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Kalm to lead arts college

Stephen Kalm, an award-winning vocalist, opera singer and music professor, has been appointed dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at The University of Montana.

Kalm had served as interim dean since the retirement of Shirley Howell in May 2008.

"We are very delighted to have Dr. Kalm accept this leadership role," said UM Provost Royce Engstrom. "He has been an exceptional faculty member and did excellent work while serving as interim dean. We are entering an especially exciting time for the arts, with the new status as the College of Visual and Performing Arts and new leadership in the dean's office."



Stephen Kalm

UM President George Dennison agreed, saying, "With Dean Kalm providing the leadership, we have assurance that the college will continue the great tradition in the arts at The University of Montana."

Kalm joined the UM faculty in 1994, serving as chair of the music department from 2002 to 2008. He is an active artist, performing in local, national and international venues.

Kalm holds three degrees in vocal performance: a Bachelor of Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, a Master of Arts from Queens College and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the City University of New York.

Kalm said, "I am tremendously excited to work with our internationally renowned faculty and dedicated staff to deliver innovative professional training programs and exciting cultural offerings for the state of Montana and the nation." 🐾

Law school names new dean

Irma Russell, a legal scholar and national leader in environmental and energy law, will become the next dean of the UM School of Law. She will be the school's first female dean.

Russell now teaches at the University of Tulsa College of Law, serving as a National Energy-Environment Law and Policy Institute professor.

"Professor Russell rates 'outstanding' in every category," said UM Provost Royce Engstrom. "She is a well-regarded scholar in the field of environmental and energy law, a top-notch legal educator and a respected leader capable of building upon the law school's strengths."

Russell will begin her new UM duties July 1. E. Edwin Eck, dean of the School of Law since 1995, announced last fall that he will step down from his position at the conclusion of this academic year and return to the law faculty.

UM President George Dennison said,



Irma Russell

"We are confident we have found the right person to lead the School of Law into the future. The law dean serves not just UM, but is entrusted with leading legal education for the entire state. It's a special position, and Irma has the full complement of skills needed to affirm UM's growing national standing."

"I am delighted to be joining an outstanding law school and University committed to educating the leaders of tomorrow and serving the state of Montana," Russell said. "The law school is on the cutting edge of providing an educational experience that helps students develop professional values and skills — as well as a knowledge of law."

Russell will assume the dean position as UM enters the final stages of a substantial renovation and expansion of the Law Building. The improved building will be dedicated in September.

"This is a particularly exciting time to be at the law school," she said. "I look forward to continuing the leadership Dean Eck brought to the role of dean."

Russell is a graduate of the University of Kansas, where she earned two undergraduate degrees, a master's in English literature and a law degree. 🐾

Endowment supports lifelong learning

The Bernard Osher Foundation has awarded a \$1 million endowment to UM to help sustain the highly successful Osher Life Learning Institute at the University.

Known as MOLLI throughout campus and the Missoula community, the institute is one of only 123 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes in the nation that receives funding from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

Each spring, fall and winter, MOLLI offers courses on many topics for people 50 and older, including literature, sciences, the arts, history and current events. The courses are taught by dynamic University professors and community educators, and there are no tests or grades. A MOLLI

annual membership that costs only \$20 is required to register for the courses, which usually are held once a week for six weeks. Registration fees can vary, but most courses cost \$60.

Memberships, renewed annually, help ensure that MOLLI will continue to be able to offer lifelong learning opportunities in the greater Missoula community. In addition to course offerings, MOLLI holds free, members-only social and educational events in the community throughout the year. Gift certificates for memberships or course registration fees are available.

For more information, go online to <http://www.umt.edu/ce/plus50> or call 406-243-2905. 🐾

Irish Studies Receives \$120,000—

Gerry Staunton, consul general of the consulate of Ireland in San Francisco, made an official visit to UM on April 24. Staunton met with representatives of UM's Irish Studies Program and Montana World Trade Center. UM's Irish Studies Program was launched by Irish President Mary McAleese in May 2006, and the program is supported by a grant from the Irish government. During his visit, Staunton announced an additional \$120,000 in funding for the next three years. Traolach "Terry" O'Riordain, a UM Irish studies faculty member, said the Irish government has an initiative to build stronger relationships in trade and commerce between Ireland and the Irish community in the United States. He said this initiative specifically addresses the areas of environmental research and the development of alternative fuel sources.

Researcher Earns \$1 Million Grant—UM researcher Tom Martin's 25 years of research on climate change and its impacts on animals and plants in the mountains of Arizona will continue. Martin and UM plant ecologist John Maron recently were awarded a five-year, \$1 million grant from the U.S. Geological Survey's Climate Change Science Program. Only 10 programs across the country received the funding. Martin's unparalleled work examines the long-term effects of climate on populations in a sensitive area where snow levels keep retreating to higher elevations, wiping out some species and bolstering others. The study area is a riparian ecosystem at an elevation of 8,000 feet east of Flagstaff, Ariz. Martin is a bird expert, so he studies the effects of elk on the area's plants and the subsequent impacts on birds. Maron and a student researcher also are examining the area's distribution of small mammals.

Assistant Professor Named Academic Fellow—Robert Saldin, an assistant professor of political science at UM, has been designated an Academic Fellow in terrorism studies for 2009-10 at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, a nonpartisan policy institute in Washington, D.C. Saldin will travel to Israel in early June for an intensive course in terrorism studies. The FDD Academic Fellows program provides a 10-day learning experience to U.S.-based educators and researchers to provide them with cutting-edge information about terrorism. The 2009 program will be conducted at Tel Aviv University in Israel May 30-June 10. It includes lectures by academics and military and intelligence officials, as well as diplomats from Israel, Jordan, India, Turkey and the United States. The program also includes hands-on experience such as visits to police, customs and immigration facilities, military bases and border zones.

Students Get Lesson In Philanthropy—Students in a UM School of Business Administration class learned about philanthropy firsthand this spring when they awarded \$10,000 to seven local nonprofit organizations. The class, Leadership and Motivation, focuses on leadership and management skills. This semester the class also focused on philanthropy. With a grant from the Sunshine Lady Foundation, students learned about philanthropy by disbursing grants to Missoula-area nonprofits.



The students issued a request for proposals in March and received 63 submissions from local nonprofits. They implemented a rigorous review and scoring process. In the end, seven nonprofit organizations received funding. The organizations are the RiteCare Language and Hearing Clinic, 1st Way Pregnancy Support Center, Partnership for Children, Missoula Community Food and Agriculture Coalition, the Flagship Program, Missoula Food Bank, and the Missoula Family YMCA. Grant awards ranged from \$821 to \$2,500.

Faculty Member Published In Literary Review—A story written by UM environmental studies Associate Professor Phil Condon is included in the most recent issue of Shenandoah: The Washington and Lee University Review. Condon's "Nine Ten Again" appears in the spring/summer 2009 issue of the literary magazine, which publishes original poetry, stories, essays, reviews and interviews. It is the title story from his new collection "Nine Ten Again," which received the 2008 Elixir Press Fiction Award and is forthcoming this spring from Elixir Press.

Early Childhood Educator Honored—Mary Finnegan, manager of the UM Co-Teach Preschool, was named Montana Special Educator of the Year by the Montana Council for Exceptional Children. Finnegan is the first early childhood professional to be selected for the award, which recognizes someone whose work reflects student success, continued professional development and the highest educational quality. She accepted the award at the MCEC Annual Conference on April 16 in Missoula. At Co-Teach, Finnegan teaches children ages 3 to 5 with diverse abilities to prepare them for the transition to kindergarten and to build a foundation for later school success. The school is unique because children with disabilities learn alongside children without disabilities. The preschool has operated at UM since 1980.

Disability Services Director Speaks In D.C.—Jim Marks, director of UM's Disability Services for Students, spoke at the National Press Club Newsmaker press conference April 29 in Washington, D.C. Marks is president-elect of the Association on Higher Education and Disability. He has been director of UM Disability Services for Students since 1988 and has served in numerous capacities on the AHEAD board of directors since 2003.

Professor Emeritus Receives Wildland Safety Award—UM Professor Emeritus Brian Sharkey recently received the Wildland Safety Award from the International Association of Wildland Fire. The award goes to those who have made significant contributions to wildland firefighter safety. Sharkey works with the Missoula Technology Development Center of the U.S. Forest Service and with UM Department of Health and Human Performance faculty members to provide scientific information to improve the wellness, safety and performance of wildland firefighters. His research in collaboration with UM's Human Performance Lab has led to improved safety, fitness testing, meals and tools and has brought about a better understanding of the human factors that affect firefighters' ability to do their jobs. Sharkey received the award at the IAWF annual meeting April 29 in Phoenix. 🐻



The University of
Montana

Main Hall to Main Street is published by University Relations at The University of Montana. Send questions or suggestions to Jennifer Sauer, editor, 323 Brantly Hall, Missoula, MT 59812, or call 406-243-4878. Jacob Baynham, Brianne Burrowes, Brenda Day, Rita Munzenrider and Cary Shimek are contributing editors and writers. Todd Goodrich is the primary photographer. The newsletter is online at <http://www.umt.edu/urelations/mainhall>.