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Main Hall to Main St.

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Connecting Campus and Community

November 2003

UM targets new art museum

Nelson Britt is a man on a mission.

His mission: Secure a permanent home for the more than 8,000 pieces of artwork owned by The University of Montana.

"I think it will be a great challenge to get a museum on this campus," said Britt, hired two months ago to serve as the director of UM's Montana Museum of Art and Culture. "But my goal is to create a compelling case for why there should be a museum on this campus."

UM's collection of paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures and ceramics is spread throughout the UM campus. Some of the artwork is exhibited in two galleries located in the Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center. Other pieces are displayed in various campus buildings, while some of the collection is in storage.

The UM collection includes outstanding pieces of Asian, Montana and 20th Century American art.

"This is a very valuable collection," Britt said. "It needs to be properly stored and exhibited."

Britt, who has been in the museum business for 18 years, said that the challenge of building a home for the collection on campus was one of the primary reasons he left a museum director's position in Dubuque, Iowa, to come to UM. He said he has been involved in the construction of other museums — which he believes made him an attractive candidate for UM.

"I have a strong performance record of working with other museums around the country," Britt said. "And I believe this University, with the outstanding collection of work collected over decades, deserves to have a proper museum for its assets to be exhibited and maintained so that students, staff and the public have the opportunity to visit the University collection."

Britt has held positions as a museum



New UM museum director Nelson Britt

or art director in Iowa, Kansas, North Carolina, Arkansas, Illinois and Massachusetts during his career.

Britt said he intends to work with artists and various departments on the UM campus to develop an overall appreciation of what museums can provide.

"I believe the most rewarding aspect of the museum business for me is to help people to appreciate human accomplishment," Britt said.

Since arriving at UM, Britt said he has been focused on meeting people.

"I haven't even had time to familiarize myself with the collection yet," Britt said. "My first task as museum director has been to have high visibility on campus, in the community and throughout the state."

He said he hopes to have a timeline for development of a museum within six to eight months. 📍

Pharmacy building expansion planned

With space at a premium, the University's School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences has received a \$3 million federal grant to help fund an \$11.5 million expansion project.

The National Institutes of Health has agreed to put up the \$3 million challenge grant to help fund the expansion — as long as UM can raise the additional \$8.5 million to complete the expansion of the Skaggs Building. The school is now actively pursuing other avenues of funding to complete the project.

Plans for the 42,000-square foot addition on the south end of the Skaggs Building include the construction of offices, conference rooms, an electronic-classroom/science-learning center complex, a tiered classroom and student support areas.

Dave Forbes, dean of the School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences, said the expansion is necessary to support the tremendous growth in research and academic studies at UM. During the past decade, UM has attracted world-class researchers and has projects under way on a wide variety of major, modern-day medical problems.

"Clearly, our scientists are involved in studies that have tremendous implications for Montanans in particular and for the world," Forbes said.

With more than 90 active research grants, the school ranks No. 1 on the UM campus for bringing in external funding. Top areas of research in the school include environmental health issues, cardiovascular studies and neuroscience.

In addition to its own studies and cooperative ventures with other UM departments, the school collaborates with St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center, the International Heart Institute and the Montana Neuroscience Institute. The school also operates the interdisciplinary Environmental Health Sciences and Structural and Functional Neurosciences. 📍

Surgical Success—Statewide demand and a 100 percent job-placement rate has pushed the UM College of Technology's surgical technology program to expand to satellite campuses in Butte and Billings. The two-year program prepares students for careers as surgical technologists, who work in operating rooms alongside surgeons. Their duties include setting up the sterile field of surgical instruments, prepping the patient for an operation and assisting the surgeon throughout the procedure. For more information, call (406) 243-7860.

Targeted Donation—Target Inc. recently presented a \$3,500 check to UM's Career Services. This donation, part of their corporate investment in education program, is designed to assist Career Services in their efforts to assist UM students in their educational and career decision-making process.

Defense Grant—UM-Missoula and Montana State University-Bozeman faculty members have landed a \$200,000 federal grant to help health care students train for possible terrorist attacks. The grant will fund a project titled "Basic Biodefense for Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health." This effort will develop training



Bear Briefs

materials that teach students how to recognize the symptoms of exposure to various chemical and biological agents, as well as how to care for exposed patients. The grant is from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

UM Honor—Do you know someone who has contributed substantially toward making the University a more open and humane learning environment? If so, nominate that special person for the 2004 Robert T. Pantzer Award, which honors a former UM president. Nomination letters should be sent to Lois Muir, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Pantzer Award Committee chair, University Hall 125, Missoula, MT 59812. All nominations must be received by Monday, Nov. 17.

Online Info—All UIM-Missoula doctoral dissertations, as well as many dissertations and theses from around the world, now are online through the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library. The library has a new subscription to ProQuest Digital Dissertations, an electronic resource that provides full-text access at <http://www.weblib.lib.umt.edu/internal/dyndata.php>. (Click on D or P in the resulting index.) For more information, call (406) 243-6866.

UM starts state climate center

Weather impacts all Montanans. From outdoor enthusiasts to wheat farmers and winter drivers, weather plays a crucial role in all our lives.

But Big Sky Country is one of only three states without an office of climatology. To fill this void, UM has stepped forward to start the new Montana Climate Center. The office will provide detailed information on weather, climate, snow, fire, agriculture and much more.

"Climate data is amazingly important," said Don Potts, the new center's director and a UM water resources professor. "Much of our economy is directly driven by weather."

The Montana Climate Center will be operated by UM's College of Forestry and Conservation — specifically the Numerical Terradynamic Simulation Group, which has designed software for NASA environmental satellites.

The new center has a Web site at <http://climate.ntsg.umt.edu>. Potts said the site provides a gateway to a vast array of information, including weather alerts, current satellite snapshots of Montana skies and instant links to weather conditions in communities across the state.

"We want this site to be one-stop shopping for people," Potts said. "It serves as a conduit of information. We don't want to replace good, existing information sources, but rather lead people to them."

UM Calendar

Concert—Nov. 18, Department of Music: Composers' Showcase, 2:10 p.m., Music Recital Hall, free. Information, (406) 243-6880.

Recital—Nov. 18, Student chamber music, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall, free. Information, (406) 243-6880.

Fall Dance Showcase—Nov. 18-22, 7:30 p.m. nightly, Open Space, Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center, tickets \$5, (406) 243-4581.

Meeting—Nov. 20-21, Board of Regents, Montana State University-Bozeman.

Basketball—Nov. 21, Lady Griz vs. Montana-Western, 7:35 p.m., Adams Center.

TV show—Nov. 22, "Brain Busters," academic quiz bowl game show sponsored by UM, Montana high school students compete for scholarships, 5 p.m. each Saturday through May, NBC stations statewide.

Basketball—Nov. 23, Lady Griz vs. Montana State-Billings, 2:05 p.m., Adams Center.

Concert—Nov. 23, String Orchestra of the Rockies, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall, tickets \$15/general, \$12/students and senior citizens, \$7/music students, (406) 728-8203.

Art exhibit—Nov. 24-Dec. 19, Eclectic multimedia by Tim Roda, Seattle, through Dec. 19, University Center Gallery. Opening reception, 5-7

p.m., Dec. 5. Gallery hours, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Information, (406) 243-4991.

Concert—Nov. 24, Percussion Ensemble, Islanders Steel Band, University Theatre. Tickets \$6/general, \$4/students and senior citizens. Information, (406) 243-6880.

Basketball—Nov. 26, Grizzlies vs. Montana Tech, 7:35 p.m., Adams Center.

Holiday—Nov. 27-28, Thanksgiving break. UM offices closed.

Basketball—Nov. 29-30, Montana Holiday Classic Tournament, Grizzlies vs. University of California, Santa Barbara, 5:30 p.m., Adams Center.

Concert—Nov. 30, Habitat for Humanity Benefit: "Messiah," 7:30 p.m., University Theatre. Information, Nancy Cooper, (406) 243-2080.

Concert—Dec. 2, Women's and Men's Choruses, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall. Call (406) 243-6880. Free.

UC Holiday Art Fair—Dec. 4-6, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., University Center atrium. Live music and daily drawings for a merchandise certificate. Free.

Concert—Dec. 6, Missoula Symphony Orchestra and Chorale, "Holiday Pops," 7:30 p.m., University Theatre. Call (406) 721-3194 for tickets.

Basketball—Dec. 6, Grizzlies vs. San Francisco, 2:05 p.m., Adams Center.

(A complete listing of UM events is online at www.umt.edu/urelations/calendar.)



The University of
Montana

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