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# Main Hall to Main Street

Connecting Campus and Community

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## Griz player gives kids a lift

A trip to the local Wal-Mart one day became life-changing for one University of Montana Griz football quarterback.

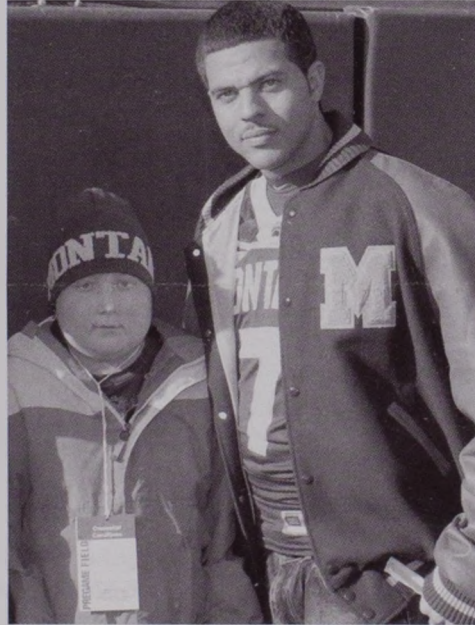
In September while shopping at the store, Jason Washington, a red-shirt Griz quarterback and junior in business administration and sociology, was approached by a family who recognized him. The family, all huge Griz fans, had a daughter with a terminal illness.

"Seeing this family and what they deal with reminded me of my trips to the hospital to see my cousin," Washington said. His 5-year-old cousin, Kian Jordan Rose, has had Hurler Syndrome, an uncommon terminal enzyme disease, since he was only 15 months old.

After talking with the family for more than half an hour, Washington said he realized he wanted to do something to help.

The result is a season-long effort by Washington to bring families with terminally ill children to Griz games at Washington-Grizzly Stadium. Sidelined by an injury and looking for a way to better Griz football and its players' images, Washington thought this season would be the ideal time for him to start the program.

One family is invited each weekend there is a home game and not only does Washington donate his player's seats to the family, but they also get the opportunity to be on the field before the game to meet the players, thanks to field



**Red-shirt QB Jason Washington has brought more than eight families on the field at Griz games this year.**

passes donated by the University. Along with the game experience, the family is given a gift bag donated by the President's Office.

"When you see the smile on a child's face and realize it's the biggest thing in a kid's life (to meet you), and you hear they haven't smiled in six months or something but they smiled when we came running out of the tunnel (at a Griz game), it means so much and really humbles — Continued back page

## Safe Schools Center established at UM

The Montana Board of Regents has approved establishment of the Montana Safe Schools Center at UM.

Located in the School of Education's Division of Educational Research and Service, the center continues the work of longstanding school and community safety projects and helps to fulfill the outreach initiatives of UM's education school.

"This is a thrilling development," said Roberta Evans, interim dean of the School of Education. "DERS has a long and highly successful track record of working on critical safety and child-wellness issues in schools all across Montana. Establishing this new center is an excellent step for UM, as well as for Montana's children."

DERS collaboration on safety projects at the national level and innovative work with Montana's schools earned them an invitation last year from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools to join a group of national-level school safety centers.

In addition to providing the DOE with information about state activities, these centers also help influence national education policies such as No Child Left Behind. That act is slated for reauthorization next year, and one of the components — Continued back page

## Fulbright professor studying rural media at UM

UM has been selected to host Fulbright Visiting Scholar Kubanychbek Taabaldiev, who has headed the national news agency, Kabar, in Kyrgyzstan since 1998.

Taabaldiev is in the United States to do research to help create avenues for transition from state-controlled to independent media in his country, one of many in Central Asia aiming to develop a democratic state with free mass media.

He will work with Associate Professor

Ray Ekness, chair of UM's Department of Radio-Television in the School of Journalism.

Taabaldiev's research will focus on media in rural areas. Kyrgyzstan has many geographical characteristics in common with Montana, and its economy is largely agricultural. More than 65 percent of the country's people live in rural areas. Of the more than 1,000 mass-media outlets registered with the Kyrgyzstan Ministry of Justice, 80 percent are in rural areas.

While at UM, Taabaldiev will study media in Montana to help journalists in his country apply advanced techniques to improve information delivery to rural populations. He plans to help his country's journalists maintain regular contact with mass media representatives from other nations and to develop and provide short-term training and seminars.

Taabaldiev is one of about 800 outstanding foreign faculty — Continued back page

# Assistant AD tells his story of Afghanistan so far

UM's assistant athletic director of fiscal operations has a lot of plans to make.

But his planning sessions these days have nothing to do with scholarship distribution or budgetary concerns. Instead, Maj. Ed Wingard must make decisions about how to rebuild the nation of Afghanistan.

Wingard, who has served in Afghanistan with the Army National Guard since February 2005, gave a short presentation to UM staff and administrators Dec. 4, during a 15-day leave to the States.

Wingard came to UM after working at Portland State University and was here little more than a year before shipping out.

He is part of Task Force Phoenix, an inter-service group that focuses on rebuilding and promoting education systems in the war-torn country.

"Girls can go to school now," Wingard said. "Boys can learn on computers."

In a country where the Taliban ruled with harsh oppression and where the average lifespan is still only 43 years, Wingard said international forces there are making a real and important difference.



Maj Ed Wingard delivers a presentation on his experience as a soldier in Afghanistan.

"It's the right fight," he said. "You don't often get to go around the world and make an impact like that."

But in a country that endured Soviet occupation before the Taliban regime, challenges are everywhere, from landmine-littered roads to the booming opium industry and accompanying corruption.

In fact, it is the corruption and opium production that proves to be one of the most difficult things for the Task Force.

"Why opium?" he asks. "Other crops require hope."

"It would take five years to get another crop growing, opium grows in one," he said.

Photographs Wingard took in Afghanistan showed a mountainous, often-desolate country with a vibrant and colorful culture.

He included photos of his home away from home, half of a steel shipping container measuring 7 x 8 feet in Camp Phoenix in Kabul.

Wingard's stay in Missoula ended the day before the Griz met the University of Massachusetts in a semifinal football game, so he said he would be doing what any true Griz fan might do: praying his flight will be delayed.

"I'll be doing a fog dance," he said. ☺

## Journalism school grad interns at the 'Today' show

Showing artists like The Black Eyed Peas, Janet Jackson and Nelly to their dressing rooms doesn't sound like a bad gig. Neither does rubbing elbows with Matt Lauer and Meredith Vieira on the "Today" show. One recent broadcast journalism graduate had the summer of her life when she got to do just that—assist with the show's Concert Series as part of her internship.

Chelsea Rabideau, a recent UM graduate who was raised in Billings, received her internship with the "Today" show shortly after making her stroll down the graduation aisle. Even though Rabideau walked, she still had one class to finish before she would receive her diploma – her internship.

After sending an application out on a whim, and subsequently being interviewed by the "Today" show, Rabideau was hired as one of 11 interns.

Rabideau made the move to New York City in September and worked at the "Today" show through the end of October. While there, she lived with another journalism school graduate who had an apartment in Astoria, Queens. Although she was not paid, she did receive college credit for her work, as well as a subway card reimbursement.

As an intern, Rabideau's duties included everything from

answering viewer calls to her favorite job—working the Concert Series. "It was fun because we could be down there in the midst of the show," she said.

Toward the end of her internship, Rabideau was given the opportunity to become more hands-on in the show's editing by logging tapes, assisting on shoots and dubbing (or making copies) of tapes. One of her dubbed copies even went to Madonna.

Rabideau felt she was selected for her internship for two reasons. "A little of it was being from Montana and a lot of it was from the extensive amount of experience I've had in the broadcast program. I feel like through my experience here at the University, I was better prepared than most other interns," she said.

Since coming back to Montana at the beginning of November, Rabideau has started working as a weekend reporter for KECI-TV in Missoula. Even though she adored her internship, Rabideau said

she isn't ready for the New York City lifestyle just yet.

"All of the other interns wanted to get into NBC/Universal's page program and give guided tours. I wanted to come back to Montana, where I already loved the lifestyle. I want to get into it (the industry) step-by-step," she said. ☺

—Brianna Burrowes



**Moot Record**—For an unprecedented ninth consecutive year, a moot court team will represent the UM School of Law in national competition. The National Moot Court Competition, sponsored since 1950 by the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and the American College of Trial Lawyers, will be held in New York City in January. Howell said the law school's nine-year streak of making it to the national finals of the competition is by far the longest in the nation. At the regional competitions, UM teams have finished first five times and second four times. The University most recently won the national championship in 2000. Each year more than 1,000 students from 150 accredited law schools compete in 14 regions throughout the nation. The top two teams from each region advance to the national finals.

**Negotiating Nationals**—UM law students advanced to the final round in the American Bar Association Negotiation Team Region 10 competition for the fourth time in as many years and once again are headed to the national finals. Second-year law students Stephen Adamson of Manakin, Va., and Tara Keller of Sturgis, S.D., topped 20 teams from throughout the Northwest and Canada to win the regional competition held Nov. 4-5 at the University of Missouri in Columbia. The two overcame last year's national competition winner, Seattle University, to take the final round of regionals. The focus of the competition this year was energy and natural resources. UM teams represented a small municipality in discussions with a wind-energy developer. In the final round, Adamson and Keller were assigned the opposing side. Increasingly complex contractual disputes were added to each successive round of the competition. "Tara and Stephen were just terrific," said Klaus Sitte, who coaches UM's ABA negotiation team. "That momentum carried them through the next day, when fatigue and energy could have drained them." The competition will be held in Miami in February.

**Speech Success**—UM students brought home multiple awards from the 36th Annual Trapper Rendezvous Forensics Tournament held in Powell, Wyo., Nov. 10-11. The annual tournament hosts speech and debate teams from colleges and universities throughout the Rocky Mountain West. Svein Newman of Billings and Jessica Reynolds of Helena took second place in the tournament's Open Division competition. Reynolds also received the Open Division third-place speaking award. Third place in the Open Division went to Sarah Clawson of Seattle and Jennifer Hudson of Helena. In individual speech events, Reid Reimers of Missoula advanced to the finals. He placed sixth in Impromptu Speaking, fifth in Prose Interpretation and fourth in Poetry Interpretation. The Forensics Team is sponsored by UM's Department of Communication Studies, Davidson Honors College, Office of Student Affairs and Associated Students of UM. It also is supported by generous donations from University alumni. For more information, go online to <http://www.umt.edu/dcs/forensics>.

**Professor Appointed**—UM Assistant Professor Denise Dowling has been named to the Radio and Television News Directors Association board of directors. She was selected to serve a one-year term on the national board by the Association for

Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's Radio-Television Journalism Division. Dowling joined UM's radio-television department in 2000 after a 20-year career in broadcast journalism. During her term on the board, she will represent broadcast journalism educators to help bridge the gap between the academy and the broadcast news profession. She will connect educators with professionals on subjects ranging from technology and teaching to journalism ethics. Dowling also will work with news directors from around the country to produce panels for educators and professionals at the association's national convention.

**Class Schedules**—Wintersession classes will begin Tuesday, Jan. 2, and run until Friday, Jan. 19. Spring semester classes begin Monday, Jan. 22.



**Service Opportunity**—The Montana Campus Compact is now accepting applications for the January 2007 term of service in the AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America program. The program offers recent college graduates and others who are seeking fulfilling work the opportunity to serve for one year in communities throughout Montana. Volunteers receive a modest living stipend, health insurance and the option of receiving an education award or cash stipend at the end of a term of service. MTCC VISTA members serve from college campuses and nonprofits

across Montana working to build community partnerships that address critical needs in the areas of school performance, housing, hunger and disaster preparedness. To apply for an AmeriCorps VISTA program, go online to <https://recruit.cns.gov>. MTCC, based at UM, is a coalition of state college and university presidents, chancellors and deans committed to the civic purposes of higher education.

**Campus Closures**—Campus will be closed Monday, Dec. 25, for Christmas and Monday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day. Campus also will be closed Monday, Jan. 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**Blanket Benefit**—Opportunity Ranch is selling Griz and Lady Griz wool blankets with proceeds benefiting a scholarship for UM students with disabilities. Disability Services for Students is UM's student affairs office that assures program access for University students with disabilities. Currently 900 students (roughly 6.5 percent of the student population) are served by this office. Opportunity Ranch is a division of Opportunity Resources, Inc., which serves 350 individuals with disabilities on a daily basis. The blankets are woven by Faribault Woolen Mills in Minnesota. Griz and Lady Griz blankets are available at the ORI Office at 2821 S. Russell St., Missoula (across from the YMCA) or by calling 406-329-1709. The blankets are 50 x 70 and cost \$99.

**Greek Growth**—The Greek Task Force is in the midst of its plans to cause a groundswell of new involvement in the Greek system, with a goal of 1,000 participants in the next few years. The task force, composed of UM Greek Alumni, plans to launch a press campaign to drum up interest in Greek Life and meet with Greek and UM officials to make going Greek a more viable and attractive option to students. 🐻

## Griz Kids — continued

you,” Washington said. “I want to make them feel like kids for one day and bring them out of the hospital.”

After the injury sidelined Washington in the third quarter of the fourth Griz game last year against Weber State, perhaps Washington himself also wanted to be on the field and off the hospital bed. He suffered a third-degree shoulder separation, which required surgery in June.

“This injury really humbles you and makes you think about others,” he said.

Washington has brought more than eight

families to home Griz games this fall with the help of the Montana Hope Project and Christie Anderson, director of marketing in Grizzly Athletics.

Washington intends to make this project a tradition for a Griz red-shirt quarterback each year. And Washington, who grew up in Oakland, Calif., and is the nephew of Gene Washington, director of NFL operations, said he definitely wants to be involved in the program again in some capacity, even when he is back on the playing field.

“It (the project) made me value the gift that God gives you every day, just to wake up,” he said. 🐾

—Brianna Burrowes

## Fulbright Professor — continued

and professionals the Fulbright Scholar Program will bring to the United States during the 2006-07 academic year. He currently teaches international journalism courses and techniques of news writing at Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan’s capital.

The Fulbright Program, which operates in more than 150 countries worldwide, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and administered by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement as well as demonstrated leadership potential. 🐾

## Safe School Center — continued

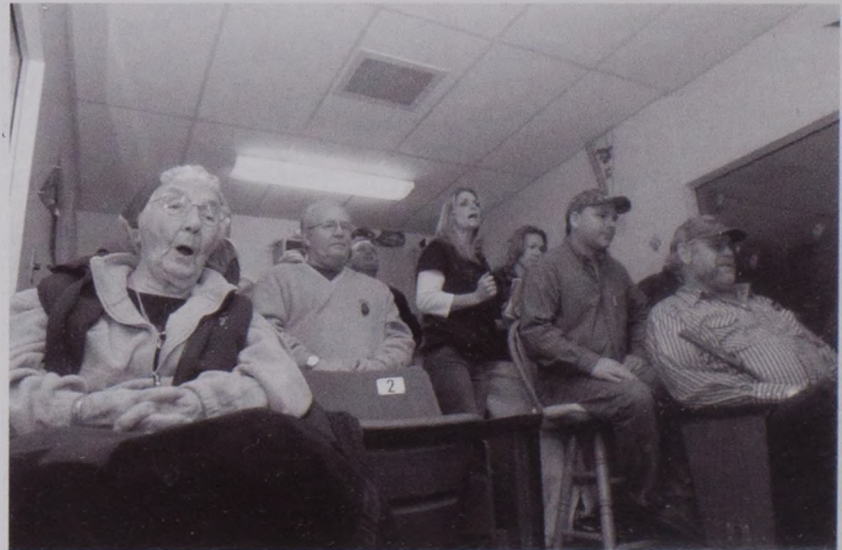
being discussed by these centers are definitions of what constitutes a safe school.

Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction Linda McCullough endorsed the inclusion of DERS into this group last November. The DERS team then waited until the Board of Regents approved the center in September 2006. Two weeks ago MSSC staff attended their first official meeting with the Department of Education.

Rick van den Pol, the director of DERS and MSSC, is pleased to be a part of this elite group of centers and says that school safety is once again at the top of many school administrators’ concerns.

“Recent school shootings and hostage situations, particularly in rural schools, bring back memories of Columbine,” van den Pol said. “While schools are still the safest places for young people, these events remind us that we must be vigilant and have effective plans in place to deal with emergencies.” 🐾

## Fans of all ages



Emma Kuhl, 99, (left) watches the Griz face off against the University of Massachusetts in a semifinal game Friday, Dec. 8. It was her first game at Washington-Grizzly Stadium, which she watched from a skybox leased by Jim Caras. The Griz fell 19-17 to the Minutemen in the first-ever Friday-night game at the stadium.

**Basketball—Dec. 28-Dec. 29,** 27th annual Lady Griz Holiday Classic, games at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. daily. Championship game 7:30 p.m. Dec. 29. More information at <http://www.montanagrizzlies.com>.

**Arts—Dec. 31.** First Night: A New Year’s Eve Celebration of the Arts. UM events begin at 2 p.m. around campus. Complete schedule at <http://www.firstnightmissoula.org>.

## UM Events

**Lecture—Jan. 11.** “Botanical and Ecological Features of the Carlton Ridge Research Natural Area,” 7:30 p.m., Gallagher Business Building Room L09, presented by retired Forest Service ecologists Clint Carlson and Steve Arno.

**Basketball—Jan. 13,** UM vs. Montana State, 7 p.m., Dahlberg Arena.

**Board of Regents—Jan. 18-19,** UM Helena COT. For more information visit <http://www.bormontana.edu>.

**Orchestra—Jan. 20,** String Orchestra of the Rockies Competition, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Music Recital Hall.

**Play—Jan 23-26,** “Lost in Yonkers,” 7:30 p.m. nightly, Montana Theatre, PAR/TV Center. Tickets \$15 general, \$12 students and seniors, \$5 children 12 and under. 🐾



The University of  
**Montana**

Main Hall to Main Street is published by University Relations at The University of Montana. Send questions or suggestions to Alex Strickland, editor, Brantly Hall 330, Missoula, MT 59812, or call 406-243-4878. Brianna Burrowes, Brenda Day, Rita Munzenrider, Patia Stephens and Cary Shimek are contributing editors and writers.

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