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Court Kings

Griz basketball provides one of the best seasons in Montana history

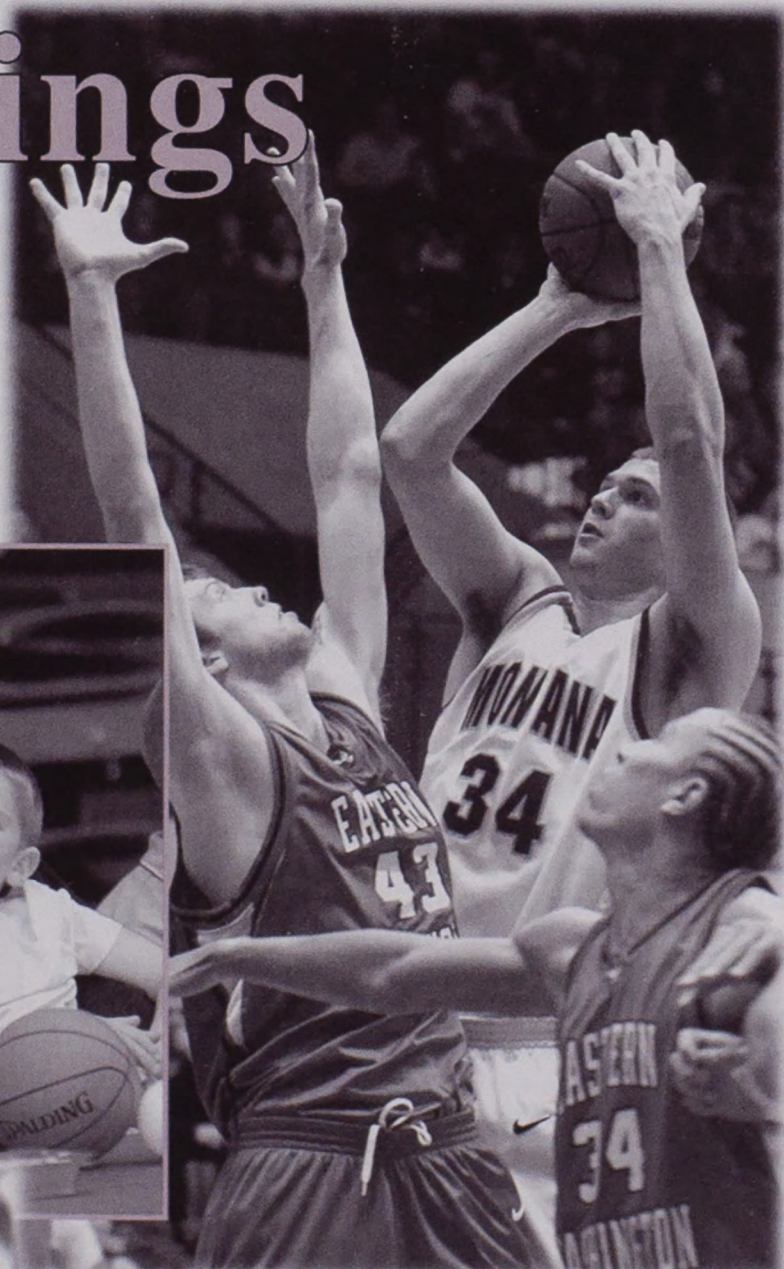
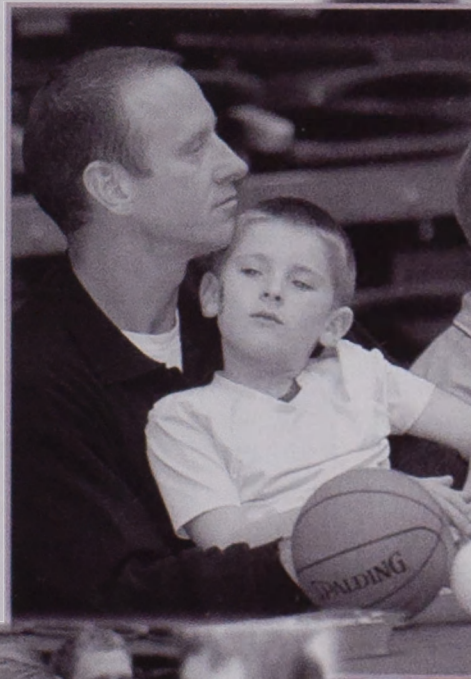
One of the most successful seasons in Griz basketball history came to a close April 6 when several hundred die-hard fans gathered inside the Adams Center at

The University of Montana to honor the 2005-06 men's team.

It was a soggy day all around. Missoula set an all-time record for rainfall outside (1.87 inches), and more than a few eyes misted up inside during Basketball Recognition Night.

How good were these guys? They went 24-7, the third-highest win total in school history. They played a tough brand of team ball that knocked off traditional powerhouses like Stanford during the regular season.

And they danced into March Madness, winning a game for



(Top) Sophomore Andrew Straight, the leading scorer for the Griz, takes a shot. (Middle) Coach Larry Krystkowiak and his 6-year-old son, Cameron, at Basketball Recognition Night. (Left) Senior Kevin Criswell signs the arm of a young fan.

only the second time in team history. When the Griz upset Nevada 87-79, it was UM's first NCAA tournament win in 31 years.

All great teams have their own peculiar recipe for success — a unique blend of power, heart and intelligence.

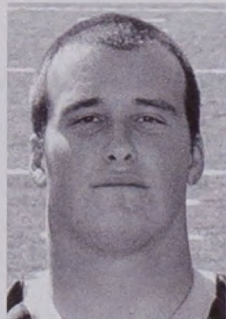
When these Griz needed power, they went to Andrew Straight, the sophomore who led the team in scoring and was 11th in the nation in field goal percentage (61.4).

Senior Kevin Criswell, the walk-on from — Continued back page

New Registrar Hired—An administrator from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has been named head registrar at UM. David Micus, associate registrar at MIT since 2002, will join UM July 1. He replaces Phil Bain, who retired as head registrar last month after more than 32 years of service to UM. The Registrar's Office oversees class registration, course and room scheduling, course catalogs, transcripts, grading, graduation and other administrative academic processes. Micus was hired this month after a national search. He comes to UM with a long history of registrar experience at New England colleges and universities.



Savior Center—Griz football players spend their off-seasons healing, lifting weights and otherwise getting ready for spring football scrimmages. But senior center Jeff Marshall of Newport Beach, Calif., went beyond that: He helped save a life. On Jan. 12 experienced seaman Craig McCabe accidentally fell off his boat after leaving Marina del Rey en route to a boatyard in Newport Beach. His boat continued on without him — eventually crashing into Catalina Island — and McCabe was reported missing, but not before he spent five or six hours in 58-degree water. McCabe's brother, Lance, went looking for him in his own boat along with Marshall, the Griz lineman. According to Daily Breeze newspaper,

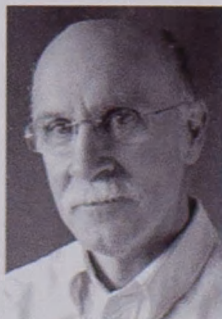


Marshall

the duo miraculously spotted Craig, and Marshall “threw off his Hawaiian shirt and dove into the water” to help rescue him when they drew close. Craig McCabe has made a full recovery.

Funding Pharmacy—UM continues to be a national leader for earning pharmacy research dollars. In fact, UM's Skaggs School of Pharmacy tallied \$9.3 million from federal grants and other sources in 2005. According to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, UM now ranks No. 4 out of 92 pharmacy schools nationally for garnering research funding when the number of faculty members is considered. The University moved up one place in this category from the year before. UM's pharmacy school has the equivalent of 26 full-time, Ph.D. faculty members who successfully competed for an average of \$360,000 apiece in 2005. Only pharmacy programs at the universities of Washington, California-San Francisco and Kansas had a better per-Ph.D.-faculty-member average.

Big Book Award—“Fool's Paradise: The Unreal World of Pop Psychology” has been awarded the Popular Culture Association Ray and Pat Browne Award for the best book by a single author in 2005. The book, written by UM Professor Stewart Justman, is a witty and astringent appraisal of the world of pop psychology. Ray and Pat Browne Awards honor scholarship within popular culture study. The awards were presented at the 2006 Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Joint National Conference April 12-16 in Atlanta. Justman teaches in UM's Liberal Studies Program. His book “Seeds of Mortality: The Public and Private Worlds



Justman

of Cancer” won the 2004 PEN Award for the Art of the Essay.

Fantastic Photographer—Mike Greener, a UM photojournalism student, won first place and \$2,000 in the picture story/series category of the national Hearst Journalism Awards Program — considered the



Greener

Pulitzers of college journalism. Greener, a senior from Crystal Lake, Ill., earned the award by documenting the last eight days of David Barton, a man who entered hospice care while dying from lung cancer. The picture story/series category was the last of three photo contests offered by Hearst this academic year. The top four winners in each category, including Greener, now will be asked to submit portfolios of their work, and the top six will be chosen to compete in the program's national journalism championships in San Francisco this June.

Dining Services Cooks Up Awards—University Dining Services recently won two awards from the National Association of College and University Food Services. Tom Siegel, a UDS executive chef, cooked his way to an American Culinary Federation gold medal during regional competition in Minneapolis. Siegel captured first place by preparing lobster-mushroom-dusted chicken roulade of fig chutney finished with pomegranate tomato. He competed in the NACUFS 2006 Continental Region Culinary Challenge at the University of St. Thomas. He now will advance to the 2006 National Culinary Challenge in Toronto this July. With the other award, UDS won a top national marketing honor for promoting a campus convenience store. UM



Siegel and his award

competed in the fifth annual “Best in the Business” Campus C-Store Contest. Dining Services won for promoting its Cascade Country Store in the Lommasson Center.

Top Scholars—Two UM students, Hilary Martens and Elizabeth Morton, won prestigious Goldwater Scholarships during the 2006 competition. The awards provide up to \$7,500 per year for university expenses. The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program honors the deceased Arizona statesman who served 30 years in the U.S. Senate. Goldwater Scholars demonstrate outstanding academic performance and the potential to succeed in careers involving mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering. Martens, a junior majoring in physics from Missoula, plans to earn a doctorate in space plasma physics. She hopes to conduct research with a team of scientists on space missions. Morton, a junior majoring in biology from Omaha, Neb., intends to earn a doctorate and conduct primary research exploring the nature and mechanisms of gene regulation. Both students are part of UM's Davidson Honors College, which offers support and an enhanced curriculum to gifted, motivated students.



The refurbished "Teepee Burner" on campus near Main Hall

New Life for Sculpture—UM's public art piece "Teepee Burner" has been reinstalled on campus after being removed in January for repairs and conservation. The welded steel sculpture by John Vichorek, commissioned by the University in 1970, is part of the Montana Museum of Art and Culture's Permanent Collection. "Teepee Burner" is located between Jeannette Rankin Hall and UM's Natural Sciences Building. The sculpture is an abstract version of a device used during the 1960s and 1970s to burn lumber-industry waste. The artwork's top section, meant to resemble plumes of smoke, was originally a highly reflective polished steel surface. Exposure to wind and weather caused the metal to deteriorate, and cracks at the posts destabilized the artwork. A new concrete base now provides increased stability for the large sculpture. Powder coatings, chosen to match the surfaces of the original work, will prevent further rusting. Two Missoula companies, Montana Silhouettes and Armor Powder Coating, handled the sculpture repairs.

Pharmacists to the Rescue—Most people see their pharmacist much more frequently than their doctor. So what would happen if these front-line health professionals took a more active role in helping people quit smoking? That's the question posed by Larry Dent, an assistant professor in UM's Department of Pharmacy Practice. Dent and his research team of Kari Harris and Curtis Noonan received a two-year, \$70,000 grant from the national Cancer Research and Prevention Foundation to study the issue. Dent is conducting his study at the Missoula Veterans Affairs clinic. Smokers referred to him by clinic physicians are randomly divided into two groups. The first, the control group, receives the standard five- to 10-minute intervention about smoking risks. The second group receives pharmacist-delivered programs that include three group sessions over a five-week period. The study will assess what works better.

Prestigious Scholarships—Two UM students captured prestigious Morris K. Udall Scholarships this year. UM students now have received a total of 24 Udall awards since the program started 1997. The Udalls went to Kelly Hopping, a senior in philosophy and biology from Eugene, Ore., and Michael O'Brien, a junior in wildlife biology from Dixon. Both will receive \$5,000. Hopping is a National Merit Scholar and Presidential Leadership Scholar in UM's Davidson Honors College. O'Brien is a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and a descendant of the Fort Peck Assiniboine. Eighty students from 59 colleges and universities were named Udall Scholars this year. 🐾

UM makes best-buy list

UM is one of the nation's 150 best-value undergraduate institutions, according to the Princeton Review's 2007 edition of "America's Best Value Colleges."

The guide profiles 150 colleges with excellent academics, generous financial-aid packages and relatively low costs.

This marks the first time UM has been included in "America's Best Value Colleges," although the University has been profiled in the Princeton Review's "Best 361 Colleges" for several years. UM is the only Montana college profiled in the new book.

"The University of Montana has all the ingredients of a happy college experience: friendly people, supportive faculty, a great sense of community and fantastic educational opportunities — all served up with a side of lovely scenery," says the opening paragraph of the three-page UM profile.

"The academics are solid, the location is astonishing, and the price is right," reads a quote highlighting UM's profile.

The book's publishers considered more than 30 factors to rate colleges. They credit UM for creative development of new, innovative programs, including scholarships. One such program, MPACT — Montana Partnering for Affordable College Tuition — is being rolled out this spring for fall semester. MPACT makes it possible for moderate- to low-income students who graduate from Montana high schools to attend UM with significant financial assistance.

UM is among 103 public and 47 private colleges in 40 states listed in "America's Best Value Colleges." 🐾

Researchers to study pollution effects on human immune systems

Dendritic cells look like something that escaped from a 1950s horror movie — gooey monsters with grasping tentacles that sprout in every direction.

They may look creepy, but UM researcher David Shepherd says they are among our best friends. In fact, without these specialized white blood cells our immune systems would be paralyzed in the face of foreign invaders.

"The reason they are shaped like that is that it helps them grab onto pathogens or microorganisms that cause infectious diseases," said Shepherd, an assistant professor in UM's Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences. "They grab onto them and destroy them. They eat them."

However, these beneficial little monsters may be getting harmed by environmental pollutants — things like polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dioxin — which suppress the immune system and compromise human health. Shepherd's UM lab has landed a five-year, \$1.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study the issue.

Shepherd said most of the harmful chemicals they study are industrial by-products that can persist in the environment for 10 years or more. He said the grant will help his lab evaluate the health effects of exposure to these types of chemicals and potentially find ways to bolster the immune system to help people fight off infectious diseases or cancer.

But there is a flip side. Sometimes the immune system becomes hyperactive, which can lead to autoimmune diseases and allergies. Shepherd said the pollutants they study contain chemicals that could be used to knock down overactive immune systems, helping people with such disorders. 🐾

Colstrip in Eastern Montana, was the heart of the squad. He finished with 1,663 career points — fourth-most in UM history.

And these Griz got their basketball smarts from Larry Krystkowiak, their fierce, 6-foot-9, second-year head coach who starred as a player for UM before embarking on a nine-year NBA career. As a coach he is already 40-22 at Montana, with two NCAA tournament appearances. Competition burns through this guy's veins, and don't expect him to ever stop glowering during a game, even when his No. 12 team is about to send a No. 5 packing during the Big Dance.

But the most notable thing about these Griz is that they were a team. Six of them — Straight, Criswell, Virgil Matthews, Matt Marin, Matt Dlouhy and Jordan Hasquet — led Montana in scoring during the season.

This unselfish teamwork and hard work on defense paid big dividends, so April 6 in the Adams Center was a night to be savored. The players and coaches listened to congratulatory speeches from President George Dennison, Athletic Director Jim O'Day, Missoula Mayor John Engen, Gov. Brian Schweitzer and the state's congressional delegation. Brad Cederberg, Associated Students of UM president, got Krystkowiak to crack a smile by saying, "Coach, if you are looking for a short, fat kid who can't shoot, I'm your man." Then it was time for the players to sign basketballs, T-shirts and posters for the fans.

It was a nice end to a great season.

No one could have guessed from the first game where the Griz were headed this year. They suffered a 69-90 loss against Boise State on Nov. 18. But they responded by reeling off 10 straight wins, including an 88-69 drubbing of Stanford. When they finally did lose to Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Dec. 30, it was by only four points to a team that had reached the NCAA Sweet 16 the year before.

Now fans knew these Griz were for real. Average home-game attendance jumped to nearly 5,000, up 1,500 from the year before. Dahlberg Arena rocked with the largest crowds since the 1995-96 season.

The Griz started Big Sky Conference play 6-1, with the lone 80-83 loss coming against Northern Arizona. That was a setback since Montana led by 19 at one point, but, coaches, players and fans still started dreaming of hosting the Big Sky Tournament for the first time in six years. But two rough road losses to Idaho

State on Jan. 5 and Weber State on Jan. 7 put that goal out of reach. The Weber game was probably the low point of the season because the Griz lost by 25 after leading by six at halftime.

The losses seemed to harden the team, however, since they won five of their final six regular-season games, earning a first-round bye at the Big Sky tournament in Flagstaff, Ariz.

By now the Griz were playing their best basketball of the year. They survived an overtime scare against Eastern Washington in the Big Sky semifinals, and then crushed Northern Arizona 96-83 to earn their second straight trip to the NCAA tournament.

Montana entered March Madness as a No. 12 seed — the highest for any Big Sky team since 1985 when the NCAA tournament expanded to 64 teams. This matched the Griz against No. 5-seed Nevada, the Western Athletic Conference Champion.

It was a game for the ages. The Griz played nearly flawless ball — shooting 52 percent from the field — to upset the Wolf Pack 87-79 in Salt Lake City. In a consummate team effort, four Montana players scored 16 or more points.

The win gave Griz basketball fans a sense of euphoria that hadn't been seen since 1975, when Montana surprised Utah State.

Up next were the bigger, stronger Boston College Eagles. The Griz stayed with the Eagles early, trailing by only two points at halftime, but Boston pulled away in the second half for a 69-56 victory.

It had been quite a journey.

So how does next year look? First, Montana wants to hold onto its coaching staff. Krystkowiak's success hasn't gone unnoticed, and at press time he was being courted by larger schools such as Pepperdine. (Though President Dennison said all the coaches should earn a bonus for this year's performance and boosted attendance.) UM Assistant Coach Brad Huse already has left the team to coach the Montana State University Bobcats.

UM also is losing its stellar guards, Criswell and Matthews. But many veteran players will return, including Straight, the team's scoring leader. He will be joined by David Vanderjagt, a 7-foot recruit from Australia, among others.

So, in other words, the future might be bright.

"We had a sign on our bulletin board that says, 'It's not about the destination, it's the journey,'" Coach K said. "The fact we had some success this year doesn't mean we want to get complacent."

So can the Griz keep the good times rolling? Time will tell. 🍷

Play—April 25-29 and May 2-6,
"The Time of Your Life," 7:30 p.m."
Information: (406) 243-4481, <http://www.umtheatredance.org>.

Art exhibit—through May 12,
"Montana Barns" and "California
Industrials," photo-collaged drawings
by Peter Keefer, free. Gallery hours: 10
a.m.-4 p.m., University Center Room 232.
Information: (406) 243-4991.

Lecture—April 27, "U.S.-Japan

UM Events

Security Relations" by Kazuo Tanaka,
consulate-general of Japan in Seattle, 3
p.m., University Center Theater, free.
Information: (406) 243-5301.

**Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival—April
28-29,** evening performances featuring
Buddy DeFranco and special guests, 7:30
p.m., University Theatre. Cost: \$20 adults;

\$15 students and seniors. Attend both
nights of the festival for \$35 adults; \$25
students and seniors. Tickets at all GrizTix
outlets, (888) 666-8262, <http://www.griztix.com>.

President's Lecture Series—May 1,
"How Durable Is the American Empire?"
by Andrew J. Bacevich, professor of
international relations, Boston University,
8 p.m., University Theatre. Free.
Information: (406) 243-2311.



The University of
Montana

The Discovery Continues

Main Hall to Main Street is published by University Relations at The University of Montana. Send questions or suggestions to Cary Shimek, editor, Brantly Hall 330, Missoula, MT 59812, or call (406) 243-5914. Brianne Burrows, Rita Munzenrider, Patia Stephens and Cory Walsh are contributing editors and writers. Todd Goodrich is the primary photographer. The newsletter is online at <http://www.umt.edu/urelations/mainhall>.