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UM breaks ground for two new centers

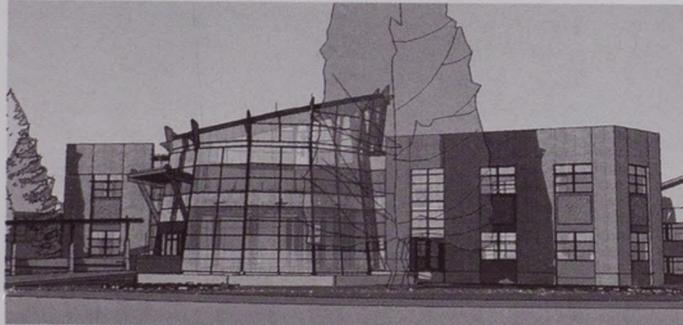
The University of Montana is breaking ground this spring. But instead of planting seeds, campus is holding groundbreaking ceremonies to raise a crop of new buildings.

Indian tribal leaders from across Montana were in Missoula April 19 to help launch construction of UM's new Native American Center. The first of its kind on a U.S. university campus, the center will house the Department of Native American Studies, American Indian Student Services and related campus programming under one roof.

The 19,900-square-foot facility will rise on the UM Oval south of the Grizzly Bear statue and east of the Lommasson Center. Construction begins this summer and concludes in fall 2009.

The groundbreaking ceremony was set up like the interior of a lodge, with the power of knowledge represented on the west side of the building and speakers facing east. Speakers included Gregory Cajete, a Tewa from the Santa Clara Pueblo Indian Tribe of New Mexico; Dustin Whitford, president of UM's Kyi-Yo Native American Association; and UM President George Dennison.

The Native American Center was a



(Top) An architect's rendering of the planned Native American Center. (Below) A view of the Phyllis J. Washington Education Center.

top campus priority in UM's "Invest in Discovery" campaign that ended in December. But because of construction cost increases, \$1.85 million is still needed to complete the \$9.7 million project.

On Friday, May 2, campus also will break ground on the new 27,000-square-foot Phyllis J. Washington Education

Center, an addition to the School of Education Building on Eddy Street.

The groundbreaking ceremony will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Speakers will include the building's namesake, Phyllis Washington, chair of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation and a 1964 UM School of Education graduate; her husband, Dennis, founder of the Washington Companies; Sheila Stearns, Montana Commissioner of Higher Education; Randy Mostad, who was once taught by Phyllis; Roberta Evans, UM education dean; and President Dennison.

The groundbreaking ceremony and following reception are free and open to the public.

Fundraising continues for the \$10 million building, which will be constructed mainly from private sources. The target completion date is fall 2009.

Highlights of the new addition are the Early Childhood Modeling Center, which will offer indoor and outdoor classrooms and learning spaces; high-tech classrooms and distance-learning studios; a state-of-the-art math and science instructional methods classroom; and the Learning and Belonging Preschool space.

Campus hosts business plan competition

Students from around the state will compete in the 19th annual John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition at UM on Thursday, May 8.

Fifteen teams will pitch their business ideas to a panel of 35 distinguished judges as they vie for more than \$35,000 in prize money. Competitors also will have the chance to network with venture capitalists, early-stage investors, investment bankers, economic developers and successful entrepreneurs.

Students submitted their business plans for consideration in late April. Selection judges

met April 26 to review the submissions and selected 15 finalists for the May 8 event. The competition is organized by UM's School of Business Administration and the Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs, or MADE.

UM Associate Professor Jeffrey Shay took the reins of the competition four years ago. Since then he's worked with MADE to institute several changes to the competition to enhance the real-world experience for students.

According to federal standards, 98 percent of

— Continued page 2



UM's Jeffrey Shay

UM students prep taxes in Alaska

Five UM students recently returned from a Spring Break trip to Alaska, where they offered residents free assistance in filing their taxes as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance — or VITA — program.

The accounting students traveled to Barrow in late March, then boarded small airplanes to reach the tiny Native Alaskan villages of the North Slope along the Arctic Ocean. Once there, they spent their days helping more than 100 Alaskans file their taxes.

UM Professor Barbara Reider of the Department of Accounting and Finance helped organize the trip and traveled with the students. She said the Alaskans they assisted received an average tax refund of about \$1,000. For many residents “that’s a fairly good source of income,” Reider said.

This year 17 UM students applied for the five volunteer



UM students (from top left) Bryan Brosious, Amber Daugherty, Professor Barbara Reider, Dustin White, Tessa Peressini and Jamie Hoffman traveled to Alaska during Spring Break to help Native Alaskan residents of the North Slope file their taxes.

positions. Those selected received independent study credits for their work. They also were required to help Montanans with their taxes on Saturdays in March before making the trip.

Participating students were Amber Daugherty, Dustin White, Tessa Peressini and Jamie Hoffman, who are all in the Master of Accountancy program. Bryan Brosious, a graduating senior who will be

in the Master of Accountancy program next year, also made the trip.

VITA began in 1996 at the University of Alaska Anchorage. In its first year, VITA served five Alaskan villages. Today it serves more than 90 villages, thus the need for students from outside Alaska to help meet the demand for volunteers. UM began participating in the program in 2007.

Forbes.com magazine recently featured a story about VITA. Read it online at <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/afx/2008/03/21/afx4802426.html>.

VITA is funded, in part, by the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, a private corporation representing the business interests of the Arctic Slope Inupiat Native Alaskans. Reider says as long as the program maintains funding, UM students will continue to participate. 🐾

Business Plans — continued

Montana-based companies are considered small businesses. UM’s School of Business Administration keeps that stat in mind as it prepares students to enter the Montana work force. For Shay and others in the school, that means “preparing the next generation of great entrepreneurs.” When he took the helm of the contest, Shay set about tailoring the John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition to meet that goal.

Shay’s first step was to increase the prize money. Before 2005 the amount given out had hovered around \$4,000 for several years. Today the amount offered exceeds \$35,000, and every team receives some sort of prize money for competing. UM’s contest offers students more prize money than several other similar events held in much larger cities.

“We actually give out more cash than Harvard,” Shay said.

Increasing the prize money allows the students more flexibility as they move into the real world, Shay said. Several past competitors have used their winnings to supplement their income while they

worked low-paying internships in their fields or spent more time developing their plans and launching their companies.

Under Shay’s direction the competition also created several judge/coach positions. Each team is assigned a judge/coach who observes their first presentation during the competition, then meets with the students in private to offer advice on what worked and what didn’t. The teams then have the chance to implement those suggestions in later rounds of competition. Past judge/coach mentors have included high-level executives from Apple and Microsoft.

“The students come out glowing” after meeting with their judge/coach, Shay said. “Even if they don’t go on, they get that.”

The Business Plan Competition also features a poster presentation event where the 11 teams not making the final round display their business plans at the evening reception, which is attended by more than 250 business professionals and community leaders. Many of the plans eliminated earlier in the day draw the interest of investors at this time. Shay said several plans that don’t make it to the final round are still solid business ideas

that could be successfully executed. The poster presentations provide those teams a chance to connect with potential investors.

“Even if you don’t make it to the finals, you still feel like part of the competition,” Shay said of the poster presentations.

New for the 2008 Business Plan Competition is the Elevator Pitch contest. All 15 teams will line up, and one person from each team will have three minutes to sell his idea to all the judges. There will be no question-and-answer session during this segment, and students will show just one slide while delivering their pitch.

Started in 1990, UM’s competition is one of the oldest in the nation. More than 500 students from Montana colleges and universities have participated in the annual event since its inception, and more than 50 plans showcased at the competition have been implemented.

“We really want to focus on businesses that promote economic growth,” Shay said of both the competition and the School of Business Administration. The goal, he said, is to foster the students who can execute solid business ideas with the hopes that “they will come back in five years and hire 10 UM students.” 🐾

New Economic Prognosticator— Patrick Barkey will succeed Paul Polzin as director of UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research when Polzin retires on June 30. Barkey directed the



Barkey

Bureau of Business Research at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., from 1993 until 2007, when he came to BBER as director of health care industry research. As BBER director, Barkey plans to continue the strong tradition of providing information to public and private decision makers about the state's business and economic climate through outlets such as the Economic Outlook Seminar and the award-winning publication *Montana Business Quarterly*. Polzin is retiring after 40 years of service

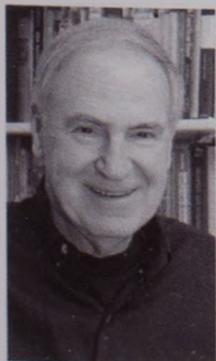
to the bureau, during which time he has seen the research center grow from five full-time employees to around 20. Housed in UM's School of Business Administration, BBER has provided information about Montana's state and local economies for more than 50 years.

Chasing A Comet—UM Assistant Professor Martin Horejsi was one of only three national educators in attendance at a black-tie affair at the National Air and Space Museum to present its Current Achievement and Lifetime Achievement trophies. Horejsi, who teaches in UM's Department of Curriculum and Instruction, attended the April 3 Washington, D.C., event as an invited key member of the Stardust Comet Sample Return Mission, part of NASA's series of Discovery missions. The Stardust Mission is the recipient of the museum's 2008 Current Achievement Trophy. Horejsi has been at work on the NASA Stardust Mission since 1998, a year before the 1999 launch of the spacecraft that would send back a treasure trove of cometary and interstellar dust samples seven years later, after completing 2.88 billion miles and three giant loops around the sun. Horejsi was present when the sample return capsule settled down in the Utah desert in January 2006 — the first spacecraft to safely make it back to Earth with cometary dust particles. Horejsi also was present in Houston in 2006 when the capsule was opened.



Horejsi

Author Honored—Harry Fritz, a popular UM history professor, received the H.G. Merriam Award for his contributions to Montana literature April 15 during the 45th Annual Friends of the Mansfield Library Banquet. Fritz, who retired in 2007, joined the UM history department in 1967, becoming an internationally renowned expert on the Corps of Discovery. He is the author of "The Lewis and Clark Expedition" (2004) and "Montana: Land of Contrast" (2001). He has co-edited several books, including "The



Fritz



Montana Heritage: An Anthology of Historical Essays" (1992). The H.G. Merriam Award is named for an English professor who worked on campus from 1914 to 1954, founding UM's creative writing program. The Friends of the Mansfield Library is a group that independently advocates for the library while working to ensure its holdings remain up-to-date.

Majestic Stadium Donation—

A Missoula-area foundation has agreed to donate \$1 million to UM's Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. In recognition of this gift, UM will name the new east side expansion project at Washington-Grizzly Stadium the "Majestic Plaza." The donation will be made by the Feist Family Foundation during a 10-year period. When the stadium expansion is completed in mid-August, it will consist of 1,500 reserved seats and 500 "club level" seats — 250 of which will have access to an indoor club called the Canyon Room, which sits atop the project. The remaining 250 "club level" seat holders will have exclusive private access to the Hellgate Terrace, which surrounds the Canyon Room. With the expansion, seating capacity of Washington-Grizzly Stadium will top 25,000. The Feist Family Foundation's gift will be among the largest ever to Grizzly Athletics.

Hearing Held—A hearing of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces was held at UM April 8. The case — *United States v. SFC Sean P. Bright, U.S. Army* — involved a U.S. Army sergeant first class who was convicted by a general court-martial of rape and other offenses involving a private assigned to his platoon. The conviction was affirmed by the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals. Bright then appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. The question before the court was whether the evidence of rape was legally sufficient to support the conviction. Among the five judges presiding over the case was Charles Erdmann, a UM law school graduate. The hearing came to UM as part of Project Outreach, which was developed by the court as part of a public awareness program to demonstrate the operation of a federal court of appeals and the military criminal justice system.

Leaving A Legacy—A public service internship for UM students has been established to honor the late Stan Kimmitt, former secretary of the U.S. Senate and aide to Montana's late U.S. Sen. Mike Mansfield. Kimmitt's five children, including U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Robert Kimmitt and U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Middle Eastern Affairs Mark Kimmitt, were on campus last semester to promote the internship, which will help UM students prepare for careers in public service. The internship will be a paid position in the offices of a member of the Montana congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. The first 10-week internship this summer comes with a \$1,500 stipend. The deadline to apply for that internship has passed, but all UM undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to apply next year. For more information, call the Davidson Honors College at 406-243-2541 or e-mail dhc@mso.umt.edu.

Museum Matters—UM's Montana Museum of Art & Culture is participating in the Museum Assessment Program conducted through the American Association of Museums. The consultative process is federally funded by the Institute of Museums

— Continued next page

and Library Services to help museums evaluate their operations and to make recommendations on best practices and strategic planning. Several types of assessments are offered by MAP, including institutional, collections, public dimension and governance. MMAC is participating in both the institutional and collections assessments. Through careful examination of the museum's operations and collections and through discussions with stakeholders, the MAP team will help MMAC identify goals and objectives related to planning and the construction of a new facility. Consultants visited UM April 3-4, and the MAP process typically lasts two years — from the initial stage of comprehensive institutional self-study, to the onsite visit by museum peers, to the final stage of implementation of objectives recommended by the consultants.

Young Scientist Hits D.C.—UM senior Thomas Basset was one of 60 undergraduate students nationwide presenting their research in April at a Council on Undergraduate Research event in Washington, D.C. Basset, an ecology major originally from Oak Park, Ill., highlighted spotted knapweed and native insect communities in Montana during "Undergraduate Research Posters on the Hill." Throughout the summer and fall of 2007, Basset conducted research as a student fellow for the Montana Integrative Learning Experience for Students at UM. Basset collaborated with a student in Romania to study why traditional biocontrols haven't worked to quell the growth of spotted knapweed in Montana. Basset's research has tremendous economic and political implications in Montana, he said. In 2000 a census found that 3.8 million acres of Montana were infested with spotted knapweed, a European plant species. Basset will continue his research this summer.

Preschool Excellence—The Co-Teach Preschool Program, located in UM's School of Education, has received recognition under rigorous new standards from the National Association for the Education of Young Children — the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals. There are 22 accredited programs in Montana, but Co-Teach is one of only three to be approved under the new standards. Co-Teach has been in existence for 27 years and was originally funded through federal grants. The preschool has morning and afternoon programs and serves children ages 3-5. The program particularly is committed to inclusive education and serving students of diverse abilities. In the 20 years since NAEYC accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. Only about 8 percent of all preschools across the country have passed NAEYC accreditation, and even fewer have been certified under the new standards that went into effect in September 2006.

Show On The Road—The Missoula Children's Theatre — the largest children's theater in the United States — will take its tour to Ireland April 28-May 2. MCT will perform its original musical adaptation of "Robin Hood" as conceived and written by MCT Executive Director Michael McGill. The performances will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Limerick. The MCT team will hold open auditions in Limerick April 28, casting 50 to 60 students to rehearse throughout the week. MCT has toured extensively for 35 years — from Butte to Tokyo and many towns in between. This year MCT will visit nearly 1,200 communities in 15 countries. This production will visit Ireland with the help of EnterpriseMontana, a public-private program offered by the UM-based Montana World Trade Center, housed in the Gallagher Business Building. EnterpriseMontana is funded by a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration. 🍷

Red Cross Blood Drive—May 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. University Center Rooms 332-333. To schedule an appointment call the Red Cross at 543-6695. Be sure to eat a complete meal and drink plenty of water. Bring identification to your appointment.

Missoula Symphony Orchestra—May 3, Karen Gonyo, violin, 7:30 p.m., University Theatre. Performance also at 3 p.m. **May 4.** Information: 406-721-3194.

UM Final Examinations—May 5-9.

Griz Grad Fiesta—May 5, 4:30 p.m., University Center, Copper Commons. Join classmates for an evening of food, drinks, entertainment and prizes to celebrate 2008 grads of UM. Information: UM Alumni Association, 406-243-5211.

Wilco Live in Concert—May 5, 8 p.m., Adams Center. Information: <http://www.wilcoworld.net>. Cost: \$29 general public; \$24 with valid Griz Card. Tickets: GrizTix outlets, 406-243-4051, 888-

UM Events

MONTANA, <http://www.griztix.com>.

"The Poindexter Collection"—May 6-Aug. 16, Montana Museum of Art & Culture, Meloy and Paxson galleries.

Works of some of America's most important painters of the post-war era from the collection of George and Elinor Poindexter. On loan from the Montana Historical Society. Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 4-8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Summer gallery hours beginning June 1: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Information: 406-243-2019, <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum>.

Jazz Composers Concert—May 6, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall. Features jazz combo composition. Free and open to the public. Information: UM Department of Music, 406-243-6880.

Media Arts Graduate Thesis Movies—May 8, 6 p.m., University Center Theater. Features fiction and documentary. Free and open to the public. Information: 406-243-4540.

Track and Field: Tom Gage Classic—May 9, Missoula. Information: <http://www.montanagrizzlies.com>.

Senior Recognition Ceremony—May 9, 1 p.m. University Theatre.

Class Reunions 1938, 1948, 1958—May 10. Information: UM Alumni Association, 406-243-5211.

Commencement 2008—May 10, Adams Center, 9:30 a.m.; ceremony for professional schools and colleges (business administration, forestry and conservation, fine arts, journalism, education, and health professions and biomedical sciences); 2 p.m.; ceremony for the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Technology. Information: http://www.umt.edu/registrar/grad_info.htm. 🍷



The University of
Montana

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