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Main Hall to Main Street

Connecting Campus and Community

Teachers tackle geology in partnership program

A group of K-8 teachers from Missoula and the Flathead Valley spent part of June learning college-level geology and ways of explaining the science to their young pupils.

The two-week course was part of the Big Sky Science Partnership, a program funded by the National Science Foundation that joins universities, tribal colleges and K-8 schools around the state.

The University of Montana is paired with Salish Kootenai College, and Montana State University is partnering with Little Bighorn College on the Crow Indian Reservation and Chief Dull Knife Memorial College on the Northern Cheyenne reservation.

"Our main goal is to improve student achievement in science," said Regina Sievert, program director at SKC.

Teachers applied for the program, for which they are paid and graded to receive college credit. It includes a two-week summer session and a two-day class once per quarter during the school year.

Sievert said an increasing emphasis on reading and math in primary education because of the No Child Left Behind Act has left many students without any substantial science education. The Big Sky Science Partnership is a three-year

year's is astronomy and the third year's is physics — three disciplines notoriously difficult to grasp.

The class went on an all-day field trip in the Bitterroot Valley to observe geologic features and see firsthand what they had spent the week learning about.

The teachers also heard traditional history from Bitterroot Salish elder Louis Adams. The intermingling of hard science and Native traditions is imperative to reaching across cultural gaps in education, said Adams and class speaker Iris Pretty Paint.

"I've had to live in two different worlds," Adams said. "My kid, grandkids, they use computers, but you can't forget who you are."

Pretty Paint encouraged teachers to take a moment to realize how they approach their material when teaching and be aware that the way they enter into a concept might be different from their students, many of whom have grown up in different cultures.

"You have to know yourself first to be culturally competent," she said. 🐾



Julia Baldwin, assistant professor of geology at UM, explains rock banding to K-8 teachers.

commitment for teachers. Sievert said organizers hope the teachers will go back to their schools and lead other instructors.

This year's focus is geology, next

University broadens its international reach

UM increased its international connections in early June when President George Dennison signed a memorandum of understanding with leaders of institutions of higher learning in Spain, Chile and Italy.

Rectors from the University of Córdoba in Spain and Austral University and the University of Concepción, both in Chile, traveled to Missoula for the signing. The rector of the University of Siena in Italy was not able to attend, but was expected to pen the agreement later.

The memorandum calls for mutual exchange for graduate and undergraduate programs, research and extension activities, as well as exchange in specialized literature, publications and scientific material. It also calls for development of joint research and teaching projects and exchanges of students and staff.

Perry Brown, dean of the College of Forestry and Conservation, said the five universities have been working on projects over the past four or five years and the memorandum formalizes their



President Dennison shakes hands with José Roldán, rector of the University of Córdoba. Sergio Lavanchy, rector of the University of Concepción, looks on.

relationships. "Basically, this further opens another area of the world where we have been doing research for several years," he said.

Brown noted that studies in climate change will be particularly benefited by the agreement. "Patagonia is a carbon sink," he said. "We'll have a chance to see how that is working there and compare it to here." He added that there will be benefits to UM in forestry park management, eco-tourism, fish and wildlife, energy, biology and water management.

The agreement focuses on cooperation among the universities in developing a science center in Chile's Patagonia region, Brown said. Currently, there are seven scientists at the center, one of whom is a UM doctoral graduate student in forestry. Brown said the hope is that eventually UM will be involved in research and outreach activities through the center.

"It's a nice culmination of a long period of work by a lot of people that is going to pay off for students, curricula and research for UM and our partners in Italy, Spain and Chile," he said. 🐾

High Honors—UM Professor Reed Humphrey will be the first physical therapist to be recognized by the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation with its Award of Excellence, the highest award conferred by the association. Humphrey came to UM in summer 2006 as professor and chair of the School of Physical Therapy. He was one of the first clinicians to study the effects of exercise testing and training in extremely debilitated patients requiring mechanical ventricular assist devices while awaiting cardiac transplantation. His research led to the development of exercise guidelines for this critically ill patient population. Humphrey will be presented the award during the AACVPR annual meeting in October in Salt Lake City.



shuttle — to creating models of receding ice sheets around the globe for use in schools. One team recently was awarded an \$850,000 National Science Foundation grant for a project that will help put a more user-friendly face on complex scientific programs that model climate change. Another NSF grant is designed to gauge how the digital age affects the ability of students to learn from and internalize their notes.

Star Gazing—The Blue Mountain Observatory, operated by UM, has five public observing nights left this summer for the public to get up close with planets, nebulae and distant galaxies. The public observing nights are the following Fridays: July 20; August 10 and 17; and Sept. 7 and 14. Observing begins about an hour after sunset, and organizers recommend bringing warm clothes for cool evenings and a flashlight for the walk from the observatory to the parking lot. The observatory is located on top of Blue Mountain west of Missoula at an elevation of 6,300 feet. Astronomers will be on hand at all public viewings to talk about constellations, how the night sky figures into different cultures and how to find things in the heavens on all the nights you don't have a giant telescope. More information, including directions and a map to the observatory, is available online at <http://www.physics.umt.edu/bluemountain> or by calling 406-243-5179. The events are free and open to the public.

Big Bucks—UM's modest-sized Department of Computer Science, with a six-member faculty, has pulled in more than \$3 million in the last four years in various grants for work ranging from NASA's ORION project — the successor to the space

Griz Country—Griz Country's borders expanded as two UM television spots wooed audiences and judges at the National Association of Collegiate Marketing Administrators conference recently in Orlando, Fla. "Griz Country" — a spot capturing the fervor around Grizzly football — won the television commercial category in UM's division. Second place in the same category also went to the University for the "Legacy" commercial, featuring a young boy awestruck in UM's Hall of Champions. UM competed against schools in the Big Sky conference and others around the country that operate with similar budgets.

Miss Montana—UM student Kristen Mantooth was crowned Miss Montana recently at the statewide competition in Lewistown. An English education major and former UM dance team member, Mantooth received a \$6,000 cash scholarship to further her education. She also won the Preliminary Talent Award for her lyrical dance. Mantooth will travel the state speaking at schools and conventions and to youth groups throughout the year. UM was well represented in the competition. Jennifer Hepner of Great Falls was named Second Runner Up and received a \$1,250 cash scholarship. She also won Preliminary Talent and Evening Wear honors and the \$1,000 Miss America Community Service Scholarship. She is working on a master's degree in communication studies. Nicole Dowson of Great Falls was the Fourth Runner Up and received a \$900 cash scholarship. She also was a winner in the Preliminary Swimsuit competition. Rachel Markovich of Butte was named a Top Ten Semi-Finalist and received a \$700 cash scholarship. Dowson and Markovich are studying business administration at UM. 🐻

UM Events

Exhibits—July 22, "Rudy Remembered," honoring internationally acclaimed UM Professor Emeritus Rudy Autio for his role as an artist and educator, through Aug. 9; "Henry Meloy, The Portraits," through Aug. 11; and "Yellowstone Engraved: Images that Popularized Jackson, Moran and America's First National Park," through Aug. 18. All at Montana Museum of Art & Culture. Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Information: Montana Museum of Art & Culture, 406-243-2019, museum@umontana.edu, <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum>.

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.

Talks—July 30-Aug. 10, Several evening discussions on ethics issues,

Environmental Ethics Institute, 7:30 p.m. Room 106 or Room 123 of the Gallagher Business Building. Information: Dane Scott, director, UM Center for Ethics, 406-243-6632, dane.scott@mso.umt.edu.

Concert—Aug. 14, Bruce Cockburn, 8 p.m., University Theatre. All seating reserved. Tickets: \$27 in advance; \$29 day of show, <http://www.griztix.com>.

Event—Aug. 16, Great Griz Encounter, Volleyball, Soccer, Cross Country, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Caras Park. In conjunction with Downtown Tonight. Information: Christie Anderson, UM Intercollegiate Athletics, 406-243-4336. 🐻



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 Burrowes, 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>.