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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 9, 1998

Contact: Robin Putnam, Center for Work-based Learning, 243-4614.

LOCAL UM STUDENTS GET JOB EXPERIENCE AS INTERNS

MISSOULA--

Every semester, the Center for Work-based Learning at The University of Montana places and keeps track of students in on-the-job internships close to home or far away.

So far this semester, seven UM students from **Missoula** have reported to the center about their experience.

■ Justin Bigart, a sophomore in finance and pre-law, is working as a staff aide for D.A. Davidson and Co. in Missoula. He is responsible for posting trades and transactions and completing small client-relations tasks for brokers and associates. He's also helped organize seminars. Bigart graduated from Big Sky High School in 1997. His parents are Keith and Sandy Bigart.

■ Heather Bodlovic, a senior in accounting, has an accounting internship with Long Machinery in Missoula. She is a 1995 graduate of Loyola-Sacred Heart High School. Her parents are Janet and Frank Bodlovic.

■ Misty Bowen, a senior in social work, is interning at the Missoula YWCA as an advocate for domestic violence and sexual assault victims. She answers crisis calls and works at the domestic violence shelter. Bowen graduated from Hellgate High School in 1995. Her parents are Stephen and Dianna Bowen.

■ Jonas LaRance, a senior in business and marketing, is creative director at Safe Shop Tools in Missoula, where he deals with artistic and technical aspects of marketing tools. LaRance is a 1994 Hellgate High School graduate. His parents are Steve and Claudia

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Hufford's research focuses on the relapse and recovery process. In one of his current projects he's collaborating with Dorothy Lescantz, head of the Addiction Treatment Program at St. Patrick Hospital. They collect data on patient characteristics to learn how to predict who will recover and who will return to using a substance. Better understanding of the relapse process will help treatment providers make informed decisions, giving people the best chance to quit using whatever substance they're addicted to, Hufford says.

He and Lescantz collect data two ways. One method uses the standard interview and questionnaire, before and after treatment. The other method, which Hufford describes as "cutting edge," uses electronic diaries. The pre-treatment questionnaires assess certain psychiatric variables, one of which is comorbidity -- whether a patient has one or more psychiatric disorders in addition to substance use. Comorbidity is a strong predictor of an addict's success or failure in the recovery process, Hufford says.

"We know that of people with alcohol dependence, approximately four out of five have a comorbid psychiatric illness," Hufford says. "The vast majority of people with an alcohol problem don't have just an alcohol problem." Other things enter in, such as depression, schizophrenia and anxiety disorders.

For years, scientists have tried to understand the relapse process by asking questions like "Are you drinking?" months after patients have been discharged from treatment. Hufford says if the patient answers "yes," the next question is, "Oh, what happened?" To answer such questions is difficult, he says, because retrospective recall requires a tremendous amount of human memory. His previous research has shown that retrospective recall is inaccurate and biased.

LaRance.

■ Jill Stickney, a junior in accounting, is an accounting conversion assistant at Tamarack Management Inc. in Missoula. In addition to her work in computer conversion of accounting records, she has accounts payable, payroll and various cash-posting responsibilities. Stickney graduated from Big Sky High School in 1996. Her parents are Larry and Marilyn Stickney.

■ Scott Stromberg, a senior in business management, is an operations assistant at Corporate Securities Group, a financial services firm in Missoula. His responsibilities include providing support to financial consultants and maintaining accounts payable. He also does cash-flow planning, inventory control, payroll, taxes and budget analysis. Stromberg is a 1992 graduate of Sentinel High School. His parents are Roger and Ann Stromberg.

■ Brandon Vande Ven, a junior in business administration with emphases in management and marketing, is assistant manager at Denny's Copy Stop. His duties include marketing Denny's services to Missoula and surrounding areas. He also trains employees and sets schedules. Vande Ven graduated from Hellgate High School in 1995. His parents are Ron and Debby Vande Ven.

The Center for Work-based Learning at UM's Center for Continuing Education and Summer Programs develops and coordinates internships to help students integrate their academic education with practical job experience. It serves about 1,800 students a year, placing 400 to 500 of them as interns throughout Montana and the nation in more than 35 fields of employment.

Information about the work-based learning program is available at 243-4614 or on the Web at http://www.umt.edu/coop_intern.

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comparing process, the researchers can determine how accurate or inaccurate the retrospective data are.

“This is one of three laboratories in the nation using this methodology to understand alcoholism,” Hufford says. “We’re just as interested in those who make it, who recover, as we are in those people who may have a more difficult time and relapse.”

Treatment for addiction is a fairly modern idea, Hufford says, noting that historically over the past several thousand years most people who stopped using addictive substances did so on their own.

“In fact, most people do stop on their own,” he says, “but the most severely addicted people cannot. That is, by the time you develop that full-blown substance dependence, odds are you’re going to need some help. I’m a strong proponent of the idea that it varies by addiction severity, not by any of these notions of will power or ‘Well, just snap out of it.’”

Seed money for this pilot project came from the Montanans On a New Track for Science (MONTs) research program based at Montana State University. The program gets its funding from the National Science Foundation.

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