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Main Hall to Main St.

Vol. 9, No. 12

Connecting Campus and Community

December 2003

UM lands another Montana Professor of the Year Award

Gerry Brenner, a retired University of Montana English professor, may be gone from campus, but he certainly is not forgotten. This fall, Brenner was named the 2003 Montana Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the national Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.

This is the fourth year running that a UM faculty member has won the prestigious honor, which recognizes one professor from each state for outstanding teaching at the undergraduate level.

UM President George Dennison and a host of students and alumni nominated Brenner for the award last spring during his final semester of teaching. A revered member of the University's Department of English since 1968, Brenner retired at the end of the 2002-03 academic year.

He has since moved to Tucson, Ariz., although he will return to Missoula to receive his award during the annual Staff/Faculty Holiday Party hosted by the

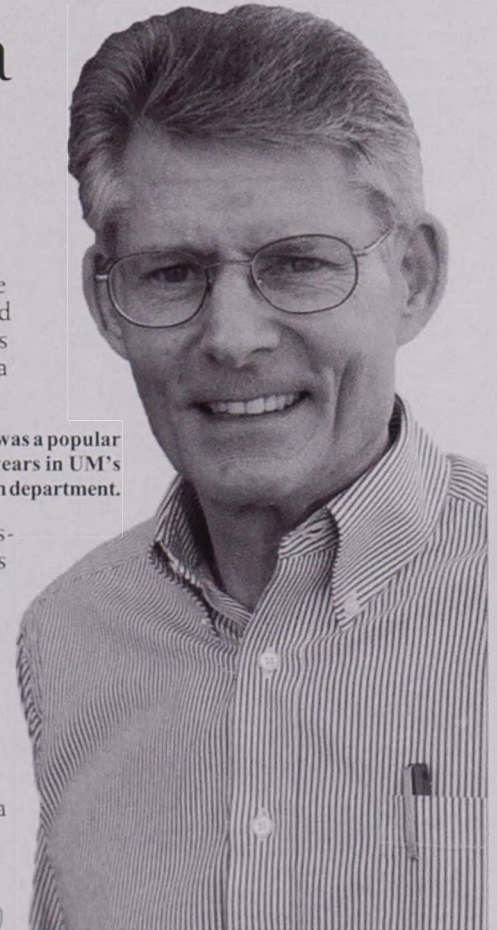
president on Wednesday, Dec. 17.

In the nomination letter, President Dennison cited Brenner's "profound love of teaching, his skill in the profession and his passion for the subjects he teaches" as characteristics that distinguished him as a popular professor among students and colleagues alike.

"He goes well beyond conveying information to students, as unfortunately some professors do not," Dennison wrote. "He insists that the students become engaged, and he has refined methods of encouraging them to think critically. He provokes students to exercise their curiosity, imagination, intellect and emotions, and to explore new ways of thinking, learning and knowing.

"For these reasons, he has become a memorable teacher and friend — albeit a demanding one — to many graduates who continue to correspond with him

Gerry Brenner was a popular teacher for 35 years in UM's English department.



(Continued next page)

University plates, bricks make great holiday gifts

Here's a couple of holiday gift ideas that will support a good cause while also making somebody on your list very happy: University of Montana license plates and personalized bricks on the Oval.

At only \$32.50, UM license plates are an affordable gift that also gives something back to the University community. The full-color plates come in two designs: Main Hall or a Montana Griz logo. UM license plates — available only for vehicles registered in Montana — may be purchased at any Montana Motor Vehicle Division.

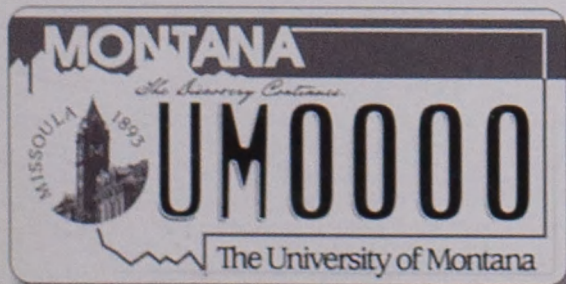
Funds from license plate sales sustain an endowment that currently provides more than \$50,000 per year in general and Presidential Leadership Scholarships for UM students.

Centennial Circle Bricks cost \$150 each and may be en-

graved with up to three lines of 14 characters per line. Centennial Circle, established in 1993 when UM-Missoula celebrated its 100th birthday, surrounds Rudy Autio's landmark grizzly bear statue located on the western edge of the UM Oval.

The circle is paved with red bricks that may be engraved with the names of students, alumni, family members, friends, teachers and anyone else who merits special recognition. Brief messages also are an option.

Proceeds from brick sales go toward special UM projects and marketing. For more information, call Lisa Arends at (406) 243-2523 or go online to <http://www.umt.edu/urelations/bricks>.



Top Professor — continued

many years after leaving the University. They all say that they still learn from him through the correspondence and conversation."

One former student — Drew Colenbrander, who himself teaches college English in Michigan — explained that he discovered how to learn from Professor Brenner. He wrote: "The first time I looked at a graded essay from Gerry, I was stunned that his response was nearly a page long. Somewhere on that page was a grade, but that single letter was insignificant in relation to the words Gerry had written to me.

"He complimented me on my ideas, explained where my writing was strong and gently pointed out areas that I could improve on next time. Thanks to Gerry, I began to see learning as a continual process of improvement, a message at the center of my own courses today."

Brenner was known among his students for diligently working to place his most gifted in local internship programs to help them improve their skills and hone their abilities.

He consistently received high marks from students on semester evaluations and earned the University's highest teaching and scholarly awards. In 1988 graduating seniors voted him the Most Inspira-

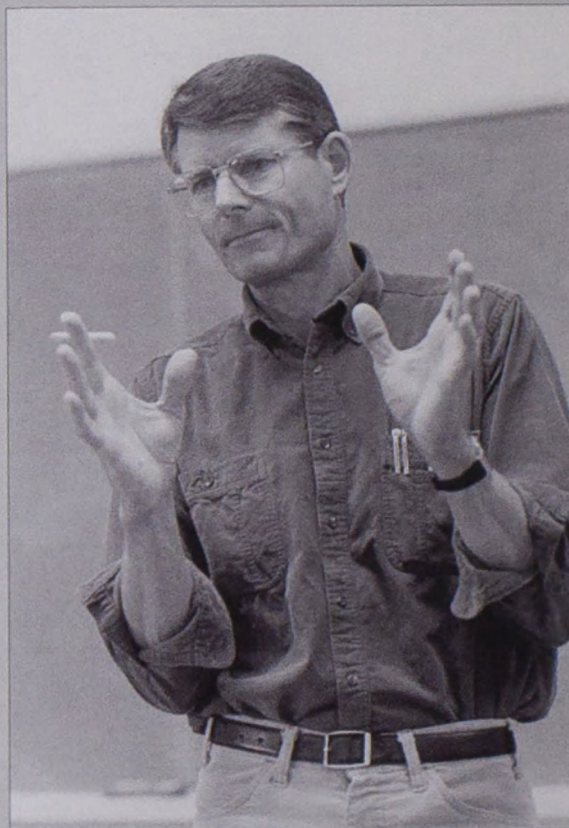
tional Teacher they had experienced while attending the University. He received the University's Distinguished Teacher Award in 1993. And just last spring his colleagues honored him as the University's 2003 Distinguished Scholar.

Never one to rest on his laurels, Professor Brenner continually challenged himself in an effort to improve as a teacher at the undergraduate level. He taught abroad for one academic year each of the last three decades.

Brenner is an internationally recognized expert on Ernest Hemingway and has written four books about the world-renowned author. He also has published numerous articles in scholarly journals and delivered many professional presentations on literary and composition editing topics at regional, national and international conferences.

CASE established the Professors of the Year program in 1981 and administers it with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Brenner joins a handful of UM faculty members who have earned the top professor title: music Professor



A younger Brenner at work in his University classroom.

Esther England in 2002, economics Professor John Photiades in 2001, history Professor Mehrdad Kia in 2000, health and human performance Professor Annie Sondag in 1998 and UM Regents Professor Paul Lauren in 1991. 🐾

University cuts costs by eliminating paper billing

UM has taken another step toward cutting costs by implementing a new online billing system.

"Rather than send out paper monthly statements, we now notify students by e-mail that their monthly statement is available online," said Rosi Keller, UM's associate vice president for administration and finance.

The online billing system — which went into effect in September — is the latest in a series of cost-cutting measures designed to enhance business practices at UM. A team of administrators and staff has been working for the past two years on developing methods to save UM money, Keller said.

"We try to find ways to generate revenue, reduce costs and avoid costs," she said.

The online billing program could save UM about \$50,000 per year, once it is fully implemented, Keller said. Paper statements now are a thing of the past at UM. Students received their final bills via regular mail in early December, but

statements for next fall semester will be e-mailed to students during the summer.

Students will receive UM bills in their CyberBear e-mail account. The bill will contain a link to the CyberBear page showing them how much they owe.

Keller said the online bill payment program goes hand in hand with another new program that allows students to pay their bills online using checks or credit cards.

"We went with a program that lets students go online, register for their classes, get the total amount they owe and just press a button to pay with a check or credit card," Keller said.

Between January 2003, when the new payment program started, and September, Keller said UM had collected more than \$13 million in online payments.

Besides paying their tuition, students can pay other fees such as health service bills, library dues and parking fines.

"You can still stand in line if you want to," Keller said. "But this is a wonderful

convenience allowing students to pay their bills 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

She said parents also can pay bills for students from any location, as long as they have online access.

Additional fees of \$1 for check payments and \$10 for credit card payments are charged for using the service. Keller said the extra fees are used to pay for the computer system that automates the payment process.

"We've gotten a lot of feedback that people are thrilled to be able to do this online and not have to stand in line," Keller said.

Other new business practices implemented at the suggestion of the UM committee include:

- Negotiating a fixed fee for credit card transactions. Instead of paying so much per transaction to credit card companies, UM now pays a flat rate.
- Charging interest on students' past-due accounts.
- Hiring an additional internal collector to work on past-due accounts. 🐾

New Science Facility—The state Board of Regents gave UM the go-ahead to build a new, 10,000-square-foot science research facility during its November meeting. The new structure, which will be built near the University's Skaggs Building, will house researchers from the Division of Biological Sciences and the College of Forestry and Conservation. The board authorized expenditure of an additional \$500,000 so that the project can be started. The final tally will be about \$2 million. The authorized first phase of the building — a basement and one story — is scheduled for construction during spring 2004. The facility will be designed so that it can handle the addition of two more floors sometime in the future.

Student Winner—Anthony Malan York, a UM junior in chemistry, has been awarded a scholarship from the National Institutes of Health. York was one of 12 recipients selected from a national pool of 260 applicants. His Undergraduate Scholarship for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds will pay up to \$20,000 during the 2003-04 academic year for tuition and educational and living expenses. The purpose of the scholarship is to train and nurture the next generation of biomedical researchers — especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds — and encourage them to pursue educational and career opportunities in biomedical research. In return for the scholarship, York agreed to attend a 10-week, paid, summer laboratory research experience at the NIH. He also will participate in a year of paid NIH research service after graduation for each year of scholarship support.

Outstanding Alumni—The UM Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award. The awards are presented each year at Homecoming and honor alumni who have distinguished themselves in a particular field and who have brought honor to the University, state or nation with a focus on career achievement and/or service to UM. Nomination forms may be downloaded from the UMAA Web site at <http://www.umt.edu/alumni>. All nominations must be submitted by Feb. 1. For more information, call (406) 243-5211.

Monte Needs You—Vote early and vote often for your favorite mascot, UM's Monte. The beloved bear is out to retain his title as Capital One Mascot of the Year, having again been named to the All-America Mascot Team with 11 other fuzzy foes. The battle is under way at <http://www.capitalonebowl.com>, where Monte fans can cast their vote once a day until Dec. 22. The online voting counts for 50 percent of the final decision; judges' rankings make up the other half. The winning mascot will be announced during the Capital One Bowl on Jan. 1.



Bear Briefs

Great Plates—UM-Missoula has the top-selling collegiate license plate in Montana. According to the latest data from the state Department of Justice, 12,300 UM plates were sold during the first eight months of 2003. That contrasts with Montana State University's 7,400, Montana Tech's 2,800 and Carroll College's 2,000.

Athletes Honored—Two UM student-athletes were honored for their commitment to community service Nov. 22 at the Grizzly/Bobcat football game in Bozeman. Dane Oliver, a football player and senior in health and human performance/education, and Anne Sheehy, a track team member and senior in music, were named UM's Montana Campus Compact (MTCC) 2003 Montana Athletes in Service Award winners. MTCC is a non-profit coalition of Montana college administrators that supports campus-based community public service.

Oliver assists with the Flagship Program, Gallagher Children Youth Homes and Little Grizzly Football. Sheehy created and directed a band program at Potomac Middle School, as well as volunteered to help coach Potomac's high, triple and long jumpers.

Health Report—More than 17 percent of Montana children 18 years old and younger do not have health insurance, according to a new report from UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research. The 2003 Montana Kids Count Data Book says the uninsured rate for Montana kids is one of the highest in the nation, exceeded only by three other states. The report tracks progress and problems in children's health, education and overall well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.bber.umt.edu/kidscountmt> or call (406) 243-5113.

Happy Anniversary—The UM Rural Institute: Center for Excellence in Disability Education, Research and Service is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The program began in 1978 with a core grant from the federal government's Administration on Developmental Disabilities. The Rural Institute employs more than 80 people, who are located in offices in the Curry Health Center, the lower and second floors of Corbin Hall, and off-campus. The program manages more than 45 projects that advocate and support full participation in community life by rural Americans of all ages with disabilities. From integrated childcare to supported employment, the institute's wide range of grant-funded research, service and training projects blend innovative approaches and techniques with existing community services. For more information about the Rural Institute, visit <http://www.ruralinstitute.umt.edu>.

Still Great—Former Griz quarterback Dave Dickenson has still got game. After two seasons in the NFL in which he never got to start, Dickenson marked his return to the Canadian Football League by being named the West Division nominee for most outstanding player. Dickenson led his British Columbia Lions to an 11-7 record, but the quest for his second MVP award came up short when he tore knee ligaments in practice Oct. 29. Dickenson should be fully recovered when he makes another bid for the CFL's Grey Cup next season.

Helping Hunger—UM held a series of events on campus Nov. 17-21 to commemorate the 30th annual Hunger Awareness Week. Students and employees participated in fund-raising efforts for the Missoula Food Bank, the Poverello Center and Oxfam America, an international relief and development organization. The highlight of the week was the Hunger Banquet, in which 10 percent of attendees ate as we do in the "first world" — a full meal including dessert — 25 percent dined on rice and soup and the remaining 65 percent ate only rice and water, as do most of the world's people. More than \$4,000 was raised during the week.

Brain Busters—See the state's brightest high school students compete for scholarships during Brain Busters, a weekly quiz show sponsored by UM and aired on NBC stations statewide. The show can be seen at 5 p.m. Saturdays on KECI-TV in Missoula, KFBB-TV in Great Falls and KHBB-TV in Helena, and at 9:30 a.m. Sundays on KULR-TV in Billings. Brain Busters, now in its second season, pits teams from 64 Montana high schools against one another, vying for thousands of dollars worth of scholarships to any of the UM campuses. 🐻



Oliver



Sheehy

Student wins national NCAA photo contest

Joshua Drake, a UM senior in photo-journalism, was named the overall champion in this fall's national NCAA Sports Photography Contest.

Drake won the award for a black-and-white image titled "Hoosier," which shows his brother shooting hoops in his father's Indiana barn as light shines through the walls. The win came with a new Nikon digital camera and small cash award.

"I'm really excited about it," Drake said. "This was the first contest I ever entered. It's a great confidence booster, especially since I'm graduating from college in two weeks."

Drake, who graduated from high school in Petoskey, Mich., took the winning photo while visiting his father and stepmother in Whitestown, Ind., last May.

It's a photo that almost didn't happen. When Drake noticed how perfect the light had become in the barn as his



Drake



"Hoosier" by Joshua Drake, winner of the 2003 NCAA Sports Photography Contest.

brother played basketball, his father, Tom Drake, was away from the house with Drake's camera in his car. His father showed up just in time.

The family loved the photo, and when an ad about an autumn photo contest sponsored by the NCAA appeared in a local paper, Drake entered his shot in the "Practice/Training"

category. All entries were displayed at Circle Centre Mall in Indianapolis, and eventually his photo was named the overall winner by a panel of judges and public voters.

Drake said the win was a nice way to finish his college years at UM. He will likely return to his hometown in northern Michigan after graduation and work as a photographer for a local newspaper. 📷

Final examinations—Dec. 15-19.

Basketball—Dec. 16, Grizzlies vs. Jackson State, 7:35 p.m., Adams Center.

Art exhibit—Dec. 16-19, Eclectic multimedia by Tim Roda, Seattle, University Center Gallery. Gallery hours, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. For information call (406) 243-4991.

Art exhibit—Dec. 16-Feb. 6, "Bauhaus Connection," three generations of gifted artist-teachers, Montana Museum of Art and Culture, Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center, free. Hours 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and Saturday; 3-7 p.m. Friday. Information, (406) 243-2019, <http://www.umt.edu/partv/famus>.

Christmas open house—Dec. 17, 2-5 p.m., Native American Studies Building. For more information call (406) 243-5831.

Basketball—Dec. 19, Lady Griz vs. St. Mary's, 7:35 p.m., Adams Center.

Winter/semester break for students—Dec. 20-Jan. 20.

Holiday—Dec. 25, Christmas; UM offices closed.

UM Calendar

Basketball—Dec. 27, Grizzlies vs. Cal State Northridge, 7:35 p.m., Adams Center.

Basketball—Dec. 28, Lady Griz Holiday Classic, Idaho vs. Memphis and Montana vs. Princeton, times to be announced, Adams Center.

Basketball—Dec. 29, Lady Griz Holiday Classic, consolation and championship games, times to be announced, Adams Center.

Holiday—Jan. 1, 2004, New Year's Day; UM offices closed.

Basketball—Jan. 2, Lady Griz vs. Western Michigan, 7:35 p.m., Adams Center.

UM Wintersession classes—Jan. 5-23. For more information visit www.umt.edu/wintersession.

Basketball—Jan. 6, Lady Griz vs. Colorado State, time to be announced, Fort Collins, Colo.

Basketball—Jan. 10, Lady Griz vs. Utah, 7:35 p.m., Adams Center.

American Red Cross blood

drive—Jan. 15, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., University Center rooms 330-331. Call (406) 543-6695 or (406) 327-2029 to schedule a donation appointment or for more information.

Meeting—Jan. 15-16, Board of Regents, Montana Higher Education Complex, Helena.

Basketball—Jan. 15, Grizzlies vs. Idaho State, 7:35 p.m., Adams Center.

Music Teachers National Association Northwest Divisional Competition—Jan. 16, all-day events. Music Building. For more information call (406) 243-6880.

Basketball—Jan. 17, Grizzlies vs. Weber State, 7:35 p.m., Adams Center.

Holiday—Jan. 19, Martin Luther King Day; UM offices closed.

Semester begins—Jan. 21-23, orientation and registration, through Jan. 23.

Classes begin—Jan. 26, spring semester.

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



The University of
Montana

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