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Bio station lands grant to study Pacific Rim ecosystems

The University of Montana's Flathead Lake Biological Station has been awarded a three-year \$4.6 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to continue studying pristine salmon and trout watersheds along the Pacific Rim.

Station Director Jack Stanford said the grant will support the Salmonid Rivers Observatory Network (SaRON), a long-term project initiated in 2003 to study the biological diversity and productivity of 15 to 20 pristine salmon-river ecosystems.

Targeted rivers are in British Columbia, Alaska and Kamchatka in the Russian Far East.

UM's primary SaRON partners are the Wild Salmon Center in Portland, Ore., and Moscow State University in Russia, along with a number of First Nations and federal and state agencies.

The goal of the project is to complete a massive, in-depth, comprehensive

study of these rivers by examining the geology, chemistry, vegetation, aquatic organisms, stream flow and more. Stanford and his fellow ecologists want to gain a better understanding of the complex web of water and life — what he calls the "shifting habitat mosaic" — that makes up healthy river systems.

He said the shifting habitat mosaic concept, which examines spatial change of habitat for river organisms such as salmon in response to environmental variation, has become a guiding principle for river research and management worldwide.

The approach was pioneered at the Nyack Flood Plain on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River through research funded by the National Science Foundation and is the basis for much of the multidisciplinary research that now characterizes the biological station.

"We study systems ecology — working from the genotypes of the salmon and the

biology of the organisms they support — all the way up to global views of landscape change," Stanford said. "So it's



Jack Stanford

genes-to-ecosystem-level kind of work."

SaRON goals include quantifying the biophysical processes that produce the shifting habitat mosaic and using

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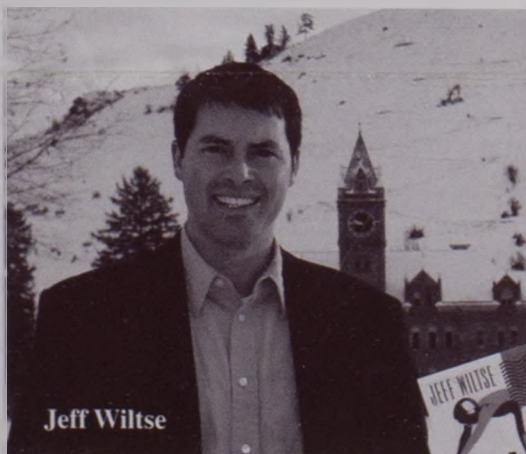
UM professor dives into history of swimming pools

The idea came to him in a dream. UM assistant history professor Jeff Wiltse dreamed of writing about his childhood swimming pool when he was in graduate school. The dream became a reality. That reality spawned another dream — an academic

book that has gained broad national attention.

Shortly after the dream, Wiltse ran the idea of a history of swimming pools in America by his adviser at Brandeis University and she agreed the idea had merit for a dissertation. Soon Wiltse was on the

road, researching swimming pools in northern cities across America. The task was formidable. He would go to a city's public library and research, using archives of public records and newspapers. One idea or finding would lead to the next and he would drive to another town or city.



Jeff Wiltse

Along the way, Wiltse won the Allan Nevins Prize, awarded annually by the Society of American Historians for the best-written doctoral dissertation on an American subject. The prize guaranteed a publishing contract for his dissertation, which became "Contested Waters: A Social History of Swimming Pools in America."

The book charts the social and cultural history of swimming pools — and the role pools have played in the tensions and transformations that have given rise to modern America.

Published early this year by the University of North Carolina Press, "Contested Waters" has become an almost instant and somewhat surprising success. It quickly garnered the attention of the national press, with reviews in Publishers Weekly, The Wilson Quarterly, The Washington Post Book World, People magazine, The Economist and Journal of Blacks in Higher Education.

Dick Cavett, a former television talk-show host, reviewed the book in the June 3 Summer Reading issue of the New York Times Book Review. Cavett wrote that he thought, when given the assignment to review the book, "what a silly idea." "I am one who came to scoff but remained to pray," he then opined, adding "It quickly becomes clear that Jeff Wiltse's 'Contested Waters' ... is the colorful story of America's municipal swimming pools in the 19th and 20th centuries. Against that backdrop it becomes a story of America."

Wiltse has been interviewed for National Public

— Continued on back page

Grow Montana celebrates passage of food bill

There was plenty to look at when Gov. Brian Schweitzer signed Senate Bill 328 at the University Center Commons recently. But what had everyone's attention was the smell coming from the serving line.

The governor and other dignitaries were in town to celebrate the bill that will make it easier for Montana producers to supply food to Montana institutions. UM's Dining Services was on hand to provide some samples of just how good Montana-made food is.

Nancy Matheson, who manages Grow Montana, the group that championed the Montana Food to Institutions bill, said that in the 1940s and '50s, 70 percent of the food eaten in Montana was produced in Montana. Today, she said, that number is only 10 percent.

Opening up avenues for Montana farmers and ranchers to provide food for universities, K-12 schools and prisons around the state could help turn those



From left, state Sen. Carol Williams, Gov. Schweitzer and state Rep. Tim Furey numbers around, she said.

In many ways, UM has led the charge in helping to open markets for Montana-produced food with its successful Farm to College program. Dining Services Director Mark LoParco said that 15 percent of the

food consumed at UM comes from any of the 40 local vendors the University contracts with.

"Just as it always seems to happen in athletics and other areas, UM is ahead," said Schweitzer, a Montana State University graduate.

The governor stressed the historic link in Montana between families that produced food and the families that consumed it. "If you know your farmer, you know your food," he said.

Following the bill signing, the crowd of about 75 was treated to a selection of Dixon melon sorbet, Montana huckleberry milkshakes, hamburgers made from Montana-raised cows and buns baked with Wheat Montana flour.

Schweitzer was presented with a Montana-shaped hamburger, which he ate in front of flashing cameras and a chuckling crowd. "In Montana we have an opportunity," he said, "and that means going back to where we were 80 years ago." 🍔

Dennison wins state leadership award

UM President George Dennison received a Montana Excellence in Leadership Award recently during a ceremony at the state Capitol in Helena.

The award was presented by the Montana Interagency Committee for Change by Women and honors those who create positive change for state employees by promoting the full participation of women in government.

ICCW presented awards for work in state government, the private sector and the public sector, for which Dennison received his award.

Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger was named ICCW's honored guest this year, and he presented the awards.

Bohlinger noted that the most compelling evidence for Dennison's success in promoting women is the number of women faculty today versus when he took the helm at UM in 1990. Then, only 20.5 percent of the faculty were women; today almost 38 percent of UM faculty members are female.

Bohlinger added that Dennison's most enduring legacy will be his commitment to diversity, fairness and equity.

Award recipients were chosen by a panel of representatives from the private and public sectors. Selection criteria were that the nominee show exemplary leadership and outstanding achievement; promote innovative and creative solutions to challenges; and serve as a mentor to

women while working to eliminate barriers to women's

advancement in the work place.

In a letter supporting nomination of Dennison for the award, Teresa Branch, UM's vice president for student affairs, wrote: "Under his mentorship, I have been able to stretch myself professionally, and I know that this is a direct result of his personal attitude and willingness to extend equal opportunities to all his staff." 🍔



Bohlinger and Dennison

Bio station — continued

this information to devise and promote new conservation and management strategies for salmon rivers, as well as ideas to restore rivers negatively impacted by people.

"Our research is designed to provide a new approach for salmon management worldwide," Stanford said. "We need a paradigm shift in the management of wild salmon that focuses on sustaining the abundance and health of wild salmon habitat by allowing very charitable returns of spawning fish to not only produce the next generations of fish, but also add fertility to the system so those salmon youngsters grow into strong competitors for the rigors of the ocean they must return to."

The failed old paradigm, he said, is called maximum-sustained

yield in which salmon populations are harvested to just above their theoretical replacement numbers. This can prevent salmon from returning to their birth rivers — where they die after they spawn and naturally fertilize the river system — in enough numbers to maintain natural fertility.

"Some of the remote British Columbia rivers we work on are carved by glaciers out of granite bedrock, so they are characterized by very low background concentrations of nutrients — they essentially are rivers of rainwater," Stanford said.

"Sustenance of these otherwise pristine rivers is dependent on salmon coming back and dying, thereby stimulating productivity through complex pathways created by consumers of the carcasses." 🍔

Graduation Stats—UM graduated 2,163 students spring semester. The total includes 107 certificates, 187 associate's degrees, 1,262 bachelor's degrees, 406 master's degrees, 73 juris doctor degrees, 118 doctoral degrees and 10 education specialists. Eighty-nine students earned two degrees.



Education Dean—"Interim" has been dropped from Roberta "Bobbie" Evans' title at UM's School of Education. Evans, who has served as the education school's interim dean since July 2006, was hired to be the school's permanent dean in May. She was chosen from among three candidates interviewed for the position and officially started her new role June 1. "Bobbie brings to her new position the expertise and experience of a seasoned professional and an engaging academic," UM President George Dennison said. "In a word, she has the experience and the competencies we need at this stage in the development of the school and the University." Evans served as UM's education school dean from 2001 to 2003.



StoryCorps—National Public Radio's StoryCorps will return to Montana this summer with a mobile booth tour stop in Butte July 5-28. The visit is sponsored by Montana Public Radio, which is housed at UM's Broadcast Media Center. StoryCorps is a national oral history project aimed at instructing and inspiring people to record one another's stories in sound. Participants interview grandparents, relatives and others whose story they want to hear and preserve. StoryCorps won a Peabody Award in 2006. StoryCorps' first trip to the West in 2005 included a three-week stop in Missoula. Michael Marsolek, program director for MTPR, said the 100 slots available in Missoula were filled quickly. Slots for the StoryCorps booth this year will be available about two weeks before the mobile booth arrives in Butte, he said.

New Provost—Royce Engstrom soon will begin his duties as UM's new provost and vice president for academic affairs. Engstrom currently is the provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion and teaches in the USD Department of Chemistry. As UM provost and vice president for academic affairs, he will serve as the second-highest-ranking executive officer on the Missoula campus and will work closely with President George Dennison to provide direction and leadership for the University. Engstrom has held positions at USD as vice president for research and dean of graduate education and was a Regents Fellow on the South Dakota Board of Regents during 2003-04. Dennison currently is serving as UM's interim provost. He said Engstrom will assume the permanent position on or before Aug. 1.

Orientation Approaches—It may be difficult for some to admit, but fall semester is just around the corner. Orientation on the UM campus takes place June 27-29, July 11-13 and Aug. 22-24. For more information, contact Karissa Drye, director of orientation, 406-243-2332, toll-free at 800-462-8636, karissa.drye@mso.umt.edu, <http://www.umt.edu/nss/orientation>.

J-School Dean—For the first time in its history, UM has hired a woman to lead its venerable, award-winning School of Journalism. UM journalism school alumna Peggy Kuhr of the University of Kansas in Lawrence was selected from among four candidates interviewed for the job. She currently is Knight Chair on the Press, Leadership and Community for the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications. UM's journalism school was started in

Army surplus tents in 1914, but Kuhr will find herself in much nicer digs when she arrives to replace retiring Dean Jerry Brown in August — the J-school's 57,000-square-foot new home, Don Anderson Hall. Kuhr has worked at the University of Kansas since 2002. Before that she held four editing positions — including managing editor for content — at the Spokesman-Review in Spokane, Wash., from 1986 to 2002.

Another Backroads—The popular public television series "Backroads of Montana" presented a new episode recently on Montana PBS. Titled "Capitol Rock and Community Folk," the program covers the state from Troy in the extreme northwest corner to a site near Ekalaka in the far southeast. The Backroads crew first visit the Hot Club of Troy, a coffee house and music club named after a famous Paris nightclub of the 1930s. The crew attended Easter services at the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church in Butte. Painted icons of saints decorate every surface of the sanctuary, and the Easter service features the Serbian Orthodox liturgy. Thirty miles southeast of Ekalaka is the least-visited National Natural Landmark in America. Capitol Rock is a chalk and limestone formation that was a beacon for prairie pioneers and homesteaders. The program completes the journey in Alberton, a tiny town west of Missoula, where encroaching development is challenging the community's sense of identity. William Marcus hosts the program on location at the American Computer Museum in Bozeman. Montana PBS is a cooperative service of KUSM-TV at Montana State University, Bozeman, and KUFM-TV at UM. PBS is available in more than 175 communities across the state.

Glamorous Distinction—Hilary Martens, a 21-year-old UM physics and music major, was named one of Glamour magazine's Top 10 College Women of 2007. Martens and nine other outstanding college women were profiled in the June issue of the magazine. Among her many talents and accomplishments,



Martens helped discover what may be an atmosphere around one of Saturn's moons while interning with NASA scientists working at UM. She also is an accomplished violinist who plays in a fiddle band, is a marathon canoeist, and raises money for Guatemalan libraries. "It all happened really fast. There wasn't much time to take it all in," Martens said of the honor. "Literally from the moment I heard I was a finalist, a week later I found out I won and two weeks later I was on a plane to New York." Glamour flew Martens to New York City for a photo shoot in March and will bring her back to the Big Apple in June to sightsee, attend an awards banquet and spend time with the other winners and some top female professionals from around the country. 🐻



UM Events

Exhibit—June 23, “Marilyn Bruya: A Retrospective,” Montana Museum of Art and Culture, through June 30. Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 4-8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Information: Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, museum@umontana.edu, <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum>.

Meeting—June 25, South Campus Master Plan Committee meeting, 3-5 p.m., Lewis and Clark Community Center, 3000 Higgins, Missoula. To explore options for UM’s land along Higgins Street and South Avenue. Open to the public. Information: Rosi Keller, committee chair, at 406-243-4662.

Golf Tournament—June 29, GSA Mission Mountain Golf Tournament, 11 a.m., Mission Mountain Country Club, Ronan. The annual co-ed 18-hole scramble is a major fundraiser for UM student-athlete scholarships. Entry deadline: Tuesday, June 26. Shotgun starts at 11 a.m. Entry fee: \$100 per person, includes dinner. Cost for dinner only: \$25. To sign up or for more information: Grizzly Scholarship Association Chapter, 406-676-4499 or 406-676-4653, or e-mail amskogen@ronan.net.

Discovery Day—June 30, Revisit the Black Mountain Fire, 8-11 a.m. Montana Natural History Center, 120 Hickory Street,

Missoula. Cost: \$20; \$15 MNHC members. Join local experts Sue Reel and Dick Hutto in visiting the Black Mountain fire site on Blue Mountain four years after the burn. Bring binoculars. Registration required. Information and registration: 406-327-0405.

Writers Camp—July 9, Young Writers Camp, Liberal Arts Building, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., weekdays through July 20. Creative writing workshop for serious young writers in grades 5-9. Taught by UM instructors. Cost: \$175. Registration and information: Caroline Simms, 406-243-4680, caroline.simms@mso.umt.edu.

Workshop—July 24, Seed Collecting Workshop, 7 p.m., Nature Garden at Fort Missoula. Wildflower and Wild Grass Seed Collecting Workshop. Collect seeds of prairie smoke, june grass and more to be used in local restoration efforts. Volunteers also may take some seed home. Great activity for children and families. Information: <http://prairiekeepers.dbs.umt.edu>; Montana Natural History Center, 406-327-0405. 🐾

University VP Jim Foley wins award from ASUM

UM Executive Vice President James Foley received the Barbara Hollmann Administrator of the Year Award at a recent meeting of the Associated Students of UM.

Foley was nominated jointly by outgoing and incoming ASUM executive officers, who wrote, in nominating him: “Vice President Foley embodies the true spirit of the award. His openness and flexible attitude have always been conducive to building greater understanding between

ASUM and UM administrators. He was willing to work with various individual students and student groups to listen to their concerns.”

Award criteria include an administrator’s ability to champion student issues, be willing to listen with the goal of understanding student concerns, and engage students in decision-making processes.



Jim Foley

The award is named for Hollmann, who served as UM vice president for student affairs for 23 years. In 2004 a community center in the Lewis and Clark Village was named in her honor.

“It is a privilege and an honor to receive the recognition from ASUM and the students — after all, that’s why we are here,” Foley said. ASUM officers who nominated him were Andrea Helling, Cedric Jacobson, Bryce Bennett, Dustin Leftridge, Tara Ness and Erica Henderson. 🐾

Pools — continued

Radio’s “Tell Me More” as well as “Weekend Edition.” UNCP publicist Gina Mahalek reports the book already has gone into a second printing and is experiencing “extraordinary publicity.”

In the book Wiltse discusses the implications of pools as sites of race riots, shrinking swimsuits and conspicuous leisure. It is, at once, a story of class and race conflicts, burgeoning cities and suburbs, competing visions of social reform, eroticized public culture, democratized leisure, and Americans’ recent retreat from public life.

Wiltse relates how the first public pools were provided as “bathtubs” for the urban poor and were separated by gender. Racism became an issue when the pools allowed men and women to swim together. For a time — from the 1920s to the 1950s — municipal pools were hugely popular and often fought over. Some were larger than football fields: 50,000 people visited the Fairgrounds Park Pool in St. Louis on one day when it opened — about half to watch and the other half to swim.

Beginning in the 1970s, the flight to the suburbs and racial tensions resulted in a decline in municipal pool use. The middle class built backyard pools or swam in pools built in their neighborhoods, and municipal pools began a slow decay.

Wiltse laments the loss of the open public space the swimming pool provided. From the 1920s into the 1970s, “municipal pools were a central part of community life and individuals’ summer experience,” he said. “Today they’ve become marginal in America.”

He noted that there was a “pool building spree” during the Great Depression. “We were in the worst depression and yet there was the concerted effort to provide public swimming pools,” he said. “Today we’re in a period of historic prosperity and yet we can’t seem to find the money to build public swimming pools.”

Wiltse has taught at UM for five years and soon will take over retiring Professor Harry Fritz’s Montana History class. His next research topic is the history of music in public spaces. Wiltse’s goal is to publish three important history books in his lifetime. “Contested Waters” clearly has given him a good start. 🐾



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