns and interceptions. His mark for the year is better than any of the present NFL quarterbacks, averaging almost six touchdowns for every interception.

A rangy quarterback and one rarely



**Montana's native son Dave Dickenson (seen here after the 1995 Grizzlies' national title win) shines in the CFL.**

sacked, Dickinson should not be confused with a gazelle but instead aligned with perhaps a darting roadrunner or jerking jack-rabbit. He has proven to be elusive prey for defensive players.

It is not surprising that Dave is the players' player on the All CFL Team. His coach, Wally Bruno, says Dickenson is the heart and soul of the team — its undisputed leader. The same can be said of his devotion to his community and his efforts to provide community service. Always there to organize or participate in any number of fundraising events, he is the most popular and most recognizable professional athlete in Calgary — even in a province and country where hockey is king.

So what should we do with this native son, the one who makes us proud? Why not bring him back to Montana? Every year the state cries out for economic development and offers millions for new ideas. Some work, some don't. Here's my idea. Apply for a CFL franchise and share the stadium with the Montana Grizzlies, as is done with the University of Calgary.

Use a million dollars of state money to bring Dave back home. Establish the team around him. He can start by drafting those seventeen Grizzly seniors who have made Montanans exuberant about our program.

Enlarge Washington-Grizzly Stadium to 40,000 seats by installing upper decks on the east and west sides. Begin playing in the 2002 season. The team would be the only professional sports team from Seattle to Minneapolis and Denver to Salt Lake City.

Grizzly games are already sold out with thousands more seeking tickets each week. So, let's do something for Montana — let's bring Dave home.