Driven to Succeed
Dave Harriton '96

The Entrepreneurial Spirit
Inside UM's John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition

Montana's New Medical Residency Program
Tom Snyder '11 stirs a pot of Brazilian fare at Five on Black in downtown Missoula. The new restaurant is one of many businesses born of UM's John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition.

FEATURES

The Best Laid Plans
CHAD DUNDAS '02, M.F.A. '06
Now in its twenty-fourth year, budding entrepreneurs from across Montana vie for big bucks and a business boost at the UM School of Business Administration's John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition.

It's A Jeep Thing
JACOB BAYNHAM '07
Dave Harriton's career began with four AAA tows and UM's business plan competition. Now he owns American Expedition Vehicles, the largest and most respected Jeep accessory company in the industry.

The Doctors Are In
GINNY MERRIAM '86
With a shortage of physicians in rural Montana looming, UM and area health care facilities have stepped up to fill the void with the new Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana.

MONTANAN ONLINE:
Be sure to visit umt.edu/montanan for an exclusive Q&A with AEV founder Dave Harriton and a documentary video that offers a glimpse into the John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition.
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FROM WORLDS APART TO ROOMMATES

People often are surprised when they hear how my husband, Bharat Acharya ’75, met his good friend Terry McEneaney ’73. As a writer myself, I decided to take their oft-repeated tale and submit it to the Montanan. And what could be a more appropriate venue than a Letter to the Editor for a story chronicling the chance meeting of pen pals?

Here it is:

They can’t remember the exact year they “met,” but it happened sometime in the late 1950s. Elvis was king, and Edsel automobiles were still in production when their twin letters—those blue, onion-skin airmail envelopes—crossed in the mail.

Terry “Mac” McEneaney was attending grade school at St. Mary’s Academy in Dover, N.H. Bharat Acharya was practicing his British accent at Mrs. Hartley’s Private English Medium School in Calcutta, India. That’s when their teachers assigned them pen pals from foreign countries.

Needless to say, that’s how McEneaney, the wiry Irish kid with the curly red hair, and Acharya, the tennis-playing Indian who dreamed of being a cowboy, were linked by happenstance so many decades ago.

For a few years, they scrawled messages to one another. Their letters touched on boyhood interests and cultural differences. Then, like so many pen pals, they lost touch. But the arcs of their lives were yet to cross again, this time in Missoula.

McEneaney arrived in Big Sky Country as a transfer student in 1968.

“I came [to UM] because of the Wildlife Biology Program,” he says. “And I also wanted to join the luge team at Lolo Hot Springs.”

Acharya got his first taste of the U.S. when he landed in New York City on July 4, 1970. Totally unaware of the day’s significance, he marveled at the flags flying everywhere. He came to America to study, and he was drawn to Montana by a National Geographic article he’d read years before in Calcutta.

For Acharya, who was then considering a degree in pharmacy, choosing UM was a no-brainer.

McEneaney remembers the day Acharya pulled up in front of UM’s Aber Hall. As resident assistant there, McEneaney couldn’t help but notice the dark-skinned stranger stepping out of a taxi.

“Just the way he dressed, he definitely wasn’t from Montana,” McEneaney says with a chuckle. “And he had these really outdated skis.”

Neither recognized the other nor made any connection at first. It wasn’t until they sat down together in the dining hall and exchanged names that the proverbial light bulb lit up.

“I thought, ‘Wait a minute, this is the guy I used to write in Calcutta, India,’” McEneaney remembers.

The unlikely friends hit it off and never lost touch again.

McEneaney went on to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, capping his career as head ornithologist at Yellowstone National Park. Acharya, too, put down roots in Montana. For more than thirty years, he traveled the state as a pharmaceutical representative for CIBA Geigy and then Novartis.

By happenstance, Acharya met his wife, Linda Halstead-Acharya ’79, through McEneaney. And McEneaney “met” his wife, Karen Evangelista McEneaney, through the mail: McEneaney was living in Montana and Evangelista in Boston when a friend linked them up. They came to know one another through the letters they sent back and forth.

All are now retired and continue their friendship at Griz game tailgates in Missoula.

LINDA HALSTEAD-ACHARYA ’79
Columbus

The Montanan would like to thank the following people for recently donating to the magazine: George Foster, Jean’ne M. Shreeve, John Matte, William Thompson, Dr. Bonny Lund, Matthew Zahn, Malcolm Marcus, and Helen A. Ray.
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Missoula in the Blood
Students, faculty invest time and heart in Winter in the Blood

Missoula doesn’t often host movie premieres, especially with Hollywood film stars and red-carpet photo ops. But for the recently released Winter in the Blood, the July film premiere at the Roxy Theater was a fitting celebration for a film rich not only with Montana influences, but University of Montana contributions to the core.

The film is a hauntingly true adaptation of UM alum and former creative writing instructor James Welch’s novel of the same title. Co-director Andrew Smith, an associate professor in UM’s School of Media Arts, developed the film with his twin and collaborator, Alex Smith, and producer/screenwriter Ken White over the course of several years on Montana’s stark Hi-Line.

For the Smith brothers, who grew up in Missoula and knew Welch as a family friend, making the film often was challenging, but highly satisfying. It also allowed Andrew to offer his students a taste of the triumphs and tribulations that go along with filmmaking.

“We had a ton of students working on Winter in the Blood in their first kind of feel-the-fire experience on a feature film,” he says.

About fifteen UM students and recent grads helped with filming on the Fort Belknap Reservation and other pre- and post-production work on campus, gaining course credit and internship experience.

Students Lauren Monroe Jr. and Travis Coleman secured Native internships to work on the film that were sponsored by Native American Public Telecommunications and the Seattle-based nonprofit Longhouse Media.

Notably, one UM alumna had a major acting role in the film. Lily Gladstone graduated in 2008 with a bachelor’s in acting and a minor in Native American studies.

Andrew saw Gladstone perform in theater productions on campus while she was a student, and she often popped up in his students’ film projects.

“She was involved very early,” he says. Gladstone read for the part of Marlene, a troubled lover and emotional mirror to Virgil First Raise—the film’s protagonist—during early workshops. She later won the role, deftly portraying one of the story’s most complex characters in an emotional and gritty sequence.

Behind the scenes, UM alum Patrick Cook ’10 worked in so many facets of the film over more than four years that he received an associate producer credit.

Cook started working on Winter in the Blood in 2009 through one of Smith’s classes, helping conduct early research on the film. Eventually, he also helped with casting, managed the film’s Kickstarter campaign—garnering nearly $70,000—and raised another $32,000 in in-kind contributions for the production.

Cook now has launched his career as a producer. He currently is working on a screenplay and is producing Missoula filmmaker and artist Andy Smetanka’s animated documentary about World War I.

A native of Missoula, Cook feels he received more than an undergraduate education through his work on Winter in the Blood and likens the experience to graduate school.

“The [School of Media Arts at UM] is still comparatively a fairly small film program, but what it lacks in size or equipment or studio space they have completely made up for in creative freedom and faculty support,” Cook says.

Working with students on the film helped Andrew develop his ideas about teaching film courses as well.

“I’ll teach screenwriting a little differently, teach directing a little differently, teach all my classes a little differently having made this film,” Andrew says. “Just with eyes wide open, encouraging students to be ambitious, but also giving them a realistic sense of what they’re going to get themselves into.”

The Smiths currently are working out distribution for the film, which is scheduled to show at upcoming film festivals around the country. In early August, it won the grand prize at the Montreal First Peoples Festival.

—Bess Pallares
One thing is clear. Destiny Durment is a self-starter. She kept busy in high school as a three-sport athlete, president of her 4-H Club, Key Club vice president and more. Now, Destiny is the inaugural recipient of the Baker-Black Scholarship.

"My family really believes that you have to work for the reward," says Destiny. "I have been showing my Yorkshire pigs for the past 5 years in 4-H, then sending them to market to save money for college. This scholarship gives me such a boost."

Sandra Hanson Straus created the scholarship as a tribute to her family members who homesteaded in north-central Montana.

"Destiny embodies the spirit of our intent when we provided this gift," says Straus. "It is a different era, but she has the pioneer drive to work hard for success."

After all, with the name Destiny, what else should be expected?

We invite you to join Sandra in supporting Montana students. Call us at 800.443.2593.
THE PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE:

GREETINGS!

Fall semester has arrived here at the University, and the energy level on campus has ramped up quickly. New students are moved in, summer orientation sessions were full, and faculty members are back in the classroom. The start of a new year always brings excitement and anticipation to campus and to our greater community. Here’s a taste of what we’re celebrating this fall and in this issue of the Montanan.

Recently, the city of Missoula was recognized as among the best college towns in the nation. Of course we didn’t need anyone else to tell us this is a special place. We see it every day in the partnership programs between UM and Missoula organizations, in the internships and other outreach opportunities for students and faculty, and in the array of cultural and outdoor activities for which Missoula is known.

An essential part of the mission of Missoula College, our two-year college, focuses on community partnerships and development. We are grateful to the Montana Legislature for providing $29 million for the college during this past session. That, plus another $3 million we will raise as a match, will allow us to build an outstanding facility for UM, for Missoula, and for all of Montana.

The theme of this issue of the Montanan has to do with relationships that start on campus and then connect with the communities around us. Our cover story profiles an alum whose successful business today actually started when he was a student. Also featured is the John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition, which each spring puts students in front of business leaders to pitch their ideas. You’ll see how students’ success in the competition transformed their lives and created careers.

Another story in this issue explains our new Family Medicine Residency Program—an example of how UM works with the communities around us to improve health care. In cooperation with the health care units in Missoula and Kalispell, we have recruited the first class of ten new doctors who are interested in rural family medicine. The residents will spend three years in our western Montana communities, improving health care while developing their own skills and ultimately increasing the number of physicians available to residents in this state.

With the launch of the 2013-14 academic year, there is the feeling of fresh beginnings. We’re looking forward to an exciting and productive year!

Sincerely,

Royce C. Engstrom, President

NOTABLE & QUOTABLE

After years of trying to obtain funding for a new Missoula College facility, the Montana Legislature this spring allocated $29 million to construct a state-of-the-art building. The site of the facility has yet to be determined, and UM will have to raise an additional $3 million as a match. The Legislature also authorized the new Gilkey Center for Leadership, Entrepreneurship, and Executive Education, as well as a new student-athlete academic center. Other projects include a shell-out of the Adams Center basement, technology modular units to house the infrastructure for UM’s network and data, and completing the Eloise Cobell Land and Culture Institute in the The Payne Family Native American Center.

UM hired Perry Brown as its new provost and vice president for academic affairs. “As the chief academic officer, it is a pleasure to focus attention on student success, on ensuring education for our current century, and on building the most dynamic learning environment that we can provide,” Brown says. “It is a great pleasure to be able to work with so many talented faculty, staff, and students at UM.” Brown served as interim provost since 2010 and dean of the forestry college from 1994 to 2010.

Eric Gutierrez was hired as UM’s new director of equal opportunity and affirmative action in June. He serves as the University’s senior EO/AA and discrimination grievance officer and oversees policies, practices, publications, and programs, as well as advising and training for faculty, staff, and students in all aspects of harassment and discrimination awareness, education, and prevention. Gutierrez serves as a member of the President’s Cabinet.

Don Oliver ’58, a longtime NBC News correspondent, died this past May in Spokane, Wash., at age seventy-six. Oliver covered major news events such as the civil rights movement, the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and the Vietnam War. Upon retirement from NBC, Oliver taught in UM’s School of Journalism and was a member of the Montanan Advisory Board.

NASA recently awarded UM researchers a grant to support a $1.125 million project to build a dedicated observatory to detect Earth-like exoplanets. Are we alone? Is Earth the sole example of life in the Universe, or are there others? To find out, researchers at UM, together with partner institutions Harvard, the California Institute of Technology, and Pennsylvania State University, are building Project Minerva. Minerva is an array of four telescopes and a purpose-built, state-of-the-art spectrometer capable of detecting small, rocky planets in orbit around nearby stars. The goal of Minerva is to detect and characterize nearby exoplanets in the “habitable zone”—the region around a star where conditions are suitable for the presence of liquid water, which is the most basic building block of life as we know it. The team is led by astrophysicist Nate McCrady, an associate professor in UM’s Department of Physics and Astronomy and a co-principal investigator for the project.

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End of an Era
Lady Griz assistant Rocheleau calls it a career

The nation's most experienced women's basketball coaching staff is breaking up. Annette Rocheleau, who has been with longtime Lady Griz coach Robin Selvig as a player or assistant coach for all but thirteen of Selvig's 798 career wins, announced in June her decision to retire.

Rocheleau joined the Lady Griz as a transfer in 1979-80, Selvig's second season at UM. After playing for two years, Rocheleau became Selvig's part-time assistant and junior varsity coach. She moved into a full-time coaching position in September 1983.

Selvig completed his thirty-fifth season at UM last winter. Thirty-four of those involved Rocheleau: two as a player, thirty-two as an assistant. She was at Selvig's side for all twenty of the program's NCAA Tournament appearances and was a player or assistant coach for all twenty-three regular-season conference championships.

"It's never a good time to leave," Rocheleau says. "I'm bummed I'm not going to be able to coach the kids we have coming in, and I love all the girls we have coming back. But if you are going to look at that every year, you'll never find a good time to step away."

She didn't know it at the time, but her swan song turned out to be a memorable season. Montana won twenty-four games last year, the most since 2008-09, and the Lady Griz won the Big Sky Conference regular-season and tournament championships. Rocheleau's final game turned out to be Montana's NCAA Tournament game against Georgia this past March in Spokane, Wash.

"I feel good about my decision," Rocheleau says. "I'm getting out at a good time. Everything is going awesome. It's just hard to say goodbye to something that's been a part of your life for so long."

Despite Rocheleau's departure, Selvig still retains an experienced staff going forward. Assistant coach Shannon Schweyen will be in her twenty-second year this winter, and Trish Duce will be in her twentieth. Rocheleau's position won't be filled until after next season.

Not surprisingly, the winningest coaches in the game all have enjoyed the loyalty of a faithful assistant. Stanford's Tara VanDerveer [894 wins] has had Amy Tucker at her side the past twenty-eight seasons, the same length of time Chris Dailey has been on the staff of Geno Auriemma [839 wins] at Connecticut.

The winningest active coach in Division I women's basketball, Sylvia Hatchell [908 wins] of North Carolina, has had Andrew Calder at her side for nearly three decades.

For Selvig, who will pick up win No. 800 in November, the book remains open, but the chapters that had Rocheleau as one of the story's lead characters have come to an end.

"She was a big part of Lady Griz basketball for thirty-two years," Selvig says.

Student-Athletes Dive Head-First into Community Service

WHEN KENT HASLAM was named UM's director of athletics a year ago, he highlighted his desire for the Grizzlies to continue pursuing excellence both in competition and in the classroom.

He then stressed a third component of his vision for his department and its student-athletes: community service.

That vision became reality during the 2012-13 academic year. When the final count was tallied, UM's student-athletes had spent more than 700 hours engaged in community service.

The hours were spread among dozens of causes during the school year, such as the volleyball team working on a project for Habitat for Humanity, the men's basketball team showing up at Hellgate Elementary for the school's fitness campaign, the golf team packing boxes at the Montana Food Bank Network, and Griz football players spending an afternoon at Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"Getting out in the community really is a teaching tool," men's basketball coach Wayne Tinkle says. "It gives our athletes a skill set so that when they're done here and graduate, they are ready to attack the rest of their lives and be responsible human beings. It really sets the tone that it's not just about them."

"And it lets people know that these are quality kids who get involved in the community and do a lot of good."
The outstanding accomplishments of five UM alumni are being recognized with the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award. Dorothy Bridges '80; George Dennison '62, M.A. '63; Jim Messina '93, '09; Milton Parsons '66; and Yoko Takeuchi, M.B.A. '87, will receive their awards at an October 4 ceremony during Homecoming. The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor presented by the UM Alumni Association.

Bridges is senior vice president at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, responsible for community development, regional outreach, and public affairs. Previously, Bridges was president of Franklin National Bank in Minneapolis and president of City First Bank in Washington, D.C. She is the only African-American woman to head a Minnesota bank and one of only a few nationwide. Bridges is on the board for the National Endowment for Financial Education and chair emeritus for Northwest Area Foundation, which works to alleviate poverty in the Northwest. Her talent and determination and commitment to the urban community have earned her much recognition, including the designation as one of "Ten People to Watch" in the Washington Business Journal.

Dennison, during his twenty years as president of UM, guided its transformation into a world-class research and educational institution. Dennison helped raise more than $500 million in private funds, research support increased tenfold, 720 privately funded scholarships were established, research support increased tenfold, and the University awarded more degrees during the years he served than in its entire earlier history. As chairman of International Student Exchange Program, he helped develop it into a leading international education organization. He was instrumental in establishing The Payne Family Native American Center and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Dennison served seventeen years as chair of the Montana Commission on Community Service and for eighteen years led UM's Campus Compact board, which promotes civic engagement at the university level.

Messina was named Internal Political Strategist of the Year by the Political Consultants Association for his role as campaign manager for President Barack Obama's re-election in 2012. He helped run a successful Missoula mayoral campaign while still an undergraduate at UM, and in 1995, served as U.S. Sen. Max Baucus' chief of staff and ran the senator's 2002 re-election campaign. In 2008, Messina was appointed chief of staff in Obama's campaign for the presidency. Before his selection as 2012 campaign manager, he was deputy chief of staff in the White House. One of his many responsibilities was helping lead the effort to pass the historic health care reform law and to repeal the “don't ask, don't tell” policy.

Parsons has championed environmental stewardship, sustainability, and social justice causes in his thirty-five-year career with the U.S. Forest Service. A Vietnam combat veteran, he continues in his retirement to promote these causes through the award-winning Veterans Green Jobs, a nonprofit he co-founded in 2008 and chairs. He served as the first national fisheries ecologist in the Forest Service, deputy director of legislative affairs, acting director for the Office of Tribal Relations, and executive director of the Western Forestry Coalition. Parsons has drafted ten bills that have become public law and represent some of the most far-reaching legislation on the management of public and private forestry lands in the United States in the past three decades.

Takeuchi is a pioneer in the field of human resource management and an important role model to young Japanese women. Her master's thesis, "Japanese Women in Business: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow," is still referenced as an excellent review of the place of women in Japan's workforce. Takeuchi has held several positions as director or general manager in internationally known firms such as Chanel, Hermes, Chaumet, The Disney Store Japan, and Louis Vuitton Japan. As a general agent for Human Synergistics Japan, she provides tools and services for corporate culture renovation and organizational and individual development. She is an active member of the Japan Management Education Society and the Japan Management Ethics Society.
High School Students Embrace Arabic Language, Culture at UM

While much of campus was dormant during the summer, for four weeks the halls of UM's Liberal Arts Building were filled with the fluid, fast-paced lilt of Arabic as high school students participated in the STARTALK Montana Arabic Summer Institute.

MASI, which has been offered at UM since 2008, is funded by the National Security Agency's National Security Language Initiative—specifically the STARTALK program—with the goal of expanding and improving the teaching and learning of strategically important foreign languages such as Arabic.

UM Assistant Professor and head of the University's Arabic Studies Program Khaled Huthaily directs the institute, which offered twenty-three high school students from Missoula, Frenchtown, Lolo, and Forsyth the chance to participate in intensive language courses and cultural activities such as cooking and dancing.

The NSA funding covers tuition, fees, and textbooks. Students are divided into levels for those with no prior experience with Arabic, and those who have previously participated in MASI or have studied Arabic in their high schools. Upon completion of the institute, students receive five college credits.

Huthaily says the program went very well, achieving its linguistic and cultural goals.

"Students have requested that we prolong the program and open one more level," he says. "And STARTALK evaluators have suggested that we offer a residential option since UM is the only institute that offers such an opportunity for high school students, and the program is attracting students from beyond Missoula and Montana."

The format of the institute may sound intimidating, but young teachers, including Missoula County Public Schools Arabic teacher Brendan Work, bring vigor and firsthand experience to the classroom and lessons.

To help students better understand geography of the Arab world in preparation for their final presentations on a specific country, Work, who previously worked as a reporter and translator in the West Bank, guided the level-one students through a lesson infused with pronunciation advice, cultural tips, historical and etymological trivia, and good humor about his disproportionately drawn Africa.

And the students, for their part, embraced the experience.

"I made so many friendships and got to be in such a great community of people that wanted to help each other," says Kaylee Peters, a student at Missoula Sentinel High School, "rather than being in a classroom where there's almost a competition going on of who can get the best grade or who can answer the most questions."

UM UNDERGOES REBRANDING

To better tell the stories of all the people who succeed at UM, a new University brand was revealed this past spring with one promise: Thrive.

"This always has been a great University," says Mario Schulzke '02, UM's assistant vice president for marketing. "We just really needed a fresh storytelling platform to be able to communicate to the public all of the amazing things that are happening at UM on a daily basis."

One of the most visible channels for the brand is UM's redesigned homepage, www.umt.edu. The site features compelling images that change weekly, as well as numerous stories about UM that are updated throughout the day.

A new logo, created by a group of UM designers, also was unveiled. UM has increased its presence on social media such as Facebook and Twitter, allowing stories to be shared to an ever-growing audience, including prospective students. A statewide billboard campaign has been launched as well.

"At the end of the day, our brand is about the students we impact and the people and place that make that impact," Schulzke says. "The brand is designed to be a focal point to energize and focus the message of the University.

"Our brand is something we live and breathe," says UM President Royce Engstrom. "It's the many stories we have to share about the richness of the UM experience and the tremendous successes of all kinds of people who come here and who graduate and make a difference in the world."

Send stories of alumni, students, or employees who are thriving to thrive@umontana.edu.
UM Strengthens Focus on Campus Safety and Compliance

A NUMBER OF NEW PROGRAMS to improve campus safety and athletics compliance now are in place at UM—some as a result of recent investigations and many that began more than a year and a half ago.

One of the most important developments is improved communications about the important issue of peer-on-peer sexual assault, which has plagued college campuses across the country, says Lucy France, UM legal counsel. UM has drafted clear policies and procedures about sexual misconduct and is using a variety of avenues to ensure that all members of the campus community are aware of what is expected of them.

In fall 2012, UM instituted an online tutorial for students called PETSA [Personal Empowerment Through Self Awareness]. A total of 15,177 students have completed the tutorial and required quiz. This fall, all employees will be asked to take an online Discrimination Prevention Tutorial, which will provide tools to identify, respond to, and prevent discrimination and sexual harassment.

This past spring and summer saw the conclusion of three investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice and the NCAA. On May 9, the DOJ confirmed the resolution of two investigations into the handling of allegations of sexual assault and sexual harassment, and—together with the University—announced collaborative agreements moving forward. The University voluntarily agreed to continue its work to improve campus safety and athletics compliance—one that promotes student health and safety and demands respect for all members of our community.

In addition to the new online tutorials about assault and discrimination, UM offers in-person training sessions to ensure that every employee who might receive reports of sexual misconduct, or who might need to respond to such reports, is prepared to act promptly and appropriately. Through surveys, focus groups, and confidential case reviews, UM plans to obtain additional information about the campus climate from the students it serves. The additional information will enable the University to continue improving programs and activities regarding prevention.

During the past year, UM has developed stronger relationships with community partners in local law enforcement, health care, advocacy, and resource programs that will help students whose needs reach beyond campus. Last fall, the University also hired an additional police officer who focuses on personal safety and campus community-building among students. To be more accessible to students, his office is in Jesse Hall.

In an unrelated and cooperative process, the NCAA on July 26 announced the conclusion of its investigation into the athletics department. The NCAA determined that UM failed to monitor its football program, finding instances of playing ineligible student-athletes, provision of extra benefits to some football players, and exceeding coaching limits on a limited basis.

UM Athletics hired an additional staff member for compliance who will focus on monitoring and increased education. The department also updated its policies and procedures to include monitoring of occasional meals for student-athletes and of payment for legal services.

The athletic department strengthened education about NCAA rules compliance for staff, coaches, and student-athletes. It also increased education for Griz boosters. Monthly compliance newsletters are forwarded to all booster groups along with weekly compliance tips. Educational pieces are included in all season-ticket mailings, and social media is used as another training tool.

The conclusion of the three investigations marks an end to a chapter in UM’s history, Engstrom said in late July.

“Many faculty members, staff members, and students have worked hard this past year and a half on new processes and policies across campus, on new training, and on new communication tools,” he says. “Our campus is stronger, safer, and more vibrant than ever.”

WHERE’S YOUR GRIZ BEEN? Three different decades of UM alums don their Griz gear atop a 16,500-foot peak along the Ausangate trek in the Andes in southern Peru. Pictured are, from left: DAN TAYLOR ’09, ANNIE TAYLOR ’76, STEVE TAYLOR ’75, and ELTON ADAMS ’65. “I have been climbing in Ecuador, Argentina, Africa, Nepal, and Russia, and this was probably the most spectacular area I’ve seen,” Adams says. Congratulations, Elton. You have 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 themontanan@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 with the UM or Griz logo clearly visible.
MMAC Celebrates 120 Years with Permanent Collection Guidebook

In the history of the Montana Museum of Art & Culture at UM, there never has been a guidebook highlighting the museum’s Permanent Collection of nearly 11,000 objects. In celebration of the upcoming 120th anniversary of the museum, MMAC published The Art of the State: 120 Artworks for 120 Years.

Throughout its history, MMAC has committed to making its Permanent Collection not only an important resource for UM but also for the people of the state and region. The guidebook presents 120 carefully selected pieces from the museum's Permanent Collection, highlighting MMAC's most significant resource and providing access to this unique and little-known treasure that belongs to all Montanans.

Planning for the guidebook began in 2009, and its features include objects from MMAC's distinguished collections of American and European paintings, prints, ceramics, photography, religious art, tapestries, Asian works on paper, traditional and contemporary Native American art, and southeast Asian textiles.

While conducting research for the book, MMAC staff worked with international scholars, art historians, and institutions including The British Museum in London, The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, and many more. Each entry includes a complete caption detailing the artist and their nationality and life-span dates; the object’s title, date, medium, size, signature information, and donor information; and a brief biographical note and object history.

"Without countless generous collectors and donors over the past 120 years, the MMAC Permanent Collection would not exist," MMAC Director Barbara Koostra says. "The guidebook publicly recognizes donor generosity in building this collection."

The vast collection—Montana's largest public art collection—does not have a dedicated facility. MMAC exhibits are displayed in the Meloy and Paxson galleries in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center at UM, and other pieces are displayed in buildings across campus. The majority of the Permanent Collection remains in storage.

Softcover guidebooks are available for $35, and hardcovers cost $55. For more information or to order, call 406-243-2019 or email museum@umontana.edu. For more information about the museum, visit www.umt.edu/montanamuseum.

Meet Grizwald,

the University of Montana's cartoon bear. In the spring 2013 issue of the Montanan, we asked readers to submit captions interpreting Grizwald's actions in a humorous way. This issue's winning caption was sent in by THOMAS M. POWERS '56 of Billings. Congratulations, Thomas, you've won a Griz stadium blanket. Stay tuned! In an upcoming issue of the Montanan, a new cartoon featuring Grizwald will need a caption. You could be the next winner!

Blackstone LaunchPad Campus Entrepreneurship Program Established in Montana

THE BLACKSTONE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION in July announced an expansion of its campus entrepreneurship program, Blackstone LaunchPad, to Montana.

The foundation’s three-year, $2 million grant will establish a partnership between UM, Montana State University, and Headwaters RC&D of Butte to introduce entrepreneurship as a viable career option and provide students with a network of venture coaches and entrepreneurial support to transform ideas into sustainable companies. With a physical presence at UM and MSU, Blackstone LaunchPad has the potential to generate some 150 new ventures in Montana over the next five years.

Blackstone LaunchPad is modeled after a successful program developed at the University of Miami in 2008, which has generated 1,413 business proposals, created 210 new jobs and drawn nearly 2,600 participants. Each new regional program will be linked together, drawing ideas and best practices from the existing programs, while giving student entrepreneurs at UM and MSU access to a national community of more than 200,000 of their peers across affiliated campuses, as well as expert advisers.

The program will foster connections between the campus, business community, and local entrepreneurs to create an environment that nurtures young entrepreneurs and provides them the skills and network necessary to succeed. Unlike traditional college curricular programs available to limited school populations, Blackstone LaunchPad is open to all students at UM and MSU regardless of major.

Montana is the fifth Blackstone LaunchPad region, following Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Florida.
$1 Million Endowment to Assist Nontraditional Student Scholarships

UM RECENTLY RECEIVED A $1 MILLION GRANT to endow its Osher Reentry Scholarship Program.

Osher re-entry scholars are students who:
- have experienced a cumulative gap in their education of five or more years;
- are at the undergraduate level and pursuing their first baccalaureate degree;
- anticipate workforce participation for a significant period of time subsequent to graduation;
- are ideally ages twenty-five to fifty;
- demonstrate financial need;
- and show academic promise and a commitment to obtaining their degree.

Across the United States, there are ninety Osher Reentry Scholarship Programs, with UM housing the only program in Montana.

“Montana is a state of small towns, with many residents coming from humble beginnings,” UM President Royce Engstrom says. “Many students are returning to school after having spent years working in traditional Montana industries. The endowment comes at an important time for our institution and our state, as we work to increase significantly the number of people with college degrees.”

Based out of San Francisco, the Bernard Osher Foundation first gave UM $50,000 in fall 2010 to start a program for re-entry students. From 2011 to 2013, UM awarded forty scholarships worth $2,500 each. After successfully administering the initial grant resources, the University was invited to apply for an endowment. Ultimately, the Bernard and Barbro Foundation, another Osher family philanthropic organization, awarded UM $1 million for the Osher Reentry Scholarship Program. While the endowment is being set up, the Bernard Osher Foundation awarded UM an additional $50,000 grant to use for Osher Reentry Scholarships in the interim, ensuring continuous resources for the program.

The endowment is set to start funding Osher Reentry Scholarships in the 2014-15 academic year.

Despite chilly weather and a persistent drizzle throughout UM’s 116th Commencement ceremony, the smiles on the faces of the graduates, their families, and the returning alumni from 1943, ’53, and ’63 could not be dampened. Jim Messina ’93, ’09, the architect of President Barack Obama’s successful campaign for re-election, was the featured speaker. “If you’re anything like me, this place, this campus, this city has become a comfort zone for you the past four years,” Messina says. “And it’s certainly true what Norman Maclean wrote: ‘The world outside... is full of bastards, the number increasing rapidly the farther one gets from Missoula, Montana.’ But you need to know he didn’t write that line until he’d left Montana and was living in Chicago. He never could have written it if he hadn’t left his village. Once you’ve gone out, once you’ve picked which worlds you want to conquer and done it, come back, tell your friends and families where you’ve been. Come back and appreciate the simple pleasures of a familiar house, recognizable streets, and a cozy bar. I suggest the Mo Club, but that’s me.” Also recognized were John and Sue Talbot, longtime UM supporters and important figures in Montana’s newspaper industry and nonprofit sector, who each received Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees.

Professor Honored with Prestigious 2013 Aldo Leopold Award

The American Society of Mammalogists recently awarded UM Wildlife Biology Professor and Craighead Chair Joel Berger the 2013 Aldo Leopold Conservation Award. The award honors well-established individuals who have made lasting contributions to the conservation of mammals and their habitats.

Berger has addressed research questions about mammalian ecology and conservation in natural systems at wide-ranging geographic scales in Asia, Africa, and North America. This award recognizes his broad scope of work, which includes social behavior and ecology of wild horses, behavioral and demographic consequences of horn removal in African rhinos, effects of predator reintroduction on the ecology of prey species and on the structure of vertebrate communities, long-distance migration by mammals and conservation of their migration corridors, effects of climate change in the Arctic on demography and persistence of musk oxen, and conservation of large mammals in Bhutan, Tibet, and Mongolia.

The award is named after Aldo Leopold—the “father” of wildlife ecology and management—who is well-known for his famous land ethic philosophy and his influence on wildlife conservation.
It's something of an unmentionable, but some women love to hate their sports bras—those too-tight, too-ugly contraptions designed to protect our bodies from, well, our bodies. Instead of just complaining about the frump factor, Jennifer Ferguson '93 launched Handful, a sports bra and athletic tank top company that cheekily promised to "flatten, not flatten" its customers. "I just was on a run and was frustrated with the options," Ferguson remembers. "The gals were like, 'You're really particular. You should produce something like that.'" Starting Handful allowed the forty-two-year-old Great Falls native to put to work both her UM business degree and experiences as an athlete and fitness instructor. Seven years later, Ferguson is moving most of the Portland, Ore.-based business's manufacturing from China to Oregon, with help from a successful summer crowdsourcing campaign that raised $50,000 in presales to offset costs for Made in the USA rebranding. Ferguson says Handful's irreverent tone—color choices include a "no headlights white"—has resonated with customers.

I'm going to ask you a question and I want you to pretend like I'm a man when you answer it. Why do women care so much about what goes on with their breasts when they're exercising? A woman needs to have proper equipment. A great bra is a lot like a great pair of shoes. Why do you care about a great pair of shoes when you go for a run? Well, because they support you. Same thing with a bra.

What is it about the design of other bras that doesn't work? In the fitness apparel industry, back in the day you would just take a man's product and "shrink it and pink it."—take a man's shirt, make it a little smaller, call it a women's small. Really technical sports bras often are extremely uncomfortable and unflattering. You wear them for the short amount of time you need to wear them as kind of a necessary evil. You know, you have to dislocate your shoulder to get it on, and cut it off your body to get it off. It doesn't feel good, and it isn't fashionable. Then you have the fashionable bras that are kind of cutey but have no support. That's why we now have women making products by women, for women, because we understand our own needs. We take our product seriously, but we try not to take ourselves so seriously. So we say: "Our product is not designed to be the best, but have no support."

"In the fitness apparel industry, back in the day you would just take a man's product and 'shrink it and pink it.'"

What have been some of the milestones for your business? We started out online in November 2006. Originally we started out in my home. We now are in a fulfillment house, so our orders come into a third-party location. We now are an approved mastectomy bra as of 2010. Women who have breast cancer or have had breast cancer can get our bra paid for by insurance. We've pretty consistently been growing 15 percent to 30 percent each year. Since 2010, we've had a full sales staff of approximately ten national reps. That's helped us gain more of a national presence. A particular challenge for our company has been getting a strong, interactive website that's really user-friendly for customers and also gives the back-end reporting that our reps can access. Ultimately I feel like when we deal with web designers and the back-end portion of the web, it's like taking my car in to get fixed and they say, "What's wrong with it, and how do you want it to be in the future?" It's really hard to think in that language, because I don't speak that language. So I say, "Well it's making this noise, and I'd prefer for it not to make this noise."

Our final milestone is being made in the USA. When we were made in China, we'd have to order our product six months in advance. We'd have to pay half of it down. When they shipped we paid the other half. Our local manufacturer can produce in two weeks. They give us thirty days to pay them. That six to nine months that used to be tied up in production we can now use for marketing and sales, which is a much stronger business model.

How did your product come to be made in the USA? The products made in the USA honestly were almost three times more expensive, and it just put us out of our price point for our customer. We got connected to this amazing company called Watershed out of Salem, Oregon. They have worked really hard with us to keep their price point down. We're just hoping that being made in the USA is important enough for people that the sales will increase, and it will keep our margins where we need them to be. It's exciting that seven years into it a lot of what we've been working so hard for has come to fruition.

—Interview by Paige Parker '00
A few minutes before the John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition begins, Joe McMahon sits on a bench in the Gallagher Business Building half hoping his parents aren’t going to show up.

Two days from now, McMahon will graduate from UM’s School of Business Administration with a degree in management information systems, and his parents are in town from Seattle for Commencement festivities. Since they arrived early, they’re also planning to watch him take part in the school’s twenty-fourth annual statewide business plan competition. Except that right now, as he sits in his suit and tie waiting to head in and face a panel of around thirty judges primed to poke, prod, and otherwise deflate the presentation he’s spent months preparing, having mom and dad on hand to witness it is starting to seem like a terrible idea.

“Secretly, I was hoping they’d be late and they might miss it,” McMahon says. “I thought I’d be nervous with them in there.”

Hard to blame him.

Nerves are running high for all thirteen finalist teams, who arrived on campus before 8 a.m. on this rainy spring morning to endure a daylong grind of presentations, critiques, and cuts in hopes of winning the competition’s $10,000 grand prize.

For more than two decades, UM has called aspiring entrepreneurs within the state university system to submit their best ideas for the high-dollar, high-intensity contest. This year’s finalists, chosen from a field of about two dozen written entries, will now square off in three rounds of oral presentations that feel part game show, part workshop, and part lecture series. Throughout the day, contestants make multiple presentations to a panel of judges comprising local businesspeople who already have reviewed their written business plans. The judges hear each team’s sales
pitch and then pepper them with questions, pointing out any potential flaws they see in the plans, offering up constructive criticisms, and sometimes indicating whether the ideas seem ripe for investment. Each team also is assigned a coach, who helps make changes to presentations from one performance to the next. After each round, the judges vote and cuts are made. The field is narrowed from thirteen to eight and then to four survivors who advance to the final, evening showdown. There will be much fanfare, a giant check will be written, and members of the winning team will walk out the door with $10,000 to spend however they please. So, you know, no pressure.

"This is one of the coolest nonathletic, student-focused events out there," says Cameron Lawrence, UM business professor and CEO of the Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs, which oversees the competition. "It’s really about the students, and you have judges coming in from the community who have gotten a ton of stuff done in their lives, and they’re here for no other reason than to help these kids.”

McMahon is here to pitch Magnet, his concept for a mobile device application aimed at busy twenty-somethings who often have trouble setting up social activities around their schedules. The app melds the most useful functions of email chains, social media, and desktop day-planners into one independent and easy-to-use service that can be downloaded to smart phones and tablets free of charge.

The buzz around the business school is that Magnet just might be a multimillion-dollar idea, but McMahon suspects he’ll have an uphill battle in front of him today. Since he's not here pitching a traditional brick-and-mortar business, he and his partners worry their plan might strike some judges as a bit too theoretical.

"Our product is a little bit different, because it’s a free app," he says. "We’re trying to convey a new business model. We really wanted to bring the idea here and maybe try to open some eyes and turn some heads with a unique and different approach to the traditional business plan.” McMahon’s parents arrive before his morning presentation begins, and everything goes smoothly. In fact, he knocks it out of the park in the first round. McMahon is affable and exuberant, and even when the judges stump him on a few questions about the finer points of his plans for Magnet, it’s not a disaster.

After the first round concludes, he admits it actually helped having his parents there. "It was really nice; it let me be in my element," he says. "I wasn’t too nervous. I’m confident and practiced, and I know this idea front and back. It was really just trying to stay in the mindset that it’s just like any other presentation. These judges aren’t sharks trying to eat you alive—they’re really trying to help you."

The judges did succeed in raising some significant questions about Magnet’s financial forecast, and aside from McMahon’s ability to establish a good rapport with the panel, it’s impossible to tell how the tides might shift during the day. Will the financial questions be enough to sink him? That might well depend on the strength of his competition.

This group of 2013 finalists is an eclectic one. For starters, McMahon isn’t the only one here pushing a mobile app. There’s also Carlos Rivera, a thirty-one-year-old recent business school grad from Whitefish, who made the finals with his idea for a full-service food ordering application called Feastro. With his flashy animated presentation and seemingly boundless knowledge of the food service industry, Rivera may well be the most polished presenter in the field and possibly the biggest threat to win it all.

"I was scared to death; my legs were shaking," Rivera says after facing the judges for the first time. "Maybe you couldn’t tell, but I was very nervous. Those are respected businesspeople in there. They can see right through any flaw you have in your business plan, and they’re going to point it out. Luckily, I’ve done some research.”

Magnet and Feastro represent the most high-concept, high-ceiling plans in the competition, and that puts them in stark contrast with some of their more traditional rivals. Other finalists include teams seeking to start a taco truck, a moving company called WeHaula geared toward students on campus, a campus valet parking service, and a sixteen-person party bike that will ferry groups of pleasure-seeking Missoulians on brewery and bar tours during the summer.

This year, three teams from Montana State University also made the field. Among them are a team of independent filmmakers who want to make a movie about the Bakken oil boom, a group developing a system to provide background checks for renters on behalf of property managers, and a duo planning to grow hydroponic heirloom tomatoes in Montana.

Most of the teams include students who either developed their ideas or honed them as part of classes they took at UM. This is true for the two women behind the Zoo Bike and Brew party bike concept. Christina Henderson and Aimee Roberts say they read an article about the European party bike craze in the Wall Street Journal but only began to consider it a viable option in Missoula after workshopping their business plan in a few classes.
The idea has just kind of generated its own momentum," Henderson says. "We have competitive spirits, so we liked the idea of entering the business plan competition. We thought it would be fun."

"Also, we'd really like $10,000," adds Roberts.

**Henderson and Roberts** are coached by John Giuliani, a Missoula native and owner of Montana Timber Products, an area business that supplies specialty lumber materials throughout the West. Giuliani says he became familiar with the party bike concept after seeing one in action while on vacation in Bend, Ore. He's certain that win, lose, or draw on this day, Henderson and Roberts have a moneymaker on their hands if they can get a similar business started in Missoula.

"There's no doubt in my mind that they can do this and kick butt with it," he says. "Their plan was really well thought out, and their responses [to questions] were fantastic. They seemed very open to feedback. I think they did a great job."

Giuliani's only real recommendation for the Zoo Bike presentation is one Henderson and Roberts didn't expect: He thinks the idea is so good, they should be a bit more ambitious with their financials.

"He basically suggested that we ask for more money, which kind of surprised us," says Henderson. "But I thought it was a great suggestion and kind of encouraging that he thought we could get even more investment in our plan."

As the day goes on, cuts are made and teams start to bow out. After the morning round of presentations, the independent filmmakers are gone, as are the on-campus valet parking team and a team with plans for an upscale baby boutique in Missoula.

Following the afternoon session, the second round of cuts are particularly close. Initial voting ends with Zoo Bike and Brew tied with WeHaula to see who will advance to the final round, and the competition's head judge is forced to step in to cast the deciding tally.

She votes for WeHaula, and the party bike idea is eliminated. Henderson and Roberts will have to look elsewhere for the funding to get Zoo Bike and Brew rolling.

As the last presentations wrap up, it's anyone's guess who will walk away with the prize money. The final round of judging is a long one, and reports filtering out from the closed voting session say it is very, very close. In the end, the final decision is hailed as a sign of the times.

The traditional business plans of Babylon Produce and WeHaula take third and fourth place, respectively, while the top two places go to the mobile apps.

Feastro comes in second. And the winner is... Magnet.

"I'm ecstatic," McMahon says moments later. "I can't believe this happened. I think this is a huge step for this competition and for people like us who don't necessarily have the most traditional business plans, but have cool ideas that can be turned into legitimate businesses."

The runners-up are understandably disappointed, but most say this won't be the end for their businesses. Many intend to push on and see their ideas through to the marketplace. Most receive smaller awards and prizes from the judges, and people involved with the competition often say the experience and knowledge gained through participation can be just as valuable as actually winning.

"This isn't make or break for us," Rivera said earlier in the day. "We'll still come up with the money somehow."

Right now though, it's McMahon's time to shine. On stage, they take his picture holding a giant check in the amount of $10,000, and the soon-to-be graduate grins from ear to ear, his face bearing the exhausted-yet-relieved look of a guy whose future just got a little brighter.

He shakes a hundred hands and makes plans to meet up with friends later to celebrate.

First, though, he goes off to hug his parents.

A native Montanan, Chad Dundas earned a bachelor's degree in journalism in 2002 and an M.F.A. in English-creative writing in 2006, both from UM. He covers mixed martial arts for ESPN.com and lives in Missoula with his wife and daughter.
WINNING WAYS

Numerous businesses have roots in business plan competition

At lunchtime, the line at Five on Black in downtown Missoula often stretches out the door, but a couple of hours later, things have quieted enough for owner Tom Snyder to take a seat at the bar near the popular restaurant's front door.

With his laptop on the table in front of him and an easy smile, things appear to be going well for Snyder these days. The twenty-four-year-old Missoula native credits his win at the 2011 John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition as part of what set up Five on Black for success in the real world.

"I ask myself this a lot," he says. "If I hadn't won the competition, would I have had the confidence to move forward in this? I think the answer is yes, but I don’t think it would have been as easy of a process. Really, more than winning the money, it was the community support and the support of the judges that gave me confidence."

Snyder came up with the plan for Five on Black after his junior year in college, and now that the restaurant is the taste of Missoula’s downtown lunch scene, he seems to be setting his sights higher.

"The thing that motivates me is really the challenge," he says. "Pushing myself and pushing the limits of what we’re able to do. I feel like that’s the goal of this business. If that means opening ten more locations, that’s great. If that means opening 1,000 locations, so be it."

Some other businesses that got a leg up from UM’s statewide business plan competition include:

**Big Sky Brewing Co.** was founded by Bjorn Nabozoney ’93, Neal Leathers, and Brad Robinson in 1995 and has since grown to be Montana’s largest brewery. It currently boasts forty-five employees and estimates it sold forty-eight thousand barrels of beer in 2012. www.bigskybrew.com

**American Expedition Vehicles** won the competition in 1996. Owner Dave Harriton offers custom aftermarket design and accessories for Jeep Wranglers. The company now operates facilities in Detroit and has been featured by Fox News, Forbes, and comedian Adam Carolla’s CarCast. (See page 20 for more on Harriton and AEV) www.aev-conversions.com

**Orbital Shift,** founded by Kevin O’Reilly ’09 and Daniel Lande ’09, creates online employee scheduling and time-clock applications for businesses. www.orbitalshift.com

**Think Green Inc.** sprinkler installation company won first place at UM’s inaugural business plan competition in 1989. Dave Carlson ’98, and his wife, Kecia, continue to operate it as a landscape and outdoor living design firm in Boise, Idaho. www.madelinengeorge.com

**Market on Front,** a new deli and grocery in downtown Missoula, is owned by Ben Sokoloski, whose plan placed third in the 2012 competition. The market, which opened in late summer, focuses on providing local, fresh, natural, and regional products to customers in a convenient location. www.marketonfront.com

**John Ruffatto:** Namesake and Benefactor

**BY ALL ACCOUNTS,** John Ruffatto [1920-1993] was a man of action—the kind of guy who put more stock in getting things done than sitting around talking about it.

“He wasn’t a big fan of a lot of book learning,” says UM School of Business Administration Dean Larry Gianchetta, with a laugh. “He really had a lot more respect for people who got out there in the trenches and figured stuff out.”

A native of Brockton, Ruffatto also loved UM and taught finance at the school for a time after moving back to Montana from Spokane, Wash., in 1960. For more than three decades he was a community leader and successful local businessman, known for his gregarious presence at rotary and coffee club meetings. Today, a group of local entrepreneurs who hold monthly meetings at the Doubletree Hotel still calls itself the Ruff Club in his honor.

Knowing his penchant for practicality, it’s no surprise that before his death at age seventy-three, the longtime finance veteran and chairman of the Murphery-Favre investment firm established endowments supporting not only UM’s statewide business plan competition but also an annual award for the professor who best incorporates real-world experience into the classroom.

“He was very passionate about entrepreneurship,” says Professor Cameron Lawrence, who won the Ruffatto Memorial Teacher Award in 2013, “and giving students the chance to advance their ideas. He also emphasized the importance of real-life education, not just theoretical. He wanted it to be very hands-on.”

Gianchetta says Ruffatto would be pleased with the evolution of the business-plan competition and with the quality of the plans that are put forth each year.

“He may have overseen this year’s competition,” Gianchetta says, “He may be overlooking all of it. And I think he would be very impressed at how it's grown.”
A Jeep Wrangler customized by American Expedition Vehicles traverses the landscape outside of Reykjavik, Iceland.

"Wranglers represent a sense of freedom—being able to get out and explore," says AEV founder Dave Harriton, pictured here in the backcountry near Moab, Utah.

Dave Harriton’s career began with four AAA tows and UM’s business plan competition. Now he owns the largest and most respected Jeep accessory company in the industry.
When Dave Harriton left Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania, to head west for college in 1992, his parents sent him with two fateful things: a loaned 1991 Jeep Wrangler and a AAA membership. After two years at engineering school in California, Harriton arrived at the University of Montana, where he found in Missoula the outdoor adventure town of his dreams. He hiked and mountain hiked. He learned to kayak. And shortly after he immersed himself in Big Sky Country, in 1994, his AAA membership, with its four free tows, became the genie in a bottle through which he conjured up an unlikely career.

It all started with his dad’s Wrangler. It was a capable two-door vehicle, able to carry Harriton and his kayak to remote whitewater put-ins, but it was a rough ride and cramped. If he could stretch it, he figured, he’d have more room and the longer wheelbase would make driving more comfortable.

His friend Dave Golden said he could cut the chassis in half and weld in reinforced frame rails to extend it, a standard in the trucking industry. So Harriton bought a $40 socket set and stripped the Jeep in his garage. He called AAA, who towed the chassis to Golden. After Golden cut and extended it, AAA towed the frame back to Harriton, who put the body back together. Then AAA returned it to Golden’s garage, where he welded on new body parts cut out of sheet metal. Then AAA towed it back to Harriton, who finished it. The whole process took about a year, but Harriton’s dream of a bigger, better mountain mobile now was a reality.

People noticed. “I’d walk out of the grocery store and someone would be lying under it, because they’d never seen one,” he says. “It looked factory-made, but it wasn’t.”

A year later in 1996, Harriton sat in his capstone class in the UM School of Business Administration. His assignment was to put together an idea for the annual John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition.

“Everybody likes this Jeep,” Harriton remembers thinking. “I’ll just write an idea about stretching these Jeeps.”

“I thought it wasn’t going to be a successful plan,” admits Donald Gaumer, an adjunct professor and one of the judges for that year’s competition. “If you’re successful at it,” he told Harriton, “Jeep will just introduce a four-door vehicle and that will be the end of your business.”

But Harriton persisted. He tweaked his business plan to include Jeep parts and custom accessories and won the competition, in large part, because his proof of concept was parked outside his classroom. “His show-and-tell was one of his finished vehicles,” Gaumer says.

Buoyed by his success, Harriton walked his business plan down to First Security Bank and landed a $35,000 loan. It felt like $35 million. “It seemed like so much money at the time,” he recalls. “I had no idea how I was going to pay it back.”

But he figured if there was ever a time to take a risk it was now, when he had nothing to lose. Harriton put the money toward a new 1997 Wrangler, which he and his former partner, Mike Turner, stripped, stretched, and customized into a flashy prototype that they took to the SEMA [Specialty Equipment...
Marketing Association] aftermarket auto show in Las Vegas, the largest automotive show in the world. The vehicle won a design award from Chrysler, the makers of Jeep. It was heady affirmation for Harriton and his bare-bones startup, American Expedition Vehicles, but all the company’s resources were tied up in that prototype vehicle.

“We came back from the show with five orders, but only $500 in our bank account,” he says. Suddenly the road to a viable business looked as gnarly as the twisted, rocky tracks he drove to reach his favorite whitewater. But just like the vehicles he was building, Harriton thrived on overcoming obstacles.

Harriton fell into the Jeep world almost by accident. Growing up in rural Pennsylvania, he’d always loved anything that moved—airplanes, cars, bikes. And he’d always liked to build things, ever since his first set of Legos. His first car was a 1981 Mercury Capri, not exactly a hot rod, but not his parents’ Dodge Caravan, either. By the time he was living in Montana, his ideal off-road vehicle was probably a Land Rover. But he couldn’t afford one. He had his dad’s Wrangler, so the Wrangler would have to work.

It was fortunate happenstance. The Jeep Wrangler might be the most accessorized car in the world. It’s ubiquitous, easily tinkered with, and grants its owners the ability to leave the asphalt for the rugged, adventurous beyond—in a convertible, no less. “People are so regulated these days,” Harriton says. “Wranglers represent a sense of freedom—being able to get out and explore.” As such, Jeeps long have fostered an enthusiastic fan base. Wrangler drivers wave to one another on the road. Online chat forums abound. “It’s a Jeep thing,” the popular bumper sticker reads. “You wouldn’t understand.”

So if there were a single vehicle with the charisma to support a parts-and-accessories company, Harriton had found it. “You could never do this with a Ford Explorer,” he explains. “There is no culture.”

“There’s nothing else like them,” AEV customer Gary Voigt says. “They’re four-wheel drive, on-road, off-road. You can take the top off when it’s sunny and put it on when it’s not.”

Voigt admits he’s more of a collector than a serious off-roader, but he’s had AEV modify four Jeeps for him. They first stretched and lifted his Rubicon and added a pickup bed to turn it into what they call a Brute—a Wrangler pickup for the serious off-roader.

“Everybody wants to know what it is and where it comes from,” Voigt says.

Voigt liked it so much that he bought three more Wranglers completely customized by AEV. “I don’t like aftermarket stuff that looks like aftermarket stuff,” he says. “Their cars look like they’ve come off the showroom floor. I think they’re proud of what they do. And they should be.”

AEV’s customers tend to be equally proud of their vehicles. They also tend to be adventurous. Two sisters, Amy Lemer and Tricia Reina, recently drove an AEV-equipped Wrangler across the Moroccan desert in the arduous, nine-day Rally of the Gazelles. They finished eighth out of 129 teams. Another customer, Todd Pendleton, just climbed Mount Everest with an AEV patch stitched to his jacket. He sent it to Harriton when he returned, with a couple of prayer flags from the summit.

Harriton knew from the beginning that this adventurous customer base existed. Indeed, he counted himself among them. But he still had to prove his products. Early on, Harriton was working sixty- to eighty-hour weeks. The business was 100 percent consuming. It’s the point where many startups fizzle out.

Harriton says it took him five years just to learn how to run a business. It was much more difficult in practice than in his head. “According to my business plan, I was supposed to be a millionaire by year three,” he says. “I don’t even think I was a thousandaire by year three.”

But more than money, Harriton was after a quality product, and in the end his success boiled down to the hours he logged in the workshop.

“He spent the first eight years sleeping in a cot in the back of the shop and eating ramen soup,” says Gaumer, the business professor who now is Harriton’s friend. “He was really committed to getting it done.”

Harriton first developed a slew of customized parts. He designed a custom front and rear bumper that were solid, attractive, and delightfully practical—the rear bumper, for example, can hold five gallons of emergency water. To make use of the wasted space behind the spare tire, Harriton designed a curved fuel caddy that holds ten gallons of gas—rendering obsolete the cumbersome jerry cans of yore. Harriton designs his parts like Swiss Army knives, and utility takes precedence.
AEV's popular heat-reduction hood not only adds attractive curves to the vehicles, but is built to accommodate a snorkel and allow maximum air intake.

"It's always function over form," Harriton says. "But we never forget the form."

Soon, these products were speaking for themselves. In 2000, a Jeep engineer at Chrysler came to AEV to get his personal Wrangler stretched. In 2012, Chrysler asked Harriton to build hoods and bumpers for their special-edition vehicles. The order was a recognition of AEV's success from the very company whose vehicles Harriton had been modifying since college.

AEV's partner company, Quality Metal Craft, has 500 employees who work out of a 500,000-square-foot facility near Detroit where robots weld parts around the clock. It's the heart of the business, in the heart of the auto industry, and it allows AEV to receive Jeeps directly from the Chrysler plant, strip and stretch them, install HEMI V8 engines and all the accessory parts, and then ship them directly to customers. AEV customized models range from $55,000 to $110,000, including the base vehicle.

But Harriton keeps an office in Missoula for research and development—mostly because he loves living here. "I can snowmobile one day and float high water on the Lochsa the next," he says. And thanks to his good team in Detroit, Harriton has the freedom to focus on what he does best—design.

AEV's office is a nondescript one on Missoula's north side, easily missed but for the four stretched, lifted, and accessorized new Wranglers parked out front. The sparse, cubiced interiors are patrolled by Brindle, Harriton's imposing but docile mastiff who keeps watch over five designers, including Harriton's brother, Jordan, who builds electronics.

When I dropped by one Friday this summer, the designers were poring over a 3-D computer model of a new winch mount. All of the parts AEV builds are designed to work in conjunction, so a tweak of any part takes into consideration all the parts around it.

Harriton came out to meet me. He's a slim man, with short hair and a sunburned, grizzled face that betrays the time he spends outdoors. He told me about the business and then took me out to his personal ride—a grey Brute double cab with a 4.5-inch lift, 37-inch tires, and a 5.7-liter supercharged HEMI V8 engine with 520 horsepower. The whole package retails for about $100,000. He fired it up and with a throaty roar that pressed me back in my seat, we set off down the road for lunch.

AEV now has 800 U.S. dealers, sixty international distributors, and 100 Jeep dealerships that sell their complete vehicles. It's also a major sponsor of UM's John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition. Harriton participates in a weekend workshop each spring to help students develop their business plans. "It's incredibly valuable," says Gaumer. "Not only do I make an example of him in class, but he comes in and says, 'Here's my experience.'"

Harriton still spends plenty of time field-testing his vehicles, too. Each year he makes at least one big trip. When I met him he was preparing for an off-road adventure in Baja and a scouting trip in the Canadian hinterland—2,300 miles north of Missoula. Last year AEV shipped a pair of their Jeeps to Iceland, where Harriton and some of his employees spent ten days climbing volcanoes, fording rivers, and traversing glaciers. The Jeeps performed flawlessly.

"These vehicles aren't just for looks," Harriton tells me over sandwiches at the Dinosaur Cafe. "They're definitely meant to be used."

In order to keep growing, Harriton says, AEV constantly develops new products. The company keeps a close eye on Chrysler, which released a long wheelbase vehicle in 2004 and a four-door vehicle in 2007, just as Gaumer predicted. AEV has to stay nimble to adapt to the changes in the industry. Harriton doesn't see Jeep scrapping their Wrangler anytime soon—it's their most profitable vehicle—but it does get redesigned every decade.

"We always have to come up with something new," Harriton says. "It keeps us on our toes."

That spirit of adaptation helped propel Harriton from a UM student with an idea to a successful entrepreneur. That and a few tows from AAA.

All these years later, Harriton admits his membership has lapsed. He doesn't really need roadside assistance anymore, mostly because he's rarely on the road. Plus, with the vehicles he drives, getting into and out of tight situations is all part of the fun.

Jacob Baynham graduated from UM with a journalism degree in 2007. He writes for Men's Journal, Outside, and other magazines. He lives in Polson with his wife, Hilly McGahan '07.
THE DOCTORS ARE IN
New Residency Program Aims to Fill Void in Montana's Rural Health Care

STORY BY GINNY MERRIAM
PHOTOS BY TODD GOODRICH

W hen Saul Rivard left home in Livingston, Montana, for college, he committed to nine years of study and work at Brown University in Rhode Island to become a physician. In Providence, he learned to love seafood and beautiful ocean beaches, but he never stopped feeling homesick.

"Every time you come back, the mountains look more beautiful," Rivard says.

Today, he's back. Rivard is one of ten newly minted physicians who make up the first class in the Missoula-based Family Medicine Residency of Western Montana. The residents will get top-notch training in a rural setting and come out the other side in three years as board-certified family medicine physicians. And they'll be first in a concerted effort to ensure Montana's small towns have family practice doctors.

The program is inspired by necessity. Aspiring physicians in the United States go to medical school for four years and graduate with Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degrees. After that, to be licensed to practice and board-certified in any specialty, they need to complete three or more years of a residency program. Upon completing residency, they take their board exams and begin their practices.

Montana ranks fiftieth of all states in its number of graduate medical education slots compared to its total population. The state's only other residency program, the Montana Family Medicine Residency in Billings, carries twenty-four students at a time, with eight in each of three classes. Of Montana's fifty-six counties, fifty-four are federally designated as primary-care physician shortage areas. Eleven counties have no physicians at all. As baby boomers retire and begin to need more health care, baby boomer doctors are retiring as well. Nearly 40 percent of American doctors are fifty-five or older, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

In Montana, approximately twenty-two primary care physicians will retire each year in coming years. New doctors tend to settle and practice in the places where they had their residencies. Billings' program produces a class of eight each year, 70 percent of whom stay and practice in Montana.

That's an alarming issue, says Larry White, director of the Western Montana Area Health Education Center (AHEC) based at the University of Montana and chief operating officer of the new residency program.

"If people tend to stay in the place where they last trained, and we are fiftieth in the nation in training, we are going to have some huge problems," he says.

Back in 2009, it wasn't something that was at the front of the medical community's collective mind, says White, who was president of St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula for twenty-three years and joined UM's School of Public and Community Health Sciences in 2008. In spring 2009, Missoula had a visit from three people: the director of the Billings residency program; the Montana dean of the University of Washington-based WWAMI program—which supports medical students from five Western states; and a professor from the UW School of Medicine. They presented an idea to about twenty hospital CEOs, medical staff presidents, and Dave Forbes, dean of UM's College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences.

They brought a clear message: Montana needs a second residency program, and western Montana has the medical resources to support it. Would AHEC take the lead in a feasibility study?

"We said, 'Of course, we'd be glad to do that,'" White says.

First step: Invite family medicine physicians to the table by convening an informational meeting.

"Every single one of them said yes," White says. "They were very enthusiastic. So we had at least the emotional and philosophical support."

Doctors, in general, once they're in a stable practice, have the need and the desire to teach, White says, and to pass on to others what they learned in their formative years. That's as true in western Montana as anywhere else.

Next step: Form a committee. The physician who stepped up to chair was Dr. Ned Vasquez, who practiced family medicine at Western Montana Clinic's Lolo branch since 1986. Then began the most complex task: determining the financial feasibility. The committee brought on Barry Kenfield, former chief financial officer at Community Medical Center.
New Model Helps UM Premed Students Shine

FIVE YEARS AGO, 47 percent of the UM's premed advising students were admitted to medical schools. That's a ho-hum number in line with the national average of 50 percent.

But last spring, a whopping 80 percent of those students earned admission. It's all because of a proactive model that puts a nine-person team of advisers on the case. The program, which began five years ago in the Office of the Provost, brings that team together from across campus to help students succeed from the beginning.

"The old model of one adviser handling all premed students just doesn't work," says Mark Pershouse, UM's director of Premedical Sciences and coordinator of the program. "It's too much. The big difference now is when they first show up on campus as freshmen, they meet all nine of us," he says.

UM offers a premed concentration instead of a major. The advisers help students concentrate on their best areas and gain the knowledge they need to compete. They also help students travel to the nearest practice run for the Medical College Admission Test and to Bozeman to meet with advisers from the WWAMI program, the University of Washington-based consortium that supports students from five Western states.

Confidence is key, Pershouse says. "It comes down to this one factor," he says. "It's one of the toughest concentrations on campus. You may have the best grades, but you're still sure they're not going to let you into medical school. We give them confidence."

Hospital administrators were especially nervous about costs, with good reason, White says. Residencies cost money. The residents must be paid salaries—Western Montana's earn $50,000 a year—and so must the faculty and staff. Family medicine revenues generally come from Medicare, Medicaid, and outpatient clinic services payments. The 120,000 residency slots in the U.S. partially are supported by Medicare dollars paid to teaching hospitals, to the tune of about $11 billion per year. UM, as the residency host, has contracts with St. Patrick Hospital and Community Medical Center in Missoula and Kalispell Regional Medical Center. They now receive the extra Medicare funding as teaching hospitals.

By January 2011, the money worked. The first year's budget, with a class of ten students and staff in Missoula and Kalispell, has a budget of $2.8 million. At the end of three years, the budget will be $6 million and the payroll fifty people.

The economic development benefits are substantial, Forbes says. The program will bring $4 million to $6 million in federal money to western Montana.

"It's good for the University; it's good for western Montana; it's good for the medical community; it's good for rural hospitals," he says.

In addition, it sparked a $5 million federal grant secured by Partnership Health Center, Missoula's community health clinic built to serve uninsured and underinsured patients. Today at the clinic on the northern edge of Missoula, the sounds of heavy equipment and saws dominate as local construction firms build an additional wing that will house the residency program. The expansion will add thirty-seven exam rooms, three procedure rooms, six behavioral health rooms, a group counseling area, and space for other services.

The residency program will be a boon for access to health care for Missoula-area patients, says Partnership Executive Director Kim Mansch. The clinic currently serves 12,000 patients. However, an estimated 29,000 people in Missoula County alone could qualify for Partnership services. In three years, the addition of the Missoula resident physicians seeing patients there will add access for 10,000 more patients, nearly doubling the clinic's capacity.

"The need is huge," Mansch says. "Right now, if you called and wanted to make an appointment with a physician as a new patient, it would be five to six weeks out."

Once the budget was in place, next up was accreditation. Vasquez came on as a half-time binder to show for the five months of work.

"It was daunting," he says. "It's a hideous document."

But it worked, and the program was accredited by the Accrediting Commission on Graduate Medical Education in October 2012. The program now is pursuing accreditation by the American Osteopathic Association for graduates with D.O. degrees.

In January, Vasquez came on full-time as director of the residency program. Though he claims to be inherently an introvert, he took on the work of networking physicians—not just faculty but others who support the program. About fifty Missoula doctors and thirty in Kalispell are involved.

The program was ready in March for the national residency match day, when every medical student in the nation anticipating graduation applies for residencies in specialties ranging from allergies to urology. Conducted by the National Resident Matching Program, it allows residency programs to rank applicants and applicants to rank programs. Western Montana's program had 110 applicants for the ten first-year slots. They interviewed fifty-five.

"We matched with all ten of our slots on the first day," White says.

They asked tough questions, Vasquez says, about the new doctors' desires for rural practices. And they stressed the mission.

"This is not about recruiting family practice physicians in Missoula or Kalispell or Bozeman or any other big city," White says. "This is about recruiting for rural Montana. This is the centerpiece of our mission."

The residents began the program June 30 and started seeing patients July 29. Eight of them have...
"This is not about recruiting family practice physicians in Missoula or Kalispell or Bozeman or any other big city," White says. "This is about recruiting for rural Montana. This is the centerpiece of our mission."

direct connections to Montana. Four grew up in Montana, and four are connected to Montana through a close relationship, such as a spouse. The other two have a strong affinity for rural Western communities.

"So we've attracted four back to their own state where they're likely to stay and practice," Vasquez says. "I think we've done a good job at attracting a class that will be proactive in developing the program and staying to practice."

Four of the ten already have asked for a rural elective.

"I've been heartened that we have the right cohort of people," Vasquez says.

Resident Megan Svec is one of the two residents not previously connected to Montana. But she felt at home after only three weeks and has made new friends. She grew up in Anchorage, Alaska, spent two years in Africa with the Peace Corps, and spent the past ten in Seattle, where she earned her M.D. degree at UW. She was ready to live in a community that's "a little more manageable" and work toward practice in an underserved area.

"My vision is a community health center like Partnership," she says. "I know that I want to be serving the uninsured and the underinsured—people who wouldn't get health care otherwise."

TJ Sherry grew up in Frenchtown, west of Missoula, played football for the Grizzlies while earning double-major undergraduate degrees, then earned a nursing degree before attending medical school in St. Lucia in the Caribbean. His wife is a kindergarden teacher in Polson. He's excited about a rural practice where he might be seeing a patient in a hospital and be interrupted to deliver a baby. He'll complete his second and third years of residency in Kalispell.

Larry White, COO of the program, stands in front of a still-under-construction wing of Partnership Health Center, which eventually will house the program.

"I grew up hiking out my front door and riding horses, hunting, and fishing," he says. "My wife and I always knew we wanted to raise our kids here. It was not a question of whether we would come back but when."

Rivard, the resident from Livingston, says he and his wife met in junior high school at theater camp, and both look forward to being active in community theater in a small town.

"Everybody here has ties to Montana," he says. "The investment is in Montana."

In a sense, the residents and the faculty are pioneers, says Dr. Nerissa Koehn, associate program director of the residency. Participating in a new program in a rural state takes a certain kind of spirit. Koehn herself was born at St. Patrick Hospital and grew up in Missoula, where her parents work at UM, and graduated from Harvard Medical School. She worked eight years for the Indian Health Service in rural Zuni, New Mexico, where she directed resident and student rotations and grew to love teaching. She and her husband always wanted to return to western Montana, and the job with the program came along as if by magic.

Family practice medicine attracts special people who are well-rounded and care about patients in the context of their communities, she says.

"The relationships you form with rural patients are particularly meaningful because you become an integral part of the community," she says. "You don't take care of patients in isolation; you take care of them in the context of their families—from birth to death and in between."

The residents will practice in a team-based setting that provides a patient-centered medical home, a modern-day model that Partnership and UM champion and practice. It puts physicians together with pharmacists, physical therapists, and other practitioners for the patients' benefit.

"The concept is shifting from a paradigm where the physician is the captain and everyone else does the captain's work," Vasquez says. "Each person does his own work in his or her own specialty. It empowers every person to be responsible for the patient."

With the first class in place, White is ready to look down the road and imagine what success will look like.

"We'll know how well our efforts are going to pay off in 2016 when these people sit for their boards and choose where they're going to practice," he says. "I would not be surprised if 100 percent of them stay."

Montana's problems are "life-sized," he says, not overwhelming, and it's a place where two, three, or four people can make a difference. The residency program seemed destined to do that since its first steps.

"From the very beginning, Barry and Ned and I were facing obstacle after obstacle after difficulty, and each one seemed significant," he says. "But each one would yield and resolve. It almost seemed pre-ordained."

Ginny Merriam is a graduate of the University of Montana School of Journalism and worked as an award-winning reporter at the Missoulian newspaper. She writes from Missoula.
Civil liberty battles are not easily fought, or won.

Whether leading litigation for those wrongfully convicted of crimes, fighting for improved human and mental health services or years as dedicated public servants—Helena, Mont. residents Ronald (B.A. ’66; J.D. ’69) and Mignon Waterman understand the challenge of supporting the rights of others better than most.

"Helping those who might not otherwise have a voice is important," says Ron. "We want to help law students who hold those same concerns."

Now, because of this passion, there is the Ronald and Mignon Waterman Civil Liberties Scholarship, a planned gift that will support law students on their journey of assisting others.

"We have been so blessed in life," says Mignon. "Now is the time for us to give back to Montana."

To learn how you can give back through a planned gift, such as an estate gift or gift annuity, contact Ric Thomas, senior vice president, at ric.thomas@mso.umt.edu or 406.243.5615.
RAISING MONTANA

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Psychology student determined to succeed not only for herself but for UM, too

It was a letter that transformed her life.

The summer after graduating from high school in Bozeman, Kelsey Swingle planned on starting college in Washington—until the day she learned she had been chosen as a Horatio Alger Scholar.

"That letter was significant," says Swingle. "Once I received the scholarship, my entire direction for college and my experience changed. I found myself at the University of Montana, and at a place where I could develop my passion and my career."

Each year, the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation supports fifty Horatio Alger scholarships for students attending UM, Montana State University, or one of their affiliate schools. The scholarship is matched by the respective university for a total of $10,000 awarded during the course of the student's undergraduate career.

Swingle graduated from UM in May with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology, and, with a combination of other scholarships, her undergraduate degree was fully paid for. Swingle's dedication to achievement didn't go unnoticed, and she received the Mortar Board General Psychology Outstanding Senior of the Year Award.

Emerging without debt from tuition allowed Swingle to take the next step on her journey as she works toward the ultimate goal of becoming a counselor for families and young people in need. This fall she begins her graduate study at UM in clinical mental health counseling.

"During a difficult time in my life, counseling really made a profound impact on me," Swingle says. "I know how beneficial it can be, and I want to become that kind of resource for someone."

Sharon O'Hare, UM's assistant vice president for student success, says Swingle isn't alone.

"Students come to UM with unique challenges. Some struggle with the transition from high school to college, others with academic preparation or financial issues," says O'Hare. "In the past five years we have changed the culture at UM around the goal of student success. All of us who work and teach here recognize that our most important job is to help our students succeed. The big return on our investment is watching them go out into the world successful, educated, and ready for the next chapter of their lives."

As she begins her graduate program, Swingle says she will devote the same kind of energy and drive that she applied to the past four years of school.

"UM made a big investment in me when they provided resources for my undergraduate degree," says Swingle. "I avidly believe that life is not defined by circumstances or events we experience, but rather the way we react and interpret these moments. Finances were an obstacle, and it not only made me even more determined to succeed for myself but also to succeed for the University."

To help UM support students like Kelsey through scholarships, call the University of Montana Foundation at 800-443-2593.

"Once I received the scholarship, my entire direction for college and my experience changed. I found myself at the University of Montana, and at a place where I could develop my passion and my career."

Make a gift online at www.SupportUM.org
Kick-off for the 113th meeting is 1:30 p.m. MST (time subject to change).

For party locations and up-to-date information, visit www.grizalum.com or call 1-877-UM-ALUMS.

A $5 donation will be requested at the door to help defray the costs of one of UM's largest outreach programs and to continue the Griz/Cat satellite party tradition. Fees may vary at individual locations.
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DONALD MOLLOY ’68, J.D. ’76, Missoula, a senior U.S. federal judge for the District of Montana, was conferred this year with an honorary doctor of laws degree from Ireland’s University College Cork. A leading reformer in judicial practice in Montana, Don has adjudicated on significant environmental rights cases involving cleanup of polluted sites and hunting practices. He presided over the largest criminal environmental case prosecuted in the U.S., United States vs. W.R. Grace, and decided several endangered species cases involving the gray wolf, the grizzly bear, and the lynx, as well as cases involving Montana’s world-class fisheries.

He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, flying F-4 Phantom fighter planes off the deck of the USS John F. Kennedy. A native of Butte, he has a strong personal interest in his Irish heritage, and with his wife, JUDY STRAUS MOLLOY ’70, studied the Irish language under the guidance of Corkman Traolach O’Riordain, head of UM’s Irish Studies Program.

Don has strong links with UCC’s law and Irish programs, whereby students from Cork teach Irish at UM for a term and attend UM’s School of Law while they clerk in Don’s chambers or in courtrooms of other judges. He is founder of the Judicial Institute with the Federal Court, which gives Montana high school government teachers hands-on exposure to the judicial branch, and has co-taught the Philosophy of Law course at the UM School of Law for more than a decade. Last year, Don was a recipient of the UM Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award.

Keep Us Posted. Send your news to the University of Montana Alumni Association, Brantly Hall, Missoula, MT 59812. Go to www.grizalum.com and click on “Submit a Class Note,” fax your news to 406-243-4467, or call 1-877-UM-ALUMS (877-862-8867). Material in this issue reached our office by July 8, 2013.

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. Whenever you change your mailing address, please contact the alumni office. Let us know where you are and when. Thank you.

1940s

DEAN GALLES ’41, Billings, was honored this year for valor in military service with the Bronze Star and Silver Star for heroism. Dean, age ninety-three, was wounded seventy years ago during World War II and twice again as a captain on Okinawa Island in 1945. U.S. Sen. Jon Tester has read Dean’s story into the official Congressional Record.

EDWARD RUPPEL ’48, Hon.D. ’96, Twin Bridges, is recipient of the Uuno Sahinen Silver Medallion from the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology at Montana Tech. After retiring from the U.S. Geological Survey in 1986, Ed served as director of MBMG and was the
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state geologist of Montana. He continues to conduct field geological research across the country.

1950s


IVAN O’NEIL ’50, Kalispell, was honored by Pro Sales magazine last May with its ranking of the top 100 building material retailers in the U.S. Ivan is chairman and co-founder of Western Building Center.


1960s

VIRGINIA EGGERT ’60, Port Isabel, Texas, was May’s featured artist, along with her husband, Roger Theriault, for the Laguna Madre Art Gallery in Port Isabel. She earned her doctorate from the University of Arizona, and studied under Walter Hook, Peter Voulkos, and Rudy Auto while at UM.

LYLE GLASCOCK ’62, Augusta, Ga., appeared in Augusta Magazine’s June-July issue, along with his wife, Shirley. The couple retired from professions in hospital pharmacy and public health service seventeen years ago. After retiring, Lyle dedicated sixty hours a week to Habitat for Humanity and now volunteers as a docent at the Augusta Museum of History. With Shirley, he gives historical driving tours of Augusta and volunteers with the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Augusta.

FRANK WALSH ’62, M.A. ’72, J.D. ’75, Austin, Texas, an associate professor at Texas State University-San Marcos, recently returned from teaching a semester at Kookmin University in Seoul, South Korea.

JANE VAN DYK ’64, Billings, retired as associate vice president and director of services for academic success at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, where she worked for twenty-three years. Jane earned her doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Wisconsin, worked for the CIA for three years, and was director of institutional research at Eastern Montana College, now Montana State University-Billings. In her retirement, she plans to pursue her lifelong passion for music.

DON FAST ’66, Glasgow, serves as chairman of the U.S. Grains Council, a nonprofit organization that promotes the use of U.S. barley, corn, sorghum, and related products worldwide. After graduating with a degree in business from UM, Don attended the U.S. Army Officers’ Candidate School in Maryland. He received the Bronze Star for meritorious service during Vietnam. In 2004, he received the Outstanding Agriculture Leadership award from Montana State University. Don and his wife, Sheila, farm seed, raise sheep, and have two sons.

C.B. MCNEIL, J.D. ’66, Polson, retires this September after nearly thirty years as Lake County district judge. C.B. has presided over 27,015 cases during his career. In 1984, after more than eighteen years of private practice, he was elected as the first judge of the newly created Twentieth Judicial District.

SID HOWARD ’67, Midwest City, Okla., a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force, recently finished a rewarding school year working as substitute teacher, volunteer cafeteria dishwasher, and playground recess monitor at St. Philip Neri Catholic School, where his grandson Nick made fifth-grade principal’s honor roll.

LARRY BRUCE ’70, Circle, was reunited this summer with seven of his Alpha Tau Omega fraternity brothers at their old fraternity house, which was cut in half in 1989 and moved across the river to Front Street, where it is now Goldsmith’s Bed and Breakfast. Larry writes, “Many of us had not seen each other since the spring of 1969, when graduation sent these Alpha Tau Omega fraternity members off to war or out into the world. We found ourselves visiting on the same porch where we first became friends and fraternity brothers all those years ago. We remembered with love and sadness Class of ’69 brothers LeRoy Fasching and Del Strommen. LeRoy died on a battlefield in Vietnam, and Del was killed in a ranch accident. Later we took a walking tour of the UM campus and all still believe it is one of the prettiest campuses in America. On Saturday night we had a barbecue. It certainly was an emotional, happy, and rewarding weekend. We hated to see it end but already have plans for a bigger reunion next year when we hope to get ATOs from the ’60s and ’70s. Those interested can e-mail Rick Harden at rickharden@optimum.net or Larry Bruce at nibby@midrivers.com.”

LORNA THACKERAY ’74, Billings, retired after nearly thirty-six years with the Billings Gazette. Lorna also served as editor of the Hardin Herald [now the Big Horn County News] for three years after graduation.

DENNIS T. MURPHY ’75, Missoula, retired this summer after more than...

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
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is the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from Flathead Valley Community College. Previously, Rick was both circulation director and advertising director at the Daily Inter Lake and publisher of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle and the Idaho Press-Tribune.

CARL RUMMEL ’76, Missoula, was named Mitch Reed Volunteer of the Year by the Montana Credit Union Network. Carl has been an active member of the Missoula Federal Credit Union for the past thirty-three years and a volunteer for the past decade.

DAVID ALLAN CATES ’79, M.F.A. ’92, Missoula, won the Gold Medal for Best Fiction in the 2013 Independent Publisher Book Awards for his fourth novel, Ben Armstrong’s Strange Trip Home. David is married to ROSALIE SHEEHY CATES ’79.

COLEEN MCGUIRE ’79, Columbus, Ohio, retired Army brigadier general, has been appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Defense to the Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel. This congressionally mandated panel will conduct independent reviews and assessments of the systems used to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate crimes involving adult sexual assault in the military. Colleen, a member of the UMAA Board of Directors, is executive director of the Delta Gamma Fraternity and was a recipient of UM’s Distinguished Alumni Award in 2010.

DEBRA MCKINNEY ’79, Palmer, Alaska, a freelance writer, recently published BEYOND THE BEAR: How I Learned to Live and Love Again after Being Blinded by a Bear, co-written with Dan Bigley. Debra has won numerous awards as a writer for the Anchorage Daily News and was part of a team of reporters that won a Pulitzer Prize in 1989.

1980s

LAURIE BLAUNER, M.F.A. ’80, Seattle, recently published her third novel, The Bohemians, a jazz-age story.

CORINNE CRAIGHEAD BUTCHER ’80, Pasco, Wash., and her husband, Brett, were recognized at the Vintiques Northwest Nationals Rod Run in Yakima for excellent research and restoration work on their 1937 Chevy Suburban. While rebuilding the car, they found writing in it that linked it to a Denver hospital, the past director of which, now in his nineties, had written a book featuring the original car on its cover. The Butchers are planning a trip to Denver to show him the refurbished Chevy.

LISA CASSUN EILERS ’80, Jupiter, Fla., has been promoted to director of operations South Florida for Ferrellgas. Previously, Lisa served as the South East Florida general manager for the company.

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Homecoming is an amazing time on the UM campus. Autumn semester is in full gear for students, alumni are returning to visit, and our beautiful Montana summer has faded into the vibrant colors of fall. It’s a wonderful time of transition and change at the University.

Just as seasons change every year on campus, the UM Alumni Association also undergoes change—in our programming, our membership, and our services. In 2013-14, you’ll see even more changes in our organization. During the past year, the association has embarked on an aggressive strategic plan to guide its work.

Here’s what you’ll see:

• Student enrichment: Alumni involvement in guest lectures, participation in the Global Leadership Initiative, student recruitment, career mentoring, and hiring of UM grads.

• Advocacy: Development of a legislative strategy and reliance on alumni to actively participate in engaging legislators on issues that are important to the success of the University.

• Connectivity: Improved identification of groups and affiliations alumni had while on campus and developing easy and valuable connections between members of these groups through social media and events.

• Continued programming: Ongoing support and development of events and activities such as Homecoming, reunions, Griz-Cat viewing parties, and numerous alumni events in communities throughout the country.

• Funding: Critical to our long-term success, we will continue to identify viable funding streams that allow us to do the valuable work identified in our strategic plan.

We want these efforts to have a significant impact on new grads, “seasoned” alumni, and current and future students. Our efforts can be successful only with your support—through your active involvement as well as your financial support. You’ll be hearing from us on both fronts as we embark on this journey to better meet the needs of an active alumni base that is eager to be part of the University community, whether in Missoula, Chicago, or somewhere around the world.

Our mission is to “create and sustain meaningful and lifelong connections between alumni and friends of the University of Montana and each other.” We hope you will continue to stay connected to the University and engage in some of these additional opportunities for involvement.

For more information on our strategic plan, I encourage you to visit www.grizalum.com.

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**Avenue Q**
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY ROBERT LOPEZ AND JEFF MARX
BOOK BY JEFF WHITTY
MONTANA THEATRE
OCTOBER 1-5 AND 8-12

**Distracted**
BY LISA LOOMER
MASQUER THEATRE
OCTOBER 22-26 AND 29-NOVEMBER 2

**Angels in America: Millennium Approaches**
BY TONY KUSHNER
MONTANA THEATRE
NOVEMBER 19-23 AND DECEMBER 3-7

MONTANA REPÉRTORY THEATRE PRESENTS
**The Miracle Worker**
BY WILLIAM GIBSON
MONTANA THEATRE
JANUARY 25, 30, FEBRUARY 1 AND 6-8

**Book of Days**
BY LANFORD WILSON
MASQUER THEATRE
MARCH 4-8 AND 11-15

**Dance in Concert**
MONTANA THEATRE
MARCH 19-22

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
MONTANA THEATRE
APRIL 29-MAY 3 AND 6-10

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

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www.montanarep.org
LEAH JOKI '80, Missoula, recently published her book, *Julliard to Jail*, about her eighteen years working as an artist facilitator in prisons.

KEVIN MAYER '82, Sidney, Richland Federal Credit Union manager, recently was appointed to the Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council with the Federal Reserve.

Bank of Minneapolis.

He also was named Montana Credit Union Network Professional of the Year for 2013.

GLENN FELTHAM '83, M.B.A. '83, Edmonton, Alberta, has been appointed a member of the Standards Council of Canada. Glenn, who holds a doctorate from the University of Waterloo's School of Accounting and Finance and a law degree from Queen's University, is president and CEO of the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

BOWEN LARSEN '83, Phoenix, is director of public information for Peoria, Ariz. He oversees the Office of Communications, which includes public information, web services, graphic design, and the city's government television station. Bowen previously was the director of public relations for Banner Thunderbird Medical Center in Glendale, Ariz.

JAMES L. WEINBERG '83, Cleveland, Ohio, was recognized this year by *Chambers USA* for exceptional performance in the field of intellectual property law. James is a partner in Ulmer & Berne, which was named a leading law firm for the eleventh consecutive year by *Chambers USA*.

KAYE EBELT '84, Missoula, was one of twenty-seven distinguished educators nationwide selected for the 2013-14 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program by the Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education. Kaye, a teacher at Target Range School in Missoula, will serve at the National Science Foundation's Directorate for Engineering, Civil, Mechanical, and Manufacturing Innovation.

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APPOINTEES

TIM FOX '81, J.D. '87, Clancy, is Montana's attorney general. While attending UM's School of Law, Tim was an Erasmus scholar and was the magister of Phi Delta Phi legal fraternity. He was a three-time Big Sky Conference track and field champion and a member of the UM Alumni Association House of Delegates. As attorney general, he appointed several UM alums to key positions at the Montana Department of Justice.

MARK MATTIOU '81, J.D. '85, Helena, is chief deputy attorney general. After working as a prosecutor and in private practice, Mark served as an assistant attorney general under former attorneys General Joe Mazurek, Mike McGrath, and Steve Bullock. He is a Supreme Court Fellow for the National Association of Attorneys General in Washington, D.C.

JON BENNION '01, J.D. '05, Clancy, is deputy attorney general and legislative liaison. In 2004, Jon wrote *Big Sky Politics*. In 2006, he joined the Montana Chamber of Commerce staff as government relations director, where he also served as a staff attorney. In 2009, he was appointed to serve on the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission.

CORY SWANSON, J.D. '04, Helena, is deputy attorney general. Cory came to the Attorney General's Office from Anderson, Baker, and Swanson, PLLC, where his practice focused on federal and state environmental law. Cory is a major in the Montana National Guard, where he served on two deployments to Iraq.

RICK ASK '78, M.P.A. '88, Helena, is the Gambling Control Division administrator. Rick has been with the Gambling Control Division at the Montana Department of Justice since its inception in 1989, serving under Marc Racicot, Joe Mazurek, Mike McGrath, and Steve Bullock, who appointed Rick administrator in 2008. Previously he served as the division's operations chief.

CHRISTI JACOBSEN, M.P.A. '00, Helena, is the Central Services Division administrator. Before joining the Montana Department of Justice, Christi was the administrator of Central Services at the Office of the State Auditor, a budget analyst in the Montana Department of Justice, a financial manager for the Secretary of State's Office, and an executive budget analyst under former Governors Judy Martz and Brian Schweitzer.

BRENDA NORDLUND, J.D. '81, Helena, is the Motor Vehicle Division administrator. Brenda has worked at the Montana Department of Justice since 1993, beginning as assistant attorney general, where her primary assignment was to provide legal support to the Motor Vehicle Division. Bullock appointed her administrator of the Motor Vehicle Division in 2009.
River access for all units
Secure entry and underground parking
Private patios and decks
Forced air & A/C in each unit
Elevator access to all levels
Walk-in closets with every bedroom
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1 bedroom units: 1,079-1,384 sq. ft.
2 bedroom units: 1,369-1,542 sq. ft.

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Eric Sprunk is the new COO at Nike.

Division during the upcoming academic year. **DANNY S. PARKER, M.S. ’84, and his wife, LISA SHEPPERD, M.S. ’85, of Cocoa Beach, Fla., are recipients of Brevard County’s inaugural sustainability award for their retrofitted, zero-energy, 1950s-era home. Danny, a principal research scientist with the Florida Solar Energy Center, holds several patents associated with innovative energy-efficiency technologies.**

**JEFF BLANCHARD ’86, Deming, Wash., is the new vice president of quality and medical staff services for PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center and vice president of quality for PeaceHealth’s Northwest Network.**

**MARK MEYER, J.D. ’86, Great Falls, is the new head basketball coach for Great Falls Central Catholic High School. Mark is an attorney with Ugrin, Alexander, Zadick, & Higgins law firm and is married to ANDREA BEDDES MEYER ’86, a teacher at Great Falls High.**

**MATT REDINGER ’86, M.A. ’88, Billings, is the new vice provost for academic affairs at MSU-Billings. A professor in MSU-B’s history department since 1996, Matt earned his doctorate in philosophy from the University of Washington. He lives in Billings with his wife, ANN CONRAD REDINGER ’87.**

**SARA ROBITAILLE SEXTE ’86, J.D. ’89, Great Falls, is the new city attorney for Great Falls. Sara has practiced law for more than twenty years, most recently with the firm of Marra, Sexte, Evenson, & Bell. She is a UM track hall of fame inductee.**

**ERIK SPRUNK ’86, Portland, Ore., is the new COO at Nike, leading all manufacturing, sourcing, IT, and procurement. Previously, Eric was the executive vice president of merchandising and product for the company.**

**1990s**

**ZAN BOCKES, M.F.A. ’90, Missoula, recently published her first collection of poems, Caught in Passing. Zan has had four nominations for the Pushcart Prize and numerous publications of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. She lives in Missoula with her husband, Mike Kincaid, and works as a residential sanitation specialist.**

**SHERYL TESKE ’90, Jonesboro, Ga., is the grants coordinator for the juvenile court of Clayton, Ga. Sheryl also is the architect of the Clayton County System of Care, which recently was awarded a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant.**

**STEFANI GRAY HICSWA ’91, Powell, Wyo., is the new president of Northwest College in Powell. Stefani previously was president of Miles Community College in Miles City. She and her husband, Scott, have two sons.**

**SETH KANTNER ’91, Kandahar, Alaska, has published his third book, a memoir titled Shopping for Porcupine. Author of the bestselling novel Ordinary Wolves, Seth is a commercial fisherman, writer, and wildlife photographer. He was nominated for the position of Alaska state writer laureate in 2006.**

**PETER W. FONG, M.F.A. ’92, Pray, recently published his first novel, Principles of Navigation.**

For more details, call the Office of Alumni Relations, 877-UM-ALUMS, or visit www.grizalumni.com.
SEPTEMBER 29 THRU OCTOBER 5

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Pep Rally
Lighting of the M
Fireworks
Distinguished Alumni Awards
Parade
TV Tailgate
Griz vs. Portland State
All-Alumni Social and Dance

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NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

The following alumni and friends made a
committment to the future of the UM Alumni
Association by becoming lifetime members. You can
join them by calling 877-862-8867 or by visiting our
thanks them for their support. This list includes all
new lifetime members through July 16, 2013.

Charles Abell ’63, Whitefish
Laura Brehm, Missoula
Michael J. Burke ’94, Lake Oswego, OR
Lonnie Dale ’68, J.D. ’71, Missoula
Pamela Dale ’68, M.Ed. ’79, Missoula
Sherry Green ’81, Santa Fe, NM
Gary Kaiser ’92, M.B.A. ’99, Chicago, IL
Jay Kettering ’82, Missoula
Andrew Norman Larson ’97, Missoula
Ryan Maxwell ’13, Missoula
Will McCall ’12, Missoula
Luann Moriarty ’60, Bigfork
Michelle Morley ’98, Anaconda
Randy Mostad ’83, Billings
David Strobel, Ph.D. ’72, Missoula
Sue Talbot, M.A. ’80, Hon.D. ’13, Missoula
John Talbot, Hon.D. ’13, Missoula
Wes Temby ’03, San Rafael, CA
Wayne Tinkle ’89, Missoula
Gary Toepke ’86, Fort Collins, CO
Roy Trenoweth ’65, Carson City, NV
Theresa Vonada ’87, Helena
William Walter ’78, Tarrytown, NY

honors program. He lives in Missoula with his
wife, MARGARET GRANT
SCOTT, M.Ed. ’76, who

teaches at Lewis and Clark
Elementary.

JANISSE RAY, M.F.A. ’97,
Reidsville, Ga., published
her fifth book of creative
nonfiction, The Seed
Underground: A Growing
Revolution to Save Food.
Author of five books of
literary nonfiction and a

ARTS COUNCIL in 1993 and
was the Moran artist-in-
residence at Yellowstone
National Park in 2004. He
works as a freelance editor
and a fly-fishing guide.
Pete also is editor for
the Systemic Initiative for
Montana Mathematics and
Science, a National Science
Foundation-funded project.
JOHN F. HARRISON ’92,
M.P.A. ’98, Woodland
Park, Colo., a U.S. Army
colonel, is chief of the
Force Management
Division, Directorate of
Operations for North
American Aerospace
Defense Command and
U.S. Northern Command
at Peterson Air Force Base.
John was commissioned
second lieutenant through
the ROTC program at
UM in 1989. He has
participated in airborne
operations in six countries
and represented the U.S.
in international military
biathlon ski competitions
in Europe. He has deployed
to sixteen countries in
Asia, Europe, and Africa,
including Operation Iraqi
Freedom. John lives in
Colorado with his wife,
Mary, and three children.

DAVID W. SCOTT, Ed.D
’95, Missoula, has been
awarded professor emeritus
distinction at Flathead
Valley Community College
in Kalispell. David taught
religion, education, and
philosophy in the school’s

in the Mercer Island
High School band
director, was recognized for his
inspirational teaching
and dedicated leadership.
While a graduate student
at UM, he was assistant
director of the Grizzly
Marching Band.

NILS MICHALS, M.F.A.
’00, Boulder, Colo., was
awarded the 2012 May
Sarton New Hampshire
prize for his second book
of poems, Come Down to
Earth, which was published
this summer by Bauhan
Publishing.

DANNY JASON GALLEGOS
’01, Honolulu, recently
earned his master of
science degree at Hawaii
Pacific University and is IT
manager for the Anthology
Marketing Group.

BROCK SUNDERLAND
CREMER ’03, Billings, is
senior editor of Magic
Magazine, which recently
won the Best Magazine
in Montana award from
the Montana Newspaper
Association. After earning a
master’s in public relations
from MSU-Billings and
teaching courses there,
Brittany was hired as a
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marketing specialist for the Billings Gazette. She currently serves as the newspaper’s “Your Home” editor. Married in 2010, Brittany and her husband have twin boys.

Marilyn serves as associate director of UM’s Institute for Educational Research and Service and director of the National Native Children’s Trauma Center.

Molly Murphy Adams ’04, Tulsa, Okla., is the 2013 Elizabeth Rabendall Artist in Residence at the University of Nebraska’s Great Plains Art Museum. Her exhibit, Relative Position: The Sculptural Beadwork of Molly Murphy Adams, will become part of the museum’s permanent collection.

Emily von Jentzen, J.D. ’09, Kalispell, plans to break the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame record by swimming the seventy-mile Canyon Ferry Lake near Helena. Her swim will raise funds for a two-year-old boy who needs a service dog. Emily is the first woman and third person ever to swim the length of Flathead Lake and the first person to swim Lake Chelan, a fifty-five-mile distance. Together with Katie Schulz, Emily created Enduring Waves, a nonprofit organization benefitting children in need. She is one of five attorneys in Montana who work in the Department of Justice’s Child Protection Unit.

Jason Corbally ’04, Missoula, is president of Edulog, an education logistics software company based in Missoula. Jason began working with the company in 2004 while pursuing his accounting degree and quickly rose to managing the company’s 1,200 nationwide school districts.

Justin Kraske ’04, J.D. ’07, Helena, is the new chief legal counsel for the Montana Public Service Commission. Justin will supervise the commission’s three full-time attorneys and the agency’s consumer assistance staff.

Nathan Arthur Olson ’04, Galena, Alaska, is the new wildlife biologist and pilot at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. His interests include big-game management, predator-prey relationships, human-wildlife interactions in the urban environment, and wildlife habitat-use patterns.

Eliza Suzukovich III, M.A. ’08, Ph.D. ’11, Chicago, is the urban ecology coordinator for the American Indian Center of Chicago and currently does postdoctorate work in psychology at Northwestern University. He is an expert on Native Americans’ use of indigenous plants.

John M. Van Atta ’05, Billings, joined the firm of Patten, Peterman, Bekkedahl, & Green. John, who earned his law degree from the University of California Hastings College of Law in 2008, previously interned with the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, the California attorney general’s office, the U.S. attorney general’s office, and the Montana Supreme Court.

Bethann G. Merkle ’07, Quebec City, received the Quebec Community Newspaper Association’s 2012 award for outstanding photojournalism and numerous awards for content published in the Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph, which is North America’s oldest newspaper. Bethann founded her own communications consulting agency, Communicate Naturally, and is a writer and photographer focused on sustainability and ecology. Her work can be found at www.fruitrootleaf.com. Her husband, Jerod Merkle, M.S. ’11, is pursuing a doctorate in biology at the Université Laval, Quebec.

Joseph Montalban ’08, Missoula, is the new vice president of business development for Mountainview Energy.

Sara Campbell ’09, Billings, is the girls’ soccer coach at Billings Central High School. Sara, who graduated from UM with high honors and was an All-Big Sky Conference selection, has played professionally both in the U.S. and abroad.

Molly Rivkin ’09, Naples, Idaho, is a Peace Corps member serving in central Ukraine. With the title of youth development volunteer, Molly works in a small village leading after-school programs, teaching English, healthy lifestyle classes, and sports.

Sara Campbell is the girls’ soccer coach at Billings Central High School. ’09
2010s

DUSTIN AHRENS ’10, Shelby, is the new CEO of Liberty Medical Center in Chester. Dustin was named 2013 outstanding graduate student in the College of Allied Health Professions at MSU-Billings, where he earned his master’s in health administration. He married HALEY CARROLL ’11 in July.

EMILY GRASLIE ’11, Chicago, is the first-ever chief curiosity correspondent for the Chicago Field Museum. Emily, who stars in her popular online video show, The Brain Scoop, will produce about fifty Field Museum Brain Scoop episodes per year with her co-writer, Michael Aranda. Her show may be viewed at www.youtube.com/thebrainscoop.

BRYAN WALDHAUSER ’11, M.B.A. ’12, Billings, is the newest account executive at AlphaGraphics of Billings. Bryan, who earned two All-Big Sky Conference selections as a defensive tackle for the Grizzlies, most recently worked for the Union Pacific branch of Wells Fargo in Missoula.

KADIE ZIMMERMAN ’11, Kalispell, illustrated a children’s book, Have You Ever Seen a Bear with a Purple Smile?, which was released this past spring. ABE SCHMIDT ’12, Anchorage, Alaska, is a geologist in the Earth Sciences Department of R&M Consultants in Anchorage. Before joining R&M, Abe was an intern for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, where he conducted trail work and restoration projects.

MADYSON LYNETTE VERSTEEG ’12, Billings, is a Montana FoodCorps member since 2012. Madyson works mainly with the Middle Ground program, which provides kids with art, music, and sustainable farming education. She also runs a weekly class on gardening and healthy eating with the Salvation Army in Billings. She has worked with agriculture and earth science classes in local schools and advised a rural school on building and maintaining a garden.

TRAVIS VINCENT ’12, Missoula, will travel to Krasnodar, Russia, on a Fulbright Scholarship this year. Travis, who earned bachelor’s degrees in economics and Russian at UM, will conduct research at Kuban State University on the integration of the region’s many ethnic groups into local politics and policy in the past decade.

1930s

Emmett Earl Carey ’31, Greensboro, NC
Dorothy Elizabeth Ritter Hanford ’37, Ranchello, CA
Bergit Skifton Kammerloh Trautz ’37, White Bear Lake, MN
Mary Elizabeth Leichner Vanderslice ’38, Long Beach, CA
Alberta Ann “Ann Robinson” Kartyn ’39, Alexandria, VA
Walter P. Coombs ’39, J.D. ’41, Pomona, CA

1940s

Madge Scott van Adelsberg ’40, Los Angeles
Paul E. Neff ’40, Palm Desert, CA
Robert F. Swanberg ’40, Helena
J. Carter Williams ’40, J.D. ’42, Great Falls
Jean Margaret Krebsbach Beam’an ’41, Martinez, CA
Roberta L. Myrick Smith-Kossin ’41, Seattle
John Thomas “Jack” Wiegenstein ’41, Seattle
Edith A. “Edie” Larner Holte ’42, Outlook
Elise Sally Fellows Engstrom Kassner ’42, Beaverton, OR
Margaret J. “Peggy” Kitt Clapper Schrader ’43, Bloomington, MN
Irving C. Pearson ’44, J.D. ’48, Concord, CA
Lorraine Louise Mannix Midlyng ’46, Missoula
Richard Daniel “Dick” Auger ’47, Cary, NC
Jean Livdahl Cohen ’47, Hemet, CA
Mary Lou Ross Pfahl Countryman ‘47, Bozeman
Mary Jane “M.J.” Lindstrom McMullen ’48, Corvallis
Joseph Irl Salstrom ’48, Chey Chase, MD
James R. “J.R.” “Bits” Stephenson ’48, Missoula
Charles James Johnson ’49, Spokane, WA
Donald Elliot “Don” Olsson Sr., J.D. ’49, Ronan
Daniel John “Danny” Sullivan ’49, Helena
Amos Walter Svensenunger ’49, Kalispell

1950s

Janet Isabel Curry Scott ’50, Baker City, OR
Barbara Dockery Temper ’50, M.B.A. ’76, J.D. ’86, Polson
Robert Wilton “Bob” Williams ’50, Missoula
Robert “Bob” Wheeler Woolley ’50, Big Timber
Everett Calvin Chaffin ’51, M.Ed. ’57, San Diego, CA
John Neil Dahlstrom ’51, M.F.A. ’54, Missoula
William J. Dickinson ’51, Pickford, MI
Bayard R. “Bob” Van Giesen ’51, Missoula
Darrell V. Hoover ’51, Glendive
Duane Richard “Dick” Barness ’52, Cody, WY
Nathalie McGregor Pattison ’52, Helena
Frances Loretta “Fran” “Francie” Hagan Chaffin ’54, San Diego, CA
James Rocco “Jim” Durado ’56, Kalispell
Walter Lewis Fey ’56, Great Falls
Kay F. Newlin ’56, Flagstaff, AZ
Ronald George “Ron” Brockway ’57, Anchorage, AK
Arnold Victor “Arnie” Kober ’57, Missoula
Laurene M. “Larry” Walker Murphy ’57, Bigfork
David Lee Seitz ’57, Coeur d’Alene, ID
Christine D. “Chris” Fairbanks Aman ’58, San Jose, CA
Lyle W. Carter Sr. ’58, Great Falls
Margaret J. “Peggy” MacIver Stelling Gaddow ’59, Missoula
Donald L. “Don” Oliver ’58, Missoula
Floyd G. Nollmeyer ’59, Wilsall

1960s

Duane Francois “French” Bassuer ’60, M.S. ’68, Ephrata, WA
John Harold “Jack” Gardner ’61, Horseshoe Bay, TX
Betty Lee Chappell Garrison ’61, Eureka
Patricia Jane Johnson ’61, Laurel
Gary Lin “Dub” Kennedy ’61, Billings
Duane R. “Dewey” Lange ’61, East Helena
Earl E. Morgenroth ’61, Missoula
Kenneth L. “Ken” Wersland ’61, Ronan
Edna Merle Linderman Bond ’62, Missoula
Thomas Henry “Tom” Laurent, M.S. ’62, Douglas, AK
James Bernard “Jim” O’Brien ’62, Vancouver, WA
Thomas Franklin “Tom” Walker Ill ’62, Ph.D. ’74, Great Falls
Chester Bryan “Chet” Loveland ’63, Discovery Bay, CA
David F. “Dave” Matti ’63, Stevensville
Sterling McDonald Wetzsteon ’63, Thousand Oaks, CA
Ralph M. Conrad ’64, M.S. ’64, Middleburg, PA
William Thomas “Bill” Stack ’64, Missoula
Bernice Walden Jensen ’65, Missoula
Leona Marjie Wilber King ’65, Scottsdale, AZ
Gerald E. “Jerry” Domagala ’66, Arvada, CO
Helen M. Miller Spriggs ’66, Albuquerque, NM

ABOUT ALUMNI //
2010s

Timothy A. "Tim" Maloney '11, Missoula College, Ronan
James Michael "Mick" Janzer '12, Missoula
Kaitlin Anne Kenney '12, Englewood, CO

FRIENDS

Michael J. Albert, Great Falls
Delores Imogene Derden Baker, Great Falls
Barbara F. Battin, Billings
Dorothy Virginia Beardmore, Ramsey, MN
Donald L. "Don" Beaver, Coeur d'Alene, ID
Paul C. Beckstrom, Whitefish
Sharon A. "Shari" Bellingham, Bella, FL
Thelma A. Berntson, Glandive
Evelyn M. Cook Bouchard, Portland, OR
Andrew McIntosh "Andy" Boyack, Roehl Park, CA
Dorothy J. Boyer, Rockford, IL
Barbara Larkin Buentemeier, Columbus Falls
Opie W. "Buzz" Campbell, Missoula
Myrt R. "Myrt" Charney, Missoula
Sara Jane "Sallie" Murphy Sheridan Corette, Missoula
Theresa K. Corra, Missoula
Shirley Cowan, Deer Lodge
Lawrence Boyd "Larry" Cozzens, Billings
Marilyn "Mike" Cregg, Missoula
Montana Gale Doolin-Deise, Great Falls
Colleen H. Fahey Derry, East Wenatchee, WA
Leroy Edward Dufner, Glendive
Danny "Dan" Dutton, Missoula
Margaret Louise Engberg, Kalispell
Catherine Henriette Bollen Eveningham, Missoula
Robert Patrick "Bob" Farrell, Glasgow
Judith J. Lauchoir Field, Missoula
Benjamin Frederick "Ben" Flagg, Missoula
John Rodney Four Colors Jr., Havre
Jerry Lee Gall, Missoula
William Michael "Bill" Geary, Helena
Margaret E. "Magg" Kirkpatrick Gerlach, Butte
Alma Charlotte Erika Johnson Godtland, Butte
Harriet Welsh Gray, Great Falls
Lawrence Edward "Larry" Gregory, Laurel
Evelyn M. Grinde, Dayton, OH
Fred H. Hager, Nine Mile
Ralph Halverson, Lakeside, CA
Carol Jeanne Harrington, Bellingham, WA
Margaret "Peggy" Draper Hash, Kalispell
Charles "Keith" Henault, Hamilton
Albert John Hendricks, Westland, MI
Amanda Rebecca Ann "Mandy" Henson, Missoula
Robert W. "Bob" Hiatt, Billings
John William "Jack" Hilleboe, Lakeside
Harold "Ed" Hogan, Missoula
Inez Hoopes, Helena
Barbara Ann "Barb" Beier Jackson, Havre
Elizabeth "Betty" Ann Kuse Huseby, Carlton, CA
Hugh Monroe "Buddy" Jackson, Cut Bank
Thomas Michael "Tom" Janzer, Great Falls
Leonette "Ona" Rudel Lodemodt Jaumotte, Choteau
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Margaret Mary Bemis Zahn, Portland, OR

2000s

Casey James Shelden '02, Missoula
Zachariah Lawrence Walker '03, Grand Junction, CO
Julie Elaine Deming '04, '08, Missoula College, Vancouver, WA
Brendan Glenn Reints, M.B.A. '05, Dillon
Timothy Leon "Tom" Kennedy '06, Missoula
Evon Ann Marie Lille '07, Missoula College, Polson
Caitlin Rose Stanich '09, Missoula College, Missoula
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When Emma Bravo Lommasson opened her wedding gift from Mrs. Lennes, she was stunned by what was inside.

“I remember Mrs. Lennes was a short, white-haired lady,” Emma recalls of that day in 1940. “She handed me the box, and I opened it, and I thought I had something from New York City.”

The gift was a beautiful glass serving platter decorated with intricate silver inlays.

“I’d never seen anything like that,” says Emma, who is 101 years young. “She probably paid $25 for it, which was a terrific price in those days.”

Mrs. Lennes was the wife of Professor Nels J. Lennes, the head of UM’s Department of Mathematical Sciences at the time. He built the home at 1325 Gerald Avenue, which is where UM presidents have resided since 1974. Emma was Professor Lennes’s secretary and lived and worked on the second floor of the house.

Emma loved the platter, and put it to use serving many meals over the years. But when she moved into her current apartment, it was put in a drawer and rarely used, if at all. Then one day this past January, an idea popped into her head.

“I thought, ‘That platter belongs somewhere other than in a drawer,’” Emma says. “Then after I met Mary, it all came to me.”

The Mary she is talking about is Mary Engstrom, the wife of UM President Royce Engstrom.

“Mary is the most wonderful young lady in the whole world,” Emma says. “And now with the connection of her living in the house, I decided to give it to her.”

Mary, who met Emma in 2010, is honored to be entrusted with its care. The original plan was for the Engstroms to take it with them when they retire, but Mary believes it should stay in the house.

“I think it’s a beautiful full-circle story,” Mary says. “It’s just so perfectly fitting that a part of Emma’s legacy should reside in the house where she started her career path at UM.”

For those who aren’t familiar with Emma, she’s a UM treasure.

In 1929, she became the first woman from tiny Sand Coulee to attend the University, and she graduated with a math degree in 1933. After a stint as a school teacher, she came back to Missoula in the late 1930s and began working for Professor Lennes, not only as his secretary but also as an instructor. She taught one math course per quarter, and once taught Lennes’s entire course load for a term. She earned her master’s degree in 1939.

She worked in the Office of the Registrar until 1977, when she retired. However, she stayed on as an adviser until 1980. She has known all but four of UM’s seventeen presidents. In 2001, the building formerly known as the Lodge was renamed the Emma B. Lommasson Center, which is an honor she still can’t fathom.

Emma, who playfully calls herself “The Old Lady,” credits her youthful spirit to working with college students all those years. She’ll turn 102 in December, but when talking to her or seeing her stroll down the hall at her apartment building, you’d never guess her age.

“College students are my favorite human beings,” Emma says. “They are what makes me who I am. I worked with twenty-year-olds my whole life, and I forgot to get old. I was a good ol’ mama to all those kids.”

Mary and Emma have become close friends over the past few years.

“It’s just so perfectly fitting that a part of Emma’s legacy should reside in the house where she started her career path at UM.”
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