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## New program helps students pay for college

The University of Montana has unveiled a \$1.3 million, two-year pilot project to help modest- and low-income Montanans pay for college at either of its Missoula campuses.

MPACT — Montana Partnering for an Affordable College Tuition — targets recent high school graduates with respectable academic records and family incomes at or below the median level in Montana. Students with a high school Grade Point Average of 3.00 and an ACT score of at least 25 can enroll in bachelor's degree programs, while a student with a 2.5 GPA can enroll in College of Technology programs.

Students eligible for MPACT will receive a financial-aid package designed to make the basic costs of attending college — tuition, fees, room and board, and books — affordable. The package includes an MPACT award for as much as \$2,000 per year (based on expected family contribution) renewable for four years at UM or two years at the College of Technology; an institutional grant of \$800 per year; a work-study award of \$2,000 earned through employment; and a Pell Grant.

UM will allocate institutional funds from contingency accounts to test the program during its initial two years, beginning fall semester 2006. If the program proves successful, UM officials hope to convince the state Board of Regents to develop a systemwide initiative seeking state matching funds during the 2007 Montana Legislature.

President George Dennison created the program to address access and affordability for Montana students.

Those who think they might qualify for MPACT assistance may call UM's Enrollment Services at (800) 462-8636 to apply. They also must meet the Feb. 15, 2006, filing deadline for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To find out more about MPACT, visit [www.umt.edu/mpact](http://www.umt.edu/mpact).



The UM School of Law's moot court team. (Front row) Paul Shae, Jill Peterson, Jonathan McDonald. (Back row) Becky Rutz, Joe Gillis and Maggie Weamer.

## UM moot court team continues winning streak

For the eighth consecutive year, a moot court team from The University of Montana School of Law is bound for the national finals.

"This is by far the longest such winning streak in the nation," said Larry Howell, an assistant professor of law and UM's moot court team coach. UM most recently won the national championship in 2000.

The moot court team earned a finals berth during the Northwest Regional Moot Court competition at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., Nov. 17-18. Members of the first-place team are law students Jill Peterson of Great Falls and Jonathan McDonald and Paul Shae,

both of Helena.

Howell said the team defeated a University of Washington team in the final round of regionals, even though the UW law students were competing for the second year in the competition and the UM students had lost to the UW team in a preliminary round on Nov. 17.

Before the regional competition, the competitors prepared a brief that accounted for 40 percent of their score in each argument, with oral arguments accounting for the rest. The students argued two problems. The first involved whether a law requiring expensive equipment for roller-coaster safety

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# Educator earns award for HIV prevention work

Laura Dybdal, an associate professor at UM, was honored with the Governor's Award for Outstanding HIV Prevention in Helena on World AIDS Day Dec. 2.

Dybdal, who teaches in the Health Promotion Program of UM's Department of Health and Human Performance, was presented with the award by Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger in the State Capitol Rotunda.

"I am glad we set aside today to recognize those Montanans who have worked so hard in the HIV/AIDS prevention field," Bohlinger said in a statement. "Gov. Schweitzer and I thank them for their devotion to the cause and pray that one day we can all close the book on this terrible disease."

Since 2001, Dybdal has been working on a campaign for HIV prevention. She developed motion design movies for the Internet and television targeting various populations across Montana, from American Indians, youth and gay communities to drug users.



Laura Dybdal

Dybdal has been involved with HIV prevention since 1987, when she moved to Albuquerque, N.M. "Like many people, I

became involved because I had family and friends who became HIV positive," she said. "That was a time when there weren't the medications we have today and being diagnosed with HIV was basically a death sentence, so prevention was all we had."

Dybdal is working to bring the campaign's Web site, <http://www.HIVmontana.org>, back on-line with the new movies. However, they can be seen on TV in Great Falls and Billings, and this spring they will be shown on the air in Butte and Kalispell, Dybdal said.

The work wouldn't be possible without the help of Rick Hughes, associate professor of media arts, Dybdal said. Hughes has been involved from the beginning, and helped contribute to the high quality of the final product, she said.

"While it is an honor to receive this award, it is also bittersweet as a reminder that we still don't have a cure for HIV/AIDS and millions of people are still suffering," Dybdal said. 🐾

## Greeks boost community service, events in 2005

UM's fraternities and sororities have organized a slew of events this semester to reach out to the Missoula and campus communities.

For the first time ever, UM's Greek community launched the All-Campus Challenge.

The challenge — which began Oct. 24 and ended Nov. 16 — was set forth by the Greek community to all student organizations through the Associated Students of The University of Montana. The event raised more than \$5,000 in food, clothing, hygiene products and cash donations. The students donated 324 pounds of food to the Missoula Food Bank.

Alpha Phi sorority made the largest donation, followed by the Christian Campus Coalition, UM Wildlife Society and the UM Advocates.

"We just wanted to create an event using as many people on campus as possible. We wanted to create a coalition between the University and Greek community and work together as a team," said Ben Vande Ven, creator of the All-Campus Challenge,

president of the Interfraternity Council and member of Sigma Nu.

Cash donations were given to the American Red Cross, food donations to the Missoula Food Bank and clothing as well as hygiene products to the Poverello Center.

"Events like these show that Greek life is compatible with other student communities," said Emily Yaksitch, UM's Greek life adviser. "It exemplifies the Greek value in community service."

Also in November, Greek members participated in the "All-Greek Neighborhood Leaf Raking Event." The groups raked nearly eight blocks, and the yards of nearly 60 homes in the University area.

Another Greek co-sponsored event, Take Back the Night, strove to connect campus and community. The Oct. 21 event, which also was sponsored by UM's Student Assault Resource Center, worked to create awareness in the Missoula community about domestic violence. Greek members, including men from all fraternities, participated in the event by

handing out white ribbons that said, "Men against domestic violence." Seth Martens, a member of Phi Gamma Delta — also known as FIJI — was the first man ever to speak at the event.

Also at the end of October, UM's Delta Gamma chapter participated in Service for Sight, a three-day fund-raising event to help the visually impaired. This year, the sorority raised more than \$1,600 after paying for their costs. The group hosted a swimming competition called Anchor Splash to raise money, as well as collected donations in the University Center.

"It's been really successful the past few years," said Amy Pagano, president of Delta Gamma. "This year we wanted to make even more of an impact."

Every Delta Gamma chapter in the nation is involved in the fund-raiser. Half of the money collected will go to the national campaign to raise money for the visually impaired and the other half was donated to the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind in Great Falls.

Next semester Greeks will continue their

— Continued back page

**Be Collegiate**—Since 1992 UM license plates sales and renewals have raised more than \$1.5 million to help students pay for increasingly expensive college educations. Fifty-five students received License Plate scholarships in 2005. Purchasing and renewing UM license plates for your vehicles each year is a convenient way to contribute to higher education and to show support for UM everywhere you go. Three full-color UM plates are available at state Motor Vehicle Division offices for any vehicle registered in Montana. UM's Main Hall Clock Tower and the Montana Griz logo designs sell for an initial fee of \$35 followed by a yearly renewal fee of \$30. This year, a new UM sports plate has been added to support student-athletes through UM's Grizzly Scholarship Association. The new design features a bear paw and "GRIZ" in white behind the license number. The new "GRIZ" plates sell for an initial fee of \$45 with an annual renewal fee of \$30. To view all three UM license plate designs or get more information, visit <http://www.doj.state.mt.us/driving/platedesign/collegiate.asp>.

**Old Butte**—UM Professor Janet Finn recently co-edited a book that takes readers on a journey through the stories of three generations of women who lived and worked in Butte. The idea for the book was hatched three years ago by Finn and co-editor Ellen Crain, director of the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives, who both felt there were many untold stories of dynamic 20th century Butte women. "Motherlode: Legacies of Women's Lives and Labors in Butte, Montana," tells



of women who were pioneers in their fields and leaders in social and political organizations, as well as the unsung heroines who made a difference in their families and neighborhoods. "Motherlode is a collaboration of 20 writers who bring a chorus of women's voices to life on the page. To purchase the book, call Clark City Press at (800) 835-0814 or e-mail [info@clarkcitypress.com](mailto:info@clarkcitypress.com).

**Getting Wild**—An eight-week spring semester course at UM offers hands-on instruction working with packing equipment, horses and mules. Smoke Elser of Wilderness Consulting Group will teach the course, which will be held at his barn located not far from the University in the Missoula Rattlesnake area. Classes will be held once a week for three hours and run from the end of January through the second week of March. No prior experience is necessary, and the course fee is \$150. For more information or to register for the course, call Elser at (406) 549-2820 or e-mail him at [telsr2820@aol.com](mailto:telsr2820@aol.com).

**Master Yodeler**—Wylie Gustafson has performed in venues from the Lincoln Center to the Grand Ole Opry, gained rave reviews from Billboard Magazine and recorded with Merle Haggard, but it's more likely you heard him somewhere else. Think of commercials for Yahoo!, and the mile-wide yodel belting the company's name. Gustafson and his group, the Wild West, are bringing that distinctive voice and their music, which aims to put the emphasis on "Western" in "Country & Western" to UM at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, in the University Theatre. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17 at the door for adults and free for children 12 and under. To purchase tickets visit [www.griztix.com](http://www.griztix.com) or call 1-888-MONTANA.

**Holiday Hours**—UM offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 2, for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

**Literary Largesse**—Two UM faculty members have been selected for National Endowment for the Arts 2006 Literature Fellowships. Recipients are Michael Downs, visiting assistant professor in UM's School of Journalism, and Associate Professor Debra Earling, who teaches in the University's departments of English and Native American Studies. More than 900 applied for the 50 fellowships that were awarded to writers across the country. The fellowships recognize writers of prose, encouraging the production of new work by affording the writers the time and means to write. Each Literature Fellow receives \$20,000. 🐾

## Seminar to examine laws' effect on business

Laws not only influence business startups, survival and relocation; they also affect most business transactions.

The fact that Montana is one of four states where business trade secrets are not entirely protected from departing employees in a noncompete agreement is worrisome.

The fact that Montana, with its strong union history, is surrounded by states that have "Right to Work" laws where employees may choose whether or not to join a union gives businesses in other states more flexibility.

The fact that Montana's businesses must comply with myriad state and local regulations sometimes causes confusion and frustration — and makes for lively

conversation among business circles.

At the 31st Annual Montana Economic Outlook Seminar, Jack Morton and Michael Harrington, both lawyers and professors at the UM School of Business Administration, will discuss the relationship between our state's business and legal environments.

Recent trends and the outlook for Montana's important industries also will be examined in detail at the seminar. Experts from the UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, Montana State University and the UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research will look at the wood products industry, manufacturing, agriculture, health care, and travel and tourism.

The seminar will be offered at seven Montana cities in January and February. Dates and seminar locations are Jan. 24, Great Northern Hotel, Helena; Jan. 25, Hampton Inn, Great Falls; Jan. 27, Holiday Inn Parkside, Missoula; Jan. 31, Northern Hotel, Billings; Feb. 1, Holiday Inn, Bozeman; and Feb. 2, Copper King, Butte; Feb. 7, WestCoast Kalispell Center Hotel.

Registration is \$70 and includes the seminar, proceedings booklet, lunch and a one-year subscription to the Montana Business Quarterly. Continuing education credits are available for an additional \$20.

For more information or to register, call (406) 243-5113 or visit BBER's Web site, <http://www.bber.umt.edu>. 🐾



# Financial Aid Night helps guide potential students through process

Have you ever considered checking into the qualifications for financial aid for higher education? Does just thinking about the application process stop you from investigating the possibility of getting financial assistance to pay for college?

If so, then Financial Aid Night at UM can help you. The free, public event will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 4, in the University Center Ballroom.

Mick Hanson, director of UM's Financial Aid Office, and other University personnel will be at the presentation to provide information

designed for anyone who wants to learn about applying for financial assistance to attend any college, technical or trade school that participates in federal aid programs.

So if you want to know if you or a student in your family can qualify for financial aid or you want to learn about kinds of aid available and the application processes, mark your calendar to join Hanson and others at Financial Aid Night next month.

For more information, call UM Enrollment Services, (406) 243-6266, toll-free at (800) 462-8636. 📞

## Moot court team — continued

was so onerous that it amounted to a taking of private property under the Fifth Amendment. The second involved whether a litigant could raise an issue in federal courts that could have been raised in previous state court litigation.

Howell said another UM moot court team won the Best Brief Award "by a landslide" at regionals. Members of that team were Joe Gillis, a student from Connecticut, Becky Rutz of Kalispell and Maggie Weamer of Billings. Howell said the four-day National Moot Court Finals will kick off Jan. 30, 2006, in New York City. The national competition is sponsored by the New York City Bar

## Greek service — continued

community service efforts by organizing a student-run leadership conference and holding Greek Week, a weeklong set of activities to recruit new Greek members and share the values of the Greek system with the community. They plan to organize more service events for that week, Yaksitch said. Currently each of UM's four sororities are "adopting" children for the holidays.

"Community service is important because it's one of the four founding

Association and the American College of Trial Lawyers.

More than a thousand law students from about 145 of the 180 accredited law schools in the United States participate in the National Moot Court Competition in a given year. The country is divided into 14 regions, and the first- and second-place teams from each region move on to the National Moot Court Finals each January.

During UM's eight-year winning streak at regionals, UM teams have finished first five times and second three times. In that same period, Howell said, UM has won the Best Brief Award four times and the second-best brief five times.

Howell and Visiting Professor Andrew King-Ries coach the team. 📞

values (of the Greek system.) It lets the community know that members give back not only for personal development but for group development as well." Yaksitch said.

In all, more than 300 students belong to UM's four sororities and six fraternities.

"I think one of our major focuses has been involving the community. Community service is on-going. It makes Greeks very aware of their surroundings," Yaksitch said. "I hope that those activities are driving that point home." 📞

—By Brianne Burrowes

# UM Events

**Exhibit—Dec. 23-31.** "Mahjong All Day Long," Missoula Art Museum, by UM Professor Beth Lo. Illustrations, porcelain plates and vases depict familial relations in Asian American cultures.

**Lady Griz Holiday Classic—**

**Dec. 29.** consolation game at 5:05 p.m., championship game at 7:35 p.m., Dahlberg Arena.

**Men's basketball—Dec. 30.** UM vs. UW-Milwaukee, 7:05 p.m., Dahlberg Arena.

**Wintersession classes begin—Jan. 3.** through Jan. 20. Mansfield Library hours, Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Men's basketball—Jan. 5.** UM vs. Idaho State, 7:05 p.m., Dahlberg Arena.

**Men's basketball—Jan. 7.** UM vs. Weber State, 7:05 p.m., Dahlberg Arena.

**Lady Griz basketball—Jan. 8.** UM vs. Colorado State, 7:05 p.m., Dahlberg Arena.

**Martin Luther King Day—Jan. 16.** UM offices closed. No classes.

**Lady Griz Basketball—Jan. 19.** UM vs. Northern Arizona, 7:05 p.m., Dahlberg Arena.

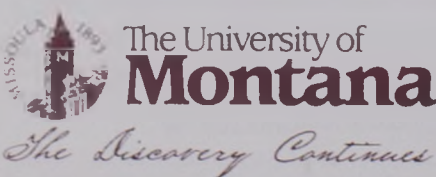
**Spring Semester begins—Jan. 20.** Orientation and registration. Classes start on Jan. 23.

**Lady Griz Basketball—Jan. 21.** UM vs. Sacramento State, 7:05 p.m., Dahlberg Arena.

**Saturday Science Day—Jan. 21.** "Lasers, Lights, and Optics," open to 11th graders from all area high schools. No charge to attend, but students must fill out a short application. Deadline for applications: Friday, Jan. 6. Information: 243-4095, or Faith.Price@umontana.edu.

**Play—Jan. 24-28.** "The Trip to Bountiful," 7:30 p.m. 2 p.m. matinee Jan. 28. PAR/TV Center, Montana Theatre. Information: 243-4481.

**Faculty Recital—Jan. 24.** David Morgenroth, piano, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall, \$6 general; \$4/students and seniors. Information: 243-6880.



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