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### Main Hall to Main Street, March 2010

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## President Dennison announces retirement

George M. Dennison, president of The University of Montana since 1990, plans to retire.

UM's longest-serving president announced his intention during a campus convocation held Jan. 25. Dennison will retire Aug. 15 – or as soon thereafter as the Board of Regents identifies a successor – 20 years to the day since he arrived on campus to assume the presidency. He is UM's 16th president.



Dennison

"I consider it a high honor and rare privilege to have served as president of

a wonderful institution – made so by the people who constitute it," Dennison said. "I have enjoyed the past 20 years more than words can convey, in large measure because of the quality of people who constitute The University of Montana.

"Make no mistake, presidents come and go, but students, faculty, staff and alumni remain," Dennison said. "You deserve the credit for making (UM) a remarkable success. I can take my leave knowing that my alma mater remains in good hands and will continue to develop, whatever the challenges before it."

The Board of Regents have launched the search to identify UM's next president and named the 20 members of the search committee. Learn more about the process

at <http://www.umt.edu/potumsearch>.

Dennison plans to write a history of UM during the next three years. He also will consider teaching opportunities.

A historian by training, Dennison received a bachelor's degree with highest honors in history from UM in 1962. He received a master's degree from UM in 1963 and a doctorate in history from the University of Washington in 1967.

Dennison came to Montana from Kalamazoo, Mich., where he served as the provost and vice president for academic affairs of Western Michigan University (1987-90). In earlier years, he spent time at the universities of Arkansas and Washington prior to 18 years at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. 🐾

## 'Odyssey' pays tribute to theater arts educator

"Odyssey of the Stars – A Celebration of Artistic Journeys" will honor UM alumnus and former faculty member Firman H. (Bo) Brown during its 10th anniversary production at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 10, in the University Theatre.

This year's celebration – "Opening Doors" – honors Brown for his lifetime dedication to opening doors for students in the theater arts.

The annual event honors outstanding UM performing and visual arts alumni and features some of UM's finest student performers and artists. The production supports the College of Visual and Performing Arts Scholarship Fund.

Two-ticket sponsorships cost \$125, and four-ticket packages cost \$200. Individual tickets cost \$30 or \$15 for students. They can be purchased at all GrizTix locations, by calling

888-MONTANA or online at <http://www.griztix.com>. For more information, call the College of Visual and Performing Arts Dean's Office at 406-243-4970.

Brown earned a bachelor's degree at UM in 1949 and a master's in 1953. He completed doctoral studies in speech and theater at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and returned to teach at UM.

From 1956 to 1969, Brown chaired UM's drama department. He established the M.A. and M.F.A. degree programs at UM. He started the Masquer Summer Theater, the Bigfork Summer Playhouse and launched the Montana Repertory Theatre.

Brown taught, directed and worked as an administrator at Ithaca College in New York, Rollins College in Florida and Ohio State University, returning to Montana in 2006. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from UM in 2008. 🐾

## Commencement on Oval

The 2010 spring Commencement ceremony at UM will take place Saturday, May 15, on the Oval.

It is the first time in the University's 117-year history that the main Commencement ceremony will be held outdoors on the Oval. The ceremony will start at 10 a.m. — rain or shine — followed by smaller ceremonies for individual schools and colleges at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

UM traditionally holds two all-school Commencement ceremonies in the Adams Center. This year there will be one main ceremony, with about 1,800 graduates attending, along with 9,000 to 10,000 faculty members, friends and family members.

Registrar Edwin Johnson said the idea for an outdoor ceremony came about after President George M. Dennison attended his grandson's outdoor graduation ceremony. Dennison thought holding Commencement on UM's Oval would be a great opportunity to showcase the recent additions and improvements on campus.

"Commencement stands as one of the most important days in the lives of young people about to launch careers," Dennison said. "I remember very well the feeling of having accomplished a great deal, but with much more to come now that I had succeeded academically. I personally believe we should make the event as spectacular as we can for the graduating students and their families."

UM Executive Vice President Jim Foley said private funding will cover any additional costs incurred from staging an outdoor ceremony.

For more information, call the Registrar's Office at 406-243-2995 or go to <http://www.umt.edu/registrar>. 🐾

# Education partners honored at annual UM reception

Several state educators and community partners were honored Feb. 13 at the 21st Annual Education Reception hosted by UM's Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences.

The annual event, sponsored by UM President George M. Dennison, recognizes educational partners who collaborate with the University and the College of Education and Human Sciences to prepare future professionals.

The theme of this year's reception was "Recognizing YOU – A Montana Treasure." About 300 professionals attended the event, which was held in the University Center Ballroom.

David Bixby, a fifth-grade teacher at Hellgate Elementary School in Missoula, received the 2010 Maryfrances Shreeve Award for Teaching Excellence.

Bixby served as a master teacher mentor

for a UM Department of Educational Research Services Excellence in Science Education grant. He mentored a group of 20 teachers during the two-year program, leading in-services and demonstrating teaching techniques.

Margarett Campbell, vice president of community services at Fort Peck Community College, received the Educational Leadership Excellence Award. The award is presented by UM's Department of Educational Leadership.

The Trapper Creek Job Corps near Darby received the Department of Counselor Education Award. The center provides supportive supervision for counselor education interns, who provide counseling and educational guidance.

Susi Mathis, cardiac rehabilitation and wellness coordinator at St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center's Cardiac Rehabilitation Center in Missoula,

received the Department of Health and Human Performance Award. Mathis provides internship opportunities for many UM exercise science students.

The Marlene Bachmann Student Teaching Award was presented to Michael Straw, who completed his elementary student teaching experience under the direction of Hellgate Elementary School fourth-grade teacher Sue Rowe and UM Department of Curriculum and Instruction supervisor Diane Kowalski.

Curriculum and Instruction Partnership Awards went to social studies departments at Missoula's Big Sky High School, Hellgate High School, Loyola-Sacred Heart High School and Sentinel High School. The departments were honored for their consistent enthusiasm and commitment to the preparation of future teachers. 🐻

**Spring brings record enrollment**—UM has a new spring record of 14,622 enrolled for this semester. That number is 797 students more than the previous record set last spring. UM always experiences an enrollment decline between spring and fall semesters. However, this year enrollments for spring semester 2010 dropped off by only 300 students, or 2 percent. Spring 2010 enrollments exceeded spring 2009 enrollments by nearly 800 students, or 5.8 percent. There were spring enrollment surges in every category, including residents, nonresidents, undergraduates, graduate students, distance-learning and the College of Technology.

**Peace Corps ranks UM in top 10**—For the second straight year, UM is ranked in the top 10 in the nation for producing Peace Corps volunteers. New figures show 29 undergraduate alumni currently serving in the Peace Corps, placing UM at No. 10 on the list for medium-sized universities with enrollments between 5,001 and 15,000. UM also ranked 10th last year, with 30 alumni serving abroad. The top-10 ranking places UM ahead of universities such as Notre Dame, Yale and Syracuse. Since the founding of the Peace Corps in 1961, 743 UM graduates have served with the organization.

**UM adds six Fulbright Scholars**—Six UM students and recent graduates were awarded Fulbright U.S. Student scholarships for the 2009-10 academic year, making it one of the most successful years on record for the prestigious awards at UM. The Fulbright Program is the nation's leading international exchange program, operating in more than 155 countries.



Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. This year's total of six awards puts UM in the company of such universities as Penn State, Rice and Vanderbilt.

**Commercials win Addy Awards**—Two UM commercials produced by Montana-based Chisel Industries won three awards Feb. 6 at the 2009 Montana Addy Awards Show and Dinner in Great Falls.

The event was the first of a three-tiered national competition conducted by the American Advertising Federation. UM's "Heritage" commercial took home two accolades: "Best of Show — Electronic," as well as a Gold Addy. The "2009 Tunnel Run" commercial won a Silver Addy. Both entries will move on to the District XI Addy Awards competition in Boise, Idaho. The University also won a Silver Award for "Heritage" in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District VIII Communication Awards competition in February.

**University lands on honor roll**—The Corporation for National and Community Service honored UM with a place on the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. During the 2008-09 academic year, UM students engaged in academic service-learning provided more than 13,000 hours to the Missoula community. Students also participated in nearly 11,000 hours of extracurricular volunteering and in more than 111,500 service hours through AmeriCorps, which helps with tuition support. 🐻



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