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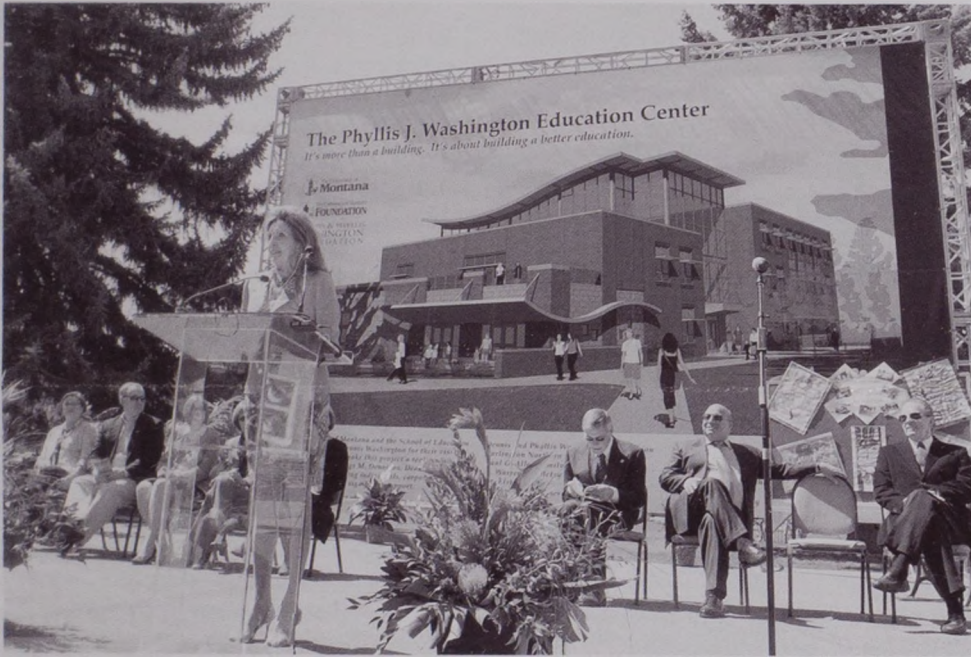
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Phyllis Washington speaks at the May 2 groundbreaking ceremony for UM's new education center that will bear her name.

University receives its largest donation

Phyllis Washington can't put a price tag on the valuable teacher education she received at The University of Montana. But the 1964 School of Education graduate and her husband, industrialist Dennis Washington, recently paid back campus in a big way.

During a sunny May 2 groundbreaking ceremony for the new Phyllis J. Washington Education Center, it was announced that the Washingtons have increased their pledge for the new facility from \$3 million to \$10 million.

That's the largest gift in the University's 115-year history.

"It's about more than a building; it's about building a better education," Mrs. Washington said. "This additional boost will allow construction to begin immediately in order to have the facility ready for students in the fall of 2009. This facility will make Montana a national leader in teacher education."

Built entirely by private funding, the

center's construction will begin this spring as a 27,000-square-foot addition to the Education Building.

The new facility will include high-tech classrooms and distance-learning studios, as well as classrooms specifically designed to teach math and science instructional methods. It also will house the Early Childhood Modeling Center, which will offer indoor and outdoor classrooms and learning spaces. In addition, the new education center also will feature the Learning and Belonging Preschool.

"Both emerging teachers and 20-year veterans must be fluent in current techniques and technology to do their jobs and meet our state's—and our nation's—education goals," said Roberta Evans, UM education dean. "The center (will be) a building that invites you to walk into it and learn forever."

UM President George Dennison said, "The (center) will enable the University

— Continued next page

Theater pioneer honored

UM awarded an honorary doctorate to renowned educator Firman H. "Bo" Brown at its 2008 Commencement ceremonies May 10.

The honorary doctor of fine arts degree recognizes Brown's illustrious record of teaching, scholarship and service to educational theater.

In nominating Brown for UM's highest honor, School of Fine Arts Dean Shirley Howell said, "The

number of students whose lives have been influenced by the work of Dr. Firman H. Brown, the number of theatre programs that have been improved by the high standards set and the number of audiences enriched by his life's work are infinite."

"When one talks or thinks about theater in Montana, one must take account of Bo Brown and all that he has accomplished," said UM President George Dennison. "We Montanans know our history of theater in the state because of Bo. We enjoy the Bigfork Summer Theatre because of Bo, and we have the wonderful benefits of the Montana Rep because of Bo. In many ways, Bo Brown has provided a rich theatrical legacy to all of Montana and provided a wonderful example for young people to emulate."

Brown spent his undergraduate days at UM in theater and journalism, earning a bachelor's degree in 1949 and a master's degree in 1953. He went on to study speech and theater at the University of Wisconsin, where he



Brown

— Continued next page

Actor returns to alma mater

It's been nearly 50 years since University of Montana alumnus and daytime television star Eric Braeden set foot on the Missoula campus. But he came back on April 19 to screen his aptly titled new movie, "The Man Who Came Back," for the campus and Missoula communities.

Braeden introduced both free showings of the film in the University Center Theater and held a half-hour question-and-answer session following each screening. Not one to let down his fans, Braeden also signed dozens of personalized autographs for moviegoers.

The German-born Braeden, whose name was Hans Gudegast when he attended UM in the early 1960s and worked nights at the Bonner mill, is an internationally known television and film star. He's best known for his longtime role as Victor Newman on the



Eric Braeden answers questions following a UM screening of his new film, "The Man Who Came Back."

No. 1-rated daytime drama series "The Young and the Restless." He also starred as John Jacob Astor in the Academy Award-winning movie "Titanic."

Braeden reconnected with his alma mater after he was interviewed last fall by Missoula writer Paddy MacDonald for a profile that appeared in the winter 2008 issue of the Montanan, UM's alumni magazine.

"The Man Who Came Back" was produced by Braeden and stars the UM alum as Reese Paxton, a former Confederate soldier who fights for the rights of African Americans in a bloody labor strike. Taking

place post-Civil War in a small town where emancipation has yet to occur, the movie also stars Armand Assante, Billy Zane, Sean Young, Carol Alt, James Patrick Stuart and George Kennedy, among others. 🍷

Peace Corps head honors University for its volunteers

Ron Tschetter, the Washington, D.C.-based director of the Peace Corps, will speak at on campus Thursday, May 29, to honor UM for being a top producer of Peace Corps volunteers.

His appearance will be at 2 p.m. in the Turner Hall Dell Brown Room. The event is free and open to the public. Tschetter will present a plaque that will hang in UM's Office of Career Services.

Since the Peace Corps was established by President Kennedy in 1961, more than 700 UM graduates have served as volunteers. UM now ranks 17th for producing volunteers among medium-sized universities and colleges with enrollments between 5,001 and 15,000. The University currently has 23 alumni serving in the corps.

Before becoming Peace Corps director, Tschetter was president of the largest full-service investment firm in the Northwest, Montana-based D.A. Davidson. 🍷

Theater — continued

received a doctorate in 1963.

Brown then spent his professional career in educational theater. For nearly half a century, he chaired theater departments at UM; Ithaca College in New York; Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla.; and Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

Brown chaired the UM theater department from 1956 to 1969. During that time he established the Masquer Summer

Theater and created and implemented both the Master of Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees in theater at the University.

In 1960 Brown and his wife, the late Margery Hunter Brown, who later became a UM law professor, established the Bigfork Summer Playhouse, which they ran for eight years. Today, many UM drama/dance students continue to gain professional experience through the Bigfork theater.

Donation — continued

to reaffirm its commitment to the most effective and responsive preparation of new teachers and service to current teachers across Montana. In a very real way, this center, with its modern information technology, will provide almost universal public school access to the University's resources and, indeed, to the wealth of educational materials now available through the Internet."

To emphasize the new center's focus on helping children, the groundbreaking ceremony included toddlers playing in sand to one side and a medley of songs sung by fifth-graders. The podium backdrop was a billboard-sized architect's rendering of the education center.

Mrs. Washington taught elementary school in Missoula for several years. One of her former students, Randy Mostad of Billings, spoke at the groundbreaking. He said she was an excellent teacher who started him down a successful path by making a gut-wrenching decision.

"I was held back," Mostad said. "But it was a good call – it was a gift." He said Mrs. Washington was a rock in the stream of his life that caused a lot of positive ripples.

Missoula attorney Milt Datsopoulos, a longtime Washington friend, said Phyllis was instrumental in making the education center a reality.

"One thing people have said about Phyllis," he said, "if she tries to do something, just get out of the way." 🍷

In 1967 Brown launched the inaugural season of the Montana Repertory Theatre, which today is recognized as one of the leading theatrical touring programs in the nation.

Brown also was an instrumental founding member of the Montana Arts Council, which continues to engender and promote artistic endeavors across the state.

Brown retired in 1995 and returned to Missoula in 2006. 🍷

Washington said she and her husband have a passion to ensure children are raised with positive values and education, which is why they have established 400 scholarships in their name.

She was excited to be giving back: "Our children are like living messages we send to a time we will never see," she said. "There is a Chinese proverb that says, 'One generation plants the tree; the next gets the shade.'"

The Washingtons' contributions to UM during the past two decades include significant gifts to projects such as Washington-Grizzly Stadium, the Prescott House, the Gallagher Business Building and the Montana Island Lodge at Salmon Lake, as well as investment in student scholarship programs. 🍷

Treasury Official Speaks—U.S.

Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Robert Kimmitt gave the graduation addresses during UM's 111th Commencement exercises May 10. Kimmitt already had long and distinguished careers in both the military and government before being sworn into his present position on Aug. 16, 2005. He is the son of the late Stan Kimmitt, a UM alumnus who became secretary of the U.S. Senate and a legendary aide to revered Montana statesman Mike Mansfield.



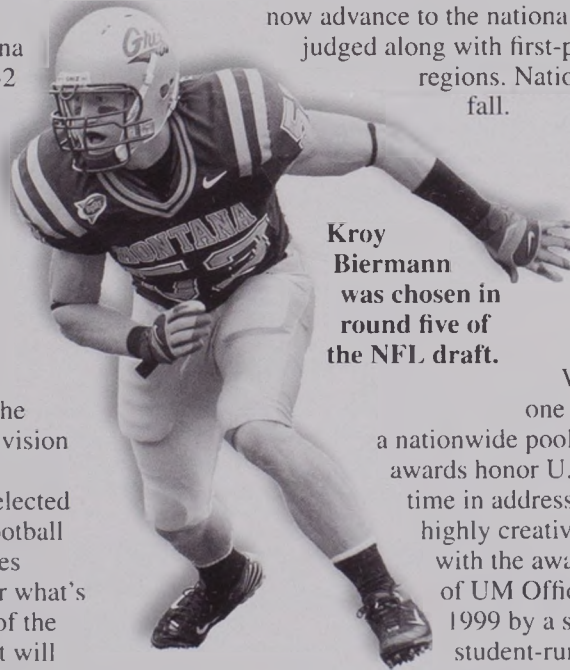
established by the Cox children in honor of their parents, go annually to faculty who are not yet tenured based on superior contributions to the education of UM students. This year the award winners will receive \$500 to purchase scholarly materials of their choice for the University's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library and a cash award of \$2,715.50.

Journalistic Recognition—The Society

of Professional Journalists recently announced its Mark of Excellence awards

honoring outstanding college journalism in the Northwest. Students in UM's School of Journalism captured a dozen first-place awards and swept several categories. Radio-television students took first in 10 separate categories, and print students captured two top prizes. More than a dozen other students were honored with second- and third-place awards. First-place winners now advance to the national competition where they'll be judged along with first-place winners from 11 other regions. National finalists will be announced this fall.

Grizzlies Go Pro—Two of the best football players in UM history were selected in the National Football League draft. UM defensive end Kroy Biermann was chosen in the fifth round by the Atlanta Falcons, while running back Lex Hilliard was taken in the sixth round by the Miami Dolphins. Biermann, from Hardin, was the winner of the 2007 Buck Buchanan Award. He is ranked second in Montana history with 33 sacks and 45 tackles for loss in 52 career games. He led the Big Sky Conference with 15 sacks, which ranked him second in the nation (1.25 sacks a game). Hilliard, originally from Kalispell, is UM's all-time leader in rushing touchdowns (50) and total touchdowns (52). He's second in school history with 4,018 career rushing yards. He had 18 100-yard rushing games in 49 career contests.



Kroy Biermann was chosen in round five of the NFL draft.

Tops In Transportation—The

National Wildlife Federation named UM the winner of the transportation award for its innovative and effective transit system as part of the "Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming" competition. UM was

one of eight schools honored from

a nationwide pool of entries. NWF's "Chill Out" awards honor U.S. schools that are ahead of their time in addressing global warming and being highly creative in doing so. NWF bestowed UM with the award for the Associated Students of UM Office of Transportation, created in 1999 by a student referendum. It is the only student-run transit system in the country.

Since its inception, the ASUM Office of

Transportation has increased student ridership and reduced pollution that causes global warming. During 2006-07 the campus transit system reduced carbon emissions by roughly 170 tons.

Three Named Udall Scholars—UM juniors Whitney Gaskill,

Shannon Kuhn and Cleo Woelfle-Erskine were among the 80 students from 64 colleges and universities selected as 2008 Udall Scholars. Each scholarship provides up to \$5,000 for one year. UM's newest Udall Scholars all major in environmental studies. Woelfle-Erskine also majors in geosciences, and Gaskill is pursuing a minor in wilderness studies. The scholarships are awarded by the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation, authorized by Congress in 1992 to honor Congressman Udall's legacy of public service.

MTPR Raises Record Amount—Montana Public Radio listeners donated more than \$455,000 during the annual Pledge Week held April 7-13 to keep the station running for another year. The week was filled with hope, excitement, fun and some concern over the effect of warm spring weather during the final days of

O'Day Appointed—UM Athletic Director

Jim O'Day has been appointed as a member of the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision Committee. His four-year membership on the committee begins Sept. 1. "It's an honor to be selected to this NCAA committee," O'Day said. "The Football Championship Subdivision has a lot of challenges ahead, so this will present an opportunity to hear what's happening from top to bottom. With expansion of the FCS playoff system expected as early as 2010, it will be beneficial to have as much up-to-date information as possible, while also assisting in the selection of the best teams for our championship playoffs."

Civic Students—UM's Office for Civic Engagement honored eight students for their contributions to the Missoula community at the 2008 Volunteer Recognition Awards last month. The 2008 honorees and the organizations they volunteer with are: Joshua Birchall, the UM Linguistics Program; Kelly Driscoll, Hunger Awareness Week; Jillian Hughes, the Ronald McDonald House Charities; Nick Lofing, Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children of Missoula; Katie Matus, the Poverello Center; and Kelley Orteg, Friends to Youth. Treva Bittinger with the Student Assault Resource Center and Taylor Blakely with the Washington Middle School Flagship program received "Outstanding Volunteer of the Year" awards.

Excellent Educators—UM's College of Arts and Sciences has recognized two faculty members for their teaching excellence and exceptional work with UM students. Anthropology Assistant Professor Ashley McKeown and geosciences Assistant Professor Julia Baldwin each received a Helen and Winston Cox Educational Excellence Award at 2008 graduation ceremonies for their individual departments on May 10. The awards,

— Continued next page

the drive. The sunshine, however, did not slow pledge activity over the weekend, which brought in slightly more than \$200,000—another record for the station. The station's fundraising goal for the week was \$481,000, leaving a \$25,000 shortfall.

Lecture Series Launches—Prominent statesman, war hero and university president Bob Kerrey presented the inaugural Stan Kimmitt Lecture on Public Service at UM on April 30. Kerrey's lecture was titled "The Value of Losing." Since 2001 Kerrey has served as president of The New School, a university in New York City's Greenwich Village. He also served on the 9-11 Commission during 2003-04. The Stan Kimmitt Lecture on Public Service was created by the five children of Stan Kimmitt, a former secretary of the U.S. Senate and legendary aide to the late Sen. Mike Mansfield. The siblings are Robert Kimmitt, Mark Kimmitt, Jay Kimmitt, Mary Laxton and Judy Rainey.

New Director Takes Helm—Lucy France, a 1993 graduate of the UM School of Law, begins her duties as the new director of UM's Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Office this month. France was selected for the position after a national search that brought four outstanding finalists to campus. Since 1995 she has been a partner at the Missoula law firm Garlington, Lohn & Robinson. As director, France will oversee the University's equal opportunity and affirmative action policies, publications and programs.

Relay Nets \$40,000—Forty teams raised more than \$40,000 to fight cancer last month at the annual UM American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Hundreds of participants braved rain,

sleet, snow and cold temperatures as they walked laps around the Oval from 6 p.m. April 25 until 6 a.m. April 26. Proceeds from the fundraiser go to help the American Cancer Society fight cancer. The UM Panhellenic community—including Kappa Alpha Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Delta Gamma and Alpha Phi—raised more than \$6,300. For more information about donating to the UM Relay for Life, call the Missoula office of the American Cancer Society at 728-1004.

Culinary Competition—Chef Timothy Hodges of UM's Dining Services was awarded a silver medal at a recent regional culinary competition. The 2008 National Association of College and University Food Services Continental Regional Culinary Challenge was held April 1 at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Each competitor had 75 minutes to produce an original striped bass entrée and accompanying side dishes and sauces. Hodges prepared a blackened striped sea bass accompanied by carrot sriracha Israeli couscous, roasted sweet peppers, red onion, jicama and Meyer lemon aioli. He scored 32 out of a possible 40 points, qualifying for a silver medal.

Modernist Medium—"The Poindexter Collection," an exhibition of American modernist artworks on loan from the Montana Historical Society, is at the Montana Museum of Art & Culture at UM through Aug. 16. The exhibition is in the museum's Meloy and Paxson galleries, located in UM's Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. Everton Gentry "George" Poindexter, a Montana native and UM alumnus (1918-20), and his wife, Elinor, amassed nearly 500 artworks by some of America's most important postwar era painters. MMAC summer gallery hours from May to August are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Admission is free. 📖

Memorial Day Holiday—May 26, UM offices closed.

Red Cross Blood Drive—June 9, 11 a.m.-4p.m. University Center Rooms 332-333. To schedule an appointment call the Red Cross at 543-6695. Bring ID.

College of Technology Orientation—June 12, 7 a.m. COT, 909 South Ave. W., Missoula. Students who need to take the Montana University System Writing Assessment should check in at 7 a.m. The exam begins promptly at 7:30 a.m. Students who do not need to take the writing assessment should check in by 8:30 a.m. A welcoming ceremony begins at 9 a.m. in COT Health and Business Building Room HB01. To RSVP call the COT Admissions Office, 406-243-7882 or 800-542-6882, or e-mail cotadmissions@umontana.edu.

The Missoula Colony—June 13-21. "A Gathering of Artists in Support of the Writer's Craft." Montana Theatre, PAR/TV Center. Readings in the afternoons and evenings. Information: Montana Repertory Theatre Missoula, 406-243-6809. <http://www.montanarep.org/colony.html>

2008 Grizzly Basketball Camp—June 14-15. Griz Team Camp for high school varsity, JV and freshman teams. The camp is an official qualifier for the Big Sky State Games to be held in Billings July 14-16. For information, call Julie Tonkin or

UM Events

Assistant Griz basketball coach Andy Hill at 406-243-5334 or e-mail tonkinja@mso.umt.edu or andy.hill@mso.umt.edu.

Sports Camps—Griz Football Camp: June 15-18. Lady Griz Overnight Camp: June 16-19, grades 5-12. Montana Soccer Camp: June 16-20. Lady Griz Team Camp: June 21-23. Montana Soccer Camp: Helena, June 23-27. Information: <http://www.montanagrizzlies.com/content/camps/sportscamps.htm>.

Transition Seminar—June 18-20. Three-day seminar for high school juniors, seniors and others with disabilities who are soon-to-be-college freshmen at UM. Cost: \$110. Various locations on the UM campus. Information: UM Disability Services for Students 406-243-2243, dss@umontana.edu, <http://www.umt.edu/dss>.

Summer Band Camp—June 22-28. Music Building Weeklong camp for students entering sixth through 12th grade. Cost: resident, \$350; commuter, \$150. Information: UM Department of Music, 406-243-6880, griz.music@umontana.edu

Griz Overnight Basketball Camp—June 24-27. For grades 5-12. Includes the development of skills and fundamentals and features a fastbreak league and hot shot and free throw competitions. For information, call Julie Tonkin or assistant Griz basketball coach Andy Hill at 406-243-5334 or e-mail tonkinja@mso.umt.edu or andy.hill@mso.umt.edu. 🏀



The University of
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