

2010

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# OVAL

VOLUME III



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# THE OVAL

the university of montana

VOLUME III  
2010



# Oval undergraduate literary arts journal

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*The Oval* is a literary magazine published annually by the Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM), the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, and the Creative Writing Program of The University of Montana English Department. Each volume is printed with vegetable ink on recycled paper by The University of Montana Printing & Graphics.

The University of Montana Bookstore, Fact & Fiction, Shakespeare and Company, and The Book Exchange in Missoula, Montana sell copies of *The Oval*. Griz-card holders can buy a copy for \$5.00 and the standard price is \$8.00.

*The Oval* cosponsors monthly readings with the University Center Student Involvement team called “Prose and Poems” on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. in the University Center Art Gallery.

*The Oval* cosponsors annual readings with the literary magazine Aerie Big Sky every spring: usually a general reading and poetry slam.

The Council of Literary Magazines and Presses’ (CLMP) Literary Press and Magazine Directory and NewPages.com’s index of Literary Magazine include *The Oval*

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# submissions

OVAL.SUBMISSIONS@MSO.UMT.EDU

The Oval accepts electronic submissions of  
fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and visual art from  
September 1 through February 15.

Only previously unpublished work by currently enrolled  
University of Montana undergraduates will be  
considered. Submissions must be in RTF, JPEG, or TIFF  
format and their genre (essay, short story)  
must be defined.





# Dear reader,

College has its own culture, jargon, and rituals much like a country. We only live in this country for four years, but when we want to revisit, we do not have yearbooks, nor can we keep every weekly *Kaimin* newspaper. *The Oval*, a literary magazine with stories, visual art, and poetry captures themes, emotions, and memories experienced at college that a record-book cannot. In the third edition of *The Oval*, we hear a variety of voices speaking of unique experiences, but they all come from the same country—they're University of Montana undergraduates.

In fall 2007, the founders of *The Oval* named it after the grass-filled open space at the center of the University of Montana campus, because it's the locus where thousands of students of all disciplines cross, and this spring, the Oval will mark the spot students graduate. I hope that *The Oval* becomes an increasingly cross-disciplinary journal in the years to come, and I also hope that it resonates with UM graduates eager to remember their four-year vacation at UM.

Thank you to Dean Bonnie Allen and Sue Samson of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, and ASUM for their generous financial support allowing us to publish *The Oval* and co-sponsor *Prose and Poems* readings.

A personal thank you to *The Oval*'s faculty advisor, Robert Stubblefield, my favorite professor at UM both in the six classes I've taken with him and in my three years working with him on *The Oval* staff.

Further thanks are extended to the University Center Student Involvement team: Josh Peters-McBride, Derek Johndrow, and Samantha Guenther.

Finally, thank you to all *The Oval* staff and contributors—this is your book and your voice!

— Samantha Steven,  
Editor-in-Chief

# staff

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