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Dennison soars with Blue Angels

University of Montana President George Dennison knew he had crossed an item off his "bucket list" when Navy Blue Angels pilot Lt. Frank Weisser told him to look up.

Only the plane was flying upside down.

"I was looking up like he said, but I was looking down," Dennison said with a smile.

And that short time spent upside down was the only time during the flight that Dennison's stomach was slightly af flutter. "I don't remember any feelings of discomfort," he said. "Everyone kept telling me, 'This will be a grueling experience. You'll get sick.'" But he didn't. And he's even got video to prove it.

After his flight with the Blue Angels, the U.S. Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, in August at Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane, Wash., Dennison can now add a tape of his aerial adventure to his video collection. The camera in the cockpit, which was focused on his face, did not provide much to look at, according to Dennison, but it showed, "no evidence of pain," he again said with a smile.

Dennison — who went to the base with his wife, Jane, who didn't fly — said there was never any question he would accept the invitation to fly with the Blue Angels. "No one should turn down such an opportunity," he said.



UM President George Dennison waves to spectators at Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane, Wash., before taking off on a flight with the Blue Angels of the U.S. Navy last month.

Before the excitement of the flight, however, he sat through an instructional meeting. "They discussed how to anticipate g-forces during the flight. You tense up your lower body and relax your upper body," Dennison said.

He experienced almost seven gees during his flight. One g — which is a unit of inertial force on a body subjected to rapid acceleration or gravity — is equal to 32 feet per second at sea level. He said slowing the plane down for landing is where his body felt the most g-force.

The total flight was about 45 minutes. While it took around seven minutes to maneuver the aircraft for takeoff and another five or six to come back after landing, the rest of the time was spent high in the sky. The plane flies at 97 percent of Mach — the speed of sound. So, while it's not quite supersonic, it moves.

The plane Dennison flew in — which was Bobcat blue and gold, something Dennison said he knew beforehand — was hot to the touch. Because there was no shade, Dennison said, "I felt like I was in a pressure cooker."

Dennison said he would definitely fly again if given the opportunity, and when asked where the adventure ranks on his list of life's accomplishments he said, "It's one that would be on my bucket list." 🐼



LEFT: Lt. Frank Weisser preps Dennison on his upcoming flight with the Blue Angels. ABOVE: Dennison and Weisser lift off for a 45-minute flight, during which they experienced almost seven gees.

UM forges partnership with Vietnam

My, how times have changed. UM signed a memorandum of understanding with Vietnam on Aug. 12 for student and faculty exchanges with the Southeast Asia country. The agreement includes curricula and information sharing.

U.S. Sen. Max Baucus probably summed it up best when he said, "It's amazing to me that 30 years ago Vietnam was an enemy." Baucus' office was instrumental in making the agreement possible and helped Vietnam gain Permanent Normal Trade Relations with the U.S. in 2006.

Perhaps it's appropriate that UM President George Dennison led Le Cong Phung, Vietnam's ambassador to the United States, past the University's statue of Maureen and Mike Mansfield on the way to the signing ceremony.

Mike Mansfield, the Montana statesman who became the county's longest-serving U.S. Senate majority leader (not to mention a namesake of UM's largest library), was a U.S. ambassador to Japan and always had an abiding interest in Asia. Dennison believes Mansfield would have been proud.

"The University is eager to welcome Vietnamese students and faculty to campus," Dennison said, "and we look forward to sending Montana students and faculty to study at Vietnam's universities.



Le Cong Phung, Vietnam's ambassador to the United States (left) shakes hands with UM President George Dennison after signing an agreement for student and faculty exchanges. U.S. Sen. Max Baucus stands in the middle.

This is as much a benefit to us as it is to Vietnam."

Baucus said trade between Vietnam and the U.S. has burgeoned 700 percent since 2000. He said it's a country of 85 million entrepreneurial, hard-working people, where 50 percent of the population is under age 25.

Phung said his country has about 7,000 students studying in the U.S., and the country would like to increase that number

to 10,000.

Ambassadors to the U.S. from Colombia, Morocco, New Zealand and Peru also attended the formal signing ceremony, which was held in the University Center.

Mehrdad Kia, UM associate provost for International Programs, said campus now boasts 86 international partnerships, and the University has 500 international students from 73 countries. 🐾

Law school's Dean Eck will retire in June

UM School of Law Dean E. Edwin Eck has announced that he will resign from the position of dean of the law school effective June 30, 2009.

Eck joined the UM School of Law faculty in 1981 and became dean of the school in 1995. He will return to the law school faculty after his tenure as dean is complete, but will do so after an administrative leave during fall semester 2009.



E. Edwin Eck

Eck recently has provided leadership in a project that will substantially renovate and expand UM's Law Building, and he will continue to oversee the completion

"The School of Law has prospered under Dean Eck, and the building project itself is a clear symbol of his determination to move the school forward."

— Royce Engstrom,
UM provost

of that project, as well as preparations for an upcoming American Bar Association accreditation visit. The building's renovation and expansion is central to the law school's continued accreditation.

"The School of Law has prospered under Dean Eck," said UM Provost Royce Engstrom, "and the building project itself is a clear symbol of his determination to move the school forward."

Eck received a bachelor's degree in

government and international relations from Carleton College, a Juris Doctor degree from UM's School of Law and a Master of Laws degree in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He joined UM's law school faculty after diverse experiences as judicial clerk, assistant United States attorney for Montana and several years in private practice.

Eck also serves as a commissioner of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and has been active in leading Montana legislative reforms in the area of trusts and estates. Upon the recommendation of U.S. Sen. Max Baucus, the Senate recently confirmed Eck as a member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board.

The University soon will conduct a national search for the next dean of the School of Law. 🐾

UM Honors Distinguished

Alums—Three outstanding alumni have been chosen to receive UM's 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award. They are Jeff Hamilton of Spokane, Wash., retired senior managing partner of the global consulting firm Accenture; Judith Blakely Morgan of La Jolla, Calif., a journalist best-known for her award-winning travel columns; and Garry South of Santa Monica, Calif., one of the nation's top political strategists. Hamilton retired in 2001 after working more than 25 years with Accenture, one of the world's largest and most successful consulting and outsourcing firms. An active pilot for more than 40 years, Hamilton flies for Lighthawk – a volunteer-based aviation organization – and for a Stearman formation team. After graduating from UM, Blakely Morgan wrote an award-winning travel column from 1975-2005. Blakely Morgan's articles have appeared in National Geographic, Travel & Leisure, Harper's Bazaar, Sports Illustrated and more. South began his career in politics serving as president of Associated Students of UM. In 1975, he was public information director for the Montana Legislature, and he later served as the Montana state coordinator for the Carter-Mondale presidential campaign. During the past 36 years, South has managed or played leading roles in several major political campaigns. He now is principal of Garry South Group of Santa Monica, a public relations and communications firm.



Jennifer Hepner

Griz Royalty—UM graduate student Jennifer Hepner was crowned Miss Montana 2008 in June and will represent Montana in the Miss America Pageant in Las Vegas in January. Hepner completed her first year of graduate school at UM in communication studies last spring and plans to resume her education after her reign as Miss Montana. She received undergraduate degrees from UM in communication studies and anthropology and is a graduate of the Davidson Honors College. Hepner is a native of Great Falls and a graduate of C.M. Russell High School. These days she is busy touring the state to promote her personal platform, "Beyond the Bell: After-School Programs for Montana's Youth." She is also preparing for the upcoming national competition and will film a reality television show with fellow pageant contestants. Hepner will return to Missoula for UM's Homecoming weekend, Sept. 19-20.

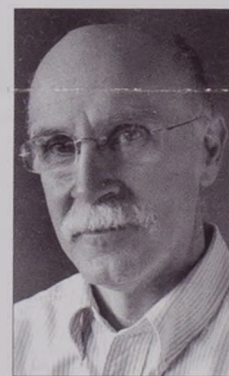
Catch Griz Football On TV—All 12 UM football games in 2008 will be televised live by KPAX-TV of Missoula/KAJ-TV of Kalispell, its sister station, CW-TV, as well as its Montana News Station affiliates. KPAX-TV Sports Director Phil Buck will serve as the play-by-play announcer for all 12 games. Former Grizzly quarterback John Edwards will join Buck in the booth as a color commentator. Former UM quarterback Grady Bennett also will be a color commentator again this season. Griz fans also can watch games on their computers for free through Big Sky TV. <http://www.bigskytv.org>. And a free, live audio feed of the KGVO radio broadcast of all games and a live stats package for home games also are available on the Montana Grizzlies Web site. <http://www.montanagrizzlies.com>.



Grizzlies Tops At Spirit Camp—UM dance and cheer squads, along with the Grizzlies' team mascot, Monte, won nine awards at the three-day Universal Cheerleaders and Dance Association's "College Spirit Camp" hosted by Central Washington University. Monte took a first place in the mascot division and won the leadership award, which is voted on by the other mascots at the camp. The UM Dance Team was first in the "Home Pom Routine" and also voted the "Most Improved Team." UM's Cheer Squad placed first in the Large Co-ed Sideline Division and was second in the Large Co-ed Cheer Division. The Cheer Squad also garnered an award for "Most Collegiate," which is voted on by the camp staff and based on which school best represents themselves in a collegiate and professional manner.

Professor To Give Keynote Address—

UM Professor Stewart Justman will be the keynote speaker at Science Day, a forum in Maryland for the exchange of scientific information sponsored by the Food and Drug Administration Office of Clinical Pharmacology. Justman, who directs UM's Liberal Studies Program, will present "Finasteride and Preventive Medicine." Finasteride is a drug proposed for use in cancer prevention. Justman's book "Do No Harm: How a Magic Bullet for Prostate Cancer Became a Medical Quandary," published in April this year, explains how finasteride, proven to dramatically reduce the incidence of prostate cancer, was found to be also associated with a distinctly higher rate of aggressive cancer. Science Day will take place Oct. 24 on the Shady Grove campus of the University of Maryland.



Stewart Justman

Lifelong Learning This Fall—Community members 50 and older can explore topics ranging from art, music and writing to history, politics and global warming in fall courses offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UM. The courses, taught by dynamic UM and community educators, will take place Sept. 29-Nov. 7. Courses also will be offered on Mondays and Tuesdays, Oct. 6-28, at the Daly Mansion in Hamilton. Registration is now open for all fall courses. An annual Osher Lifelong Learning Institute membership fee of \$20 is required to enroll. The registration fee for each course is \$50. Registration forms, complete course descriptions and detailed information about instructors are online at <http://www.umn.edu/ce/plus55>. For more information, call UM Continuing Education at 406-243-2905 or e-mail dannette.fadness@umontana.edu.

Timber Market Downturn Has Big Impact—Ongoing weakness in the U.S. housing industry and the longer-term issue of timber availability are plaguing Montana's wood products industry in 2008, with potential repercussions for years to come, reports a UM researcher. Todd Morgan, director of forest industry research at UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research says Montana had 3,068 mill production workers in the state in the first half of this year, down from 3,330 in the first half of 2007 and more than 3,500 during the same period in 2006. Lumber production from Montana sawmills in the first half of this year

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was 387 million board feet, down 9.2 percent from the first half of 2007 and 21.2 percent from the first half of 2006. Morgan said the wood products industry employs more than 9,000 workers who earn about \$400 million in labor income annually. The industry accounts for 10 percent of Montana's economic base.

Business School Bestows Award—UM's School of Business Administration and the Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs will honor two world-class entrepreneurs with the 2008 Lewis & Clark Pioneer in Industry Award at a dinner Friday, Oct. 3. The recipients of this year's award are Mark Kvamme of Sequoia Capital and Karen Puckett of CenturyTel. The evening begins with cocktails at 6 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom. Dinner and an awards ceremony will follow at 7 p.m. Tickets for the general public are \$100 per person. Tickets for UM faculty and staff are \$60 each. Reservations must be made by Sept. 24. For more information or to make a reservation, call Larae Hackney at 243-4830 or e-mail larae.hackney@business.umt.edu.

Stadium Expansion Wraps Up—The latest expansion at UM's Washington-Grizzly Stadium wrapped up just as the 2008 football season began. As students returned to campus in late August, crews hustled to finish the expansion on the east side of the stadium. The addition will provide another 2,000 seats, bringing the stadium's capacity to just over 25,000. The top-tier, glassed-in Canyon Club features 130 theater-style

seats complete with cushions and cup holders, plus room for another 120 fans in the bar area. Another 250 ticket holders will have exclusive access to the new outdoor Hellgate Terrace, which offers spectacular views of Hellgate Canyon, the Clark Fork River and the Rattlesnake Wilderness. The student section gained 750 seats and the remaining new seats offer a mix of maroon fold-down seats and metal benches with seat backs for members of the Grizzly Scholarship Association. Other upgrades include a new entrance for students on the south end of the stadium, 27-foot speakers on top of the scoreboard, widened corridors, new rest rooms, an onsite kitchen for Dining Services, colorful new pads around the sidelines and additional landscaping around the stadium. "We've got an almost brand-new-looking stadium after 21 years," said Jim O'Day, UM director of athletics.

Book Recognized Once Again—An anthology edited by UM Native American studies Professor Richmond Clow is a finalist in the 2008 National Indie Excellence Awards. The anthology — "The Sioux in South Dakota History: A Twentieth Century Reader" — was published by the South Dakota State Historical Society Press last year. It is a selection of 13 essays that examine a variety of themes in Sioux history since 1900. The essays were selected from past issues of South Dakota History, the peer-reviewed quarterly journal of the South Dakota State Historical Society. The annual competition is designed to champion independent publishers and the products they produce. The book also recently won bronze in the anthology category of the 12th annual Independent Publisher Book Awards. 🐾

Board of Regents Meeting—Sept. 25-26. Montana Tech, Butte. Meeting schedule: <http://www.mus.edu/board/meetings/meetingschedule.asp>.

"Libby, Montana"—Sept. 25. 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. University Center Theater. An event of the fall 2008 Peace and Justice Film Series. Free and open to the public. Information: <http://www.peaceandjusticefilms.org>.

President's Lecture Series: "Finding Beauty in a Broken World"—Sept. 25. 8 p.m. University Theatre. Presenter: Terry Tempest Williams, Annie Clark Tanner Scholar in Environmental Humanities, University of Utah. Free and open to the public.

Faculty Recital: David Cody, tenor—Sept. 26. 7:30 p.m. Music Recital Hall. \$10 general public; \$5 students and seniors.

Blue Mountain Observatory: Observing Nights—Sept. 26, Oct. 3. Free and open to the public. Events will be canceled if the sky is cloudy or thunderstorms threaten. Call 406-243-5179 for updates before going. Observatory location: <http://www.physics.umt.edu/BlueMountain/bluedir.html>. More information: <http://www.physics.umt.edu/BlueMountain>.

Public Lands Day—Sept. 27. Volunteer to help restore and maintain public lands around Missoula. Information: <http://www.umt.edu/conservationcalendar>; Marilyn Marler, 406-243-6642, marilyn.marler@umontana.edu.

Football—Sept. 27. 1 p.m. UM vs. Central Washington. Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Soccer—Sept. 28. 1 p.m. South Campus Stadium. UM vs.

UM Events

Boise State.

Graduate School Workshop—Sept. 30.

3:30 p.m. Lommasson Center Room 154.

Learn the benefits of going to grad school, steps to choosing a school and program, graduate tests and when to take them, how to write an impressive essay and more. Free and open to the public. Information: UM Career Services, 406-243-2022, careers@umontana.edu, <http://www.umt.edu/career/workshops/workshop.htm>.

"The Foreigner"—Sept. 30-Oct. 4 and Oct. 7-11. 7:30 p.m. Masquer Theatre, PAR/TV Center. UM Department of Drama/Dance production. Cost: \$13 general public; \$10 seniors/students; \$7 children 12 and under. Tickets and information: Drama/Dance Box Office, 406-243-4581, <http://www.umtheatredance.org>.

Graduate and Professional School Fair—Oct. 1. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. University Center Ballroom. Explore options from across the country for graduate and professional schools. Information: UM Career Services, 406-243-2022, careerfairs@umontana.edu, <http://www.umt.edu/career/fairs.htm>.

"Hellfire: A Journey from Hiroshima"—Oct. 1. 7 p.m. University Center Theater. Free and open to the public. Information: UM Assistant Professor Charles Exley, 406-243-5301, charles.exley@mso.umt.edu.

Reel Rock Film Tour—Oct. 2. 7 p.m. Urey Lecture Hall. "The Sharp End" follows climbers into the danger zone. Cost: \$7 in advance, \$9 day of show. Tickets and information: UM Outdoor Program, 406-243-5172, campusrec@mso.umt.edu. 🐾



The University of
Montana

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