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New director hired to lead Grizzly athletics

The University of Montana hired one of its own in the search for a new athletic director.

Jim O'Day, 47, director of development for UM's Intercollegiate Athletics, was named the new athletic director July 3 during a news conference in the Adams Center. O'Day will replace Don Read — the most successful coach in Griz football history — who led the athletic department during the past year.

"We have many challenges ahead, with many peaks and valleys, but together we can climb those mountains," O'Day said. "Together we can make Grizzly athletics one step better than it is today."

A search committee comprising community members and UM staff, faculty, students and administrators selected five finalists from a pool of more than 60 applicants.

The other finalists were Calli Sanders, senior associate athletic director at Iowa State; Tom Sadler, senior associate athletic director at the University of Hawaii; Mike Marlow, associate athletic director at the University of Oregon; and Tom Collins, senior associate athletic director at Arizona State University.

After reviewing recommendations from the search committee, UM President George Dennison made the final decision about which finalist to hire. "I talked to a lot of people on and off campus," he said, "and Jim O'Day is who the institution and department needs at this time."

O'Day is a native of Cut Bank. For the last five years he has been director of development for UM Intercollegiate Athletics, and he was assistant director of the Grizzly Athletic Association for two years before that. He received his undergraduate journalism degree from UM, where he was sports editor of the Montana Kaimin student newspaper.

As director of development, O'Day assisted the athletic director with developing and fulfilling short- and long-term private needs and goals. He coordinated the cultivation, solicitation and stewardship of major constituent

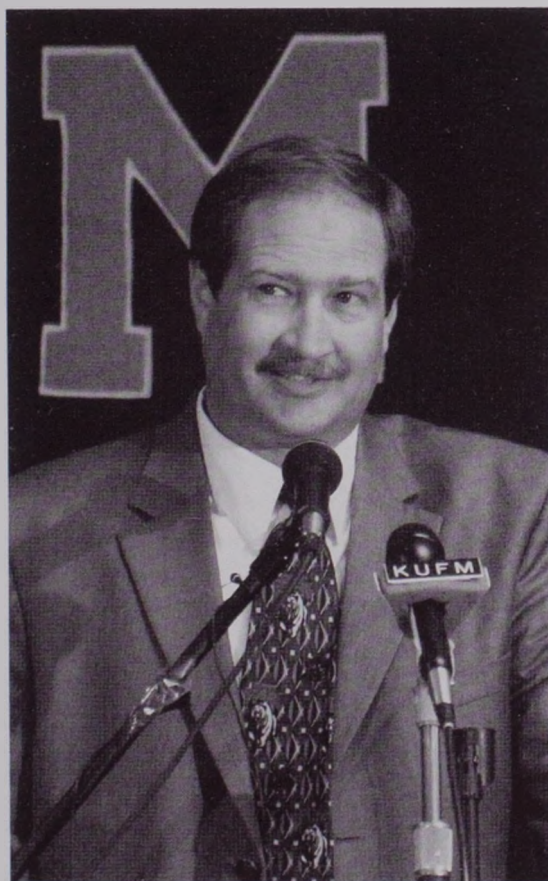


Photo by Chris Geraghty, MontanaGrizzlies.com

New Athletic Director Jim O'Day answers questions during a July 3 news conference.

donors for Grizzly athletics.

In addition, he served on the Executive Committee for UM Athletics, the

Budget Development Committee and the Marketing Committee for Intercollegiate Athletics, among others. He also worked closely with the athletic director's National Advisory Board for Grizzly Athletics and maintained a close working relationship with the Grizzly Scholarship Association.

Before working at UM, O'Day was the owner and publisher of The Western Breeze newspaper in Cut Bank. He started his newspaper career at the Daily Interlake in Kalispell as a reporter and sports editor.

O'Day and his wife, Kathy, have three sons.

Retiring director Don Read coached the Griz during 1986-95, amassing a career record of 85-36 and a Big Sky Conference mark of 54-22. He had 10 straight winning seasons, with 10 straight victories over cross-state rival Montana State University. The capstone of his UM career came when the Griz captured their first I-AA national championship in 1995. Read resigned from his head coaching job on April 15, 1996.

Read leaves a department that's ahead of schedule in its plan to erase a \$1 million deficit, and the state Board of Regents recently honored him with the title athletic director emeritus for intercollegiate athletics. 🐻

Beyond athletics, a spate of administrative changes have taken place on campus this summer, with two new directors and a new interim dean.

At the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West, Larry Swanson, associate director and regional economy associate, will become the center's director. Daniel Kemmis, current director and regional policy associate, will join Pat Williams and Bob Brown as center senior fellows. The administrative shift reflects Kemmis' desire to pass on his director's duties after nine years in the position.

A North Carolina educator has been named director of the Center for Ethics. N. Dane Scott II will assume his UM duties Aug. 1, replacing interim director Mark Hanson. Scott leaves Western Carolina University, where he held several administrative positions.

At the Mansfield Library, a longtime faculty member will serve as interim dean of Library Services with the departure of Frank D'Andraia, who left campus for a position at the University of Albany. Professor Erling Oelz will lead the library during the transition and a national search for a new dean. 🐻

Talking to Chickadees—UM researchers have discovered a previously unknown level of sophistication in the calls of chickadees, and their work was notable enough to be featured in the June 23 issue of *Science*, one of the world's top research journals. The story has since made the *New York Times* and other national newspapers. Erick Greene is a UM professor, behavioral ecologist and acting associate dean of the Division of Biological Sciences. He and his former graduate student Chris Templeton found that common chickadees have a complex system of alarm calls that convey information about the size and danger of potential predators and tell the birds what sort of defense to mount in response. Basically, the more dangerous a predator is to a chickadee, the more "dee" sounds the birds tack onto the end of their trademark "chick-a-dee" call.



from the online directory. However, e-mail addresses still are limited to those with the *umontana.edu* alias. Employees who wish their e-mail addresses to be included in the searchable database must activate their *umontana.edu* alias in Cyberbear. The directory was developed by UM's Information Technology Office.

Travels to China—Two UM professors recently completed a two-week lecture series in China. They are David Aronofsky,

UM legal counsel and law school faculty member, and Terry Weidner, Asian studies professor and director of UM's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center. The two lectured about World Trade Organization legal and policy issues involving China. Their trip was funded by a grant from the U.S.-China Business Council Legal Cooperation Fund, with additional support from the All China Youth Federation.

Bison Bonanza—Florence Gardipee, a UM doctoral student, has been awarded the first Boyd Evison Graduate Fellowship, which encourages scientific and conservation-related research in national parks. A student in UM's Division of Biological Sciences, Gardipee will use the award to start new research on American bison in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. She will use DNA samples and data gathered from bison feces to document the genetic diversity of the herd and subsequently discover how genetic diversity, or lack thereof, affects susceptibility to infectious diseases such as brucellosis.

Emergency Assistance—The Student Assistance Foundation gave \$157,000 to UM through its Acce\$\$ Grant Program for the coming academic year. The foundation has provided UM with \$660,000 in grants since the program's inception five years ago. Mick Hanson, who directs financial aide at UM, said this money can help students who need emergency financial aid stay in school. For more information visit <http://www.safmt.org>.

Artistic Exposure—Recently unveiled American Indian ledger art housed at UM's Mansfield Library is garnering national attention. In fact, the Association of College and Research Libraries has committed to featuring one of UM's 18 ledger art plates on the cover of its monthly publication, *College and Research Library News*. Outgoing library Dean Frank D'Andraia said it's the first time a Montana library has made the cover in the publication's 66-year history. 🐾

President's Office Art—UM's Montana Museum of Art and Culture is displaying two paintings by giants of the modern art world in the lobby of the UM President's Office in Main Hall. "Crow Dancer" by Franz Kline and "Composition II, 1943" by Arshile Gorky have been temporarily loaned to UM by a private collector. They will be displayed through Oct. 7. The lobby is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Artistic Visions—"Millikan Faces — Meloy Places" will highlight the portraits of the Gilbert Millikan collection and the landscapes of accomplished artist Henry Meloy at the Montana Museum of Art and Culture. The free, public exhibit will run until Aug. 27 in the museum's Paxson and Meloy galleries, located in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday and 3 to 7 p.m. Friday. Millikan was an avid collector and patron of the arts who had strong ties to UM. His eclectic collection includes exquisite artworks from around the world. Meloy's landscapes offer a glimpse into the repertoire of a highly accomplished Montana artist.

Improved Web Site—One of the most-requested online features has been added to the UM Web site. The new Phone/E-Mail Directory allows people to search for students' e-mail addresses and phone numbers and for employees' e-mail addresses, campus addresses and phone numbers. It also offers the ability to search for staff, faculty members and administrators by department. Previously, only e-mail addresses were available

Outdoor class—July 23, Into the Woods Saturday Discovery Day, 8 a.m., Montana Natural History Center, 120 Hickory St. Prices vary depending on MNHC membership. Information, (406) 327-0405 or <http://www.MontanaNaturalist.org>.

Outdoor class—Aug. 2, Prairie Keepers Wildflower Gardening, 6 p.m.,

UM Events

Fort Missoula Nature Adventure Garden. Information, (406) 327-0405 or <http://www.MontanaNaturalist.org>.

Concert—Aug. 3, Alison Krauss and Union Station, 8 p.m., Adams Center. Tickets, \$43.50 and \$33.50 at GrizTix outlets. Information, (406) 243-5321.

Missoula Gun Show—Aug. 5-7, Adams Center. Information, (406) 243-5321.

UM writers' retreat—Aug. 5-7, "Stealing From Thieves: Fiction Techniques of the Masters Revealed." Cost, \$675. Registration deadline, July 25. Information, (406) 243-6431 or candice.merrill@umontana.edu.



The University of
Montana

The Discovery Continues

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