Robert “Robby” Beasley, a UM freshman on the men’s basketball team, shares his reflections and hopes for a brighter future in this issue’s “Voices of the Moment” article (page 19). The Montanan sat down with Black student athletes, representing different sports, majors, hometowns and experiences to discuss racism in their lives. When we asked each student to personally reflect on the Black Lives Matter moment, the resounding theme was what we all might expect from a Grizzly: grace, grit and hope.

“This is our moment,” Beasley says. “It’s our generation’s turn to step forward and act for change.”
Dear Griz Family,

Students arrive on our campus from all over the world, bringing to UM their varied histories and backgrounds. We are privileged that each student brings with them an individual lens for understanding and a unique set of abilities to influence both UM and the wider world.

My hope is that each student — beyond prestigious accolades, a competitive internship or academic awards — finds at UM a community where they can develop a confident personal voice.

Our troubling times desperately call forth the next generation, with clear hearts and minds, to solve our biggest challenges. I am renewed by our students choosing to persevere through the pandemic and continue their academic paths.

Many of them have responded to the weight of COVID-19 and devoted themselves to majors like our new public health degree and Missoula College’s respiratory therapy and paramedic medicine programs. UM students are looking across the country, blanketed in wildfire, and committing themselves to climate change studies, forestry, environmental sciences and sustainability. The nation’s reckoning with racial and social justice has motivated a new generation of young people to study law, social work and public policy.

These students are today and tomorrow’s problem-solvers, justice seekers, and builders of inclusive prosperity.

UM has and always will respond to the moment with an academic profile that provides a relevant, robust education, graduating competent students into lives and careers of impact. I can think of no more important or noble work.

I know you all believe in our UM Family, too, and that is reflected in success of the largest and most impactful fundraising effort not only for UM, but in the history of Montana. In seven years, more than $450 million was given to Campaign Montana. The overwhelming philanthropic support was a most humbling gesture and symbol of confidence in our students, our mission and our future.

Our deepest thanks from everyone in the Griz family.

Be well,

Seth Bodnar

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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.

GRIZ AIRMAN
CAPTAIN JEFF STARK ’80 recently landed his retirement flight from Kalispell to Chicago, after 31 years with American Airlines. Though his son and daughter-in-law are Bobcats, the house divided celebrated on the runway. Congratulations, Captain!

GRIZ CUB
Audriana Morgan, 8 months (mom is alumna Kara Berg Morgan ‘10) – gets her Griz gear early. Morgan’s name is expected on the class roster for the UM class of 2042.

GRIZ ANGLER
Tim McCue ’95, former Griz Football team doctor, takes his two sons Wyatt (6) and Cooper (4) for casting practice on the Blackfoot River.

VENTENITAN GRIZ
Sue Reber Orr ’81 and her husband Tom (who is unfortunately a Bobcat), enjoy St. Mark’s Basilica in Venice, Italy last October – before the pandemic changed global tourism and city squares.

The Montanan would like to thank the following people for recently donating to and supporting the magazine:
James Croft, Enosburg Falls, Vermont; Douglas Grimm, Missoula; Malcom Marcus, Towner, North Dakota; Richard Anderson, Billings; Terry and Riggs Zuiker, Cheyenne, Wyoming; Lois Klement, Corvallis; Norine Moses, Calistoga, California; Leland and Tami Bishop, Helena; Edward Mills, Tucson; Roberta Stauffer, Butte; Jon and Diane Oldenburg, Lewistown; Jerry Blair, Arvada, Colorado; Morris Peters, Oxford, Ohio; Johanna Nash and James Nelson, Richland, Washington; Patricia Peach, Helena; Carolyn Salansky, Dupuyer and Mark Swanson, Pinckney, Michigan

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 Receives Largest Single Research Award In University History, $33.4M

The National Institutes of Health has awarded the UM a five-year, $33.4 million award for the development and clinical trials of opioid vaccines. It is the largest such award in University history.

The award was funded through the NIH HEAL Initiative, a national effort to speed scientific solutions to the national opioid health crisis. It includes funding for two Phase One clinical trials of opioid vaccines developed by UM’s Center for Translational Medicine in collaboration with Inimmune Corp. (Dr. Kendal Ryter and Dr. David Burkhart) and the University of Minnesota (Dr. Marco Pravetoni).

The UM vaccine research team has spent more than two decades working to improve vaccines through the use of adjuvants – components added to vaccines to improve the immune response – and novel delivery systems to ensure vaccines are safely and efficiently delivered to the right cells.

“This funding is an enormous boost to the research we’ve already done on the development of an opioid vaccine and is validation of our world-class research team at UM,” says Dr. Jay Evans, principal investigator on this award and director of UM’s Center for Translational Medicine.
UM Listed Among Best Universities for Solving the Coronavirus Pandemic

Montana ranked among the top 10 universities on Successful Student’s list for “Best Universities Solving the Coronavirus Pandemic,” joining schools like Harvard and Oxford in its commitment to helping defeat the coronavirus. The schools on the list are developing treatments, testing and diagnostics, contagion mapping, contact tracing, data collection and analyses and education for the COVID-19 pandemic.

UM Creates New Native Think Tank for Montana Tribes

Montana’s tribal nations now have a dedicated institute for all things policy, governance and research when it comes to the overall health of Indian Country. The Montana Board of Regents recently approved the creation of the American Indian Governance and Policy Institute at the UM. The institute was created by and is currently directed by Heather Cahoon, assistant professor in the Department of Native American Studies.

The independent, nonpartisan research center will pull from expertise across the Montana University System, including expert scholars, researchers and students, to produce evidence-based information so that tribes can make informed decisions for a variety of governing decisions. The ultimate goal of the new institute, Cahoon says, is to address the core causes of poor socioeconomic health on Montana’s Indian reservations.

Record for Research Activity

UM set a new record for research expenditures, exceeding $100 million for the first time in its history. This fiscal year, UM reported $104.7 million in research expenditures to the National Science Foundation’s Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) survey. This is a 16% increase over the previous high of $90.6 million in FY2018 and a 90% increase from FY2014.

“This continued rise in the amount of funded research at UM is a testament to the hard work of our faculty, staff and students,” says Scott Whittenburg, UM vice president for research and creative scholarship and dean of the Graduate School. “These numbers indicate that UM continues on the path to achieve a Carnegie Research Very-High Activity or R1 ranking. The funding also underscores how research at UM provides an economic engine for the community and state.”
UM Announces New Public Health Degree

The Montana Board of Regents recently approved a new bachelor’s program in public health at UM – just in time, as the world grapples with a global pandemic and a new generation of students are drawn to health care professions. The new degree is the only undergraduate track of its kind in Montana and is accredited by the Council of Education for Public Health.

Summer Enrollment Up

For a third consecutive year, summer enrollment increased. Up 2% from last summer, 3,142 students took summer courses at UM this year. Additionally, more UM summer students earned their degrees, certificates and minors this summer – totaling 549 degrees – up from 399 last summer.

First Female Business Dean Announced

The UM College of Business has hired Dr. Suzanne Tilleman as its Sprunk and Burnham Endowed Dean. She is the first woman to serve as permanent dean of the college. Born and raised in Havre, Tilleman has been a faculty member teaching management at UM since 2010. She has earned Outstanding Management Faculty honors multiple times and served as the management department chair from 2017 to 2019 before serving as interim dean following the departure of Dean Chris Shook.

“I look forward to continuing working with our faculty, alumni and partners as we evolve a curriculum that leverages data, analytics, value-added business and human processes,” Tilleman says.

Tilleman holds a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, a Master of Business Administration in management from Tulane University and a Ph.D. in strategy and entrepreneurship from the University of Oregon.

Prior to pursuing her doctorate, Tilleman spent seven years working in industry and another four years teaching at Montana State University-Northern, where she discovered her love of teaching and developing students. Her industry experience includes working for some of the largest players in the natural resources arena: General Electric, Exxon and Monsanto.

UM Creates University Design Team to Chart Direction of Flagship’s Future

Imagining a flagship for America’s future is the core mission of the University Design Team, a group of UM employees newly charged with charting the University’s future trajectory. The committee was created by UM President Seth Bodnar to position UM for long-term success and impact, and represents a cross-section of campus personnel and disciplines, including student representation.

Spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic and rapid changes in higher education and technology, the UDT ultimately is tasked with delivering a strategic vision for Montana’s flagship public research institution – one that serves students of the future and.parleys UM’s people, programs and places into national prominence. The committee is expected to deliver design principles and strategic initiatives to President Bodnar this fall.
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HEALTH. More than 10,000 Healthy Griz Kits were distributed to UM students and employees this fall. The kits are designed to help members of the campus community avoid illness during the coronavirus pandemic. Each kit contains two cloth masks, refillable hand sanitizer, a micro-cloth for cleaning, a refillable disinfectant spray bottle and a card describing UM’s commitment to campus health and safety.

GLACIERS. The National Science Foundation awarded UM researchers and partner institutions $1.3 million to study the melting of one of Alaska’s most iconic glaciers. UM Department of Computer Science researchers, along with collaborators at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the University of Arizona and the National Park Service, will use the grant to conduct computer modeling of changes now taking place to Malaspina Glacier, the world’s largest piedmont glacier.

PLAY. The secret is out – UM is an incredible place to receive an education and play hard. UM’s Campus Recreation recently was featured in the national magazine Campus Rec, which shared the breadth and depth of UM’s outdoor recreation programs that have been incorporated seamlessly and robustly into UM’s culture of partnering with place and expanding one’s boundaries.

GROWTH. When a wildfire broke out on Mount Sentinel on Aug. 20, UM’s professors of fire ecology saw a learning opportunity. A few weeks after the fire, they took their students up to the fire site and found new growth already sprouting. They’ll revisit the site throughout the semester as an opportunity for hands-on learning.
**GREENS.** UM’s own gardens, grown and managed by Campus Dining, yielded more than 3,400 pounds of fresh vegetables this growing season – much of it served to students in the Food Zoo and patrons at UM’s American bistro, the Iron Griz, located at the UM Golf Course. Salad greens, summer squash, tomatoes, cucumbers and squash blossoms are the chefs’ favorite garden commodities. Visit the Iron Griz website at www.irongriz.com for their seasonal menu!

**HOOPS.** UM History Professor Wade Davies recently inked “Native Hoops: The Rise of American Indian Basketball, 1895-1970.” The book details the role of sports in Native communities and how basketball provides both a link to the past and a source of independence and confidence to expertly compete for “family, tribes and Natives everywhere.” Davies teaches classes in Native American studies.

**BUTTE.** UM alumna Nora Saks was awarded the Daniel Schorr Journalism Prize for her work as a reporter, producer and host of Montana Public Radio’s “Richest Hill” podcast. The series dives deep into the history of Butte to tell the colorful and complicated story of how the city became one of America’s largest and most notorious Superfund sites while asking the question, “What comes next?”

**EQUITY.** Twila Old Coyote, an enrolled member of the Apsáalooke tribe and a member the White Clay Nation, has been named the University’s first director of the S.E.A. Change Initiative, a new program focused on advancing equity for all. Through this initiative, UM fosters an environment that is safe for women – one that uniquely empowers all women to reach their full potential while accelerating into careers of impact.
**Any other year, we would be celebrating Homecoming**
and all the exciting festivities surrounding that wonderful time
at UM. However, COVID-19 handed us a different plan. It is
a strange new reality on campus with no fall sporting events,
but we are optimistic about the spring and look forward to
gathering together again, renewing old friendships and cheering on the
Griz!

The summer months took us on an
odd, uncharted and winding path that
led to a cancellation of all fall sports.
After making that decision, we quickly
pivoted our focus to the winter sports
of men’s and women’s basketball,
along with indoor track and field. We
are hopeful competition in basketball
will begin in late-November and
indoor track and field at the end of
2020. The complete schedule, facility
access and crowd sizes are still to be
determined.

We are now planning for a “fall in the
spring” when it comes to competition. The NCAA approved
moving fall national championships to the spring, which
allows the Big Sky Conference to develop a competition
schedule for the traditional fall sports of football, soccer,
volleyball and cross-country.

Working through the many details is still to come, but the
framework is taking shape. Home football games are
certainly a primary revenue source for the entire athletic
department and bring millions of dollars to the Missoula
economy. We feel the loss of these events. The combined
revenue generated from football supports all student-
athletes, especially the funding of scholarships. Our primary
goal is to keep our student-athletes on pace to graduate and
succeed academically.

To this end, the athletic department recently launched the
“Together Campaign,” asking all of Griz Nation to support
our effort to bridge the gap without fall football revenue. We asked season
ticket holders to contribute their
ticket payments to this effort, and
the response has been outstanding.
I ask you to consider making a tax-
deductible gift to this cause by visiting

Every donation helps preserve our
academic success and competitive
momentum.

In this issue, you hear from some of our
Black student-athletes. I ask you listen
to what they are saying. Our student-
athletes are thoughtful, passionate
leaders. I am proud to work with
them and pledge my commitment to
supporting equality, listening more and educating myself on
the topics of social justice and racism.

Grizzlies are strong and we persevere. I know we will get
through this and come out ready to work hard in pursuing
our academic and athletic goals. I applaud our student-
athletes, coaches and staff for their flexibility and resilience
during this chaotic and unsettled time. I thank all of you for
your unwavering support.

**GO GRIZ!**

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Managing a college is a complex task, but Larry Hufford, an evolutionary biologist and the new dean of UM’s College of Humanities and Sciences, is used to life’s intricacies.

Hufford joins UM from Washington State University. He earned a doctorate in botany in 1986 from the University of California, Berkeley, and held postdoctoral research positions at the University of Zurich, the University of Arizona and the University of Kansas.

After working as an assistant biology professor at the University of Minnesota-Duluth, he moved to WSU in 1993 and served as director of the School of Biological Sciences, interim director of the School of the Environment and interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Hufford co-led planning for the development of WSU’s College of Arts and Sciences and received the university’s Outstanding Chair/Director award and the college’s Excellence in Institutional Service award in 2015.

“It was delightful to lead a large team while working across many academic units to understand their goals and concerns,” Hufford says. “Seeing the new college emerge was very pleasing, and later I had the opportunity to serve as interim dean of the college I had helped form.”

As the Herbert L. Eastlick Distinguished Professor in the School of Biological Sciences, Hufford directed the Marion Ownbey Herbarium and the Conner Museum of Natural History. His research addresses the evolutionary origins of biological diversity.

“My early work explored the role of developmental evolution as a force in creating the diversity of flowers,” he said. “I spent my time thinking about the forms of flowers – how all of those lovely, intricate shapes, as well as complex pollination systems, evolved. I love thinking about diversity – how it forms and functions and its very great importance.”

Hufford’s work now focuses on how landscape complexity and geography shape diversity’s evolution – such as how mountain ranges, rivers and canyon systems in the West bias plant migration – and how it applies to conservation and the consequences of climate change.

An avid reader, Hufford’s interests range across the arts, humanities and sciences, and he enjoys hiking, backpacking, birding and photography.
What book are you currently reading?
I usually have more than one book going at a time, and I’m currently reading Eula Biss’s “On Immunity” (reflections on immunity and vaccination), Anthony Grafton’s “Inky Fingers” (about the way humanists in the 16th and 17th centuries constructed books) and Masha Gessen’s “Surviving Autocracy” (a dissection our current political moment).

What’s your favorite board game?
Scrabble, but I always lose.

What inspires you?
Beauty, ideas, a great book.

When you were 12, what did you want to be when you grew up?
Through most of my childhood I wanted to be an astronomer, but I always had strong urges toward writing.

How do you start your day?
With a cup of tea. Everything starts with a cup of tea.

What is your favorite dessert?
Cake.

What was your worst subject in school?
Math.

What’s a place you wish to visit?
I’m an inveterate traveler, and it takes very little for me to grow intensely interested in visiting a place. Put a map in front of me, and my mind travels, desire follows, and then I begin reading and planning. Right now, I’d like to be in Tierra del Fuego, the Scottish Highlands and the Northwest Territories of Canada.

What teacher do you remember most and why?
Professor John Mutchmor in Biology 101, M.W.F. 8 a.m., during my first quarter at Iowa State University. His lectures were clear and orderly, and he drew in colored chalk to illustrate his topics. He served as the model for my own teaching through much of my early career, until I shifted toward project-based teaching and more open-ended questioning of students. I should also say that teachers – including several professors – have been the most important people in my life, outside of my mother.

What is an important life lesson for someone to learn?
There are always options, and things will work out.

What do you like most about UM?
The people at UM are very interesting, and, moreover, they are engaged and committed to the success of students and the University.

What is your dream accomplishment at UM?
I want to create effective interdisciplinary opportunities for education and research that address the complex problems we face with environmental degradation, social injustice and inequity, and the rapid onset of climate change. To prepare students to address these complex problems will require an integrative approach to education that spans what we do across the College of Humanities and Sciences and incorporates other colleges at UM as well. Our interdisciplinary opportunities also need to support research teams that bring multiple approaches and ways of thinking to tackle the immense problems we face.
IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO BE IN FAVOR OF JUSTICE FOR SOME PEOPLE AND NOT BE IN FAVOR OF JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE.

– MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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Started in 2013, following the acquittal of Trayvon Martin’s killer, the Black Lives Matter movement has captured the nation’s attention and heart. No community has been immune to the stark call for justice as America continues to painfully reckon with racism and the systemic ways in which the country does not work for everyone. Universities around the country, including UM, have responded to the moment with calls for equity, diversity and a deep and critical look inward at what traditions and norms keep the scales tipped for certain populations. BLM also has blurred the division between professional sports and the country’s public consciousness. Historic sport boycotts – from the NFL and Major League Baseball to professional tennis and the NBA – have showcased the weight of the moment, with our most celebrated games and players deeply touched and affected. Coupled with violence and death as the nation seeks to chart an inclusive path forward, we turn to the voices of the young for wisdom and solace. After all, we place our trust in the next generation to do better than the previous. With the full support of Grizzly Athletics, the Montanan sat down with Black student-athletes and asked them about their experience at a predominately white university. We asked these student leaders about balancing their role as athletes, scholars and role models as the nation absorbs and responds to the pressing social movement of their generation. While we recognize their experience is not that of every Black student on campus, we were humbled by their bravery in reflecting on the question, “What does this moment mean to you?” Their answers, like themselves, were poignant, honest and full of hope. May we all learn.

May we all listen.
The activism surrounding the movement, and the aftermath of George Floyd’s death have made me pay closer attention to the political climate. Watching these events across the country is striking. Coach DeCuire recently called the team in for a special discussion about the importance of voting. He was instrumental in conveying the importance of voting and shared with teammates the details of how to register to vote. It’s easy to focus on only your life and wonder if one vote, one voice really does make a difference – but the BLM movement and the attention on voting, especially for young people, has felt extremely important and timely. Racism is taught, and I think that idea, which has been the story for generations, is on the ballot. After talking to my parents in California, I decided to register to vote in Montana because I think my voice and my vote will mean more here.

**KYLE OWENS**

**HOMETOWN:** CALABASAS, CALIFORNIA  
**MAJOR:** COMMUNICATIONS  
**SPORT:** MEN’S BASKETBALL

One voice really does make a difference...
I am a strong believer that everything happens for a reason. The death of George Floyd was sadly something that needed to happen for this world to see the racial injustices that are happening today. Textbooks tell us that the movement to end racism started in 1954 and culminated in 1968. As you can tell from recent events, racism is still a major issue that cannot be abolished by a stroke of a pen. This moment means a lot to me because it is a time for all of us to unite and take the appropriate steps to end racism. It’s a time for our community to accept that they have not experienced the racist and hurtful words Black people have endured for so long. It’s a time to listen and ask a person of color how it is like being Black in a predominantly white society. The best conversations I have had with my white friends started with them just sitting down and listening about the experiences I have had. It meant a lot to me because it showed that they cared about me and the injustices happening. We do not want a pity party, but to be heard and treated equally. It can be as simple as starting a conversation.

It can be as simple as starting a conversation.
Being a Black man in Missoula can feel like walking around with a target. I’m faced with a discrepancy that a lot of Montanans aren’t faced with – the color of my skin. Even supporting what I feel is right can feel “other” or flawed. That’s why the Black Lives Matter movement means so much to me. The police brutality and racially motivated violence against Black people must stop. I wish people would keep politics aside and just listen. We are pleading for our lives. We don’t want to be better than another race. We just want to be treated the same. Everywhere I go, eyes are glued to me as if people have seen a ghost. It’s a strange and sometimes scary feeling. People who make nasty looks at me don’t see that I’m a public health major or my high GPA. They don’t see that I worked hard to graduate college in three and a half years, and I’m planning to pursue my master’s degree. They also don’t see a Black man who is on the UM Athletics Diversity and Inclusion Committee for the University and trying hard to move the needle for justice. I feel I will be disrespecting my people if I didn’t use the platform I have for change.

TRAJON COTTON

HOMETOWN: SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
MAJOR: PUBLIC HEALTH
SPORT: FOOTBALL
To me the Black Lives Matter movement means standing up for the voices that aren’t heard and have been silenced for so long. There have been so many deaths of Black individuals that have gone either unnoticed or unexplained. The justice system is corrupt and needs to be exploited in order for people to see the truth. Unfortunately, it took the death of Trayvon Martin in 2012 to help stem the movement in 2013 and the death of George Floyd for the world to finally understand it. Racism is a learned behavior; it’s a disease that our society has normalized. This is just the beginning of what I hope will be a turning point. I would like to see the BLM movement thrive and am hopeful that it helps bring along other minority groups to have a voice in the future. The nation’s Pledge of Allegiance includes justice for all. Frankly, that simply isn’t true. There is still a lot of work to be done. Black Lives Matter today, tomorrow and every day after that.

There is still a lot of work to be done.
The movement to me is a wake-up call to those who have been complacent. To me it’s a call to action. The overarching message that I’ve resonated most with is that it’s not enough to just “not be racist.” You have to actively fight against racism whenever you get a chance, however uncomfortable or hard that is. Silence is permission. Every time you witness it and choose to turn a blind eye you’re an enabler, you are allowing the problem to persist. We must be willing to make people a little uncomfortable. I think the hardest part about this for me is that I have been blind to the truth of how deeply embedded racist ideals are in America. There are so many people across this nation who feel as if BLM isn’t justified in their movement. Change needs to happen and it’s up to the young people.

Silence is permission.
This moment symbolizes a turning point in America for me. This moment is a reckoning – the changing of a system that has been made to keep certain groups of people under, specifically Black people. Choosing to ignore this movement, to me, means that you don’t see a problem with the way Black people are treated in this country. Ignoring this movement means that you are oblivious. At the very least, I hope real change comes from this movement – beyond social media posts, but real systemic change. I hope that people really take the time out to educate themselves on these issues that are going on. Don’t jump to make excuses for what continues to happen to Black men and women. Don’t be so quick to try and justify what Black people are going through. Seek to understand and truly be a part of the solution. I just hope in the end, BLM provides American people a better understanding of the struggles of being Black in America and encourages people to become part of the solution that makes this country truly equal for all. The way it is promised.
The New Big Sky Singers (left to right): Rob Quist, Gary Funk, Don Collins, Don MacDonald and Pete Hand.
THE NEW BIG SKY SINGERS LOOK BACK AT 50 YEARS OF MUSICAL MEMORIES, FRIENDSHIP AND A BAND OF BROTHERS THAT BEGAN AT UM.
From the passenger seat, Gary Funk watched in alarm as his brand-new bandmates, Don Collins and Don MacDonald, traded punches on the side of the road. Just an hour earlier, the trio had held their very first rehearsal in the UM Music Building. Now, the Dons were engaged in full-blown fisticuffs in a snowbank on South Sixth Street in Missoula.

“Collins may disagree with me on this, but I was tearin’ him apart,” MacDonald recounts, his bandmates laughing hysterically in the background. “I could see tears forming in his eyes, I was feeling really bad, and I noticed he kind of clipped something on his wrist. He tried this roundhouse right hook on me and his watch went flying into the snow.”

At that point, Collins called for a time out.

“I said, ‘You can’t have timeout in a street fight!’” recalls MacDonald.

“It’s a new watch my mom just got me for Christmas,” said Collins. “I’ve got to find it.”

Together, the pair searched for the watch. They had, after all, been best friends since eighth grade a brotherhood that began all the way back at Missoula’s Roosevelt Grade School. Once the watch was found, the now college freshmen agreed to cool off and get a burger. They asked Funk if he was hungry, and he shook his head no.

“You guys are crazy,” he recalled saying at the time. “I want to go home.”

Amazingly, Funk didn’t quit the band on the spot.

“I had showed up on the UM campus as a new student and didn’t know anybody, so my best friend was my Gibson guitar, which practically went everywhere with me,” Funk says.

Earlier that day, he’d gone to a rehearsal at the opera workshop at the UM School of Music and afterward had taken his trusty guitar downstairs into one of the practice rooms because he’d had nothing better to do.

“Somebody pounds on the door,” recalls Funk, “and I look up and there’s this really ugly mug looking through the window, and I say, ‘Yeah, what’s up?’ And MacDonald says, ‘You wanna be in a group?’ And I say, ‘Sure!’”

That was the start of the New Big Sky Singers in 1966. The trio had a short rehearsal, then jumped in the car. Minutes later, the fistfight broke out.

“It just kinda scared the crap out of me, really,” Funk says, thinking back on it. “I went from a Gibson guitar to two idiots.”

Soon after Funk joined the band, Rob Quist earned a spot with the New Big Sky Singers after impressing them with his successful audition for the famed UM Jubileers – the University’s premier vocal group at the time, which traveled the world, including multiple USO tours.

Joining the New Big Sky Singers was eye-opening for Quist because he has the softest voice in the group.

“Singing with these guys taught me how to open my throat,” he says.

But it did more than that. The foursome could never have known at the time that they’d still be performing together more than 50 years later.
“There is a brotherhood,” Quist says. “I address that in our song ‘50 Years Ago Today’ because we did become like brothers.”

That song, penned by Quist and performed by the group on their newly released album of the same name, chronicles the long and storied history of the New Big Sky Singers (originally the Big Sky Singers). In their rich, finely honed harmonies, the lifelong friends sing about “taking pride in things that last.”

Ask the men about the strong foundation upon which their relationship as musicians was built and they’ll answer with stories about encouraging teachers, especially John Lester. Lester was the head of the voice department of the UM School of Music from 1939 to 1970.

“He was really a world-renowned teacher and had famous students singing all over the world,” Collins recalls. “I remember at one point I went into his studio to just do an extra lesson with him and he talked to me a little bit about singing in the group, and he says, ‘You know, I’m not of the same mind as a lot of teachers. I think that learning one’s voice is complex, and the more styles you experiment with and try, the better opportunity you’re going to have to really understand your voice. And if you sing well, you’ll sing well in all those styles you experiment with.’ It was a unique philosophy that was helpful to us as we sang.”

Funk was so inspired by their professor that he ultimately wrote Lester’s biography with Robert Hoyem, titled “Secrets for Great Singing: John L. Lester: Pedagogy and Life,” which was published by Amazon during the pandemic quarantine last spring.

“It was a wonderful experience to write that book in homage to a really great teacher,” Funk says. “Lester felt that the teaching of singing was a sacred obligation.”

The encouragement the young men received about experimenting with different styles of music is reflected in their work.

“When you listen to our CD, you hear folk, Celtic, rock, jazz,” Quist says. “We’re definitely a genre-jumping organization, and that’s what I love about it.”

The bandmates agree that singing the music of other cultures and histories teaches them, ultimately, to be better people.

“If there’s an overlying thing that I learned from the group, we were able to become more receptive and more open-minded, partly because when you sing music of other cultures, you get insight into how people think, what their priorities are, and you respect them for that,” Funk says.

Quist, who teaches songwriting, often discusses the origins of words with his students.

“I always bring up in my class that the word ‘universe’ is an interesting word because uni (one) and verse (song),” he says. “To me, the word ‘universe’ is one song.”

The formation of the New Big Sky Singers coincided with the surge in popularity of the Folk Era of music and the singer/songwriter genre, during which time various communities
KRISTIN KNIGHT PACE graduated from the University of Montana School of Journalism in 2006. She is the author of a memoir, “This Much Country,” and a veteran of the Iditarod and Yukon Quest 1,000 sled dog races. She also plays the banjo, mandolin and piano. She lives with her family in Texas.

around UM sponsored “hootenannies” – gatherings of musicians wherein members of the community sang together songs of protest, the songs of the times.

“That was an example of bringing in the voice of youth at that time, who were in rebellion against the Vietnam War, into one voice, and we could sing together,” Funk says. “I think that’s one of the things that would be a helpful kind of thing right now in our culture, if we could turn violence into song.”

The New Big Sky Singers performed at campus events and throughout western Montana until graduation in 1968, after which each member went on to create their individual career accomplishments. Funk earned his doctorate in music, taught at Mount Union College in Ohio, then returned to UM in 1995 as choral director.

Quist went on to a career as a professional musician and session player and rose in rank as a respected voice in Montana politics and music (he was the Democratic nominee for Montana’s House seat in the 2017 special election).

Collins co-founded the internationally recognized Missoula Children’s Theatre and later moved to Seattle, where he enjoyed a robust career in opera and theater.

MacDonald went on to law school at UM and eventually became a judge.

Despite leading vastly different lives, the group has reunited every year for tours, concerts and recordings since 1995.

On their newest album, “50 Years Ago Today!” released in January 2020, the group performs such diverse classics as “City of Immigrants,” “Going Out of My Head,” “Crazy Little Thing Called Love” and “Don’t Think Twice” with signature harmonic fluidity – their voices having benefited from some of the best musical instruction at UM and further honed by years on the stage together.

“As long as we can continue to sing together and deliver some level of quality of performance, we should continue to do it,” Collins says. “I think [the fact] that our friendship goes back 50 years is palpable when we perform, and the banter that happens between the singers really makes that live performance even more special.”

“A large part of our performance is made up of us criticizing Collins for his many errors,” MacDonald ribs. All joking aside, the foursome remain reverent about their serendipitous collision at the UM School of Music all those years ago. They are grateful for their ability to generate joy from any situation – even the occasional fistfight – over the course of nearly six decades.

“When we get together to practice, in a very few minutes we are able to change from whatever mindset we were in before we arrived to something very positive,” Funk says. “So at the end of a three- or four-day rehearsal, I always feel really exhilarated and so happy and privileged, really, to be a member of this group, because of the powerful impact that it has on us as human beings.”

“Fifty Years Ago Today!” is available for purchase at the The Bookstore at UM, Rockin Rudy’s and the M Store in Missoula. Orders and CD deliveries are available online at rockinrudys.com. Streaming and downloads can be found at newbigskysingers.bandcamp.com.
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When news broke in late May of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Amy Sings In The Timber felt simultaneously outraged and lost. She had recently moved from Chicago back to Missoula, where she was raising her 10-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter. The pandemic had her working from home and coordinating her kids’ remote learning. Now the country, the world even, was erupting in protest.

On top of it all, Sings In The Timber, 45, had a new job, one that was immediately relevant to the inequities within the U.S. criminal justice system. In January she had been named the new director of the Montana Innocence Project. From this perspective, the racial reckoning sweeping the nation was a moment of clarity.

“Dismantling systemic racism should be fundamental to the work of innocence programs,” Sings In The Timber says. “Many times it is the barrier between innocence and justice for Black, Indigenous and people of color in the criminal justice system.”

In Montana, Native Americans are the most disproportionately incarcerated racial group. Native Americans comprise just 6.6% of the population, but account for almost a third of the inmates in the state prisons.

“By and large, society thinks that if you are in prison, you must have done something wrong,” Sings In The Timber says. “We provide free legal and investigative services to individuals seeking to prove their innocence. Many of them have been given up on and forgotten.”
Together with student interns, volunteers and pro-bono attorneys, the Montana Innocence Project pores through roughly 150 cases each year to uncover any wrongdoing, mistakes or oversights that may prove an inmate’s innocence. Since 2008, MTIP has exonerated seven people. The nonprofit, based in UM’s Alexander Blewett III School of Law, is also helping prevent wrongful convictions through supporting Legislation that requires better access to DNA, for example, and recorded police interrogations. Now, amidst a global pandemic and unprecedented racial upheaval, it’s Sings In The Timber’s job to raise the money, lobby the legislature and enable her staff to ensure that justice in Montana is accessible to everyone, equally.

Sings In The Timber was born and raised in Milwaukee, a descendant of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. She’s no stranger to activism. As a young adult, she advocated for tribal treaty rights and protested offensive Native mascots in professional sports.

But before her career in social justice, Sings In The Timber was an artist. She enrolled in the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design as a fine art painting major. From there she transferred to the University of Wisconsin, where she double-majored in anthropology and Native American studies. During an internship at the Milwaukee Public Museum, Sings In The Timber worked on cultural artifacts classified under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, a piece of legislation that intrigued her.

To learn more about the law, she became a volunteer paralegal at the campus legal clinic and realized she wanted to become a lawyer. This willingness to try her hand at anything is a theme in Sings In The Timber’s life. After college she even spent two years teaching kindergarten at the Indian Community School in Milwaukee.

By 2002, she knew she wanted to study federal Indian law, so she traveled 1,500 miles west to the University of Montana.

“Honestly it was a huge culture shock,” she recalls. “I didn’t know anybody in Missoula, and I felt pretty isolated.”

Sings In The Timber quickly cobbled together a community of “found family” within the law school. One of these friends was Denise Juneau, now the superintendent of Seattle Public Schools, who was a year ahead of her. After Sings In The Timber graduated in 2005, she went to work with Juneau in the Indian Education Division at Montana’s Office of Public Instruction. Sings In The Timber traveled the state, addressing Native American dropout
rates, retention and engagement.

Then, in 2007, Sings In The Timber was hired as the first director of the Montana Justice Foundation, a nonprofit that funds civil legal aid and access to justice initiatives across the state. She attended large meetings with directors of similar organizations from around the country and Canada. Most of those directors were older white men, even though the issues they were discussing primarily affected racial minorities.

Sings In The Timber was inspired by the work, if a little overwhelmed. “I was learning all of this amazing content and trying to apply it while raising the money to make it all happen,” she says. “And I was a baby lawyer and a woman of color in a very interesting position in the state of Montana. Oh, and I wasn’t a Montanan.”

Sings In The Timber carried MJF through the recession of 2008, a trial-by-fire for her fundraising skills. “I feel like I’ve been raising money my whole life, but before the MJF it was mostly for student organizations,” she says. “All of a sudden I was learning the art and science of philanthropy. There are generally no bake sales that come up with a quarter million in funding.”

Around this time, Scott Crichton, who directed the American Civil Liberties Union of Montana for 27 years, recruited Sings In The Timber to join the ACLU board. She chaired the development committee and helped raise a good deal of money.

“The challenge of any nonprofit is to fulfill its mission and pay its bills,” Crichton says. “Lots of people are energetic about the mission, but fall flat when it comes to figuring out how to pay for it all. Amy’s capable on all fronts.”

In 2015, Sings In The Timber packed up her young family and moved to Chicago, where she spent five years working in development for the Chicago Bar Foundation and Covenant House, a nonprofit that supports youth experiencing homelessness. All the while she litigated Indian Child Welfare Act cases pro bono, served as guardian ad litem for Indigenous children and represented survivors of sexual assault and trafficking.

Worthy as the work was, Sings In The Timber was putting in 70-hour weeks that kept her from her young children. When she separated from her husband, she knew a change was in order.

“I needed to go back to where I felt whole,” she says. “Funny enough, that was Montana.”

So Sings In The Timber, her children and their pet greyhound drove back to Missoula, where the Montana Innocence Project, serendipitously, was searching for a new director.

Sings In The Timber’s current office occupies what used to be faculty row in the old law school. “Now it’s a lovely new building with a lot of glass and some pretty righteous Native artwork,” she says.

She’s happy to be back. Others are, too. Among them is Dan Weinberg, the former state senator from Whitefish who started MTIP in 2008.

“She’s probably the best qualified director we’ve ever had,” he says. “It’s easier to raise money for ballet lessons and puppies than it is to free the wrongfully convicted. But she’s a successful fundraiser and actually enjoys it.”

Sings In The Timber’s immediate priorities include lobbying the state Legislature to pass a bill that compensates the wrongfully convicted. Many states have such statutes, but in Montana, exonerated inmates leave prison with no money or programming to rebuild their lives. Sings In The Timber also hopes MTIP can help abolish the death penalty in Montana, a major issue for innocence work.

“She has an incredible ability to set a goal and run at it,” says MTIP legal director Caiti Carpenter. “She brings an energy that makes you want to run at her level. You just want to keep up.”

In the wake of George Floyd’s death, Sings In The Timber hopes for Montana what she hopes for the nation: that Black, Indigenous, and people of color would be afforded justice. She’d like to see Montana’s Native communities better represented in boardrooms and political offices than they are in the state’s prisons. And she sees MTIP as an important part of this work.

“We’re in a different moment,” she says. “There’s a real pressure right now that has gained the attention of all generations, colors and socioeconomic statuses. The stakes couldn’t be any higher and the obstacles couldn’t be any greater, but I have to believe that we’ve gotten to this point for a reason.”

JACOB BAYNHAM ‘07 lives in Missoula with his wife, Hilly McGahan ’07, and their two sons. He writes for National Parks, The Georgia Review and other publications and is the winner of a 2020 National Magazine Award.
Horsefly Dress

In this new collection, award-winning poet Heather Cahoon looks at the genesis and purpose of suffering through traditional stories of the Salish and Kootenai tribal community and contemporary life, woven through with images of the natural world – deer, chokecherries, ninebark and birds. A member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Cahoon is a descendant of Horsefly Dress. She earned her MFA in poetry at UM, where she teaches Native American Studies and directs the American Indian Governance and Policy Center.

For the Love of Running

Stuart Kremzner’s new book aims to help runners take their training to higher levels of performance with innovative ideas about technique, injury prevention, training planning and more. Kremzner gives detailed instruction on interval and speed training, along with testing through time trials. Kremzner earned a master’s degree in exercise physiology at UM and went on to coach athletes for 25 years. He also started and directed several premier sports training facilities and has coached Olympic marathon runners and cross-country and Nordic skiers.

Windblown: The Remarkable Life of Richard S. Buker Jr., MD, a Family Doctor

Physician Richard Buker remarkably went from his education at Yale Medical School to a 50-year career as a family-practice doctor in Chester, Montana. Looking for a place to be of service, he wrote to towns around the West and found a great need in Chester, where the town “just felt right.” Buker reopened the Liberty County Hospital and practiced during an era of immense political, cultural and health care transitions. He was also mentor to author Larry Halverson, also a family medicine physician and UM graduate.

Transcending Depression: Quest Without a Compass

Retired UM faculty member Larry Godwin is the first to tell you his memoir is not based in clinical experience, scientific research or empirical evidence. Instead, it’s an anthology of brief paragraphs containing his honest thoughts of the moments during 49 years of living with serious depression. While at the time he writes them, his thoughts are just the feelings of the day, they form a candid, long-term tapestry of struggle, defeat and small victories.
A Private Cathedral
Missoula’s own James Lee Burke’s 40th book reunites his readers with the iconic favorite character detective Dave Robicheaux and his sidekick Clete Purcel. Dave and Clete set out to rescue two young people who are in love but hail from rival New Iberia crime families. Burke introduces a supernatural twist in the novel, a superhuman assassin who can induce frightening hallucinations. Burke, a former UM faculty member, has won two Edgar Awards for best novel and the Grand Master Award from the Mystery Writers of America, and his novels have been adapted for movies and television.

If It Sounds Good It Is Good: Seeking Subversion, Transcendence, and Solace in America’s Music
In his new book, journalist Richard Manning invites us to leave behind academic theorizing about music – American roots music, specifically – and embrace music as a human essential that reverberates in our inner ears, requiring no processing or digestion by the brain. Manning, who writes that “bluegrass was my gateway drug,” takes his examination of music and its genesis and purpose through the human brain, birds and animals, ancient and modern cultures, wilderness and the guitars he has known. He is a UM alum and occasional visiting faculty member.

Citizens Uniting to Restore Our Democracy
Dan Kemmis’ UM connections include a law degree and directorship of the Center for the Rocky Mountain West. He is a leading scholar of the theory and practice of American democracy and a former Missoula mayor. In his new book, he goes beyond the deeply divided public life of today to look at our political state in a much broader context. He sees in the apparent chaos of modern political debate an affirmation of Americans’ abilities as collective problem-solvers and much hope for healing our democracy.

Douglas Fir: The Story of the West’s Most Remarkable Tree
UM alum and legacy forester Stephen Arno worked for the U.S. Forest Service’s Fire Sciences Lab in Missoula for 26 years. He knows trees. Here he tells the story of the Douglas fir, taken for granted as a utility tree by Westerners. Douglas firs thrive from British Columbia to Mexico, from mountain ranges to deserts, and provide more building lumber than any other tree on Earth. Arno and co-author Carl Fiedler’s narrative will inspire readers to think more deeply as they cut their winter’s firewood from the venerable tree.

The Coconut Crab
Peter W. Fong earned an MFA in fiction at UM and now lives in Tangier, Morocco. He works in summers as a fly-fishing guide in northern Mongolia. He has published in many magazines and anthologies and the novel “Principles of Navigation.” His new book, written for young readers, tells the story of the friendships among a bird, a goat, a crab and a gecko, who navigate the challenges of the eat-or-be-eaten world.

Plain Bad Heroines
Emily Danforth sets the story within a story of her new novel at the Brookhants School for Girls. The reader meets three young friends and students who form their own club, the Plain Bad Heroine Society, around their admiration for a daring young writer. They’re found dead one day, apparent victims of swarming yellowjackets. More than a century later, the abandoned school is the setting for a horror movie, and its three modern heroines become entangled with the past. A native of Miles City, Danforth earned her MFA in creative writing at UM and lives in Rhode Island.
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As UM alumni, we appreciate firsthand the benefits of a liberal arts education. Tomorrow-proof skills – such as verbal communication, critical thinking, ethical judgment, working effectively in teams, written communication and the real-world application of skills and knowledge set us up for success.

For most of us, those more quantifiable skills are complemented by a nurturing of our values as students. Values, in turn, inform our thoughts, words and actions. They guide us when navigating challenging times.

One value I refined during my UM years is the concept of resilience. We’ve all called on resilience and reflection more than we ever thought imaginable of late. More recently, the ability to exert resilience has been even more critical as we find ourselves adapting to a global pandemic, confronting social justice issues and enduring political divisiveness.

I’m thankful and proud of my alma mater. It prepared me to be resilient in times of uncertainty and adversity. There’s something definitive about the resilience of a Griz, and examples of that resilience surround us.

Our students, staff and faculty transitioned to remote learning this spring in a matter of weeks. Nearly 2,000 graduates completed their UM journey without a traditional commencement, career placement pathways and face-to-face interactions. Our incoming freshman class arrived on campus in August facing unique challenges, restrictions and learning environments. Our institution is adapting and reimagining a 21st century higher education that looks forward. And, our alumni have experienced personal and professional challenges, unimaginable just a year ago.

Ordinarily, this annual letter allows us a chance to focus on the many ways we, as an alumni association, continue to expand our engagement, connection and service to you, our valued alumni. Please know we’re hard at work in that regard. Chapter development around the country continues. Engagement opportunities for alumni are expanding. Our content-based Virtual Alumni Engagement series, featuring UM faculty, experts and leaders, was a spectacular success.

However, these are not ordinary times. Some of our most time-honored traditions, such as Homecoming festivities, Griz football and our annual recognition of UM’s Distinguished Alumni Award recipients, are temporarily on hold. Rest assured, we anxiously await their return.

Stay strong, Griz family. We’re all in this together.

Chris Newbold J.D. ‘01
Roger Barber ‘67, J.D. ‘71, M.B.A. ‘83, of Whitefish, has used his UM education to give back to his home state. He worked for the historic 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention and after a brief hiatus in Washington, D.C., he returned to Montana and served as a faculty member at UM’s business administration school before moving to MSU-Northern. There, he became the first faculty member hired for the college’s new bachelor’s degree in business, was promoted to full professor and served in several leadership roles. In 2003, Barber was asked to serve as deputy commissioner for academic and student affairs in the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education for the Montana University System. Under his leadership, the university system improved credit transferability between its campuses and made changes benefiting all Montana students.

Katie Grove ‘73, of Saint Paul, Minnesota, has advanced women in athletic training for more than 40 years. One of the first female athletic trainers in the Midwest, she developed the Women in Athletic Training Task Force and the Women in Athletic Training Committee to help promote women and educate members on pay equity, honors and awards, sexual harassment and women’s exclusion in job opportunities. She also founded the Women in Leadership program in 2018. Grove has been entered into numerous halls of fame, including the National Athletic Trainers’ Association Hall of Fame in 2015, and she has garnered several national industry awards for her service as an athletic trainer, mentor, teacher and scholar. Just this year, she received NATA’s Gail Weldon Award of Excellence.

Mike Halligan ‘75, M.P.A. ‘77, J.D. ‘85, of Missoula, is a Vietnam vet and a former senator in the Montana Legislature. He has worked as a Missoula deputy county attorney, supervising attorney for the Montana Department of Justice’s Child Protection Unit and owner of a private family law practice. Since 2002, he has directed UM’s Dennis and Phyllis J. Washington Foundation, helping it grow as a respected philanthropic advocate for children and education and spearheading projects such as the Phyllis J. Washington Education School and the Washington Champions Center. From volunteering at Habitat to Humanity to mentoring veterans, Mike is committed to helping his community.

Leslie Halligan ‘83, J.D. ‘86, has served as district court judge for the Fourth Judicial Court since her appointment in 2015 by Gov. Steve Bullock. She is chair of the Missoula Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and previously worked as a Missoula deputy city attorney and Missoula deputy county attorney. She was elected president of the State Bar of Montana in 2017. As a member of the National Court Appointed Special Advocates’ Judicial Leadership Council, Leslie oversees child abuse cases. She finds time to volunteer for organizations such as Missoula Aging Services, where she works on the governing board to protect older adults and adults with disabilities.

Nancy Kaser-Boyd, M.A. ‘79, Ph.D. ‘80, of Studio City, California, is a recognized expert in the field of clinical psychology. In addition to serving as a clinical professor at UCLA, she trains psychology graduate students, medical students and psychiatry residents in psychological assessment and consults with USC’s law school on prison inmates filing appeals. A member of Los Angeles County Superior Court Panels of Psychiatrists and Psychologists, Kaser-Boyd is a consultant on criminal cases throughout California and the western U.S. She primarily focuses on cases where battered women kill abusive spouses. She has authored numerous book chapters and journal articles and is active in various professional organizations. Twice, she has received the Outstanding Superior Court Panel Expert Award from the Juvenile Courts Bar Association of Los Angeles County.
Meg Oliver ’93, of Montclair, New Jersey, is an award-winning CBS News correspondent with more than two decades of journalism experience. She joined CBS News in 2006 as overnight anchor of “Up to the Minute” and correspondent for “The Early Show.” Today, she reports for all CBS programs and platforms. She has covered breaking news stories around the county and world, such as the London Bridge terrorist attack and Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Other major stories she has reported include a Florida teenager who ran away with her soccer coach, the number of unreported deaths at trampoline parks and the opioid epidemic, as well as the current pandemic. Oliver has earned several Society of Professional Journalist honors and Associated Press Awards for breaking news and continuing coverage.

Although Lynette Stein-Chandler, Ed.D. ’10, died in 2017, she left behind a legacy in American Indian education. A member of the Aaniiih and of Nakoda descent, Stein-Chandler – known as “Dancing Woman” – and her husband were the first graduates of Montana State University’s Native American Studies master’s program. In 2003, Stein-Chandler founded the private K-8 White Clay Language Immersion School and revitalized the language through increasing fluent speakers on Montana’s Fort Belknap Reservation. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Peru and Guatemala and received a Doctor of Education from UM in 2010. Stein-Chandler has earned the 2011 Unsung Hero Award, 2012 Montana Indian Educator of the Year and UM’s 2013 Educational Leadership Excellence Award. The Fort Belknap Indian Community declared May 7, 2012, Dr. Lynette Chandler Day in her honor.
During the global pandemic, health care workers have emerged as our nation’s heroes. Some of those brave souls, of course, also happen to be Grizzlies – like Meredith ’13 and Jason Barba ’13, whom life has called to New York City.

The Barbas met as Park n’ Dash bus drivers at UM, where Meredith earned a health and human performance degree, and Jason received a human biology degree.

After graduating, both Barbas became EMTs and worked for the Frenchtown Rural Fire Department before continuing to the University of North Dakota – Meredith for nursing and Jason for medical school.

This March, in a process known as “The Match” for all fourth-year medical students in the country, Jason was matched to a residency program at the Mount Sinai Health System in New York City – just as NYC became the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak.

“Learning that I’d matched to a top-tier program like Mount Sinai was truly a dream come true,” Jason says. “Getting a chance to train and learn from some of the big names in the field is a great opportunity.”

But the move to NYC during the pandemic has had its challenges.

For the Barbas, the isolation has been hard, with no groups and activities meeting, and family and friends unable to visit. Without cars, in-building laundry and grocery convenience, they have had to make major adjustments – all while taking care of their first baby.

“They aren’t kidding when they say “it takes a village” to raise a child, so when you eliminate that village, it’s hard,” Meredith says. “Thankfully, there’s FaceTime to stay connected with friends and family who are on the other side of the country!”

Currently, Meredith stays home with daughter Cassie, while Jason works as an emergency medicine resident physician intern in his first of four years, primarily working in the ER and spending time in orthopedics, the ICU, OB and more.

“One of the challenges I’ve faced in NYC hospitals is language barriers,” Jason says. “I train at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens (the main trauma hospital), and the area is thought to be the most diverse community in the world. So something as simple as communication can become quite the hurdle if a language interpreter isn’t available.”

What advice do the Barbas have for people working in health care?

“Find your people! Or your thing,” Meredith says. “It’s such a weird time right now, that it’s easy to lose yourself in the chaos. But taking the time for coffee, happy hour, mani/pedi, a run, whatever it may be, makes such a difference!”

Note: Special thanks to the Barbas, who found time in between patients, on the subway and among juggling childcare to share their story with the Montanan.
1960s

NANCY FLYNN
’61, McMinnville, OR, retired last year after more than 28 years as a Realtor. She taught for 15 years in Montana, Idaho and Oregon and now is busy adventuring to many other states.

FELICIA LONDRE
’62, Kansas City, MO, is Curators’ Distinguished Professor Emerita of Theatre at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and president of KC Molière: 400 in 2022, a nonprofit overseeing citywide arts and education programs to celebrate the great French playwright’s 400th birthday on Jan. 15, 2022. She has earned multiple awards for theater, including the UM Alumni Association’s 1998 Distinguished Alumni Award.

CRAIG PIERSON
’67, Billings, worked at Exxon for 18 years, founded the Figure Skating Club of Billings and married MaryAnn Harner. Since 2001, he has taught chemistry at Billings Central High School, was named Educator of the Year and recently scored AP Chem exams. He initiated Dual Credit Chemistry using UM Professor Cracolice’s textbook, and he is planning an endowment gift for UM.

1950s

JACK TUPPER DANIELS
’55, Cortland, NY, an Olympian and award-winning athlete, just finished his biography. “Luck of The Draw” tells of his time competing in modern pentathlon in three World Championships and two Olympics and his years coaching Olympians, collegiate national champions and NCAA All-Americans. He was inducted into the U.S.A. Track and Field and Cross-Country Association’s Coaches Hall of Fame in 2019. “I still consider my years at the University of Montana as the greatest years of my life,” he says.

LARRY HELWIG
’55, M.S. ’57, Brookings, SD, established the first “choose and cut” Christmas tree farm in South Dakota with his wife. Helwig enjoyed an extensive career in forestry, working in timber management in Custer State Park, as a manager for a pulp and paper wood chip plant in the Black Hills and as the state’s extension forester for South Dakota State University’s Horticulture Department. He earned the S.D. Society of American Foresters’ Forest Resources Award in 1988 for his work in tree management, increasing Black Hills timber harvest and initiating an urban forestry program in the state. Now, 92 years old, Helwig enjoys talking about urban forestry with his grandson, a horticulturalist.

RICHARD WOODS
’56, Chicago, self-published his latest work, “Seven Court House Windows Shattered: Montana Celebrates the Armistice.” He is the author of several other compilations focusing on history in Phillips and Valley counties in Montana.

JAMES DEAN LE SUEUR
’86, Lincoln, NE, is the director of “The Art of Dissent,” which just earned the RIIFF Social Spotlight Award at the elite Flickers’ Rhode Island International Film Festival. “The Art of Dissent” is the first feature documentary film by Le Sueur, who is chair of the history department at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. As well as teaching history, international relations and filmmaking, he is an editor, writer, cinematographer and professional photographer. The film, created over three years, features historical footage and interviews in England, the Czech Republic and the U.S. and documents artistic engagement in Czechoslovakia before and after the 1968 Soviet invasion. The film also entered the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival and Newburyport Documentary Film Festival and was reviewed by the Boston Globe. A trailer is available at https://middfilmfest.org/portfolio/the-art-of-dissent/.


1970s

FLOYD BOSCHEE

STEVE HELMBRECHT
’75, Havre, is the owner of Helmbrecht Photography, which this year celebrated its 74th anniversary as one of the oldest continuously operated photography studios in Montana. Helmbrecht took over the business in 1983 from his father—who was a photographer for the U.S. Navy during World War II—and has received numerous awards, including becoming a master photographer and receiving a craftsman degree from the Professional Photographers of America.

MERRIE RAMPY
’76, M.Ed. ’99, Prescott, AZ, earned the Lewis-Clark State College Outstanding Teacher Educator Award. She has taught for 43 years throughout Montana, Nevada, and Idaho and also is the Idaho State Science Fair director.

CAROL ANN RUSSELL
’76, M.F.A. ’79, Bemidji, MN, retired from Bemidji State University in Minnesota after 32 years of teaching. Russell was a student of Madeline DeFrees and Richard Hugo when she received her M.F.A. in creative writing-poetry from UM in 1979. She has been granted the rank of Professor Emerita of English.

1980s

CHARLES MONAHAN
’77, M.B.A. ’79, Morrisville, NC, retired as the director of regulatory compliance after 32 years with Panasonic and is looking forward to spending summers in Missoula with his wife.

JEFFREY LELEK
M.S. ’79, Carefree, AZ, and Lesa ’79 continue to enjoy retirement in Steamboat Springs, Colorado and Carefree, Arizona. Between traveling, biking, hiking, golfing and family, Lelek finished his first novel, “Sinai Prospect,” now available through Amazon. The book revolves around oil exploration, with a geologist as the main character. Set largely in Egypt, Montana and Denver, it involves murder, espionage, kidnapping and drama.

HERBERT KASUBE
Ph.D. ’79, Peoria, IL, retired after 42 years at Bradley University. He now is Associate Professor of Mathematics Emeritus.

KIMBERLY ELLEN DREDGER
’80, ’87, Missoula, published her first novel, “Begin Again,” in April. The novel, which takes place in the Bitterroot and Missoula valleys, is about loss, healing, love and growth. Much of Dredger’s own experience is reflected in the book, including completing both the Missoula and New York City marathons. Dredger retired from teaching and lives in Missoula with her husband, Jim Dredger ’83.

JOHN FRANCIS
M.S. ’86, Cape May, NJ, commissioner for Cape May, New Jersey, and a well-known environmentalist, is running for Congress. Francis took a 17-year vow of silence after witnessing an oil spill and walked everywhere he needed to go for 22 years. Known globally as the Planetwalker, he delivered a TED Talk and is an education fellow with the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. He also was appointed the United Nations Environment Program’s Goodwill Ambassador to the World’s Grassroots Communities.

KY BOYD
’87, Santa Rosa, CA, is the founder of Sonoma County’s best-known movie house Rialto Cinemas, which celebrated its 20th anniversary this year.

JACQUELINE RHODES
’88, East Lansing, MI, is professor and chair of the Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures at Michigan State University. Her work is online at www.jacquelinerrhodes.net.

SHAWN GLEN
’89, J.D. ’92, Missoula, became part of Macomber Law in Missoula this spring. She has practiced law for 25 years, is known for brokering multimillion-dollar real estate deals and served as an in-house counsel for a Couer d’Alene real estate firm. She is admitted to practice law in Idaho and Montana district and supreme courts.

JEFF IRELAND
’89, Helena, retired as an Army brigadier general after a 40-year career of service with the Montana Army National Guard and as an enlisted soldier. One of his many achievements is implementing the Montana Yellow Ribbon Program, which has led to development of a suicide prevention and crisis intervention program for service members, as well as expansion of mental health resources for the Montana Guard’s soldiers and airmen.

1990s

DIANA THOMAS
’91, Randolph, NJ, teaches math at West Point, and her work recently made international news. Thomas’ team analyzed high-tech scans of thousands of bodies to determine how Leonardo DaVinci’s proportions in his drawing of the “Vitruvian Man” matches with ideal body measurements in real life.
JOE GLADDEN
M.S. ’93, Oxford, MS, the University of Mississippi’s chief research officer, was elected vice-president of the Acoustical Society of America, which is devoted to the science and technology of sound. He also is director of the Physical Acoustics Summer School and a professor of physics, and his interest lies in acoustics and energy-related materials.

ROB GANNON
’94, M.P.A. ’08, Missoula, is the city of Missoula’s new chief financial officer. Gannon moved to Montana from Seattle, where he served as general manager of King County Metro – a transit agency with 5,000 employees recently named the best large transit system in North America. He has worked at Amazon, as a higher education administrator and attended the U.S. Naval Academy.

DAVE KELM
M.P.A. ’94, Springfield, IL, has held a number of positions with Illinois state government, owned and operated a public affairs consultancy and now is general counsel for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois.

CURT OLDS
’94, New York City, is performing with the international tour of “The Phantom of the Opera” – one of the only theater tours in operation during the pandemic. Olds is a Butte native and he has performed with the New York City Opera, the Hawaii Opera Theatre and Colorado’s Central City Opera.

NATHAN PERRY
’94, Anchorage, AK, is a professional fine artist and graphic designer for The Alaska Club Marketing Department. He displays his artwork in galleries around Alaska and shows his drawings and paintings around the world.

“THe very fond memories of Missoula, Montana, and am very grateful I had the opportunity to experience college life in such a supportive environment,” he says.

“It was such a very inspirational place, and I loved the kind-hearted people and natural surroundings. Much to UM from a proud alum!”

KIRSTEN PABST
J.D. ’95, Missoula, was named vice president and executive committee member for the National District Attorneys Association. Pabst is the Missoula County attorney and well-known for her leadership in criminal justice reforms and prosecutor well-being initiatives. She has worked as a prosecutor for 25 years and a trial instructor for the NDAA for 20 years and also will chair its new Prosecutor Well-being Task Force.

KERRI VILLENEUVE
’96, Seattle, recently was promoted to the director of Large Group Health New Sales with Kaiser Permanente of Washington. Her responsibilities include managing large group new sales, new group implementation and broker relations. She has a 20-year track record of success in group insurance in the Pacific Northwest.

KATHERINE “KATE” GARNETT
’98, Santa Fe, NM, received her Master of Arts in Counseling with an emphasis in school counseling at New Mexico Highlands University last year and is employed as a bilingual school counselor at Santa Fe High School.

2000s

BILLIE KIPP
M.A. ’00, Ph.D. ’05, Seattle, became the new associate director of research and evaluation for the Center for Native American Youth. Kipp, who holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, has more than 20 years of experience working with Indigenous communities. She has served as a facilitator for the Department of Veteran Affairs, a data analyst, research associate and tribal college president at different colleges. The American Psychological Association selected her in the First Women of Color Change Makers National Tour and a top Native American Leader in Higher Education.

TED ROBERTS
M.B.A. ’00, Chesapeake, VA, retired July 1 after nearly 31 years of service with the Air Force. He served as an ICBM missile launch officer at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls from 1997 to 2001 and concluded his career as a space operations officer and an assistant professor teaching at the Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia. Roberts graduated from Regent University’s Doctorate of Strategic Leadership program this May, named Outstanding Graduate out of 71 classmates. He now works as a senior defense analyst and space subject matter expert with Advanced Strategic Insight.

MATT BERARD
’97, Needham, MA, was named a Leaders Club qualifier by The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America – its highest honor reserved for those who show outstanding service and dedication to their clients. Berard is a disability income specialist for Guardian’s Bulfinch Group.
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**Marni Hughes**

’01, Bellevue, WA, just joined the national cable network WGN America and will lead the anchor team for the new newscast, “News Nation,” which debuted across the U.S. on Sept. 1. In her 20-year career, Hughes has worked in Ohio, Indiana, Salt Lake City, Minneapolis and Seattle, and her evening news team in Seattle won an Emmy for its series of stories on families raising kids with autism.

**Trina Finley Ponce**

’01, Kuna, ID, was named a 2020 Woman of the Year by Idaho Business Review. A member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and a former U.S. Army Reserve officer, she is manager of the diversity and inclusion program at HP, where she has worked for nearly 20 years. Ponce frequently presents at national conferences, serves on numerous boards and is passionate about honoring Indigenous people, as well as all diverse communities.

**Erin Katherine Shaw**

’03, Missoula, became UM’s TRIO SSS program coordinator. As a student at UM, she led the women’s soccer team to the Big Sky Championships. After graduation, she worked with underserved and underprivileged youth at Youth Homes and Western Montana Mental Health Center. She also helped develop the first Comprehensive School and Community Treatment Program at Hellgate High School. She is now Network Manager for the Montana College Attainment Network.

**Matthew Paulson**

’05, Kalispell, is the new dean of Whitefish Christian Academy. Paulson, who holds degrees in philosophy, classics and theology, also will teach Latin, theology, logic and apologetics at WCA.

**Kellan Carter**

’09, Seattle, a partner at the Seattle-area venture capital firm Ignition Partners, co-founded and launched a new spinoff firm, Fuse Venture Partners. He will head up Fuse as a general partner and focus on investing in early-stage enterprise software companies.

**Kristen Barnett**

’10, M.A. ’13, Ph.D. ’15, Auburn, ME, is researching pre-colonial archaeology in Togiak, a Yup’ik village on the Northern Bristol Bay in Alaska, with a grant from the National Science Foundation. She has worked at the Togiak site since 2011, excavating artifacts and working with the community to find their proper homes. Barnett is a professor at Bates College, and she holds a doctorate in cultural heritage and archaeology from UM.

**Lee Baxter**

J.D. ’12, Anchorage, AK, joins Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt as a litigation and dispute resolution counsel who practices in commercial litigation, real property matters, Indian and Alaska Native law, government relations and contracting.

**Mikaila Harwood Ramone**

’12, Butte, just opened up Mick & Goldie’s bakery in Butte. The bakery has quickly become a popular spot – even during the pandemic – with its breakfast sandwiches, croissants, frosted sugar cookies, cupcakes and other delicious offerings.

**Grady Higgins**

’13, Great Falls, became editor of his hometown newspaper, the Great Falls Tribune. He has worked in different roles in the newsroom since 2015, covering sports as well as working as a producer and reporter.

**Kelsey McNeil (Palmer)**

Pharm.D. ’14, Golden, CO, was named Colorado’s 2020 Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year. She has worked at Boulder Community Health for one and a half years and is BCH’s only board-certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist, as well as a practice mentor and residency program preceptor. The award, presented by the Colorado Pharmacists Society, recognizes individual excellence and outstanding contributions in state pharmacy association activities, community affairs and professional practice.

**Melissa Mehring**

’17, Layton, UT, just received her master’s degree in project management from the University of Southern California.

**Tailyr Irvine**

’18, Missoula, has had her photojournalism featured in National Geographic and the Smithsonian Institute. Her photo essay, in progress the past year and a half, examines blood quantum requirements for Native American tribal enrollment and is titled, “Reservation Mathematics: Navigating Love in Native America.”

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- $100 donation - Griz gear sweatshirt, socks and car decal
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


1940s

Ruth Dona James Tomlinson ’42, Missoula
Marie D. Evans Harpole ’46, Worrenton, OR
Dorothy Faye Kimball Stoner ’47, Fairfield, CA
James E. “Jim” Mayes ’48, Missoula
Mary Belle Lockhart Sheppardi ’48, Mesa, AZ
Arthur Roy Buntin ’49, Aberdeen, SD

1950s

Frederic Wofred “Fred” Balsam ’50, Billings
Athalie Joanne Collins Fuller ’50, Missoula
Donald Bennet Svanson ’50, Houston
Joseph “Joe” Wolpert ’50, M.Ed. ’55, Anaconda
James P. “Jim” Lucas ’50, J.D. ’51, Winter-Garden, FL
Robert E. “Bob” Rollson ’50, Missoula
Donis Elaine Stamp Andersen ’51, Billings
Joseph William Brennan ’51, M.Ed. ’53, Quincy, CA
Melvin D. Clendenin ’51, Girard, OH
Madison H. Vick ’51, Portland
Donna Corinne Fleshman Bennett ’52, Billings
Donald Wilmot “Don” Cullen ’52, Polson
Mary Jacquesen “Jacque” King Perry
Bellucci Monroe ’52, Great Falls
HP Brown ’53, Great Falls
Donald “Don” Gerfinger ’53, Leander, TX
Russel Charles “Rus” Hart ’53, M.Ed. ’56, Spokane
Lee A. Woodward ’53, ’58, M.S. ’59, Albuquerque, NM
JoAnn Pings Evans ’54, Billings
Shirley Jean DeForth Lucchesi ’55, M.A. ’59, Bloomingdale, IL

1960s

Duane A. Adams ’60, Arlington, VA
Charles George “Chuck” Gennie ’60, Scottsdale, AZ
Richard Helfrich ’60, Waldport, OR
Donald Dale “Don” Hubbard ’61, Steilacoom, WA
Myrna Faye Eyerly Charney ’62, Missoula
David Wilson Dale ’62, M.A. ’69, M.F.A. ’91, Big Arm
Einar L. Johnson ’62, Roswell, NM
Kenneth L. “Ken” Maki ’62, Belt
Sheldon Adeline “Shelly” Hodges Bell ’63, Billings
Fred B. Blanchard ’63, Gresham, OR
Joe Thomas Moody ’63, M.Ed. ’71, Eugene, OR
Thomas A. Spatafore ’63, Great Falls
William Albert “Bill” Ball, M.Ed. ’64, Billings
John Lewis Carpenter ’64, Ph.D. ’75, Columbia Falls
Alice Linda Mar “Lindy” Porter James ’64, Big Arm
Christy Pearl Odum ’64, ’86, Missoula
Susan Elizabeth Sather ’64, Missoula
Charles Miller “Casey” Sparrow ’64, Phoenix
Court Elliot Ball ’65, J.D. ’69, Billings
Ted William Rieke ’65, Bigfork
James P. “Casey” Thompson ’65, Bellingham, WA
Michael J. “Mike” Tillemann ’65, Havre
Dennis H. Johnson ’66, Whitefish
Lawrence Eldon “Larry” Johnston ’66, Billings
Duane Dennis “Pete” Petersen, M.A. ’66, Missoula
Ronald Edward “Ron” Res “66, M.S. ’68, Cody, WY
Allan L. Leman ’67, Tonasket, WA
Larry Wayne Oddy, Manhattan, MT
Donald Dean “Don” Cleveland, M.Ed. ’68, Billings
Jerome Paul “Jerry” Okonski ’68, Kalispell
Ralph William Schmidt ’68, Anaconda
Jean Kathleen Stang Strommes ’68, Helena
Carolyn Holm Chase ’69, Clinton
Robert Earl Daniels ’69, Miles City
Ronald Benjamin “Ron” Harris ’69, Boise
Arlene B. Myllymaki ’69, Missoula
Deanna Whiteside Sheriff, M.Ed. ’69, Bellevue, WA

1970s

Kenneth George “Ken” Avison ’70, M.Ed. ’74, Polson
Edwin E. “Edd” Blackler ’70, ’76, Bigfork
Lorraine Mallo Sharp ’70, M.Ed. ’80, Florence, AZ
Thomas H. “Tom” Swisher ’70, Queen Valley, AZ
Arthur Leroy “Art” Tadej ’70, Mesquite, NV
Harold Keith “Toke” Tokerud, M.Ed. ’70, Pahrump, NV
Margaret Suzanne Stahl Johnson ’71, Alberton
Larry E. Krumwiede ’71, Carter
Lisa Peterson Loendorf ’71, Valier
Eunice Elaine “E.J.” Johns McClure ’71, Polson
Michael J. “Mick” McKeon, J.D. ’71, Butte
Douglas Martin “Doug” Booker ’72, Berkeley, CA
William Bernel “Bill” Erickson ’72, Choteau
Russell T. Graham ’72, Moscow, ID
Thomas Bassett “Tom” Kinsaide, Ph.D. ’72, Sharon, MA
Donna Mae McKinsey ’72, Maple Valley, WA
Michael Leslie “Mike” “Angus” McPherson, J.D. ’72, M.B.A. ’89, Great Falls
Daniel Francis “Dan” Miles ’72, Butte
Brian Steinwand ’72, Saint Albans, ME
Minabelle Kerper Milodragnovich ’73, Stevensville
Robert C. “Bob” Ockler ’73, Anaconda
Daniel J. Yerkich ’73, San Francisco
Kathleen Marie “Kay” Coppins Balmer ’74, Portland, OR
Nicholas L. “Nick” Bourdeau ’74, Great Falls
Roger “Dale” Wilson ’74, M.Ed. ’78, Caldwell, ID
Van Courtney Jamison, M.S. ’75, Helena
Elaine F. Howard ’75, Butte
James Kent “Jim” Parker ’75, Missoula
Earl Charles Stubbeck ’75, Butte
John Michael “Mike” McCormick ’76, Noocksack, WA
Kerry N. Newcomer ’76, J.D. ’80, Missoula
Jane Susan Fisher ’77, Ph.D. ’85, Helena
Ronald Leroy “Ron” Frazee, J.D. ’77, Dallas
Gregory Ross “Greg” Pottruff ’77, Great Falls
Marilyn Pauline Thompson Templeton, M.Ed. ’77, Missoula
JoAnne Ruth Olson Blake ’78, Bozeman
Suzanne Gail Phelps Sheppard ’78, Maple Valley, WA
Thomas Edward “Tom” Wells ’78, Mount Vernon, WA
Paul Robert Cory ’79, Great Falls
David Lee “Dave” Fawcett ’79, Hayden, ID
Bradley Joel “Brad” Oklenburg ’79, Evergreen, CO
Kathryn Louise Moody Stewart ’79, Polson
Dale Burk ’70, Stevensville

1980s

Bridget Ann Konroy ’80, M.A. ’88, Pittsburg, PA
Dolores Marie Nelson Palmieri ’80, Spokane
Judith A. “Judy” Sather ’80, Missoula
James S. “Jim” Walter, Jr. ’80, Livingston
Michael H. “Mike” Blessinger ’81, Helena
Members

NEW LIFETIME

Sue Bubnash ’74, Yakima, WA
Charles Black ’19, Missoula

This list includes all new lifetime members from Aug. 2019 - Sept. 2020.

You can join them by calling 877-862-5867

Alumni Association thanks them for their support.

The following alumni and friends made a


2000s

Danielle Lee Miller Lambright ’00, Clinton
Rebecca Lynn “Bec” Folkers ’02, Billings
Joshua Joseph “Josh” LaBau ’06, Ph.D. ’11, Polson
Paul Louis Olmstead ’07, Moore, MT
Lois Elaine Harrington Bergeson ’08, Missoula
Charles Earl “Chuck” Wood ’09, Butte

Former students, faculty and staff

LaVetta Jacobsen Bradford, Billings
Clifford John “Cliff” Christian, Helena
Harold Clifford “Cliff” Collins, Kalispell
John Patrick Corrigan, Bonner
Sharon Anne Cotrell, Long Beach, CA
John Francis Davia, Bozeman
Michael C. “Mike” Delaney, Jupiter, FL
Joyce Lorraine Minto Dunstan, Missoula
Linnex Philip Ghilardi, Bigfork
Kim N. Eyerly, Livingston, MT
Jeanne Lorraine Cookson French, Plentywood
Elizabeth A. “Liz” Wall Greene, Centennial, CO
Betty Loyd Haddon, Helena
Douglas Charles “Doug” John, Albuquerque, NM
Rosemary “Rosie” Lane Kampschror, Issaquah, WA
Gerald Grayson Kipp, Missoula
Courtney Karen Klages, Post Falls, ID
Mark Nichols Laslovich, Anaconda
Helen Louise Lewis-Hedman, Hamilton

1990s

Maria Elena Bonilla Beltran-Jensen, J.D. ’90, Billings
Julie A. Spaulding Black ’91, Great Falls

Former students, faculty and staff

Scott ’85 and Tana Burke ’88, Missoula
Carl ’62 and Christine Cain, Missoula
Jonathan Dorman ’02, Brooklyn, NY
Lucas ’09, M.B.A. ’16, J.D. ’16, and Cecelia Hamilton ’08, Helena
Chance Thompson ’12 and Ryan Hamilton ’07, ’09, M.Acct. ’15, Park City, UT
Ryan ’09, M.B.A. ’16, and Emily Hansen ’11, M.A. ’13, Missoula
Susan Harvey-Wihlen ’79, M.Ed. ’84, Missoula
Gary Hettich ’74, Hamilton
Keep ’01 and Lacey Hill ’04, Bozeman
Roy Housenamer ’03, M.P.A. ’12, Washington, D.C.
Mark Lannen ’97, Missoula
Dan Lauren ’90, Auburn, WA
John ’04 and Rachel Malison ’04, Ph.D. ’13, Bigfork

Friends and parents

William F. “Bill” Antonioili, Butte
Milt J. “Milt” Carlson, Kalispell
Thomas J. “Tom” Dillon, Great Falls
Lois Gaffney Barnett Eveland, Helena
Joan Marie “Joanie” Peres Hansen, Hamilton
Kenneth Paul “Ken” Haugan, Kalispell
Wanda Mary Peterson Hollensteiner, Rollins
Robert Fayette “Bob” Jenkins, Butte
Huey D. Johnson, Corte Madera, CA
Sharon Laketa Christopherson McDonald, Ronan
Victoria Lynn “Vickey” Riley Petritz, Butte
Mary Louise Backus Rankin, Helena
Beverly “Bev” Richards Rhinehart, Englewood Cliffs, NJ
Ellen Pauline Reimann Robey, Spokane
Joan C. “Jan” Vanenehoven Schiedermayer, Missoula
Thomas William “Tom” Scott, Dayton, WY
William S. “Bill” Strazich, Great Falls
James Campbell “Jim” Taylor, Bozeman
R. Peter “Peter” Vane, Sedona, AZ
Helen J. Warren, Vista, CA
Patrick E. Watson, Scottsdale, AZ
Eleanor Ruth Young Werdman, Kalispell
Jonathan Peter Weisul, Missoula
Vincent Sterling “Vince” Werner, Missoula
Frederick Eugene “Fred” Weybret, Lodi, CA

Ronald C. “Ron” Marlenee, Bozeman
Pamala Burke McDavid, Lolo
Robert A. “Bob” Neill, Great Falls
Paul Andrew Overtaugh, Missoula
Bobby Lynn Parker, Kalispell
Elaine Phillips Cooper Power, Helena
Harry E. Ray, Jr., Missoula
James Morgan “Jim” Scott, Bigfork
Ryan Matthew Tanner Four Souls, Box Elder
Mary “Carmen” Thomas Smart, Milledgeville, GA
Janet Denice Olsen Tutt, Seattle
Joel Robert Vail, Brooklet, GA
Paul Frederick Wallner, Rehoboth Beach, DE
John Patteson “Jack” Wehenberg, Missoula
Thomas L. “Tom” Wheatley, Missoula
Albert A. “Al” Yardley, Rapid City, SD
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100 Madison Street / Missoula, Montana 59802
UM is paving a new future, and the way forward includes the turning of some old stones. One-hundred-year-old bricks, to be exact.

This summer, the historic brick walkways of UM’s Oval got a facelift, thanks to a large-scale reconstruction project in the heart of campus. What used to be clunky and timeworn bricks that made riding bikes, rushing to class or wheelchair accessibility difficult, is now stamped, smooth concrete – leaving behind generations of stubbed toes and careful balancing on the iconic and beloved paths.

“The problem was so many of them had become damaged from years of the freeze-thaw cycle,” says Kevin Krebsbach, director of UM Facility Services. “It caused most of them to settle and create hazards.”

Funds for the $250,000 infrastructure investment, awarded to Knife River of Missoula, were made available from a University bond sale last year that generated $63 million ear-marked for investments in student-serving infrastructure and capital improvements. The new concrete is textured to resemble bricks, reflecting UM’s classical aesthetic and original design.

The walkways didn’t exist at UM until 1969, when the bricks – originally laid in downtown Missoula streets between 1912 and 1914 – were removed and installed on campus as crossways that run east-west and north-south on the Oval. The first 80 years our campus lacked walkways across the Oval, and it was considered taboo to walk across the campus greens. University archives include records of a paddling punishment for those caught breaking the rules and a silent sentinel who blew a whistle when the greens were trespassed.

Krebsbach says most of the original brick workmanship was on-par for the times, despite some improper installation and flawed placement of the brick’s concrete borders which had worsened over time. The bricks came from the former Denny-Renton Clay & Coal Company in Renton, Washington – once the largest producers of brick pavers in the world.

Reflecting UM’s commitment to sustainability and bypassing the landfill as much as possible, Facilities Services wanted to recycle as many of the original bricks as possible that were still in usable condition.

Krebsbach said about 80% of the original bricks, estimated to be between 60,000 to 70,000, are still usable and currently sitting on pallets for future projects, or for a potential sale to the public – following many inquiries from alumni and the public about the project.

“What’s neat to me about the whole project is the restoring of the Oval’s grandeur and making something better that was already there,” Krebsbach says.

As Montana lays a new foundation for future generations, we honor our past as we start down a new path.
Downtown Missoula is a special place where University of Montana students and alumni connect to our community and make memories that last a lifetime. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a dramatic impact on hundreds of Downtown businesses and non-profit organizations in Missoula, and economic recovery will take time and support from Missoulians and UM alumni near and far.

Now more than ever, Downtown Missoula needs your support!

The Downtown Missoula Partnership and its member organizations encourage you to help sustain the health and vibrancy of Missoula’s beloved Downtown.

- Give a gift to the Missoula Downtown Foundation to help preserve Missoula’s Spirit of Place
- Support Downtown businesses by shopping online
- Buy Downtown Missoula Gift Cards for your friends and family this holiday season
- Take an Unseen Missoula Tour the next time you’re in town

Visit www.missouladowntown.com for more information on the Downtown Missoula Partnership and its projects and programs. Follow MissoulaDowntown on Facebook or Instagram.
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Montanans are strong and resilient. During our nearly 70-year history, we have weathered many storms together. We will get through this one too.

Stay safe and take care of your loved ones.

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