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UM ranks among top 371 colleges

The University of Montana once again is listed among the top four-year colleges and universities in North America by the Princeton Review.

The 2010 edition, "The Best 371 Colleges," was released July 27. The rankings are based on surveys of more than 122,000 undergraduate students. The 80-question survey asks students to rate their school on several topics and report their campus experiences. Top schools, including UM, received a two-page profile with student comments.

"We are especially gratified that this ranking results from our student body," said UM President George Dennison. "This recognizes the dedication of our faculty and staff to provide an outstanding educational experience at The University of Montana."

This year's report quotes students as saying, "academics at UM are facilitated by great instructors." Another said the University "really encourages internships, studying abroad and community service." Students also praised the larger community, saying, "Missoula is a very accepting town. People don't have to fit in here; they simply are who they choose to be."

The school profiles also have ratings based on data collected by the Princeton Review during the 2008-09 academic year. On a scale of 60 to 99, UM received an 83 for "Quality of Life." UM also received a 96 in the "Green" category which measures a school's commitment to environmental policies, practices and education.

Only about 15 percent of the nation's four-year colleges and two Canadian colleges made "The Best 371 Colleges" list.

Complete listings are online at <http://www.princetonreview.com>.

Wear the Bear on Fridays

Griz Nation, a new tradition starts now.

Fans and followers of Grizzly Athletics and all things UM are asked to show their spirit by wearing UM apparel to work, school or anywhere else on Fridays.

The first official Wear the Bear – Paint Montana Maroon Friday will be Sept. 4, which coincides with College Colors Day, an annual celebration dedicated to promoting the spirit and traditions that make the college experience great.

UM officials hope that Wear the Bear Fridays will become a custom that marches on long after College Colors Day.

"Friday spirit days have existed as a

staple for many universities and their fans around the country," UM President George Dennison said. "The passion of

Griz fandom remains unmatched, and with excitement brewing around the kickoff of football and other fall sports, we think the time perfect to launch a new Griz tradition."

A proclamation from Missoula Mayor John Engen will be read announcing the new Wear the Bear – Paint Montana Maroon Fridays during the Great Griz Encounter on Thursday, Aug. 27, at Caras Park, when fans get to mingle

with the 2009 football team. The event will be held at 6 p.m. in conjunction with

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Clark named interim director of Bitterroot College Program

Darby resident Victoria Clark has been hired to head the Bitterroot College Program of UM for the next year. As interim director she will oversee the long-term planning for a permanent entity to deliver adult and higher education in the Bitterroot Valley.

Clark will report to UM Provost Royce Engstrom and work closely with a steering committee composed of Bitterroot Valley residents and representatives from UM, Flathead Valley Community College, and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, among others.



Victoria Clark

"Victoria has demonstrated a passion for providing education to residents of the Bitterroot Valley," Engstrom said. "Her background in education, her commitment to the community and her energetic approach combine to make her the best person for the position."

Clark has directed Darby Adult Education since 2001. She also is a student enrollment and records specialist for Literacy Bitterroot, which offers Adult Basic Education and General Education Development preparation services.

She holds a master's degree in adult and postsecondary education from the University of Wyoming, a postbaccalaureate secondary teaching certification from Northern Arizona University and a bachelor's degree from Amherst College in Massachusetts.

"It's taken time and effort, but I think

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Researchers Land Grants—Three scientists recently scored big for UM research by earning three prestigious Early Career Development Program grants from the National Science Foundation. Assistant professors Klara Briknarova in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Lila Fishman in the Division of Biological Sciences, and Art Woods in the Division of Biological Sciences each earned the five-year awards. Briknarova will receive \$788,000, Fishman will get \$636,000 and Woods will bring in \$837,000. Briknarova, a structural biologist, uses nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy to visualize the arrangement of atoms in complex biological molecules to explain how those molecules work. Fishman, a plant evolutionary geneticist, studies monkeyflowers to understand the genetic mechanisms and evolutionary processes that lead to variation within and among species. Woods, a physiological ecologist, studies leaf microclimates and how these influence insect-plant associations.

Grads Receive Distinguished Alum Honors—Three exceptional UM graduates will be honored with Distinguished Alumni Awards at UM's Homecoming celebration in October. Distinguished Alumni Awards will go to Leon Billings, class of 1959, of Bethany Beach, Del.; William Veazey (awarded posthumously), class of 1970 and MBA, 1975; and James Wylder, class of 1951, of Great Falls. Billings, a Montana native, served 12 years in the Maryland House of Delegates. He drafted federal environmental legislation that included the landmark Clean Air Act of 1970 and the Clean Water Act of 1972 and their 1977 amendments. Veazey, a Butte native, died in May 2008. At the time of his death, he was senior vice president, CFO and member of the board of directors of Cargill Inc. Wylder managed the Great Falls Coca-Cola Bottling Co. for 25 years. The Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented at a ceremony at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, in the University Center Ballroom. The public is invited to attend.



MMAC Names New Curator—Brandon Reintjes has been selected as the new curator of UM's Montana Museum of Art & Culture. As curator he will be responsible for the overall management of the museum's Permanent Collection, have primary input on selecting and curating exhibitions, and serve as an important liaison to the regional artist community. Reintjes, originally from Bozeman, received a bachelor of fine arts degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and recently completed a master's of art in curatorial and critical studies at the University of Louisville in Kentucky. He said his goal is to help galvanize the identity of the already progressive museum by working to gain the momentum needed for it to expand into a building of its own. He also will continue working with artists to develop compelling, educational and inspired programming.

Preparing For The Worst—The Montana Safe Schools Center and the Office of Public Safety at UM recently received federal funding to improve the University's emergency planning. The U.S. Department of Education awarded a \$499,900 grant for MSSC to improve campus-based, all-hazards emergency management planning through an extensive 18-month program. MSSC and the Office of Public Safety will bring together University staff, law enforcement, the fire department, and county and state disaster and emergency service agencies for 13 trainings, 12 tabletop exercises and two full-scale emergency drills. The principal investigator for the project is Rick van den Pol, director of UM's Institute for Educational Research and Service. Located in the Institute for Educational Research and Service at UM, MSSC provides outreach, training, research and professional development services to schools and communities across Montana and throughout the United States. For more information, visit MSSC's Web site at <http://www.iersum.org>.

Bitterroot — continued

we now have a great opportunity to bring substantive adult and higher education to valley residents," Clark said. "I am very much looking forward to my year ahead with UM. Our community's partnership with UM and state higher education professionals is critical to the success of postsecondary programming in Ravalli County."

In the fall semester, the Bitterroot College Program will offer eight courses selected to prepare students for college-level work and to help them get a start on college. Many online courses also are available. Future course offerings will be determined through a needs analysis that Clark will oversee.

Wear the Bear — continued

Downtown Tonight.

The Wear the Bear idea came from Erika Beede, UM's trademark and licensing director.

"We hope that offices and businesses will get excited about this and encourage their employees to wear their maroon and silver Griz Gear on Fridays," Beede said. "If businesses and alumni get on board, it could really take off."

Businesses statewide can sign up to officially be part of the Wear the Bear — Paint Montana Maroon campaign by e-mailing grizzlymarketing@mso.umt.edu. Businesses that register will receive a "spirit pack" containing

decorations such as posters, pennants and pom-poms. They also will be eligible for prizes and drawings.

Paint Montana Maroon is this year's marketing campaign for Grizzly Athletics. Christie Anderson, UM assistant athletic director for marketing and promotions, said the tagline is a consistent message on UM sports posters and other promotional material.

"We started doing annual branding campaigns in athletics in 2004," Anderson said. "But I think Paint Montana Maroon is a strong message that we could use for years to come. This is a great way to promote Griz pride and school spirit, not only on a local level, but statewide as well."



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. Brianne Burrowes, Brenda Day, Rita Munzenrider, Cary Shimek and Ashley Zuelke are contributing editors and writers. Todd Goodrich is the primary photographer. The newsletter is online at <http://www.umt.edu/urelations/mainhall>.