

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

Main Hall to Main Street, 2005-2010

University Relations

9-1-2006

Main Hall to Main Street, September 2006

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mainhallmainstreet>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

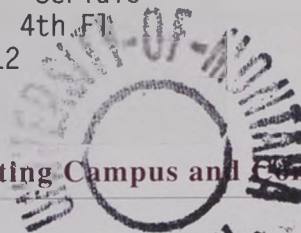
University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Main Hall to Main Street, September 2006" (2006). *Main Hall to Main Street, 2005-2010*. 119.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mainhallmainstreet/119>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the University Relations at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Main Hall to Main Street, 2005-2010 by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Main Hall to Main Street

Connecting Campus and Community



UM grad's debut novel a hit

To nearly anyone, best-selling author, Alaskan Seth Kantner, life is anything but ordinary.

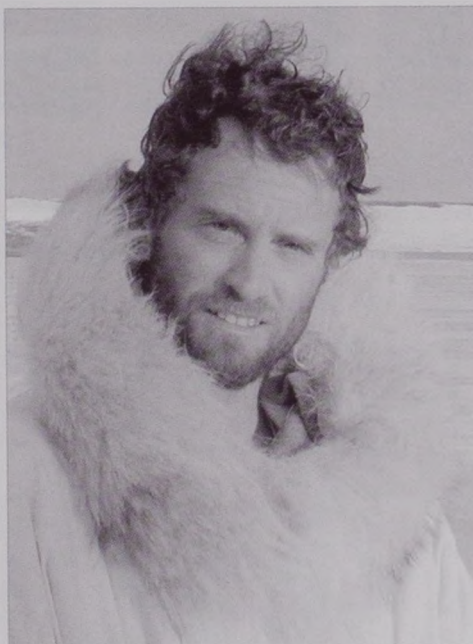
Kantner's debut novel, "Ordinary Wolves," was met with rave reviews from publications such as the New York Times Book Review and Outside magazine when it hit the shelves in 2005.

That book was chosen for the first-year reading experience this fall at The University of Montana, said Associate Provost Arlene Walker-Andrews. The program encourages all first-year students to read the same book so they have one more thing in common as they begin college.

Kantner, a 1991 graduate of UM's School of Journalism, said that while his novel about a white boy growing up in the wilds of the Alaskan tundra is fictional, the arc of the story closely mirrors his own life.

"All the characters, all the scenes, it's all made up," he said. "They're not real people regardless of some people who try to find themselves."

But Kantner writes about a life of living off the land and sleeping in a sod igloo from experience, having been raised north of the Arctic Circle in a harsh landscape often romanticized in the Lower 48.



Seth Kantner

"I wanted to write something that didn't have all the natives as noble and the glaciers as beautiful," he said. "It's a land of extremes, the country is beautiful and the wildlife is amazing, but the social problems are depressing."

After attending the University of Alaska at Fairbanks on and off for a

— Continued back page

University Rowing Club hits the water

Eight months after a \$10,000 crew boat was found at UM, the reborn University Rowing Club has finally taken to the water.

The team held its first real, in-water practice at Salmon Lake State Park east of Missoula. Last month a three-day camp, organized by the club, gave rowers a chance to put months of practice on rowing machines and physical training to the test.

The boat found last winter is a 40-foot, four-man boat, and club faculty adviser Jim McKusick said a 60-foot, eight-man boat is on loan to the club from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash.

McKusick said the club has 20 active participants, both men and women, who are dedicated to building a successful club.

"They were practicing three days a week in the spring at 6:30 in the morning," McKusick said.

Club members held multiple practices over the weekend on Salmon Lake to familiarize themselves with the boats and practice rowing techniques. McKusick said they constructed a wooden rack to store the second, larger boat at a facility on the lake.

Until 2000, UM boasted a rowing club, which was coached by a former Olympian in crew, McKusick said.

After that group disbanded, the UM Rowing Club — and the boat — disappeared until the boat was happened upon accidentally in January 2006.

McKusick said at the initial meeting to form a team about 40 people showed up, many of them students in the Davidson Honors College.

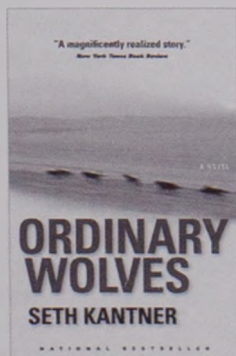
"There's a historical connection between crew and honors colleges," McKusick said.

But not all members belong to the

— Continued back page

Alaska writer to appear in Missoula

Seth Kantner will be in Missoula to give a talk about "Ordinary Wolves" at 7 p.m., Oct. 3 in the University Theatre. Also connected to the first-year book experience, Anna Klene will give a speech titled "Alaska, Great Land of Change: Some Geographic and Historic Context for 'Ordinary Wolves'" at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 26, in the University Center Theater. Professor



Dan Pletscher will present a speech titled "An Endangered Species: Wolves in Montana" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, in Urey Lecture Hall.

First-year students also can enter an essay contest with the first-prize piece being awarded \$400. The essay must be about the reader's reaction to the book. For more information

visit www.lib.umt.edu/firstyear/readingexperience/essay.htm.

University adds three distinguished alumni honorees

Kalispell broadcaster, writer and photographer G. George Ostrom, Missoula businessman Terry W. Payne and Professor Steve E. Petersen of Washington University in St. Louis are the 2006 recipients of UM's Distinguished Alumni Award.

The three will receive the awards during UM's Homecoming festivities Friday, Oct. 13. The presentation of the awards and a reception will take place beginning at 6 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom.

Ostrom, UM class of 1953, joined Kalispell's KOFI radio in 1956 and has served as co-owner, general manager and news director during the past 50 years.

He built the Kalispell Weekly News into the largest circulation weekly newspaper in Montana. His "Trailwatcher" column, which won first place from the National Newspaper Association in 1996, appears weekly in many Flathead-area newspapers.

In 2004, Ostrom was inducted into the Montana Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame. The author of three books on Glacier National Park, he helped build Flathead Valley Community College, served on its board and taught in its classrooms.

Ostrom has served as a member of UM's President's Advisory Council for more than 20 years. He also has served on boards for the Red Cross, ALERT and the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce. He is married to Ann Wilhelm Ostrom, UM class of 1957.

Payne received a bachelor's degree in business administration from UM in



Ostrom



Payne



Petersen

1963. He is the founder and principal of Terry Payne and Co. Inc., an independent insurance agency established in Missoula in 1972, and serves as the company's president and chairman of the board. He also is chairman of Payne Financial Group Inc., which for the past two years received national recognition as a Best Practices Agency from the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America and has been ranked in the top 50 privately owned insurance agencies in the United States by Business Insurance magazine.

He is director of Washington Corporations and numerous other Washington companies, a director of First Interstate BancSystem Inc., and a trustee emeritus for the UM Foundation. Payne endowed a UM Presidential Scholarship and the Don McGonigle Memorial Scholarship for students with disabilities at UM's School of Business Administration.

He and his wife, Patt, have been highly committed to the Native American Center to be built on campus. Described as a quiet, inspirational hero, he has been instrumental in supporting the Watson

Children's Shelter, the Missoula Family YMCA, Missoula Art Museum and many other area institutions.

Petersen received a bachelor's degree in anthropology from UM in 1974. He is the James S. McDonnell Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at Washington University in St. Louis.

As a professor in the Washington University neurology, psychology and

radiology departments, Petersen has changed the field of neuroscience. He is a pioneer in brain imaging; his work led to understanding the neural substrates of cognitive activity.

One of the nation's most highly cited neuroscientists, Petersen has published in top science journals. He has received numerous grants and awards, including the Young Investigator Award from the Society for Neuroscience and the Grawemeyer Award in Psychology. He also was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Petersen is a frequent lecturer and has served leadership roles in many professional organizations. He is a popular undergraduate teacher and has mentored graduate students who now have tenure at Harvard, Dartmouth, the University of Pittsburgh and Washington University.

Petersen's current work focuses on how the brain changes as children progress through stages of learning. He is married to Bonnie Ulvila Petersen, a 1974 UM graduate. 📧

UM ranked among 361 best colleges

"You can enjoy both 'the outdoors and a great education' at UM, a school that 'is whatever you want it to be,'" begins the two-page profile of UM in The Princeton Review's current edition of "The Best 361 Colleges."

Only about 15 percent of the four-year colleges in the nation and two Canadian colleges are included in the 2007 edition of the book, published this month. Two Montana schools made the list, UM and Montana Tech of UM.

"We chose schools for this book primarily for their outstanding academics," said Robert Franek, publisher and editorial

director at The Princeton Review and author of the book. "We evaluated them based on institutional data we collect about the schools, feedback from students attending them and our visits to schools over the years."

In addition to outstanding academics, important criteria considered for inclusion in "The Best 361 Colleges" are location, cost, size and campus culture. The book, first published in 1992, provides quality of life, fire safety and academic ratings for each school and student survey-based lists ranking the top 20 colleges in more than 60 categories.

UM also is included in The Princeton Review's lists of "Best Western Colleges," which covers a 15-state region, and "America's Best Value Colleges."

For its record of having excellent service-learning programs and blending academics with community work, the University also is listed in The Princeton Review's "Colleges with a Conscience: 81 Great Schools with Outstanding Community Involvement."

The New York City-based Princeton Review monitors colleges continuously and annually collects data to help students choose the best schools for them. Complete listings are online at <http://www.princetonreview.com>. 📧

Homecoming Around the Corner—UM's 2006 Homecoming Parade will take place Saturday, Oct. 14, and applications for parade entries now are available at two Missoula locations and online. The theme for this year's parade is "I ♥ UM." The parade entry fee is \$25. The application deadline is 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6. Entry forms are online at <http://www.umontanaalumni.org>. The 2006 Homecoming Parade starts at 10 a.m. on the corner of North Higgins Avenue and Pine Street in downtown Missoula. Entrants' official line-up position numbers and line-up locations will be determined by parade coordinators. Line-up time for the parade is 9 a.m. Information about line-up positions and locations will be mailed to entrants the week before the parade. Parade position numbers also will be posted on the UM Alumni Association Web site at <http://www.umontanaalumni.org>. For more Homecoming information, call the Alumni Association at 406-243-5211 or visit <http://www.umt.edu>.



this summer because of the demand for its increasingly popular service, the Fire Intelligence Module. FIM is a trained team that reports to a fire to set up wireless broadband networks connecting far-flung resources and relaying video feeds from cameras placed in remote corners of the wilderness. This summer the group received inquiries from fire managers from California to Minnesota requesting services in their regions, most of which they were unable to provide because of limited manpower and equipment. For the first part of the summer, the module was in Alaska, installing a "quasi-permanent" broadband system that spans 200 miles at Denali National Park. After the Alaska project was completed, Seielstad said people and resources were moved to Challis, Idaho, to serve fires around the middle fork of the Salmon River.

Alumni Adds Associate Director—Susan Cuff, a UM alumna with more than 20 years experience in public relations, marketing



Cuff

and communication, began her duties as associate director of the UM Alumni Association in August. Cuff received a bachelor's degree in journalism from UM in 1981. She came to the Alumni Association from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where she served as public information officer for the Panhandle Health District. Cuff has a long history with the University. Her father, John Wailes, taught pharmacy courses at UM from 1954 to 1985. The family endowed a memorial scholarship fund in his name in 1998.

Less Waiting for Checks—For the first time in the history of UM, student employees will receive paychecks twice a month beginning this fall. Instead of being paid on the first of the month, checks will now be issued on the first and 15th, something students have long lobbied for. There are roughly 2,500 student employees at UM, all of whom will now be able to collect paychecks every two weeks. Students are encouraged to sign up for direct deposit, which will speed paychecks to their bank accounts. The catalyst for the new twice-a-month cycle was new computer equipment installed at Human Resource Services over the summer. The improved system can handle a higher processing load and allow for the more frequent paychecks.

Helping Firefighters Communicate—The National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis at UM has had its hands full

Faces of Griz Fandom—Move over "Survivor" and "American Idol." UM recently held a homegrown casting call for its most die-hard Griz fans. More than 50 people showed up at Liquid Planet in downtown Missoula to audition for a commercial, many dressed in outlandish Griz gear. UM wanted fans of all ages, shapes and sizes. The spot will be part of a nine-commercial series in UM's new marketing campaign, and the first spot was shot the week of Sept. 5.



One of the fans

Train Tour—On a train provided by Montana Rail Link, UM administrators, faculty and students embarked on a three-city whistle-stop tour of Montana this month. Receptions were held at train depots in Helena, Livingston and Billings for prospective students and alumni in the evening while faculty members taught in local high schools by day. The Silver Cloud Tour (named for the train) aimed to recruit students and promote UM's MPACT (Montana Partnering for Affordable College Tuition) program, which allows in-state high school graduates from median-to low-income families to attend UM with institutional and federal assistance while incurring little debt load.

Grant for Scientific Ethics—UM's Center for Ethics has been awarded a three-year \$270,000 grant to help graduate research scientists participate more actively and effectively in public debates about science and emerging technologies. The National Science Foundation grant will fund a program titled "Debating Science: A New Model for Ethics Education for Science and Engineering Students." The grant will bring 36 graduate students selected from universities and colleges nationwide to UM next summer. 🐻



Traffic-enforcement officer Audrey Kramer-Jorgensen looks for illegally parked vehicles on her new Segway, which costs about \$5,000 and gets the equivalent of 400 miles per gallon.

Rowing Club — continued

college, nor do they have to. And McKusick said experience with the sport is not necessary.

"Most college crew teams have people who have never been in a boat," he said. "The overwhelming majority of the team has no experience."

While the club is not yet scheduled to participate in any regattas, McKusick said the goal is for them to compete around the region this fall or after breakup in spring at the very latest.

"A long-term goal is to get a regatta at Salmon Lake," he said. "Part of the reason for the loan from Gonzaga was that they were looking for some competition."

Students interested in joining the UM Rowing Club can contact the Davidson Honors College at 406-243-2541 to set up an appointment with McKusick to get involved. 🐾



Rowing Club members get ready for their first on-water practice at Salmon Lake.

UM Author — continued

few years, Kantner said a creative writing professor told him about UM.

"About the only thing I learned in the first two years of college and the only thing I remembered was the word 'Missoula,'" he said.

Kantner said he came to UM intending to pursue creative writing, but one day he walked across a courtyard to use a copy machine in the Journalism Building and got hooked.

"They just made you work and they taught you the importance of every word being useful or not being there," he said.

Useful advice as he constantly reworked and revised his book and searched for a publisher.

Kantner, who professes to be "fiercely, loyally unemployed," still lives in northwest Alaska where he fishes, hunts, traps and now, for a change, is being asked to write essays and columns and fly to the mainland United States to speak.

"It's kind of a strange thing to go from being a professional bum to making book

tours all over the Lower 48," he said. "I've gone through a metamorphosis here: I'll probably go back through it to walking along the beach looking for scraps."

Kantner said that the success of his debut book has made him nervous for a sophomore effort, though he is working on another novel.

"It took me 12 years to write this one, and I thought it was the biggest piece of boring junk ever compiled," he said.

Kantner has struggled with dyslexia his whole life, and writing, no matter the length of the piece, has always been a challenge, he said.

"I can't spell: letters just pop around on the page."

"Ordinary Wolves" had been in the works for nine years before Kantner found Milkweed, a nonprofit publishing house in Minnesota. Once accepted, Kantner said the editing process went on for three long years with Milkweed.

"About the hardest thing I know how to do is write a sentence."

Many of Kantner's hard-come-by sentences underwent the humbling and

occasionally brutal editing process with the publisher.

"One of my characters was dead for eight years and I brought her back to life," he said. "I had a strong case of 'not wanting to make characters,' so I just kill them off."

Kantner said his worst experience with editors was with a friend who wanted to have a look at the story and give some input.

"You give it over and you're all naked and expectant," he said. "After a year he sent it back with a scrap of paper that said, 'If there's a story here, I can't find it.'"

But plenty of people around the country, and perhaps more importantly, around Kantner's "country," found the story and liked what they saw.

Kantner said an old Inupiaq man came up to him shortly after the book's publication and paid him a short but weighty compliment in the terse, brief manner of his people, whose version of English often confuses b's and p's.

"Good pook," he told Kantner. "Real good pook." 🐾

Concert—Sept. 21. Guy Clark, legendary Texas singer, songwriter, 8 p.m. University Theatre, \$22/advance; \$24/day of show. Tickets: All GrizTix Outlets, <http://www.griztix.com>, 888-666-8262.

American Indian Heritage Day—Sept. 22, 7 a.m. Sunrise Ceremony. Meet at the M Trail. Information: 406-243-6352, patrik.weaselhead@mso.umt.edu.

Blue Mountain Observatory Open House—Sept. 22, all ages are welcome.

UM Events

Bring a warm coat and a small flashlight. Call Diane Friend, 406-243-4299, for weather and cancellation updates. Directions to the observatory are at <http://www.physics.umt.edu/BlueMountain>.

Football—Sept. 23. UM vs. Sacramento State, 1:05 p.m., Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Play—Sept. 26-30. "Still Life with Iris," 7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, Montana Theatre, PAR/TV Center. Matinee performances at 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. \$15 general; \$12 students and seniors; \$5 children 12 and under. Information: 406-243-4581.

Board of Regents—Sept. 27-29. Montana Tech, Butte. Schedule at <http://www.montana.edu/www/bor/dateinfo.html>. 🐾



The University of
Montana

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. Brenda Day, Rita Munzenrider, Patia Stephens and Alex Strickland are contributing editors and writers. Todd Goodrich is the primary photographer. The newsletter is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/urelations/mainhall>.