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UM professor emeritus, president receive award

University of Montana President George Dennison and philosophy Professor Emeritus Fred McGlynn are among the winners of the 2009 Montana Governor's Humanities Award.

Established by Gov. Marc Racicot in 1995 and presented by Humanities Montana, the awards honor achievement in humanities scholarship and service and enhancement of public understanding and appreciation of the humanities.

Dennison has been president of UM since 1990. A UM graduate who grew up in Montana, Dennison has chaired the Montana Commission on Community Service since 1991. In 1993 he created the Montana Campus Compact, which has become the largest higher education consortium in the state. He continues to chair MTCC, which has a presence at 19 campuses across the state.

A historian by training, Dennison serves on many state and national boards. He sat on the board of directors of Humanities Montana in the mid-1990s. Throughout his long career, Dennison has been a tireless proponent of the public purposes of higher education — community service, service-learning, volunteerism and civic engagement.



UM President George Dennison (above) and philosophy Professor Emeritus Fred McGlynn are two recipients of the 2009 Montana Governor's Humanities Award.

McGlynn, a native of Butte with a graduate degree from Northwestern University, has introduced students to the study of the humanities at UM for more than 40 years. One of the University's most admired professors, McGlynn has taught philosophy to three generations of students, performed in a number of UM theater productions and played for many years as a member of the UM Jazz Band. He was one of the first professors to win the UM Outstanding Teaching Award.

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University commercials strike gold

New video advertisements promoting UM sports and campus lifestyle have taken top honors in recent national and regional competitions, continuing an award-winning streak for a UM commercial series started several years ago.

A video that helps rev up more than 25,000 Griz fans before their football team hits the field in Washington-Grizzly Stadium struck gold twice in separate 2008 awards competitions. Known to many as the "football tunnel run" and to others as "Griz Nation," the three-minute video is about the Montana Grizzlies prepping for games and is shown on the scoreboard's jumbo screen before kickoff.

The football video won a Gold award from the regional Council for Advancement and Support of Education's District VIII competition and a Gold award from the national Admissions Marketing Awards Competition. In addition, two other videos, one promoting Lady Griz

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Spring semester breaks enrollment record

The numbers are in, and UM has a record for spring semester enrollment. The new high mark is 13,825, which is 469 more than a year ago.

The University also set a spring semester record for full-time equivalents — 12,006.80 — which is 491.98 better than spring semester 2008. (An FTE represents 15 undergraduate or 12 graduate semester credits.)

UM President George Dennison said the changes resulted from several significant developments.

"First, the Student Success Initiative on

the Missoula campus, designed to assist students to remain enrolled and persist to graduation, has clearly begun to take effect." Dennison said. "Second, students have opted to carry somewhat heavier credit loads as a means to graduate sooner, thereby reducing the overall cost of their education.

"Finally, as usual during difficult economic times, students tend to remain enrolled or to enroll in colleges and universities, particularly if they find adequate financial assistance."

He added that the increased offerings

during Wintersession made a difference, with the credits counting during spring semester.

Montana resident FTEs jumped 556.17 between spring semester 2008 and spring 2009. Nonresident FTEs climbed 47.75, and distance-learning FTEs increased by 55.

Nearly half of the spring semester enrollment increase was generated by UM's College of Technology, which has 227 more students than spring 2008. The main Missoula campus has 242 more students taking classes than a year ago. 🐻

'Odyssey' honors artistic couple April 18

For a boy growing up in Great Falls, Monte Dolack's first piece of art was an unlikely creation — a small sculpture of two figures on a surf board. His kindergarten teacher commended his imagination; there was a foot of snow outside the classroom.

Less than 200 miles south, Mary Beth Percival, Dolack's future wife and fellow artist, painted her first picture in Wise River, when her forest ranger father led their best horse, Brownie, into the corral and sat his daughter down with a set of oils.

From these modest beginnings emerged two remarkable artists. UM's School of Fine Arts will celebrate the achievements of these two alumni and Montana icons at the ninth annual "Odyssey of the Stars — A Celebration of Artistic Journeys," at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18, in the University Theatre.

"They're both tremendous artists, and I think they really represent Montana and its many virtues on canvas," said Stephen Kalm, interim dean of UM's School of Fine Arts. "As far as alumni of the School of Fine Arts at this University, we couldn't be prouder."

The School of Fine Arts honors two selected alumni at each year's "Odyssey of the Stars," a "town and gown" event held to honor alumni, encourage current students and exhibit the school's achievements to the Missoula community. A benefit for the School of Fine Arts Scholarship Fund, the evening brings together earlier generations of UM-mentored artists with current students, faculty and the community to assist those students just embarking on their own artistic journeys.

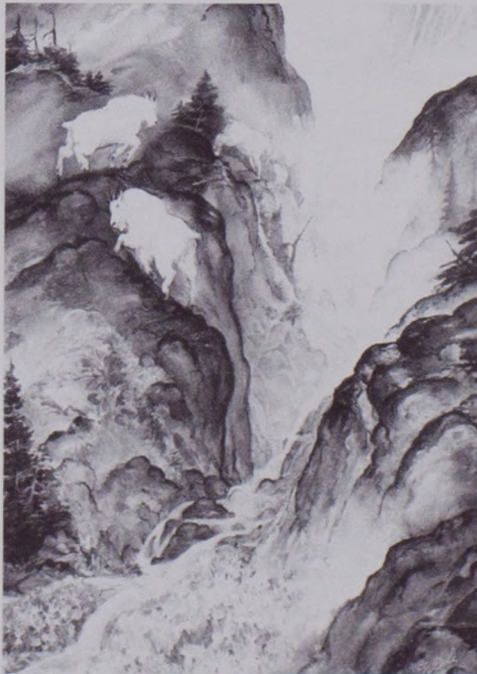
This year's event features student music, dance and film, along with art by Dolack and Percival. Special guests include the legendary Rob Quist, a UM alumnus and past "Odyssey" honoree.

The paintings and posters of Dolack and Percival have caught the attention of the state, the country and the world for more than 30 years. Dolack pursued his initial artistic affinity through his childhood and into his teenage years, when he designed posters for his high school band. As a UM student, he worked art-related jobs around campus, drawing cartoons for the Montana Kaimin and creating posters for Aber Day keggers. In the summers, he would return to Great Falls to work long, sometimes dangerous days at the copper refinery to pay for his schooling.

"There's a stage when you know



"Taurus" by Monte Dolack. Dolack and his wife, Mary Beth Percival, will be honored at the UM School of Fine Arts "Odyssey of the Stars" event on April 18.



"Mountain Sanctuary" by Mary Beth Percival

you want to be an artist, but you don't know if you can," Dolack said. This was the quandary he faced when he left UM. People said his idea of being a professional artist was absurd and urged him to keep his day job. Dolack took the plunge anyway. "I printed a business card, and I made the decision to rent a space and call it my art studio. I also lived in that place," he said.

The gamble paid off. Dolack started working for an alternative printing shop and was soon receiving commissions for posters and logos. He painted his own works on the side. "I thought, if I can have

a brush in my hand painting signs, posters and logos, I can keep that brush in my hands to do my own work," he said.

In the intervening years, Dolack has become one of the most recognizable artists in Montana. "I'm living proof that you can merge your interests and passion into a life's vocation," he said.

Growing up in the Big Hole and Boulder valleys, Percival never thought she would study art at a university. That changed when a UM art professor saw her work and encouraged her to come study in Missoula. She came to UM, the alma mater of both of her parents, in 1963. She took an immediate liking to the town and its vibrant community. "Missoula was becoming a neat place," she said.

When Percival graduated from UM, after also studying at San Francisco State College, she taught art at Belgrade High School. She met Dolack in 1975, and the pair began their partnership in life and art. Today they live in Missoula and share a gallery on Front Street.

"There are a lot of people doing creative things here," Percival said. "I'm just flattered to be a part of the whole thing."

Kalm said he is honored to have Percival and Dolack be the featured guests of this year's "Odyssey of the Stars" — an important occasion for his school. "It's an event people look forward to all year," he said. "It's an opportunity for both to have a lot of fun and support the arts here at the University."

For ticket and sponsorship information, call the School of Fine Arts dean's office at 406-243-4971. 🐾

Annual Easter Eggstravaganza returns April 11

Egg hunters and fun seekers need look no further for their quarry than the UM Oval and the ninth annual Missoula Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 11.

The hunt gets under way when the Main Hall bell tolls 1 p.m. Lawns around the Oval will be filled with more than 20,000 prize eggs and 25,000 pieces of individually wrapped candy during Western Montana's largest egg hunt.

The event is free and open to the public. There will be separate sections for age groups 0-2, 3, 4-5, 6-7 and 8-9. Kids who find the maroon, silver and gold eggs will be rewarded with top prizes.

KPAX television anchor Jill Valley and 102.5 Mountain FM radio morning personality Rick Sanders will emcee.

The Easter Eggstravaganza is organized by UM's University Relations, with generous sponsorship from local businesses. High school student volunteers from the Missoula Flagship program will help the University Relations staff spread candy and eggs across four acres of lawn the morning of the hunt and help hand out prizes. 🍌

Humanities — continued

and his nomination for the Governor's Humanities Award came with letters of support from dozens of associates and students.

Other winners of the 2009 award are:

- Brian Kahn of Helena
- Rick Newby of Helena
- Corby Skinner of Billings

The 2009 recipients will be honored during a ceremony and reception with Gov. Brian Schweitzer at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, June 4, at the Capitol Rotunda in Helena.

A banquet will follow the ceremony and reception, with no-host cocktails at 6 p.m. and a dinner and program at 7 p.m. at the Great Northern Hotel in Helena. For reservations or more information, call Clair Leonard at 406-243-6022 or e-mail clair.leonard@humanitiesmontana.org. 🍌

Journalism, law students provide live coverage of W.R. Grace trial

Students from UM are providing gavel-to-gavel online coverage of the trial of chemical giant W.R. Grace in what is being called the most extensive environmental criminal trial in U.S. history.

Communities in Montana and around the country were exposed to asbestos-contaminated ore that W.R. Grace mined and shipped from Libby. Now, through a live blog created by students from the UM schools of law and journalism, these communities will have a virtual seat in the courtroom as top executives and employees of W.R. Grace face criminal

charges of knowingly endangering lives by hiding the health risks of asbestos.

The trial and blog coverage began with jury selection in February and will continue as the case plays out in U.S. District Court in Missoula.

Students will provide dispatches from the courtroom, as well as background and issue articles and multimedia presentations on their blog <http://blog.umt.edu/gracecase>.

For more information about the project, visit the blog or follow the case on Twitter at [UMGraceCase](https://twitter.com/UMGraceCase), #GraceCase. 🍌

Commercials — continued

basketball and another commercial about life in Missoula and at UM, both won Bronze awards from CASE District VIII.

The commercials are produced by Chisel Industries, a Montana-based company. These most recent honors add to a long string of state, regional and national awards won for the commercial series over the past three years.

UM Executive Vice President Jim Foley, who heads the commercial-making effort on campus, said it's a collaborative venture. "Working together with administrators, faculty, staff and students makes it clear that the future of UM continues to hold great opportunities.

"We have wonderful people on this campus with real talent and true concern for this community and state who continue to be leaders in higher education."

In addition, several of the University's recruiting materials and institutional publications won awards in both competitions.

The 2007 President's Annual Report and the Research View newsletter each won Silver awards from the national Admissions Marketing Awards Competition, while Vision, a research magazine published once a year, received a Merit award. All three publications were produced entirely by University Relations staff.

UM's writing also captured the attention of CASE District VIII judges, who awarded Silvers to Enrollment Services for copy in its viewbook and recruiting brochure and to freelance writer Deborah Richie Oberbillig for a story on wildlife biology Professor Scott Mills' research on snowshoe hares that appeared in the 2008

Montanan editor receives CASE Rising Star award

The editor of UM's alumni magazine has been named The Rising Star in Communications by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's Northwest United States and Western Canada region.

Brianne Burrowes, editor-in-chief of the Montanan since January 2008, received the award recently at the CASE District VIII annual conference in Seattle. The award recognizes a young professional with three to five years experience in the education advancement professions whose early success bodes well for future leadership and achievement.

Burrowes began working at University Relations while still a student in UM's School of Journalism. After graduation and at the age of 23, she became the youngest Montanan editor in its 25-year history. 🍌

Vision. University Relations Senior News Editor Cary Shimek also won a Bronze award for a story on biology Professor Ken Dial and his major new theory of bird evolution that appeared in the 2008 Vision.

In addition, Enrollment Services won a CASE Bronze award for its Undergraduate Admissions Web site. Enrollment Services also won a Bronze award from the Admissions Marketing Competition for its Total Recruitment Package.

CASE District VIII comprises Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. 🍌

Insurer Gives \$125,000 For Endowed Chair

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana has pledged \$125,000 to the UM Foundation toward an endowed chair in cardiovascular sciences at UM. The gift brings the University closer to the goal of \$2.5 million to secure the endowed position. The endowed chair holder will be a physician or combined M.D./Ph.D. and will serve as a Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences professor at UM's Skaggs School of Pharmacy. The chair holder will take over leadership of a collaboration between the University and partners in the medical community. To learn more about supporting UM's endowed chair in cardiovascular sciences, call Mark Schleicher, UM Foundation's director of development for the College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, at 406-243-4222.

Mansfield Center Designated Confucius Institute—China's Ministry of Education recently designated UM's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center the 39th Confucius Institute in the United States. There are currently 269 Confucius Institutes worldwide, which are supported by the Chinese government to promote the teaching of Chinese language and culture. In the United States they are awarded on a one-per-state basis. UM's institute will receive at least five years of funding from the Office of Chinese Language Council International, part of China's Ministry of Education. Mansfield Center Director Terry Weidner said UM's Confucius Institute will meet an important educational need and its work will be appropriate for the Mansfield Center to honor its legendary namesake, Montana's late U.S. Sen. Mike Mansfield.

MTPR Announces Pledge Week Results—Listeners promised \$435,638 in contributions to Montana Public Radio by the end of Pledge Week on March 1. MTPR Fundraising Director Linda Talbott said the station is very grateful to receive such a strong outpouring of support during tough economic times. The amount raised is about \$25,000 short of the station's goal of \$460,000. The majority of donors were from Montana, but the station also received pledges from supporters in Kuala Lumpur, South Korea and Australia. Pledge Week's signature finale, "Pet Wars," raised \$70,734 in the final seven hours of the pledge drive. Cats won the "most beloved pet" title with 1,634 votes, and dogs were a close second with 1,576. Orchard mason bees flew out of nowhere to take third with 750 votes, while chickens took fourth place with 411 votes. There were 200 votes for praying mantises and 136 votes for horses.

Professor's Article Scores Second Award—Dan Flores, UM's A.B. Hammond Professor of Western History, has won a second literary award for his article "Bringing Home All the Pretty Horses: The Horse Trade and the Early American West, 1775-1825." The article, which was published in *Montana The Magazine of Western History* last year, recently was named Outstanding Magazine Article by the Western Heritage Center and National Cowboy Museum in Oklahoma City. "Bringing Home All The Pretty Horses" also received the 2008 Vivian Paladin Best Article Prize. The prize is given annually by the



editorial board of *Montana The Magazine of Western History* for the best article published in the magazine.

UM Cuts Ties With Apparel Company

UM severed its business relationship with Russell Athletic on March 3 over allegations the sports clothing company closed a Honduran factory because workers unionized. In a letter to Russell, UM Executive Vice President Jim Foley wrote, "We believe that your actions constitute a violation of our vendor code of conduct, which we implemented together with faculty, students and staff on our campus and we expect as a licensee for you to uphold." The letter states that University officials concur with findings of the Workers Rights Consortium and Fair Labor Association that the ability for workers to organize and animus toward them was a factor in Russell choosing to close the factory. Company officials contend they closed the Jerzees de Honduras factory primarily for economic reasons.

Banquet Celebrates Friendship Program—The Missoula International Friendship Program will celebrate 20 years of connecting UM international students with the Missoula community with an anniversary banquet at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 21, in the University Center Ballroom. The event will feature a Middle Eastern buffet and multicultural performances. Udo Fluck, president of MIFP, will serve as the master of ceremonies. Jean Griswold of Fort Collins, Colo., and past consultant for MIFP will be the honored guest. Banquet tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$18 for students. They are available until April 14. Call UM's Foreign Student and Scholar Services at 406-243-2226 or e-mail fsss@umontana.edu to reserve tickets.

Griz Inducted Into Hall Of Fame—Former Grizzly football players Scott Gragg and Steve Okoniewski were officially inducted into UM's athletic hall of fame in a ceremony held Feb. 6 at the University. Gragg played offensive lineman for the Griz from 1991 to 1994; Okoniewski, also an offensive lineman, wore a Griz uniform from 1970 to 1971. Both went in the second round of their NFL drafts. Okoniewski was selected by the Atlanta Falcons as the 41st overall pick in 1972. He played six seasons in the NFL, and one in the CFL. Okoniewski is now a high school principal in Luxemburg, Wis. Gragg went to the New York Giants as the 54th overall pick of the 1995 draft. He started in 151 NFL games, including 112 in a row, and was named all-pro by the NFL in 2002. He currently coaches football at his high school alma mater in Silverton, Ore.

Japanese Delegation Visits UM—Members of the Shinshu University, Japan, student support project visited several UM Academic Affairs and Student Affairs departments during February. The goal of the Shinshu University project, led by Tomone Takahashi, is to develop a support system to help students with disabilities gain rich academic experiences and achievement success. Project representatives will disseminate information gained at UM to their campus and to other higher education institutions in Japan. 🐼



The University of
Montana

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