Montanan, Spring 2017

University of Montana--Missoula

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Songs for Montana
Ambitious music project brings Tim Ryan Rouillier ’87 home

PLAY BALL
Softball squad swings for the fences

UM’s CIRE makes nationwide impact
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ON THE COVER:  
Tim Ryan Rouillier ’87 poses just outside the Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana along Highway 93 in the Mission Valley north of Missoula.  
PHOTO BY TODD GOODRICH

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Circles Never End
BY NATE SCHWEBER '01
Inspired by his home state, “Play Me Montana” brings UM alumnus Tim Ryan Rouillier ‘87 back to where it all began.

It’s A Whole New Ballgame
BY FRITZ NEIGHBOR ’90
Built from scratch just a few seasons ago, the Montana Grizzlies softball team is off to a hot start.

Preserve and Protect
BY ERIKA FREDRICKSON ’01, M.S. ’09
Boosted by a $45 million research award, UM’s Center for Integrated Research on the Environment works with the Army Corps of Engineers to solve problems across the U.S.

The Montana softball team has been a hit at UM and in Missoula. It’s the only Division I program in the state, giving current (and future) Grizzlies the chance to compete at the sport’s highest level.

MONTANAN ONLINE:
Be sure to visit montanan.umt.edu for an extended Q&A with former Griz great and NFL lineman Cory Procter, more photos and exclusive online content.
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UM Regents Professor of Marketing Jakki Mohr sits in her office on the third floor of the Gallagher Business Building. Mohr has taught at UM since 1997.

GOING DOWN IN HISTORY
Once again I find myself learning a great deal from what I read in the Montanan. I was pleased to see Sheila Stearns, wife of fellow Harlowton native Hal Stearns, is the new president. This bit of news apparently escaped The Washington Post. She will do a great job.

And I was especially interested in John Heaney’s article, “The Art of Humor,” about history Professor Harry Fritz. I was a freshman in 1967 and took an early course from Fritz, although I must say he was much more circumspect then. That memory brought to mind a class in Montana history in spring 1969 in which K. Ross Toole received a standing ovation from a mesmerized room of enthralled students.

I had the good fortune to reconnect with Professor Fritz when I served as the federal lead from 2003 to 2005 on the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. It was a talented group of people who assembled for the Bicentennial, led by Stephen Ambrose, Ken Burns and Hal Stearns. By then, Fritz had definitely developed his individual style.

Keep up the good work.

TOM FULTON ’71, M.A. ’73
Alexandria, Virginia

GREAT SHOTS
Wow! Todd Goodrich takes the mundane photo shoot and makes it work with his sharp photographer’s eye.

Looking at Todd’s photos in the Winter 2017 Montanan makes me jealous. He turns a boring grip-and-grin or photo of someone in their classroom or office environment and makes the photo outstanding. One photo that stood out was of UM Regents Professor of Marketing Jakki Mohr. Chaos in that office, but it sure works for Professor Mohr.

Keep it up, Todd!

DAVE GAY
Eureka

LESSONS LEARNED
Just wanted to say I really enjoy the Montanan, especially the Winter issue devoted to teaching.

In the years I studied at UM, I was fortunate to have taken classes in several disciplines including journalism, forestry, social sciences, anthropology/sociology and education. I quickly realized there was certainly no shortage of excellent professors in these and other areas. Regardless of the field or level, teachers in training need high-quality mentors who critique, encourage and inspire them as they learn and develop their skills and methods. In this regard UM excels and always has excelled.

Thanks for another great issue.

JOHN LYLE ’76, ’80
Kaltag, Alaska

SOMETHING IS MISSING
Since graduating from UM in 1956, I have enjoyed reading the Montanan. However, I am bothered by an omission from campus.

Montana and Alaska are the only states with no chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, our national honor society established in 1776.

Yes, I know UM has other honor societies, but none with the vintage and prestige of Phi Beta Kappa. Notice in any obituary, if the deceased was part of this fraternity, it is duly noted among other accomplishments. During his or her lifetime, the same individual had the privilege of belonging to a local chapter wherever he or she lived.

Look at Montana’s neighboring states and their year of establishment of Phi Beta Kappa: University of Idaho, 1926; University of North Dakota, 1914; University of South Dakota, 1926; and University of Wyoming, 1940.

Each year we send intelligent graduates to other states. Among other achievers – no more successful than ours – ex-Montanans go without the Phi Beta Kappa key merely because their home state has not established a chapter. Is this a type of discrimination? Why don’t we remedy it immediately?

A Phi Beta Kappa chapter at UM would have avoided the embarrassment I experienced a couple of years ago. An earnest fundraiser phoned me, and after I made my donation, she asked, “Do you have any questions about the University?” I responded with my perennial, “Does UM have a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa?” She quickly retorted, “No, but we do have Phi Delta Theta.”

Thank you.

RICHARD WOODS ’56
Chicago
Did You Know?
Big Dipper Ice Cream’s story is as sweet as the flavors it scoops up at its landmark location on Missoula’s Higgins Avenue, between the University District and downtown. In 1996, University of Montana alum Charlie Beaton, backed by a business degree, decided to share his love for homemade ice cream with the community. Ever since, those with discriminating taste buds have clustered under Big Dipper’s iconic sign for a taste of his creation. In return, Big Dipper has supported numerous organizations and events, as well as employed UM students working on their own dreams. We hope you enjoy this iconic Montana flavor… and Go Griz!

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The strains of “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” echo through the high-ceilinged room in Schreiber Gymnasium, tucked against Mount Sentinel at the University of Montana. Someone launches a football in the air, and it ricochets off the wall, nearly taking out several crew members. Everyone scurries through their scenes with the occasional, “I’m sorry, line?”

UM’s Montana Repertory Theatre is finally putting together all the scenes of “To Kill a Mockingbird.” Two weeks later, the group of 19 will pile into rental SUVs at 3 a.m. and drive to Seattle, en route to Beijing.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Montana Rep, which began as a professional touring company and has performed everywhere from a gymnasium floor in small-town Plains, Montana, to an old 1,000-seat opera house in Galveston, Texas.

While three members of the tour are big-city professional actors from the Actors’ Equity Association, UM students comprise most of the remaining cast.

“The talent level at the University is so high that we can occasionally find students who will go into the lead and nobody notices,” says artistic director Greg Johnson. “They get the same reviews as the professionals.”

Johnson knows what to look for. He brought two decades of Broadway and off-Broadway experience with him when he came from New York to Montana in 1990. For 27 years, he has assembled casts for the Montana Rep with a full range of talents and ages.

Morgan Solonar, at 20 years old, is the youngest member of the Montana Rep and one of two undergraduates. When Johnson asked her to act in “To Kill a Mockingbird,” Solonar didn’t hesitate.

Working with professional actors has been humbling and invaluable, she says.

Yet the rehearsals are fun and don’t feel like work to her. “When you put all those theater people together, no matter the experience, it’s always hilarious and crazy things always happen,” she says.

Johnson also hand-picked Missoula community member Jeff Medley, 43, who says acting in “To Kill a Mockingbird” has been challenging but fun. He especially likes working with grad students and recent grads.

“I learn something every time,” Medley says. “Even though I didn’t go to school for it.”

While in China, the group will perform five times: twice at a high school, once at a university and two more times in the smaller inland town of Chongqing. Side-panels displaying Chinese characters will explain the scenes, although most audience members will be proficient in English.

Johnson, who also is a UM faculty member, says touring is always a great way for students to learn about the professional world.

“It’s fun for me because I get to see them grow up as students, and I get to send them on the road and watch them flourish and blossom as really strong professional actors,” he says. “I’m in a great position for happiness and satisfaction.”
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THE PRESIDENT’S PERSPECTIVE

GREETINGS FROM THE PITCHER’S MOUND!

There’s a long-standing ritual in Major League Baseball: America’s president throwing out the ceremonial first pitch on Opening Day. President William Howard Taft, donning a very official silk hat, initiated the tradition in 1910 in front of 12,000 fans – a record turnout attributed at least in part to that ceremonial pitch. Fast-forward more than a century: In a more modest capacity as president of the University of Montana, I had the opportunity to toss out the first pitch during the Big Sky Conference home opener for the Griz softball team.

I’m happy to report that, by all accounts from bystanders, I delivered a strike across home plate. That pitch had nowhere near the speed or precision of Michaela Hood, our incredible true freshman pitcher – who incidentally pitched a shutout the very next day. It feels good to be the first woman president at the University of Montana, I had the opportunity to toss out the first pitch during the Big Sky Conference home opener for the Griz softball team.

Cheering for the Griz softball team is not unlike cheering for this University as a whole. We are a team, each bringing unique talents, overcoming obstacles and the occasional setback to come back to the field the next day to pursue our best performance and, ultimately, in sports parlance, to “get one in the win column.”

Winning abounds at the University of Montana by many metrics. We have dedicated world-renowned faculty who choose UM as the place to expand their research and teach. We have students who are second-to-none in their zest for learning and engagement. We have donors who generously support us with game-changing gifts. We have alumni who represent UM in truly exemplary ways. I am just one of 100,000-plus proud alumni – citizens of Griz Nation – who also has the rare honor to serve as UM president, my ceremonial first pitch will be a favorite memory.

The Montanan recently earned a Grand Gold Award from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education Region VIII. The award goes to the top written piece appearing in a college magazine for the region that includes the Pacific Northwest and western Canada. The award honors a story about UM alumna and Smithsonian bird detective Carla Dove, who studies “snarge” – the remains of birds that collide with aircraft. The story was written by UM journalism graduate Nate Schweber.
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Class, Community and Competition

Grizzly Cup recipients shine as student-athletes

UM’s Sammy Evans and Brandon Gfeller recently were announced as the winners of the Grizzly Cup, which was first awarded in 1921.

Evans, a Havre native, is a standout for UM’s track and field program. Heading into this year’s Big Sky Conference Championships, she had already won five league titles in the jumps – four in the triple, one in the long – and holds three school records. Evans has a 3.08 GPA as a health and human performance major.

After her collegiate track and field career is complete – hopefully not until after she has competed at the NCAA Championships in June – Evans plans on moving to Arizona to pursue a career as a personal trainer and continue competing.

Gfeller, a guard from Colfax, Washington, graduated with a degree in accounting as one of UM’s all-time great three-point shooters, finishing his career with 203 made shots from deep. He also is a four-time Academic All-Big Sky selection. He became the first player in UM basketball history to earn the Allan Nielsen Award – given to the player who best represents Grizzly basketball – for a fourth consecutive year.
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Pearl Jam bassist and UM alum Jeff Ament ’85, right, rocks out during the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, in April. Pearl Jam, one of America’s premier rock bands, was inducted into the hall alongside Tupac Shakur, Yes, ELO, Joan Baez and Journey. Ament, a Big Sandy native who lives in Missoula, gave a potent speech. “Being here with the band, who have become some of my best friends in the process, making music and art, traveling the world, supporting causes and programs together, making small differences, meeting great artists and creative minds all over the world. That’s a pretty great (expletive) life. But the very best part about tonight is that my mom, who gave me the keys to the piano and the arts, and my dad, who taught me about hard work and community, they’re here with my family. Only they know how far it is from Big Sandy, Montana, to the Barclays Center. So, this is for every small-town kid who has a dream.”

WHERE’S YOUR GRIZ BEEN?
Fred Olness ’66 and his wife, Judy, recently returned from a 10-day visit to Cuba, where Fred brought along the Fall 2016 Montanan. “In one of the three cities we visited, Cienfuegos, we enjoyed the outstanding Cantores de Cienfuegos Choir, who talked about their travels to other countries,” Fred says. “The U.S. trip they told us about just happened to be to Missoula, where they performed at UM.”

Congratulations, Fred! You have won a $50 gift card for The Bookstore at UM.

Do you have a photo of yourself wearing Griz gear (or reading your Montanan) 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.
Katie Barnes, a second-year culinary arts student at Missoula College, earned a silver medal at the American Culinary Federation's Student Chef of the Year competition in February. Barnes competed among 10 other semifinalists from colleges across the region for the title in Joliet, Illinois. She prepared deep-fried malasada with milk-chocolate ganache, blood-orange caramel sauce, caramel iced-banana slices, macadamia nut pineapple ice cream, macadamia tuile and candied cilantro leaf.

Wildest Weapons
UM biology professor stars in BBC’s ‘Natural World’

The research and discoveries of UM biology Professor Doug Emlen are the focus of an hourlong BBC documentary titled “Nature’s Wildest Weapons: Horns, Tusks and Antlers.” The program is part of BBC’s longest-running wildlife series, “Natural World.” It premiered in April on BBC2.

It was inspired by Emlen’s 2014 book, “Animal Weapons: The Evolution of Battle.” The UM researcher has spent 30 years investigating how weapon-bearing species developed extreme ways to gouge and gore one another using their natural weapons. The documentary explores how animal arms races may relate to their human equivalents – all the way up to nuclear warheads.

Featured subjects in the film include Darwin’s and rhinoceros beetles, which have pitchfork-like horns that measure one-third the length of their bodies; American elk, who deplete their skeletons to grow enormous antlers; and the U.S. Air Force’s development of the long-range Minuteman III nuclear missile, Earth’s most lethal weapon to date.

Sporting a Griz hat, Emlen takes viewers to various locations in Montana and Washington, including a ranch with elk overlooking Flathead Lake and a building crammed with 17,000 shed antlers called Jim’s Horn House in Three Forks.

The film is directed by Peter Fison and narrated by actress Nina Sosanya.

Emlen says the BBC and the PBS program “NOVA” collaborated to fund production, and that NOVA will air an American version later this year.
In a recent paper published in the journal Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment, UM doctoral candidate Robin Steenweg shows how remote cameras can transform monitoring wildlife and habitat biodiversity worldwide. He and study co-authors, including UM Professors Mark Hebblewhite and Jedediah Brodie, call for a global network of remote cameras. The researchers believe a large-scale, connected network that collects and manages data from remote cameras could help meet goals to conserve wildlife and other natural resources. “There is so much remote-camera data collected out there by both research scientists and citizen scientists, we just need to link it together,” Steenweg says.

Seven students in UM’s Dance Program perform “Peach & Pit,” choreographed by UM sophomore Logan Prichard. The program cemented its reputation as one of the best schools in the nation following an unprecedented showing at the recent American College Dance Association Northwest Regional Conference in Eugene, Oregon. UM performed two pieces and was the only university to have both of its submissions selected for the event’s Gala Concert. The conference, which attracts more than 500 students, artists and educators from throughout the West, offers programs a chance to showcase original work and receive constructive feedback from renowned adjudicators.

UM earned recognition while competing with much larger institutions such as the University of Utah, University of Oregon, University of Colorado and Brigham Young University.
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Cory Procter, a former standout offensive lineman for the Montana Grizzlies who had a six-year NFL career, is a mountain of a man. In March, that man became a mountaineer. Procter was part of an expedition of NFL alumni and military veterans who hiked Africa’s Mount Kilimanjaro. Dubbed “Conquering Kili,” the climb is part of the Waterboys Initiative, which is the cornerstone of Super Bowl champion Chris Long’s foundation. The aim is to raise awareness of water scarcity in Tanzania. Procter, who saw action as a true freshman on the Grizzlies’ 2001 national championship squad, now lives in Trophy Club, Texas, with his wife, Megan, and 2-year-old daughter, Grace. He finished his psychology degree at UM in 2014. He recently sat down with the Montanan to discuss the climb, the Cowboys and his newfound passion: speaking.

Negotiate your salary. Grace. He finished his psychology degree at UM in 2014. He recently sat down with the Montanan to discuss the climb, the Cowboys and his newfound passion: speaking.

**Take us through your NFL career.** I signed a free-agent deal with the Detroit Lions in 2005. I didn’t make the team, but they kept me on the practice squad. I wasn’t part of the 53-man roster, and I got practice squad pay, but it was an opportunity to develop as a player. The coach of the Cowboys, Bill Parcells, picked me up in Dallas for the last five games of that season.

**What was your role on the Dallas Cowboys?** I was primarily a backup, and I was on the active roster in ’05, ’06, ’07, ’08 and ’09. My first start was against the Carolina Panthers in 2007. We killed them, and it was awesome. I had a really good game.

**What happened the next couple years?** In 2008, I started 13 games at left guard. It was up and down. That’s when I really got a taste of the politics of the league. They’re always looking for the next best thing. But I was performing pretty well. They were trying to search for reasons to get rid of me, and I wasn’t giving it to them. In 2010, I got cut, and a week later I ended up in Miami. Against Chicago I ruptured my patella tendon. Then it got infected. Five surgeries later, I was out of the league.

**How did you get involved with the Waterboys?** It was through (former NFL player) David Vobora. We got to know each other through our philanthropy work. One day Dave gives me a ring, and he says, ‘Do you want to go conquer Kili?’ And I go, ‘What? You want me to climb a mountain? In Africa? Hell yes! That sounds like an amazing trip.’ It was for a great cause, too. Once I got the OK from my wife, I was all in.

**Tell us about the trip.** We went in March on a 10-day trip. The first couple days we met with the Tanzanian people and the Maasai Tribe. We also visited some water sites. One well was already developed, and I saw the impact that it had on the local school. That was amazing to see. There are serious problems stemming from a basic human necessity: water. The need is incredible. Pictures, words and videos can only do so much. When you’re there and see how they live, and see how much joy comes from giving – what that’s doing to save people – that hits you deeply.

**Take us up Mount Kilimanjaro.** It was awesome. It was hard. It was crazy. It was wild. All of the above. Overall, it took six days. On the fourth day, we made it to Kibo Hut, which is basecamp. The plan was to leave at 11 p.m. for the hardest part of the climb. We had three disabled veterans with us: Ivan Castro is fully blind; and Pete and Kirstie Ennis, who are both single-leg amputees – Pete below the knee and Kirstie above the knee. The goal was to get to Uhuru Peak by sunrise. That didn’t happen. It took us 10 hours to get to the top. Elevation sickness is a real deal, and it affects everyone differently. My energy was zapped. My heart was beating fast, it was hard to breathe and we had to stop a ton. My left eye was blurred over, which happens when your brain swells because of the elevation. Blindness is a part of elevation sickness, and I was flirting with it. We snapped pictures, took it all in, and it was amazing. But after that, it was a dead sprint to get down that mountain. I was done.

**What are you up to now?** I’ve been with a beverage company called Kill Cliff for three years now, wearing a lot of different hats. As of late, I’ve also been doing a lot of speaking opportunities, which have ranged from local elementary schools to corporate events. I get a real kick out of speaking and sharing my stories. I’ve worked with All-Pro Dad, which is a faith-based organization that helps families. The coolest one that I had was the Stronger Men’s Conference, which also is faith-based. It was the biggest one I’ve done. About 7,000 people bought tickets before the event, another 1,000 bought tickets at the door. It was powerful. I love that stuff. With a gathering like that, things can really get done.

**Have you wrapped your mind around this experience?** It was special to be a part of such a good group of people. I made some friends for life. It puts a perspective on you that you could be doing more in your own little world to help somebody else. Not just your money, but your time and talents. Now I get to share this story and hopefully inspire people to get involved.

To read an extended interview with Procter, go to montanan.umt.edu.
‘Play Me Montana’ brings Tim Ryan Rouillier ’87 back to where it all began
Sometimes Tim Ryan Rouillier’s dreams bloom like Montana wildflowers. They draw from his roots, and when one blossoms in its bright colors, it usually begets another.

The Montana-native-turned-Nashville star’s grandest dream yet—a musical memoir called “Play Me Montana”—will open at the University of Montana’s Dennison Theatre on June 17. His magnum opus, featuring a sprawling cast, sprouted in his mind in 2010 after another dream he carried with him since his teenage years finally came true: He was asked to join one of his all-time favorite musical groups, Montana’s fabled Mission Mountain Wood Band.

“I get to fulfill a dream of playing with the Wood Band,” Ryan says. “But soon I’m thinking, ‘I want to do something different.’”

That’s when the next dream began to grow.

When he toured with the Mission Mountain Wood Band in 2011, he drove across the state alone to play many of the band’s shows. As his radials beat rhythms on highways, and Montana’s grand geologic melodies played across his windshield, something stirred in his heart. For a reason he could not yet articulate, he began to film scenes of evergreen forests swooping, mountain peaks crescendoing and prairies trilling with blue grasses blown by wild winds.

“He bought a really nice video camera and started recording images of Big Sky Country—some of the incredible sunsets and vistas and dancers at Crow Fair,” says Rob Quist, answering a few nonpolitical questions as he campaigned for the May 25 special election for Montana’s lone seat in the U.S. House. “He gradually developed this idea about doing this musical, and I think it’s going to be the most incredible show that anybody’s ever seen.”

When the tour pulled Ryan north through the Flathead Indian Reservation, under the majestic Mission peaks that inspired the band’s name, the same mountains that had witnessed his own birth in St. Ignatius in 1964, he realized he was being moved by the memory of the man who introduced him to the land: the old Native American fiddle player who drove him across Montana when he was a small boy with a big, flat-top guitar, because their duo could entertain the regulars of any ranch town, reservation village or roadside tavern.

It was his grandfather, Vic Cordier—a tough logger, a tougher judge, a freewheeling fiddler and ace teller of a blue joke. As the miles beat by, Ryan began to dream about how he could honor his grandfather’s spirit. He wanted to do it in front of an audience that spanned the world and while attempting the most ambitious performance of his distinguished career.

“I think, ‘I want to write about our journey together, and I want to write about it at the highest level,’” he says.

“And in my mind, the highest level is symphony.”
PLAY ME MONTANA

Catch “Play Me Montana” at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 17, at the Dennison Theatre on the UM campus. Tickets are available online at http://www.griztix.com or by calling 888-MONTANA or 406-243-4051.

There is a peek into the relationship at the heart of “Play Me Montana” in the first music video by Tim Ryan. (That’s his stage name – a producer couldn’t pronounce Rouillier correctly, so they went with his middle name.) It’s a song called “Dance in Circles,” and the 1990 video is now on YouTube. Vic Cordier starred in it, at his grandson’s insistence. He’s the old fiddle player in the little country band, dressed sharply in a cowboy hat, Coke-bottle glasses and a Kentucky colonel tie. Ryan picks a blonde Telecaster and grins wide. The way the grandson and grandfather relate to each other hints at their deep bond.

“He always explained that his grandpa was his greatest influence – that his grandpa loved music and loved life,” country artist Phil Vassar says from Tennessee.

Vassar had a smash hit in 2006 with a song he co-wrote with Ryan called “Last Day of My Life.” Prior to that, both George Strait and Randy Travis released songs co-written by Ryan.

When Tim Ryan Rouillier turned 7, his grandpa took him on the road. Cordier was half Salish and a quarter each Lakota Sioux and French. He was a descendant of Jocko Finley, for whom Montana’s Jocko Valley is named. His grandmother marched with Chief Charlo from the Bitterroot Valley to the Flathead Indian Reservation in 1891.

After Cordier bore witness to the opening of the Flathead Reservation to settlement by nontribal members in the early 1900s, he worked by turns as a logger, a tribal judge and a town judge in St. Ignatius.

But his passion was entertaining. He taught his grandson the craft the same way he had taught himself: by sticking to what wowed a crowd.

“My grandpa had his own rhythm and tempo,” Ryan says. “He played that fiddle, man, it sounded just like two cats fighting. I wanted in on that fun. He was one of those guys who could walk into a Mormon church and tell an off-color joke, and they’d love him.”

Ryan came of age in the 1970s, riding in his grandpa’s car on long highways to gigs at small-town dances on the Hi-Line, or weddings, family reunions and senior center parties in the Flathead Valley, listening to his grandfather rehearse. Not music, but jokes.

“When I was finally able to make chord structures on guitar, I asked him, ‘How come we play every song in the key of C?’” Ryan says. “He just kind of nonchalantly said, ‘Why should I make life so difficult for us?’ That was kind of his mantra.”
In 1981, Ryan spent his freshman year of college on a football scholarship at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He soothed his homesickness by strumming guitar along to the Mission Mountain Wood Band’s debut record. Then he transferred home to Montana. He played for the Grizzlies’ 1982 Big Sky Conference championship team. But by that time he was focused on his dream of becoming a professional musician. He began to write songs. And he fronted a band called Sugarfoot that played almost every night in front of a full house at a bygone south Missoula bar called Duelin’ Dalton’s Saloon. It was a halcyon era for live country music in western Montana. A special guest at many Sugarfoot shows was Vic Cordier. He kept his habit of upstaging his grandson with a well-timed lewd joke. Thrilled with his local success, Ryan dreamed of taking his talent to a national stage.

In 1987, Ryan married his childhood friend Peggy Jo Burtch, and the next day the newlyweds set off for another verdant river city with a notable country music scene: Nashville. Like a storybook, within months he signed with CBS Records. By the early 1990s, he had multiple hits on the country charts.

He wanted to take a bow back in Montana and show his home state how his dreams had come true. In August 1994, he set up a concert at Joe’s Smoke Ring on Evaro Hill, almost equidistant between Missoula and St. Ignatius. The guest of honor would be his grandfather, Cordier, who was about to turn 92.

The day was warm, and the big crowd in the rodeo grounds was primed. Cordier wore shiny cowboy boots and a bolo tie. He brought people to their feet by stepping to the mic and telling a dirty joke. He lifted his fiddle and sawed the beginning of the song, “The Old Kentucky Waltz,” but a note went sour. He collapsed. By the time Ryan knelt beside him, Cordier was dead.

This dramatic scene was witnessed by another onstage musician, Alex Harvey, co-writer of the classic country song “Delta Dawn.”

“He went out easy as pie, like, ‘I’m going to play one more song with my grandson and see you later,’” Harvey says.

Ryan remembers weeping and cradling his grandfather’s face in his hands onstage. Members of his large extended family stood around him, and they told him that Cordier would want the show go on. Before he stood to sing again, Ryan said one last thing to his grandfather.

“I whispered in his ear,” he says, “‘You had to steal the show from me once again.’”

But the story didn’t end there.

As Ryan composed “Play Me Montana” in Nashville, his wife, Peggy, a 1987 UM finance graduate, insisted that he bring it back where it belonged.

“He really wanted to go back to Montana,” Peggy says, “and give back.”

Ryan reached out to Tom Webster, director of UM’s Dennison Theatre. He asked about working with UM students, giving them the artistic apprenticeship of bringing to life a new show about their state.

“I just thought it was a great idea,” Webster says. “Especially making it UM- and Montana-centric.”

John Driscoll, executive director of the Missoula Symphony Orchestra, also signed on. Ryan played Driscoll some songs he wrote, complete symphonic accompaniments and some of the video he had filmed while on tour with the Mission Mountain Wood Band.

“I was almost in tears at the end,” Driscoll says. “I’m born and raised in Montana, and it just felt like this is the telling of the story of who we are and what Montana is all about.”

The show will take more than 100 people to put on, including the Missoula Symphony Orchestra, the Durglo Salish Drum and Dance Group, choreographers and dancers from Missoula’s Showtime Dance Academy, the N’kwusm children’s choir from Arlee, a Dixieland jazz ensemble, special guests from Nashville, a full stage crew, a camera team and Ryan himself in the role of narrator.

The first time everybody will be in the same room together will be five days before curtain, says Mike Morelli, executive director of UM’s Entertainment Management program.

“That’s a heck of a thing,” he says. “But the students are going to get a real idea of what it’s like to create something from scratch.”

As Ryan’s dream rolls ever closer to reality, he already has begun dreaming anew: about broadcasting “Play Me Montana” across the nation on PBS, then perhaps having a theater troupe take the show on a tour of Europe.

But first must come the premiere. Ryan can’t wait to see many of his former Grizzly teammates, plus coaches, teachers and other cherished friends and family, packed in the theater’s 1,100 seats.

More than that, though, he is excited to spend one more evening making music with one person who will not be there in the flesh, but will be everywhere in spirit.

“He’s going to come to life on that night,” Ryan says. “Everybody’s going to know who he is.”

Tim Ryan Rouillier is ready for his grandfather Vic Cordier to steal the show again.

Nate Schwebel is a freelance journalist who graduated from UM’s School of Journalism in 2001 and lives in Brooklyn. His work appears regularly in The New York Times. He has written for Rolling Stone, Al Jazeera America, Anthony Bourdain’s Explore Parts Unknown, Narratively and Trout. He is the author of ‘Fly Fishing Yellowstone National Park: An Insider’s Guide to the 50 Best Places.” He sings in a band called the New Heathens.
One of Jamie Pinkerton’s first softball recruits at the University of Montana wasn’t much interested in coming to Missoula.

At all.

Bethany Olea spent her first year of college at Arizona Western, which happens to be in the same town – Yuma – where she graduated high school. She was a find: a first-team junior college All-America player in 2014 and a great student. Not all junior college players are so polished. Not all desert-dwellers have the Colorado River running through their town, either.

“She just wanted to stay close to home,” Pinkerton says. “She already had excellent grades in high school and was a (NCAA academic) qualifier. Then I saw her play. I talked her into coming on a visit.”

Olea is but one cog in a UM softball team that sprang out of the South Campus turf and found itself, in just its third year of existence, just one win shy of claiming the Big Sky Conference title.

The program’s genesis traces to May 2011, when the Montana Board of Regents approved an increased student athletic fee to help UM remain in compliance with Title IX gender-equity guidelines. Then it was a matter of choosing a sport.

“Basically they did a needs and abilities assessment to see what would fit the best,” says UM Director of Athletics Kent Haslam. “And it was overwhelmingly softball. Softball was the easy answer, and you can see why.”

The Grizzlies play on a picturesque all-weather field, where 400 to 500 fans overfill the bleachers and drag lawn chairs to spots along the fenceline. It’s a gem, and it has cost $1.2 million so far, all raised through private funds.

“The Grizzlies play on a picturesque all-weather field, where 400 to 500 fans overfill the bleachers and drag lawn chairs to spots along the fenceline. It’s a gem, and it has cost $1.2 million so far, all raised through private funds.

This is a tape-measure shot from that 2014 squad that had one player with D-I experience and a couple handfuls of walk-ons among 15 freshmen.

These Grizzlies are more grizzled, though Olea is the lone senior. A true freshman, Michaela Hood, is the ace of the pitching staff. Among 11 juniors is Delene Colburn, who hit north of .400 (as did Olea) and pounded out 14 homers as the Grizzlies posted a 32-22 regular-season record.

There have been injuries and absences, but the Grizzlies have persevered. Hood, who a year ago played for the Spring Valley High Grizzlies in Las Vegas and followed these Grizzlies on her laptop, is not surprised.

“I kind of saw it coming,” says Hood. “These girls are really good.”

This is the seventh coaching stop for Pinkerton, a 52-year-old who had two stints at his alma mater, the University of Tulsa.

That’s with a late start to the profession. He was an area manager for Coca-Cola when two things – helping coach his sister’s club team and middle-management layoffs at Coke – led to another: a graduate assistant coaching spot at Tulsa. From there he went to Louisiana-Monroe for a season as an assistant, and then spent two years on the staff at the University of Virginia before returning as Tulsa’s head coach in 2001.

He was successful in his four seasons there, which led to Arkansas snapping him up in 2002. Pinkerton’s record wasn’t as sharp with the Razorbacks, though in his last two seasons they made the NCAA Regional – the program’s first and second appearances.

Then the school changed athletic directors, and Pinkerton was on his way out.

“That’s the business side of things,” Pinkerton says. “I have no ill will.”

He came to Missoula after four seasons at Iowa State, and among the things he brought with him was a Cyclone tradition: The players would greet and thank the fans after every game.
It’s now a tradition at UM, too, where one path leads in and out of the ballpark nestled next to Domblaser Stadium. The fans walk through a gauntlet of high-fiving Griz, not all of whom thought this was a great idea at first.

“Especially after a loss,” says Dani Walker, a junior catcher. “Now, if anything, it makes us feel better.”

**Building a program has, despite all his years coaching,** been a new experience for a guy his players call “Pink.”

He’d never held open tryouts before, which he did in the spring and fall of 2014. He could throw a rock in the Sooner State and hit a Division I player – most of his Tulsa teams were made up of Oklahomans – but that was not really possible in Montana.

Pinkerton heard naysayers when he made his first half-dozen signees. Fans pointed out that you needed nine to play, and there were no Montana players.

The following spring, Walker, whose father, Kirk, played basketball for the Griz, joined three other players in the ranks. Growing up in Las Vegas, the younger Walker had been a softball junkie. The Walkers moved to Deer Lodge when Dani was 12, and she had a stellar three-sport career for the Wardens. As soon as Pinkerton’s hiring was announced, she started firing off messages to the coach.

“I just thought it would be cool to play where my dad played and the sport I loved,” she says.

This was also a unique time in that Pinkerton, having scoured JC tournaments and the like in the fall of 2013, hit the high school ranks the following spring. He didn’t have a team to coach and ended up seeing, by his estimation, 80 percent of Montana’s high school programs play.
He can't do that now. He's coaching a team that has won 16, 29 and, as of this writing, 32 games in his three seasons. Instead Pinkerton tries to hit travel tournaments in the summer where players from all over – including Montana – compete.

Does he wish he had Morgan Ray, a recent Frenchtown star who committed to Ohio State before he was hired at UM? Absolutely. It's easy to imagine how the pitcher would have given this fledgling program a boost.

But with the additions of Great Falls’ C.M. Russell High standout Tristin Achenbach and Savanna Voyles, the Griz will have seven Montanans on the 2018 roster. The list also includes Sydney Stites, an outfielder from Bozeman who was the Big Sky’s Freshman of the Year in 2016.

“It’s funny how you get kids in different ways, through contacts over the years,” Pinkerton says.

His recruiting budget doesn’t stretch far, so when one of his former players and a current high school coach in Tulsa recommended someone, Pinkerton took note that he’d recruited four of her players to Arkansas and said, “Sure.”

“He never watched me play,” centerfielder McKenna McGill says. “It was kind of the luck of the draw. I’m pretty blessed.”

Hood grew up in Las Vegas and, like Walker, contacted Pinkerton first.

“I was never a desert person,” Hood says. “And I was a Grizzly in high school – that was really cool to me. And I love the cold.”

The team has made it a tradition to meet and thank the fans after every game.
“She’s one of the few athletes who pursued us,” Pinkerton says. “She wanted something different than the desert life, as she called it. Probably 95 percent of the people who write are not Division I softball players (Pinkerton still cross-references and sees quite a few of them). Then she came to camp and was pretty impressive.”

In May 2014, Pinkerton added two players from a tryout: Madeline Merritt from Illinois and Big Sky High graduate Kelsey Lucostic of Missoula. Lucostic had played a couple years of junior college ball.

Pinkerton added his leadoff hitter, Olea, in the summer, and another tryout landed, among others, Katie Jo Waletsko out of Missoula’s Hellgate High.

Pinkerton has 12 scholarships to divvy up, but didn’t see the point of having to replace 12 or more players at once in 2019. He is trying to split his big junior class into two, recruiting-wise – sign six or seven players for 2018, swelling the roster to a couple dozen or more, and then five or so the next year.

Success has come fast, and it is worth noting that this team is minus Lexie Brenneis, who left the program last May after putting together an All-Big Sky junior season.

Then came St. Paddy’s Day.

Pinkerton was tossed from a loss to Maine in which McGill smashed into the fence. She made the catch but tore her ACL. The Grizzlies lost 7-4 and fell to 10-15.

“She is a pretty critical player,” Walker says of McGill. “Missing her is huge. But Alex Wardlow has stepped in and done a great job. We have a lot of skill on our team. Pink did a good job of getting good, quality softball players. Our practices are well-organized. We get in there and work really hard. We’re all getting more mature, and you see good things happening.”

A couple years ago, Pinkerton held an open dinner that was part fundraiser, part Meet the Grizzlies. He was hoping to cover the cost of pizza, but more than 100 people paid their way and put the event in the black. Some 300 people showed up for the latest dinner. Such good fellowship tends to rub off.

“Even in this rainiest of springs, it’s hard not to see blue skies ahead for Grizzly softball. The stadium will eventually have 600 permanent seats, locker rooms and a press box, and, hopefully, a team with multiple Big Sky titles.

“We became relevant very quick,” Haslam notes. “We knew we had a great coach who had done this kind of thing before. He’s an amazing recruiter who knew what the process was. We still have a lot we want to accomplish. But it’s been a great addition to our community and to our athletic department.”
Boosted by a $45 million research award, UM’s Center for Integrated Research on the Environment works with Army Corps of Engineers to solve problems across the country.

The Oscar-01 Missile Alert Facility is a time capsule straight out of the Cold War. The first time Jeffrey MacDonald stepped into the room 35 feet below Whiteman Air Force Base, he was struck by the vision of artifacts collected over two decades following World War II. On the wall is a Bugs Bunny mural and signatures from past military personnel whose job it was to hole up inside the bunker and be prepared to launch missiles if the base was ever struck. The vault-style door, which would close the occupants inside like they were on a submarine, sports the face of Oscar the Grouch with a flip sign that says “The Grouch is in” or “out.”
"These drawings and graffiti were made to keep up spirits in a place that was very, very grave otherwise," MacDonald says. "Once you start looking, you begin to see this military culture exemplified in their own folk art."

Even the more functional elements of the bunker tell a story. The paint, for instance, is distinctive.

"It’s about as Stanley Kubrick as you can imagine it," MacDonald says. "Picture that palette of sea-foam greens meeting the style of orange that only the ‘60s could produce, all with perforated metal paneling. It puts you there proof-positive as to what was considered taste and fashion of the time."

MacDonald, a UM student pursuing a doctorate in anthropology, was tasked with doing a breakdown of the facility’s rooms and systems, including doors, windows, roofing, insulation and mechanical systems. He and archaeologist Kate McCourt dissected the space down to its components and wrote a report on how to best preserve it.

This preservation work is one of more than a dozen tasks so far that the Army Corps of Engineers has contracted through the University of Montana’s Center for Integrated Research on the Environment, or CIRE (pronounced like “Siri,” Apple’s virtual assistant).

In 2014, the Corps awarded CIRE a $45 million, five-year research cooperative agreement, the largest research award in UM’s history. Over the past three years, researchers across campus – in fields ranging from anthropology to ecology – have used about $15 million of the award to complete 16 major projects on U.S. Air Force bases and ranges nationwide. The research has helped pinpoint important ecological systems and historic/prehistoric sites, making it easier for the military to follow federal regulations for preservation and conservation.

But for CIRE and the bases, it’s not just about following regulations. It’s about preserving the country’s complex heritage for generations to come. Military lands support some of the largest populations of endangered and threatened species in the country. They also are home to cultural remnants, from prehistoric Native American settlements to the first burgeoning industries of early European settlements. In addition, the military history present in buildings and on training grounds is rich with political and social significance. The Oscar-01 Missile Alert Facility, for instance, was the first such bunker to employ all-women, mixed-gender and all-black crews. That story can be documented within the details of the building.

There’s also an economic story there: All parts of the facility – all the equipment, all the building materials, all the textiles – are American made.

"Every single thing," MacDonald says. "It was mind-blowing to see that because it makes you realize how much the American manufacturing juggernaut is gone. That, alone, makes this place interesting and important and something that needs to be interpreted."

When it comes to historic preservation and environmental stewardship, U.S. military bases are not usually what come to mind. Still, if you think about it, it makes sense. The Department of Defense manages 38 million acres of land across the U.S., but bases have a unique quality other agency lands don’t: heavy security. They’re rarely open to the public, and, beyond some testing grounds and facilities, the lands are intact and protected.

"A lot of these places are overseeing a tremendous amount of very wild and natural places," says Ric Hauer, CIRE director and principal investigator. "And from the natural resources perspective, the military base is actually a refuge."

Hauer, a UM professor of ecology, has helped build relationships between the military and the University for decades. He started working with the Army Corps of Engineers in the summer of 1992, serving on the National Science Team that developed wetland assessment procedures for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. He has continued that relationship through CIRE, which works with the Department of Defense to solve problems in the areas of cultural and natural sciences. In 2013, UM competed against multiple universities for the cooperative agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers, and it was one of two institutions selected.

There are some challenges when it comes to sending university researchers onto military bases. By necessity, the military adheres to a chain of command and a strict set of rules, running a tight ship for which projects are mapped out and executed as efficiently as possible. University culture, on the other hand, allows for more flexibility, exploration and questioning of rules. It’s the job of CIRE staff, including Hauer, to ensure the logistics of any task are ironed out ahead of time. It’s also Hauer’s job to help blend university and military cultures as seamlessly as possible.
“Security is a really, really big deal on the bases,” Hauer says. “You can’t be taking pictures of the airplanes no matter how cool they look. It’s more restrictive than the freedom-of-information approach at the university. The military likes very specific time frames on things, so they like their projects to run like Swiss trains.”

At the same time, the confluence of military and university culture creates a powerful complementary relationship. In particular, UM offers a breadth of exploration that other sources of research don’t.

“University researchers are first and foremost interested in doing scholarship,” Hauer says. “Within that scholarship, we do things that are extremely high-end in terms of knowing the kinds of questions to ask and the most contemporary methods on how a project gets executed and results interpreted.”

Two projects CIRE currently is tackling involve asking big questions about bats. While plenty of bat research happens at universities, these projects will look at the impact of military operations on bat populations – especially those that are endangered. So far, CIRE researchers have looked at 14 bases and soon will expand to 48 more across the U.S., from North Dakota to Texas and Cape Cod to California.

Hauer says this kind of project provides the military with a meaningful, in-depth study and researchers with worthwhile experience.

“Learning is not just learning in the classroom – it’s experience,” Hauer says. “It’s expanding one’s knowledge and understanding to actually develop and have a robust career.”

At Avon Park Air Force Range, UM archaeology Professor Douglas MacDonald and other UM researchers found a site where Native Americans lived 11,000 years ago. They carried out several excavations uncovering stone tools, such as fluted projectiles that are uniquely linked to Paleoindians. At a New Jersey Air National Guard base, MacDonald says they discovered collier huts where charcoal producers in the 19th century would spend three or four weeks at a time. The charcoal they made would be used in rum production and hide tanning for leather manufacturing, among other things.

“You’d have people going into the woods of the Pine Barrens and building pit houses and making temporary wood structures that are really hard to find because they’re temporary, and most of them have gone away,” MacDonald says.

Cataloging objects takes different forms, depending on the military base or range. On the Avon Range in Florida, the CIRE crew collected artifacts, analyzed them and then processed them so they could go back to the range for museum use. In other places, like on a base in Nevada, the archaeologists will not be allowed to touch anything. They’ll just be asked to map out the archaeology of the area.

“We have Native American escorts out there who will be helping us see landscape features that we don’t have experience in,” MacDonald says. “And they’d be able to interpret these archeological resources in different ways than we would.

“Pretty much everywhere we’ve gone we’ve found interesting archaeology,” he adds. “It’s been a good experience. You can do a survey and not find anything, so it’s always fun to encounter interesting history and prehistory.”

To compare, the Department of Defense owns only about one-eighth of the land area that the U.S. Forest Service manages, but it supports just as many threatened and endangered species. In 1960, the Sikes Act was created to ensure that wildlife and other natural resources on military lands would be protected and enhanced.

“There is amazing potential on military lands for protecting species and restoring their habitat conditions,” says Cara Nelson, UM associate professor of restoration ecology and CIRE principal investigator. “Military lands include some of the most intact ecosystems that we have in the United States.”

Ecological restoration – repairing degraded ecosystems – has become an increasingly important mission.

“Globally, we spend $3 trillion per year on restoration projects,” Nelson says. “And that is a conservative estimate.”

The problem is, in order to maximize this investment in restoration, there is a need to better integrate science into practice.
“Restoration has an incredible potential to improve both ecological conditions and human well-being,” she says. “But success hinges on using ecologically appropriate methods, which doesn’t always happen.”

Last summer, Florida’s Homestead Air Reserve Base contracted CIRE to survey its land for four species. Two were plants: Carter’s small-flowered flax and the Florida brickell-bush, and two were butterflies: Bartram’s Scrub-hairstreak and Florida Leafwing. They recently were added to the federal endangered species list because their habitat, open pine rockland, occurs at slightly higher elevations than the surrounding wetlands, and over the years it has been developed. This development has been an important factor in the habitat’s demise, but so has fire. Wherever there’s human development, there’s fire suppression, and pine rockland is disturbance-dependent: It needs fire to thrive.

UM student Kenda Herman and research scientist Megan Keville, who both work in Nelson’s Restoration Ecology Lab, are studying some of the last remnant patches of open pine rockland habitat that have been protected at Homestead and the effect of fire exclusion on these habitats. The lab has conducted a series of investigations on the effects of fire suppression on understory plants and ecological communities in western forests. The CIRE project offered the Montana team a new landscape to explore ideas about the influence of fire and its suppression on biodiversity.

“It thought it was really important as a student of ecology to have the opportunity to research a system that was different from ones I am familiar with,” Keville says. “It forced me to look at ecological problems from a bigger picture. I think it’s equipped me to be a better scientist and ecologist.”

In addition, Herman was able to use the opportunity to develop a master’s thesis related to the conservation of pineland croton – the plant that is the host for the two endangered butterflies. These butterflies no longer occur on the base, but by studying the host plant, Herman aims to contribute to the conservation of butterflies. She also experimented with disturbance techniques, namely mowing, to act as a fire surrogate to see if that could help restore the pine rockland habitat.

“We added project elements that would not have been likely with contractors outside of an academic institution,” Nelson says. “In addition to conducting the basic surveys, we also tested the efficacy of the survey methods. In addition, Kenda’s work is using the survey data to predict whether populations of pineland croton will increase or decline over time.

“I think the university can play an important role in developing natural resource monitoring programs for military lands,” she adds. “And that’s super important because of the key role these lands have in conserving biodiversity.”

This summer, several CIRE researchers, including Doug MacDonald and Jeff MacDonald, will travel to Cheyenne Mountain Complex in Colorado Springs. It’s the site of the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) control center, a base that was dug into a granite mountain during the Cold War. They’ll take a look at the historical engineering of the site and provide a preservation assessment.

“Working with CIRE has taken me to some of the most fascinating destinations I have ever seen,” Jeff MacDonald says. “And I’ve worked all over the world. These are, far and away, some of the more incredible resources anywhere.”

Hauer is pleased with the new relationship between UM and the Army Corps of Engineers, and he predicts the number of contracts will continue to increase. For UM, these projects with the Department of Defense will play an important role in staying on the forefront of ecological and anthropological research. UM’s work with the Corps of Engineers, as cooperative partners, will add to the preservation and conservation enterprise in the nation.

“The research we are doing is important for both cultural and natural resources,” Hauer says. “In the area of cultural resources, it helps the federal government – who is actually us – as a nation, maintain our cultural heritage. In the area of natural resources, it helps us maintain our natural heritage, from endangered species to forest management. What we do in these realms is good for us, but also really good for the country.”

Erika Fredrickson is the arts editor at the Missoula Independent. She graduated from UM’s Creative Writing Program in 1999 and received a master’s degree in environmental studies in 2009.
An exceptional math and science student at Hellgate High School, Kit Fieldhouse had his pick of colleges. He chose the University of Montana.

As a high school senior, he took a physics class with UM professor Dan Reisenfeld. Dr. Reisenfeld encouraged him to apply for the Shallenberger Scholarship, an award for incoming physics majors.

The award, along with the exceptional faculty and opportunities in the Physics Department, made the decision to attend UM an easy one.

Private support has not only helped Kit pay tuition, but also helped him focus on his classes.

“I have been able to dig in more with my majors,” he says. “Now I can definitely see myself going to graduate school and pursuing math and physics as a career.”

Donating to a scholarship fund has a direct, personal impact on UM students. Make your impact today.

Make a gift at SupportUM.org/FutureGriz
The Deciding Factor
Recruitment scholarships make all the difference for prospective students

Carly Stinson couldn’t be more satisfied with her decision to attend the University of Montana. As a resource conservation major, she’s found UM to be an excellent place to study hydrology and pursue wilderness studies.

But coming here wasn’t a given.

“I was unsure where I wanted to go to school,” she remembers. “But then I received a recruitment scholarship, which made attending UM the best option financially.”

For Alexandra Schilling, an English education major from Cut Bank, a recruitment scholarship also swayed her decision to attend UM.

“Based on my FAFSA, my only option was to take out unsubsidized loans,” she says. “Being able to come to UM without taking out loans was awesome.”

According to Tom Crady, vice president for enrollment and student affairs, Schilling and Stinson’s stories are not uncommon.

“The cost of higher education has risen faster than inflation,” he explains.

Even with UM’s comparatively low price tag, many families cannot afford to send their kids to college.

With state and federal support declining across the nation, scholarships have become the deciding factor for where many high school students choose to attend college. Awards specifically for incoming freshmen and sophomores give the University an edge over its competition.

These awards close the gap between the cost of attendance and what a family can pay without creating debt. Even a small award shows a prospective student that they are valued, making scholarships one of the most effective recruiting tools out there.

As Crady and his team work hard to streamline recruitment and enrollment efforts, alumni and friends of the University have the opportunity to play a crucial role. Donations in support of recruitment scholarships will have a direct, tangible impact on UM’s efforts to grow enrollment. At the same time, they make a difference in the lives of students like Stinson and Schilling – inspiring new generations of passionate Grizzlies.

“Anytime we can give a scholarship,” Crady says, “it makes a difference.”

Your support could be the deciding factor for a prospective student. Visit SupportUM.org/FutureGriz to invest in recruitment scholarships today.
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After growing up fishing and floating the rivers surrounding Glacier National Park, it’s no surprise that University of Montana alumnae and sisters Hilary Hutcheson ’00, Columbia Falls, and Whitney Milhoan ’03, Bozeman, have turned their passion for casting into meaningful careers.

Following her graduation with a degree in broadcast journalism and stints working in TV news in Missoula and Portland, Oregon, in 2005 Hilary started hosting Trout TV, a 30-minute network program that showcases the beauty and art of fly-fishing from locales across the country. She returned home to Columbia Falls in 2008 and co-founded the outdoor-focused marketing and public relations firm Outside Media, which acquired Trout TV in 2013.

Hilary also works as a professional fly-fisher for some of the top brands in the industry and spends a fair amount of time lobbying for two issues she says are key to her family’s livelihood: public lands and climate change. She has no doubt that her Montana upbringing influenced this current career trajectory.

“Rivers and wild places got into my blood early on, and Montana has everything to do with that,” Hilary says. “Our parents let my brother and sister and I roam pretty freely around the valley, and I quickly became confident on the water and in the mountains. And it’s not just the experiences we had outdoors, it’s also the way our parents raised us to respect and appreciate the resource. They taught us how to take care of the environment, and they taught us that what happens to the Earth happens to us, so we need to treat it the way we want to be treated.”

She stepped away from Outside Media last year to focus more exclusively on the fly-fishing and conservation aspects of her career by opening a full-service fly shop, working as a full-time fly-fishing guide in the summer and speaking, writing and lobbying for conservation issues. She’s also an instructor for Casting for Recovery, the nonprofit her sister leads.

Whitney, who studied sociology at UM, took over as executive director of Casting for Recovery in 2013. The organization provides free fly-fishing retreats across the country, including two in Montana, that promote physical and emotional healing for women with breast cancer.

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,” email alumni@umontana.edu, or call 1-877-UM-ALUMS (877-862-5867). Material in this issue reached our office by March 20, 2017.

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.

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1950s
DON ORLICH '53, Ed.D. '63, Pullman, Wash., co-wrote the 11th edition of the textbook “Teaching Strategies: A Guide to Effective Instruction.” He is a professor emeritus at Washington State University and has published more than 100 professional papers.

1960s
ETHEL MACDONALD '61, M.A. '81, '03, Missoula, was featured on CNN in February for her avid tour-cycling adventures. The former English and French teacher told the network that she has probably covered more than 10,000 miles across Europe and North America since she took up her hobby in 2003. “Usually my trips are close to 1,000 miles in three to four weeks,” MacDonald told CNN. “I’ve been doing it for 13 years, and I’ve done at least one trip a year and often two. It would easily be closer to 13 or 14,000.”

FELICIA HARDISON LONDRÉ ’62, Kansas City, Mo., is a professor of theater at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She was selected as the special guest scholar for the sixth annual Tennessee Williams Institute, an immersive symposium offered during the

ALUMNI EVENTS 2017

MAY
11-13 Montana Treasures Reunion at Commencement
15-24 Alumni Travel: Salute to Spain
24 Griz on Tap: Missoula Alumni Happy Hour

JUNE
3-12 Alumni Travel: Southern Culture & Civil War
21 Griz on Tap: Missoula Alumni Happy Hour

JULY
19 Griz on Tap: Missoula Alumni Happy Hour
27 Annual Flathead Lake alumni gathering, Bigfork

AUGUST
12 Aber Day Reunion Concert, Polson
12-23 Alumni Travel: Regal Routes of Northern Europe
23 Griz on Tap: Missoula Alumni Happy Hour

SEPTEMBER
20 Griz on Tap: Missoula Alumni Happy Hour
30-OCT. 10 Alumni Travel: Coastlines & Capitals of Canada & New England

OCTOBER
8-14 Homecoming
13 Distinguished Alumni Awards
13-14 Class of 1967 gathering
25 Griz on Tap: Missoula Alumni Happy Hour
27-NOV. 7 Alumni Travel: Adriatic Rhapsody

NOVEMBER
18 117th Brawl of the Wild, Bozeman
Griz/Cat watch parties, nationwide

For more details, call the Office of Alumni Relations at 1-877-UM-ALUMS or visit www.grizalum.com.

continued from page 31

“IT seems like a strange combination, but the program makes sense on two levels,” Whitney says. “The motion of fly-casting can be good physical therapy for women who have gone through surgery or radiation as part of their treatment for breast cancer. And, of course, then there are the emotional and psychological benefits. Fly-fishing is truly a practice in meditation and an accessible, authentic way to connect with the natural world.”

Both sisters credit their time at UM for helping them pursue their passions today.

“At UM I learned how to create. I learned how to build things,” Hilary says. “Working through the constructive process from the beginning to end has helped me immensely. It all takes the ability to plan, develop, execute and polish. Learning this process was the most important thing I took away from my education in Missoula.”

“I think UM is unique in its ability to provide such high-quality education in one of the most sought-after outdoor communities in the nation,” Whitney says. “The professors and the administration all appreciate the important role that outdoor adventure plays in the lives of students at UM, and they’ve found a way to encourage balance. This was important for me during my time at UM – I needed a place that would support the ‘work hard, play hard’ mentality that I’d grown up with.”

American, French and Russian theater history. She has published more than 60 scholarly articles, 25 journalistic publications, 100 book and theater reviews and 14 books.

ELIZABETH LOEFFLER RHODS ’65, M.A. ’66, Kennett Square, Penn., is happily retired and living in a continuing care retirement community.

KEITH LAW ’64, Mount Vernon, Ill., played for the Griz basketball team on Dec. 1, 1962, against the University of Kansas Jayhawks in Lawrence. On Dec. 19, 2015, he returned to Lawrence to watch the Griz take on the Jayhawks for the second time. “It was great to have been a part of both University of Montana basketball trips to Kansas,” he writes. “The bad news is we are 0-2.” Keith is pictured here in front of a portrait of James Naismith, the inventor of basketball, which hangs in the Naismith Room in the Allen Fieldhouse on the KU campus.
Honoring the Past  
Shaping the Future  

ALUMNI  
UMAA engages and celebrates our alumni through Homecoming, Griz/Cat watch parties, regional alumni chapters and gatherings, campus reunions, alumni news and awards, and more.

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- Alumni Insider, UMAA’s monthly e-newsletter
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- Home, auto, health, dental, life and even pet insurance through Liberty Mutual®
- Discounts on car rentals through Hertz Car Rental®
- Access to the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, Campus Recreation Center, Grizzly Pool, and Outdoor Program trips, classes and rentals
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• Home, auto, health, dental, life and even pet insurance through Liberty Mutual®
• Discounts on car rentals through Hertz Car Rental®
• Access to the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, Campus Recreation Center, Grizzly Pool, and Outdoor Program trips, classes and rentals
• 20 percent off a purchase during Homecoming Week at The Bookstore at UM

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Honoring the Past
Sheila (MacDonald) Stearns, UM Homecoming Queen, 1967

Shaping the Future
Sheila Stearns, UM President, 2017

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She’s still actively engaged as a Rotarian, serves as president of her residents’ association and sings with Delaware ChoralArts.

1970s

GEORGE VENN
M.F.A. ’70, La Grande, Ore., is an award-winning poet, writer, literary historian, editor, linguist and educator who’s published nearly a dozen works, including his latest, “Beaver’s Fire: A Regional Portfolio (1970-2010).”

SUSAN BALLOU LOHRMEYER ’72, Clarkston, Wash., retired from the Clarkston school district after teaching kindergarten for 24 years.

TOM CORDINGLEY ’73, Helena, received the 2016 David C. Bryant Outstanding Service Award from the American Association of Community Theatre. The award recognizes his three decades of involvement with Helena’s Grandstreet Theatre, including as an actor, technician, board president and managing director.

NANCY WELLS ’73, Norwood, Colo., was selected as the Colorado Science Teacher of the Year for 2016.

JOHN BARKER ’74, Seattle, has designed parks, open-space restoration projects, gardens, playgrounds, trails, multifamily and commercial developments, public streetscapes, neighborhood parks, community plans and waterfront parks all over Washington since establishing his design firm, Barker Landscape Architects, in 1989. In 2011, he started a construction firm, Forrest Gardens, and has since completed millions of dollars’ worth of design and construction in the Seattle area.

MARY FARLAN MURPHY ’75, Gardiner, received both the Montana Preservation Alliance’s 2016 Historic Preservation Excellence Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office’s Preserve Wyoming Award for Lifetime Achievement. ’75

BLAINE ACKLEY ’65 poses in his Griz gear with his wife, Fran Beebe, at Guanahacabibes National Park in the Pinar Del Rios Province at the western tip of Cuba. The couple participated in the Oceanic Society’s SEE Turtles program, a 10-day ecotourism excursion in which they assisted researchers who help green sea turtles lay their eggs.

JOHN WILSON ’66, Hamilton, relocated to the Bitterroot Valley after playing the trumpet in the United States Navy Band and as a freelance musician for 40 years in Washington, D.C. “In 1966, at the age of 21, I left for Washington, D.C., to play trumpet in the United States Navy Band,” he told the Ravalli Republic. “I soon realized that my training and musical experiences in (his hometown of) Great Falls and Missoula were top-notch. I’ve always been grateful for the very talented teachers and musicians who taught me so much.”

NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

The following alumni and friends made a commitment to the future of the UM Alumni Association by becoming lifetime members. The Alumni Association thanks them for their support. You can join them by calling 877-862-5867 or by visiting www.grizalum.com. This list includes all new lifetime members through March 8, 2017.

LARRY ANDERSON ’73, Prescott, AZ
RONALD BROTHERS and VERONICA SALUM, Hamilton
VANESSA M.B.A. ’04 and J. TYLER BUCKLIN M.Ed. ’14, Conrad
SUSAN COLE ’65, Sun City, AZ
JASON DAHL M.B.A. ’10, Fairfield
NANCY ’78 and JOHN EILER ’76, Juneau, AK
LOUIS VOLK ’59, Albuquerque, NM

Mary Farlan Murphy received both the Montana Preservation Alliance’s 2016 Historic Preservation Excellence Award and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office’s Preserve Wyoming Award for Lifetime Achievement. ’75

JOHN BARKER

AboutAlumniJH_ec.indd   37
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**1980s**

**BILL CRAPSER ’80,** Cheyenne, Wyo., is the president of the National Association of State Foresters. Wyoming’s state forester since 2003, Bill has decades of experience with wildfire issues, community forestry, forest stewardship and other matters involving America’s trees and forests. His priority for his year as president will be to promote ways state foresters can work with all entities to improve forest management across federal, state and privately owned lands.

**WILL SILVERMAN ’80,** M.P.A. ’94, Missoula, contributed two poems to a newly published anthology titled “Just a Little More Time: 56 Authors on Love and Loss.” Will attributes his continued love and appreciation of the written word to time spent studying under Richard Hugo at UM.

**RON STIEF ’80,** Washington, D.C., is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and serves as the executive director of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, an interfaith organization of more than 325 religious organizations committed to ending U.S.-sponsored torture. He speaks widely at college campuses, interfaith events and coalition actions to end torture. He has been interviewed by CNN, HuffPost Live, The New York Times, Religion News Service, The Washington Post, National Catholic Reporter and many other national publications.

**RALPH BEER M.F.A. ’81,** Helena, published “Jackson Creek Road,” a collection of essays and short stories about how life in central Montana has changed over the past century. He’s published two other books, “The Blind Corral” and “In These Hills,” and teaches at Carroll College.

**MARK CALHOUN ’85,** Spokane Valley, Wash., was appointed as the Spokane Valley city manager last fall. **ROBERT DUNDAS ’88,** Fresno, Calif., is a professor in the Department of Earth & Environmental Sciences at California State University, Fresno. He has published widely in paleontology, focusing on the study of ice age mammals of North America. During his time at Fresno State, he has brought in $1.8 million in grant and contract funding, with a particular emphasis on support for students’ field work, museum collections-based research and bench science. Robert also serves as the interim dean of the university’s College of Science and Mathematics.

**1990s**

**CURTIS HORTON ’90,** Fort Worth, Texas, conducts Military & First Responder Appreciation Days at Archery Pro Shops in the Fort Worth area. He is one of a handful of people to earn the highest certifications from both the National Field Archery Association and USA Archery. At age 72, he continues to coach and train archery champions.

**THOMAS JONES ’86,** Portland, Ore., celebrated 30 years as a software engineer at the Standard Insurance Co. in Portland. His wife, **BARB BODE JONES ’86,** is going on 16 years as the director/teacher of Dove Christian Preschool in Portland. Their daughter, **MARIAH JONES B.F.A. ’16,** graduated from UM 30 years after her parents and works in Missoula. Their son, Samuel, carries on the Griz tradition as he wraps up his freshman year at UM. The family is pictured here enjoying Family Weekend 2016.

**SETH KANTNER ’91,** Kotzebue, Alaska, published “Swallowed by the Great Land: And Other Dispatches From Alaska’s Frontier,” a collection of essays chronicling life in northwest Alaska. **ED MORGAN M.S. ’91,** Juneau, Alaska, is a regional forester for the Alaska Region of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He is married to **JODI HASTINGS ’90.** **DON GRAVES ’92,** Martinez, Calif., is the program coordinator for Contra Costa County’s Independent Living.
SEVEN UM ALUMNI — HANNAH BISSELL '09, Bigfork; ZAN BOCKES M.F.A. ’90, Missoula; DAVID ALLAN CATES ’79, M.F.A. ’92, Missoula; SALLY COBAU M.F.A. ’96, Dillon; CARLA HOMSTAD ’82, M.A. ’87, Stevensville; KARIN SCHALM M.F.A. ’96, M.A., M.S. ’98, Missoula; and current Montana Poet Laureate MICHAEL EARL CRAIG ’94, M.F.A. ’99, Livingston – are featured in “Poems Across the Big Sky II: An Anthology of Montana Poets,” which is available at select Montana bookstores and on Amazon.

MARTHA WILLIAMS J.D. ’94, Helena, is the new director of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Before Gov. Steve Bullock named her to the post, she taught law courses on the environment, wildlife, public lands and natural resources at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at UM. She previously was the U.S. Department of Interior’s deputy solicitor and before that, an attorney for FWP.

COMMANDER MATTHEW BARR ’96, Arlington, Va., has served in the U.S. Navy for 20 years, which included a tour of duty in Iraq. He has accumulated more than 2,590 flight hours during his career, and he now works at the Pentagon on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations. He’s married to TARA TRUCHOT BARR ’96.

LEON SLATER M.M. ’97, Missoula, was selected to represent Montana in School Band and Orchestra Magazine’s 2016 “50 Directors Who Make a Difference” feature, which highlights music educators from every state. Leon has taught music education for 20 years, including the past eight years as the Hellgate High School band director. He’s also an active trumpeter performer with Salsa Loca, the Big Sky Mudflaps and the Soul City Brass Band.

TREVOR LABOSKI ’98, M.Ed. ’04, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is the director of Mont’Kiara International School. He previously served as executive regional director for Missoula County Public Schools.

BEAR LEVANGIE ’98, Petersham, Mass., is a business development and technical specialist for BioForest Technologies, which specializes in innovative product development and forest protection strategies. An International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist, she’s a strong advocate for women in arboriculture and the co-founder and lead instructor of the Women’s Tree Climbing Workshop.


2000s
CAMERON COLE ’00, South Jordan, Utah, is a wealth adviser for Key Private Bank customers in Utah. He delivers comprehensive, personalized advice to individuals and families to address their wealth planning needs.

BROOKE BROWN M.A. ’01, Campton, N.H., is the Pemigewasset district ranger for the White Mountain National Forest. She has more than 14 years of experience with the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service as an archaeologist and tribal liaison.

SELDEN S. FRISBEE II ’01, Nashville, Tenn., conducts manager due diligence, oversight and reporting, and oversees investment analytics for Diversified Trust’s private equity funds.

CORY MYERS ’01, Sioux Falls, S.D., was promoted to news director of the Argus Leader. He’s worked at the news organization as a photographer, writer and editor for more than a decade.

AARON MURPHY ’01, Washington, D.C., was named U.S. Sen. Jon
Aaron Murphy was named U.S. Sen. Jon Tester's chief of staff in December. ’01

advocate with the Faure Holden law firm. She litigates on behalf of clients throughout Montana in areas such as employment law, insurance defense, premises and products liability, and general civil litigation.

GABE HESS ’03, Denver, is the chief technology officer of Havenly, an online interior design platform that operates a private marketplace of interior designers and facilitates an engaging design process, making beautiful decor convenient and accessible for clients.


CHRISTINA SONSIRE J.D. ’04, Elmira, N.Y., became the first woman soccer player inducted into the Georgetown University Hall of Fame. Sonsiere, now an attorney at the Ziff Law Firm, was a striker and midfielder from 1994 to 1997, team captain and a four-year starter. She graduated as the team’s all-time leader in goals, assists and total points. She’s currently ranked sixth all-time in goals scored at Georgetown, with 26; sixth in assists, with 18; and sixth in points scored, with 70.

SAMANTHA CUMLEY IYENGAR ’05, M.A. ’07, Killfish, N.Y., is a consultant for NERA Economic Consulting in New York City. After earning her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in sociology from UM, she went on to earn a doctorate in criminology from the University of Iowa in 2012. She also worked as an assistant professor at the University of Idaho and the University of Michigan-Flint before assuming her current position.

LUKE SAVAGE J.D. ’05, Sidney, is the Richland County Justice of the Peace.

KYLE SIMPSON ’06, Washington, Penn., is an assistant professor of music at Washington & Jefferson College. He released his first professional studio album, “Something In Between,” last fall with the Kyle Simpson Jazz Collective.

RC CONE ’07, Bend, Ore., co-wrote and directed “The Accord,” a documentary about the turbulent relationship between an Icelandic surfer and the cold North Atlantic wind.

It premiered last May at the Telluride Mountain Film Festival in Colorado. The 18-minute film has earned numerous awards at film festivals across the globe, including the Grand Prize award at the Kendal Mountain Film Festival in England. RC also has worked on adventure documentaries for outdoor companies including Patagonia, Orvis and Howler Bros.

ADAM HAMMATT J.D., M.P.A. ’07, Whitefish, is the new city manager for Whitefish. He returned to his home state with 10 years of experience in local government, most recently serving as village administrator in Kimberly, Wisc.

TYLER HUGGINS ’07, Denver, is the CEO and co-founder of Emergy Labs, a progressive materials company focused on deriving useful porous carbon materials from wastewater sources. In December, he was selected as one of the first innovators to participate in the Chain Reaction Innovations Program.

JOSHUA MEEK ’07, M.S. ’13, Olympia, Wash., is a natural resources specialist for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and provides technical advice to small forest landowners in western Washington. With an academic education that includes degrees in forestry and education, along with his work experience in several other state and federal forestry positions, Josh guides landowners through Washington’s complex rules for harvesting timber, building forest roads, thinning for forest health and wildfire prevention, and other forest work. His dad, JOE ’84, Helena, recently retired from the State of Montana after a career working on groundwater issues for the Department of Environmental Quality. Joe now spends his time fishing, kayaking Montana rivers and supporting backcountry trail crews with his pack stock. Josh’s mom, THERESA ’82 continues to teach second grade in the Helena Public Schools.
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program through the U.S. Department of Energy’s Argonne National Laboratory. Tyler and his business partner have developed a process that uses a biological organism cultivated in brewery wastewater to create the carbon-based materials needed to make energy storage cells, including those used in cars. Their two-year term at Chain Reactions is designed to help them bring this technology to market.

DENICE SWANKE M.P.A. ’07, Healy, Alaska, is the deputy superintendent of Denali National Park and Preserve. She previously served as the superintendent of the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument in southeast Montana.

THERESA WILLIAMS ’07, Missoula, is the coordinator of Reaching Home: Missoula’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, a city-county initiative administered by United Way of Missoula County. Williams, a mental health provider for the Missoula County Detention Facility and Western Montana Mental Health Center, has coordinated the community’s jail diversion program since 2014.

ANN PIERSALL ’08, Bishop, Calif., is the deputy air pollution control officer for the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District. Before joining the agency in 2015, Ann conducted research on glaciology, snow science and water resources in central Asia as a Fulbright scholar. She also worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a field researcher, ski patroller and wilderness ranger.

DANIEL D’ANGELO ’09, Washington, D.C., writes about political and environmental issues for The Huffington Post.

SARAH FITZGERALD M.B.A. ’09, Missoula, is director of the New Market Tax Credit lending program for the Montana & Idaho CDC. She previously worked as a business consultant for new businesses and as an education and community building consultant for nonprofits, as well as a backpacking and river guide and environmental educator.

WAGANESH ZELEKE M.A. ’09, Ed.S. ’10, Ed.D. ’13, Gibsonia, Penn., is an assistant professor in the Department of Counseling, Psychology and Special Education at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. She also has worked as a practicing clinician, consultant and parenting educator with a focus on autism, at-risk children, parenting and international adoption in both her native Ethiopia and the U.S.

ANN PIERSALL ’08, Bishop, Calif., is the deputy air pollution control officer for the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District. Before joining the agency in 2015, Ann conducted research on glaciology, snow science and water resources in central Asia as a Fulbright scholar. She also worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a field researcher, ski patroller and wilderness ranger.

2010s

BRIDGET BAXTER ’10, Missoula, launched Moxie Nosh, which produces nut butters made without added sugars or hydrogenated oils, last April. She teamed up with students in UM’s School of Business Administration to develop a business plan for the almond and cashew butters that are seasoned with coconut oil, salt and spices. Moxie Nosh is available at farmers markets across Montana and in select grocery stores.

KEVIN COTNER ’10, Missoula, is an assistant vice president and commercial loan officer for Stockman Bank Missoula.

His responsibilities include developing and servicing commercial and construction loans, and assisting clients with their lending and credit needs.

MISTY REGO ’10, Clarkston, Wash., published “Fever Dreams,” a collection of short stories, Food, Energy, Water and Ecosystems Resources Research Coordination Network. The project, funded by a $500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, aims to develop a bioscience network of scientists in the United States and Southeast Asia.

MONTANAN SPRING 2017 // 43
Brittany Schroeder scored the first-ever soccer goal in the semi-professional Northwest Premier League. ‘13

dispose of their unwanted electronics, clothes, furniture and other items. Warner publically launched the company in November after securing $1.25 million in venture capital.

KELSEY WANDKE ’12, Helena, joined the Montana Automobile Dealers Association as director of dealer operations after serving 10 years in the U.S. Army, with her most recent duty assignment as a logistics officer at Fort Bragg, N.C.

BERYL CLARK ’13, Seattle, is completing a draft of “Dust Mounthead,” a novel written in verse, as part of a 2016-17 Made at Hugo House fellowship. The novel will explore the relationships in a family unit of religious outsiders, specifically focusing on the young daughter’s point of view in a culture and people whose distance provokes hurt, rebellion and, sometimes, kindness. Hugo House is a nonprofit community writing center named for Richard Hugo, the nationally renowned poet and past professor and director of UMC’s Creative Writing Program.

MICHAEL DAX M.A. ’13, Santa Fe, N.M., is the New Mexico outreach representative for the Defenders of Wildlife national outreach team. He previously worked for the Montana Wilderness Association.

BRITTANY SCHROEDER ’13, Tacoma, Wash., scored the first-ever goal in the semi-professional Northwest Premier League as a member of the South Sound FC women’s soccer team. Brittany, who ran track at UM, also is a graduate student at Seattle University and wants to be a nurse practitioner.

MARA MENAHAN ’15, Washington, D.C., finished serving as the U.S. Botanic Garden's first modern in-house botanical illustrator in March. The Truman Scholar spent the year-and-a-half assignment illustrating the conservatory’s floral diversity, converting sketchbook drawing into watercolor renderings and assembling them into more than 200 plates.

Mara Menahan hand-illustrates the Amorphophallus titanum, commonly known as a corpse flower, at the U.S. Botanic Garden.

For In Memoriam

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

In Memoriam reached our office by March 27, 2017.
Donald G. “Don” Lucas ’56, Polson
John Gilmore Bansch ’57, Indianapolis, IN
Judith Lee “Judy” Weaver Hunter ’57, Great Falls
Richard Curtis “Dick” Lindsay ’57, Kalispell
Marjorie Joan Towell Strauch ’57, Missoula
John Feely Blackwood ’55, J.D. ’58, Whitefish
Robert Bruce Chaney Jr. ’58, M.S. ’60, Missoula
Roy F. “Pete” Nelson ’58, Butte

1960s
Henry E. “Hank” Greit ’60, Dillon
John Michael “Mike” Stubbs ’60, Nashville, TN
Robert Carl “Bob” Werle ’60, Livingston
Michael Robert “Mike” Emerson ’61, Sun City, AZ
Chester Charles “Chet” Joly Jr. ’61, Aberdeen, WA
Jack Howard Silver ’61, Albany, CA
Rodney Hugh “Rod” McKay M.S. ’62, Calgary, AB
George M. Dennison ’62, M.A. ’63, Missoula
Donald Louis “Don” Freter ’63, Dillon
George M. “Sonny” Gratzer ’63, M.F.A. ’76, Missoula

James Forrest “Jim” Jacobsen ’63, Helena
Thomas Andrew “Tom” Olson ’63, Bozeman
Robert Paul “Bob” Robbins Jr. ’65, Missoula
William Lowell “Bill” Wallace ’65, Ephrata, WA
Gerald L. “Jake” Jacobsen ’66, Missoula
Victor Conrad “Vic” Andresen ’67, Bellingham, WA
Jerry Wilson Burns ’67, Polson
Michael Truman “Mike” Greely J.D. ’67, Helena
Gary Lee Hall ’67, Havre
Donald Keith “Don” Klepper ’67, Missoula
Helen Ann Biber ’68, Hamilton
Kathryn Moore “Kitty” Fulton ’68, Missoula
Richard D. Kerstein ’68, M.Ed. ’70, Scobey
Mary Beth “MB” Graesser Percival ’68, Missoula
Joyce Meriman Gale M.A. ’69, Ph.D. ’73, Missoula

1970s
Willard Raymond “Bill” Anderson Ed.D. ’70, Helena
Terry Keil Botsford J.D. ’70, Frenchtown
Richard J. “Rich” Paulson ’70, Parker, CO
Jean Fausett Atthowe ’72, Richland, OR
Arnold Smith “Mike” Brown Ph.D. ’72, Yuma, AZ
John Peter “Dutch” Dillon ’72, Florence
Jack Edward Hihnala ’72, Helena
Michael James “Mike” Lyngholm ’72, Missoula
Daniel Thomas McCarthy J.D. ’72, Anchorage, AK
Stephen Charles “Steve” Kellogg ’73, Great Falls
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Keith Clement Schauf M.Ed. ’79, Ed.D. ’93, Columbia Falls

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Michael Keith “Mike” Porter ’83, Lolo
Daniel Jon “Dan” Hensley ’84, Kalispell
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Tamera LeAnn Sunderland ’97, Coeur d’Alene, ID

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Donald Eugene “Donny” Don Knudt, Missoula
Phyllis “Lynn” Handel Kramer, Helena
Porter “Ray” Krone, Choteau
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Whether you live far away or stayed in Missoula following your time at the University of Montana, Downtown Missoula will always remain part of your collegiate experience. Downtown Missoula is a place to revisit your favorite memories and connect with the Missoula community. Make some new memories in 2017 with these great events hosted by the Downtown Missoula Partnership:

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Missoula is teeming with creative artists gathering inspiration from this beautiful valley. Downtown Missoula’s vibrant art scene owes much to these 3 factors:

1. **Fabulous supporting institutions that reach all levels of interest.** UM’s art department fosters originality. The Zootown Arts & Community Center (ZACC) provides art camps and classes. The Clay Studio provides superior ceramic instruction. Plus we have two world-class art museums--free to the public--to keep us tied to the past and future of art.

2. **Surprisingly contemporary art in our galleries!** Visitors often expect to find only traditional Western art, but Missoula’s exhibits rival those in urban centers. Look to Radius Gallery, Murphy-Jubb Fine Art, LA Design, the Missoula Art Museum, and independent artists contributing to the most dynamic First Friday artwalk in the region.

3. **Cutting edge ceramic arts!** For over 50 years Western Montana has stood as a hot-bed of innovative clay arts. For examples, look to Radius Gallery, which showcases a ceramic artist each month, as well as the Missoula Art Museum and the Clay Studio of Missoula.

In won’t take long to discover Missoula’s happening art scene! Consult Arts Missoula’s digital gallery guide for the latest: [http://www.artsmissoula.org/gallery-guide](http://www.artsmissoula.org/gallery-guide)
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WHO BOOSTED BERTHA?

BY JOHN HEANEY '02

"C'hoppin' Wood and Lookin' Good" was the theme of this year’s centennial Foresters’ Ball at the University of Montana, with hundreds of flannel-clad revelers packing Schreiber Gymnasium on consecutive February nights.

Since the original Lumberjack Dance a century ago, the ball has become one of UM's most celebrated soirees. Its popularity grew so much that the uniquely UM event was featured in Life magazine, and legend has it that Playboy ranked it as one of the top college parties in the nation.

But what keeps folks coming back is a guaranteed good time steeped in long-standing traditions. Forestry students work nearly around the clock the week prior to the ball, transforming the gym into a turn-of-the-century logging town featuring a saloon, general store, jail, chapel and museum.

One ritual in particular leading up to the ball involves the kidnapping of Bertha the moose, who has been called the "First Lady of Forestry." The beloved Forestry Club mascot dates back to September 1926, when the stuffed head was donated by UM biology graduate Carl Schenck. Her antlers were added shortly thereafter, though the date isn't quite clear. Neither is the reason.

Bertha made her first appearance at the ball in 1929 and was a point of pride for forestry school students. But in the 1930s and '40s, Bertha was deemed a hot commodity and was repeatedly stolen by different campus groups, none more successful than UM's law school students. They timed their crime to happen near the ball and demanded ransom for her safe return. This still continues today, and Bertha is given back in time to attend the ball.

Sometimes, however, it's not just law students who boost Bertha. And with the

happened to be his resident assistant, was livid when he found out someone burgled Bertha yet again.

"Looking back I completely understand why," Wells says with a laugh. "He was threatening felony charges because it was worth more than $50. That's when we started feeling the heat."

Now rightfully worried, Wells reached out to a campus policeman he knew fairly well.

"I say, 'I just happen to know some guys who are friends with the guys who might have taken Bertha,'" Wells recalls. "Right then he obviously knew I was involved. He thinks for a minute and says, 'I just happen to know that the front doors to the Forestry Building will be unlocked at the stroke of midnight on

Thursday.' Being a naïve college kid, I ask, 'How do you know that?' He says, 'I just know, Rusty. Trust me.'"

So Wells relayed the message, and the crew decided to bring back Bertha.

"It was a full moon," Wells says. "It's funny the little details that are so clear to this day."

With Bertha under a blanket, they approached the front doors to the Forestry Building. Sure enough, they were unlocked. After struggling a bit getting her inside, they just left her right there, worried that hanging her on the wall might take too long.

"No one ever found out as far as I know," Wells says. "We kept it a secret."

He is reluctant to name the names of his group even all these years later. At his 40th class reunion in 2011, he had the opportunity to tell the story to his classmates, but he decided the time or place wasn't quite right.

So why share it now?

"I figure the statute of limitations is up," Wells says. 
Missoula is a wonderful place to vacation, do business, or simply spend the day while traveling. Treat yourself to accommodations designed to compliment your Missoula experience with a stay at Missoula’s only river-front hotel - The DoubleTree, on the banks of Missoula’s Clark Fork river.

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Meet your friends for lunch, dinner and drinks, at the DoubleTree’s Finn and Porter restaurant overlooking the Clark Fork river. Dine inside or out. Enjoy fine dining – steaks and seafood, complimented with a spectacular wine and cocktail selection, or talk at the bar over fresh oysters, appetizers and gourmet pizza. Schedule private-dining business meetings, banquets or conventions. The DoubleTree and Finn and Porter are Missoula’s most popular meeting place. The perfect way to make your Missoula experience even more wonderful.

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