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Faculty members collaborate to create book on Tajikistan

Three UM faculty members have collaborated to publish a book about a little-known country, Tajikistan, a former republic of the Soviet Union.

"Tajikistan: Pearl of Central Asia" is the third book published by The University of Montana Press in the last few years. Mehrdad Kia, associate provost for International Programs at UM; Ardi Kia, assistant professor of Central and Southwest Asian Studies; and Rick Graetz, geography adjunct professor, along with his wife, Susie, contributed to the book.

The Graetzes are well-known for their photography, and "Tajikistan" features rich and vibrant views of the country's diverse and often stunning landscape, along with faces of its legendarily friendly people.

Written to introduce the reader to the country, the book is both a coffee table travel primer and textbook. The authors plan to use it in their classes.

Tajikistan's civilization can be traced back 4,000 years, and it has produced many great artists and scientists, including the poet Rudaki and scientist Ibn Sina, said Mehrdad Kia.

In his chapter, Kia provides a short

historical overview of the long and rich history of Tajikistan, starting with the establishment of the Persian Achaemenid Empire by Cyrus the Great more than 2,500 years ago.

Ardi Kia delves into the country's arts and culture from ancient times to the ninth



century AD, the beginning of the golden age of the Tajik/Persian civilization. He said the idea of the book was "to show the world a place few people know about – the Pamirs, the world's second highest

mountain range, wild rivers, ancient buildings and historical sites – and the incredible, hard-working, welcoming people who fit into this diverse landscape."

Ardi Kia talked of standing where the ancient city of Panjakent once stood, in a valley that was the nerve center and financial headquarters for the Silk

Road. "It wasn't difficult to imagine the excitement of caravans burdened with fragrant spices and exotic goods from distant lands arriving into the boisterous and multilingual noise of the marketplace," he said.

Susie and Rick Graetz provide a geographical overview of the country, introducing the reader to various regions and the mountain ranges that dominate its landscape.

"I believe geography and history should be married," Rick Graetz said. "You don't divorce time and space. You need to understand them together."

The couple spent three weeks traveling the countryside on ancient trade routes. They found people still herding yaks and goats and maintaining lifestyles similar to how their countrymen lived 1,000 years ago.

The UM Press is looking to shine a light on several Central Asian countries that have existed in isolation for decades. "Tajikistan" is the first in a four-book series, which eventually will include books on Kyrgyzstan, Georgia and the famed Silk Road, all planned as a continued collaboration of the authors. 🐾

Large-mammal specialist fills Boone and Crockett Chair

An accomplished educator and scientist who studies elk, bighorn sheep and other large mammals has been hired to fill the prestigious Boone and Crockett Chair at UM.

Paul Krausman comes from the University of Arizona, where he worked in wildlife research and taught almost continuously from 1978 to 2007. During that period he also served part time as a visiting professor at the Wildlife Institute of India.

"We are thrilled to have a wildlife biologist of Paul's stature join us at UM," said Dan Pletscher, director of UM's Wildlife Biology Program. "Endowed chairs – a partnership between private entities and the University – help us attract the best and brightest faculty members to UM."

The Boone and Crockett Club established its endowed chair in wildlife biology at UM in 1992 to teach classes and conduct research at the Missoula campus and the club's 6,000-acre Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch near Dupuyer. Funding a matching endowment to support graduate students of the Boone and Crockett Chair is a priority of UM's ongoing "Invest in Discovery" campaign coordinated by the UM Foundation.

Krausman is the third person to hold the endowed chair. The first was Hal Salwasser, a former U.S. Forest Service scientist

now serving as dean of Oregon State University's College of Forestry and director of OSU's Forest Research Laboratory. The second was Jack Ward Thomas, the former chief of the U.S. Forest Service who retired from the Boone and Crockett Chair in December 2005.

Krausman earned his wildlife science doctorate from the University of Idaho in 1976. He also worked at Aeromedical Research Laboratory in Alamogordo, N.M.; Environmental Systems at Brooks Air Force Base in Texas; the Welder Wildlife Foundation; and Auburn University before joining the University of Arizona in 1978.

He has won a slew of educational and research awards over the years, including the prestigious Aldo Leopold Award and Medal from The Wildlife Society in 2006 for "distinguished service to wildlife conservation." His major areas of study are large-mammal ecology, conservation and management, as well as habitat evaluation, international wildlife management and wildlife education.

Pletscher said UM still is fundraising to support the graduate students and research of the endowed chair. Those wishing to contribute should call Pletscher at 406-243-6364 or Lisa Lenard, UM Foundation development officer, at 406-243-5533. 🐾

Marshall Scholarship—UM senior Hilary Martens of Missoula has been awarded a prestigious 2008 Marshall Scholarship for two years in graduate school at a British university – all expenses paid by the British government. Martens majors in physics and music at UM, with minors in mathematics and music composition. She is a Presidential Leadership Scholar in UM's Davidson Honors College. Marshall Scholars are chosen for their distinction of intellect and character, evidenced by both their scholastic attainments and by their other activities and achievements. They also must be adequately prepared for their proposed course of study.

Fulbright Scholars—Two UM faculty members – Elizabeth Crone and William Knowles – currently are lecturing and doing research abroad through Fulbright Scholar grants. Crone, an associate professor in the College of Forestry and Conservation, is conducting research and lecturing at the University of Helsinki in Finland. Her focus is applying theoretical ecology to wildlife conservation and management. Crone has developed an inverse mathematical equation to predict rates of mass seeding in plants and will use part of her time in Finland to study ways of using math to address ecological questions. Knowles, a professor emeritus of the School of Journalism's radio/television department, is at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan, lecturing on broadcast journalism and giving students hands-on instruction in the field.



Peerless Peers—The Curry Health Center's Peers Reaching Out group was recognized as the most outstanding peer education team in the nation at the BACCHUS conference held Nov. 8-11 in Atlanta. About 800 representatives from more than 150 of the nation's colleges and universities attended the conference. UM's PRO group received the award for the Most Outstanding Affiliate from schools with more than 12,000 students, and one of their members, Olivia Shjeflo, received the award for Outstanding Peer Educator. BACCHUS is a network of more than 32,000 student leaders that promotes healthy and safe lifestyle decisions. UM's PRO students create fun interactive programs and coordinate campus events to help peers make better decisions about high-risk behaviors such as drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse and unhealthy sexual practices.

History Makers—The University's School of Law made history last month when all three of its student negotiation teams competed in the final rounds of the regional American Bar Association Negotiation Competition. No other law school has advanced all three entrants into Region 10's final round during the 20-year history of UM's participation in the competition. The teams were among 20 representing law schools across the northwestern United States and Canada. The event was hosted Nov. 3-4 by the University of Saskatchewan College of Law in Saskatoon, Canada. 🐾

Dec. 28-30—Tournament. Lady Griz Holiday Classic. Dahlberg Arena. UM vs. UC Santa Barbara, 7 p.m., Dec. 28; UC Santa Barbara vs. Mississippi, 7 p.m., Dec. 29; UM vs. Mississippi, 7 p.m., Dec. 30. Information: <http://www.montanagrizzlies.com>.

Dec. 30—Basketball. UM vs. Montana Tech, 2 p.m., Dahlberg Arena. Information: <http://www.montanagrizzlies.com>.

Jan. 2-18—Wintersession. Schedule of classes and information: <http://www.umt.edu/ce/deo/winter>.

Jan. 4—Basketball. Lady Griz vs. Montana State, 7 p.m., Dahlberg Arena. Information: <http://www.montanagrizzlies.com>.

Jan. 12—Basketball. Lady Griz vs. Sacramento State, 7 p.m., Dahlberg Arena. Information: <http://www.montanagrizzlies.com>.

Jan. 15—Exhibition. "Impacted Nations." Montana Museum of Art & Culture, Meloy and Paxson galleries. A traveling exhibition organized by

Honor the Earth. At the museum through Feb. 26. 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, <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum>.

Jan. 17—Basketball. UM vs. Idaho State, 7 p.m., Dahlberg Arena. Information: <http://www.montanagrizzlies.com>.

Jan. 16-18—Spring semester orientation and registration.

Jan. 20—Basketball. UM vs. Weber State, 2 p.m., Dahlberg Arena. Information: <http://www.montanagrizzlies.com>.

Jan. 24—Basketball. UM vs. Eastern Washington, 7 p.m., Dahlberg Arena. Information: <http://www.montanagrizzlies.com>.

Jan. 25—Seminar. Economic Outlook Seminar: "The New Ice Age: Investing in a Competitive, Educated Workforce,"

8 a.m. – 1 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center in Missoula. Presentations about the economic status of Montana. Keynote speaker: Montana Commissioner of Higher Education Sheila Stearns. Cost: \$80. Continuing Education credits available. Schedule, agenda and registration form: <http://www.bber.umt.edu/content/?x=1274>. Further information, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113.

Jan. 25—Lecture. President's Lecture Series, David Blight, Yale University, 8 p.m., University Center Ballroom. Information: <http://www.umt.edu/president/pls>.

Jan. 26—Basketball. Lady Griz vs. Northern Colorado, 7 p.m., Dahlberg Arena. Information: <http://www.montanagrizzlies.com>.

Jan. 26—Recital. Christopher Hahn, piano, faculty recital, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall. \$6 general, \$4 students/seniors. Information: UM Department of Music, 406-243-6880, griz.music@umontana.edu. 🎹

UM Events



The University of
Montana

Main Hall to Main Street is published by University Relations at The University of Montana. Send questions or suggestions to Cary Shimek, editor, 330 Brantly Hall, Missoula, MT 59812, or call 406-243-5914. Brianne Burrowes, Brenda Day, Rita Munzenrider and Patia Stephens are contributing editors and writers. Todd Goodrich is the primary photographer. The newsletter is online at <http://www.umt.edu/urelations/mainhall>.



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