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Favorite teachers take stage for 'Odyssey'

Richly talented in their art as well as in the art of teaching, University of Montana alumnae Esther England '66, M.A.'74, and Margaret Johnson, M.A.'71, first appeared together on the UM stage 41 years ago in a production of "Night of the Iguana." They will appear together again on Saturday, April 14, when they are the honorees of UM's School of Fine Arts seventh annual "Odyssey of the Stars—A Celebration of Artistic Journeys."

An event that benefits the School of Fine Arts scholarship fund, "Odyssey of the Stars" showcases performing and visual arts alumni who have gone on to successful careers in the arts, in concert with current UM students. Former students of the two teachers will gather on the University Theatre stage to perform and celebrate their careers.

England, a mezzo soprano, Fulbright Scholar, UM professor emerita of music and former associate dean of the School of Fine Arts, taught voice at UM for 36 years. Before her teaching career she spent several years studying and performing solo roles in opera and oratorio in Germany and France. England



Margaret Johnson & Esther England

founded and for 13 years directed the Western Montana Community Opera Workshop. In addition to her work with the Department of Music, she has served

as musical director for both the UM Department of Drama/Dance and Missoula Children's Theatre musical productions. A number of her voice students have gone on to major careers in musical theatre and opera, both in the United States and in Europe.

Johnson, an educator and actress, spent 37 years teaching drama and English at Missoula's Sentinel High School. During her teaching career she directed more than 190 productions. Johnson served as the state director of the International Thespian Society from 1970 to 1993. Performing since she was 14 years old, her favorite roles have included Betty in "The Foreigner" and Mother Superior in "Nonsense."

Johnson was last seen on stage in the Missoula Children's Theatre production of "My Fair Lady." When she retired from teaching in 2001, Sentinel High School honored her years of service and dedication to teaching by naming the school's theater the Margaret Johnson Theater. 🐾

University strikes gold in two competitions

UM's new television commercials have struck gold in two competitions, one regional and one national.

The marketing campaign developed by UM Executive Vice President Jim Foley to promote the University and boost enrollment received a Gold award and was chosen as one of 16 Best of Shows in the Admissions Marketing Report Advertising Awards Competition. It also garnered a Grand Gold award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District VIII Communications Awards Competition. Winners of the Grand Gold are eligible for the highest award bestowed by CASE — the Virginia Carter Smith Grand Crystal Award, to be selected during District VIII's annual conference in late February in Boise, Idaho.

The Silver Cloud Tour, a train tour that carried UM administrators, faculty and students to Helena, Billings and Livingston to meet with prospective high school students and teachers, also received a Gold award in the AMR competition.

University Relations' publications were not far behind, with Director Rita Munzenrider winning a CASE Gold award and a Silver award in the AMR competition for the 2005 President's Annual Report, "A Legacy of Giving." The annual

report highlighted the ways in which private giving over the years has strengthened the University's programs and provided opportunities for faculty and students. The report was produced by the University Relations team of Munzenrider; Todd Goodrich, photographer; Patia Stephens, Web content manager and news editor; and Cary Shimek, senior news editor. It was designed by Neal Wiegert of UM Printing & Graphics.

Two University Relations editors won CASE Golds for feature stories in University Relations publications. Stephens won a Gold for her feature "When Speech Wasn't Free" that appeared in the fall 2006 Montanan. She wrote of how UM professors and students embarked on a mission to find the living relatives of Montanans who were imprisoned for sedition during World War I. The students and professors were able to locate many of the descendants and led an effort that resulted in Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer's pardons of those convicted of sedition.

Cary Shimek won for his feature "Ranching Human Lice," which appeared in the spring 2006 issue of Research View. Shimek painted a vivid portrait of the work of UM researchers who study body lice and the pathogens they carry — notably trench fever.

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Making connections with tribal colleges

UM President George Dennison, along with other University administrators and faculty, is visiting all the tribal colleges in Montana this year to establish working relationships with college administrators, determine needs of the colleges and learn where joint projects are possible.

To date, the UM ambassadors have visited Blackfeet Community College, Chief Dull Knife Memorial College, Little Big Horn College, Fort Peck Community College, and Salish Kootenai College.

Dennison plans to visit Stone Child College and Fort Belknap College before the end of the academic year.

Those who have accompanied the president include Gerald Fetz, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; James McKusick, dean of the Davidson Honors

College; Bonnie Allen, dean of the Mansfield Library; David Beck, interim Native American Studies chair; Linda Juneau, Native American liaison; and Jim

have sought to identify transfer obstacles.

"An issue discussed by the tribal college leaders has to do with the problems students face because of 'culture shock,'"

Dennison said. He said UM initiated a special Native American Orientation Session during the summer to deal with this challenge; about 150 Native American students attended the session last summer.

There also is an orientation for students in April called Transfer Transition that welcomes students interested in transferring.

Dennison noted discussions have centered on how Native speakers of the various languages can help as UM develops language programs to benefit students at the tribal colleges, as well as at UM.

— Continued back page



UM ambassadors and representatives of Blackfoot Community College at the college

Foley, UM executive vice president.

Dennison described the discussions as "very fruitful." He noted that he and other University personnel have discovered problems with dual admissions programs and

UM celebrates 114th birthday with cake and awards

The University of Montana celebrated its 114th birthday on Feb. 15 with Charter Day events and the bestowing of awards. Charter Day is held each February to commemorate the 1893 founding of the University.

Andrea Helling, president of the Associated Students of UM, spoke at a noon event kicking off the celebration in the University Center Atrium.

Charter Day award winners were honored at an evening ceremony and reception in the UC Ballroom.

This year's award recipients are: David Sherman, associate

professor, UM Department of Philosophy, the Dennison Faculty Award; Karen "Kelly" Chadwick, gardener, the Dennison Staff Award; Kevin Flynn, a UM senior majoring in Native American studies from Hinsdale, Ill., the ASUM Student Service Award; Harry Fritz, chair of the UM Department of History, the Robert T. Pantzer Award; Charlie Oliver of Hamilton, the Neil S. Bucklew Presidential Service Award; James Hirstein, research professor, UM Department of Mathematics, the Montana Faculty Service Award; and Sharon Palmer, Realtor, Lambros Real Estate, the Montana Alumni Award. 🐾

On your mark for Easter Eggstravaganza

On your mark, get set — the seventh annual Missoula Easter Eggstravaganza is Saturday, April 7, on the UM Oval.

This year's Easter egg hunt will be bigger and better than ever with more than 20,000 prize eggs and 25,000 pieces of candy for local youngsters.

The region's largest egg hunt takes place in the heart of campus, where children scour nearly four acres of lawn for age-appropriate candy and prizes.

Free and open to the public, the hunt features separate sections for the following



age groups: 0-2, 3, 4-5, 6-7 and 8-9 years old.

Parents are allowed to help the infants and toddlers collecting goodies in the 0-2 section only. Kids who find maroon, silver and gold eggs will be rewarded with top prizes.

UM and local high school students who volunteer through the Missoula Flagship Program will help hand out prizes.

The Eggstravaganza is sponsored by Southgate Mall, Community Medical Center, Missoula Federal Credit Union, the New 102.5 Mountain FM, A Carousel for Missoula, and UM's President's Office and University Relations. 🐾

Longfish Exhibit—The Montana Museum of Art & Culture has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts' Access Program to support a traveling exhibition of the works of Native American artist George Longfish. The exhibition, "George Longfish — A Retrospective," honors the artist's leading role in contemporary American Indian art. Throughout his career Longfish, who is Seneca and Tuscarora, has been influential as an artist, educator and curator. He is internationally known for his vivid paintings exploring issues of Native identity and has won awards for his sculptures. The first stop of the national tour will be MMAC's Meloy and Paxson galleries, located in UM's Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center, March 9-April 20. Longfish will serve as artist-in-residence in Missoula April 3-6.

Montana Grants—The Matthew Hansen Endowment at UM grants awards for historical research, creative writing and wilderness studies projects that explore Montana's land and people. Awards usually range from \$400 to \$1,000. The deadline to submit funding proposals for this year is March 1. Awards will be announced in April. The endowment was established in 1984 as a memorial to Matthew Hansen and his ideals. Successful proposals fund projects that encourage mindful stewardship of the land and contribute to the preservation of Montana's heritage. For more information, call 406-243-5361 or visit the Wilderness Institute in University Hall 303.

Faculty Productivity—UM's College of Forestry and Conservation was ranked third among graduate forestry programs, according to a new ranking system that measures faculty productivity. The Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index, an objective assessment backed by State University of New York at Stony Brook and produced by Academic Analytics, measured productivity based on publications, citations and grants on a per capita basis. UM's forestry college placed behind only Yale University, the country's oldest forestry program, and the University of Washington. Assessment results were released in the Jan. 12 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Economy Booming—Montana's economic boom is spreading to all major sectors of the economic base, including manufacturing, nonresident travel, agriculture, mining and the federal government, according to UM economist Paul Polzin. In addition, buoyant conditions in construction and real estate may add a short-term boost in certain parts of the state, said Polzin, director of UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research. "Montana continues to buck national trends when it comes to construction, real estate and house prices," he said. "Despite more than two years of rising interest rates, the state's construction industry remains at record levels. Flathead and Gallatin counties are especially benefiting from vibrant construction activity and expanding real estate employment."

Peace Corps—New figures show UM is sixth in the nation among schools its size for producing Peace Corps volunteers. UM jumped up three places on the 2007 list, which ranks medium-sized colleges and universities with enrollments between 5,001 and 15,000. UM now has 42 alumni serving as Peace Corps volunteers. Last year it had 39. According to the Peace



Corps press office, 692 UM alumni have joined the corps over the years, making Montana the No. 52 all-time producer of volunteers. This year's ranking placed UM ahead of Boston College, the University of Notre Dame and Brown, Harvard, Northwestern and Yale universities. Montana State University-Bozeman landed at No. 19 on the list with 26 volunteers.

Master Plan—A series of committee meetings on the development of a master plan for UM's South Campus is under way at the Lewis and Clark Community Center. Upcoming meetings are scheduled for the following Mondays: March 5 and 19; April 2, 16 and 30; May 14 and 28; and June 11 and 25. All meetings are open to the public. The meetings will explore options for UM's land along Higgins Street and South Avenue. The South Campus Master Plan Committee is made up of UM administrators, students, city officials and representatives from neighborhood councils adjacent to South Campus. For more information, call 406-243-4662 or visit <http://www.umt.edu/southcampus>.

Humanities Award—William Marcus, director of the UM Broadcast Media Center, will receive a Governor's Humanities Award at a March 1 ceremony in Helena. The awards are given by the Montana Committee for the Humanities to honor service to and enhancement of public appreciation for the humanities. Marcus oversees Montana Public Radio and KUFM. Marcus also has been the host of the TV show "Backroads of Montana" since its 1991 premier. "The great thing about the Broadcast Media Center is all the talented people who work for it," he said on receiving the award. Marcus' career began in radio as a production assistant for Montana Public Radio. He was executive producer of a TV documentary about an eastern Montana pioneer, "Evelyn Cameron: Pictures from a Worthy Life," that won a CINE Golden Eagle award last year.

Covering the Legislature—UM students are taking to the airwaves once again to cover the Montana Legislature. A group of UM students covered the last session of the Legislature in 2005, and their newscasts received such positive feedback that UM's Department of Radio-Television decided to send students to Helena once again. This year two seniors in broadcast journalism, both native Montanans, are covering the session. Cortney Fawthrop from Townsend and Autumn Reagor from Great Falls are in charge of interviewing, editing and producing the daily radio series. The broadcasts are sent to more than 50 radio stations statewide.

Public Health—The School of Public and Community Health Sciences now is the official name for the University's programs in public health, which are housed in UM's College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences. A 42-credit master's program in public health—the only one of its kind in Montana—is offered through the school. The master's program focuses on the intersection of rural and global health issues to prepare professionals for public health research and practice in Montana, rural America and developing countries around the world. The school also offers a 12-credit certificate in public health. Distance-learning technology used by the school will allow practitioners throughout Montana to develop new competencies that address growing health problems facing the state, the nation and the world. 🐻

UM Events

Reading—Feb. 25, Pete Jones and Kevin Cauty. Second Wind Reading Series, 7 p.m., Shakespeare & Company, 109 S. 3rd W., Missoula.

Performance—Feb. 27, "Miss Julie," UM Department of Drama/Dance, 7:30 p.m., Masquer Theatre. Performances Feb. 27-March 3 and March 6-10. \$11 general; \$10 students and seniors. Adult language and situations. Information: 406-243-4581.

Book Signing—March 3, UM journalism Adjunct Professor Jeff Hull, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., The Bookstore at UM. Information: Meg Sampson, 406-243-1234 ext. 624, msampson@umtbookstore.com.

Concert—March 4, Werner Cello Quartet, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall. Free and open to the public. Information: UM Department of Music, 406-243-4880, griz.music@umontana.edu.

Faculty Recital—March 6, David Morgenroth, piano, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall. \$6 general, \$4 students and seniors. Information: UM Department of Music, 406-243-4880, griz.music@umontana.edu.

Lecture—March 7, Judy Fox, ceramic figurative sculptor, 4:15 p.m., Social Science Building Room 356. Free and open to the public, but recommended for mature audiences only. Information: UM art Professor Beth Lo, 406-243-5893, elizabeth.lo@umontana.edu.

Film—March 8, "Conviction," 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., University Center Theater. A discussion led by Sister Doris Faber will follow

each screening. Free and open to the public. An event of the Spring 2007 Peace and Justice Film Series. Information: <http://www.peaceandjusticefilms.org>.

Concert—March 9, UM jazz bands, 7:30 p.m., University Theatre. \$6 general; \$3 students and seniors. Information: UM Department of Music, 406-243-4880, griz.music@umontana.edu.

Reading—March 11, Christine Bown and Sandra Alcosser, Second Wind Reading Series, 7 p.m., Shakespeare & Company, 109 S. 3rd W., Missoula.

Concert—March 13, UM Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., University Theatre. \$5 general; \$3 students and seniors. Information: UM Department of Music, 406-243-4880, griz.music@umontana.edu.

Play—March 13, "The Pillowman," Montana Repertory Theatre, 8 p.m., Crystal Theatre, 515 S. Higgins, Missoula. Performances March 13-17 and March 20-24. Information: Lisa Marie Hyslop, 406-243-6809, <http://www.montanarep.org>.

Film—March 15, "Zero Degrees of Separation," 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., University Center Theater. Discussion with director Elle Flanders after each screening. An event of the Spring 2007 Peace and Justice Film Series. Free and open to the public. Information: <http://www.peaceandjusticefilms.org>.

Concert—March 17, Missoula Symphony Orchestra, featuring Adam Flatt, conductor, and Antonio Pompa-Baldi, pianist, 7:30 p.m., University Theatre. Performance also March 18, 3 p.m., University Theatre. Tickets and information: 406-721-3194. 🎷

Tribal Colleges — continued

He said the University will try to make use of distance technology to develop the language programs. A similar project in tribal histories could be conducted under the auspices of Indian Education for All, he said. Tribal leaders have suggested several programs that could help them, such as training for tribal leaders and judges and assistance in planning.

"We will continue to visit the tribal colleges every year," Foley said. "We look forward to continuing to work together."

"Each tribal college shares the uniqueness of its reservation and its people," Dennison said. "In my view, these colleges have developed remarkably during the last two decades and they have much to offer us, as well as their people. They can do what we cannot, since we lack the expertise in the languages and cultures. Collaboration will benefit us very much, as we hope it will them." 🎷

Awards — continued

He described the work of a postdoctoral student who is charged with the care and feeding of thousands of lice to assure a ready supply for the research, which involves having lice feed on bacteria-infected rabbits and artificial membranes. The feeding allows for study of the interactions between *Bartonella* bacteria and lice.

Shimek also received an AMR Silver award for his work on Research View and a Merit award for Vision. Merit awards also went to a recruiting poster produced by Enrollment Services and two University Relations print ads.

"It's been extremely fulfilling seeing this campaign unfold," Foley said of the award-winning marketing campaign. "The response from our alumni and fans has been outstanding. They say it makes them proud to be a Griz."

In one of UM's seven television commercials, a leading bird researcher takes flight from the Oval. In another, a little boy wanders the Hall of Champions and dreams of the day he, too, can play for the Griz.

The commercials were created by Chisel Industries, a

Montana-based marketing and production studio with Hollywood experience. Chisel uses 35-millimeter cameras, lighting equipment, camera cranes and other specialized equipment to give its work a polished look.

Five of the ads feature UM faculty members. They are chemistry Professor Garon Smith, Oxford-educated business management Assistant Professor David Firth, biology Professor Ken Dial, pharmacy practice Associate Professor Donna Beall and music Assistant Professor Luis Millan.

The other ads, focused on sports, are "Legacy," which highlights UM's history of athletic excellence, and "Griz Country," about Missoula's contagious community spirit, the fans and anticipating the football action at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Foley said the commercials have been shown on local Missoula television stations, cable outlets statewide, a regional sports network and ESPN during UM's appearance in a nationally televised football playoff game.

Audio clips also are broadcast on radio stations across Montana. The spots can be displayed through interactive media — such as streaming to prospective students — as well as online and via recruitment DVDs. 🎷



The University of
Montana

Main Hall to Main Street is published by University Relations at The University of Montana. Send questions or suggestions to Joan Melcher, editor, Brantly Hall 315, Missoula, MT 59812, or call 406-243-4842. Brianne Burrows, Brenda Day, Rita Munzenrider, Patia Stephens and Cary Shimek are contributing editors and writers. Todd Goodrich is the primary photographer. The newsletter is online at <http://www.umt.edu/urelations/mainhall>.