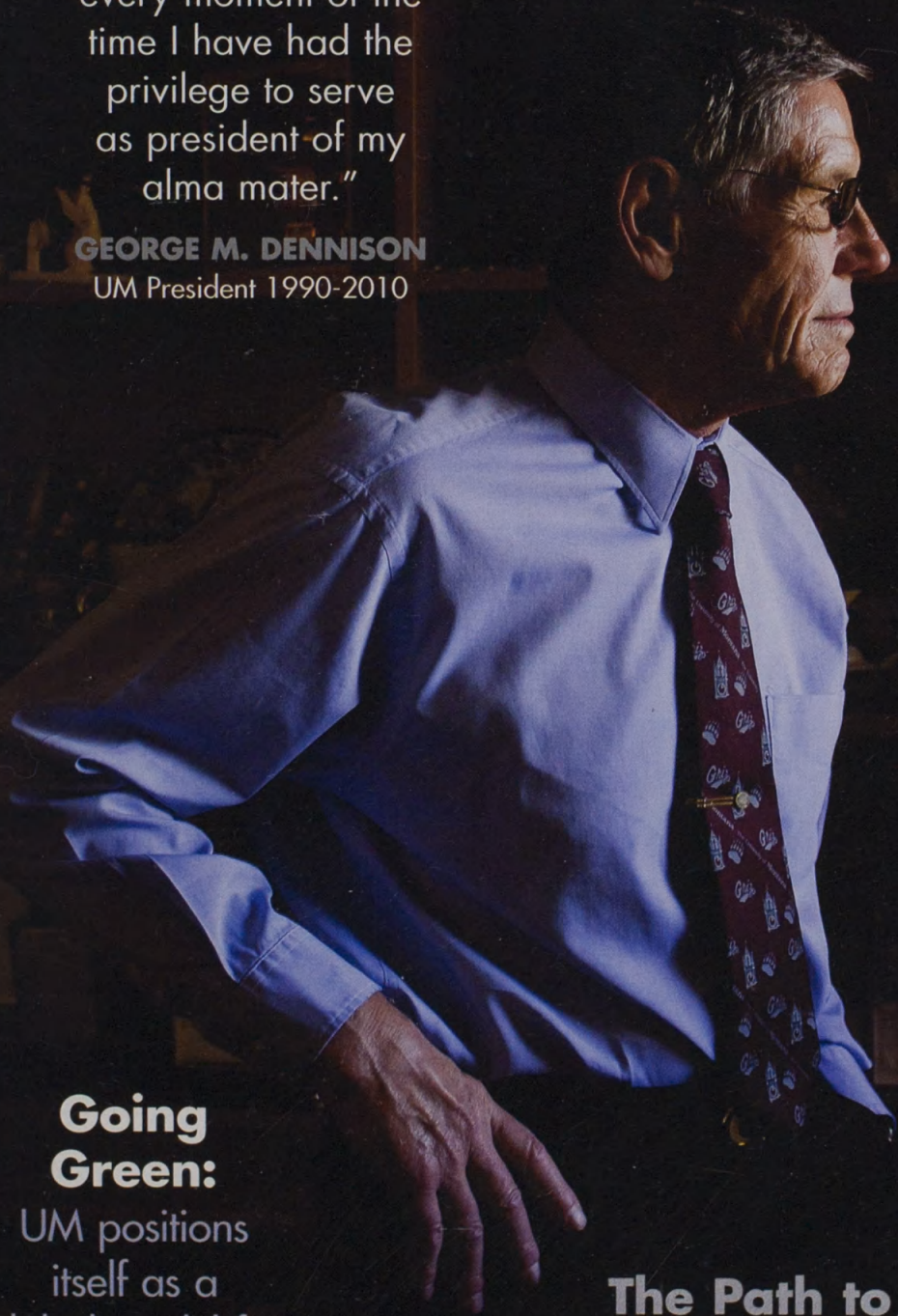


"I have enjoyed every moment of the time I have had the privilege to serve as president of my alma mater."

**GEORGE M. DENNISON**  
UM President 1990-2010



## **Going Green:**

UM positions itself as a global model for climate change

## **The Path to Nike** UM alums find success with international company

*Featuring:* Eric Sprunk, Joe Monahan, John Connors, Adam Steffen, Trevor Rembe, Stefanie Henderson, Brooklynn Lorenzen

# conten

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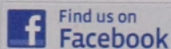
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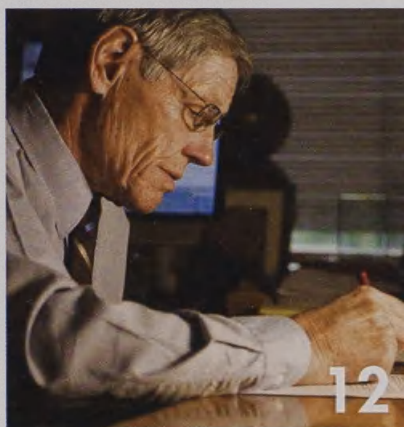


PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR MONTANAN



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Eric Sprunk '86 stands in front of a collection of photos taken by Jeff Johnson (Nike's first full-time employee in 1965) in Steve Prefontaine Hall on the Nike campus.



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### ON THE COVER:

President Dennison gazes out at the Oval from his UM office. He is retiring in August after two decades of service to campus.

COVER PHOTO BY TODD GOODRICH



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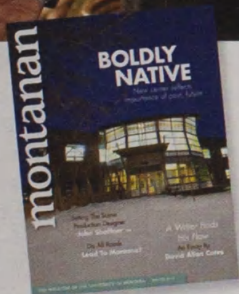
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John Shaffner



"I received my issue of the magazine today and was quite taken with the picture of the new Payne Family Native American Center . . . It looks so interesting and obviously fills a need to encourage more American Indian students to attend and then finish their degrees."

Nancy Stephenson Bond '45

## WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME

When I looked through my mail today, I saw a classmate's name, John Shaffner, on the cover of the *Montanan*. I flipped through the magazine to read the story but was sidetracked by "All Roads Lead to Montana." The stories were fun. Then I read John's story. We were in costume and set design classes together.

I have been president of the Yellowstone Genealogy Forum for several years. A couple of years ago, the program coordinator was a bubbly woman named Sydney. I found out she lived on a ranch in Dillon while growing up, and she knew a couple of people there who attended UM at the same time I did. I then asked her what her maiden name was, being the dedicated genealogist that I am. "Shaffner" was her response. I asked if she might be related

to John Shaffner of Missoula. Of course she is—John is her first cousin.

**Phyllis Beecher Smith '73**  
Via e-mail

## IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL

I grew up in Broadus and attended college at UM. My husband, Brett Swimley, grew up in Libby and graduated from Montana

State University in 1983. We have laughed more than once over the years that even with 780 miles between our hometowns, we still know all of the same people. Last night I read Bill Johnston's essay in your "All Roads Lead To Montana" feature titled "Guessing Game Gone Right" and laughed, because it is so true.

After reading the article, I said to my husband, "You have to hear this. It is an article by a guy named Bill Johnston." Without missing a beat my husband said, "I know him." I laughed more and then read him the article! Then my husband told me he knows Bill's brother better than Bill and Bill's grandmother took care of my husband when he was little.

Thanks for connecting us further. Everyone knows everyone in Montana!  
**Susan Brooks Swimley, '86, J.D. '89**  
Via e-mail

## NATIVE PRIDE

I received my issue of the magazine today and was quite taken with the picture of the new Payne Family Native American Center. It is fascinating and so appropriate for it to be there. It looks so interesting and obviously fills a need to encourage more American Indian students to attend and then finish their degrees. I like that President George Dennison visited all of the reservations to encourage just that. Many of the issues don't really relate to me that much, but this one did.

**Nancy Stephenson Bond '45**  
*Ithaca, N.Y.*

## THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

I was twenty-five when I enrolled at UM in 1982 with no academic plan other than pursuing the pleasure of learning. And what a pleasure it was to walk into Paul

Zarzyski's poetry class. Richard Hugo was supposed to teach the creative writing class, but he was ill, so there was Zarzyski (rhymes with whiskey, he told us). The man's passion for the music in language was palpable, and it inflamed my own passion. I eventually found a direction and have been spreading his gospel in my own classroom for more than twenty years. So I was surprised not to find his name included in the winter 2010 article "Where The Big Fish Lie" about UM's Creative Writing Program. Paul earned his master's degree from the Creative Writing Program and was a student and friend of Hugo's.

In the thirty-seven years Paul has been writing, he has published ten books and produced four spoken word CDs. In addition to performing on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*, he has read for the Library of Congress and The Kennedy Center. He also performed with the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra and at other venues nationally, as well as in Canada, England, and Australia. He has appeared on national television and is one of six poets featured in the documentary *No Need for a Saturday Night*. He has branched into music and recently co-wrote songs on the CD *Hang-n-Rattle!* produced by John Carter Cash. In 2005, he received the Governor's Arts Award for Literature.

I'd say Paul Zarzyski is a pretty big fish. It's unfortunate he's one that slipped the *Montanan's* net.

**Susan Fogarty Schwab '86, M.A. '01**  
*Belgrade*

## WANTED: YOUR OPINIONS

The *Montanan* welcomes letters to the editor. Please sign and include your graduating year

or years of attendance, home address, and phone number or e-mail address.

Send them to: *Montanan* Editor, 325 Brantley Hall, Missoula, MT 59812 or themontanan@umontana.edu.

Because of space limitations, we are not able to include all letters sent to us. Letters may be edited for length or clarity. While universities are places of discussion where good people do not always agree, letters deemed potentially libelous or that malign a person or group will not be published. Opinions expressed in the *Montanan* do not necessarily reflect those of The University of Montana.

# Upcoming GSA Events

June 11, 2010

30th Annual

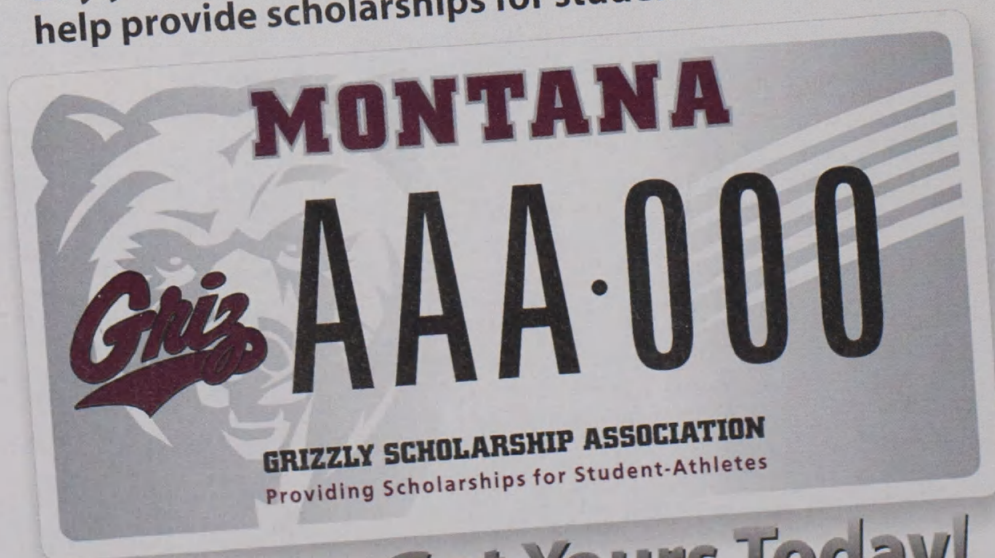
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For more information about the Grizzly Scholarship Association and Grizzly events please visit [www.gogrizz.com](http://www.gogrizz.com).

# around the oval

## MAKING THE DANCE

Montana Grizzlies win Big Sky Conference, make eighth appearance in NCAA basketball tournament

The Montana Grizzlies basketball team did something that seemed impossible just twenty minutes before it happened. The team beat Weber State and claimed a spot in the NCAA tournament. Riding senior guard Anthony Johnson's thirty-four second-half points, the Griz clawed their way back from a twenty-point halftime deficit to claim a 66-65 victory. The improbable win launched the Griz and Johnson into the national spotlight.

Johnson's story is more than bringing a team back from the brink of defeat. His story is one of being saved by his wife, Shaunte Nance-Johnson, a Lady Griz basketball player. Out of high school for a year and washing dishes at a seafood restaurant, Johnson met Shaunte and proposed to her with a rubber band just two weeks into the relationship. She knew he was destined for more and helped him nab a basketball tryout at Yakima Valley Community College. Johnson led YVCC to a conference title, and several Division I schools recruited him. But Montana gave him the opportunity to pay his wife back. It was take both or neither.

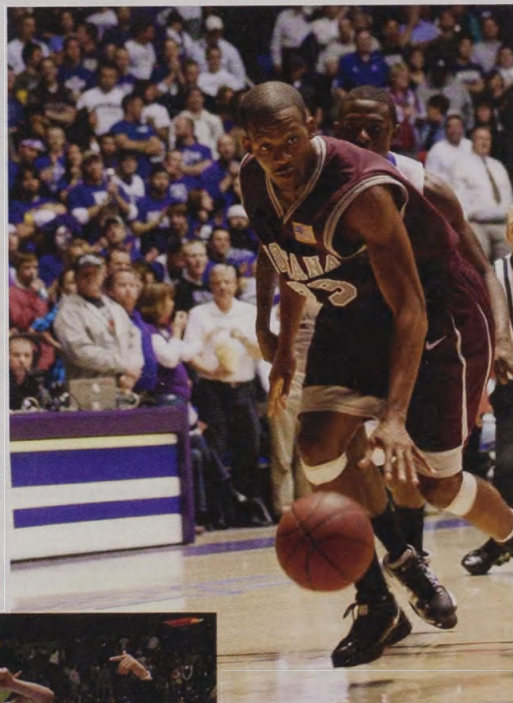
Two years later on the bus ride home from Ogden, Utah, with the Big Sky Conference title and conference tournament MVP honors, Johnson received calls from ESPN, *USA Today*, and *The New York Times*. A YouTube video of the game produced by MontanaGrizzlies.com received more than 85,000 hits and was linked to by websites around the

country. He had gone from a dishwasher to national superstar.

Head coach Wayne Tinkle knew there was something special about this team.

"From day one we talked about character," Tinkle says. "We had some highs and lows, like losing to Northern Colorado and Montana State at home that could have affected us, but we stuck to the plan."

On March 14, with a full



**Top right:** Senior guard Anthony Johnson catapulted into the national spotlight after his forty-two point performance against Weber State in the Big Sky Conference title game.

**Above:** With the come-from-behind win in the Big Sky Conference the Grizzlies punched their ticket to the NCAA tournament.

house of fans at the Press Box, the Grizzlies watched as they were paired against New Mexico in the first round of the NCAA tournament in San Jose, Calif. The Grizzlies flew out the morning of March 16 to the NCAA tournament.

The Griz played in the last game of day one of the tournament. Experts around the

country expected an easy victory for the No. 3 seed New Mexico. The Grizzlies didn't follow the script. Junior center Brian Qvale played the best game of his career, scoring twenty-six points and grabbing thirteen rebounds. However, Johnson scored only six points in the game. His low scoring margin can be attributed to Daïrese

Gary, a member of the Mountain West Conference All-Defensive team. The junior guard haunted Johnson throughout the entire game, but Johnson's open shots wouldn't fall in either.

The Grizzlies trailed throughout most of the second half but pulled within one point with less than two minutes to play. They just couldn't finish off the Lobos, and New Mexico won 62-57.

Although Tinkle was disappointed with the loss, he wasn't with the team's effort.

"We did it the Grizzly way, which is to never say die," he says.

—Jerek Wolcott

## Outdoor Access For All

**T**yler Stosich is a twenty-five-year-old UM student from Lima majoring in media arts. He also is a quadriplegic who acquired his disability nearly five years ago. Before his accident he enjoyed hunting and wanted to continue that pastime even though he found himself in a wheelchair. Stosich met Chris Clasby, program coordinator for UM's Montana Access to Outdoor Recreation program, and began to learn about the options available to him and other Montanans with disabilities.

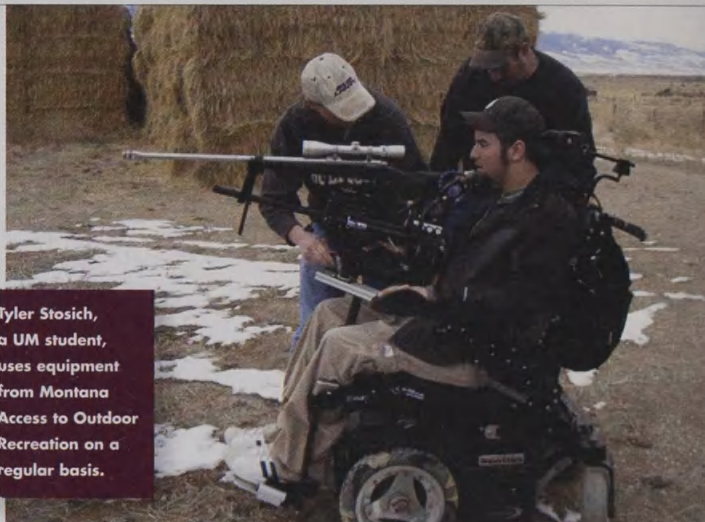
An integrated program, MATOR offers opportunities for Montanans to recreate "in settings they choose, with whom they choose, when they choose," Clasby says.

MATOR, part of UM's MonTECH resource center for assistive technology, helps people with disabilities and aging members of the community access the outdoors by providing them with increased opportunities for fishing and hunting, as well as other outdoor activities such as camping and wildlife viewing.

One of the biggest obstacles for disabled Montanans trying to participate in outdoor recreation is how expensive adaptive equipment can be. MATOR offers a free equipment loan program that can be accessed online and makes checking out adaptive gear easy.

Stosich says he had previously bought his own gun mount, so he appreciated the opportunity provided through the loan program when he wanted to go fishing. He also plans to take advantage of some of the camping equipment this summer.

"You never thought any of this stuff would be possible," Stosich says of those with disabilities having the opportunity to go outdoors and participate in activities they formerly enjoyed or have never experienced and want to try.



Tyler Stosich, a UM student, uses equipment from Montana Access to Outdoor Recreation on a regular basis.

MATOR also frequently offers educational workshops and demonstrations across the state to expose people to the program and let them know it's available for the public to use.

The program "creates more opportunities for those with acquired disabilities and creates belief in themselves and encouragement to try new things," Clasby says.

Montana has a wide variety of opportunities for outdoor recreation, and MATOR is helping even more Montanans access the activities the state has to offer. Clasby hopes to spread awareness about the program and would like to see many more Montanans benefit directly from MATOR in the future.

For more information about the program or to participate, call 406-243-5751 or visit <http://recreation.ruralinstitute.umd.edu/Mator/index.asp>.

—Colette Maddock



## REPORT OUTLINES UM'S ECONOMIC IMPACT ON MONTANA

**A** new report finds UM in Missoula contributes 9,700 additional jobs to the Treasure State, \$1 billion in additional after-tax income and more than \$200 million in additional state tax revenues.

The report, "The University of Montana: Growing Montana's Economy," was produced during a three-month period by UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

"The bottom line is that the University has been, and continues to be, a vital catalyst for growth in the state economy," says BBER Director Patrick Barkey, the report's lead author. "This report reveals what the economy of the state of Montana would look like if UM did not exist."

BBER researchers found UM contributes to a more prosperous state economy

through the earning power of its graduates; the contributions of its research, patents, and inventions; and the millions of dollars of business it conducts with Montana vendors of products and services. The report also found that the average compensation per job throughout Montana is \$1,346 higher because of UM.

The study focused primarily on five areas: University

operations, University research, graduate earnings, visitors, and student off-campus spending.

"This report details how the University plays a key role in helping the state grow income, job opportunities, and prosperity for our future," UM Executive Vice President Jim Foley says.

The report can be viewed at [www.bber.umd.edu/pubs/econ/universityreport.pdf](http://www.bber.umd.edu/pubs/econ/universityreport.pdf).

**THE  
BOTTOM  
LINE:**

**8:** MSN.com names Missoula one of the top eight towns with an authentic college vibe

**#10:** UM's ranking in the nation for producing Peace Corps volunteers



# UM Allies Program Promotes Diversity, Understanding

IN RESPONSE TO HATE SPEECH and violent crimes toward members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community at UM, a campuswide committee was formed to create UM Allies, an organization that promotes a welcoming, safe, and inclusive atmosphere for LGBT students at UM.

Peters-McBride, while a student at UM, teamed up with Curry Health Center's Student Assault Resource Center coordinator Kate Pruitt-Chapin, and music Professor Steven Hesla, to found the group in 2008. Peters-McBride now works as a program adviser for University Center Student Involvement and, with an intern, holds UM Allies training sessions for faculty, student volunteers, resident assistants and village assistants. These training sessions equip members of UM Allies with specific knowledge about the LGBT community. The sessions discuss everything from basic definitions of identity to facts such as the 1993 deletion of the term "homosexuality" from the World Health Organization's list of diseases, to contact information for medical or counseling services, human rights organizations, and social events.



At the sessions, trainers ask people to list on an index card the three things that are most important to them and three things they do in their spare time. Trainees are then given two minutes to introduce themselves, but they are not allowed to say anything about what they listed on the card.

"This is always the 'aha' moment during training," Peters-McBride says. "It really raises the empathy for the LGBT community, who often hide the primary components of their identity and interests. Trainees come away from UM Allies sessions with a better understanding of a community of people they'll encounter all their lives and with more information about a minority that has a history of isolation, oppression, fear, and anxiety."

"The fact that a program like this exists shows advocacy," says chemistry Professor Laurie Franklin, who completed the training. "I'm proud this University shows universality."

—Samantha Steven

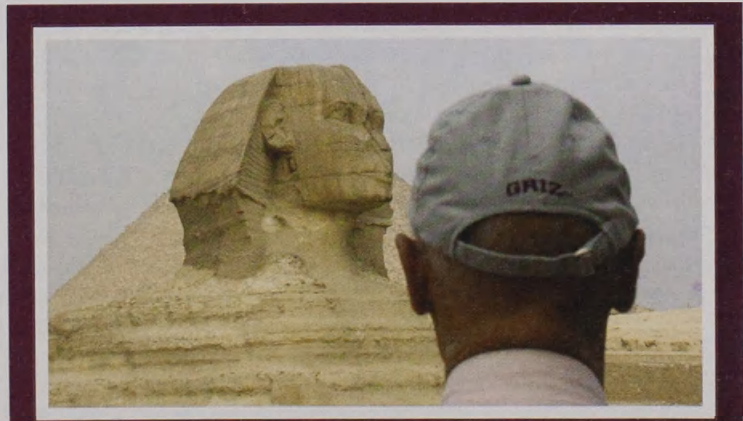


Grizwald in the 2010 Winter Olympics: "Halfpipe!?! They said I was in the downhill!!!"

## Meet Grizwald,

The University of Montana's cartoon bear. In the last issue of the *Montanan*, we asked readers to submit captions interpreting Grizwald's actions in a funny way. This issue's winning caption was sent in by **ART ADAMIEC '06**. Congratulations, Art, you've won a Griz stadium blanket.

Stay tuned! In the fall issue of the *Montanan*, a new cartoon featuring Grizwald will need a caption. You could be the next winner!



## WHERE'S YOUR GRIZ BEEN?


**MARY STEWART SALE M.F.A. '96** took this picture in front of the Sphinx in Egypt in 2005. "This photo was inadvertent," she writes. "Fellow tourist Michael moved into the photo at the last minute." *That inadvertent photo pays off because she now won a \$50 gift card for The Bookstore at UM.*


Do you have a photo of yourself wearing your Griz gear in an amazing place or while on an incredible adventure? If so, send it along with a brief description to: [themontanain@umontana.edu](mailto:themontanain@umontana.edu). Winners will see their photo published in the *Montanan* and will receive a \$50 gift card to The Bookstore at UM. To be considered, photos must be in focus and with the UM or Griz logo clearly visible.


**6:** Number of UM students and recent graduates awarded Fulbright U.S. Student Scholarships

**\$411,241:** Funds raised during Montana Public Radio's 2010 Pledge Week

## Notable *and* Quotable

 For the first time in the University's 117-year history, the main Commencement ceremony will be held outdoors on the Oval. The ceremony, which begins at 10 a.m. rain or shine Saturday, May 15, will be followed by ceremonies for individual schools and colleges at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. This year UM will present four honorary doctorate degrees. **Robert S. Bennett**, one of the nation's most prominent attorneys and a generous and dedicated friend of UM, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Law; **Stewart M. Brandborg**, a towering figure in the American conservation movement, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Science; **John Hollenback**, a lifelong Montanan who has worked tirelessly to steward state lands, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Science; and **Matt McCann**, a former Montana representative and champion of higher education, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

 Two UM commercials won three awards in February 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 "Best of Show—Electronic" and a Gold Addy. The "2009 Tunnel Run" commercial won a Silver Addy. In addition, UM won a Silver Award for "Heritage" in the **Council for Advancement and Support of Education's District VIII Communication Awards** competition for the ads produced by Montana-based Chisel Industries. The commercials can be viewed on UM's official YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/universityofmontana](http://www.youtube.com/universityofmontana).

 UM's official YouTube channel recently received **YouTube EDU** status, making it one of only a handful of universities in the Pacific Northwest with a presence on the site's directory. YouTube EDU is a listing of videos and channels from the website's college and university partners. There currently are 38 videos on the official UM site, and more will be added regularly. Featured content on the UM YouTube channel includes lectures by some of UM's top professors, lectures from the President's Lecture Series and Provost's Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series, Enrollment Services videos, UM outreach commercial spots, *Montanan* magazine Web-only videos, and a series created exclusively for YouTube with UM's president, "YouChat with President Dennison." **The University's official YouTube channel can be found at [www.youtube.com/universityofmontana](http://www.youtube.com/universityofmontana).**

## National Conference Brings Research Spotlight To UM

**O**n April 15 and 16, more than 2,600 undergraduates from across the country presented original projects in their field at UM during the twenty-fourth annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

Not a competition, NCUR—the premier venue for undergraduate research—featured several UM students, in addition to being hosted in Missoula. Many UM Davidson Honors College students presented senior honors thesis projects. In all, there were 197 presentations covering 45 topics by UM students. More than 1,300 oral presentations took place in more than fifty classrooms and lecture halls. In addition, there were more than 1,000 poster presentations held in the Adams Center, sixty dramatic presentations in the Music Building and Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center, and forty-two visual arts presentations in the University Center Student Lounge and Gallery of Visual Arts.

The conference also featured four plenary speakers: William David Burns, founder and principal investigator for Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities; R. Carlos Nakai, the world's premier performer of the Native American flute and member of the Arizona Music & Entertainment Hall of Fame; UM Regents Professor of Ecology Steve Running, a Nobel Peace Prize co-recipient for his work on climate change; and UM School of Journalism Associate Professor Henriette Löwisch, an international journalist focusing on global relations.

UM's involvement in NCUR goes back to 1997, when Professor Garon Smith (known to UM students as "G. Wiz") and John Madden, former dean, of the Davidson Honors College bid to host the conference at UM in 2000. Smith later became a chair of the NCUR Board of Directors and now serves as a director. He organized this year's conference with Janie Spencer, program manager for professional development in UM Continuing Education, for the more than 2,000 attendees.

"NCUR has no paid employees. It's designed to be self-sustaining," Smith says. Smith also came up with the conference's tagline this year, "Meet Me in Montana," from the Grammy-winning country duet by Marie Osmond and Dan Seals.

—Samantha Steven



Jeanifer Poon, in purple, from Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minn., presents her research on the use of holistic treatments to reduce patient stress during an NCUR poster session in UM's West Auxiliary Gym.



## The Coach Pflu Interview

*UM's new head football coach is not shy about the fact that former Grizzlies coach Don Read was one of his biggest mentors. Could this philosophy mean the Grizzlies are primed for another championship?*

To spend time with coach Robin Pflugrad is to understand what love and passion for football is all about. One needs to look no further than the hours he puts in, which he affectionately refers to as "Don Read Hours" or the lunch he spent at the Mo Club talking with others about how to run a statewide football camp—during his summer vacation.

It's obvious football comes first in life for Pflugrad not just because it's how he makes his living but because his eyes take on a new sparkle when discussing the new football uniforms or transitions in offense he's spent countless nights, mornings, and weekends running a fine-tooth comb over to help the Grizzlies improve. But to understand Pflugrad is to understand that it's not just the game, but the people in the game that make this job his No. 1 priority.

"Every coach I've worked under as a player for or with on a team has influenced my thought process in one

way or another," Pflugrad says. "That is both on and off the field. You have to be CEO and CFO skills to be a coach. You have to be tough and have tough love for your

players and other coaching staff as men. Their lives are different from the average UM student. They give us all of their free time. It's tough if you're a student athlete to make ends meet, so watching those players grow is rewarding to me."

While Pflugrad, UM's thirty-fourth head football coach, has spent nearly thirty years in various coaching positions with various programs, including the Pac-10 Conference schools the University of Oregon, Washington State University, and Arizona State University, he's never been a head coach.

"I am off-the-charts excited to become not only a head coach, but the head coach at UM—a University and football program close to my heart," Pflugrad says. After spending a little more than nine years under coach Don Read in the nineties, Pflugrad moved on to the PAC-10. "I really loved working at UM, but it was tough. Salaries needed to be up to a level where talented people could stay. So, I began working at ASU. I looked at it this way. If you're a stock broker and you have a chance to go to Wall Street, you'll go. You can always come back."

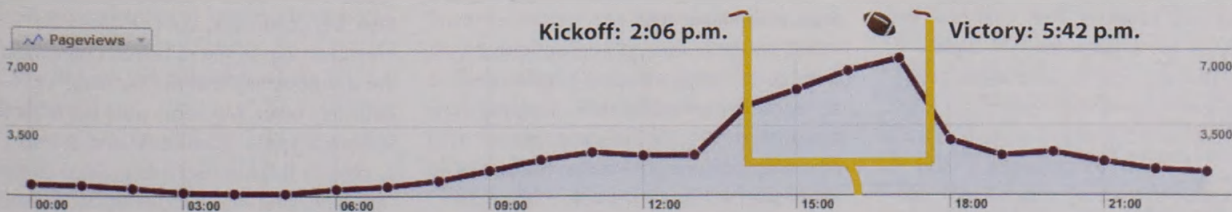
Pflugrad says his biggest challenge as the new head coach is replacing last

year's class on and off the football field. "When you lose a lot of players on offense, defense, and special teams, it puts you in a disadvantage. We put a lot of pressure on ourselves in this profession to go out and get players that can keep this championship level going."

And Pflugrad says he plans to keep the Grizzlies shining in the Football Championship Subdivision by focusing on two primary areas—recruiting and a multidimensional offense that focuses on establishing a running game. "Last fall was as open of an offense as we've had here. There will be elements of spread offense and the offense we ran last fall. There's no question Chase Reynolds will be highlighted. He is a tremendous running back and receiver. We're going to give him the ball through the land, sea, and air. But you can't ride your favorite horse every day and expect him to win at the state fair. We need to recruit the right kind of players."

He says recruiting is UM's No. 1 priority, and he believes in attracting in-state interest first. "This year we were in a unique situation because of the timing of the playoffs and the [FCS] championship game. Many other coaches already had been in the recruits' houses three, even four times before we had the chance to meet with them once. When I went around I said, 'Don't punish the Grizzlies because we're an outstanding football program.' That's why I feel recruiting happens 365 days a year. I want to step up the recruiting at UM and advocate that it needs to happen every day."

—*Brianne Burrowes*



When the Montana Grizzlies took on Appalachian State to seal their spot in the Football Championship Subdivision title game last December, Web traffic at UM shot up for three hours and thirty-six minutes. The game, which was broadcast on ESPN, brought 232 percent more new visitors to UM's

homepage. In addition, traffic to UM's Enrollment Services website was up 131 percent, Google searches for UM were up 238 percent and visits to MontanaGrizzlies.com were up 286 percent. All percentages are compared to normal Saturday Web traffic.



# FACETIME FACE-OFF:



## LEX HILLIARD '08

*After Lex Hilliard's explosive five-year career with the Montana Grizzlies, he was drafted by the Miami Dolphins in the sixth round of the 2008 NFL Draft. He spent the entire 2008 season on the practice squad, but then saw real time in the 2009 season, racking up three NFL touchdowns. One of Hilliard's teammates, Dan Carpenter, a kicker for the Dolphins, also is a former Griz. This pairing marks the first time two UM teammates have ever appeared on a professional team together.*

**1. There was a lot of shuffling that went on with your position when you were first signed to the Dolphins. What was that like as a player?**

I'm kind of a tweener, because I'm big enough to play full back and quick enough to play running back. They didn't know where to put me, so in 2009 they had me playing both positions. The other thing you have to do coming into the NFL is play special teams, and I've never done that in my life. I saw something I had to do, and knew I had to do it well to make the team. So I learned from Patrick Cobbs [Miami Dolphins running back], and being in the same room all the time really helped out. He worked with me to make me decent at special teams, and I made the squad.

**2. Tell me what it felt like to step onto the field for the first time in a pro game.**

In the preseason you don't see a lot of the

featured players, but when you step in the first game that's when the big boys come out to play. The game is a lot faster. The guys are in tip-top shape. It's crazy. It just moves a lot faster. You kind of think about being in your first pro game and start thinking "wow," but if you think about it too long, you're gone. You have to think about the task at hand.

**3. How do you mentally prepare for a game?**

The minute that Sunday game gets over, I start preparing for the next week. Every game is different. You'll get nicked up here and there, and when you go into the next game you have to have your body in the best shape it can possibly be in. Of course there's also lots of film study and practice that's all part of the mental process in preparing for the game.

**4. In Week 16 of this past season you made your first-ever NFL touchdown. What did that feel like?**

It was definitely a rush. It was crazy. I think Ricky [Williams, Miami Dolphins running back] got hurt on the goal line, and I had to go in for him. It was one of our wildcat formation plays, and when I went in the game I was ecstatic. It's sweet every time I get a touchdown. I had one against the Steelers and two against the Texans last year. Touchdowns are definitely one of the better plays of mine in the NFL or in football. There's a lot of work that goes into each one, so in my mind when I get a touchdown it's proof that it pays off.

**5. What is it like to play with a Griz teammate, kicker Dan Carpenter, in the NFL? How is it different from being on the same team with him at UM?**

When we both were picked up here it was great having someone I knew and someone I was familiar with. It's great having him here. It's the same. He's obviously practicing his kicks, and we're not around each other a whole lot on the practice field. It's kind of the same, but it's kind of different because we have different roles on the team.

**6. When you play against other UM grads, like Kroy Biermann of the Atlanta Falcons or Cory Procter of the Dallas Cowboys, do you**

**guys ever meet up after the games?**

We didn't play the Cowboys this year but we did play the Falcons in our opening game. There was a player hurt on the field, so we were out there at the same time. It was a good chance for us to catch up. It was kind of weird in game preparation to play against Kroy and preparing against a guy you were a teammate with in college. But that's the name of the game. You can't be on the same team forever.

**7. What did you learn as a Griz that still carries over into your time on the field as a pro athlete?**

It's definitely a lot of things. It's the work ethic and practice carrying over to the games. Bobby Hauck [former Montana Grizzlies head coach] did a great job of showing us how to practice and how if you prepare properly in practice, it will pay off in the game. Our coaches at Miami have the same mentality that hard work pays off. Because I learned that in college, it has helped make it a lot easier.

**8. What are your expectations for yourself and for your team this coming season?**

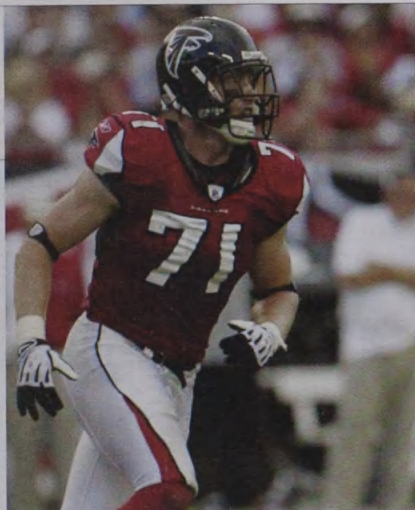
We want to win the division and work hard as a team to accomplish the same goal that we have every game—to win. My personal goal is to become faster and more explosive and get a lot better at special teams. I'll work with my strength and conditioning coaches on explosive techniques and stuff like that.

**9. Do you still follow the Montana Grizzlies whenever you can?**

I am still so proud to be a Griz. I watched the Griz in all the playoff games. I was on the road when they had their big comeback, but I watched the championship game at home. I remember the disappointment of not winning. It's definitely bitter. My heart went out to those seniors big time. That's their one shot at it, and it's hard. It's hard to make it all the way there and lose after all the work you put in to get there.

**10. As a Montanan, what advice do you have for high school football players across the state who want to one day be in your shoes?**

Work hard. When nobody is watching that is the time to work the hardest.



## KROY BIERMANN '07

*As a defensive end for the Atlanta Falcons, former Montana Grizzlies Big Sky Defensive MVP and Buck Buchanan Award recipient Kroy Biermann is now making it big on professional turf. Last season he saw his first NFL touchdown, but really he just loves the game and connecting with his fans.*

### 1. What's your typical day like during the offseason?

I did some of my pre-Falcon training in Indianapolis. I had a 120-minute workout a day with my personal trainer. I also spent some time in my agent's office, and we're working on marketing stuff like my Facebook fan page right now and trying to get that up and running.

### 2. How does that change during the season?

Offseason training is a lot more intense in terms of weight lifting, running, and sprints. You're not breaking your body down in practices. When you start practicing you'll cut back on the actual weight room work, and you don't make huge gains in lifting during the season. So, if you can make gains, great, but it's more about maintaining and keeping your body moving right and functioning.

### 3. How did you get the nickname the "Beerman"?

It's kind of a football thing. Usually you'll refer to a player by their number or last name. So, if someone wants to yell at you across the field they'll just yell "Biermann." It grew from that. I have four fans in the front row in Atlanta who have my jersey and wear beer hats. It's pretty fun. It's a play on words, and it's interesting. Not everyone has the last name Biermann.

### 4. Why did you decide to run the Facebook fan site yourself when most guys have their publicists or fans run it?

I think it's important people are able to approach professional athletes. When it comes down to it, we're just like everybody else. We have bills. We have families and friends. The only difference is my job is to play football and someone else's job might be to go into surgery. But football is my job, and I put everything into my job. I want to show fans what my daily life is like and open their eyes to the hard work that goes in behind the scenes. A lot of people see a game and think we just show up and play. But that's not true. We put in hours upon hours of training into each game. It's a 365-day-a-year job. I don't have a lot of time off. I'm always improving my skills. The fan page is for people to see who I am behind the face mask.

### 5. During the game against the Buffalo Bills, how did you become a kicker?

In the NFL it's not like college. We can only have two active kickers on the roster. Both of those kickers got injured during the game, and we still had half a game to play. They knew I could kick because I was always messing around with it during practice. We were standing around in a huddle and I said, "I'll do it. I don't know where it's going to go, but I'll give it my best." They said, "OK." I hadn't kicked since high school. I think it's something that I'll always be able to do to a decent extent if somebody needs it, but I don't see myself transferring positions anytime soon.

### 6. You scored your first NFL touchdown against the now-Super Bowl champion New Orleans Saints after Drew Brees fumbled the ball, during Monday Night Football no less. What did this feel like?

Touchdowns are rare for a defensive player, especially a d-lineman. It's kind of like getting a sack. It's something you work hard on, and that's your job. You sack the quarterback. When that happens all eyes are on you. The touchdown came through, and I hope I can continue to make impacting plays for my team. It's something I can build off of and grow from.

### 7. What is it like to tackle the quarterbacks you used to watch on TV?

It might cross my mind during the week as I prepare for it. But during the game

it doesn't affect me. I know what I'm supposed to do, so I go out there and I do it to the best of my abilities. After the game sometimes when it's [Chad] Pennington [Miami Dolphins quarterback], [Philip] Rivers [San Diego Chargers quarterback], or someone like that, I reminisce on it. It's just great to be out there.

### 8. What did Montana teach you that carries over into your game?

I would say it has a lot to do with who I've been raised to be. At a very young age my family said don't quit. You start something and you finish it. That also was really stressed at the University. Finish your schoolwork, your drill, your quarter. That's part of being a successful person and athlete. If you're not finishing what you're starting, then you're leaving things out there you could have been great at. I noticed playing for the Griz I was surrounded by guys with a good work ethic who would put everything into a game.

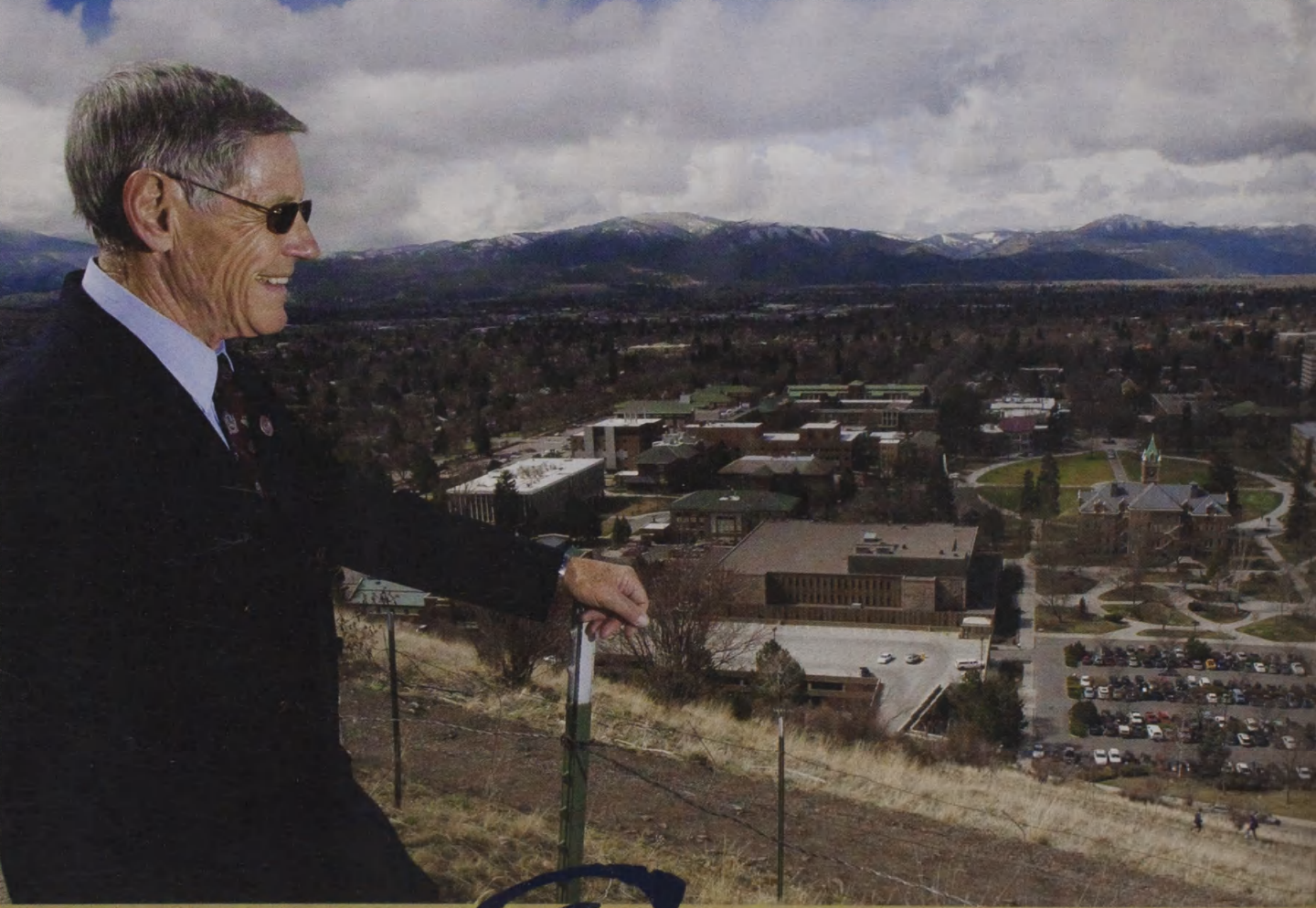
### 9. When you played for Montana you used to wear scary red contact lenses. Why? How come you don't wear them now?

The contacts added a fear factor. They were kind of a scary look, but there was an actual purpose for them. I have astigmatism. When you wear contacts to correct that those contacts are bigger than normal. When you're playing outside you sometimes get a glare. Having a red tint helped that glare disappear. The red tint also changed what I saw on the field. It made the color of the ball really stand out. Now, about 80 percent of my games are played inside, so I don't have a need for them. I haven't worn them since college.

### 10. What advice do you have for Montana kids playing football in small-town schools?

Put everything into achieving your goals. Surround yourself with good people, because if you don't, it's going to be a lot harder to stay on that path of motivation. You want to stay around coaches, family, and friends who are positive and want you to succeed and achieve those goals. While my friends were going to parties and playing video games, I was working on my agility and getting stronger. You sacrifice something, but if you love the game, it's not really that much of a sacrifice.

—Interviews by Brianne Burrowes



# A Farewell

President Dennison  
looks  
back on  
twenty years  
of leadership

THIS ISSUE OF THE *MONTANAN* MARKS MY LAST OPPORTUNITY to hold forth from this very special podium—I almost said pulpit—as president of The University of Montana, the position I accepted twenty years ago in August. Much has changed over those years, just as this magazine has changed remarkably in appearance and responsiveness. As I confessed recently during the 2010 Charter Day ceremony, I have enjoyed every moment of the time I have had the privilege to serve as president of my alma mater. In truth, I do not recall any down times; every day and every new challenge made life exciting and energizing. I even

found encouraging and educational the often stormy discussions, decisions, and actions with which others found fault and for which they berated me scathingly and publicly. In the end, the critics made their legitimate points, and I accepted the blame for having taken some missteps, and we righted the ship and kept moving. Most importantly, not once during those two decades did we as a group look longingly in the rearview mirror and change course with the purpose of returning to the “good old days.” And with good reason. Every person who thinks seriously about the challenges of life understands that he or she who seeks to rediscover the past in the future walks in circles.

Photo by Todd Goodrich



people actually care passionately about what happens to the young and not-so-young people attracted to the campus in pursuit of their dreams and aspirations, and they do all they can to foster student success. But they do so without making life dull, dreary, and routine, relying on their infectious love for learning and discovery, a finely honed, albeit often dry, sense of humor, and a forgiving willingness to overlook errors that inevitably occur when people push themselves but persevere. These campus attributes have remained constant, as I believe they always will, thanks to tradition and the incentive for good work in the examples left by those who preceded us at the University.

However, the profile of the faculty, staff, and students has changed greatly over the years, becoming more reflective of the state, nation, and world. Significantly more highly qualified female faculty and staff members provide role models for aspiring students, even if their numbers do not yet match needs. In addition, the University more clearly recognizes its location within Indian Country and its responsibility to serve all of Montana, not just part of it. The wonderful new Payne Family Native American Center, with its simple grandeur and

or “Main” Hall—to the University community. Over the past twenty years, we have added about 1.3 million square feet of space—increasing total usable space by some 20 percent. And that happened not because of a Dennison “edifice complex,” as some asserted, but rather out of the same drive present from the founding to make certain faculty, staff, and students have the facilities they need to accomplish what they come here to do. Frankly, I had not even an inkling as I walked the campus during the evenings when I visited in July 1990 of the critical need for such a building program. I soon learned the facts, and I very much appreciate the work of faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends, and policymakers, without whose efforts and commitments nothing could have occurred. Perhaps not surprisingly, it still remains necessary to remind some persistent critics that the facilities did not come at the expense of programs, faculty, staff, and students, but to attract and serve them, with most of the work funded by earned revenue or private donations, although the state contributions truly made a difference. With so many to thank, I simply cannot name them all, but they know.

# To Dennison

as Saint Augustine told us centuries ago.

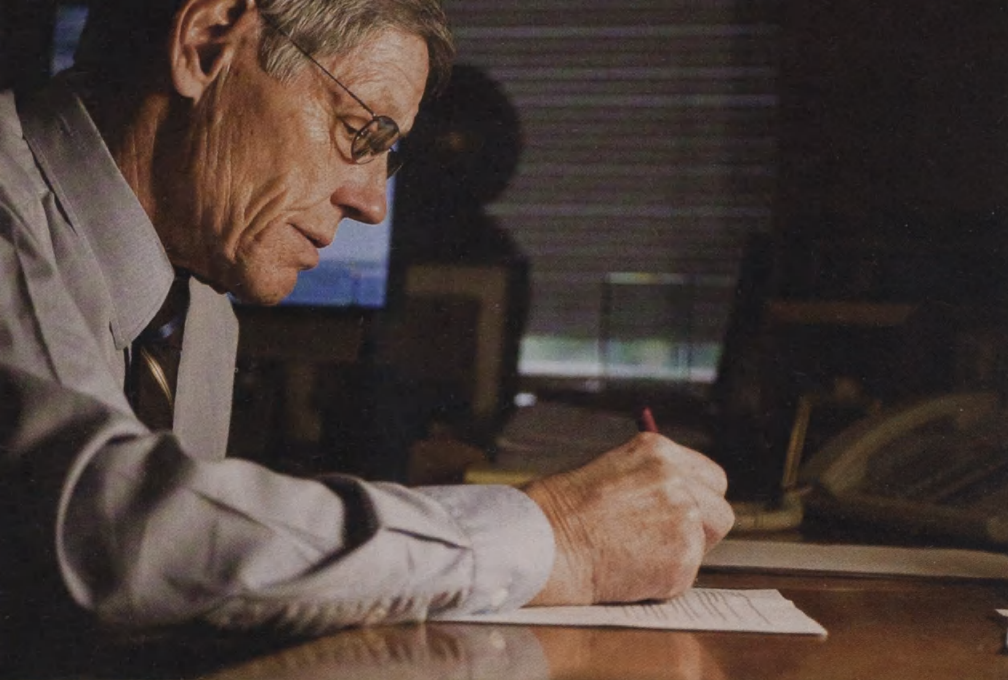
In a reflective moment recently, I asked myself what really changed and what stayed the same over those years. In my view, and I doubt that anyone would disagree with the major premise, this University has changed dramatically—physically, academically, and culturally—over the years since I first stepped on the campus as a student in 1960. Nonetheless, in ways that matter to students, parents, and alumni, it has remained as originally chartered—“a high seminary of learning” in the vernacular of the late nineteenth century—kept so by the dedicated efforts of the fine people who have comprised the faculty and staff. These

inspiring presence, and the large numbers of American Indian students on campus provide profound evidence of the depth of those commitments. The University still has work to do with regard to other groups—African Americans, Asians, Hispanics, and the otherwise abled and oriented—but has made visible progress in the diversity of its constituents.

Physically, the last twenty years have probably witnessed as much change as occurred during the beginning years, when buildings displaced the teepees of the Salish in search of bitterroots on campus. In that regard, the first Founders’ Day—now Charter Day—events occurred in 1899, the year the builders introduced the first two completed buildings—including University

Even if unnamed individually, the alumni and friends who helped the University succeed in the effort to match facilities with faculty, staff, and student talent and aspiration also provided the private support for fellowships, scholarships, professorships, and programs. I have frequently paraphrased the conclusion of a study I read in the early 1990s that great societies depend for their vitality on great universities, and that in today’s world great universities depend on sustained private support.

In two aggressive campaigns directed by the UM Foundation and continuous engagement over the past twenty years, alumni and friends working with the Foundation attracted roughly \$500 million to transform UM into a “University for the



twenty-first century” by “Insuring a Tradition of Excellence” (1992-1997) and “Investing in Discovery” (2002-2007). Even more importantly, their passionate engagement and counsel assured we remained on track toward the attainment of the goal. They, along with the faculty, staff, and students, provided the energy, passion, and dedication that sustained the University’s momentum.

And, as a direct result of the infusion of so much energy and in response to developments as they occurred, the students and faculty came in ever larger numbers. But numbers do not begin to tell the story, because the

Photo by Erik Stenmark

**DENNISON TIMELINE**

**1962**-Graduates from UM with an undergraduate degree in history.

**1963**-Graduates from UM with a Master of Arts in history.

**1967**-Graduates from the University of Washington with a doctorate in history.

**1990**-Becomes UM’s sixteenth president.

**1991**-Starts the Diversity Advisory Council to promote cultural diversity through campus programs and events, which has led to significant growth in minority student enrollment.

**1993**-Establishes the Campus Compact, a public-service program that promotes volunteerism.

**1995**-Washington-Grizzly Stadium adds 7,000 seats.

**1995**-Grizzlies win first Division I-AA national football championship.

**1996**-Davidson Honors College building completed.

## Preserving The Pharmacy Program

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education conducted an accreditation visitation in 1986 to review the pharmacy baccalaureate degree program at UM. The University and the Montana Legislature were challenged to add considerable resources to the program, and modest but insufficient resources were made available. The pharmacy program then was placed on “published probation” by ACPE in 1988.

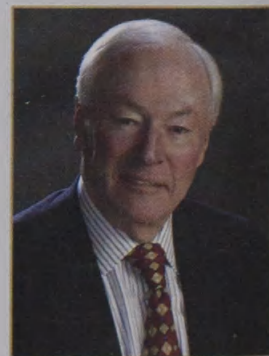
In his first State of the University Address in 1990, President George Dennison announced that the pharmacy program must be saved.

The 1991 Legislature appropriated a substantial base budget to the University, and President Dennison matched it with University resources. Then Dennison, Provost Don Habbe, and I met with ACPE staff. Following that meeting the pharmacy program was awarded full accreditation status.

Dennison’s support and vision enabled the pharmacy program to hire additional faculty and begin a period of substantial growth. Since then, the program transitioned to the Doctor of Pharmacy Degree, doubled in class size, and created several biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences graduate degree programs. Additionally, in 1990, the School of Pharmacy was not ranked among U.S. schools and colleges of pharmacy in terms of National Institutes of Health biomedical research funding. But in 1998, it ranked thirty-seventh, and in 2009, seventh.

Additionally, Dennison was instrumental in creating a campus atmosphere necessary to seek private funding sources. The ALSAM Foundation was then contacted and requested to provide resources to create modern space to support the program’s growth in enrollment and funded research. The foundation provided the University with more than \$11 million in brick-and-mortar support, and in 1999 Dennison, on behalf of the Board of Regents, awarded L.S. “Sam” Skaggs an Honorary Doctorate. The pharmacy program was subsequently renamed the Skaggs School of Pharmacy.

Dennison understood society’s need for health care education and was a tireless proponent for legislative and private support for the pharmacy program. Without his leadership and assistance, there was a very real possibility that Montana would have lost its only pharmacy program. That loss would have resulted in a number of significant negative impacts, but most importantly, in the approximately 1,000 pharmacists the University would not have graduated since 1990.



**DAVID FORBES**

*Dean, UM Skaggs School of Pharmacy*



academic profile of the faculty and the students improved as well. We boast of our Rhodes Scholars, Goldwater Scholars, Fulbright Scholars, Truman Scholars, Udall Scholars, Guggenheim Scholars, Endowed Professorships, Regents Professors, and the like—even including a recent Nobel Laureate. But we understand as well that this University has always attracted and captured the imagination and loyalty of good people, whether as faculty, staff, or students. That some fare better than others in national and international competition only serves to highlight the level of performance across the board. We can rightly take pride, and we do.

Academically, during those two decades, the University claimed its legacy as a

graduate research institution, simultaneously enhancing the quality and breadth of the undergraduate offerings. Funded research grew rapidly, providing vital support for graduate programs and jobs for faculty, staff, and students, including undergraduates who benefitted from the opportunities to participate in actual research projects. Talented faculty researchers attracted to the colleges, schools, and departments by the University's relative freedom from bureaucracy and micromanagement led the way in this maturation. In addition, the fruits of the research in terms of technology transfer and the talents of the educated graduates made a significant difference culturally and economically for the city of Missoula and state of Montana. But I think

the major benefits accrued to the faculty and staff who nourished these bright people and helped them find their places in life. And what a difference these graduates have made. The most recent study of the dramatic economic and cultural impact of the University on the city, region, and state no longer leaves room for doubt on that score. In very real ways, these graduates put their degrees and developed talents to very good work as caring, committed, and engaged citizens of the communities in which they settled and the larger, ever-changing world. They learned through practice those "habits of the heart" essential to good citizenship as students at UM.

In a very special way, the University has returned recently to its roots by redirecting

**1997**-Appointed to President Bill Clinton's twenty-one-member committee of college and university presidents committed to increasing literacy. Starts Montana Reads, a program in which UM student volunteers tutored children and provided books for schools.

**1999**-\$14.7 million renovation of Adams Center.

**2000**-President Dennison and the UM Foundation lead the most successful fundraising campaign in Montana history, raising more than \$71 million in private money and providing \$8.8 million for scholarships and awards, academics, institutional support, and building projects.

**2000**-Curry Health Center is accredited by the Accreditation Agency for Ambulatory Health Care, the primary accrediting agency for student health centers.

**2000**-Dennison implements the new institutional theme "The Discovery Continues."

## Lessons In Lifelong Learning

**W**hat exactly is it that has made George Dennison such a highly successful president of UM? Has it been the increase in the number of students and faculty, the buildings, the phenomenal growth in research, the numerous Council for Advancement and Support of Education awards, or the fact that he is a hands-on administrator with an open door policy? Is it some of these things or all of these things?

From my perspective, President Dennison has never been one to say "no" to ideas, and he's focused on what is possible and never on the impossible. I would like to highlight just one case in which his initiative led to the development of an important community outreach program through Continuing Education. In 2005, flying somewhere on Delta Air Lines, he came across an article in *Sky* magazine about the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Utah. He tore the page from the magazine, scribbled across it, "Why don't we have one of these?" and sent it to me via campus mail.

That message led to research into the Bernard Osher Foundation and the gathering of five community leaders to plan what has become the highly successful Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UM, or MOLLI. For those of you unfamiliar with MOLLI, it is an educational program for people ages fifty and older who understand the connection between healthy aging and keeping the brain actively engaged. MOLLI is a unique University/community partnership that

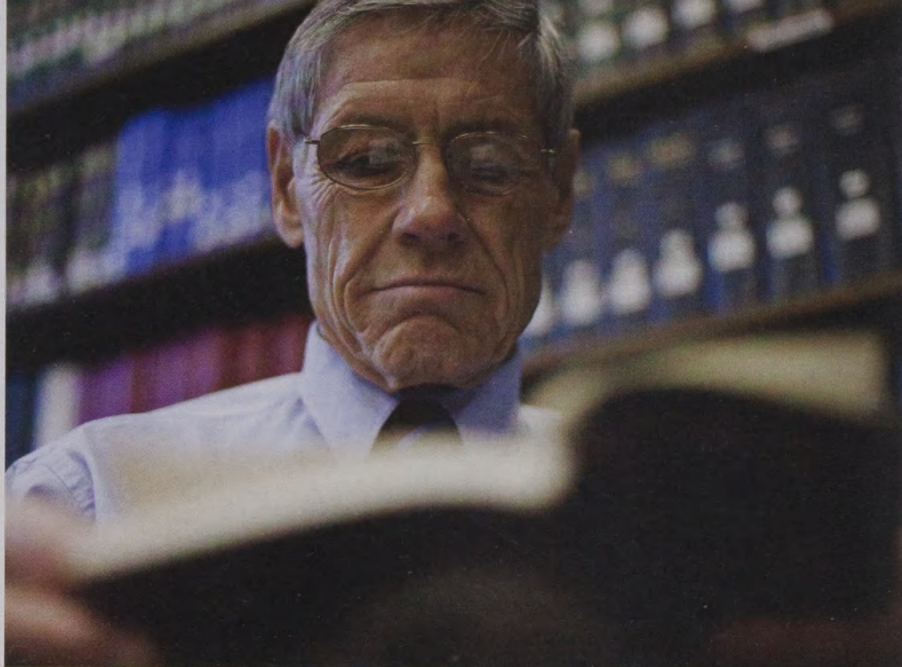
offers a diverse collection of noncredit short courses taught by active or retired UM faculty and community members. During fall 2006, the institute received generous startup support from the Osher Foundation, which culminated in a \$1 million endowment in 2009 for exceeding the goal of 500 members. MOLLI has attracted more than 5,500 lifelong learning students to campus and featured dozens of diverse courses over the years, including everything from Iran: Between Two Revolutions, taught by Associate Professor Merhdad Kia, to Art & Insanity by Professor Rafael Chacón.

Now in its fourth year, MOLLI has provided older learners in Missoula with a unique opportunity. All of us engaged with its success continue to believe that its real value comes in reaching as many learners as possible to introduce them, once again, to the joy and rewards of intellectual growth, particularly with neighbors and friends from the community. Without that original vision and continuing support of President Dennison, the outcomes may have been significantly different.

**SHARON ALEXANDER**  
*Dean, UM Continuing Education*



energy and resources to the critical needs in education across the state. As H.G. Merriam noted in his brief history, the prep school started when the campus invited the first students in 1895, and the prep school students vastly outnumbered the regular college students for several years. That happened because Montana did not have a sufficient number of high schools to prepare young people for college. By 1908, with some forty-five high schools in operation, the University closed the prep school and relied on the high schools for students able to benefit from college. However, the president sustained the supportive relationships with the public schools until some time later. Gradually, the University



**2001**—Newly renovated recreation center construction completed.

**2001**—Former “Lodge” becomes the Emma B. Lommasson Center.

**2002**—Dennison selected to lead the Inland Northwest Research Alliance, a consortium of eight research universities in the region.

**2002**—4,000 seats added to Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

**2004**—Only 12 percent of UM’s budget comes from the state. (In 1990, 65 percent of UM’s budget came from the state.)

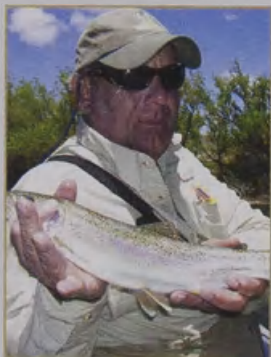
**2004**—UM ranks seventh in research funding among all pharmacy schools in the country. (Research grants have increased nearly tenfold to \$64 million in 2004, compared with \$7 million in 1990.)

**2004**—UM’s ROTC program secures the No. 9 slot on the U.S. Army’s list of top programs in the nation.

## Habits Of The Heart

I know President Dennison as a builder who has made Montana a better place. One can easily see all the growth at UM—the expanded stadium, the powerhouse football team, increased student enrollment, the rise of the University’s academic reputation, and other milestones. From my personal experience and knowledge, Dennison’s legacy also is about building foundations that we can build on to create more and better volunteer programs, a more civically engaged population, and, consequently, a stronger democracy.

During my thirty-five years working in community service, civic engagement, and volunteerism, and ten years as the Montana director for the Corporation for National and Community Service (known as the domestic Peace Corps), I worked with Dennison to encourage civic engagement and volunteerism. He is a builder—a visionary with a can-do attitude. I can’t count the number of times in meetings where he would say, “Let’s get it done.” He is able to connect seemingly unrelated issues while fostering relationships between far afield entities, like college volunteers working with senior volunteers to collect for food banks or young volunteers teaching senior volunteers about computers.



Dennison realizes a successful democracy depends on an educated and civically engaged population. Often he would lead dialogues among leaders in community service about the importance of volunteerism. Building civic engagement to him was not only an academic interest—it was about something bigger and getting it done.

Dennison provided the vision and leadership at the University, in Montana, and nationally to increase civic engagement. He served on the national Campus Compact board and was instrumental in building, in Montana, one of the most successful branches in the nation. Campus Compact promotes civic engagement at the university level. Year after year, UM ranks among the top universities nationally for civically engaged students, outranking many prestigious schools.

For fifteen years Dennison was the chair, visionary, and leader of the Montana Commission on Community Service, which promoted civic engagement. With his leadership, the commission developed and implemented more programs and created an environment that encouraged collaborations not often seen in larger states. Civic engagement experts considered the Montana Campus Compact and Montana Commission on Community Service as models for the nation, a direct result of Dennison’s longtime commitment and leadership. He gave tireless effort and always made himself available.

**JOHN D. ALLEN '70**

*Former State Director for the Corporation for National and Community Service*

went its way and paid only passing attention to the needs of public education. In recent years, that has changed, largely because of the recognition that the University cannot succeed if the public schools do not. That recognition dawned as the United States all too rapidly lost its position of world leadership in the educational attainment of its citizenry. Other nations moved up in the rankings, signifying the deteriorating position of the United States in the ever-escalating cultural, social, economic, and strategic global competition. The urgent need to bring about change for the benefit of the students and society at large has resulted in a resurgence of the original impulse. The Phyllis J. Washington College

of Education and Human Sciences, hosting as it does the Montana Digital Academy reaching out to the public schools across the state, offers profound testimony to this revival of purpose. I have no doubt the resurgence will persist this time because of the realization of the consequences of allowing the collaboration in education to wither and dissipate.

In many more ways, the University has changed. But in ways that matter, it has remained the same, thanks to the work and commitments of so very many people. I take great pride in the education and degrees I received from UM. It required nearly all of my twenty years as president to persuade people to refer to it as "The University of

Montana." Many looked askance at my effort to change how they identified the institution, erroneously perceiving a political agenda of some sort at work. Frankly, I did want people to speak respectfully of the University, the institution chartered to "provide the best and most efficient manner of imparting to young men and women, on equal terms, a liberal education and thorough knowledge of the different branches of literature, science, and the arts, with the varied applications" for the benefit of the state of Montana. In a sense, just as with the 1995 decision to revert to the original maroon and silver colors from Texas orange and gold, I looked to the roots, to the chartering act of 1893, to learn that the Legislature "established in this state

**2004**-UM ranks tenth nationally among medium-sized institutions on the Peace Corps' 2004 "Top Producing Colleges and Universities" (ahead of Notre Dame, Harvard, and Yale).

**2004**-President Dennison implements plan to eliminate a nearly \$1 million deficit in the athletics budget.

**2004**-Construction of student housing called Lewis and Clark Villages, an apartment complex for students, is completed.

**2005**-President George W. Bush nominates Dennison for a four-year position on the National Security Education Board. (Board was created under President Clinton to educate U.S. citizens about foreign cultures.)

**2006**-UM's first "Day of Dialogue" takes place.

**2006**-Dennison participates in the U.S. University Presidents Summit, where President Bush launches the National Security Language Initiative.

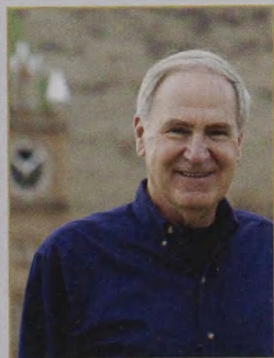
## Twenty Years Is A Legacy

**G**eorge Dennison retires as the longest-serving president of UM on August 15, 2010—twenty years to the day since he took the job. During his tenure, UM has undergone fundamental transformational changes and has emerged as the strongest public university in the Rocky Mountain northwest.

Dennison is a Montanan—a graduate of Flathead High School with bachelor's and master's degrees in history from UM. When he began his presidency, the University was still in many ways a small provincial institution located in a regional backwater. Today it ranks high in national surveys of academic excellence, affordability, research, service, and location. Enrollment climbs every year, and outside support increases. The University has helped Missoula become a dynamic, cosmopolitan community.

UM now administers a multi-university system, including Montana Tech in Butte, The University of Montana-Western in Dillon, and the Missoula and Helena colleges of technology. Research support increased under Dennison from about \$7 million to more than \$70 million. Two capital campaigns exceeded their fundraising goals. Despite chronic financial crises originating at the state level, Dennison kept UM afloat, progressing, and expanding.

Dennison's "edifice complex" is legendary. The campus is almost



unrecognizable to old-timers. But most new structures were built with private support or are revenue generating, and no one argues that we have too much classroom space. The Payne Family Native American Center on the Oval will be dedicated this month. Even parking problems have abated thanks to the Associated Students of UM's shuttles.

President Dennison constantly encourages international studies and school exchanges, and perhaps the most visible sign of change at UM is the increasing number of foreign students on campus (and UM students abroad). Emphasis on American Indian enrollment, retention and support services for all students, and a proactive Disability Services for Students also are hallmarks of Dennison's leadership.

UM's president is a target of criticism from all sides. Disgruntled students with causes, alumni, budget-conscious legislators, idealistic faculty, and an issue-oriented citizenry have all taken their shots. Dennison has handled these slings and arrows with dignity and resolve. He stood his ground when he and UM were right, and he instituted reforms when necessary. The average tenure of a college president in America is about six years. Twenty years is a legacy.

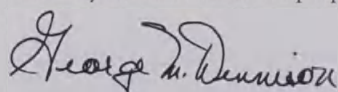
Come August 15, UM will undergo a significant change of leadership. The man who has led the institution for more than 17 percent of its history will step down. His successor will have big shoes to fill.

**HARRY W. FRITZ** M.A. '62

*Professor Emeritus, UM Department of History*

at the City of Missoula an institution of learning under the name and style of "The University of Montana." While the legislative mandate initiated the action, the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends over the years transformed the mandate for The University of Montana into reality through their good work. For that accomplishment, the state and people of Montana will forever benefit, even if they occasionally forget.

Thank you all for the many ways you have made these twenty years so memorable and meaningful for Jane and me. We believe that because of your engagement, UM has made fine progress over the last two decades. However, we also believe even more firmly that your continued engagement assures an ever brighter future. In the final analysis, it's all about the people. **UM**



**GEORGE M. DENNISON**, '62, '63  
PRESIDENT AND PROFESSOR OF HISTORY



Jane and George Dennison

**2006**-U.S. Environmental Protection Agency names UM one of the Best Workplaces for Commuters.

**2007**-Dennison announces UM's participation in the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment.

**2007**-UM is named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

**2007**-Don Anderson Hall, which houses the School of Journalism, is completed.

**2007**-Dennison receives a Montana Excellence in Leadership Award, presented by the Montana Interagency Committee for Change by Women.

**2007**-The Skaggs Building adds another 42,000 square feet.

## The Not-So-Secret Life Of Jane Dennison

**M**ost introductions of President Dennison begin "George Dennison is the longest-serving president of The University of Montana." Behind that statement, from the desks in the President's Office in University Hall, it's often the phrase "Jane Dennison is the longest-serving first lady of the University" that rings true.

The material contributions of Jane are well-known by many. She is as much a steward of alumni and donors as the president, attending events and cultivating relationships for the enhancement of campus and higher education in the community and state. Some even know about Jane's involvement in the preparation of these events, including her thoughtful menu planning, her review of guest lists, and her conversation-stimulating seating charts at dinner parties.

But, we're not sure the scope of Jane's support of the Office of the President is fully known and appreciated. Few may know the real "hot line" in the President's Office is connected to the residence at 1325 Gerald Ave.—not the corner office in University Hall. There are days when those of us who work outside that corner office consult with Jane more than the president to nail down details, get second opinions on invitation language, and coordinate travel itineraries. We could not accomplish much of what we do without her attention to detail, suggestions, and feedback.

Jane also has been key to the Alumni Association's successful outreach efforts since 1990, when the Dennisons returned to Missoula. She has welcomed University alumni and friends to campus events and those hosted by the Alumni Association across the country. She also has volunteered as the International Travel program coordinator for the Office of Alumni Relations for nearly twenty years. She has done all of this, often several times a week, fifty-two weeks a year, for the past twenty years. She has done it with enthusiasm and incredible grace as the first lady of the University.

Jane also is committed to education. Few people know that while volunteering and promoting the University and its events, she also completed her bachelor's degree—an achievement she considers quite personal and private. Her total commitment to education and her gracious and energetic support of our University is nothing short of remarkable.

Jane's presence and involvement in the accomplishments of President Dennison will certainly have their own legacy at UM. The legacy of her service reflected on campus for twenty years has truly been, as President Dennison often quotes, "habits of the heart."

### **CATHLEEN COLLINS**

*Assistant to the President, President's Office,*

**and BILL JOHNSTON '79, M.P.A. '91**

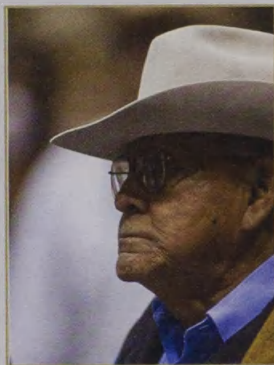
*Director, Office of Alumni Relations and Alumni Association*

## Importance Of Education For All

As the Chief of the Blackfeet Nation, I would like to acknowledge George Dennison, whom I met when he became the president of UM. When I met President Dennison, I observed the concern he had for all students, especially Native American students. His way of acknowledging the students and the encouragement he gave them over the years paved the way for them to continue their education. He encouraged Native American students to carry on their traditional and cultural ways and made them truly feel like a part of the University.

Not only has President Dennison supported all the students and staff at the University, but he has shown a great deal of respect and acknowledgement of tribal leaders on many occasions. He created a scholarship in my name for Native American students. Many of these students have come to me and expressed their appreciation for this acknowledgement and have informed me of how it has helped them. He has supported not only our cultural way of life, but also our young athletes such as Dana Conway, Malia Kipp, Mike Chavez, and Tamara Guardipee.

During my childhood, my father, Juniper Old Person (Fast



Buffalo Horse), always encouraged his children and all young people to get an education. He said, "If you do not have an education, you will have many problems. That will someday be your livelihood." My father was far-seeing and knew what difficulties were ahead for our Indian people. In the Indian way to show our appreciation of a person, we give a traditional name to honor them. Because of his dedication and concern for our Indian students, I have given President Dennison my father's name, "Fast Buffalo Horse." They both knew the importance of education for our people.

President Dennison leaves behind a legacy to the Indian people through the new Payne Family Native American Center—dedicated this spring—and also through the many successful young Indian students who have graduated from the University. He will certainly be missed by all who have come in contact with him over the years. I certainly wish him the best in his future endeavors. I know he will be successful, and he will bring honor to whatever he does.

### EARL OLD PERSON

*Chief, Blackfeet Nation*

**2008**—Washington-Grizzly Stadium adds 2,000 seats, raising the capacity to 25,000.

**2008**—Dennison flies at 97 percent of the speed of sound aboard a Navy Blue Angels jet during a 45-minute flight from Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane, Wash.

**2009**—The Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences building is completed.

**2009**—UM School of Law addition completed.

**2010**—Dennison announces his intention to retire with twenty years of service.

**2010**—The Payne Family Native American Center is completed.

## Making UM What It Is Today

Tonight as I write this, it's been another amazing day in the life of UM. The events that crossed my radar include the Jeff Cole Distinguished Lecture at the School of Journalism, a Latin American Studies social at the Davidson Honors College, the Grizzlies' dance in the first round of the NCAA basketball tournament, and George Dennison rocking out in his 1962 Starfires band persona. He was the headliner at a student-sponsored talent show to benefit Haitian and Chilean earthquake victims. And those are but a few of the myriad activities that go on every day across campus.

George, as he is known to students, faculty, staff, donors, and alumni alike, has been the spark, the force, and the primary UM change agent over the past twenty years. He made this University what it is today. I am a relative newcomer to the University community, but from my experience, I can assert that there is no one in the country who can hold a candle to George for his fundraising prowess, courage, and will to succeed. He has a passionate belief in the power of affordable and accessible public higher education. The students are at the heart of his work and his decisions. The events happening tonight exemplify George's commitment to the ideal of a diverse and student-centered place of learning. He is spending the evening with students who are trying to make a difference. How refreshing and inspiring! He has translated that vision into action

for thousands of people who have stepped forward throughout the last twenty years to contribute millions of dollars for University programs, facilities, and scholarships.

It is stunning to think that during George's tenure, 720 privately funded scholarships were established—bringing students and keeping students who might never have stepped foot on our campus. This outpouring of student support by donors is directly linked to his emphasis on student success and educational affordability.

George has been a great partner to The University of Montana Foundation, working hand in glove with our Board of Trustees and staff. He provided the motivation for the successful fundraising results that we all have enjoyed. I thank him for his unflagging support, his great sense of humor, and his astounding stamina. His legacy can be summed up simply: He provided the tools for successful lives for UM students and society at large by accepting no less than the best in higher education in Montana.

### LAURA BREHM

*President and CEO, UM Foundation*



## The Inaugural Promise

In the autumn of 1990, I co-chaired the planning committee for President Dennison's inauguration. Dean 'Jerry' Fetz and I met with the new president for a conversation about the values he holds dear in academic leadership. The three words he emphasized are the ones we transformed into the theme of the inaugural festivities: community, diversity, and excellence.

By "community" President Dennison meant that the University should foster a sense of belonging among its students and employees and a sense of connection to the residents living all around us in our city and state. Establishing the Quality of Worklife task force exemplified his commitment to *esprit de corps* among employees. Holding open office hours with students on a regular basis meant he came to know many students personally. He valued their opinions and accepted most of their suggestions, if they spoke with him and not at him.

Every autumn George and Jane used home football game brunches to invite a broad cross section of the local and state communities to campus to enjoy the camaraderie of town and gown on those seven weekends when Washington-Grizzly Stadium became one of Montana's larger cities.

In his commitment to diversity, President Dennison traveled to all of



Montana's reservations, particularly fostering ties to the remarkable tribal colleges. For his outreach, he was designated Fast Buffalo Horse by the Blackfeet Tribe, a name he treasures to this day. His vision of a dramatic, inspiring home on campus to Montana's Native American faculty, students, and visitors becomes a reality this spring. It is fitting that The Payne Family Native American Center will be dedicated during the week of his last UM Commencement as presiding president.

President Dennison is a pragmatic optimist who insists on excellence when faced with difficult decisions. Might it be more expensive to seek specialized accreditation for an academic program? Yes, but "go for it," he always says, because it is the best way in higher education to ensure that universities really strive for excellence.

Excellence also pervades his expectations for programs in athletics. He is competitive and expects to be the best in every endeavor. During one football game in the early '90s, my husband, Hal, and I were seated with George and Jane. The Grizzlies fell far behind. George glowered and grumbled. None of us wanted to sit next to him, not even Jane. In the fourth quarter the Grizzlies mounted a furious comeback. As Hal, Jane, and I jumped out of our seats, George sat quietly and nodded as if it were just what he expected all along. When the rally came up short, he turned to us and said curtly, "We didn't lose. We just ran out of time."

Community, diversity, excellence. These were the hallmarks of President Dennison's inaugural pledge. He consistently proved for twenty amazing years that he never forgot his promises.

**SHEILA STEARNS '68, '69, Ed.D. '83**  
*Montana Commissioner of Higher Education*

## Putting The Resources Behind Rhetoric

As George Dennison leaves the presidency of UM after twenty years of service, there will be many who write about his leadership and legacy. I have the privilege of writing about his leadership and legacy to international education through his work with the International Student Exchange Programs. I met George in 1998 when he joined the ISEP Board of Directors, on which he served as chairman from 2000 to 2007. Although we had not met previously, I knew him by reputation as a staunch supporter of international student mobility, and with that interest and his leadership skills, he guided the transformation of ISEP from a student exchange program to a leading international education organization.

When George joined the board, the organization had only been incorporated as an independent nonprofit in 1997, with the challenge of supporting itself after federal government grants that comprised more than 30 percent of the ISEP budget were cut. We faced two choices—scale back considerably or grow out of the crisis. It quickly became clear the first option would erode one of ISEP's core values by limiting our ability to develop and implement programs in nontraditional areas, such as Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Thus, we faced the challenge of developing new approaches to funding the organization. George never wavered in his resolve to expand ISEP so we could stay on mission.

It has been a pleasure to know George and his wife, Jane, over the years. ISEP has moved from a student exchange program to an

international network of more than 300 universities in 42 countries, with a variety of program offerings that serve a wide range of diverse needs and interests.

George has been my teacher, friend, and collaborator. He has played a key leadership role in ISEP's transformation. He always was available to deal with any situation, whether an issue needed immediate attention or more long-range strategic solutions. He is a university president who puts resources behind the rhetoric for the importance of campus internationalization, and he has made a difference not only for UM, but for the entire ISEP network. I thank George for his unwavering support and effective leadership in our large and growing network.

**MARY ANNE GRANT**  
*President and CEO, International Student Exchange Programs Network*



It doesn't stop here!  
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to view a **Web exclusive**  
**video** with President Dennison.



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# COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

BY ERIKA FREDRICKSON  
PHOTOS BY TODD GOODRICH

Steve Running's UM office is decorated with climate change papers, stacks of climate books, and his bicycle. On one wall hangs the Nobel Peace Prize, an award he shares with 600 other scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for three 2007 climate change reports. But now, three years after the IPCC released the reports, the Regents Professor of Ecology in UM's School of Forestry and Conservation says he's witnessed setbacks. A recent Gallup poll reveals a measurable slip in the amount of confidence the public has in the IPCC results. In fact, about 12 to 15 percent of U.S. citizens who once thought climate change was an issue no longer believe it is.

"That's millions and millions of people in the U.S.," says Running. "We never imagined we'd have to re-argue the same case over again with the same data. But it shows you how shallow the understanding of climate science really is."

Running says the setbacks stem from a controversy that erupted over two typos in the 2,000 pages of reports. The errors show a failure in the editing process, he says, but both proved to be isolated and easily fixed. The point is, he says, neither typo changes the science of climate change.

"None of this recent public controversy has brought forth any new data that shows that climate change is not happening," he says. "We've let the skeptic crowd go wild, and they obviously aren't impeded by the facts. And now they've made a real dent in the public's understanding."

Climate change politics keeps Running constantly in Washington, D.C., where his scientific expertise is required. Public debate on climate change roars on while governments haggle over energy bills and climate policy. Meanwhile, at UM something different is happening. Instead of debating climate change and doing nothing, faculty, staff, and students have gotten the ball rolling on a sustainability plan that will work to reduce the campus carbon footprint in a real local effort to combat climate change.

In fact, UM has worked on the issue for almost a decade. In 2002, President George Dennison signed the Talloires Declaration, which

called for greater sustainability awareness on campus, and the same year a Sustainable Campus Committee advisory group was created. But it's really been over the past four years that climate change action has exploded. In 2007, Dennison was one of the first 100 university presidents to sign the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment. Whereas the Talloires was a sort of general declaration, the 2007 commitment sets the stage for a commitment to concrete action.

"It's been really exciting to see the student involvement," says Erica Bloom, a graduate student and the Associated Students of UM sustainability coordinator. "They've pushed this so much over the years. It's really the students who have made this happen."

Under the commitment, UM created a Greenhouse Gas Inventory in 2008 to determine the current campus carbon footprint. Since then, students, faculty, and staff have created several sustainability projects to directly and quickly begin reducing carbon emissions. And on April 21, just in time for Earth Day, UM released the final Climate Action Plan, an aggressive step to make campus carbon neutral by 2020. From small changes to major ones, UM is building a model for tangible climate solutions from the ground up.



Above:  
UM Regents  
Professor of  
Ecology Steve  
Running in the  
Missoula  
Rattlesnake



**CAMPUS  
LOOKS AT  
WAYS TO  
NEUTRALIZE  
ITS CARBON  
FOOTPRINT  
BY 2020,  
STARTING  
WITH  
INITIATIVES  
RIGHT NOW**



## ROOTS AND RADICALS

You can't green a campus unless you know the root of the problem. Cherie Peacock, the sustainability coordinator for the UM Office of Sustainability, says the 2008 greenhouse gas emissions report helped provide a starting point for action.

Using the Clean Air-Cool Planet campus carbon calculator, the emissions report group deduced exactly from where the emissions stemmed. It also predicted a continuous rise in emissions if no action were taken.

"There's great information that came out of that report," she says. "You look at it and go, 'Oh, now I see that two-thirds of our emissions come from our buildings and one-third from transportation.'"

Peacock and Bloom collaborated with a multitude of campus community members, as well as technical experts from outside campus. In just more than a year, they took information from the emissions report and transformed it into the Climate Action Plan, a full-fledged, ninety-six-page emissions-reduction plan. They encouraged public involvement throughout the process.

"We tried to involve as many people as we could with the time that we had," Peacock says. "We did that for quite a while, and then we started taking those ideas and consolidating them and categorizing them into more specific strategies."

Those strategies read like a wish list for a dream campus: Solar thermal Grizzly Pool. Four-day workweek. Hybrid fleet cars. Alternative energy. But the truth is, UM's climate action groups are taking the ideas very seriously. The four-day workweek might be far down the road, but other strategies are not. UM's car fleet already uses some hybrids, for instance, and UM currently is talking with companies about wind and biomass solutions.

Other strategies are being implemented immediately. One of the plan's categories is energy efficiency and conservation. While the action plan was being put together, UM did an energy audit to look at the efficiency of sixteen campus buildings. That audit spawned \$6 million worth of campus retrofit projects. Another strategy the plan addresses is behavior. Turning off lights and taking shorter showers in the residence halls are just a few choices people make that affect emissions. A campus behavior group is currently working on how to encourage campus consumers to make everyday decisions that could pare down the carbon footprint.

As was the case with the emissions report, the Climate Action

Plan used the Clean Air-Cool Planet campus carbon calculator. But this time instead of looking at dreaded predictions for a status-quo situation, they were able to take the strategies, plug them in, and see how each one could reduce emissions over time.

"We looked at direct reductions that we could reasonably do within five years," Peacock says. "We thought we could reduce our emissions by 10 percent below 2007 levels by the year

2015. We're kind of on track for that one. But the students really pushed for a particular date of carbon neutral by 2020. And that's what's in the plan as a very aggressive goal to achieve."

Carbon neutral, according to the presidents' climate commitment, means reducing emissions where possible and offsetting the rest of the emissions. A basic amount of business takes place on campus every day that could only be carbon neutral if all energy used was renewable, says Peacock.

And, for instance, if UM is going to participate in indirect energy use such as air travel, some emissions will continue to emerge. Buying carbon offsets means UM is investing in projects that reduce emissions elsewhere and getting carbon credit for that. Those offsets could include tree carbon sequestration projects or traffic rerouting that would reduce car idling.

Peacock is an environmental engineer and architect who worked for the U.S. Forest Service for twenty years and has a history with green building. The technology aspect to greening a campus is exciting to her, and she says incorporating sustainability into UM's curriculum is one of the other important parts of the action plan. But throughout the process of working on the climate plan, it's been people's energy that most inspired her.

"One of the greatest things that has evolved is this spirit of collaboration," she says. "A lot of this process is really organic. It is what the people on campus want to do and want to take on. And that's been really important to foster, because I think that's what's going to help us make great reductions."

## BIG IDEAS

Bob Durringer has big projects in his sights. The UM vice president of administration and finance took a trip to the University of British Columbia in Vancouver in March to check out the campus' recently installed biomass co-generation system. The system uses steam, which can be used to generate large amounts of heat and electricity. And it may be the perfect fit for UM.



Cherie Peacock (left) and Erica Bloom ride bikes, that any student on campus can check out.

"...But the students really pushed for a particular date of carbon neutral by 2020. And that's what's in the plan as a very aggressive goal to achieve."

Some people might not be aware that UM already uses some alternative energy sources. Many campus buildings are temperature regulated through geothermal cooling and heating and have been for several decades.

"In fact, in almost all of our buildings we have wells that pull out water from the aquifer, and we use it in our air conditioning and then pump it right back down into the ground so it never is exposed to the air," Durringer says. "We save hundreds of thousands of dollars in our heating and cooling bills."

But in the end, it's not enough to keep the carbon footprint from increasing. The Montana state government's energy bill in 2007 was \$27.5 million, and just the cost for heating and lighting the state's university system was responsible for 58 percent of that bill.

Durringer evaluates sustainability projects to see if they're cost effective. For the Climate Action Plan, he and other staff rated the proposed projects from smallest return to biggest return. Then they designated which projects were easy to do, hard to do, and really hard to do.

"When you start to add up the things that are easy to do, whether you do them can make you feel good but it doesn't really go much toward getting rid of your carbon footprint," he says. "But when you get right down to the very bottom of the list, the two things that we're studying really hard right now will [make a difference]."

One of the big ideas is wind. Montana ranks fifth in the nation for potential wind energy. But the Missoula Valley isn't ideal for it. UM is currently in negotiations with a wind farm company (which they can't name until plans are solidified) to find out if it's economically viable to invest in wind generated in Judith Gap.

"The steps you have to go through to put up a wind farm are really quite complicated," Durringer says. "I've got a proposal from this company, but I've yet to find out if it's something a university would really be interested in because of the [cost] risk involved."

But the co-generation system has real potential. The process uses biomass—tree trimmings and chippable wood—as opposed to UM's current natural gas system. Construction of the plant would cost around \$10 million, and UM could begin the building process as soon as this fall, if all goes according to plan. And, best of all, it's projected to reduce 22 percent of UM's footprint.

## BIG PICTURE

You can't set foot on campus without seeing some sign of climate change action. The momentum is apparent in the UM Forum for Living with Appropriate Technology, also known as UM FLAT—a retrofitted campus house that's used as a demonstration project for sustainable living. Last spring, environmental studies students constructed an infill strawbale wall, while carpentry students poured new concrete footings and installed energy-efficient windows. Currently UM FLAT students are working to build passive solar shelf walls on the south face of the garage. And the house uses a real-time energy monitoring system so the live-in students can track how much energy each appliance uses in order to tailor their behavior to more sustainable action.

"If you teach all the students that are coming through the University about sustainability and climate change issues, then they take that out to the bigger world at large."


Then there are projects such as the Revolving Energy Loan Fund. Students have created an optional fee which allows them to tax themselves each semester to fund projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and eventually create cost savings that pay back the loan. It's one way to take ideas from UM FLAT's experiment, for instance, and implement them on campus without needing further UM funding. In fact, Derek Kanwischer, UM FLAT program coordinator, says he and other organizers are working on a project to get the real-time energy monitors in UM residence halls. It won't mandate a change in behavior, he says, but it will make students more tangibly aware of how each student's appliance use impacts energy consumption—or conservation.

Climate change action isn't just about projects. Part of the Climate Action Plan puts heavy emphasis on education efforts—actively incorporating sustainability and climate information into the UM curriculum. Green Thread started last spring in an effort to ignite creative sustainability teaching into any classroom, no matter the subject. The two-day workshop this spring will add faculty from Montana State University, Flathead Valley Community College, Montana Tech, and The University of Montana-Western.

Students also can actively incorporate climate change into their studies. Last fall UM introduced a climate change studies minor. The minor is interdisciplinary and, in that sense, one of the only of its kind in the nation. Whatever their majors are, students can incorporate the new minor to add another dimension to their education track.

"That could potentially have a bigger impact," says Peacock. "If you teach all the students that are coming through the University about sustainability and climate change issues, then they take that out to the bigger world at large."

Out in the wider world of climate change, politics rage on. But for people like Steve Running, it's UM's conversation about large projects like the co-generation plant, as well as these student-run campus projects, that make it hard to be a pessimist. For him, the recent conference on climate change in Denmark didn't produce serious changes. And now, Congress is battling over language for an energy and climate bill that he feels is not set to do anything big. It's students in whom he's put his faith.

"It's your generation that just has to not take 'no' for an answer," he says. "From those highly pessimistic observations then, what's interesting is down in the trenches there's a lot happening. And maybe we'll look back decades from now and say that's what really mattered anyway." 



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*Erika Fredrickson is the arts editor at the Missoula Independent. She graduated from UM's Creative Writing Program in 1999 and received a master's degree in environmental studies in 2009. She was a contributing writer to the 2008 Greenhouse Gas Inventory.*



# Just Doing It

BY KEVIN VAN VALKENBURG  
PHOTOS BY DAVID SAVINSKI

**Above:** Nike's Eric Sprunk says he's "proud to be a Griz."

Nike's Vice President of Merchandise and Product **Eric Sprunk '86** proves dreams can happen, especially if you have a Montana work ethic. And by the way, he's not the only one who's made it big with the company . . .

## alumni profile

**S**ITTING STILL IS HARD FOR ERIC SPRUNK. This is not an observation as much as it is a fact.

His insatiable curiosity is to blame. Sprunk is more comfortable on the move, telling stories, shaking hands, bear-hugging friends, asking questions, and, in general, pinballing his way through the cosmos.

He does not wear a suit to work. In fact, no one at Nike wears a suit. The standing joke among employees on Nike's Beaverton, Oreg., campus is if you're spotted wearing a tie, you're either interviewing for a job, or you're an analyst from Wall Street.

Sprunk is neither. He's Nike's vice president for merchandise and product, which means a lot of things, but mainly that he's in charge of overseeing everything Nike makes—from LeBron's sneakers to Tiger's red shirt—from design to development to manufacturing, and that billions of dollars are at stake when he makes a decision.

### Discovering **The Path**

Sprunk's journey from Missoula's Rattlesnake neighborhood of Lincolnwood to the boardrooms of Nike is all the more interesting when you consider he had very different aspirations for himself growing up. But each mile marker along the way feels, at least to Sprunk, like it had a purpose.

Even though he was a standout basketball player at Hellgate High School, he didn't exactly fit the mold of the typical jock in the early 1980s. He took weekly piano lessons and played the tenor saxophone in the school marching and jazz bands. His mother, the business manager for the Missoula Children's Theatre, would not let him lead a one-track life.

"I should have given her more credit than I did at the time," Sprunk says. "I thought 'I have to take piano lessons as a sophomore in high school?' But that skill set is alive and well in me today. I think I have equal friendships with all different types of people from different backgrounds and different upbringings."

*"I think of the people who know me, if you asked 100 of them where my values come from, 99 of them would immediately say Montana."*

He makes a lot of decisions.

His typical wardrobe is a T-shirt and jeans. Comfortable sneakers are a must.

The ringtone on his BlackBerry is usually something by KISS. He's friendly with some of the band members, a detail he doesn't want to brag about, but is thrilled to acknowledge. The last time they were in town, Sprunk gave them each a pair of monogrammed shoes. He had to pinch himself.

He slips the word "awesome" into conversation a lot. He talks fast and doesn't always stay on topic, but somehow, he never comes across as unfocused. His focus, like a laser, simply changes targets. Quickly.

He has the relaxed gait and confident air of a former athlete—which he is—but the good sense to know when to make fun of himself.

In ten minutes of conversation, he can make you feel like a friend.

He also might be the most unlikely corporate executive in America, considering he started his career as an accountant, and now helps decide what shoes Kobe Bryant will market, and thus wear, each NBA season.

Nike certainly isn't run like a typical American corporation, but even within its ranks, Sprunk's ascension has been atypical.

"I get asked that question all the time: 'Seriously, how did you end up doing what you're doing? How is that even possible?'" Sprunk says. "For people outside the company, it's not possible. It would never happen at their companies. Here, it's a little more plausible. I just don't think that many companies would let somebody from finance end up running global product for what one would argue is one of the best consumer products companies in the world."

And to hear Eric Sprunk tell it, he owes a huge chunk of his success to his Montana roots and his degree from UM.

"I think of the people who know me, if you asked 100 of them where my values come from, 99 of them would immediately say Montana," says Sprunk, who graduated in 1986 with an accounting degree. "I don't make it public. It's not like I advertise it. But I'm very proud of it. I'm proud of being a Griz."

After graduating from Hellgate, he played basketball for a year at Linfield College in Oregon, but missed home, as well as his high school girlfriend, Kim, who would eventually become his wife. He returned to Missoula and enrolled in the business school.

"I wanted to be a corporate tax attorney," Sprunk says. "I figured after I graduated in accounting, I'd apply to law school and that's exactly what I'd become."

But then Sprunk took a class from Patricia Douglas, one of the school's infamously tough professors. One day she didn't appreciate that he was chewing gum in class, so she made him attach it to the tip of his nose and wear it for the rest of the hour.

"I thought it was some kind of joke," Sprunk says. "She was the hardest teacher in the business school, but she gave me discipline in my academic life I didn't have prior to that. I think I signed up for nine of her classes. I use the things she taught me in her business writing class every single day."

When Douglas was named UM's Professor of the Year in 1994, Sprunk wrote one of the letters recommending her for the award.

As graduation loomed, Sprunk began to understand that his outgoing personality, combined with his budding accounting skills, might actually make him an attractive job candidate when firms came to UM's campus to recruit. He weighed three more years of school against the financial security of working, and abandoned the idea of law school.

But he still had a decision to make. PricewaterhouseCoopers' Portland-based offices wanted him. But so did a highly respected firm in Missoula.

His family was in Missoula. All his friends were in Missoula. He was comfortable and confident in Missoula. Still he chose to live in Portland.

"My father taught me to always try to make the decision that gives you the most opportunity," Sprunk says. "He said 'You can always come back to Missoula. But if you don't go to Portland now, you may never get that chance again.' That philosophy influenced a lot of decisions in my life."

The initial appeal of PricewaterhouseCoopers wasn't, however, that Nike was a client. It was Montana Power that interested Sprunk. He wanted to work on the Montana Power account, make frequent trips back home, and eventually become a partner.

Nike just wouldn't leave him alone. He had a great relationship with the company, and was handling the majority of their account. His personality was infectious. He was a hard worker, but he was fun. One of the people he'd always looked up to, former Grizzly basketball player Craig Zanon, had left PricewaterhouseCoopers to work at Nike and kept recruiting Sprunk. In 1995, they offered him the position of finance director in charge of the Americas.

"It was a gut-wrenching decision," Sprunk says. "In hindsight, it was way more difficult than it should have been.

But at the time, I wanted to be a partner. Everybody who works in public accounting wants to be a partner, and I thought I could be one. So it seemed kind of careless to give that up."

But again, Sprunk stuck to his philosophy: Where am I going to have the most opportunities?

It was, once again, the best professional decision of his life.

One of the most appealing aspects of Nike, especially for Montana graduates over the past twenty years, is that the company has never particularly cared where its employees went to school, or what their background is in. As long as you're smart and willing to work hard in a collaborative environment, you can work at Nike, and you can do a lot of different jobs.

Employees jokingly call it the Matrix, but one of its selling points is that it's not hierarchical. If you want to talk to your boss' boss, you can. It's a competitive environment, but a fluid one.

That pitch wasn't limited to Sprunk alone. Around the same time Sprunk was hired, the company also recruited another UM business school graduate, Joe Monahan '89.

## Pounding The Pavement

Monahan, like Sprunk, had never really imagined working outside of finance. Growing up in Butte, Monahan had played baseball, football, and basketball, and sports were an important part of his life. But professionally all he really wanted was to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather, a hard-working Butte Irishman who spent a lifetime as a trustworthy CPA. He was doing exactly that at Moss Adams LLP until Nike talked him into coming to campus for an interview.

"I did the walk around campus, and then sat down by the lake for



lunch," Monahan says. "I'll never forget, I went back to my office, I called my wife, and I said, 'I'm going to go to work for that company. And I bet I'm not working anywhere else the rest of my life.'"

When Sprunk and Monahan bump into each other on campus these days, they bear hug and tease each other like old friends.

Monahan smiles. He and Sprunk are a lot alike, both in personality and in their journey up the ladder at Nike. They're both proud Montanans, both graduates of UM's business school where they were accounting majors, and both former CPAs. Nike is one of the few companies where their rise would even be possible. Monahan is now vice president of sales for North America, meaning he has to be both an outgoing people person and a details man. So how does a former accountant end up running one of the big sales divisions for one of the most recognizable companies in the world?

"I took jobs outside of my comfort zone just to learn," Monahan says. "I went from finance to manufacturing to sourcing to strategic planning. But I always thought it would be good to work in sales because of the relationship side of it. Growing up in Montana, that's kind of what you're about—relationships. I never really left Montana growing up, and now I get to travel the world. When you see what this brand means to people, it's pretty powerful. That's really cool."

The Monahan family is a baseball family, and thus, one of the biggest perks of his job is that he occasionally gets to introduce them to athletes like Alex Rodriguez, CC Sabathia, and Mariano Rivera. One of his great thrills in life was watching his sons take batting practice from Orioles Hall of Fame shortstop Cal Ripken.

But he has been adamant they not forget about their roots. His family still owns a place on Georgetown Lake, and some of his fondest memories of his own childhood involve fishing and boating

on the lake with his grandfather.

"My kids were all born out here," Monahan says, referring to Oregon. "But if you ask them, they're native Montanans. Last summer, I was really busy. I said 'All right guys, here is the deal: I'll take you on a weeklong vacation, anywhere you like.' We narrowed it down to Maui or Montana. All three of them at the same time said they wanted to go back to Montana."

have to go through three different levels of management to bend his ear. They can just as easily pitch him something face to face.

"A lot of times we're in the business of putting things out in front of consumers they never thought were possible," Sprunk says. "A lot of our growth comes from showing you something where you go, 'Wow, I never would have thought of that. That's unbelievable.' That's the heat of the brand. We believe we owe that to our consumers. So part of my job is making sure we have an environment that allows our people to be creative and innovative."

Now more than ever, Nike is a global company. Its business

*"I took jobs outside of my comfort zone just to learn."*

## Feeling The Movement

Like Monahan, Sprunk would never be where he is today if his family hadn't shown the ability to adapt in support of their father's career. Nike asked Sprunk if he'd be willing to move and work for the company in Europe. After working for a few years in finance there, they asked him to take over their European footwear division.

It wasn't the best time for his family to make a big move, and the safe play would have been to stay comfortable in the Pacific

Northwest. But again, Sprunk chose opportunity over comfort.

"It was good personally and professionally," Sprunk says. "You have to hunker down and form a pretty tight bond, because literally you don't know how to buy groceries or furniture. And your perspective on how you see the brand is different. There is a humbleness to be had, and an appreciation for diversity and inclusion."

Sprunk took a division of the company that wasn't doing well, and in two and a half years, he turned it into one of Nike's better performing assets. He also experienced a bit of luck along the way. His two bosses while he was in Europe were Mark Parker and Charlie Denson. When Nike restructured its company, the two were named co-presidents.

"I remember going home one night and saying to my wife, Kim, 'I think Mark is going to ask me to do the global footwear job,'" Sprunk says. "I was thirty-seven at the time. My wife was like, 'You're out of your mind. There is no way they're going to ask you to do that job.'"

A week later he was offered the job. He ran global footwear for seven years, traveling the world, leading a team of designers, innovators, and marketing experts who were adept at anticipating what consumers wanted instead of reacting to it. He did well enough that in 2008 the company created a new position—vice president for product—that put him in charge of everything Nike makes.

Sometimes that means working directly with athletes, asking for their input and insight—although Sprunk generally leaves that to the creative types—and other times it means meeting with owners or league presidents, or simply supporting Nike-sponsored teams.

Every day, though, is about movement. Speed. Anticipation.

He can be demanding to work for, but he's developed a reputation for cutting through corporate jargon. Employees don't

outside the United States is growing faster than inside it. When Sprunk joined the organization in 1995, NIKE, Inc.'s revenue for the fiscal year was \$4.8 billion. At the end of fiscal year 2009, Nike reported revenue of \$19.2 billion. But Sprunk is still convinced it's run like a much smaller company.

"Fundamentally, the culture of what we do is still the same," Sprunk says. "It still rewards good work. It's still way more about what you're achieving, do you have integrity, and are you a good teacher, than it is about what school did you go to or whom do you know."

## Finding The Stride

That's one of the reasons John Connors '84, a UM business school graduate and former senior vice president of finance and administration and chief financial officer at Microsoft, agreed to join Nike's Board of Directors in 2005.

Connors, an accounting major who grew up in Miles City, is one of UM's most impressive success stories. He took a job with Microsoft in 1989 when the company had 2,800 employees and was generating around \$480 million in annual revenue.

Over the next seventeen years, he steadily rose up the ranks, working in virtually every part of the company—development, sales, information technology, and growth—and he contributed to and oversaw some of Microsoft's exponential expansion.

In 2000, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer tapped him to serve as the company's chief financial officer, and Connors helped navigate a volatile transitional period when the company faced multiple anti-trust suits, a difficult product transition period, and a stock that was seen as massively overvalued.

"It was around that time I got to know a lot of the Nike leadership team," Connors says. "I knew there were a bunch of Montana graduates there because Montana natives are pretty good about knowing who has ended up where."

One of Nike's founders, former CEO Phil Knight, asked Connors to join the Board of Directors because he wanted to continue to bring in fresh perspectives and new ideas, even after he stepped down from being involved in the day-to-day operations of the company.

"When I was at Microsoft, I was recruited to serve on a lot of boards, and I'd almost universally turned them down," Connors says. "But Nike was analogous to Microsoft in some ways. They're both highly recognizable global brands who create products used by millions of people. They're both meritocracies, where the best people are identified and moved up. I think a similar culture exists

*continued on page 32*

Joe Monahan believes growing up in Montana teaches one about the value of strong relationships.

## A Team Approach

Alums explain how a UM education guides their careers at Nike.

### Stefanie Henderson '04

Footwear Brand Merchandiser, Emerging Markets—Latin America

"As an athlete and a motivated student in the business school at UM, I always was challenged with maintaining balance across athletics, studies, and my social life. My experience at UM helped shape how I adjust to competing priorities on a daily basis here at Nike. It was an invaluable skill set to gain before heading into a dynamic, ever-evolving company like Nike."

### Adam Steffen '04

Category Planner, North America Basketball

"My time at UM—and my Montana roots for that matter—really shaped how I approach my career, as well as my outlook on life. Growing up on a ranch, I did whatever it took to get the job done regardless of the time of day or the deadline. When I had a job to do . . . I did it. My dad tried to convince me in high school to take a year off and work before coming to college so I would know what it was like to earn a living. I

believe my response was, 'No, I'm good.' When I came to UM, I dove right in, even though others thought I would never finish because I was, shall we say, sociable. When I finally broke into Nike after I took the same approach as I did on the ranch and at UM—I relied on the relationships I've built. I think Montanans are especially good at this because they know how to work and have as much fun along the way as possible."





**Trevor Rembe '93**

Director of Allocation, North America Factory Stores

"There is great Montana pride that echoes from all of the Nike teammates. Nike is such a relationship-based company, and it is great to have the common thread of Montana running through. It doesn't matter if you're a VP or analyst, being a part of Griz Nation pulls the group together."

**Brooklynn Lorenzen '04**

Footwear Developer, Jordan

"So much of my experience at UM shaped the way I approach my job. Obviously, the MBA program and my undergraduate degree in communications helped prepare me in terms of understanding the business world and being able to effectively communicate with my teammates. But, in many ways, being a student-athlete at UM has more strongly affected how I approach my job, simply because the experience has influenced the way I approach everything in life. By

playing for such a historically successful program and coaching staff, there is a high level of expectation in terms of the amount of time and effort dedicated to playing ball, as well as overall performance, of course. The same can be said for working at Nike. It is a highly competitive work environment, and you are rated based upon your performance, which is dependent on the amount of work you put in and your ability to work well with others."

*"I think a similar culture exists in both companies [Nike and Microsoft], where the employees really have a passion for their product."*

John Connors was asked to join Nike's Board of Directors to bring a fresh perspective.

*continued from page 29*

in both companies, where the employees really have a passion for their product."

Connors—who spent his formative teenage years working on a farm, on an oil rig, for the railroad, and on a ranch—knew Sprunk's roots and journey weren't much different from his own.

"We have a lot of people from the business school who majored in accounting, who went to work for a big accounting firm, and then did well and ended up getting hired by their clients," Connors says. "There is just success story after success story."

## Realizing The Success

If you ask Sprunk whether the twenty-two-year-old version of himself saw any of this coming, he does something rare.

He pauses for a moment to consider it all, then chuckles like he doesn't quite believe it either.

"I think people back then would be floored if you told them," he says. "Myself included. Because you never know. I wanted to be a corporate tax attorney. But it comes back to what I said about opportunities. The wider you keep your lens, the better off you'll be. Then you can spend the last twenty or thirty years of your career bringing your lens down, focusing on where you want to live and what you want to do."

Life can feel like a tornado some days, but that's a rush as much as it is a concern. Sprunk's line between work and play is quite blurry.

"I really do think I'm blessed with this job," Sprunk says. "I love sports. I show up

this morning and the new helmet design for The University of Montana football team and new uniforms are on my desk. That feels like I'm playing. I love that."

In addition to being a good friend and international business leader, Sprunk is an inspiration for many—including UM Director of Athletics Jim O'Day. "I can't say enough about Eric and what he does for our athletic department. He is a real visionary. Along with being a very well-respected member of our National Advisory Board for Grizzly Athletics, he is a strong believer in investing in our product."

Perhaps most impressive, O'Day says, is that fact that while Sprunk has obvious interest in the sports of football and men's and women's basketball, the majority of his private giving goes to assist the Olympic sports such as soccer, golf, tennis, volleyball, and track and field. "That in itself says a lot about him," O'Day says. "He knows the student-athletes in these sports struggle to get new equipment and uniforms, and he wants them to look as good as possible in their Nike gear. He believes that if they look good, they will perform even better. Looking back, he's been absolutely correct."

But there are a few weeks every year when the tornado slows down. When the stress of where LeBron James will play next season, what Under Armour and adidas are doing, or how many Manchester United jerseys Nike is going to sell this year is put on hold.

Sprunk's three children can always sense it coming. It begins with a drive east out of Portland, but it doesn't truly take shape until somewhere in Idaho, when the Sprunk family

car makes the slow and steady climb through the Coeur d'Alène Mountains and toward the welcoming embrace of Lookout Pass.

It's a journey every Montanan knows well enough. Lookout Pass isn't as scenic as some of the state's iconic throughways, at least not in pictures. But the peaks always seem taller, and the piercing blue sky always feels bigger than you picture in your mind.

The Sprunk kids smile when the Montana state sign appears on the horizon. They can sense the tension draining from their father's body as the mountains open up, the highway crests at 4,700 feet, and their descent begins.

It may seem foolish to attach great significance to a moment defined by the imaginary lines that exist only on maps. But the transformation is real for the Sprunks. They know Dad is about to feel different the moment Idaho is in the rearview mirror.

The stress of his job will fade. It will be easier to make him laugh. Time will slow down. In a few hours, he'll be sitting on his dock, looking at the ripples of Flathead Lake with a beer in his hand. Everyone who works at Nike for ten years gets a five-week sabbatical, and when Sprunk took his, he spent the entire time in Montana. He barely moved off his dock. **■**



*Kevin Van Valkenburg '00 is a feature writer for The Baltimore Sun newspaper and a former Grizzly football player. His work is anthologized in The Best American Sports Writing series.*

# Raising Montana

## Culture Of Giving

### Students Give Back To UM Through Senior Challenge

BY PATIA STEPHENS

One hundred years ago, when UM's enrollment was only 163 students, the Class of 1910 bestowed upon campus a useful reminder of itself. The students erected a memorial bench made of stone on the southwest side of the Oval, where it remains today.

A September 22, 1910, *Kaimin* article described the class memorial as a place for students to "wait for the car," adding that it was expected to become a "favorite trysting place."

Much has changed around the 1910 bench. Cars no longer drive around the Oval, the landmark Grizzly statue has become a focal point, and the new Payne Family Native American Center is now its backdrop. But the quirky bench, with supports shaped like tree stumps and seat back etched with the numerals 1910, is a lasting reminder of those who passed this way before.

"The University and the student body feel grateful to the Class of 1910 and hope that classes to come will make as fitting choice as they," wrote the *Kaimin*.

Class memorial efforts have come and gone over the years. These days, the Senior Challenge, a student-run fundraising campaign, offers students an opportunity to be memorialized and contribute to future generations.

The Senior Challenge 2010 class gift will plant one or more trees on the Oval, helping to replace the historic Dutch elms destroyed by disease during the past decade. Facilities Services has a plan to replace them with maples and oaks, but the cost of \$500 per tree thus far has been prohibitive.



Above: UM graduates at Commencement  
Right: A 1915 photo of two men sitting on the 1910 bench



For more information about Senior Challenge 2010 or to make a donation online, visit <http://supportum.org/give/xfund/seniorchallenge.html>. Checks also may be sent to the UM Foundation, P.O. Box 7159, Missoula, MT 59807-7159.

"Our goal is to create a culture of student philanthropy—a message across the University that education and opportunities are dependent on private support," says Sarayl Shunkamolah, Senior Challenge staff adviser at the UM Foundation. "I think students give back in many ways, but they don't realize everything here isn't covered by tuition and fees."

Last year's Senior Challenge raised \$3,200, which was used to install a bike rack and plaque commemorating the Class of 2009 at The Payne Family Native American Center, with the remainder going to scholarships.

The suggested donation this year is \$20.10, but contributions of any amount are welcome. Students who

donated before April 23 were thanked in a *Kaimin* ad and also received a tassel charm to wear at Commencement.

Paul Vetersneck, a management information systems major from Washington state, decided to donate when he heard his gift would help plant a tree on the Oval.

"I thought what they were doing was really noble," Vetersneck says. "I also learned that I could make a donation to any department on campus. The Information Systems department is something I'm really excited about. It seemed like the right thing to do to donate to them."

He sees his donation as a way of saying thanks.


"Right now, students don't have a lot of money, but it sends a message to the University and the department that they valued what they got there," he says.

Duke Oliver, a senior in communication studies, chairs the Senior Challenge 2010 committee. After a twenty-year career coaching in Oregon, he enrolled at UM, which he calls "a jewel in the Rockies."

"As a nontraditional student, I know the importance of the legacy we leave to the University and to future generations," Oliver says. "You paid for an education, but what you've learned is worth so much more. And it will keep paying you the rest of your life."



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# about alumni

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**DIANNA REBER RILEY '88** accepts the Montana Alumni Award at UM's 2010 Charter Day, a celebration of the University's 117th birthday. Dianna was recognized by the UM Alumni Association for her work in initiating, promoting, and bringing to reality last fall's Black Studies Reunion. A host parent to students enrolled in UM's Black Studies program during the late 1960s and early 1970s, Dianna spent countless hours contacting former students, planning, and hosting the three-day reunion that that drew more than eighty former students and faculty members back to campus in September. The following award recipients also were honored at Charter Day: **JOHN BLAKE**, the ASUM Student Service Award; **ROBERT BURKE**, the Neil S. Bucklew Presidential Service Award; **DAN PLETSCHER**, the George M. Dennison Presidential Faculty Award for Distinguished Accomplishment; **JULEE STEARNS**, the George M. Dennison Presidential Staff Award for Distinguished Accomplishment; **DONALD POTTS**, the Montana Faculty Service Award; and **KENNETH WELT**, the Robert T. Pantzer Presidential Humanitarian Award. Charter Day events also featured UM's thirteenth Native American Lecture, "Reconsidering American Indian Historical Trauma: Ruminations of a Critical Cultural Psychologist," by Joseph P. Gone, an enrolled member of Montana's Gros Ventre tribe and assistant professor at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

**Keep Us Posted.** Send your news to Betsy Holmquist, The University of Montana Alumni Association, Brantly Hall, Missoula, MT 59812. Go to [www.grizalum.com](http://www.grizalum.com) and click on "Class Notes," fax your news to 406-243-4467, or call 1-877-UM-ALUMS (877-862-5867). Material in this issue reached our office by March 22, 2010. Note: The year immediately following an alum's name indicates either an undergraduate degree year or attendance at UM. Graduate degrees from UM are indicated by initials. **Snowbirds/Sunbirds—Anyone!** Whenever you change your mailing address, please contact the alumni office. Let us know where you are and when. Thank you.

Grace writes, "I play the piano to entertain the residents at Magnolia Gardens, where I have lived the past two years."

## '50s

The sixtieth reunion for the class of 1950 will be held May 13-15, 2010. You can see photos and watch a video from the 2009 class reunions by logging on to our Web site, [www.grizalum.com](http://www.grizalum.com), and following the "Events/Class Reunion" links.

**TRUDI CARLETON PEEK '51**, Port Orchard, Wash., has written *Touching Earth, Touching Sky*, published by Blue Raven Press. "The story is set in the fictional town of Clark Fork (Missoula), campus (UM), and Pattee Canyon," Trudi writes. "I am the daughter of Linus J. Carleton, the longtime dean of education at UM. Both my parents pushed hard for me to write this story, were models for two of the characters, and are greatly acknowledged, along with Montana, for their profound influence on my writing."

## '60s

The fiftieth reunion for the class of 1960 will be held May 13-15, 2010. You can see photos and watch a video from the 2009 class reunions by logging on to our Web site, [www.grizalum.com](http://www.grizalum.com), and following the "Events/Class Reunion" links.

**LAWRENCE R. KABER '61** writes from Kalispell, "I am in my forty-eighth year of teaching mathematics—thirty-eight years at Flathead High School, one year at Harlowton High School,

## '40s

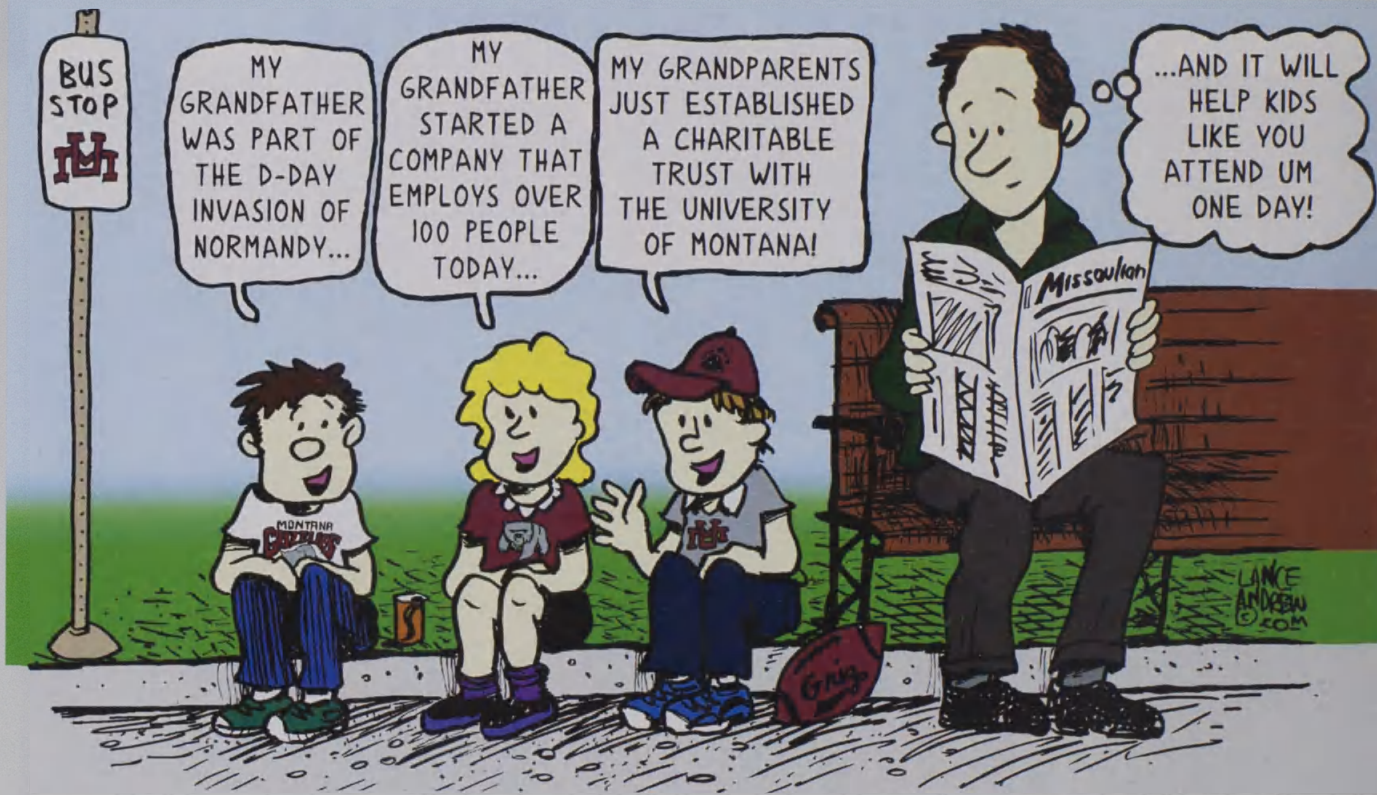
**GRACE WRIGLEY MOLITOR '42**, Cottage Grove, Ore., celebrated her ninetieth birthday in March. Grace graduated in music education from UM and has played the piano for eighty-five years. Her thirteen children all sing and play musical instruments.

### UM Alumni Association

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## What is a charitable remainder trust?

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For more information, contact: Theresa Boyer, Director of Gift Planning  
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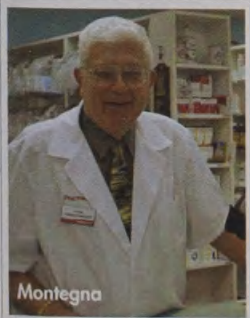
and ten as an adjunct at Flathead Community College. It is still fun!"

**RALPH B. LAWRENCE '61**, Spuyten Duyvil, N.Y.,



writes, "I have many fond memories of Missoula and the campus. I will be seventy-four in June, and, before many more years pass, I would like to visit my University." Ralph is pictured here at the commissioning of the *USS New York* in November.

**JOHN MONTEGNA '63**, Reno, Nev., received the



Paragon Award from CVS Caremark honoring his forty-five years of contributions to the pharmacy profession. "I love working with the people," John says. "A lot of customers I've had since I first came to Reno in 1964."

**MARY ANN COSGROVE '68** retired in January

after serving more than thirty years in the Great Falls school district, the past seven as principal at Paris Gibson Alternative High School. Following graduation, Mary Ann

taught in Washington and Tennessee, then returned to teach in her hometown Black Eagle neighborhood. The first member of her family to attend college, Mary Ann believes her calling was to work with alternative learners and that she herself was once one of them. "This is the school I would have liked to have gone to," she says.

**POUL S. NIELSEN '68**, M.A. '75, Medicine Hat, Alta., closely watched the



luge competition during this year's Olympics and was on hand when the Olympic torch passed through Medicine Hat. A member of UM's luge team in the 1960s, Poul was a member of the Canadian Olympic Luge team that competed in Sapporo, Japan, in



1972. He writes, "We trained side by side with the U.S. team, many of whom started lugging in Missoula. I am now a professor in the Department of Visual Communications at Medicine Hat College and have been here for twenty years. During the

last five years, a colleague and I have been exhibiting paintings in museums and galleries in Beijing, Nanjing, and Hangzhou, China, and are heading back over in May for shows in Nanjing and Beijing. Over the last two years I have also made six trips to Peru to study Inca artifacts and ruins." Poul teaches with two other UM fine arts grads at Medicine Hat College:

**CRAIG M. COTE, M.F.A. '94**, and **MATO AKIHIDE HIGASHITANI '91, M.F.A. '93**. Mato served as a

visiting faculty member at UM from 1993 to 1995. He writes, "The main course I teach, interactive media, uses still images, animation, sound, and music—put together with digital programming and coding. My wife and I drive to Missoula almost every year to visit our longtime friends and refresh ourselves there. The air, the sunlight, and the people in and around Missoula are so comforting that we still

call Missoula our second hometown. Tokyo is our original home."

**'70s**

**Correction:** The winter 2010 Montanan incorrectly listed the master's degree for

**GEORGE A. VENN, M.F.A. '70**, La Grande, Oreg.

**OM PRAKASH, Ph.D. '72**, Irving, Tex., a longtime clinical psychologist turned life coach, continues to practice today at eighty-five years of age. Many of his teachings resonate from the years he worked in India during the 1940s as a community organizer in Mahatma Gandhi's movement. Along with formal psychology models and coaching techniques, Om uses reflection, journeying, relaxation, yoga, and meditation for healing and balance. His wife, **GEORGIA D. PRAKASH**, received her master's degree in education at UM in 1969. Read more about Om on his website at [www.coachprakash.com](http://www.coachprakash.com).

**JOHN H. COMBS '77**, Missoula, was recently named the outstanding music educator in Montana and the Rocky Mountain West by the Montana chapter of the National Federation of High School Associations. During the twenty-eight years he directed the Hellgate High School band, John took them to the Tournament of Roses



Parade and the Fiesta and Holiday football bowls. Recipient of the 2008 Legion of Honor laureate by *Bandworld* magazine and named one of "50 Directors Who Make a Difference" in *School Band and Orchestra* magazine, John now serves as the fine arts supervisor for Missoula County Public Schools.

**PATRICK G. DARBRO '77**, an English teacher and coach at Bozeman High School, received the Montana Coaches Association Coach of the Year award for AA Girls Golf for the 2009 season. Pat writes that his team beat favorite Charles M. Russell High School of Great Falls by twenty-four strokes and placed all five girls in the top twenty at state. This is Pat's fourth Coach of the Year award in the past seven years.

## NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

The following alumni and friends have made a commitment to the future of the UM Alumni Association by becoming lifetime members. You can join them by calling 877-862-5867 or by visiting our website: [www.grizalum.com](http://www.grizalum.com). The Alumni Association thanks them for their support. This list includes all new lifetime members through January 31, 2010.

- MIKE BAKER '64**, Santa Barbara, CA
- MICHAEL A. KILROY '70, J.D. '73**, Billings
- MICHAEL S. NELSON '92**, Gilbert, AZ
- LINDA R. O'CONNELL '78**, Missoula
- JOANN A. PINTZ-COLE '93, M.P.A. '95**, Billings
- JOHN M. SCHAFFER**, Sammamish, WA
- JUDY ADAMS SCHAFFER '56**, Sammamish, WA
- KATHERINE ZAHL SKIRVIN '72**, Pendleton, OR
- SARA D. SMITH '98**, Missoula
- PATRICIA WEBER '73**, Yardley, PA
- CHRISTOPHER W. WOODALL, M.S. '97, Ph.D. '00**, Saint Paul, MN
- EMILY STRUVE WOODALL '99**, Saint Paul, MN

# Congratulations Graduates



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**JONATHAN E. KRIM** '77, Rockville, Md., is the new senior deputy managing editor for *The Wall Street Journal's* online edition at [www.WSJ.com](http://www.WSJ.com). Local innovations editor, assistant managing editor, and director of strategic initiatives for *The Washington Post* from 2006 to March 2010, Jonathan had previously worked as the assistant managing editor at the *San Jose Mercury News*, where he directed and edited two Pulitzer Prize-winning series.

**JOHN DARRELL ROOD** '77, Jacksonville, Fla., was appointed to the Florida Board of Governors, which manages the state's university system. From 2004 to 2007, John served as Ambassador of the United States to the Bahamas. John also has served as chairman of the Vestcor Companies; vice chair, chairman, and commissioner of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation; and commissioner of the Marine Fisheries Commission.

**LEX RUNCIMAN**, M.F.A. '77, professor of English at Linfield College in McMinnville, Oreg., has published his fourth collection of poetry, *Starting from Anywhere*. Among its topics is the notion of being born to other parents, poignant for Lex, who was adopted at birth

and raised in an era of strict secrecy laws. "We lived according to the fic-

tion that our family was exactly like every other," he says. Lex has published three other poetry collections and is co-author of three writing textbooks. **NICKOLAS C. MURNION**, J.D. '78, Glasgow, took the oath of office as the new Valley County attorney in August. Nick was the Garfield County attorney, the city attorney for Jordan, and in private practice there for thirty-one years before his current position. Gaining national attention during the Freeman standoff in 1996, Nick received the 1998 John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award and the Courageous Advocacy Award from the American College of Trial Lawyers in 2000. He and his wife, LeAnn, have two children—Erin, a nurse in Billings, and Trevor, a freshman at UM.

## '80s

**CANDACE L. BLACK**, M.F.A. '81, Mankato, Minn., received the 2009



Thomas A. Wilhelmus Award from RopeWalk Press at the University of Southern Indiana for her book *Casa Marina*. "These poems are part of a sequence set in the Florida Keys and explore coming-of-age issues," Candace writes. Her full-length book of poems, *The Volunteer*, was published in 2003 by New Rivers Press. Candace is an associate professor at Minnesota



**DARLENE CRAVEN** '82, sent this photo of some Kappa Kappa Gamma sisters who celebrated their one hundredth anniversary as the Beta Phi Chapter at UM during Homecoming 2009. "We just couldn't be outdone by the Kappa Alpha Thetas who got their picture in the last issue of the *Montanan* with Jim O'Day!" Darlene writes. Pictured bottom row, left to right: **WENDY MALONE MADISON** '79, Kalispell; **DARLENE CRAVEN** '82, Chesapeake Beach, Md.; middle row: **KAREN OLSEN BLASING** '78, Los Altos, Calif.; **CHAR CURRY** '79, Lake Oswego, Oreg.; top row: **SARAH PUGH WALTON** '78, Butte, and **LESLI BRUDEN** '78, Centennial, Colo.

State University, Mankato, where she teaches creative writing (poetry and nonfiction) and literature courses. **RON GILLET** '81 Tempe, Ariz., is president of the Board of Directors of the Arizona Chapter of



Gillet

Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership. Ron's association with HOBY began in 1986 as a guest speaker at a HOBY leadership seminar in Montana. Since then he has served as a key volunteer within the organization, most recently as chair of the HOBY international Board of Trustees. A twenty-seven-year veteran of the financial services industry, Ron currently serves as vice president/fulfillment unit leader for Bank of America Home Loans.

**SHANE D. MORGER** '81, Ventura, Calif., was honored by the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce for his service on the chamber's Board of Directors from 2004 to 2009, where he served as chairman in 2006. Shane



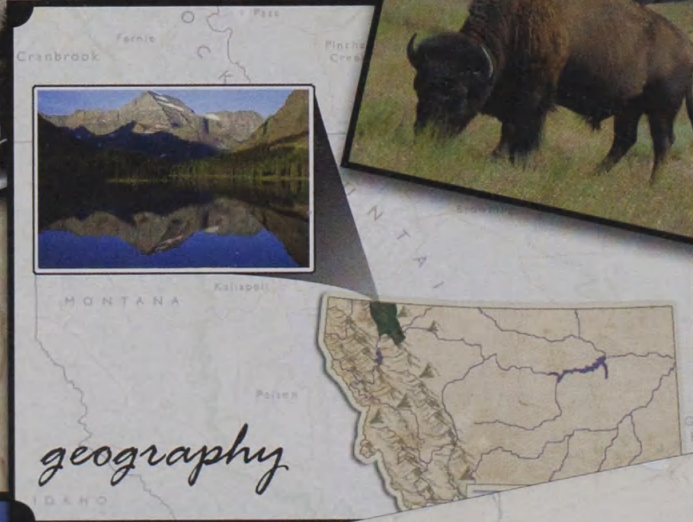
Morger

is the public relations/marketing director for the Bunnin Automotive Group in Ventura County. He and his wife, Geri, have two girls, Trey, sixteen, and Taryn, thirteen, both of whom are talking about becoming Grizzlies at some point, Dad says.

**CARLOS PADRAZA** '85, Bellevue, Wash., stumbled into his status as a science fiction celebrity about a decade ago when he discovered a fan-produced series on the Internet called *Star Trek: Hidden Frontier*. "As a lifelong *Star Trek* fan, I submitted a story idea that was accepted for production," Carlos writes in an e-mail. "That led to a couple more screenplays, becoming the staff writer for three seasons and one of the producers, and to a stint as one of the writers and producers of the Internet series *Star Trek: Phase II*." Carlos now has his own production company, Blue Seraph Productions, based in Los Angeles. He also writes and produces segments for Runic Films there. **JOHN BARNES**, M.A. '88, M.F.A. '88, Denver, received the Young Adult Library Services

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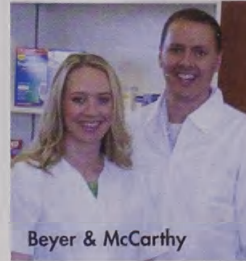
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**TOMAS MILO DEAN** '86 opened Milo Creek Carvings in Great Falls in 2008. A self-taught artist, Tom spent most of his career in pharmaceutical sales and orthopedic appliances. In 2007, he began carving to relieve the stress of his former jobs. Today his hand-carved native trout, dragonflies, cattails, reeds, frogs, and other fish species—set in their natural river environments and made from exotic woods—sell for thousands of dollars and garner highly acclaimed awards. In 2009, Tom's artwork was featured in *Big Sky Journal* and *Cowboys & Indians*, which deemed him one of the best woodworkers in the country. His piece "Brookies on the Hunt" took first place in the Animal/Fish category contest of *Carving Magazine* in 2009. Tom and his wife, **PATTI JO LANE** '89, '93, have two children, MacKellin, eleven, and MacKenzie, eight. See Tom's work and read more about him at [www.milocreekcarvings.com](http://www.milocreekcarvings.com).



Dean

workers of the recently closed Smurfit Stone Container Corporation. The credit lasts until July 1, 2010, applies to both current and new customers, and requires former mill employees to bring photo identification to receive credit. In response to the question of profitability by implementing this initiative, Gina says Frenchtown Drug prioritizes supporting the former workers over business profit and holds financial



Beyer & McCarthy

Shreeve Award for Teaching Excellence. David served as a master teacher, mentoring twenty teachers for a UM Department of Educational Research Services Excellence in Science Education grant. He also has received the Montana PTA Outstanding Educator Award and the Montana State Aerospace Educator of the Year Award. Featured in *Northwest Education* magazine for his integration of open-ended technology, David has presented at the Gates Foundation Technology in Education conference for school administrators. "I am surrounded daily by high examples, supportive colleagues—including Maryfrances Shreeve awardees **SUE BARKER ROWE** '82, M.Ed. '89, and Carla Clement—but also hundreds of other heroes who make it a joy to come to work each day," he says. **KENDRA BAYER-FOREMAN**, M.F.A. '98, has gone from making bronze sculptures to painting to sewing "Handbags for Healing" at her Eden Art Studio in Tipton, Ind. From

loss to be worth the risk in order to assist struggling customers during the recession. "When bad things happen in small communities, people come together to help one another, and that is what we are trying to do for the workers at Smurfit Stone and the people in the Frenchtown Valley," Eric says.

**DAVID E. BIXBY** '97, M.Ed. '08, a fifth-grade teacher at Hellgate Elementary School in Missoula, received UM's 2010 Maryfrances



Bayer-Foreman

"My father worked in politics and fought for art, and I merge art and politics because I think art presents ideas (often political) that cannot be presented otherwise," Griff says. He founded and currently runs Gallery 16 in San Francisco, teaches undergraduate printmak-

be a career as much as a life," Griff says. "The best things in my art life just do not compare to my kids. They're my masterpiece."

## '90s

**DANA MICHAEL HARSELL** '95, M.A. '97, East Grand Forks, Minn., received the Charles and Betty Corwin Award in Teaching Excellence from the College of Business and Public Administration at the University of North Dakota. An assistant professor, Harsell has taught at UND since 2005 in the areas of public administration, American government, and state and local government.

**ERIC BEYER** '97 and **GINA MCCARTHY** '00, Frenchtown, UM pharmacy school graduates and co-owners of Frenchtown Drug, implemented a \$50 credit plan toward prescription drugs for the 417 unemployed paper mill

ing classes at California College of the Arts and San Francisco Art Institute, paints independent projects, and raises two sons. "Art even in the best-case scenario cannot



Williams

Association's 2010 Michael Printz Honor Book Award for his *Tales of the Madman Underground: An Historical Romance 1973*. This is John's twenty-seventh commercially published work; his twenty-eighth, a near-future political thriller titled *Directive 51*, came out in April. **GRIFF WILLIAMS** '89, San Francisco, had his artwork collection, "Griff Williams: It's Not Down On Any Map; True Places Never Are," showcased at the Missoula Art Museum this March. In addition, Griff spoke at the Governor's Arts Awards ceremony on behalf of his father, Pat Williams, the longest-serving Montana representative (nine terms), in celebration and support of his father's eighteen-year commitment to maintain the National Endowment for the Arts.

## BIRTHS

Henry Walter Ehlert to **TIMOTHY ANDREW EHLERT** '09, and Sarah Walter, February 13, 2010, Minneapolis

Aleida Ann Alvarez-Driscoll to **ALINA T. ALVAREZ**, J.D. '99 and **JAMES R. DRISCOLL** '94, October 8, 2009, Denver

Brayden Michael Severson to **KELLY ANN KUKLENSKI SEVERSON** '00 and **MICHAEL D. SEVERSON** '99, April 18, 2009, Portland, OR



## Undaunted Courage

**Y**ou get to meet the most incredible people by working in the Office of Alumni

Relations. I have been blessed, as Montanans are by nature the most interesting and courageous people, and I've met thousands of them in my thirty years at the University. Although hard pressed to say which individuals stand out the most, one clearly would be John Manix.

John was originally from Augusta and attended UM in the early '40s. He interrupted his studies because of World War II and family issues. He returned to campus in 1995 to help his sister, **MABEL MANIX SCHULTE '45**, Alexandria, Va., celebrate her fiftieth UM class reunion. John and I struck up a conversation, and he shared with me that he had not finished his UM degree. While this bothered him and he wanted to complete his degree, a fifty-year absence from collegiate work was daunting.

I imagined John would return to Spokane, and his well-intentioned thoughts would get displaced. I could not have been more mistaken. He contacted me following the reunion and asked if we could see what it would take to finish his degree. Not only did John follow up on contacting me, but he also continually pushed me to get everything in place so he could finish his degree.

Together we visited the UM Registrar's Office. He needed fewer credits than we had thought, but it was not a cakewalk either. John set out to take the required classes. It helped that he was able to transfer credits from classes he was taking at Gonzaga. A lot of work, but within a year, John had completed his degree at UM.

John contacted me again to say he wanted to walk in spring Commencement. I met John on the Oval where the graduates lined up and got him into the business graduates line. Later, from the speaker's stage inside the Adams Center, I scanned the sea of graduates and all their smiles, looking for John. I finally found him—seated with the education graduates. My heart sank. I worried that when the business graduates were asked to stand and be recognized, John would not rise because he was seated across the floor with the education graduates. Again, I was mistaken.

When the business graduates were asked to rise, a seventy-six-year-old graduate stood, all alone, in his academic regalia, proudly waving to family and friends from the center of the education section. He directed a huge wave and smile my way.

Following graduation, John sent me a copy of Stephen Ambrose's newly released *Undaunted Courage*, a book chosen not so much for the literary read but as one that reflected his personal courage to complete his long-delayed degree.

Last year on November 27, John passed away. This column is dedicated in his memory as a proud member of the UM Class of 1996.

**Bill Johnston '79, M.P.A. '91**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

donated necktie scraps, bedspreads, and clothing. Kendra creates one-of-a-kind purses and stuffed animals that are sold to support such causes as helping Hurricane Katrina victims, the Literacy Coalition, and cancer fundraisers. View her artful creations at [www.handbagsforhealing.com](http://www.handbagsforhealing.com).

**BARRETT L. KAISER '99**, Billings, is a principal and director of western operations for the political consulting firm Hilltop Public Solutions. During the past eleven years, Barrett managed Sen. Max Baucus's eight Montana field offices and served as the senator's communications director and chief spokesman and as his senior adviser during two re-election campaigns.

**COLIN WESTCOTT '99** and **SHANNON CARRIGAN WESTCOTT '99**, Fort Collins, Colo., recently opened Equinox Brewing Company, adjacent to Hops and Berries, their home brew and wine

making store. Their new brewery offers the recipe, ingredients, and tasting notes for each beer brewed, so home brewers can replicate the brew. Equinox also offers a weekly firkin tapping, where air is allowed into a keg and the contents are served 48 to 72 hours after tapping. Find out more at [www.equinox-brewing.com](http://www.equinox-brewing.com).

'00

**CHRIS WRIGHT '02**, Sunnyvale, Calif., spoke to UM Professor Jakkie Mohr's Principles of Marketing and High-Technology Marketing classes in November. A graduate of UM's School of Business Administration, Chris is a product marketing manager for Google.

**OWEN APPLEQUIST '05**, Washington, D.C., was one of six athletes representing Team USA in Savoy, France, at the January 2010 Winter



**JUSTIN L. HUNT '00**, Heber City, Utah, is pictured far right, with Montana's U.S. Olympics freestyle skiers Heather McPhie, Bozeman, and Bryon Wilson, Butte. Justin is the head athletic trainer for the U.S. freestyle ski team, a position he's held for the past four years. Libby native Scott Rawles, head coach of the freestyle moguls team, is on the left. "I yell 'Yeah, Montana' at the top of the hill," Justin says about his coaching Montana skiers. It certainly worked for Bryon, who went on to win an Olympic bronze medal in the freestyle skiing men's moguls in Vancouver, B.C.

World Transplant Games. A first-time contender, Owen raced in the slalom, giant slalom, super giant slalom, and parallel slalom events. "It's a celebration



of life after a transplant," Owen said in an interview. Owen

received a kidney from his father on his sixteenth birthday. In 2006, he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma and in 2007 with post-transplant lymphoproliferative disorder. In 2008, with his cancer in remission, Owen climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. His goal now is to be the first transplant patient and two-time cancer survivor to stand on all seven summits—the highest points on each continent. During winter week-ends, Owen traveled from his job in Washington, D.C., as an operations research systems analyst for the Army to the ski slopes at Jack Frost in eastern Pennsylvania. He's skied since he was four. Owen plans to compete in the 2012 Winter World Transplant Games in Switzerland and hopes one day to bring the transplant games to the United States.

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**CLAYTON CARL NYLUND** '06, Tarpon Springs, Fla., is a founding director of Project 81, a relief effort began several years ago in support of an orphan-age 81 kilometers from



Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Following the January earthquake, Project 81 returned to Haiti, accompanied by **MARK BERGSTROM** '06, Brady, Project 81 agriculture director, and Clay's sister and brother-in-law, Annie and Jared Brown.

**JESSE JAMES KRUSE** '07, Great Falls, won the world saddle bronc title at the National Finals Rodeo in December. "Shoot, this is a dream come true," Jesse said in an interview after his ride aboard Spring Blues. "It can't get any better than this." In 2007, Jesse was the saddle bronc Rookie of the Year in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. He becomes the sixth cowboy from Montana to win a world saddle bronc championship.

**JENNIFER DIANE REED** '07, La Mesa, Calif., is the features editor at San Diego News Network, an independent Web news source. "I basically run the 'et cetera' part of our Web site," Jennifer writes. "I cover everything that falls under lifestyle, health, relationships, family, and food." Jennifer remembers

her favorite UM classes as Magazine Freelance Writing and Outdoor and Travel Writing taught by Jeff Hull. She credits opinion writing Professor Sharon Barrett for helping her develop the "tough

skin" that helped her attain many of her writing goals.

**SHAUNA J. ALBRECHT**, M.B.A. '09, Havre, is the new foundation director at Montana State University-Northern. For eight years before



serving in this position, Shauna was the first director of Northern's advising center. She and her husband, **BRIAN J. ALBRECHT** '04, have a four-year-old daughter, Olivia.

**BREANNA WILSON**

'08, Seattle, got her start in public relations just three weeks after graduation, when she began her six-month internship with the firm Edelman. Just a week before her internship ended, she was asked to continue on with the company to work on its Microsoft account, specifically promoting Xbox. Since then she's helped promote the gaming system through news releases, creative mailers, pitched stories, and events—including the Madden Bowl in Miami, an event held the week of the Super Bowl each year to promote the popular Xbox 360 game. "The great thing about public relations is that what you're doing really varies day to day," Breanna says. "It's one of those jobs that people can get a basic understanding of, but there's just so many things you're doing that it's hard to explain. I laugh because my dad will finally start to understand what my job is, and then the next week I'll be telling him I'm doing something different."



**ALUMNI EVENTS 2010**

For more details, call the Office of Alumni Relations, 877-UM-ALUMS, or visit [www.grizalum.com](http://www.grizalum.com).

MAY	13-15	Commencement Reunions, Classes of 1940, 1950, 1960, Campus
	15	UM Commencement, Campus
	27-6/4	International Travel: Dordogne, France
JUNE	9	Alumni Event, San Francisco
	24	Alumni Event, Chicago
JULY	15	Alumni Osprey Night, Missoula
SEPTEMBER	11	Griz/Cal Poly Tailgate, San Luis Obispo, CA
	12-20	International Travel: Ancient Greece and Turkey Cruise
	18	Griz/E. Washington Tailgate, Cheney, WA
	19-25	Homecoming Week 2010
	19	Homecoming Kickoff Celebration, Southgate Mall
	23, 24	House of Delegates Annual Meeting
OCT	24	Class of 1970 Reunion, Distinguished Alumni Awards, International Alumni Reunion, SOS, Pep Rally, All Alumni Social and Dance
	25	Homecoming Parade, Griz vs. Sac State Football, TV Tailgate
	25-10/3	International Travel: River Life in Burgundy and Provence
OCT	2	Griz/N. Colorado Tailgate, Greeley, CO
	16	Griz/Portland State Tailgate, Portland, OR

## IN MEMORIAM

To be included in "In Memoriam," the UM Office of Alumni Relations requires a newspaper obituary or a letter of notification from the immediate family. We extend sympathy to the families of the following alumni, faculty, and friends. Names without class or degree years include UM alumni, employees, and friends.

**ELIZABETH MCKENZIE GOLDHAHN** '29, M.A. '90, Fort Benton

**MARY BRENNAN HARSTAD** '29, Glendive

**RUTH I. HAUGEN** '33, Missoula

**ROBERTA BRAS DALKE MCLAUGHLIN** '34, Kalispell

**ELEANOR SPEAKER ROBINSON** '36, Great Falls

**ELSIE MACINTOSH HANSON-ROE** '37, M.Ed. '74, Spokane, WA

**DAVID J. CLARKE, J.D.** '38, Castle Rock, CO

**BLAINE WADDUPS MANN** '38, Red Lodge

**ELOISE CARVER LARUE** '39, Mount Vernon, WA

**GERTRUDE T. ROONEY LINDGREN** '39, Great Falls

**ESTHER CUNNIFF "ES" WILSON** '39, Missoula

**HELEN A. SIMMONS BAILEY** '40, Manassas, VA

**DUNCAN R. "SCOTTY" CAMPBELL** '41, Bigfork

**LEON BERNARD DORICH** '41, Great Falls

**FRANCES E. MANUELL** '41, Butte

**NORMAN SHEERAN** '41, Atlanta, GA

**ROBERT F. PARKER** '42, Brush, CO

**SHIRLEY STRANDBERG PRATHER** '42, Meridian, ID

**GROVER C. SCHMIDT, J.D.** '42, Fort Benton

**ROBERT ALLEN SWAN** '42, Santa Rosa, CA

**JOHN H. "JACK" WILKINSON** '42, Phoenix

**THOMAS L. HUFF** '43, Albuquerque, NM

**WILLIAM J. MILOGLAV** '44, San Rafael, CA

**ROBERT A. LATRIELLE** '45, Missoula

**CHARLOTTE ECK KILROY** '46, Olympia, WA

**DONALD RAYMOND LEE** '47, Billings

**RICHARD "SHAG" MILLER** '47, Butte

**ALBERT J. MUSKETT** '47, M.Ed. '51, Missoula

**JUDY BEELER BARTLEY** '48, Anchorage, AK

**WILBUR EARL FUNK** '48, M.M. '59, Portland, OR

**RICHARD D. "RICH" FOX** '49, M.Ed. '54, Billings

**RYBURN K. FOX** '49, Great Falls

**VIRGINIA HOPE DURRER LARSON** '49, Eugene, OR

**ROY MARTINSEN** '49, Hardin

**DOROTHY ANDERSON JACOBSON SIL** '49, Missoula

**MARVIN ALFRED AMUNDSON** '50, Butte

**BRUCE WERNER ANDERSON** '50, Corona Del Mar, CA

**WILLIAM F. "BILL" ANDERSON** '50, Carmichael, CA

**KEITH E. BYINGTON** '50, Hamilton

**RICHARD EDWARD COOK** '50, Newport News, VA

**EDWIN JOE DEMARIS, M.A.** '50, Shoreline, WA

**ROBERT HENNING GARMOE** '50, Puyallup, WA

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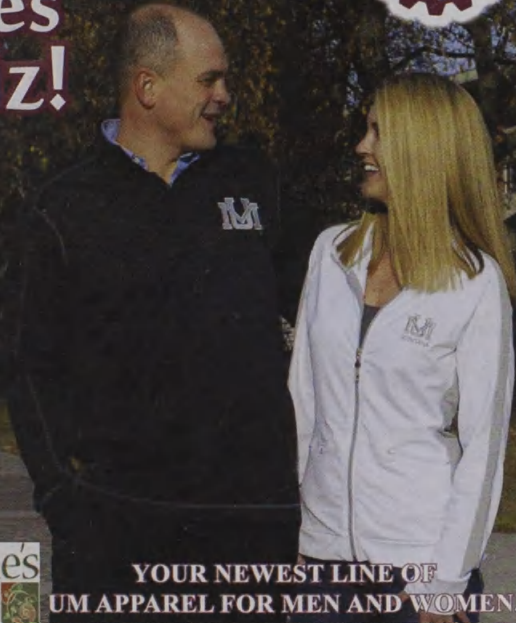
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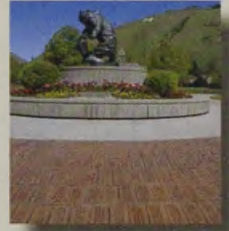


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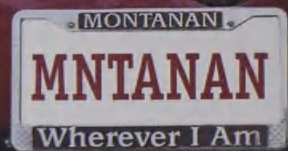
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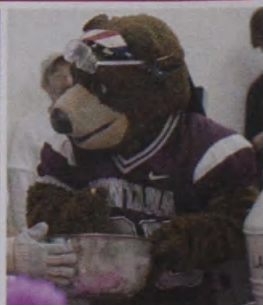
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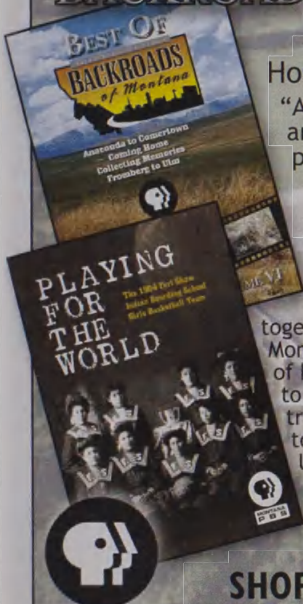
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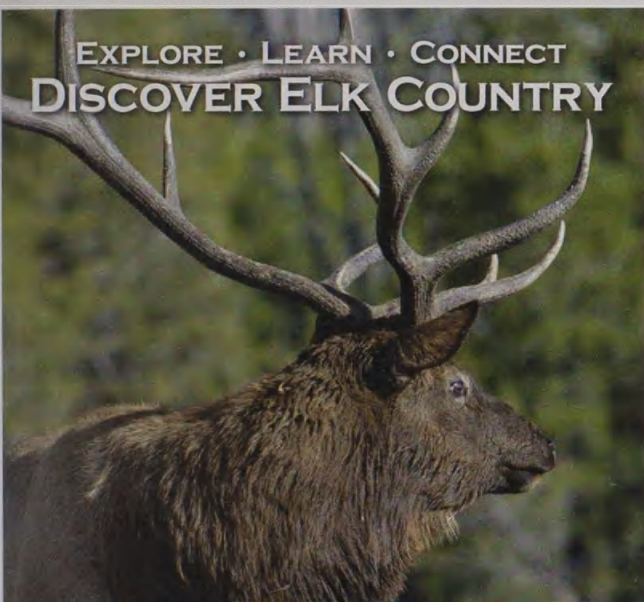
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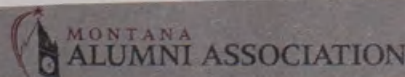
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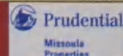
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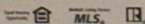
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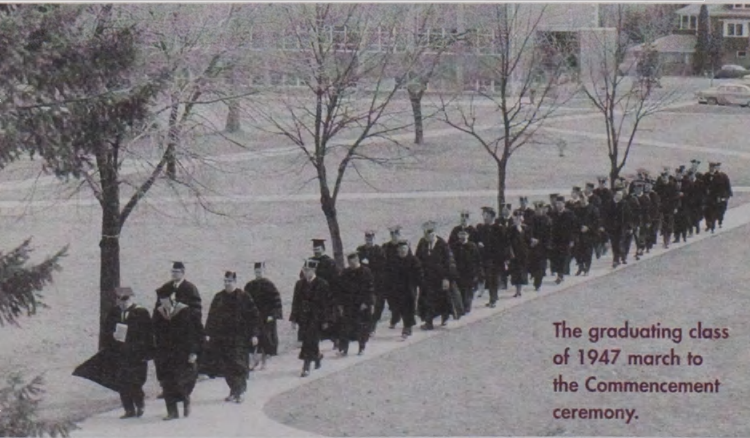
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The graduating class of 1947 march to the Commencement ceremony.

The festivities that took place the evening before Commencement came to be known as May Fete. Seniors elected a May Queen, who sat on a throne atop the Main Hall steps and oversaw all activities. The night ended with Junior Prom. Oratorical contests, literary club readings, band concerts, and field day baseball games between alumni and faculty (sometimes faculty versus seniors) also were early- and mid-twentieth century graduation traditions.

As enrollment at UM doubled, tripled, and then quadrupled, May Fete festivities ended, although Singing on the Steps and the lighting of the M became Homecoming traditions. Commencement took place in the Student Union Building (now the Fine Arts Building) until 1954, when the location changed to the Field House (now the Adams Center). The only recorded graduation ceremonies to take place outside occurred at the Craig Hall Grove in 1945 and Washington-Grizzly Stadium in 1999. The Class of 2010 will be the first to graduate at an outdoor main ceremony on the Oval. 

## THROUGHOUT THE DECADES

- 1896** Though not considered the first Commencement, the first "closing exercises" take place.
- 1898** UM's first official Commencement is held. 
- 1903** Senator Paris Gibson of Great Falls gives the Commencement address. 
- 1916** The State Board of Education and the chancellor of the University attend Commencement, as UM is now constituted under their supervision and control according to Chapter 92 of the Laws of the Thirteenth Legislative Assembly.
- 1919** First year the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) are honored at Commencement.
- 1921** Reverend John Norman Maclean, the father of author Norman Maclean, presents the benediction.
- 1925** Emma Lamasson, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in mathematics this year, won the title of May Queen during May Fete. 
- 1933** May Fete festivities are held for the first time.
- 1947** William Wesley Waymack, member of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, addresses the graduating class.
- 1954** The mandatory church service on campus is omitted and graduates and family are "allowed to attend the church of your choice."
- 1967** The tradition of designing a class banner and flag is discontinued. 
- 1970** Graduation is held in the Field House (now called the Adams Center).
- 1977** The carillon concert by John Ellis marks the first Commencement music from Main Hall's bell tower in almost ten years.
- 1982** Only two students graduate with degrees in home economics, compared to forty years ago, when the program consistently had fifty candidates.
- 1992** Graduation programs no longer indicate a graduate's hometown.
- 1993** A group of seniors restore the banner design tradition, and honor cards are initiated into ceremony.
- 2005** Joseph McDonald, former president of Salish Kootenai College, and Earl Old Person, traditional chief of the Blackfeet Nation, become annual presenters. 
- 2010** Main Commencement ceremony is held on the Oval.

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