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Visiting prof heads back to newspapers, Europe

U.S. foreign relations, Kaimin, focus of tenure

It seemed like any other late-night smoke, but as Visiting Professor Henriette Lowisch sat on the front porch of her Lower-Rattlesnake home and watched a black bear amble through her neighbor's garden, she knew she wasn't in the big city anymore.

Montana is just another stop in the frenzied, nomadic life of the German journalist who has lived extensively on both sides of the Atlantic.

The Berlin editor for the world's international wire service — Agence France-Presse — Lowisch splits her time between the German capital and Washington, D.C., where she has reported on American government, the European Union and NATO.

Lowisch came to UM to teach in the School of Journalism as the 2006 T. Anthony Pollner Distinguished Professor, a professorship created in honor of a deceased journalism student that



Lowisch

brings world-class media professionals to the school for one semester each year.

Though no stranger to America, or to being in front of a class, UM provided Lowisch with her first chance to teach in the American style.

"Teaching in Europe has more of a workshop character," she said. "There are lots of professionals and continuing education classes."

But here Lowisch taught a class of primarily journalism seniors about foreign corresponding and acted as an adviser to the Montana Kaimin, a duty stipulated by the Pollner family in honor of their son's love for the student paper.

As an outsider coming in to advise a group of student journalists running an independent paper, Lowisch said she wasn't sure what to expect when she walked in to the ramshackle office, but it all came together on election night in the

wee hours of the morning.

"For the last 10 years I have, in some capacity, covered the U.S. general elections, and for the first time I didn't have a job," she said.

But to a group of college kids who had never covered such an event before, she could provide direction and advice as the night wore on with many races still not decided.

"It was the perfect fusion of what I could give them and what they have," she said.

While here, Lowisch spoke on the relationship between the United States and the rest of the world and said she was surprised at the variety of feedback she received.

"People responded well," she said. "Because someone came who was willing to talk about the relationship with respect."

But something that struck Lowisch as odd was the perception of Americans that Europeans have new ideas and some of the answers.

"The United States is the producer of ideas," she said. "The U.S. is still the steamroller for modernity." 🐾

Asia, Montana ties topic of upcoming economic seminar series

"Rising Asia: Becoming Closer Neighbors" is the theme of the 32nd Annual First Interstate Bank Economic Outlook Seminar to be held across Montana.

The series is co-sponsored by The UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research and First Interstate Bank.

Phil West, UM Mansfield Professor of Modern Asian Affairs, will expand on the ties Mike Mansfield established between Montana and Asia by discussing economic development and opportunities for trade throughout Asia.

As in past years, BBER Director Paul Polzin will highlight the latest economic trends and explain what they mean for Montanans. He also will present an economic forecast for each seminar city.

"In order to understand Montana's

recent economic prosperity, we must understand Asia and the causes for their economic growth," Polzin said. "This year's seminar identifies the links between world and local economies and how they influence Montanans."

Experts from BBER, Montana State University and UM's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research also will look at the state's forest products industry, manufacturing, agriculture, health care, and travel and tourism.

Registration is \$80 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 at <http://www.bber.umt.edu>. 🐾

All seminars start at 8 a.m. and end after the luncheon at about 1 p.m. Following is the schedule for Montana cities:

Helena—Jan. 23, Great Northern Hotel

Great Falls—Jan. 24, Hampton Inn

Missoula—Jan. 26, Hilton Garden Inn

Billings—Jan. 30, Crown Plaza Hotel

Bozeman—Jan. 31, Best Western GranTree

Butte—Feb. 1, Copper King

Kalispell—Feb. 6, Red Lion Hotel

Sidney—March 6, USDA Agricultural Research Center

Miles City—March 7, Miles Community College 🐾

Lab Learnin'—Western Montana is the state's biotechnology and medical science corridor, and numerous companies and government agencies are looking for job applicants who possess basic laboratory skills and knowledge. In response to this need, The UM College of Technology has created two courses that can lead to certificates of completion for laboratory workers. Laboratory Technician I is a two-credit, 14-week evening course. Students finishing that can take a second, seven-week course that leads to a Laboratory Technician II Certificate of Completion, which also offers two college credits. Students obtaining a Laboratory Technician I Certificate of Completion will have knowledge to qualify for entry-level laboratory and manufacturing positions. Students with a Level II Certificate will have sufficient basic training for laboratory assistant jobs in research, clinical and industrial employment sectors. The spring 2007 course gets under way Jan. 24.

Adoption Accolades—Each year, the UM Office for Civic Engagement partners with the Salvation Army's Adopt-a-Family program to help serve local families in need during the holiday season. The Salvation Army documents the needs of families and looks for community assistance to meet those needs. UM's OCE then matches those families with UM departments and community members willing to buy and donate the needed items. OCE reports that this year the program met with unprecedented success. The office placed 40 families with UM and community sponsors, who donated everything from food and clothing to household items and children's holiday gifts.

Business Book—UM communications Professor Emeritus William Wilmot does not believe that innovation begins with a lone genius who comes up with a great idea. He and Curtis Carlson, president and CEO of SRI International, believe that innovation is a collaborative process. Their book outlining that process — "Innovation: The Five Disciplines for Creating What Customers Want" — was chosen by Business Week reviewers as one of the top 10 business books of 2006. The book was published in August by Crown Publishing Group. SRI International is the company that pioneered the computer mouse, speech-recognition systems and many other successful innovations such as hypertext, robotic surgery and high-definition television. Wilmot is director of the Collaboration

Institute, which offers workshops that use the book's five disciplines to help participants shape innovation plans to fit their needs. Information about the book and the workshops is available at <http://www.collaborationinstitute.com>.

Prof Props—UM psychology Professor Tom Seekins received the 2006 Alan Meyers Award from the Disability Forum of the American Public Health Association at the association's annual meeting in Boston. The award goes to individuals who combine excellence across the areas of research, teaching and advocacy to improve the health and quality of life for people with disabilities. Seekins is director of the Research and Training Center on Rural Rehabilitation at UM's Rural Institute. In 1988, with colleagues at UM and at the University of Kansas, Seekins began work on an approach now called community-based participatory research. The approach involves people with disabilities and service providers in all phases of designing and conducting research.

Social Security—Marsha Katz, project director at UM's Rural Institute, has been appointed to the Social Security Advisory Board by the U.S. Senate. The independent, bipartisan board was created by Congress to advise the president, Congress and the commissioner of Social Security on matters related to the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income programs. Sen. Max Baucus, incoming chair of the Senate Finance Committee, recommended Katz for the position. Katz has worked as an advocate for people with disabilities for more than 25 years. She came to UM's Rural Institute in 1999, after serving as vice president of the Association for Community Advocacy in Ann Arbor, Mich. She is an experienced trainer in all aspects of the SSI and Social Security Disability Insurance programs.

Charitable Giving—UM faculty and staff reached deeper into their pockets than ever before for this year's Charitable Giving Campaign, raising more than \$113,000. This year 689 people participated in the drive, helping exceed the \$110,000 goal set by the campus campaign's executive committee. Donors can specify which of the 11 eligible organizations their donations benefit, ranging from the Missoula County United Way to Five Valleys Land Trust to the Western Montana Humane Society and Habitat for Humanity. 🐻



Arts—Jan. 26-March 3, "40 Years of Campus Art Awards." Montana Museum of Art & Culture, Paxson Gallery, features student works from the museum's Permanent Collection acquired from 1966 through 2006. Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 4-8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Lecture—Jan. 31, "How Much Difference Did the Voting Rights Act Make?" 7:30 p.m., Gallagher Business

UM Events

Building Room 123. Professor Steven Lawson, Rutgers University. Free and open to the public.

Meeting—Feb. 5, South Campus Master Plan Committee Meeting, 3-5 p.m., Lewis and Clark Community Center. Meeting to explore options for UM's land along Higgins Street and

South Avenue.

Symphony—Feb. 10, Missoula Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., University Theatre. Tickets and information: 406-721-3194.

Lecture—Jan. 29, "The Impact of British Abolitionism." 3:10-4:30 p.m., Gallagher Business Building Room 123, David Brion Davis, Sterling Professor of History Emeritus, Yale University. Free and open to the public. 🐻



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 323, Missoula, MT 59812, or call 406-243-4878. Brianne Burrowes, Brenda Day, Rita Munzenrider, Patia Stephens and Cary Shimek are contributing editors and writers.

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