Rhys McKinstry, a senior from Richland, Washington, graduated from UM this May with bachelor’s degrees in geography and geosciences, as well as a professional certificate in geographic information systems. Attracted to UM for its proximity to skiing, camping and an impressive football team, McKinstry was awarded a Western Undergraduate Exchange Scholarship to attend UM. Looking back on his time at on campus, McKinstry says he treasured the one-on-one attention from professors and the large amount of free tutoring. “I also really enjoyed having geoscience and geography class field trips in beautiful nearby places such as Glacier National Park and the Sapphire mountain range,” he says. McKinstry will begin work as a civil engineering technician at Tetra Tech in Missoula this summer. He eventually plans to pursue a master’s degree in geotechnical engineering and hopes one day to work as a civil engineer for the U.S. Forest Service. “I was really looking forward to walking to class on the Oval on those 70-degree spring days and geoscience field trips,” he says. “I’ll definitely miss my time as a student at UM.”
Dear UM family,

I write to you from Main Hall, during the height of the springtime bloom on campus. The Oval lawn is carpeted in the bright shade of green only western Montana can offer during this time of year.

While all the signs of the season are here, there is one glaringly absent hallmark of our University: students lined up in caps and gowns, preparing to proceed to Commencement and into their futures.

For the nearly 1,900 UM students who were set to attend Commencement this spring, the virus stole a time-honored tradition — a treasured moment that isn’t quite the same when experienced through a screen.

For the rest of our students, staff and faculty, the virus caused an upheaval in their lives and education while they transitioned to remote learning this semester — within a matter of weeks.

Our hearts are with you if you’ve experienced similar distress and loss during the pandemic.

Still, in the face of great challenge (and there have been many before in our 127-year history), Grizzlies rise to the occasion with courage, innovation and selflessness. This issue is full of examples of the undaunted Griz spirit that will help guide our recovery and position our new reality.

Some of these stories include a Regents Professor who stood up his lab to start producing hand sanitizer for local health care workers, donations of equipment and masks made by Missoula College, students choosing to leave programs early to join the health care field, and our own library archivists working with community members to document these historic times.

Especially in difficult times UM is called upon to provide a vision for the future. Impressively, UM was noted for its strengths in health and biomedical sciences, having been awarded more than $12 million in federal funding from the National Institutes of Health to identify a COVID-19 vaccine and create a public health research center.

The generosity of our alumni and friends has reinforced that our commitment to students and their future is stronger than ever. This spring, the Grizzlies gave more than $100,000 to the Emergency Student Support Fund, the UM Food Pantry and other programs that are helping students impacted by the pandemic. Donors were joined by the Associated Students of UM and the Faculty Union, who raised funds and gave of their own resources to help students persist. The UM family is the formidable force behind the most ambitious and successful higher education fundraising campaign in state history. As Campaign Montana nears its conclusion Aug. 31, I am inspired and deeply grateful for your philanthropic support.

While the world adjusts to the unknown, UM will continue to do what it has always done best — deliver on its mission to provide a robust education for the students of tomorrow and reimagining higher education in the 21st century.

As we find our way together in this new reality, I know we share in the conviction that despite what tomorrow brings, we will unite in goodwill and work together for a brighter tomorrow in our state, our country and our world.

Up with Montana,

Seth Bodnar

@SethBodnar
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Do you have a photo of yourself wearing Griz gear in a unique place? If so, send it and a brief description to themontanan@umontana.edu. Winners will see their photo published in the Montanan. To be considered, photos must be in focus with the UM or Griz logo clearly visible. Pictures not selected may be shared on UM social media.

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

University of Montana
April 15 at 8:30 AM

It’s the weekend and warmer weather is slowly arriving in western Montana! If you are out recreating on our public lands, please remember to practice safe physical distancing. And don’t forget your bear spray! Bears are awakening from hibernation and moving about.

University of Montana
April 6 at 11:17 AM

Seems like this bunch in the University district has the whole social distancing thing figured out! 🙋‍♂️

University of Montana
March 20

Look for signs of hope.

Visit www.umt.edu/brand/communications.php and download your favorite UM-themed background.

NEED TO GRIZ-IFY YOUR ZOOM BACKGROUND?
WHERE’S YOUR GRIZ BEEN?

Do you have a photo of yourself wearing Griz gear in a unique place? If so, send it and a brief description to themontanan@umontana.edu.

Winners will see their photo published in the Montanan. To be considered, photos must be in focus with the UM or Griz logo clearly visible. Pictures not selected may be shared on UM social media.

GREAT WALL GRIZ

Three generations of Grizzlies share their Montana pride 50 miles from Beijing, China. Pictured are (front left to right) Patty Holmes Myers ’70, Madison Baroch, UM Davidson Honors College student majoring in elementary education and member of the UM Cheer Squad; and John Baroch ’95. Pictured back are (left to right) Jake Baroch, UM Davidson Honors College student majoring in genetics and evolution; Christine Myers Baroch ’92, and Marcia Holmes Yury ’62.

GRIZ THE WORLD OVER

Diane Williams Rankin ’79 recently visited the Taj Mahal in Agra, India, with her family. On her way home via Paris airport, Rankin heard “Go Griz!” from another Griz-gear wearer, only to board the plane and hear the same thing from a flight attendant, who shared she was a Montana girl.

GRIZ DIG

Chris Unkel ’69, packed his Griz gear on a recent trip to the Gobi Desert, Mongolia, chasing dinosaur fossils in the footsteps of legendary American explorer Roy Chapman Andrews.

GRIZ COWBOY

Nolan Taber, 7, shared his Griz pride while he rode out the coronavirus at his grandparents’ ranch in southwest Montana. Taber fed cows, branded calves, learned to rope and searched for muskrats.

The Montanan would like to thank the following people for recently donating to and supporting the magazine: Ethel Byrnes, Missoula; John and Donna Miller, Chinook; and Matthew and Mary Mulligan, Denver.

LETTERS: The Montanan welcomes letters to the editor. Please sign and include your graduating year or years of attendance, home address and phone number or email address.

Montanan Editor | 203 Brantly Hall | Missoula, MT 59812 | themontanan@umontana.edu
UM RESPONDS AND ADAPTS TO COVID-19 WITH INNOVATION, CREATIVITY AND COMPASSION
Like many other places, the COVID-19 crisis unexpectedly and rapidly tore at the threads of what makes UM so distinctly special. As the pandemic hit UM, within a matter of weeks the University responded with fortitude. Like true Grizzlies, the UM family looked outward to those in need and responded across research, arts, equipment donations, revised programs and other deliverables.

WE’RE PROUD TO SHARE A FEW OF THE MANY WAYS UM PARLEYED A CHALLENGE INTO A FORCE FOR GOOD.

$2.5 Million in NIH Funding to Advance a COVID-19 Vaccine

Researchers in UM’s Center for Translational Medicine were awarded $2.5 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health to identify and advance a COVID-19 vaccine candidate. The principal investigator on the two-year award is Dr. Jay Evans, the center director and a research professor in UM’s Division of Biological Sciences. UM has a world-class vaccine discovery and development team actively working on new or improved vaccines for influenza virus, tuberculosis, whooping cough, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Lyme disease, E. coli and opioid addiction.

“When the call came from NIH in February to shift focus and develop a vaccine against SARS-CoV-2, we quickly adjusted lower priority vaccine projects to focus our efforts on this urgent need,” Evans says. “Our dedicated team of experienced researchers stepped up in the face of school closures, stay-at-home orders and social distancing to rapidly advance this vaccine and continue working on other essential research projects of critical importance to our community and the nation.”

“This award demonstrates the amazing team the University has assembled to advance vaccine development for both COVID-19 and future viruses that will lead to the next pandemic,” said Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for research and creative scholarship. “UM is now a recognized leader in the response to pandemics and other health emergencies through the Center for Translational Medicine, Center for Public Health Research, Center for Biomolecular Structure and Dynamics and numerous faculty across campus.”

$10.75 million grant to fund a Center for Population Health Research Center

The National Institutes of Health awarded the University a five-year $10.75 million grant to establish the Center for Population Health Research (CPHR, pronounced “see-far”). The center will support epidemiological and mathematical modeling approaches to better understand risk and resilience factors for children’s health outcomes. It also will create disease prevention strategies developed for, adapted to and tested in rural communities.

UM Professor Curtis Noonan, director of UM’s Center for Population Health Research.
Campus-made Hand Sanitizer

During normal times, UM Regents Professor Richard Bridges spends his days researching potentially life-saving projects in neuroscience, specifically how and why brain cells die in diseases like Alzheimer’s and ALS. With the arrival of COVID-19, the Cornell-trained biochemist immediately got to work elbow deep in isopropyl alcohol and vegetable glycerin, mixing gallons of hand sanitizer for fire, police and medical personnel around Missoula. Bridges taught himself and students how to produce sanitizer according to CDC recommendations.

Missoula College Preps Students, Donates Equipment

Missoula College rearranged schedules for classes and clinicals to move students into the area health care workforce as rapidly as possible. Many students in the Department of Health Professions, including nursing, respiratory care, medical assisting, surgical technology and radiology technology, completed their coursework and joined the health care field—before graduating. Additionally, MC’s Respiratory Care Program made available four ventilators (used for student training) to area hospitals. The Surgical Technology Program also donated nearly 1,000 masks, gloves and gowns to area health facilities.

UM Provides Emergency Business Assistance

Businesses impacted by COVID-19 had a single point of entry to assistance and expertise, thanks to UM’s new Business Emergency Assistance and Recovery (B.E.A.R.) program, which is powered by several UM programs. Within the first two weeks of its launch, the initiative helped more than 200 businesses through the Missoula Small Business Development Center, also hosted at UM, which helps businesses apply for loans. The Blackstone LaunchPad and Accelerate Montana Rural Innovation Initiative provided coaching to 25 entrepreneurs, as well as hosted live interviews and webinars with business owners, lawyers and other experts to share insights and expertise. UM sectors such as Accelerate Montana, Missoula College and the College of Business also were active with the Missoula County Economic Recovery Taskforce led by the Missoula Economic Partnership.

UM Affiliates Use 3D Printers for Mask Creation

spectrUM and Flathead Lake Biological Station worked to supply medical masks for both Partners in Home Care in Missoula and Kalispell Regional Healthcare. Both UM affiliates used 3-D printers made from a design blueprint from the Montana Mask movement, which provides a free, open-source software file for a plastic, reusable face mask with a replaceable filter. UM’s Innovation Factory also used their equipment for N95 mask decontamination, respirator expansion, design and fabrication and face shield production.

Additionally, spectrUM organized more than 150 Monte Science Kits for families to engage in hands-on science in their homes. Activities included “Bending Water,” “Floating Paperclip” and “Make a Neuron.” The kits were delivered to the Missoula Food Bank and Community Center, where they were added to families’ groceries.
UM Mansfield Library and UM History Department Document the Times

UM’s Mike and Maureen Mansfield Library and the UM History Department partnered with the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, Heritage Missoula and other local businesses to create the “Documenting COVID-19 in Missoula County Community” archive. Knowing there will be an interest in stories and documentation from this historic time, the team of UM faculty and Missoula County employees gathered material proactively and created the archive. The Mansfield Library also built a web submission form for individuals and organizations to submit images, video, personal stories and business continuity plans. Digital and physical contributions to this archive will be maintained by the library’s Archives and Special Collections.

New History Course Developed

Giving new meaning to living through history, UM History Professor Leif Fredrickson developed a new class titled “COVID-19 and History: Disease and Disaster in Perspective.” The class will explore how disease and disaster have shaped our past and present in a new online course offered this summer and fall semester by UM’s Department of History.

Professors Launch Happiness Idea Bank

UM Professors John and Rita Sommers-Flanagan launched “Happy Habits for Hard Times Series: An Idea Bank for Coping with COVID-19.” The series features an eight-module resource that incorporates blog posts, academic material, fun short videos and visual graphics to teach happiness and coping strategies. The classes are free and open to the public. Visit https://coehs.umt.edu/happy_habits_series_2020/.

UM Foundation Launches Emergency Fund for Students, and The Big Give

The UM Office for Student Success and the UM Foundation partnered to launch the UM Emergency Student Support Fund. Grants from the fund are made possible through generous donations from alumni and friends and provide critical aid for enrolled students who face unexpected financial hardship due to the coronavirus outbreak. Donors also joined forces during The Big Give, a two-week spring giving initiative promoted by the UM Foundation to inspire and positively impact students during this challenging time. Donations totaled nearly $100,000, and generous support continues. Additionally, the Associated Students of the UM contributed emergency support for students and the University Faculty Association also created a relief fund for students.
CLOCKING Bells for...

MORE CASH

UM’s Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library zeroed the balance for all UM overdue library fines. The library is no longer charging overdue fines on most books and media, and the library lengthened the checkout time too. UM Undergraduate Services Librarian Megan Stark says the fees created a potential barrier for students and “in the interest of increasing student success, we’re committed to eliminating this barrier.”

TWEETS

Thanks to three generations of UM academics, including UM Professor Erick Green, UM alumni Nora Carlson and Chris Templeton, we have a deeper understanding of bird communication networks and how different species decode and share information. Published in the top science journal Nature, their UM study found that red-breasted nuthatches and black-capped chickadees encode diverse information in their songs. “Everybody is listening to everybody in the woods,” Greene says.

MATH LESSONS

Involving building blocks and a grid system, UM Math Professor Mark Roscoe developed a math lesson for elementary school students called “City of Numbers.” The lesson helps students understand multiplicative structures of whole numbers and their prime factorization in a visual way. The project earned Roscoe a national Rosenthal Prize for Innovation and Inspiration in Math Teaching. “I hope that my contributions to the field will be characterized by moving mathematics instruction toward a future where students experience math as a venue for the expression of creativity, exploration and discovery,” Roscoe says.

VALUE

UM’s bachelor’s program in astronomy was named one of the Top 25 Most Affordable Bachelor’s in Astronomy for 2020 by Great Value Colleges. The ranking placed UM at No. 18 for its affordability, outstanding reputation, faculty excellence and commitment to providing students with a high-quality education. UM astronomy options include a bachelor’s degree in physics with a concentration in astronomy and a minor in astronomy.
UM graduate student Zach Goodwin won the prestigious Arthur B. Robinson Cartography Award for Best Printed Map for his rendering of the Bitterroot River watershed. Goodwin’s map will become part of the permanent collection of the U.S. Library of Congress and will be given to educators as an example of excellence in map design. Goodwin, from Georgia, made the map for his Advanced Cartographic Design, a UM geography class taught by Kevin McManigal. “The mapping award is judged against the best programs in the country,” McManigal says. “There is no higher honor for a student cartographer.”

UM’s School of Social Work launched a 2+2 Bachelor of Social Work Distance Learning program, allowing students from nine community and tribal colleges across Montana to earn their bachelor’s degree in social work from UM. Students also may complete their licensed addiction counselor curriculum and take part in the nationwide Area Health Education Centers Scholars program. “The program provides great opportunities to people in rural areas to complete their education without leaving their own communities,” says Paige Furniss, the program’s UM coordinator.

UM’s School of Theatre and Dance bolstered its standing as one of the nation’s most decorated institutions with an extraordinary showing at the American College Dance Association Northwest Regional Conference in Spokane. A highlight was second-year Master of Fine Arts acting candidate Elijah Fisher’s stunning solo “TIRED | TIRED,” which was selected to represent the entire region at the esteemed National College Dance Festival (which has been canceled due to coronavirus concerns). Fisher’s solo received raves from the adjudicators, who wrote that his piece was “an outstanding, fierce, musical and nuanced performance.”

In its spring enrollment census, UM reported it maintained the number of enrolled students from the fall to spring semester at the highest rate in a decade, a positive indicator for UM officials. “This encouraging retention data for spring suggests that we are on track to see increased retention of first-year students to their sophomore year and beyond,” UM Provost Jon Harbor says.
It was the morning of March 12 in Boise. The Grizzly men’s basketball team was practicing prior to beginning their Big Sky Conference title defense later that evening against Idaho State. The sports landscape across the country was changing rapidly. One-by-one conferences were canceling basketball tournaments, even pulling teams off the floor during a game, because of fears surrounding COVID-19. The wave hit Boise late morning.

In a matter of hours, we went from planning and preparing for an exciting matchup with the upset-minded Bengals from Pocatello, to clearing out hotel rooms, packing up buses and making the drive back to Missoula. Basketball was finished.

By early the next week, competition in the spring sports of outdoor track and field, softball, golf and tennis were abruptly canceled. Student-athletes who had worked hard and prepared for weeks were told to stay out of athletic facilities. Academic offerings moved remote, competition and practice halted, recruiting was suspended, seniors were left wondering what was next. This new normal felt anything but normal.

To say we all felt a bit uneasy is an understatement. However, I am proud of how our coaches, staff and especially our student-athletes adjusted and made the most of a strange and somewhat lonely new normal. We in athletics are gatherers by nature. Being a member of a team becomes an identity, and supporting one another is a common trait.

There are still many unknowns, which requires us to rise to the challenge with flexibility, compassion and grace – qualities that are inherent for Grizzlies.

We will extend season ticket renewal deadlines and are happy to work one-on-one with fans who need extra help. In these troubling times, we must work together with our fans and partners, whose support is unmatched. Your commitment to this University and to Grizzly Athletics is both humbling and inspiring.

I know a few things for certain. First, we will get through this. Second, our student-athletes, coaches and staff will continue working tirelessly representing the best of UM. Finally, during challenging times, the true spirit of the Grizzly emerges. I am honored to be a Grizzly, alongside all of you. May we gather soon.

GO GRIZ!

Kent Haslam
Director of Athletics
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL
MONTANA WINE and BEER FESTIVAL
SEPTEMBER 18, 2020
7-10PM | ADAMS CENTER

GRIZZLTY AUCTION
NOVEMBER 20, 2020 6-10PM | ADAMS CENTER

DONOR IMPACT

$7,412
TUITION FOR A YEAR*

$3,706
TUITION FOR A SEMESTER*

$2,100
ROOM AND BOARD FOR A SEMESTER

$1,400
MEALS FOR A SEMESTER

$800
BOOKS FOR A YEAR

$400
BOOKS FOR A SEMESTER

$84
TWENTY MEALS

$22,258
AVERAGE ANNUAL COST PER IN-STATE SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT-ATHLETE

$42,784
FOR OUT-OF-STATE STUDENT-ATHLETES

64.5%
OF THE 330 MONTANA STUDENT-ATHLETES ARE FROM OUT OF STATE

THE RISING COST
MONTANA ATHLETICS’ ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP COST INCREASED TO $5.34 MILLION IN 2018-19. WHICH REPRESENTS A 22% COST INCREASE SINCE 2015-16.

To learn more and to become a member of the GSA visit upwithmontana.com
Ryan Hansen, UM alumnus and entrepreneur, operates LumenAd, one of the country’s top software companies. He says the journey from UM to recognition in Inc. magazine takes some Montana scrappiness and Grizzly grit.

Entrepreneurship is all Ryan Hansen ’09, M.B.A. ’16, has known. The son of entrepreneurs, he always knew he would follow suit – he just wasn’t sure how it would look.

“The entrepreneurs are the only people who bail on a 40-hour workweek to work 60 hours a week, and there’s no 9-to-5,” he says. “There is no weekend. Your whole life is deeply embedded in your work life, and all the ups and downs with it.”

With experience learning to grow small businesses at Missoula’s nonprofit MoFi and using technology at a GIS-building software company – as well as two UM degrees – Hansen launched his own advertising software company, LumenAd, in 2014.

Now Missoula-based LumenAd has made No. 29 on Inc. magazine’s fastest-growing start-ups list, ranking fourth among North America’s software companies.

Hansen talks about combining expertise and technology in the marketing world and how a UM education can take you far.
What experiences at UM helped you in your entrepreneurial path?
My defining experience at UM circles around the Advocates. I was an Advocate starting my freshman year through my five years. There was about 120 Advocates, and working closely with them helped me realize that people, their learning styles and their communication styles are diverse.

I’m from South Dakota. I went into business school. I had a very singular-focused mind. If you can figure out how to work with people of differing perspectives and values, then you can accomplish a lot.

What do you think makes LumenAd successful and unique?
We’ve always been genuinely focused on solving a problem and creating value. Don’t get hung up on creating a 50-page business plan or perfecting a product right now. Just talk to customers, understand what their problems are, propose a solution and deliver that solution when you say you’re going to do it.

In getting LumenAd off the ground, we were creative, scrappy, critical thinkers, which is a UM and Montana thing. We recognized that there’s a disconnect between the technology and expertise sides of advertising. We have the expertise, and we layered that on top of software we built to help people manage their advertising data and also take action with it – a perspective I haven’t seen elsewhere.

UM was one your first clients. How did you help the University?
UM supported us from day one, and we remember that every day. We helped UM reach prospective students across digital media channels. We layered in new technologies, new forms of media buying and new forms of customization to their advertising. It was a fun project.

Besides 60-hour weeks, what is the most challenging part of being an entrepreneur?
The hardest thing about managing a company that’s growing really fast is whatever you’re doing today is going to be outdated in three months. You’re trying to regularly re-create new things because that customer-contracts template you created two months ago now doesn’t work. How we hired employees six months ago is no longer relevant. It’s exhausting after a while.

How does collaboration play into the culture at LumenAd?
We didn’t have a bunch of seasoned experts who had done this before. All we did was find a bunch of really kick-ass people who were super dedicated and wanted to do cool things, and we figured it out together.

The culture is defined by collaboration. Nobody pretends to have all the right answers, it’s just the best answer wins. I am really proud of that. It allows us to move really fast and value all ideas.

How has COVID-19 affected the way you are operating right now?
We seemingly went overnight from growth mode, execution mode, to hunker-down mode. The advertising business is seeing some pretty significant reductions in demand. We’re weathering the storm and trying to get as lean, efficient and creative as possible to just try to come out the other side of this ready to jump back into growth mode.

Everything’s cyclical. Sometimes you’re going to have great years, and sometimes you’re going to have down years, and 2020 is going to probably be less of an exciting year for us. There are no existential threats to the company; it’s just we’re going to slow down for a little bit.

How has it felt to create and run a successful company?
It’s totally surreal. LumenAd has far exceeded my wildest expectations for what I ever thought possible. To be able to do really cool innovative things in the world of technology and advertising from Missoula, Montana, and work with a bunch of really enjoyable people I consider friends, I just feel unbelievably fortunate.
We’ve got this *new* social distancing thing down...
We've got this new social distancing thing down...
OH, THE HUMANITIES! A BRIEF HISTORY OF EVST

Still deep in the Vietnam War, the U.S. experienced a slew of monumental events in 1970, including the Kent State shootings, the Women’s Strike for Equality march and the occupation of Mount Rushmore by Native American activists. Also that year, Congress created the Environmental Protection Agency, 20 million Americans celebrated the first Earth Day, and, in Missoula, the University of Montana accepted its first graduate students into a new, highly relevant, curiously experimental academic program called environmental studies – EVST for short. That program, now celebrating its 50th anniversary and 1,600 graduates, has gone through a multitude of changes. Still, EVST remains unique: a pro-active educational ecosystem that combines hands-on learning, interdisciplinary academic research, civic engagement, an unwavering attitude toward creative problem-solving and a belief that, with the right tools, a person can change the world for the better.

Ron Erickson, a UM professor of chemistry at the time, was one of the founding members of the program, along with faculty from a wide range of the University’s departments, including economics, geography, geology and biology. Erickson says several factors led him to the conviction that an environmental program at UM was vital. A few years prior to its launch, the Western Montana Scientists Committee for Public Information, a group created by Missoula scientists, doctors and professors, began to speak out about issues like underground nuclear testing and environmental destruction. On campus, those same professors were finding opportunities to collaborate out of passion rather than for pay.

And, the Vietnam War and the environment played heavy on Erickson’s mind. “I basically became radicalized by the war,” he says, “and then made the discovery about environmental issues through people on campus and by reading a lot.”

He also recently had stepped outside of his usual chemistry realm to start teaching classes in UM’s College of Humanities, where he and the students analyzed Kafka and Homer.

“As a chemist it wasn’t obvious to do that, but it sounded interesting,” he says. “What that gave me was some perspective.”

STORY BY ERIKA FREDRICKSON
When the group of faculty came together in January 1970, they had a vision for an environmental studies program that brought humanities and science together. They proposed it to John Stewart, a chemist and the newly appointed dean of the Graduate School, who readily approved it. It was a quick start: They enrolled the first graduate students that fall, and in the first couple years obtained grant money to start an environmental studies library and a lecture series that would bring in renowned speakers from all over the country.

“When we started EVST, we wanted to make a difference, and we knew that any kind of environmental program had to be amazingly cross-disciplinary,” Erickson says. “For myself, what I’m happiest about, is that humanities had to be a part of it.”

This year, in the middle of a massive pandemic, pitted against a federal administration that has systematically stripped away environmental protections and gutted the EPA, the EVST program’s creative approach and philosophy is more vital – and inspiring – than ever.

**HARD-WORKING ROMANTICS**

From the beginning, EVST has been a program that seeks students who aren’t just looking for a job, they’re looking for purpose. It attracts people who have ambitious ideas and aren’t afraid to pursue them.

“These students are bright, eager, idealistic,” says Tom Roy, who became EVST director after Erickson. “They are romantics in the sense that they believe they can make a difference.”

EVST now offers both a graduate and undergraduate degree, plus a minor and certificates taught by award-winning instructors. There are some core classes students take, but beyond that, it’s up to the student how they want to design their education. The Environmental Writing program actually came out of a cohort of students looking to dig into nature writing. Roy recalls setting them up for a self-directed class in 1992, out of which came a magazine, Camas: The Nature of the West, which is still run by EVST students today. Now the writing program has a reading series and the Environmental Writing Institute in which students take classes from top visiting environmental writers – a list that has included David James Duncan and Terry Tempest Williams. Every year, students publish essays and books from the work they do in the writing program.

Students don’t always know what direction EVST will take them. Alumnus David Glaser’s initial pursuit was in stream restoration, but even back then, in 1998, he had a feeling that economic disparity was a hindrance to environmental stewardship. Now, as director of Missoula’s MoFi, he helps provide flexible, responsible capital to people left out of the financial mainstream. As Missoula’s economy struggles during the pandemic, Glaser leans on what he learned in EVST, knowing that how a community and its environment flourishes depends on financial security – and that solutions aren’t always perfectly defined.

He recalls being frustrated getting conflicting feedback on his EVST thesis until his adviser, UM Professor Vicki Watson, told him, “David, it’s your thesis. You know when you’re done.”
“That lesson has parlayed itself very nicely into my professional career,” Glaser says. “You get something as good as it needs to be, but it won’t be perfect, nothing is perfect. And know that you own it. You own the solutions. EVST graduates are tackling all kinds of different societal issues with their background and experience, and I think it’s a real testament that it’s not a program that pigeonholes you.”

Alex Carr Johnson was living a nomadic life when he applied to the program in 2009. He had some background working on conservation projects, but he was interested in pursuing nature writing. During his time in EVST, he took a class with renowned author and visiting writer Rebecca Solnit. But when he received a Wyss Scholarship, which supports students committed to land conservation careers, his dream rerouted. He took classes in environmental law, science and conservation, and after graduation he served as the director of the Western Slope Conservation Center in Colorado and more recently became program director for the National Conservation and Parks Association in Anchorage, Alaska.

His love for writing didn’t go unquenched: A new anthology called “Earthly Love” recently published his essay “How to Queer Ecology,” whose origins were in the EVST writing class. Meanwhile, he’s on the frontlines of a battle for Alaska’s wildest lands. Johnson says the state moved $35 million meant for small- and medium-sized businesses during the pandemic to allow a private international company to build a road through the Western Arctic Corridor where 25,000 caribou migrate each year.

“In exchange for a couple hundred jobs that may or may not be employing people from the region, we are now threatening this living landscape stewarded for time immemorial,” Johnson says. “In less than 40 hours we got 100 Alaskans on the phones opposing it. This work has been wild but so meaningful. And EVST has prepared me for that.”

EVST has been a wildly successful incubator for leaders. In 1993, one EVST student, Bryony Schwan, helped give women activists a voice in the program and, consequently, on a national scale.

The food and agriculture emphasis in EVST is a shining example of the many areas of focus within the program. Hassanein’s classes investigate food systems and explore the intellectual questions around them. Meanwhile, students at the PEAS Farm learn to grow food with sustainable practices, collect data and share it with other agricultural communities and get to be part of their own little community on the farm.

The hands-on work at the PEAS Farm has had to shift in the COVID-19 pandemic, and Stephens says they’ve had to adjust to the change. But it’s also illuminated the way EVST students and faculty respond to crisis. When the Missoula Food Bank and grocery shelves seemed bare, EVST students and faculty were on social media brainstorming ways to get fresh local food to people in the community. That’s just what they do.
women’s rights. The next year Schwan started Women’s Voices for the Earth, an organization that looks at environmental issues through the lens of women’s issues and gives voice to ordinary citizens who have a stake in problems like roadside spraying and mining. Eventually WVE began engaging with national environmental groups around public policy and spearheading campaigns on clean cosmetics and cleaning products. Throughout its lifespan, the organization has been staffed by EVST graduates, including its current director of science and research, Alexandra Gorman Scranton.

“So many of our staff ended up coming from EVST because I would take on interns,” Schwan says. “I never would have started it without EVST. EVST gave me the framework to be able to do it.”

It’s almost a joke among graduates that you can barely take a step in Missoula without running into a former EVST student working on an innovative project or launching a creative business. If it has an air of humanitarian and environmental value, there’s almost always an EVSTer involved. Graduates started Home Resource, Ecology Project International, Lake Missoula Tea Company, Wild Rockies Field Institute and Indigenous Vision. Beyond Missoula, EVSTers have gone on to work for national environmental organizations and National Geographic, and they’ve started highly successful YouTube empires. A lot of times, they’re behind the scenes working on policy or in classrooms, teaching young students to value the delicate balance between nature and society.

“They don’t always get the headlines,” says current EVST director Dan Spencer. “But they are doing that important work below the surface that makes that kind of social change possible.”

“A WHOLE BELT OF KEYS”

The experimental beginning of the EVST program mirrored the raw energy of the early environmental movement. Students floated the river, collecting samples to gauge local water pollution. The program procured equipment for a grad student so he could measure carbon monoxide levels and show a violation of air-quality standards at Malfunction Junction, an infamous, now-rerouted intersection of Missoula’s Brooks Street. Erickson, the director who later served in the Montana Legislature, recalls that one of the program’s co-founders said they were doing “up-against-the-wall ecology,” meaning studies that aimed to fight against ecological destruction.

Missoula had been listed in Time magazine as one of the most polluted valleys in the nation, due to woodsmoke and the pulp mill, so EVST classes focused on subjects like biological effects of air pollution. Students learned the science, policy, history, literature and philosophy around environmental issues. They went out into the community and to the capitol to push for legislative change.

Roy took over the program in 1984 when Erickson went on sabbatical. A professor in the social work department, Roy didn’t have an ecology background – he had history and philosophy degrees and had gone to Harvard for divinity school. But he had a reputation for understanding how to organize and build nonprofits, and he was known for being passionate about social issues. During his
tenure as director, the environmental movement was shifting from Earth First-style tactics to coalition building and collaboration. The idea that stakeholders might work together toward a common goal – even if their ideologies are different – began to take root in the program, too. And Roy got a taste for that shift, firsthand.

In 2003, as the Legislature was wrapping up the state budget, a conservative legislator introduced a bill to defund the environmental studies program. It didn’t pass, but it did concern Roy and other EVST instructors. So much so, in fact, that Roy ended up in a hostile meeting with eight legislators, some lobbyists, UM’s President George Dennison and a facilitator.

Afterward, as Roy sat by himself eating lunch, he met the quiet rancher from Big Timber, Sen. John Esp, who had introduced the bill to cut EVST. Esp said to Roy, “You don’t know what it’s like to live in a rural resource-dependent community.’”

Roy was deflated, but he thought about it and he said, “You know, you’re right. I don’t probably know.” And Esp said, “Why don’t you bring some students to Big Timber.”

That relationship between Esp and the EVST program lasted 10 years, with Roy taking at least a dozen students to Esp’s ranch each year. They toured mines, met with loggers and other ranchers, listened to their stories. The Big Timber trip offered a forum for conversation and a space for everyone to recognize some common ground. One cattle owner who had initially referred to the EVSTers as “eco-terrorists,” eventually told Roy that he looked forward to the EVST students showing up more than almost anything else. “It was the most interesting experience I had in EVST,” Roy says. “It broke down stereotypes.”

Len Broberg, EVST director after Roy, says the program allows for an edgy, experimental approach. In fact, it requires it. When it comes to big problems like land management, food systems and climate change (to name a few), solutions for environmental sustainability can seem mercurial – a moving target.

“You can’t keep using the same key to open all doors,” Broberg says. “You have to have a whole belt of keys. This program gives students the mental flexibility to be able to switch course when something isn’t working and find the right combination that will improve the situation. That’s what a good interdisciplinary, generalist education does. I think that’s the important part of dealing with crisis.”

THE FUTURE

In his environmental classic “Sand County Almanac,” Aldo Leopold wrote, “One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds … An ecologist must either harden his shell and make believe that the consequences of science are none of his business, or he must be the doctor who sees the marks of death in a community that believes itself well and does not want to be told otherwise.”

Earth Day and the EPA came about because the American public finally saw the environmental destruction around them – and they wanted to see it fixed. EVST answered that call to action with a successful program that continues to graduate leaders who, rather than living alone in a world of wounds, are part of a vanguard working toward positive changes together.

The face of EVST continues to change with the times. One of the most recent additions to the program is the Indigenous Knowledge and Environmental Sustainability focus led by Associate Professor Rosalyn LaPier, which combines traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and Western environmental sciences. LaPier helped initiate the first national March for Science and has brought missing pieces of knowledge from indigenous scientists into environmental academia. Souta Calling Last (Blackfeet/Blood), a Roddenberry Fellow, graduated from EVST and founded Indigenous Vision, for which she’s developed interactive mapping and educational tools for virtual reclamation of indigenous land. EVST graduate Hank Green, produces world-renowned environmental education, like “SciShow”, which has 6 million followers. In his bestselling 2018 novel, “An Absolutely
Remarkable Thing,” he thanks the EVST program’s Phil Condon for inspiring him to write.

This spring marks the 12th anniversary of a major environmental restoration event on the outskirts of Missoula – the removal of the Milltown Dam on the Clark Fork and the 100-year accumulation of mining waste that had built up behind it. The removal and restoration of the confluence was spearheaded by the Clark Fork Coalition, a nonprofit directed at the time by an EVST grad Tracy Stone-Manning and staffed by other EVSTers. Professors in the program used the cleanup as an education tool.

UM Professor Emeritus Watson is EVST’s longest serving faculty member (37 years). Hired in 1983, she arrived at UM just as the Clark Fork River Superfund sites were declared and as a large pulp mill near Missoula proposed increasing discharge to the river. She soon recognized that the Clark Fork watershed suffered from many additional problems. Working with hundreds of students over the years, she established the UM Watershed Health Clinic and helped start and sustain many watershed groups that have made great strides in restoring and conserving western Montana’s watershed. Watson and her students also helped develop some of the country’s first water quality standards, and many program alumni now work for government agencies and watershed groups all around the U.S.

Years later, the Clark Fork River has become an artery of Missoula again, and the Milltown Dam area sports a beautiful state park – the ranger, Mike Kustudia, is an EVST grad, of course.

The holistic view that indigenous scientists understood, and the concern Leopold addresses when he talks about the disconnect between ecologists and everyday people, is at the foundation of EVST’s story. The solutions for these issues – dam removal, climate change, the current pandemic – require science and humanities approaches to be successful.

“Science alone cannot convince people to change their habits or to enact policies that require funding and sacrifice,” Watson says. “It requires good communication skills and a knowledge of policy and how to change the system. You need natural and social sciences and all of the humanities to create positive change.”

Brown naively imagined the summit as a place where he could participate in deliberations and make an impact, but he says, it ended up being him in a sea of 30,000 wandering around a convention center. Yet the experience got him thinking about what he could do on a local level. He came back to UM and started meeting with the campus climate group. As a sophomore he put on a convention, and he talked with public officials Montana Gov. Steve Bullock and former U.S. Congressman Ryan Zinke about state level policy. By the time 2014 rolled around, Zach was asked to run for the Legislature.

“There’s a really important place for people who are thinking about massive systems and global cooperation,” he says. “But if I can meet with a senator and build a relationship, that scale of change feels more tangible to me. When I started thinking that way, it became addictive. I don’t need to be the ambassador to the U.N. There are projects everywhere in a community that need people to take them on and make things better. And because EVST was supportive of my endeavors, that gave me an itch for public service that hasn’t worn off yet.”
A RECIPE FOR GOOD

Tobin Miller Shearer parlays the personal and professional into his students and scholarship as a white man directing UM’s African-American Studies department. It’s not easy. But nothing important ever is.

STORY BY NATE SCHWEBER

Each fall, as the air turns crisp as a Bitterroot Valley apple and the maple trees of the University District flash gold, Professor Tobin Miller Shearer takes to his kitchen and bakes his famous pies. One is a chocolate peanut butter pie that tastes like Reese’s Halloween candy. Another is a reverse pumpkin pie with the nutmeg in the crust. Also: salted caramel apple pie, shoofly pie (made with molasses), coconut cream pie, chocolate-jalapeño pie, banana cream pie, blueberry-blackberry-apple pie, chocolate ganache pie, lemon custard pie, sweet potato pie, open-faced apple pie and chocolate malted pecan pie.

The pies are for his students, whom he invites to his house in the Lewis and Clark neighborhood for a sweet celebration. It gives him a self-effacing one-liner.

“Kids take my class because they know they might get a free piece of pie,” laughs Shearer, director of the African-American Studies program at the University of Montana.

Through his teaching and by his example, he has, in his 12 years at UM, changed numerous lives and influenced the culture of the state.

“He doesn’t just teach certain tenets or values, he represents those and follows those in every facet of his life,” says Meshayla Cox, 24, who credits Shearer’s class with her now working for the Montana Racial Equity Project in Bozeman.

She adds, “He’s a great friend, a great mentor and honestly someone that I idolize greatly.”

Shearer, 55, a broad-shouldered man who flashes a gleeful smile beneath a hairstyle that fluctuates between military and Bernie Sanders, says he had a “peripatetic” upbringing. Born in Virginia, he was raised in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, interspersed with stints in Indiana and Ontario, Canada. His father was a Mennonite minister. Mennonites are peaceful Christians with the same Anabaptist roots as the Amish. For college, Shearer went to Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where he met and married his wife, Cheryl.

After graduating, he took a job with the Mennonite Central Committee, moved to New Orleans and worked at a live-in facility for homeless people and ex-offenders. His boss was a black man. That fact alone made Shearer uncomfortable. Six months in, Shearer had reached what he calls “a crisis point.” He recognized it for what it was: racism.

Shearer went to work. He reached out to mentors who helped him through “dealing with that prejudice internally,” he says. He paid close attention to his guidance and to his transformation. His mentors encouraged him to teach what he had learned to other members of the Mennonite community. With colleague Regina Shands Stoltzfus, Shearer co-founded an organization...
“Tobin doesn’t hide from racism, I respect him for it.”

– MURRAY PIERCE
called Damascus Road (now called Roots of Justice). In a nine-year span, they led more than 400 anti-racism trainings.

“One of the things I admire about him is his willingness to do the work,” says Shands Stoltzfus, professor of Peace, Justice and Conflict Studies at Goshen College in Indiana.

Affectionately, she says one of Shearer’s best traits is that he is a “history nerd.” In 2008, Shearer earned a doctorate in history and religion at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. His thesis was on the Mennonite community’s role in America’s civil rights struggle. He then was given an opportunity to move his wife and their two sons to Missoula to lead the African-American Studies program at UM, something he calls a “historic enterprise.”

For a state that reveres pioneers, the influence of African Americans on Montana cannot be overstated. Among the first non-Indigenous people to explore the land was York, one of the elite 33 members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The big game that is modern Montanans’ treasure was shielded from extinction in the late 1800s by African Americans in the Army’s 25th Infantry Regiment, the famous “Buffalo Soldiers” – the original game wardens. In 1885, Mary “Stagecoach” Fields of Great Falls, became the first African-American woman to work for the U.S. Postal Service. All that proud history and more helps explain why, in 1968, UM founded its African-American Studies program, making it the third-oldest in the nation.

Yet Montana today is 89% white and only 0.6% black. That paradox – such rich black history in the nation’s least-black state – rides in Shearer’s classes beside another obvious paradox, which he lays out at the start of every semester. He tells his new students that he is white, and that he knows it. Also that he understands “there are tensions around me in that role, and those tensions are appropriate.”

“But I think there’s a lot we can learn by stepping into them, exploring them and talking about the possibilities,” he says.

In classes that include “The Black Radical Tradition” and “Black: From Africa to Hip-Hop,” Shearer has incorporated his scholarship with his foundational teaching tenets of being welcoming, accepting and affirming. He learns all his students’ names right away to show recognition and respect. In his most intense classes, he caps enrollment at around a dozen students to facilitate intimacy. And he has made his students share meals to foster trust. Annually, he invites them to a “soup and pie” party at his home.

“It’s a great way to form community,” says Shearer, who this year became one of 12 faculty members in the state to win a Montana University System Teaching Scholar Award.

Baking pies, Shearer says, is “part of my culture,” passed down from his grandmother and is one more way of connecting with his slice of Montana. From the start, his goal has been to get his students to think and speak “with sophistication and nuance” about race. He is proud to have graduated students who now work in law, journalism, ministry, sports coaching and social work. Shearer sees UM’s lopsided demographics – undergraduates are 79% white and 1% black – as motivational for his work.

“African-American history is something everyone should know,” he says. “Not just members of the African-American community.”

One of the things that has made Shearer the proudest has been his assisting and advising members of the Black Student Union, the Black Solidarity Summit, the Montana Racial Equity Project, the Montana
Human Rights Network and more.

“We are actually at the height of groups and individuals who are deliberately organizing themselves to challenge and counter racism,” he says. “It’s very exciting and very fulfilling to be a part of that.”

Drawbacks, however, included death threats.

Matter-of-factly, Shearer says death threats “come with the territory” for anyone dedicated to combating racism. He was aware when he moved to western Montana that the Pacific Northwest historically has incubated outposts of neo-Nazis and other violent extremists. However, these groups tended to flare and fade due to shoddy leadership and lack of inspiration, he says.

That changed in 2016 when Shearer was put on an online “watchlist” by a right-wing organization. It charged Shearer with spreading propaganda. Though Shearer was not intimidated, he learned that one of his African-American students suffered racist harassment. Other students expressed their outrage and fear. In response, he offered a class in spring 2018 titled “White Supremacy History/Defeat,” teaching about the societal underpinnings of racism and how parts of it have been dismantled.

This got him doxxed – his personal information spread on more menacing websites. On a bulletin board in UM’s Liberal Arts Building there appeared a racist flyer. Its placement and trolling tone sent the creepy message that its maker was nearby, watching Shearer closely. Additional threats against his life made him decide to hold his class in a location on campus known only to his students, and police.

“It’s one thing for me to get death threats, but it shouldn’t go to my students,” he says. “But my students were great, they were not at all daunted by it – it was a very powerful experience for all involved.”

Yet more trouble was to come from a quarter Shearer did not expect.

In January 2020, UM’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day Committee, with Shearer as chairman, announced the winners of its essay contest. Of the nine judges, five were people of color, but all six contest applicants were white. When photos of the four winners appeared, it set off a conflagration of online outrage from faraway commenters claiming the contest, and Shearer’s leadership, were invalidated by whiteness. Shearer had never before been so scorched by criticism, save for one familiar bit of language. The Wall Street Journal editorialized: “He will be watched.”

Now scrutinized across the political spectrum, Shearer struggled with how to respond. He consulted with the people whom he calls “the grassroots,” his friends and mentors. One was Murray Pierce, UM’s multicultural affairs director. In the 1970s, Pierce took classes from the founder of UM’s African-American Studies program, Ulysses Doss. Pierce thought Shearer’s new attackers had made, “surface-level judgements, pretty broad and not too deep.”


In February, Shearer published an open letter in Inside Higher Ed inviting all his critics to please have their way. Anyone, so long as they came in peace and honestly engaged with the same history, ideas and relationships as he and his students, were free to look and learn.

“I welcome you into my classes, watchers,” Shearer wrote. But, he added, none would ever, “cause me to back away from continuing our work.”

The work – as vital now as ever – will not be finished anytime soon, but Shearer and UM are committed to it for the sake of the past and of the future. Greeting all comers in the service of greater understanding is a recipe Shearer is happy to share.

“African-American history is something everyone should know.”

– TOBIN SHEARER

NATE SCHWEBER graduated from UM in journalism in 2001, moved to New York City and now tries to write anything that will bring him home to Montana. His work has appeared in The New York Times, Rolling Stone, Preservation Magazine, Montana Quarterly, the Montanan and in his book, “Fly Fishing in Yellowstone National Park.”
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Predicting the demise of business schools and their graduate offerings has become a cottage industry. Forbes ran a piece in August 2019 proclaiming “It’s Official: the MBA Degree is in Crisis,” following its explication of “The Demise of the Full-time MBA” the year before. It trailed by a longshot James Fallows, who in 1985 wrote in The Atlantic, “Alert to the workings of supply and demand, some business-school officials have predicted a glut; already, newer, weaker schools have been retrenching, and some recent graduates have settled for less attractive jobs than they might once have hoped to get.”

While it’s true that for the past two years MBA programs nationwide have seen a decline in applications, these numbers have contracted in the past, only to expand again later.

The business school seems to abide as a fixture on our academic and economic landscape.

The UM College of Business demonstrates how an educational institution can survive trying times by focusing on fundamental and cutting-edge curriculum at the same time. UM’s COB has been evolving in both course and degree. In 2016, the school debuted a new degree program, a Master of Science in Business Analytics, in part as a response to the yawning lack of data scientists nationwide. (In 2018, IBM predicted the U.S. would see 700,000 additional data science job openings within 24 months.)

But the process of building a university degree can be time-consuming, so the COB delivers fresh content by offering innovative instruction on the individual course level. The college partners with leading businesses to examine how they navigate rapidly changing markets.

The latest rendition is a popular Digital Media Ecosystems class co-taught by executives from LumenAd, a Missoula-based advertising media management platform that was No. 29 on the Inc. magazine’s list of the 5,000 fastest-growing start-ups in the country. The college also piloted a 15-hour weekend course this past March titled “Pillars of Profitable Ecommerce” taught by Jacob and Dr. Eulalie Cook, owners of Tadpull in Bozeman, which builds artificial intelligence tools for e-commerce companies.

Gleaning real-world insights from professionals at LumenAd, Tadpull and other fast-growing companies provides invaluable benefits to UM students. Companies like these are interested in partnering with the COB to hire UM’s graduates.

Eulalie Cook says, “The MSBA program does an exceptional job preparing students to compete in today’s modern, data-driven economy. To our knowledge, there are no universities offering classes that focus on the sweet spot of customer lifetime value, digital marketing campaigns and inventory and operations. The opportunity to offer this cutting-edge course at UM is so exciting.”

A matter of balance

A central tension animates any question about the role of a professional program like a pharmacy or journalism program – or a business school: How do you instill fundamental educational concepts and still tailor the content to help students find jobs, all in a limited amount of time?

It is, according to Dr. Suzanne Tilleman, interim dean of the College of Business, a mission with balance. “We take students with innate work ethics, and, through
transformative learning experiences, we help them achieve a better life,“ Tilleman says. “A better life for us usually means access to launching their career. “

“But it’s not exclusively that,” she says. “We do have students who take business principles and concepts and apply them to other efforts beyond just their careers. We really are focused on getting students jobs. For some students that means high-paying jobs, and for some it means changing the world in other ways that matter to them."

The business college relies on various data sources and tools to track broader trends in jobs to inform curriculum adjustments. The new MSBA program, for instance, is a recognition that understanding how to sift through data to spot actionable business insights has become a highly sought-after skill set. Still, training students for a future powered by analytics is not as simple as teaching them different ways to crunch numbers. It’s also teaching them a way to think about doing business.

“What we found in the MSBA is that our students have really strong technical skills but are not familiar or practiced in making the business recommendations based on their analysis. Or we have students who are very strong in understanding how to make business recommendations but need to scale up on the technical aspects,” Tilleman says.

A competition of ideas

Big changes are usually slow events at a university. There are protocols, and committees and accrediting bodies may hamper agility. Against a rapidly changing business landscape, nobody wants to trot out a degree program only to find they’ve burned months and money while the world is already onto the next new shiny thing.

Once the COB decided to create an MSBA, Regents Professor of Marketing and the Poe Family Distinguished Faculty Fellow Jakki Mohr led the charge from the faculty perspective. Mohr spent time in Silicon Valley at Hewlett Packard in the 1980s before returning to academia and earning her doctorate at the University of Wisconsin, where she published a dissertation on the disintermediation that had upended the personal computer age. Her academic career has continued to examine the disruptive forces the technology market faces, and how that ripples outward.

“What we recognized about five years ago was that if our students weren’t really skilled in marketing analytics and digital media platforms, they were going to find it really tough to compete,” Mohr says.

Any university is a collection of ideas and methodologies competing for student attention and, well, budget. Launching a new course of study in the face of tight budgets can be a struggle. Mohr worked with her faculty committee.
to build a robust degree program that incorporated existing resources. She and other faculty reached out to the computer science department to offer a course in machine learning and neural networks. They partnered with the math department to incorporate a course in advanced statistical tools. Mohr also leaned heavily on the COB advisory council — all real-world business professionals — to identify skill sets that span verticals.

“Our students definitely are going into a job market that is changing in real time,” Mohr says. “But they’ve got the aptitude and the skills to compete favorably. We’re partnering pretty closely with companies who have helped us refine our curriculum to make sure that we’re staying on the cutting edge.”

New Ways to Tell Stories

In creating the MSBA degree, the business college understood that aspects of that program could filter into all corners of the curriculum. John Chandler, UM clinical professor, who teaches a class called “Telling Stories With Data” and who helped Mohr develop the MSBA, explains why.

“We no longer have this world divided into jobs that are not quantitative and jobs that are quantitative,” says Chandler, who holds a doctorate in mathematics from UM, teaches for half the year and runs a data consultancy during the other half. “There are quantitative aspects to all jobs,” he says.

Data, Chandler thinks, is not going away any time soon, but methodologies will evolve rapidly. In his teaching, Chandler has tried to impart ways to think about how data can help do business better.

“We can’t chase the next shiny thing. We have to try to apply principles and knowledge and ways of thinking that pervade the University and help translate skills into the business world,” Chandler says. “We spend a lot of time writing code or doing fancy statistical techniques, but every analytic question starts with some sort of business question. Refining your question is one of those skills that’s transferable in a lot of different areas.”

Stand and deliver

If teaching a college course is a little bit of science and a little bit of art, figuring out how to deliver a new master’s program is pretty heavy on logistics. That job fell to Dawn Hambrick. After graduating from Montana State University, marrying her high school sweetheart and earning a master’s degree through distance learning while following him on military deployments around the country, Hambrick came home to the Bitterroot Valley, where she had grown up. She came to work for UM’s COB in 2011, became director of the MBA program in 2016 and stepped in to direct the new MSBA program as it took shape.

Though not a professor, Hambrick oversees the administrative details of the program and much of the marketing and budgeting. “I work with the dean to make changes, but all of this is done as a team,” she says.

“If Jakki [Mohr] feels a curriculum change should be made, I take it to curriculum committee, and [if approved] implement that change. We collaborate to make changes.”

One change immediately made by Hambrick, herself a student of online coursework, was the way courses in the MSBA program could be consumed. “We took it to the more flexible delivery option. It tripled our enrollment in the program,” Hambrick says.

Around the country most MSBA programs are taught in face-to-face class settings. “In this region, we found it difficult to deliver that way,” Hambrick says. “People want to advance their careers but can’t afford to move to Missoula for two years to do it.”

Previously, the MBA program offered remote work, but students had to go somewhere specific — a community college or designated computer lab — to watch the lectures. Hambrick made adjustments so now streaming services allow students to partake in classes on their laptops and interact from wherever they are.

The COB now delivers graduate program coursework literally around the world, but the core teaching remains close at hand. Wherever its teachings are consumed, the real job of the business school, Tilleman says, is to create a setting where students can take risks.

“When they take a risk or a stretch, the students experience growth,” Tilleman says. “They have to make changes. They have to make decisions that then help them grow, and they get to a next level where they can start learning more new concepts, new ways of applying them and new ways of interacting with people.”

Which sounds exactly like the model the UM College of Business has followed for years.

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**In Search of Meadowlarks: Birds, Farms, and Food in Harmony With The Land**  
*by John M. Marzluff, Yale University Press, 2020, 344 pages, $28.*  
The human population is creeping toward 9 billion. How will the planet feed all these people? How will the animals fare? Wildlife biologist John Marzluff says agriculture and wildlife can coexist. In researching his new book, he visited farms and ranches across North and Central America. He applied evolutionary history and science to what he learned to produce a pragmatic study of the possibilities for the future. Marzluff earned his wildlife science degree at UM.

**Let's Go Win: The Keys to Living Your Best Life**  
Twenty years out from earning a degree in communications and psychology at UM, J.M. Ryerson has built a career as an entrepreneur, public speaker, leadership coach and creator and builder of businesses. His work is based on the belief that every person can find fulfillment and success along with a good balance between work and life. His book focuses on 12 principles, from vulnerability to transcendence, that Ryerson has cultivated and absorbed into his own life, while helping people learn along the way.

**Roadside Geology of Montana, Second Edition**  
*by Donald W. Hyndman and Robert C. Thomas, Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2020, 480 pages, $30.*  
Nearly 50 years ago, UM geology Professors Donald Hyndman and David Ault published their “Roadside Geology of the Northern Rockies.” Its next incarnation 14 years later as a bright-yellow field guide, “Roadside Geology of Montana,” became a staple on Montana car dashboards as a must-have on road trips, and was a regional bestseller for decades. Hyndman and Robert Thomas, a geology professor at UM Western, have written a new edition for seasoned and new readers interested in Montana’s diverse geologic features.

**Everyone’s Awake**  
UM graduate Colin Meloy is known both as the front man for The Decemberists and as a best-selling author of children’s books. In his newest work, with Shawn Harris illustrations, Meloy offers a madcap look at a family that’s doing everything but getting ready for bed when it’s time – that’s everyone, even the dog and the cat. It’s meant to be read aloud with lots of laughter.

Find all of these books and more at Missoula’s locally owned bookstore, Fact and Fiction, by calling 406-721-2881 or visiting www.factandfictionbooks.com
The Jetsetters
Amanda Ward looks at the pleasures and perils of family as she tells the story of Charlotte Perkins and her three grown — and estranged — children trying to reconnect on a Mediterranean cruise. Through Athens, Rome and Barcelona, the four lost adults of the Perkins family try to recover their childhood connections and find some peace. Before becoming a best-selling novelist, Ward earned an MFA in creative writing at UM.

Vera Violet
Melissa Peterson studied writing and biology and earned a master’s degree at UM. Her debut novel tells the story of a group of young friends in a decaying logging town in the Pacific Northwest. She looks at violence, relentless poverty, and environmental degradation, white supremacy and dead-end futures. One reviewer called the novel “as dark and foggy as the Pacific Northwest woods in February.” Another, “gritty and jaw-droppingly lyrical.”

From Wounded Knee to the Gallows:
The Life and Trials of Lakota Chief Two Sticks
On Dec. 28, 1894, Lakota Chief Two Sticks was hanged by white law enforcement authorities. He was convicted of leading a raid on a white rancher’s cattle herd, followed by a fight that led to the shootings of four white cowboys. Two Sticks always maintained that he did not commit the killings, but the atmosphere four years after the massacre at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, meant little chance for justice. This new book takes a researched look at the painful truths behind the events. UM graduate Phil Hall works as a psychologist in South Dakota.

Eden Mine
After studying writing at UM and the University of Oregon, Sarah Hulse earned praise from critics for her first novel, “Black River.” In her new novel, she tells the story of two siblings in the Faber family who grew up near the two mines that were once the economic drivers of their region in northwestern Montana. The sister, Jo, is moving out of her home, which was seized to make way for a new road, when she learns of a bomb explosion in the local courthouse. Her brother is the suspect. Hulse is widely praised as a rising literary voice of the American West.

The Blaze
Matthew Rose is back in his hometown of Missoula, Montana, recovering from a head injury during military service in Iraq. He’s doing OK, but his amnesia makes everything about his past at home foggy. He reconnects with his old girlfriend, Georgie, now a reporter for the local newspaper, and accidentally falls into witnessing a house fire that turns mysterious. The reader is in for a series of surprises as Matthew and Georgie unravel a trail of people they’ve known all their lives. Dundas earned his MFA in creative writing at UM.

Liar: Based on a True Story
Bernadette Botz draws on her UM English degree, her gospel-centered faith and her experience educating five children at home to create this first book, a fable about an uprising of people against the corrupt leader of their kingdom. Liar has led people to believe they are unworthy and weak. Prince works to lead people to reject the lies and join the rebellion against Liar. Botz aims to focus on people’s need for genuine friendships and connections.
MEET THIS YEAR’S GRIZZLIES OF THE LAST DECADE

THE UM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HIGHLIGHTS SEVEN ALUMNI WHO REPRESENT THE BEST OF GRIZ SPIRIT THROUGH THEIR TRAILBLAZING SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP.

**Jonathan Adams ’10** first put his degrees in psychology and counseling to work by helping create a clinical service for dementia patients and caregivers. He has worked as a mental health clinician for low-income clients and a counselor for employees experiencing work-related stress, but he is most passionate about career counseling. For the past six years, he has been a career counselor and adjunct faculty member at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Wake Forest University and UNC Chapel Hill, where he served underrepresented student populations at the career center. He currently is working on his own venture that creates day-in-the-life experiences using immersive technology to help organizations maximize retention and employee engagement. Adams earned the North Carolina Association of Colleges and Employers’ President’s Award in 2018. His team at UNC Greensboro received national accolades in 2015 for integrating Gallup’s Clifton Strengths Assessment across campus, and his team at UNC Chapel Hill received similar recognition in 2017 for holding a Food Truck Rodeo for career education.

**Luke Bahnmaier ’10** began his career as a graduate assistant athletic trainer for the University of Oregon football and women’s lacrosse teams, before earning a place among the country’s competitive athletic training residencies at St. Luke’s Sports Medicine in Boise. From 2013 to 2017, Bahnmaier worked as a clinical athletic trainer, and he now manages St. Luke’s Orthopedic Urgent Care clinic, the first in the St. Luke’s health system. With a focus on improving care for patients with injuries, he shares his knowledge with athletic trainers and physicians at state, regional and national conferences, including Montana’s annual athletic trainers’ symposium. As well as mentoring athletic trainers, he collaborates with boards in Montana, Washington, Oregon and Alaska as vice president of the Idaho Athletic Trainers’ Association and serves as a volunteer preceptor to the UM Athletic Training Program. Bahnmaier earned the Northwest Athletic Trainers’ Association New Horizon Award in 2018.

**Bryce Carver ’13** has incorporated his experience as a Griz football receiver into his position as head football coach for Hamilton High School since 2017. Under his leadership the Hamilton Broncs have played in two state championships and posted a 30-5 record. He coached the Montana Shrine Game in 2018 and 2019 and the Montana-North Dakota game in 2018. Carver is involved with numerous service activities, such as Hamilton Athletics Community Service Day, an Emma’s House Fundraiser for children’s advocacy, the Marcus Daily Memorial Hospital Fundraiser and various Hamilton football and basketball camps. He also hosts summer programs, as well as a youth football program – all while serving as Hamilton High School’s assistant basketball coach. Carver follows a line of Griz and often connects his football players with UM after they graduate.
Emily Graslie ’11 is the first-ever chief curiosity correspondent for the Field Museum in Chicago and the developer of the popular science education channel “The Brain Scoop.” In the more than 200 episodes of “The Brain Scoop,” created with YouTube educator Hank Green in 2013, she interviews scientists, tours collections and describes how to prepare museum specimens. Graslie has earned multiple awards for her creativity, including six Webby Awards, listings on the 2018 Forbes 30 under 30 list in Education and the Chicago Tribune’s 2017 “Chicagoans of the Year.” The Wahydra graslieae butterfly species found in Ecuador is named after her. The University featured her on the 2019 Odyssey of the Stars, and UM has a Graslie Curiosity Internship in her honor, which encourages students from any major to pursue a creative project with the Philip L. Wright Zoological Museum.

Svein Newman ’09 has served Montana with his political science expertise for the past decade. As a staff member of the conservation and family agriculture nonprofit Northern Plains Resource Council, he helps develop community leaders and works with Montanans to help protect water quality, family farms and ranches, and Montana’s unique quality of life. Newman’s initiatives have focused on natural resource conservation, improved water quality standards for agricultural water users, and strengthened clean energy and local food systems. He is a frequent trainer for other like-minded organizations around the state. Newman co-founded Soft Landing Missoula for refugee resettlement and is the vice chair of the Montana Human Right Network’s board of directors. In 2018, he organized crowdfunding efforts that saved 31 low-income households from losing their homes to back taxes. In 2019, he led a successful state property tax reform campaign to save hundreds of additional Montanans from losing their homes in the future.

Ashlynn Reynolds-Dyk ’08, M.A. ’10, Ph.D., is known for her focus on active and engaged learning in the classroom, as well as high-impact practices incorporating civics and service. She taught writing and communication at UM, Colorado Mesa University, Colorado Christian University and Rocky Mountain College. She currently is an assistant professor of English at Rocky Mountain College, where she has taught for the past four years. At RMC, Reynolds-Dyk helped pilot the new Technology Enhanced Active Learning classroom and created a new course in digital and media literacy. She coordinates service learning projects for her students and received RMC’s Active and Engaged Learning Grant two years in a row for a major community service project with her freshmen. Her students have helped numerous local nonprofits. A mother of three, Reynolds-Dyk finds time to volunteer in her children’s schools, youth sports programs and the local PTA and contribute to Simply Local Magazine Billings.

Daniel Zolnikov ’10, M.B.A. ’19, is completing his fourth and final term as a representative in the Montana Legislature. Since 2013, he has protected the civil liberties of all Montanans. He helped create the first, full-time law enforcement agents to combat human trafficking and pass the nation’s strongest freedom of the press bill, as well as lead legislation protecting Montanans’ privacy rights with new technologies. Zolnikov also helped pass legislation ensuring Montanans under 21 would not receive a Minor in Possession misdemeanor for calling 911 during a medical emergency and carried legislation that brought Uber and Lyft to the state to reduce drunk driving. He helped reform asset forfeiture laws and removed laws allowing the state to seize professional licenses of people who default on student loans. As chairman of the House Energy and Technology and Federal Relations Committee, he successfully wrote and passed further legislation reforming major energy and utility laws. Zolnikov ranked as one of Forbes’ “30 Under 30” policymakers in the nation in 2014.

Read more about these Grizzlies of the Last Decade at www.grizalum.org.
Missoula is a wonderful place to vacation, do business or simply spend the day while traveling. The DoubleTree Missoula-Edgewater offers newly remodeled accommodations designed to complement your Missoula experience with a stay at Missoula’s only river-front hotel.

Enjoy some of the best views in the city at FINN, located next to the Clark Fork River, University of Montana and downtown Missoula. Our famous deck sits off the river and is one of the city's favorite outdoor dining spots. Host an intimate meeting or special group event in our glass-walled private dining room. Stop by before a Griz game for burgers and a beer in our lounge, or celebrate your anniversary with fine dining in our restaurant. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, bar snacks, small plates and craft cocktails – you’ll find it at FINN.

100 Madison Street / Missoula, Montana 59802
Nate Rott is no stranger to saying “yes” to opportunity, even when it takes him to wild places. A UM journalism degree and some chance meetings have sent the Missoula native from Washington, D.C., to Antarctica to the Australian bush.

Rott graduated from UM’s School of Journalism in winter 2009, earning a national award for his senior Native News project. Former UM Professor Carol Van Valkenburg suggested Rott apply for a Washington Post and NPR fellowship after graduation.

“I applied and was definitely the least qualified for the fellowship, but was really lucky to get it,” Rott says.

Weeks later, fellowship in hand, he found himself reporting on election primaries in the nation’s capital. The five-month fellowship at the Washington Post and NPR taught him what makes a good story and how to work with top editors, as well as manage the challenges of radio reporting.

“Not only do you have to get a person to talk to you, but you have to get them to talk to you in a good environment on tape and take everything else into consideration,” Rott says. Rott’s next opportunity came at the suggestion of another UM journalism alum. He traded the city for the snowy wilderness and joined the United States Antarctic Program as a general assistant. The program introduced Rott to science in the field and, he says, the sacrifices made by scientists and the people who feed them and fly them into an inhospitable location.

Rott changed up environments once more when a former editor told him about an NPR job based in Los Angeles.

Seven years later, as the environmental correspondent for NPR’s national desk, Rott reports on regulatory rollbacks, national disasters, human disasters, biodiversity, and public lands issues and climate change.

Now Rott’s beat has shifted to the coronavirus, as he reports on air pollution and its negative effects on the respiratory system. He also is examining medical shortages and barriers in access to health care, emergency response and financial aid.

As the country’s social environment alters with COVID-19, Rott says having local journalists answer important questions is crucial.

“We all lose when there’s fewer journalists,” he says. “Those are questions no one can answer better than local journalists looking at where they are. These are monumental things happening, and some people say this is the first draft of history, so it’s important to have people doing that. It’s an incredible opportunity in a precarious situation.”
Members of the classes of 1970, 1960, and 1950 will be recognized during UM’s Homecoming Week.

SEPT. 24-26, 2020
MISSOULA, MONTANA
WE LOOK FORWARD TO HELPING YOU CELEBRATE YOUR LANDMARK 50TH, 60TH AND 70TH CLASS REUNIONS

FOR A SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT www.grizalum.org/events/class-reunions
Football tickets and hotel accommodations information to be announced.
KEN DUPUIS
‘57, Polson, is the first tribal member to be recognized as a Montana Forestry Pioneer for significant contributions to forestry and natural resource management. A member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Dupuis was a Bureau of Indian Affairs forester on the Flathead, Yakima and Fort Apache Indian reservations for 36 years.

KAPPA ALPHA THETA ALUMNI hit the road to Napa, California, to visit a sister and view the Brawl of the Wild. Pictured left to right are Karla Chandler Bailey ‘64, Napa, CA; Marilou Dwyer Lewis ‘64, Missoula, and Gwen Calvin Letson ‘64, Couer d’Alene, ID.

PAT CONNORS
‘65, Butte, is the second person in the history of D.A. Davidson to celebrate 50 years with the firm. Connors served as branch manager from 1977 to 2005, on the board of directors and is now senior vice president and financial adviser. The Patrick J. Connors Production Achievement Award was created in his honor. A former U.S. Army National Guard volunteer and supporter of UM and Montana Technological University in Butte, Connors earned UM’s Community Service Award in 2008.

RAYMOND DOMINICK
‘66, Bigfork, is one of around 150 men in the country to take vows with the Lay Contemplative Associates, Order of Cistercians of the Strict Observance at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit. Besides writing the Bigfork Knights of Columbus and LCA quarterly newsletter, Dominick stays busy as part-time COO of the small investment software program he sold.

JIM SCHEAFTER
‘66, Schenectady, NY, was named historian for the town of Rotterdam. He taught on applied anthropology and North American Indians at Union College, various classes at UM, and the University of Minnesota, in India as a Senior Fulbright lecturer. He holds a master’s degree and doctorate in cultural anthropology from SUNY-Buffalo.

ROBERT SPEARS
‘68, Midland, MI, was promoted to vice chair for the Eagle Village Foundation Board. The organization serves victims of abuse and neglect, children and teens with risky behavior, and adoption and foster care kids and their families.

MARTIN MELOSI
C. Bruce Loble ‘69, J.D., ‘72, Bozeman, retired in 2013 and has been paddling his obituary with scuba diving trips to Cozumel, Tulum, the California Channel Islands and off the coasts of Hawaii and the Exuma Cays of the Bahamas. This photo was taken in “Shark Alley” in the Exuma Cays in March. Loble returned to Bozeman five days before the coronavirus virus pandemic was declared and has been happily locked down with Sally ‘69 for the duration of the virus quarantine. They celebrate their 49th anniversary in June.

1970s

POUL NIELSEN
‘68, M.F.A. ’75, Medicine Hat, AB, will display his paintings in the permanent collection of The Esplanade Museum, a national exhibition center in Medicine Hat, Alberta. His painting “The Healing Power of Color” (left) received an award of excellence in the Art Manhattan International juried exhibition.

JIM GORE
M.S. ’76, Ph.D. ’82, St. Petersburg, FL, retired from the University of Tampa as emeritus dean and professor of biology after eight years at the University. Gore has held postdoctoral and faculty positions at the University of Wyoming, Tennessee Tech University, the University of Tulsa, Columbus State University (Georgia) and the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. He was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to South Africa in 1988-89 and has 135 publication credits, including three books on topics related to regulated river management. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society of River Science.

1980s

GARY BIGELOW
‘82, ‘92, M.F.A. ’95, Naples, FL, won the Best Dark Comedy Short Screenplay Award at the Atlanta Comedy Film Festival in December.

MOTOMI MORI
‘82, Memphis, TN, became endowed chair of the Department of Biostatistics at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. She previously held an endowed professorship in cancer biostatistics at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland and worked as director of the Biostatistics Shared Resource at OHSU’s Knight Cancer Institute.

JOE VALACICH
‘82, M.B.A. ’83, Tucson, AZ, was named to the National Academy of Inventors. He is a researcher and professor of management information systems at the University of Arizona, as well as co-founder and CSO of Neuro-ID, which helps companies use technology to customize each customer’s application. Valacich has published leading IT textbooks and scholarly articles and currently holds two patents in the U.S.

TYLER DELANEY
‘83, Bozeman, was elected president of The Montana Ambassadors, an organization serving under the Office of the Governor and the Governor’s Office of Economic Development to help businesses in Montana grow. Delaney is a partner at the First West Insurance Agency and has been a certified insurance counselor since 1999.

FORD STUART III
‘86, Grand Marais, MI, became an Honorary Knight of the Brewers Mash Staff of the Belgian Brewers Federation, established in the 14th century and one of the oldest professional associations in the world. Stuart founded Belgian Beer Me! Beer Tours, which showcases heritage breweries. He was knighted in a September 2018 ceremony in Brussels.

SCOTT CORBITT
‘87, J.D. ’96, Lewistown, ID, was named president and chief executive officer of Valley Vision, Inc., the primary economic development agency for the Lewis-Clark Valley of Idaho and Washington.

MICHAEL JARNEVIC
‘88, M.F.A. ’96, Milltown, MT, is a retired U.S. Army sergeant major with 42 years of continuous service in both the U.S. Marines and U.S. Army Special Forces. One of the last known Vietnam veterans still on active duty, he has been featured in the Marine and Army Times and international publications. Jarnevic participated in four conflicts: Vietnam in the ’70s; the Contra War in the ’80s; the Persian Gulf War in the ’90s; and Afghanistan as a contractor with U.S. Special Operations Command in 2012. He was assigned to 15 different units in Marine, Army and joint commands, and during the last 20 years of his career served as a special operations intelligence analyst. He served in numerous countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, Central America and the Middle East. He has taught in UM’s Military Science Department and currently is a freelance writer, outdoor lecturer and environmental activist.

SHELLY FYANT
‘89, Arlee, was elected Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council chair in Pablo. She is a lifelong Griz fan.

MOLLIE HOLT
‘89, Pullman, WA, CPA, was promoted to controller at Washington State University. Since joining WSU in 2014, Holt has served as the finance director for Auxiliaries Services and area finance officer for the Division of Student Affairs. She previously worked as the financial services manager for the city of Boise and has 30 years of accounting, finance and management expertise.
1990s

AMBER KOESTER
’90, Helena, moved to Helena to work for eGovernment services provider Montana Interactive as a technical writer. Over her 26 years in Great Falls, she worked for the Great Falls Tribune, the financial services firm D.A. Davidson Companies, and nonprofits NeighborWorks Montana and NeighborWorks Great Falls.

VONDA FRANKLIN
’96, Boise, received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching – the country’s highest recognition for a K-12th grade science, technology, engineering, mathematics and/or computer science teacher. Franklin, who has been an educator in Idaho for 15 years, is pictured (second from left) at the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., in October.

LACEY GRIFFITHS
’98, Vancouver, WA, is Washington State Assistant Principal of the Year last year. For the past 20 years, she has worked in at-risk schools as a teacher and administrator, helping change the trajectory for students and creating systems to increase the state graduation rate. “Representing the state in this capacity has been humbling and an honor,” she says. “My roots will always be firmly planted in Missoula and as a Griz as I was born and raised in this beautiful town.” She is in the running for National Assistant Principal of the Year.

DEBORAH LIVESAY
J.D. ’98, Atlanta, GA, became a partner at Taylor English Duma LLP. As an attorney, she has represented management in employment-related litigation and claims for 19 years.

SHEILA CORNWELL
’99, Missoula, is the sole owner/operator of Missoula-based startup Montana Adventure Shuttle, LLC, which she founded three years ago. Cornwell says she serves both locals and visitors and stays true to her UM College of Forestry roots. “I have worked with various aspects of the USFS to ensure safe transportation of passengers who are here to learn about our forestry techniques, contribute to conservation and/or simply enjoy the outdoors,” she says.

TERREL JONES
M.A. ’99, Troy, works as a Montana artist after retiring as a Troy School District art and foreign language instructor, where she worked from 1983 to 2005. Jones spent 10 years living and teaching in Lima, Peru, and credits South American Native art for her preferences in choices of color and patterns. Jones’ unique style of merging landscape and figures has gained her recognition in Montana and surrounding areas.

2000s

ANDY CAMPBELL
’01, M.A. ’02, Indianapolis, IN, was installed this January as the 142nd president of the Indianapolis Bar Association, which serves 4,500 lawyer-members by promoting justice and enhancing the legal profession. He focuses on health care clients.

JIM GILLHOUSE
M.B.A. ’01, Missoula, was promoted to chief operating officer at Community Medical Center after serving in leadership roles at St. Patrick Hospital.

JOHN HEANEY
’02, Missoula, just became golf coach at Missoula Big Sky High School. Heaney works at Sun Mountain Sports and is a coach at 5 Valleys CrossFit. Heaney has covered golf at multiple newspapers and served as editor-in-chief for the Montanan for eight years.

PEARLYNN HOUCK
’02, J.D. ’05, Charlotte, NC, was named to The Mecklenburg Times’ annual 50 Most Influential Women list. Throughout her law career, she has advised numerous companies and executives, and she co-chairs the firm Robinson Bradshaw’s Governmental and Internal Investigations Practice Group. She also co-chairs multiple committees and has served in multiple leadership roles for the Women’s Impact Fund.

SADIE CRAIG
M.A. ’05, Tampa, FL, joined the consumer finance group of Burr & Forman LLP and will advise clients with large businesses against consumer protection claims. Craig brings experience in intellectual property, First Amendment and public records issues, and advertising and marketing law, and she has defended multiple large corporations against consumer protection claims. Craig worked as a journalist for The Associated Press, the Kansas City Star and the Missoulian and was a judicial intern to Judge Amy Totenberg in the Northern District of Georgia.
AMY SINGS IN THE TIMBER
J.D. ’05, Missoula, is the new executive director of the Montana Innocence Project. She has worked for the Montana Justice Foundation and the Indian Law Clinic at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law. She also served as a senior leader for Covenant House Illinois, which provides housing and support to homeless, runaway and trafficked young people, and for the Chicago Bar Foundation.

BETHANN MERKLE
’07, Laramie, WY, was selected to participate in “Her Flag,” a nationwide art performance/installation project celebrating the 19th Amendment. She will design Wyoming’s stripe for a large flag featuring 36 women representing the 36 states that helped ratify the amendment. Merkle is an associate research scientist in the Department of Zoology and Physiology and Biodiversity Institute at the University of Wyoming.

ANNELIESE WARHANK
’07, Helena, co-curated the new exhibit at the Montana Historical Society titled “Good Beer Here: Montana’s Brewing History.” It takes an in-depth look at the industry from territorial times to the present and will run through 2022.

MELISSA BAKER
’08, Ph.D. ’08, Mandan, ND, became the director of Virginia State Parks – the first female to hold the position in 83 years. Previously director of the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, she will oversee 38 state parks and more than 270 full-time employees. Baker taught forest recreation at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and will run through 2022.

JOHN BOATNER
’08, Memphis, TN, recently joined St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, where he serves as a clinical social worker on the St. Jude LIFE Study, examining the late effects of pediatric oncology treatment among survivors. Boatner has a doctorate in social work from the University of Tennessee–Knoxville and has been published in the Southern Medical Journal and the Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions.

COLT ANDERSON
’09, Butte, has been hired by the NFL’s Cincinnati Bengals as an assistant special teams coach. He has played for the Minnesota Vikings, Philadelphia Eagles, Indianapolis Colts and Buffalo Bills. He is a former Montana Grizzly and earned last year’s Grizzly of the Last Decade Award.

BRYCE ANDREWS
M.S. ’09, Arlee, received a 2019 Montana Book Award honorable mention for “Down from the Mountain: The Life and Death of a Grizzly Bear.”

HALLADAY QUIST
’09, Kalispell, decided to fix up an old broken-down 1960s bus and bring her music tours around the country in it – and the best part is that it is painted in Griz colors.

SHANNON CARAWAY
’14, Burnsville, MN, was promoted from loan operations associate to credit analyst at Gateway Bank in Mendota Heights, MN.

MARIAH MILLER
’16, Cedar Park, TX, taught with the Peace Corps in Benin, Africa. While in the little village of Foyo, Miller saw that the preschoolers needed a new building. She raised $7,000 and worked with the villagers to help build a new, safe school. Miller now is in Malawi, helping local teachers and administrators in newly built schools through the Peace Corps Reserves.

2010s

PORTIA FOX
’11, ’15, Salt Lake City
“I currently work as a respiratory therapist at a smaller hospital in North Salt Lake City, Utah. I first attended UM in 2006 and registered in health and human performance, exercise science. I was on track to graduate in 2011 but took a detour and found myself at Missoula College in 2009 for a degree in respiratory care. I graduated in December 2010 from MC and then went right back to finish my bachelor’s degree in exercise science in the spring of 2011. I was about 20 credits short when I got a job offer in Bozeman that following fall (2011). I worked at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital for three years and then returned to Missoula in order to finally finish my bachelor’s degree from UM! Several years later, I find myself in the middle of a pandemic working as a respiratory therapist in Salt Lake City. My education is super important to me, and I feel extremely lucky to be helping during this crisis. I am proud to be a Griz!”

NOTES FROM THE FIELD
MEG OLIVER
’93, Montclair, NJ (Correspondent for CBS News)
“These are extraordinary times to be a journalist. At CBS News we evacuated the Broadcast Center in NYC March 11 after colleagues tested positive for COVID-19. I was in the field reporting from the epicenter (at the time), where a cluster of cases in New Rochelle had sparked the first-of-its-kind containment zone. Back in NYC, as colleagues poured out of our building, we had less than three hours to accomplish something that had never been done before: broadcast the CBS Evening News from our nation’s capital. It was a mad scramble to send everything to our D.C. bureau. No one knew if it would work. I was the lead, and my executive producer came in my ear minutes before air: “Meg if your story doesn’t roll, be prepared to vamp.” Everyone held their breath, headlines didn’t run, but an incredible team – some working remotely from hotel rooms – pulled it off with Norah O’Donnell as calm as could be. Since then everything has changed in our profession. Like so many, we have lost a dear colleague, Maria Mercedar, to the virus, overcome technical obstacles at every turn and now conduct Zoom interviews from our living rooms and go live on our front porches. This is definitely the most challenging assignment of my career. I want to thank every single J-School professor from Bill Knowles, the late Joe Durso, Ray Ekness, Gus Chambers, Dennis Swibold and Carol Van Valkenburg for making sure I was prepared.”
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.

Send to:
Office of Alumni Relations
Gilkey Building
Missoula, MT 59812
alumni@umontana.edu

Material for “In Memoriam” reached our office by April 22, 2019.

1940s

Earl Arthur Nehring ’40, Lawrence, KS
Joe Freeman Gans ’43, Helena
William Francis Curran ’46, Las Vegas
Richard Volney Bottomly ’48, ’50, Great Falls
William Francis Curran ’46, Las Vegas
Joe Freeman Gans ’43, Helena
Earl Arthur Nehring ’40, Lawrence, KS

1950s

Janet Elizabeth McDonnell Beagles ’50, Helena
Philip Raleigh “Phil” Duncan ’50, Helena
Marjorie A. Hunt Westman-Field ’50, Longview, WA
Lido J. Vazzutti, Sr. ’50, M.A. ’51, Missoula
Marvin McArthur ’51, Cameron Park, CA
William R. “Bill” McCrory ’51, Eugene, OR
Ella Lee “Lee” Birkett Rostad ’51, Bozeman
Richard Norman “Dick” Doyle ’52, Missoula
Frederick J. “Fred” Carlson ’52, M.M.Ed. ’56, Missoula
Joe Blackbum ’53, Plummer, ID
Philip Thomas “Phil” Eidel ’53, Great Falls
Ruth Maxine Kinney Talcott ’53, San Clemente, CA
Lowell L. “Buster” Maxwell ’53, Missoula
Donald Jerome “Don” Schaff ’53, Stevensville
Charles Arlie “Charlie” Shelton ’53, Kalispell
Keith Charles Bradshaw ’54, M.Ed. ’59, M.Ed. ’63, Cedar Hills, UT
Kathryn Belle “Kathy” Lindseth Carlson ’54, Pasco, WA
Murdo A. Campbell ’55, Helena

1960s

Bryan Mechling Owen ’60, Hamilton
Richard Edwin Taylor ’60, M.S. ’61, The Villages, FL
Frank E. Bamir ’61, Buffalo, WY
Delbert H. “Del” Cameron ’61, Stevensville
Rex K. Lincoln ’61, Haugan
Allen Duane Luedecke ’61, M.A. ’63, Chico, CA
Patricia “Pat” Rend Orlich, M.A. ’61, Pullman, WA
Ronald George “Ron” Smith ’61, M.S. ’62, Centralia, WA
Kenneth L. “Ken” Stam ’61, Spokane
Jack Duane Taggart ’61, Broomfield, CO
Gordon N. Crandell Jr. ’62, Scobey
John F. McCulloch ’62, Bozeman
Glenna Joyce Nelson Sherick ’62, Broomfield, CO
Carla Jane Jacobs Cornwell ’63, Sunnyvale, CA
Helen “Weezie” Veedere Chumrau ’63, M.Ed. ’61, Snohomish, WA
Bradley B. “Brad” Parrish ’63, J.D. ’67, Lewistown
Bryce Lewis Fish ’64, Sequim, WA
Jeffrey B. “Jeff” Gibson ’64, Butte
Helen L. Seltzer Kolppa ’64, Sparks, NV
Kenneth A. “Ken” Osher ’64, Portland, OR
Wayne Arthur Hedman ’65, Missoula
Donald Dean “Don” Wulf ’65, Napa, CA
Walter L. “Bart” Bodie ’65, M.S. ’79, Nampa, ID
Thomas B. “Tom” Brandt ’66, Gaithersburg, MD
William James Riddle “Bill” Buchanan ’66, Kimberley, BC
Robert L. Carter ’66, Concord, CA
Joyce Irene Tookie Horton ’66, Miles City
James Anthony “Jim” Longin, M.Ed. ’66, Port Angeles, WA
Roady Craig “Rod” Metzger ’66, M.A. ’69, Eugene, OR
Rhonda M. R. Kay ’67, Lewis Center, OH
Connie Jane Willits Swedberg ’67, M.Ed. ’66, Port Angeles, WA
Irene “Lynn” Patten Aderhold ’68, West Yellowstone
Allen J. Fetscher ’68, Missoula
Jeanette J. Jann Freim ’68, Missoula
Ernest “Man” Hutchinson ’68, M.A. ’70, Kalispell
Alan F. Cain, J.D. ’69, Bigfork
Douglas Edward Ems ’69, Snohomish, WA
Peter Martin “Pete” Higman ’69, M.B.A. ’69, Guerne, IL
Marvel F. Lowrance Weggenman ’69, Highlands Ranch, CO

1970s

Esther Louise Hinz ’70, Superior
Charlotte Jean Stockard Whitehead ’70, M.E. ’80, Missoula
Deborah Sue “Deb” Anderson ’71, Missoula
Richard Alan “Rick Frost ’71, Clancy
Lawrence Richard “Larry” Remman ’71, Missoula
Pamela Jo Parn Donaldson Spencer ’71, Camas, WA
Jacqueline Ann “Jackie” Gardner Bain ’72, Yuma, AZ
Allen Edwin Ball ’72, Lebanon, OR
Norman Leslie “Norm” Hall ’72, Seeley Lake
Gerald William “Jerry” Nagle, Jr. ’72, Vancouver, WA
John R. Tookie ’72, Miles City
Timothy Laurence “Tim” Norman ’73, Hamilton
Carolyn Ann Payton Pfimffer, M.Ed. ’73, Whitefish
Robert J. “Bob” Sauder, M.Ed. ’73, Pioneer, OH
Michael John “Mike” Nitschke ’74, Amarillo, TX
Daniel Claude “Dan” Hughes ’75, ’77, Newport Beach, CA
Herman William “Bill” Gabriel, III, Ph.D. ’76, Florence
Leonard Wayne Lowthian ’76, Denton
Thomas Keller “Tom” Scholl ’76, Great Falls
Robert K. “Rob” Dean ’77, Santa Fe, NM
David Gregory “Dave” Heaslow ’77, Billings
Richard Lee “Rick” Halverson ’78, Kalispell
W. David Little ’78, Denver
Dennis James Petersen ’78, Sun City West, AZ
Jamie A. Larson Phillips ’79, Detroit Lakes, MN
Brenda L. Cote Porter ’79, Buckley, AZ
Candice A. Fox Siroczynski, J.D. ’79, La Plata, MO

1980s

Susan Ester Clarke Kitchen ’80, Columbia Falls
Fred V. Bull, M.Ed. ’81, Butte
Robert “Berta” Warrick Chism ’81, Dillon
Dorothy F. Fauer, M.S. ’81, Missoula
James Louis “Jim” Palmer, M.Ed. ’81, Spokane
Kay Marie Sagmiller ’81, Ashland, OR
Sandra H. Hollingsworth, M.Ed. ’82, Lincoln, CA
Roxie Ann Rockwell Hauser ’83, Lolo
Larry Gene Frazier ’83, Stevensville
Richard H. “Rick” Stephens ’83, Missoula
Dorrance Tucker ’83, Missoula
Lorraine Virginia Reed Williams ’83, ’86, M.A. ’89, Ed.D. ’94, Missoula
George Curtis “Curt” DeVoe ’84, J.D. ’87, Missoula
Dorothy Marion Friesbey ’84, Missoula
Charlene Marie “Cheri” Hansen ’84, Missoula
Rosanna Marie Gibbs ’84, Missoula
Brian James Bevel ’85, Great Falls
Louise “Weezie” Jones, M.A. ’85, Missoula
Robert A. Semple ’85, Corvallis
Charles K. “Charlie” Hale, J.D. ’86, Helena
William James “Bill” Taylor, M.Ed. ’86, Harlem
Mary Ann Adams White ’86, Missoula
Earnie “Sue” Johnson Wilson ’86, Corvallis
Lucy Ellen Balcom ’87, Missoula
Robin Renae Gould Jones ’87, Missoula
Thomas “Tommy” Messina II ’87, Shelby Township, MI
Lymann Dee Jessop, Sr., M.Ed. ’87, Pinesdale
George Tillman “Pete” Cleveland III ’87, Butte
Richard Thomas “Rick” Funk ’89, Kalispell
Inge Pah Skoden “Sandra Rae Norby,” M.F.A. ’89, Polson
1990s

Vicki Lyn Jordan Jette '91, Missoula
Colleen Caron Carver Scharenberg '91, Missoula
Dolores Mae Johnson Whitt '91, Couer d'Alene, ID
Carolyn Marie Baze '92, Missoula
Lee Ellen Ebdneshade, M.F.A. '92, Missoula
Janet Marie Homer, M.F.A. '92, Lansing, MI
Jon O'Neal Shields '92, J.D. '96, Miami Beach, FL
Theresa Alma Caroline Woford Tysk '92, Menahga, MN
Joy Ann "Skects" Guardipee Wagner '92, East Glacier Park
Dolores Mae Shockley Cash, Hamilton
Larry Wayne Chilcote, Missoula
Mary Ann Nicholls Constantino, Great Falls
Steven Joseph "Steve" DeMers, Missoula
Elinor Mislieford Dickson, Santa Fe, NM
Sharon Stewart Finney, Polson
Roger Lee Fiorethergner, Fairbanks, AK
Karen King Haar, Kalispell
Victor Neil "Vic" Hangas, Missoula
Pamela Lynn "Pam" Hoppe, Missoula
Campbell "Camp" Howard, Missoula
Robert Ray "Bob" Jacobsen, Sun River
Scott J. Kirchmann, Elkhorh, NE
Rose Ellen Rasmussen Lovegren, Enumclaw, WA
Evelyn Marie "Mary" Miles Haines Nolan, Missoula
Agatha Doll Madison, Missoula
William Meredith "Bill" Manning, Missoula
Harold B. "Mac" McLaughlin, Great Falls
Aidan Doyle McNamara, New York
Verena Tozzer Myers, Missoula
Mona Lee Wohlgemant Reiner, Southlake, TX
Grace Antoinette "Anni" Crenshaw Nolan, Missoula
Ellie Auch Shields, Missoula
John L. Schmidt, Broomfield, CO
Joan Floriselle Knight Shirley, Helena
William E. "Bill" Spahr, Molt
Joanne M. Schubert Vogel, Missoula
Robert Joseph "Bob" Williams, Missoula

2000s

Roman Maurice "Ray" Stolaruk, M.A. '00, Ed.S. '02, Edmonton, AB
Diane Pauline "Dee Dee" Aguilar '02, Arlee
Jerad Keith Avery, M.A. '03, Kalispell
Steven Joseph "Steve" Schwab, M.F.A. '08, Belgrade
Penny Lee Hubber Tolleson '08, Missoula
Edward Joseph "Ed" Persico '09, Hot Springs

2010s

Lindsay Frances Moosbrugger '10, Inver Grove Heights, MN
Shawn Logan Leonard '18, Missoula
Noah Eric Nickel '19, Novato, CA

Former students, faculty and staff

Charlotte Jean Sweetser Anderson, Billings
John P. Anderson, Missoula
Jill Bergman, Missoula
George Marston Blake, Missoula
John "Everett" Bullis, Hardin
Carol Mae Shockley Cash, Hamilton
Larry Wayne Chilcote, Missoula
Mary Ann Nicholls Constantino, Great Falls
Steven Joseph "Steve" DeMers, Missoula
Elinor Mislieford Dickson, Santa Fe, NM
Sharon Stewart Finney, Polson
Roger Lee Fiorethergner, Fairbanks, AK
Karen King Haar, Kalispell
Victor Neil "Vic" Hangas, Missoula
Pamela Lynn "Pam" Hoppe, Missoula
Campbell "Camp" Howard, Missoula
Robert Ray "Bob" Jacobsen, Sun River
Scott J. Kirchmann, Elkhorh, NE
Rose Ellen Rasmussen Lovegren, Enumclaw, WA
Evelyn Marie "Mary" Miles Haines Nolan, Missoula
Agatha Doll Madison, Missoula
William Meredith "Bill" Manning, Missoula
Harold B. "Mac" McLaughlin, Great Falls
Aidan Doyle McNamara, New York
Verena Tozzer Myers, Missoula
Mona Lee Wohlgemant Reiner, Southlake, TX
Grace Antoinette "Anni" Crenshaw Nolan, Missoula
Ellie Auch Shields, Missoula
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“A man does not plant a tree for himself, he plants it for posterity.”

— ALEXANDER SMITH
While our Artifacts section is generally reserved for an object of UM’s yesteryear, this issue we share a historical ceremony – an act of hope communities have performed for millennia – that took root at UM this spring.

Planting trees. Tree planting rituals can be traced back to the 14th Century and found in every culture, from the Druids to the Judeo-Christian traditions. At UM, there was a distinctly Montana tree ceremony of sorts this May, one that celebrates the possibility of the future – from a University (currently) without students on campus, in the middle of a pandemic and economic meltdown. At Montana, we live in and put our faith in trees.

For the more than 1,900 UM graduates who didn’t get to walk across the Commencement stage in front of family and friends this year, something much quieter and humbler replaced the tossing of the mortar board. In fact, the Latin roots of the world humble, or humiltias, translate to “grounded” or “from the earth.”

So it was no surprise when University administrators gathered to discuss a meaningful way to honor the Class of 2020 they immediately thought of our roots – Western larch and ponderosa pine (the state tree, of course) to be exact.

Boxes full of plastic gimcrack with ’20 keychains and paper confetti were not going to be mailed to graduates (or added to the landfill). Instead, the University would plant 2020 seedlings on UM land to commemorate this year’s graduates, representing the class’s bold commitment to sustainability, carbon neutrality, climate action and renewable energy.

On the very morning Commencement was to be held, UM administrators piled into cars, snaked their way up the Blackfoot and Clearwater valleys to UM’s Bandy Ranch – a sprawling 3,600-acre working cattle ranch deeded to UM’s Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station in 1990 by the estate of Ed Bandy. The experiment station is part of the University’s W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation. And if you take Highway 200 to Bandy, much of the drive follows the Blackfoot River, family totem of the great Norman McLean and many other Montanans.

Once there, the group was instructed how to properly plant a seedling, led by Christopher Keyes, associate director of the Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station. Keyes taught the group how to properly handle the seedlings and use handtools like planting bars and hoedads. The goal is to give the seedlings the best chance at establishing and thus growing into a healthy, mixed conifer forest.

“While we are disappointed that coronavirus has altered our traditional plans for Commencement, we hope our graduates know that we are thinking of them and honoring them with a hopeful gesture that, in some small way, makes the world for the better,” UM President Seth Bodnar said.

Like the Class of 2020, these seedlings are nurtured by UM soil. They will build and rely upon their root strength to overcome all kinds of storms, droughts, fires and winds. No doubt most will grow tall, proud and resilient, creating stands of what the world so desperately needs.
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