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## January 2010 news releases

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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# UM NEWS



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# UM NEWS



December 14, 2010

## MISSOULA –

Two students from the University of Montana's School of Journalism have been chosen to provide news coverage of the Montana Legislature's 2011 session for scores of newspapers and radio stations across the state. The session begins Jan. 3.

Cody Bloomsburg, a second-year graduate student from Lewiston, Idaho, will provide coverage for newspapers affiliated with the Montana Newspaper Association, which helps fund the work.

Brittany Wooley, a senior in radio-television from Idaho Falls, Idaho, will provide daily reports to more than 50 radio stations. Her coverage is made possible by grants from the Greater Montana Foundation and the Montana Broadcasters Association.

Wooley's experience includes reporting for UM's KBGA college radio station, Montana Public Radio and KPAX-TV in Missoula. She placed in the William R. Hearst College Journalism Awards last year for her radio reporting.

Bloomsburg's experience includes reporting for two Idaho daily newspapers, Lewiston's Tribune and **Pocatello's** Idaho State Journal, and for Bugle magazine, published by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. He won the journalism school's Fred Martin Fellowship for graduate students specializing in public affairs reporting.

The students' work this session will be supervised by journalism Assistant Professor Ray Fanning and Professor Dennis Swibold. The 2011 session marks the 10th time journalism students have covered Montana's regular biennial legislative sessions for newspapers and the fourth time they have provided coverage for radio stations.

Newspapers interested in receiving the coverage should call Swibold at 406-243-2330 or e-mail [dennis.swibold@umontana.edu](mailto:dennis.swibold@umontana.edu). Radio stations should call Fanning 406-243-4747 or e-mail [ray.fanning@umontana.edu](mailto:ray.fanning@umontana.edu).

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Photos of the journalism students in jpeg format are available by calling Swibold at 406-243-2330 or e-mailing [dennis.swibold@umontana.edu](mailto:dennis.swibold@umontana.edu).

DS/bd

Local, state

121410mleg

**Contact:** Dennis Swibold, UM School of Journalism professor, 406-243-2230, [dennis.swibold@mso.umt.edu](mailto:dennis.swibold@mso.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 29, 2010

## MISSOULA —

The Winter-Spring 2010 Peace & Justice Film Series at The University of Montana kicks off with a showing of the documentary "Rethink Afghanistan" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, in the University Center Theater.

The documentary will analyze the effects of war on Afghanistan and its neighboring countries, including its human and monetary costs, the impact of the military escalation and the assumption that war can liberate Afghan women.

The Peace & Justice Film Series, which is free and open to the public, aims to educate participants on pressing world issues, and series organizers will lead a discussion following each film. The series runs every Thursday through May 6, except Feb. 18, March 4 and April 1.

All films will be shown in the UC Theater, with the exception of the April 15 and May 6 screenings, which will be held in Urey Lecture Hall. For a complete schedule of films, visit <http://www.peaceandjusticefilms.org>.

The series is sponsored by UM's Environmental Studies Program, UM Students for Peace and Justice, and the Jeannette Rankin Peace Center.

For more information, call environmental studies Professor Vicki Watson at 406-243-5153 or e-mail [vicki.watson@umontana.edu](mailto:vicki.watson@umontana.edu).

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VW/als

Local

012910film

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# UM NEWS



January 29, 2010

## MISSOULA –

University of Montana researchers have learned that low doses of methamphetamine given to rodents after strokes reduce brain damage and impairment by 50 percent or more. Now a UM research spinoff company, Sinapis Pharma, intends to start human Phase I clinical trials of the drug application in coming months.

“We have had fabulous results with rodent models,” said David Poulsen, a research associate professor in UM’s Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences and chief scientific officer for the new company. “If we have comparable results with people, this could become the standard of care.”

On the street, meth is a dangerous, addictive illegal drug. However, the Food and Drug Administration first approved prescription methamphetamine for clinical uses in 1944, and now it is used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, obesity and narcolepsy. Poulsen and his postdoctoral student Tom Rau have since discovered the protective effect of low-dose meth for strokes.

“The drug already has been approved for treating ADHD in children and obesity in adults as an oral dose,” Poulsen said. “What we are doing is giving the drug in an IV form, so this is a new formulation that’s being administered for a new application – stroke. This has never been done before.”

Sinapis Pharma will file an Investigational New Drug application with the FDA in February, and Poulsen expects Phase I trials to begin shortly thereafter and be completed by summer. During the trials, researchers test the new drug on a small group of people (20 to 80) to evaluate its safety, determine dosage and identify side effects.

“Basically we give them the drug in an IV and draw blood from them every couple of hours and monitor their blood pressure and heart rate and such,” Poulsen said.

He expects the Phase I trials to go smoothly because methamphetamine has been around a long time, and there is a lot of documentation about what humans can and can’t handle. “We don’t have to deal with a lot of the steps and hurdles encountered with the development of a new drug,” he said.

If Phase I goes well, the process will move to Phase II, when patients experiencing strokes at hospitals will be asked to give informed consent to test the drug.

“Some people will say no, and some will say yes, and some won’t meet the criteria,” Poulsen said. “We are talking about hundreds of patients for this kind of trial, so we would do it at large metropolitan areas across the United States, but I would like St. Patrick Hospital (and Health Sciences Center in Missoula) to be one of the places we recruit patients. I know I would want the drug if I was having a stroke.”

The researcher hopes to start Phase II trials by the end of the year.

About 60 different drugs have been tested as neuroprotective agents over the years, and they all have failed. Poulsen said this is because a cascade of pathological events occurs during a stroke, and most of those drugs target only one event, which is insufficient to tip the balance to protection.

“In order to have good therapeutic efficacy, you have to affect multiple targets,” he said. “Well, it turns out that is what methamphetamine is doing. It’s affecting inflammation, cell death, excitotoxicity. It’s clearly hitting multiple targets.”

Poulsen has scores of multihued images on his computer showing how rodent brains that have suffered stroke look when treated with methamphetamine versus those that didn’t receive the drug. Whether the drug is administered immediately, six hours or even 12 hours after the stroke, the reduction in damage is striking and clearly visible.

The researchers also gauge the functional dexterity of the animals with tests such as measuring how long it takes them to walk across a beam or pull adhesive tape off their paws. The animals that have had strokes and received the drug do significantly better on the tests.

Poulsen said trying to take his research from the lab to the business world has been quite an adventure. While working at St. Patrick Hospital in the Montana Neuroscience Institute, a collaboration between UM and the hospital, he met two surgeons, Nick Chandler and Peter VonDoersten, who became principal owners of Sinapis Pharma. Chandler chairs the new company and has since moved to Jacksonville, Fla.

“Right now we are basically a virtual company,” Poulsen said. “I’m doing the research aspects, and Nick’s in Florida managing things. Our CEO, Don Picker in New Jersey, is a serial entrepreneur who has taken several drugs through the process and moved them to market. Al Henry, who is on our board of directors, is in Chicago and has run several venture capital funds that were focused on the life sciences and drug development. So we are spread all over.”

He said \$350,000 in “critical” state funding from the Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technology allowed them to generate the preliminary data to reach this point. Sinapis also has raised about \$500,000 in private equity to fund Phase I trials. If the process continues successfully, the company will need another \$6 million to \$8 million for Phase II trials.

UM has a standard formula for any royalties generated by its intellectual properties such as the new drug application: Half goes to the faculty inventors and half to the University. And of UM’s share, one-third of that is made available to enhance the inventors’ campus research operation.

But will there be any royalties? Poulsen admits it’s still a long shot at this point.

“But our whole goal is to try to create startup companies that stay here in Montana,” he said. “This has been fun. I get as excited about the business of science as the science of science. It’s exciting to have the chance to develop something that actually gets into the clinic and changes lives.”

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CBS

Local, dailies

012910drug

**Contact:** David Poulsen, research associate professor, UM College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, 406-243-4970, [david.poulsen@umontana.edu](mailto:david.poulsen@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 28, 2010

## MISSOULA –

KBGA College Radio 89.9 FM at The University of Montana will host its annual on-air fundraiser, RadioThon, the week of Feb. 8-14.

The student-run radio station's goal during its pledge week is to raise \$13,000 – a thousand dollars for each year it's been in existence. KBGA staff and volunteers will be in the office answering phones from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. each day, accepting donations in exchange for premium packages. Premiums will include KBGA merchandise and items, services and gift certificates donated by local and regional businesses.

To donate premiums or pledge your support, call 406-243-KBGA (5242).

KBGA will celebrate a successful fundraiser with a benefit concert, EndofThon, Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Badlander and Palace Lounge in downtown Missoula. The concert will feature five bands – The Hood Internet, Black Velvet Elvis, Visqueen, Shahs and Capricorn Vertical Slum – in addition to three DJs, screen printing, giveaways and specials. A similar KBGA event last September attracted more than 900 people.

EndofThon doors open at 9 p.m., and the show starts at 10 p.m. Admission is open to ages 18 and older and costs \$5.

The lineup's three DJs are DJ STV SLV (The Hood Internet's Steve Reidell), a laptop-armed alchemist who makes gold from pop, rap, indie rock, R&B and more; Missoula's soon-to-be-legendary DJ Kris Moon; and DJ Fleege, who will close out the night with a not-too-late-night dance party, mixing progressive and tech-house dance music.

Playing upstairs in the Badlander, The Hood Internet comes all the way from Chicago with hundreds of hip-hop-indie-rock mash-ups that have earned them notoriety everywhere from Lollapalooza to the South by Southwest festival.

Local favorites Black Velvet Elvis reunite for one show only, bringing their original lineup and a new drummer.

In the Palace, Seattle's Visqueen returns to Missoula on the heels of the release of their new album, "Message to Garcia," where Neko Case returns lead singer Rachel Flotard's vocal favors.

Also in the Palace, local one-man bands Shahs and Capricorn Vertical Slum open up the night. Shahs has been described as "the antithesis of Animal Collective," while Capricorn Vertical Disco describes himself "as if disco-era Rolling Stones were jamming in the closet of R. Kelly's spaceship."

For more information, visit <http://www.kbga.org>.

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ZP/ps

Local, specialized western

012810kbga

**Contact:** Zach Partin, promotions director, KBGA College Radio, 406-243-6139, [promotions@kbga.org](mailto:promotions@kbga.org).





# UM NEWS



January 28, 2010

## MISSOULA –

Community members can view four impressive Cubist-inspired works of art in the lobby of the President's Office at The University of Montana through Wednesday, April 14.

The four works, currently on loan to the Montana Museum of Art & Culture from a private collection, are: "L'amore del mondo" (1960), oil on canvas by Giorgio de Chirico; "Portrait du Marquis Sommi" (1925) and "Portrait de Madame M." (1932), oil on canvas by Tamara De Lempicka; and "Baigneuse assise" (1916), cast bronze by Jacques Lipchitz.

Italian born and raised partly in Greece, De Chirico (1888-1978) studied in Athens, Greece, and in Munich, Germany, with 19th-century Swiss Symbolist Arnold Böcklin. His metaphysical work takes the commonplace out of its natural environment. The multiple points of perspective found in "L'amore del mondo" are not meant to represent normal space. Rather than one vanishing point, there are often several, which are a means of distortion used to disquiet the eye.

De Lempicka (1898-1980) incorporates elements of Futurism and Cubism into her paintings. She employs repetitive geometric shapes to reference modernist architecture. The appeal of De Lempicka's work was in large part because of her ability to reflect contemporary attitudes. She was born Maria Gorska in Warsaw, Poland, and was a self-fashioned entrepreneur who ascended the ranks of society. In 1925 she set out for Italy to study Quattrocento painting. By the 1930s, she was one of the most sought-after portraitists among wealthy Europeans and Americans.

Lipchitz (1891-1973) was born in Druskininkai, Lithuania, and studied engineering. In 1909 he moved to Paris, where he came into contact with Cubism and readily contributed to its development. His abstract sculptures were influenced by his figural studies. "Baigneuse assise," he writes, "represents again an important change and development in my Cubism. Here I began to abandon that rigid vertical-horizontal aspect that marked the works of the preceding years."

More information about the artworks and the artists is on the MMAC Web site at <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum>. For more information, call MMAC at 406-243-2019.

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Digital images of the artworks are available by calling Becky Garner, MMAC coordinator of programs and publications, at 406-243-2019.

BD

Local, specialized western

012810mmac

**Contact:** Barbara Koostra, director, Montana Museum of Art and Culture, [barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu](mailto:barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu), [406-243-2019](tel:406-243-2019).

# UM NEWS



January 28, 2010

## MISSOULA –

The Montana Museum of Art & Culture will host artist and educator Katie Knight as part of the Humanities Montana Speakers Bureau program with "Speaking Volumes: Transforming Hate" on Thursday, Feb. 4, at The University of Montana.

Knight is curator of the exhibition "Speaking Volumes: Transforming Hate," which is at MMAC through Saturday, March 6. The exhibition features artists from across the United States who used white supremacist propaganda to create thought-provoking works. It was developed as a partnership between the Holter Museum of Art in Helena and the Montana Human Rights Network and is on tour through the Museum and Gallery Directors Association of Montana.

Knight's visual presentation illuminating the ideas and activities involved with the exhibition will take place at 7 p.m. in the Masquer Theatre of the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. The program is free and open to the public.

Knight will talk about how the Montana Human Rights Network obtained 4,000 books from a defecting leader of the hate group World Church of the Creator, known as the Creativity Movement. She will discuss how artists from coast to coast were invited to respond to, integrate and transform the white supremacist propaganda into provocative works of art using diverse media. The project's ambitious intention is to deepen our understanding of our vulnerability to prejudice and our capacity to overcome it.

Knight has been a photographer, artist and educator for 32 years. Her documentary projects have taken her to war zones in southern Africa and Latin America. She earned a master of fine arts degree in visual art from the University of Minnesota and teaches art at Carroll College and Capital High School in Helena.

She was awarded the Montana Human Rights Network 2008 Walt Brown Award, the Montana Amnesty International 2008 Award and the Jacob K. Javits Scholarship. Her photographs and essays are published in books, magazines and on Web sites.

For more information, call MMAC at 406-243-2019. More information about the exhibition, images of artwork and gallery hours are on the museum's Web site at <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum>.

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BD

Local, specialized western

012810kngt

**Contact:** Barbara Koostra, director, Montana Museum of Art and Culture, 406-243-2019, [barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu](mailto:barbara.koostra@mso.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 28, 2010

## MISSOULA —

The University Center at The University of Montana is accepting applications from local and regional artists interested in selling their wares at the UC's Spring Art Fair.

The Spring Art Fair will take place Thursday through Saturday, April 22-24, in the highly trafficked UC Atrium. The UC hosts three art fairs a year – spring, Homecoming and holiday – that feature unique, handcrafted items from selected artists and craftspersons.

The deadline for artist applications is Monday, March 8. Applications are available online at [http://life.umt.edu/uc/ucsi/art\\_fairs](http://life.umt.edu/uc/ucsi/art_fairs) or at The Source in the University Center.

For more information, call Angela Hundley, art fair coordinator, at 406-243-5714 or e-mail [ucartfair@mso.umt.edu](mailto:ucartfair@mso.umt.edu).

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AH/ps

Local, specialized western, state dailies, Spokesman-Review, Lively Times

012810apps

**Contact:** Angela Hundley, art fair coordinator, University Center, 406-243-5714, [ucartfair@mso.umt.edu](mailto:ucartfair@mso.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 27, 2010

## MISSOULA –

A figurative sculpture workshop presented by Marilyn Lysohir will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8, at The University of Montana.

The event, sponsored by the University's School of Art and UM Emerging Ceramic Artists, is free and open to the public. The workshop will be held in the Ceramics Studio of UM's Art Annex, located south of the Adams Center.

Lysohir, whose work will be displayed at the Missoula Art Museum from March 5 through May 30, will demonstrate techniques that she used to create the 160 ceramic portrait busts that are featured in the exhibition.

She lives and works in Moscow, Idaho, and has been an adjunct assistant professor of art at Washington State University and artist in residence and visiting artist at Kohler Foundation, the Kansas City Art Institute and Kent State University.

For more information about the workshop, call UM art Professor Beth Lo at 406-243-6476.

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BL/bd

Local, specialized western

012710sc1p

**Contact:** Beth Lo, UM School of Art professor, 406-243-6476, .

# UM NEWS



January 26, 2010

## MISSOULA –

The University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance will hold children's dance classes beginning Tuesday, Feb. 9.

The classes are taught by University instructors with UM student interns assisting. Classes run 12 weeks and will take place at the ballet studio in UM's Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center. Tuition for the 12 sessions is \$80.

Creative Movement classes are offered for children ages 3½ to 4 from 3:30 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays and for ages 5 to 6 from 4:15 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays. Creative and Modern Dance is offered for ages 7 to 8 from 4:15 to 5 p.m. Thursdays. Dance and Choreography for ages 9 to 12 will take place from 5:10 to 6 p.m. Thursdays.

The UM Children's Dance program's philosophy is to address the technical aspects of dance while nurturing creativity and expression. As students progress through the class levels, objectives for training develop and expand. Early in their training, students begin to create their own choreography and movement sequences.

To learn more or to sign up for classes, call Teresa Clark at 406-243-2849 or e-mail [teresa.clark@umontana.edu](mailto:teresa.clark@umontana.edu).

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TC/bd

Local, specialized western

012610dnce

**Contact:** Karen Kaufmann, UM professor, 406-243-2870, ; Teresa Clark, 406-243-2849, [teresa.clark@umontana.edu](mailto:teresa.clark@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 26, 2010

## MISSOULA –

Six University of Montana students and recent graduates were awarded Fulbright U.S. Student scholarships for the 2009-2010 academic year, making it one of the most successful years on record for the prestigious awards at UM.

The Fulbright Program is the nation's leading international exchange program, operating in more than 155 countries. It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

UM's 2009-2010 Fulbright Scholars, their areas of study and exchange destinations are:

- Ian Bassingthwaight, creative writing, Egypt.
- Joshua Birchall, linguistics, Brazil.
- Sean Gibbons, energy, Sweden.
- Michael Kautz, teaching English as a foreign language, Turkey.
- Ann Piersall, geography, Kyrgyz Republic.
- Aaron Shulman, creative writing, Guatemala.

UM had four Fulbright award recipients in 2008-09 and this year's total of six awards puts it in the company of such universities as Penn State, Rice and Vanderbilt.

The campus Fulbright committee encourages students to apply for upcoming Fulbright awards. Interested students should contact Clint Walker, Fulbright program adviser, at 406-243-2501 or [clint.walker@mso.umt.edu](mailto:clint.walker@mso.umt.edu).

###

PS

Local

012310fulb

**Contact:** Clint Walker, Fulbright Program adviser and UM associate professor, Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, 406-243-2501, [clint.walker@mso.umt.edu](mailto:clint.walker@mso.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 26, 2010

## MISSOULA –

Join current and former Lady Griz players at “Team Up Montana: Get in the Game against Breast Cancer” on Saturday, Feb. 13, at The University of Montana Adams Center.

Team Up Montana events raise cancer awareness and funding for Western Montana communities. “Get in the Game” will take place before and during the Lady Griz vs. Eastern Washington game, which begins at 7 p.m. in Dahlberg Arena.

A pregame ceremony at center court will acknowledge breast cancer survivors, and throughout the game survivors, family and friends will be recognized.

Pink shirts will be sold during the game, and donations will be accepted at tables in the Adams Center. Donations also can be made online at <http://www.teamupmontana.com>.

Women who receive a mammogram at St. Patrick Hospital Feb. 1-12 will be admitted free to the game, receive a free pink shirt and sit in a special “Pink Zone.” Mammograms can be schedule by calling 406-543-7271.

Team up Montana was developed by St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center, UM, Safeway, the Missoulian, St. Joseph Medical Center, KPAX-TV and St. Patrick Hospital and Health Foundation. All proceeds benefit the St. Patrick Hospital Foundation Cancer Compassion Fund to help Montanans with breast cancer.

Donations from 2009 Team Up Montana events allowed the St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Foundation to pledge \$10,000 in the form of screening mammogram vouchers distributed to primary care providers in Missoula.

During 2010, any woman unable to afford a screening mammogram can obtain a voucher from a primary care provider. Vouchers cover the entire cost of a screening mammogram and will be accepted at St. Patrick Hospital. Any woman without a primary care provider can call Partnership Health Center at 406-258-4789 for a St. Patrick Hospital referral and voucher.

Learn more online at <http://www.teamupmontana.com>.

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JH/bd

Local, specialized western

012610team

**Contact:** Lara Shadwick, director of marketing and public relations, St. Patrick Hospital and Health Sciences Center, 406-329-2905, .



# UM NEWS



January 26, 2010

## MISSOULA –

University of Montana President George M. Dennison unveiled a plan to account for upcoming budget shortfalls Monday, Jan. 25, during a Campus Convocation in the University Theatre.

Dennison said the plan will shore up an expected budget deficit of \$500,000 to \$2.2 million during the next fiscal year. It also will compensate for the withdrawal of federal stimulus funds at the beginning of the next biennium and maintain a contingency fund for unanticipated challenges.

He said the plan will balance the budget, assure students can get the classes they need, prevent employee layoffs, protect academic programs and maintain momentum in research and graduate education.

Pending Board of Regents approval, the plan will be implemented during the next three years starting in July.

Dennison said revenues are needed, as well as cutting costs. He proposes a 1 percent tuition increase during each of the next three years, which would generate \$3 million in revenue. That yield could grow with increased enrollment.

UM students now pay the same tuition when taking 12 to 21 academic credits, which Dennison calls “the flat spot.” He proposes changing the flat spot to nine to 21 credits, so those students taking nine to 11 credits would pay more than they currently do. This would generate about \$1.5 million in revenue, and Dennison suggests it would encourage students to take larger loads and finish college more quickly. This flat spot change would not affect the UM College of Technology.

Dennison also suggested changing the state formula for prorated subsidy per student so it follows the student to the campus selected for enrollment. Right now there is an imbalance in the Montana University System in which UM does not receive the subsidy for 1,500 students on the four UM campuses.

“A reallocation going half of the distance will provide \$1 million per year to the Missoula campus and \$2 million over two years,” Dennison said.

He also suggested several ways to cut expenses. They are:

- Implement a four-day workweek for employees and students, except in those instances when closing facilities would violate UM priorities. This could save \$450,000.
- Leave select employee positions vacant in the next two and a half years. This could save \$500,000.
- Reduce overtime and extra-compensation pay when possible. This could save \$150,000.
- Reduce travel expenses that draw on general funds, implement energy-saving steps, cut operating costs and reduce copying facilities and the like. This could save \$250,000.

“To summarize, these revenue and expense changes could generate \$7.85 million in base adjustments over the next three years,” Dennison said. “With these adjustments and the continuation of our reform and reinvention effort, we can manage the challenge of the next few years, focus on student success, protect the academic programs and sustain the University in its mission.”

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CBS

Local, dailies, weeklies

012510budg

**Contact:** UM President's Office, 406-243-2311, .

# UM NEWS



January 25, 2010

## MISSOULA –

The University of Montana is proud to announce that its 296 student-athletes posted a cumulative grade-point average of 3.06 for the 2009 fall semester.

Women's golf (3.43), women's soccer (3.32) and men's cross country (3.31) highlighted the Grizzlies' fall academic success. Other top GPA earners include women's basketball (3.29), women's track and field (3.24) and women's cross country (3.23).

"We are extremely happy with these numbers – the best yet by our student-athletes over the years," said UM Director of Athletics Jim O'Day. "This is a true testament to the young men and women we are recruiting and the outstanding efforts by our coaches and staff to make academics a priority at The University of Montana.

"Putting this all into perspective, student-athletes at UM posted a cumulative GPA of 3.06, while the average grade-point average for the entire undergraduate population at the university is 2.89. One of our departmental goals is to have a cumulative GPA above the regular student body, and that is the case once again."

###

JS

Local

012210gpas

**Contact:** Jim O'Day, UM director of athletics, 406-243-5419, [james.oday@umontana.edu](mailto:james.oday@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 25, 2010

## MISSOULA –

Researchers will present findings on when and how to apply herbicides on wildlands at the 2010 Montana Plant Conservation Conference to be held Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 9-10, at The University of Montana.

The conference, co-hosted by the Montana Native Plant Society, the Montana Natural Heritage Program, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and UM, will take place on the third floor of the University Center.

The first day of the conference will be oriented toward laypeople and plant science professionals, with the herbicide-use findings and a panel discussion of them, as well as information about three online plant-related databases.

The conference's second day focuses more on gathering information from plant professionals and others in workshops.

Registration costs \$25 or \$20 for Montana Native Plant Society members and \$5 for students. Participants can register in advance or at the door. Conference abstracts and registration forms can be downloaded from the Montana Native Plant Society Web site at <http://www.mtnativeplants.org>.

For more information, call conference organizer Peter Lesica at 406-728-8740 or e-mail [lesica.peter@gmail.com](mailto:lesica.peter@gmail.com).

###

PL/bd

Local, state

012510plnt

**Contact:** Peter Lesica, 2010 Montana Plant Conservation Conference organizer, 406-728-8740, .

# UM NEWS



January 25, 2010

## MISSOULA –

The University of Montana Office for Civic Engagement will hold its biannual volunteer fair Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 2-3, in the University Center Atrium.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days, more than 20 community organizations will be on hand to inform UM students, employees and community members about numerous volunteer opportunities available in and near Missoula.

The OCE volunteer fair gives nonprofit organizations an opportunity to recruit new volunteers and members while also promoting their activities.

The Office for Civic Engagement is a department of the Davidson Honors College and serves as UM's primary agent of community activism and civic responsibility. Through various programs and projects, the OCE promotes civic engagement as a means to develop actively engaged citizens.

###

AW/ps

Local

012510fair

**Contact:** Ashley Widtfeldt, Campus Corps team leader, UM Office for Civic Engagement, 406-243-5531, .

# UM NEWS



January 25, 2010

## MISSOULA –

Josef Sorett, an interdisciplinary historian of religion in America, will present “Empire State of Mind: Civil Rights Politics in the Age of Black Presidents and Hip Hop Aesthetics” at The University of Montana on Thursday, Feb. 4.

The event, in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, will take place from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the North Underground Lecture Hall. It is free and open to the public.

A Boston native, Sorett received a doctorate from Harvard University, where he began in 2001 as a member of the first cohort of doctoral students in Harvard’s Department of African and African American Studies. He currently teaches at the Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University.

As part of his doctoral research, Sorett studied the significance of religion and spirituality in popular music and culture. He serves as an adviser to the African Hip Hop Research Project at Harvard University and is an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. His writing has been published in The African American Pulpit, the Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion and Pneuma, The Journal of the Society for Pentecostal Studies.

###

BD  
Local  
012510king

**Contact:** Michael Mayer, UM history professor, Martin Luther King Jr. Day Committee chair, 406-243-2088, [michael.mayer@umontana.edu](mailto:michael.mayer@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 25, 2010

## EXPLORE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION

### MISSOULA –

The University of Montana College of Technology will hold an information session Thursday, Jan. 28, for those interested in pursuing careers in medical transcription.

The event will begin at 7 p.m. in Room AD16 of the COT Administration Building, located at 909 South Ave. W. in Missoula.

COT has partnered with Career Step, a leading health care education company, to offer training in medical transcription. The new program will expand COT's online noncredit offerings.

Students who enroll in the course will have the flexibility to train on their own schedules. Students who take the course do not have to apply for admission to the University.

For a limited time, Career Step also is offering a free laptop to each student who enrolls in the program.

"We're excited about the career training opportunities our partnership will bring to the students of The University of Montana," said Justin Pettit, Career Step's vice president of academic partners. "Through our partnership with UM COT, students will gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the growing field of medical transcription."

For more information, call the COT Outreach and Workforce Program at 406-243-7812.

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DRS/bd  
Local, specialized western  
012510trns

**Contact:** UM College of Technology Outreach and Workforce Program, 406-243-7812, .

# UM NEWS



January 25, 2010

## MISSOULA –

The annual University of Montana Art Faculty Exhibition will open at the UM Gallery of Visual Arts on Tuesday, Feb. 2, and run through Feb. 24.

An opening reception for the show is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, in the gallery, which is located on the first floor of the Social Science Building. Admission to the gallery is free, and the reception is open to the public.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays; and Mondays by appointment only.

Each year School of Art faculty exhibit their work to introduce themselves to students, the campus community and area residents. This year's show will highlight permanent tenure-track faculty and adjunct faculty, which include Brad Allen, James Bailey, Kevin Bell, Mary Ann Bonjorni, Elizabeth Dove, Julia Galloway, Karina Hean, Valerie Hedquist, Trey Hill, Lisa Jarrett, Steven Krutek, Beth Lo, Cathryn Mallory, Michael Parker, Jody Paulson, Edgar Smith and Bobby Tilton.

Hedquist, associate professor of art history and criticism, will present a lecture on her research, "Gainsborough's Blue Boy: From Bath to Bathhouse," at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24, in Social Science Building Room 356.

For more information, contact Cathryn Mallory, gallery director, at 406-243-2813 or [gallery.visarts@umontana.edu](mailto:gallery.visarts@umontana.edu). Information about the UM School of Art is online at <http://www.umt.edu/art>.

###

CM/ps

Local, specialized western

012510arts

**Contact:** Cathryn Mallory, director, UM Gallery of Visual Arts, 406-243-2813, [gallery.visarts@umontana.edu](mailto:gallery.visarts@umontana.edu).



# UM NEWS



January 22, 2010

## HAMILTON –

The Bitterroot College Program Steering Committee will hold a meeting at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, at the Ravalli County Commissioners Meeting Room, located at 215 S. Fourth St. in Hamilton.

The BCP Steering Committee is a public board and welcomes community members to observe and participate at its meetings.

Agenda topics will include operational and educational planning issues. The meeting agenda is available on the BCP Web site at <http://www.umt.edu/bcp> (click on "Meetings" under "Steering Committee"), by calling BCP Interim Director Victoria Clark at 406-375-0100 or by e-mailing [victoria.clark@umontana.edu](mailto:victoria.clark@umontana.edu).

The BCP Steering Committee is a collaborative group composed of local Ravalli County stakeholders, University of Montana officials and state higher education representatives. The committee is charged with planning an entity to provide responsive and sustainable adult and higher education opportunities to the residents of Ravalli County.

BCP currently offers 13 UM College of Technology courses in the Hamilton area.

###

VC/bd

Local, specialized western

012210bitt

**Contact:** Victoria Clark, interim director, Bitterroot College Program of The University of Montana, 406-375-0100, [victoria.clark@umontana.edu](mailto:victoria.clark@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 22, 2010

## MISSOULA –

University of Montana President George M. Dennison will host a Campus Convocation for faculty, staff, students and administrators at 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25, in the University Theatre.

During the program he will address current budget issues and priorities for the University. The event is open to the public.

###

CBS

Local

012210budg

**Contact:** UM President's Office, 406-243-2311, .

# UM NEWS



January 22, 2010

## MISSOULA –

With the closure of Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. in Frenchtown and the dismal economic conditions in Montana's forest products industry, developing a biomass energy industry is becoming increasingly important for the state's forests and forest-dependent communities and industry, according to the latest issue of Montana Business Quarterly.

Turning locally grown and produced wood waste into a clean, renewable, sustainable source of heat and energy may provide Montanans with new opportunities, author Todd Morgan wrote in an article titled, "Woody Biomass: Can Forests Fuel Our Future?" Mill residuals, logging slash and small trees are all potential sources of woody biomass for heat and energy.

"With woody biomass, Montanans have an opportunity to capitalize on the popularity and federal support of green jobs and energy while also addressing important local issues like employment losses in the forest products industry, tree mortality from insects, wildfire threats from overly dense forests, rising costs of heating fuels and impacts of global climate change," Morgan said.

Woody biomass users in the state consist of 10 bark or wood-pellet plants, 10 active Fuels for Schools facilities, two board facilities and the recently closed Frenchtown pulp mill. Before the pulp mill shut down, woody biomass users in Montana consumed about 2.5 million dry tons of woody biomass each year, Morgan said. Without the pulp mill, the figure will be closer to 1 million to 1.5 million dry tons.

Morgan estimated that Montana has nearly 3.6 million accessible acres of nonreserved timberland that contain 40 million dry tons of potentially available woody biomass, adding that this timberland represents the largest and most feasible source for additional woody biomass feedstock in the state. However, nearly 70 percent of the potentially available biomass is located on 1.65 million acres of national forest land.

"National forests will play a pivotal role in Montana's biomass energy future, if for no other reason than their majority share of timberland and biomass supply in the state," Morgan said.

Much more woody biomass material could become available through increases in forest restoration, fire hazard reduction treatments, commercial timber harvests, salvage logging and precommercial thinning, Morgan said.

"While there is no guarantee of these activities increasing in Montana's near or distant future, increasing these activities could help to slow or reverse current trends in forest mortality, industry decline and hazardous fuel accumulation in our forests," he said.

Other articles in the winter issue of Montana Business Quarterly include "Smurfit-Stone Mill Closure will have Lasting Impacts on Montana's Economy," "Montanans Health may be Compromised by Declining Number of Primary Care Physicians," "Too Much Junk Food and TV? 'Obesity Epidemic' on Upward Trajectory" and "Today's Children, Tomorrow's Business Leaders: Early Childhood Investment Important for Current and Future Workforce."

The Montana Business Quarterly is published by The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research and is partially supported by the Missoula Federal Credit Union. Annual subscriptions are available for \$35. For more information or to subscribe, go to <http://www.bber.umt.edu> or call 406-243-5113.

###

SF/js

Local, dailies, weeklies

012210bber

**Contact:** Todd Morgan, director of forest industry research, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, [todd.morgan@business.umt.edu](mailto:todd.morgan@business.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 20, 2010

## MISSOULA –

The University of Montana Wilderness Institute is accepting proposals for grants that support historical research, creative writing and wilderness studies projects that explore Montana's land and people.

The grants range from \$400 to \$1,000 and are awarded through the Matthew Hansen Endowment, established in 1984 as a memorial to Hansen and his ideals. The deadline to submit proposals is March 1. Awards will be announced in April.

Projects should encourage mindful stewardship of the land and contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural heritage. Proposals from individuals will take precedence over those from institutions. The endowment committee recommends projects that can be completed in one year.

Proposals must be no more than two pages long and describe how the idea originated, what the project hopes to accomplish, how it is related to Montana's heritage and whom it will benefit. In addition to the proposal, applicants must submit a detailed budget, timeline and a brief personal resume of qualifications. They also should include a project cover page with their name, contact, project title and budget, and submit seven copies of the proposal and seven copies of a previous work, if available.

Send proposals to The Matthew Hansen Endowment, Wilderness Institute, College of Forestry and Conservation, The University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812. For more information, call 406-243-5361, e-mail [wi@cfc.umt.edu](mailto:wi@cfc.umt.edu) or visit <http://www.cfc.umt.edu/wi>.

Hansen's "An Oral History of Montanans at Work," a set of audiotapes, is available for checkout from the Wilderness Institute Library, located in Main Hall Room 303. His written works "The South Fork of the Teton River: A History of its People" and "Clearing," a book of poems, also are at the library.

###

JS

Local, dailies, specialized western

012110hans

**Contact:** Sarah Potenza, program manager, UM Wilderness Institute, 406-243-6956, [sarah.potenza@cfc.umt.edu](mailto:sarah.potenza@cfc.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 20, 2010

## MISSOULA —

The University of Montana-based Montana World Trade Center will hold a luncheon training seminar titled “Double Your Trade Show Results — Guaranteed” from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, at MonTech, 1121 Broadway in Missoula. The cost is \$25 for MWTC members and \$35 for nonmembers, and lunch will be provided. The event is part of the International Business Seminar Series sponsored by the Governor’s Office of Economic Development and the Small Business Administration.

Out-of-state and international sales will continue to be a significant revenue stream for Montana manufacturers, producers and service providers, and industry trade shows provide a crucial platform to buy and sell products and services. During economic downturns, many companies cut back on this often expensive option, and MWTC recognizes the importance for companies to continue pursuing national and international opportunities at trade shows. At a time when expanding a business has never been more challenging and confusing, the training seminar will offer Montana companies effective strategies that guarantee results, in addition to providing information on ways to reduce costs and secure funding assistance from state and federal programs.

Barry Siskind, an internationally recognized industry expert, will be the keynote speaker and will share the secrets of trade show success at the workshop, slated to run an hour and a half.

“Trade shows are among the most effective ways to reach new global customers,” said Arnie Sherman, executive director of the Montana World Trade Center. “Barry Siskind will share his proven methods of how to most effectively use trade shows to your advantage.”

“The success of a trade show depends on having a real understanding of what opportunities are waiting for you at shows, how to master the tools and techniques for success and how to measure your results,” Siskind added.

For more information about the program, call Nicole Hagerman at 406-243-5856 or visit <http://www.mwtc.org/GTCP>.

###

NH/als

Local, dailies, weeklies

012010mwtc

**Contact:** Nicole Hagerman, project manager, Montana World Trade Center, 406-243-5856, [nicole@mwtc.org](mailto:nicole@mwtc.org).

# UM NEWS



January 19, 2010

## MISSOULA –

The University of Montana College of Technology is offering a 15-week training session for information technology professionals interested in managing or supporting Microsoft Windows Server 2008.

The training will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. Mondays from Feb. 1 through May 17. Cost of the training is \$700, which includes textbooks and all materials. Prospective students should have a working familiarity with Microsoft Windows servers.

Sessions will cover the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary to implement and manage Microsoft Windows Server 2008, including file and print, terminal and Web services, as well as network applications.

The training will include an online component for students to schedule their study time. Within a year, students can complete the three classes required for the Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist credential.

Dianne Burke, who brings more than 25 years of experience in the information technology training field, will present the training sessions. Burke is a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer specializing in Active Directory, Network Administration, Exchange Servers and Security.

For enrollment information, call the COT Outreach Program at 406-243-7812. More information about the training sessions is online at <http://www.cte.umt.edu/outreach>.

###

BD

Local, state

011910mcro

**Contact:** Mary Opitz, program assistant, UM College of Technology, 406-243-7812, [mary.opitz@umontana.edu](mailto:mary.opitz@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 19, 2010

## MISSOULA —

Cities across Montana will experience slow growth for the next few years while the state recovers from the worst recession since the 1980s, according to University of Montana economist Patrick Barkey.

"Montana did not sit on the sidelines during this recession — it has impacted almost every corner of the state," said Barkey, director of UM's Bureau of Business and Economic Research. "Healthy recovery in the state economy will be slow to get out of the gate and will not produce significant job growth until 2011."

Barkey and Paul Polzin, director emeritus of BBER, will outline the state's economic forecast at the bureau's annual Economic Outlook Seminars, to be held in nine cities throughout Montana.

Barkey and other economists from the Montana University System will examine local, state and national economic trends throughout the series of seminars.

In addition to economic forecasts, this year's seminars also will examine the different outlooks for men and women workers during the economic recovery, with a presentation by Wendy Stock, chair of Montana State University's Department of Economics and Agricultural Economics.

The seminar series begins in Missoula on Friday, Jan. 22, at the Hilton Garden Inn. Other seminars are scheduled as follows:

- Helena – Jan. 26, Best Western Great Northern
- Great Falls – Jan. 27, Hilton Garden Inn
- Billings – Feb. 2, MSU-Billings, Student Union Ballroom
- Bozeman – Feb. 3, Best Western GranTree Inn
- Butte – Feb. 4, Holiday Inn Express
- Kalispell – Feb. 12, Hilton Garden Inn
- Lewistown – March 16, Central Montana Education Center
- Havre – March 17, MSU-Northern, Hensler Auditorium

Barkey said state government in particular will face fiscal challenges throughout the biennium, as reflected in recent reports showing Montana's declines in total state tax collections in the third quarter of 2009, which ranked worse than all but three other states.

The recent closure of the Smurfit-Stone Container Corp. mill near Missoula, along with several large retail store closures, represents another challenge to short-term growth.

"The recession impacts are greater in western Montana," Polzin said. "The recession came early and will linger longest in Missoula, while the Flathead is definitely the state's recession epicenter."

However, Barkey does see some signs of improvement for Montana's economy in 2010. Stability in housing, consumer spending and natural resource industries signifies modest growth, and signs of recovery in Asia also bode well for Montana's natural resource industry.

For more information or to register for a seminar, call 406-243-5113 or visit the BBER Web site at <http://www.bber.umt.edu>.

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JE/als

Local, dailies



011910econ

**Contact:** UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, .

# UM NEWS



January 19, 2010

## MISSOULA —

In honor of the official inauguration of the Confucius Institute at the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, The University of Montana will celebrate Chinese Culture Week Monday through Friday, Jan. 25-29.

A six-person delegation from Southwest University of Political Science and Law in Chongqing, China, led by Zhang Guolin and Deng Chaoxi, will join UM President George Dennison, Mansfield Center Director Terry Weidner and Confucius Institute Co-director Qin Jie for a ceremony to mark the occasion. Representatives from the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C., also will attend.

UM also will host events that are free and open to the public during Chinese Culture Week:

- A professional dance troupe from Southwest University will perform a series of intricate and colorful dances representing various aspects of Chinese culture at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, in the University Theatre.
- Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre will hold a Chinese dance workshop at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, in the University Center North Ballroom.
- The University Center will host a Chinese movie night at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29, in Room 330.

"Chinese Culture Week is a perfect way to mark the official opening of the Confucius Institute at The University of Montana and to thank our Chinese partners for their invaluable contributions to our common interest in promoting better understanding between Chinese and Americans," Weidner said.

The Confucius Institute promotes Chinese language and culture education in Montana through distance learning, lectures, performances and more. It is part of a worldwide network of sister institutions funded by the Chinese Ministry of Education. Last year, the institute implemented Chinese language instruction in 10 high schools in five school districts across Montana, the first time Chinese has ever been offered in Montana public schools.

For more information, call Jeri Jacobsen of the Mansfield Center at 406-243-2988 or visit [www.umt.edu/mansfield](http://www.umt.edu/mansfield).

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SL/als  
Campus, local  
011910chns

**Contact:** Jeri Jacobsen, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at UM, 406-243-2988, [jeri.jacobsen@mso.umt.edu](mailto:jeri.jacobsen@mso.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 19, 2010

## MISSOULA —

Works from The University of Montana Artist Collective will be on display from Monday, Jan. 25, through Friday, Feb. 19, at the University Center Gallery.

An opening reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, at the gallery, located in UC Room 227. The reception is free, and the public is welcome to attend.

The UM Artist Collective is a student organization that sponsors events to showcase works by students of fine arts and to inspire interest in art in the Missoula community. Works in the Artist Collective exhibit were created by some of the organization's most active members, who work through a range of ideas and mediums but are unified in the goal to elevate student art.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and admission is free. For more information, call gallery coordinator Samantha Guenther at 406-243-4991 or e-mail [ucartgallery@mso.umt.edu](mailto:ucartgallery@mso.umt.edu).

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AS/als

Campus, local

011910exhb

**Contact:** Samantha Guenther, gallery coordinator, 406-243-4991, [ucartgallery@mso.umt.edu](mailto:ucartgallery@mso.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 13, 2010

## MISSOULA –

The University of Montana Forum for Living with Appropriate Technology (UM FLAT) has made UM the current spotlight campus on the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education Web site at <http://www.aashe.org>.

UM FLAT, located at 633 S. Fifth St. E. in Missoula, is a student-run project that demonstrates the practicality of sustainable living with the goal of encouraging the development of efficient and affordable homes.

The project – which is supported by UM, student organizations and Missoula-area businesses and individuals – began in 2008 using two existing homes and a garage on land held by the University. It has become a model community center for sustainability and environmentally focused events and for exhibiting efficient building practices.

UM FLAT provides opportunities that challenge students to develop workable solutions that can be applied to life beyond the classroom. Students in UM's Environmental Studies and the College of Technology's Building and Energy Technology programs began monitoring energy use and resources in 2008. Today, volunteers and students in several UM programs work to remodel and adapt the homes and the garage, as well as the landscape, to incorporate sustainable technologies and practices.

Building components at UM FLAT include superinsulation, solar and wind energy, recycled and reused materials, straw bale construction, passive energy resources, native landscaping, sustainable gardens, a real-time energy monitoring system and more.

The project has grown to become not only a teaching resource, but also a student and faculty research forum for projects related to sustainable living. Workshops that involve the expertise and participation of the Missoula community are held at the site.

To learn more about the project, visit the UM FLAT Web site at <http://www.umt.edu/umflat>, call project coordinator Derek Kanwischer at 406-579-3244 or e-mail [umflat@gmail.com](mailto:umflat@gmail.com).

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Photos of the UM FLAT project are available by calling Derek Kanwischer at 406-579-3244 or e-mailing [umflat@gmail.com](mailto:umflat@gmail.com).

BD  
Local, specialized western  
011310flat

**Contact:** Derek Kanwischer, UM FLAT project coordinator, 406-579-3244, [umflat@gmail.com](mailto:umflat@gmail.com).

# UM NEWS



January 12, 2010

## HAMILTON –

Three top musicians and teachers will lead adult students in a four-week course exploring 300 years of piano music this month and next in Hamilton.

"The Wondrous World of Piano Music 1700-2009" will take place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Fridays, Jan. 29-Feb.19, at 327 Fairgrounds Road in Hamilton. Regular tuition is \$20; those over age 50 pay \$10.

The course is offered by The University of Montana's Continuing Education, College of Visual and Performing Arts and Bitterroot College Program.

Instructors are Steven Hesla, UM music professor; Barbara Blegen, UM adjunct assistant music professor; and Margery McDuffie Whatley, former associate professor at the University of Alabama.

They will present live musical sessions and lead discussions on the elements of style and what makes music convey deep meaning to listeners. The course schedule features:

- Jan. 29 – "Steven Hesla with Margery McDuffie Whatley: A Preview of Margery's Recital."
- Feb. 5 – "Barbara Blegen: The Music of Beethoven, Schubert and Others."
- Feb. 12 – "Steven Hesla and Barbara Blegen: Featuring a Hesla/Blegen Recital Preview."
- Feb. 19 – "Steven Hesla and Musical Friends: Continuing the Celebration of Music."

For more information or to register online, visit <http://www.umt.edu/bcp/continuingeducation.aspx>, call UM Continuing Education at 406-243-2905 or e-mail [dannette.fadness@umontana.edu](mailto:dannette.fadness@umontana.edu).

###

DF/ps  
Local, Hamilton media  
011110oshe

**Contact:** Dannette Fadness, program coordinator, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, 406-243-2905, [dannette.fadness@umontana.edu](mailto:dannette.fadness@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 12, 2010

MISSOULA —

Applications are now open for The University of Montana's Alumni Association Scholarship, which is available to any UM student who has a parent or grandparent who attended the University.

Applicants must have attained junior status before the beginning of fall semester 2010, and be a full-time student for the fall 2010 and spring 2011 semesters. Graduate students who received baccalaureate degrees from UM also are eligible for the scholarship. Completed applications are due to the Office of Alumni Relations by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19.

The amount of the scholarship varies each year. Last year's recipient was awarded \$4,000, and the Alumni Association's board of directors will determine the amount of this year's award at its January meeting. Winners will receive the scholarship funds in two equal installments during the 2010-11 academic year.

The application requires verification of eligibility, and applicants must answer a single essay question: What has been your most rewarding campus or community contribution while at The University of Montana? Supporting documentation required includes a current resume and transcript. The application can be completed online or downloaded from the association's Web site at <http://www.grizalum.org>.

For more information about the scholarship, call Susan Cuff at 406-243-5211 or e-mail [susan.cuff@umontana.edu](mailto:susan.cuff@umontana.edu).

###

SK/als  
Local, campus  
011110alum

**Contact:** Susan Cuff, associate director, UM Office of Alumni Relations, 406-243-5211, [susan.cuff@umontana.edu](mailto:susan.cuff@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 11, 2010

## MISSOULA –

The University of Montana and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium have been awarded a \$926,000 National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Challenge Grant to fund a two-year effort to address indoor air quality and respiratory health problems among Alaskan Natives.

Working with schools in seven rural Alaska Native villages, grant researchers will collaborate to identify levels of indoor air pollution and rates of respiratory diseases in the communities.

"This new partnership with ANTHC will help us identify exposure risks and provide public health training where it's most needed by targeting rural villages facing health disparities and endemic health care shortages," said UM Assistant Professor Tony Ward, principal investigator for the Challenge Grant.

At each of the seven rural Alaska Native villages, local health specialists will be hired and trained to identify air pollution issues of importance, as well as characterize respiratory disease within the remote villages. Initial efforts will focus on introducing a health promotion initiative involving youth and creating environmental health jobs for adult community members.

Designed to raise awareness and improve indoor air quality, this new project is based on an innovative outreach and education program previously established by UM researchers in rural schools located in Montana, Idaho and other communities in Alaska. More information about that project, Montana's Air Toxics Under the Big Sky, is on the UM Center for Environmental Health Sciences Web site at <http://www.umt.edu/cehs/AirTox.html>.

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, the designated subcontractor under the grant, is a nonprofit health organization owned and managed by the Alaska Native tribal governments and their regional health organizations.

More than 18,000 scientists were involved in the peer review process of 20,000 Challenge Grant applications, with only 200 NIH Challenge Grants awarded nationwide. The grants are funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, aimed at stimulating economic recovery by funding biomedical and behavioral research and fostering community-based partnerships and interventions to strengthen the environmental public health infrastructure and eliminate health disparities.

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TW/bd  
Local, dailies, Alaska dailies  
010810alsk

**Contact:** Tony Ward, UM assistant professor, 406-243-4092, [tony.ward@umontana.edu](mailto:tony.ward@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 08, 2010

## MISSOULA -

Community members age 50 and older can explore topics ranging from history, literature and writing to Big Sky Country, the Middle East and Xinjiang, China, in winter courses offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at The University of Montana.

The courses, taught by dynamic UM and community educators, will take place during January and February. Registration is now open for all winter courses:

### Thursdays

- "Samuel Beckett: Revolutionary Dramatist" - Fred McGlynn
- "The Deerfield Massacre, 1704: Indians and Europeans on a Deadly Frontier" - Kenneth Lockridge
- "Culinary Culture II" - Ray Risho
- "A Mathematical Sampler" - Diane Burrell
- "Fist Fights and First Kisses: Rites of Passage in Literature" - Jim Sieg
- "Tragedies of 'Manifest Destiny': The Big Horn and Yellowstone Expedition of 1876 Against the Sioux and Cheyenne, and the Nez Perce Campaign of 1877" - Kermit Edmonds
- "Is God Green? Looking at Religion, Nature and the Environment" - Dan Spencer

### Fridays

- "China's Montana: Xinjiang" - Steven Levine
- "Color Mixing and Critique" - Marilyn Bruya
- "Big Sky Country: Some Favorite Memories and Reflections" - Hal Stearns
- "Obama and the Middle East: From Aretha Franklin to Caligula" - Mark Johnson
- "Writing the Story from Start to Finish" - Dorothy Patent
- "Chemistry in the Kitchen" - Greg Patent
- "Promenading Toward Democracy: How the Square Dance Reflected American Ideals and Community" - Mark Matthews

Complete course descriptions, times and locations are on the institute's Web site at <http://www.umt.edu/ce/plus50>.

An annual institute membership fee of \$20 is required to enroll. Registration for each course costs \$60 plus fees where applicable. A variety of discounts are offered this winter:

- Take two courses for \$100 - a 33 percent savings off the second class.
- Become a new member and receive \$10 off a winter or spring course.
- Recruit friends to join and receive \$10 off a winter course for each new member.

To register or for more information, call UM Continuing Education at 406-243-2905 or e-mail [dannette.fadness@umontana.edu](mailto:dannette.fadness@umontana.edu).

The institute also will host its third annual "Behind the Scenes at the Symphony" in conjunction with the Missoula Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra's music director, Darko Butorac, and executive director, John Driscoll, will offer glimpses of what goes into a Missoula Symphony performance during two different presentations from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16 and 23, in UM's Todd Building Room 204. Then, participants can attend a symphony rehearsal at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, in the University Theatre.

"Behind the Scenes at the Symphony" is free to institute members, but space is limited. To RSVP, call 406-243-2905 or e-mail [dannette.fadness@umontana.edu](mailto:dannette.fadness@umontana.edu).

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**Contact:** Dannette Fadness, program coordinator, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, 406-243-2905, [dannette.fadness@umontana.edu](mailto:dannette.fadness@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 06, 2010

## MISSOULA -

The 2010 Community Lecture Series at The University of Montana will begin Tuesday, Feb. 16, and tickets are now available for purchase.

This year's series - "The Power to Move: Books and Art that Changed Our Lives" - features lectures by six outstanding UM faculty members who will examine selected books and works of art that changed the way we think and behave. Those who attend the lecture series do not need to be familiar with the books or works of art to be discussed and can learn about them at the events.

Lectures will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 16 through March 23, at the University Center Theater. Each event will include a question-and-answer session.

Cost for the complete lecture series is \$20 for the general public, \$15 for UM Alumni Association dues-paying members and \$10 for students. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.grizalum.org> or by calling the UM Office of Alumni Relations at 406-243-5211. Space is limited.

The moderator and facilitator of this year's lecture series is Professor Linda Gillison, chair of UM's Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literature.

Following is the lecture series schedule:

- Feb. 16: "How the Bible Came to Be" by liberal studies/religious studies Assistant Professor Nathaniel Levtow.
- Feb. 23: "The Trails We Trod from 'Uncle Tom's Cabin'" by history and African-American studies Assistant Professor Tobin Shearer.
- March 2: "Responding to Our 'Silent Spring'" by environmental studies Associate Professor Dan Spencer.
- March 9: "Resolving Gunnar Myrdal's 'An American Dilemma'" by history Associate Professor Jeff Wiltse.
- March 16: "Matisse and Van Gogh: The Shock of Post-Impressionist Painting" by art Associate Professor Valerie Hedquist.
- March 23: "'Riots of Spring': Stravinsky and Musical Modernism" by music Assistant Professor James Randall.

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**Contact:** UM Office of Alumni Relations, 406-243-5211, ; Jay Kettering, UM Alumni Association on-campus events coordinator, 406-243-6439, [jay.kettering@umontana.edu](mailto:jay.kettering@umontana.edu); Professor Linda Gillison, lecture series facilitator, 406-243-2719, [linda.gillison@umontana.edu](mailto:linda.gillison@umontana.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 06, 2010

## MISSOULA –

New York City's Vampire Weekend will return to Missoula on Tuesday, March 16, for an all-ages concert at the Wilma Theatre, presented by KBGA College Radio 89.9 FM in partnership with University of Montana Productions.

Doors open at 8 p.m., and the show starts at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$23 and go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8, at Rockin Rudy's and The Source in the University Center and online at <http://www.inticketing.com>.

Vampire Weekend's previous two shows in Missoula have been at the Badlander, but the indie rock band's growing popularity warrants the Wilma's bigger venue.

On the heels of the band's self-titled first album, Vampire Weekend will release its second album, "Contra," Jan. 12, with influences ranging from third-wave ska and Congolese thumb pianos to Bollywood, Beethoven and the Beastie Boys.

"It's sadder than the first one," said singer Ezra Koenig, "a bit more sentimental."

Drummer Christopher Tomson said, "I think we sound more like Vampire Weekend than we did on the first record."

For more information, visit KBGA online at <http://www.kbga.org> or UM Productions at <http://www.umproductions.org>.

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Local, specialized western  
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**Contact:** Zach Partin, promotions director, KBGA College Radio, 406-243-6139, [promotions@kbga.org](mailto:promotions@kbga.org).

# UM NEWS



January 05, 2010

## MISSOULA –

Leading University of Montana researchers have released results of a new study that shows climate change will increase drought stress in northern Rocky Mountain forests, leading to increased potential for insect infestations and risk of more frequent and severe wildfires.

The peer-reviewed study, conducted by UM forestry researchers, finds that longer periods of drought will stress the forest ecosystem that includes areas in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho, with increased insect epidemic and wildfire disturbances. The economic impact of highest concern is the potential of a catastrophic wildfire in the region, which could affect more than 360,000 people who live in homes in the forest-urban interface that are valued at \$21 billion.

"As temperatures rise, we will see about two months of additional drought stress each year by late this century," said study author Steve Running, Regents Professor of Ecology in UM's College of Forestry and Conservation. "And the worse global warming gets, the more significant the consequences for forests."

Key findings of the study include:

- As temperatures rise, projected changes in northern Rocky Mountain forests include fewer days with snow on the ground, earlier peak snowmelt, a longer growing season and about two months of additional ecosystem drought stress each year by late this century.
- Increasing drought stress will increase forest disturbances, including insect epidemics and wildfires. These disturbances have large impacts on society and the natural world.
- The economic impact of highest concern is the potential for a truly catastrophic wildfire in the region. There are now 360,000 people living in homes valued at \$21 billion in the forest-urban interface in this region that are directly vulnerable to wildfire.
- If climate becomes drier, net carbon uptake would be reduced to the extent that most forests in the region would switch from absorbing carbon to releasing it by late this century.

"Global warming will cause the spring snowmelt to occur four to six weeks earlier and the summer drought period to be six to eight weeks longer," Running said. "By the 2080s, these dramatic shifts will leave the forests stressed and increasingly vulnerable to insect infestation and wildfire."

The new study shows that the forests of the U.S. northern Rocky Mountains are highly sensitive to projected climate change. Even under conservative projections of future climate change, Running said dramatic effects on these forests are expected.

Documented climatic changes in the last 50 years have significantly altered the conditions in which forests grow, and the research shows that forests already are responding to observed climate change. These changes are projected to intensify in the coming years.

Forests in relatively dry regions such as the northern Rocky Mountains live in a perpetually water-limited state, Running said. During most of the growing season, when light and low temperatures do not limit growth, water is the most important limiting factor. Productivity depends on moisture conditions during the main part of the growing season. Spring, summer and autumn temperatures, summer precipitation levels, and the previous winter's snowpack determine those moisture conditions.

Climate projections for the northern Rocky Mountains over the course of this century include an annual average warming trend of 3.6 to 7.2 degrees Fahrenheit. Lower emissions of heat-trapping gases will result in temperature increases near the lower end of this range and higher emissions near the higher end. Running said winter temperatures are projected to increase more than those in the other seasons. Precipitation, runoff and stream-flow patterns also will change, with both the amounts of water and the timing of runoff and stream flow being affected.

Over the course of this century, the growing season in the northern Rocky Mountains is expected to increase by about two months, Running said. The growing season will shift one to two months earlier in the spring. Late summer drought will be extended by six to eight weeks. One of the results of this extended drought will be an increased risk that small streams will dry up.

The study was funded by the National Commission on Energy Policy, a bipartisan, nonprofit organization that examines key policy issues related to energy.

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**Contact:** Steven Running, UM Regents Professor of Ecology, 406-243-6311, [swr@ntsg.umt.edu](mailto:swr@ntsg.umt.edu).

# UM NEWS



January 04, 2010

## MISSOULA –

The premiere of “My Ex-Husband’s Visit” and “The Lost Montana Monolog” will be the feature performances of “A Mid-Winter Showcase” to be held Jan. 22, 23 and 24 at the Dunrovin Ranch Dance Hall in Lolo.

“My Ex-Husband’s Visit” and “The Lost Montana Monolog” were written by University of Montana staff member Wendy Woollett, a “cancer over-comer” and author of “The Montana Monologs.” The event is a fundraiser for the Guardian Angels Foundation, a nonprofit organization that gives financial assistance to cancer patients with uninsured medical expenses.

The showcase will take place at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Jan. 22-23, with a matinee performance from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24. Cost for the Friday or Saturday evening performance is \$20. The Sunday matinee includes a light barbecue dinner and cast party after the performance. Cost of Sunday’s event is \$30. Reservations are requested.

The Dunrovin Ranch Dance Hall is heated but is an outdoor venue, so those who attend the performances should bundle up and be prepared for the weather. To make reservations, call the Dunrovin Ranch at 406-273-7745 or e-mail [info@dunrovinranchmontana.com](mailto:info@dunrovinranchmontana.com).

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**Contact:** Dunrovin Ranch, 406-273-7745, [info@dunrovinranchmontana.com](mailto:info@dunrovinranchmontana.com).

# UM NEWS



January 26, 2010

## MISSOULA –

George M. Dennison, president of The University of Montana since 1990, plans to retire.

UM's longest-serving president announced his intention during a Monday, Jan. 25, Campus Convocation in the University Theatre. Dennison will retire Aug. 15 – or as soon thereafter as the Board of Regents identify a successor – 20 years to the day since he arrived on campus to assume the presidency. He is UM's 16th president.

"I consider it a high honor and rare privilege to have served as president of a wonderful institution – made so by the people who constitute it," Dennison said. "I have enjoyed the past 20 years more than words can convey, in large measure because of the quality of people who constitute The University of Montana.

"Make no mistake, presidents come and go, but students, faculty, staff and alumni remain," Dennison said. "You deserve the credit for making (UM) a remarkable success. I can take my leave knowing that my alma mater remains in good hands and will continue to develop, whatever the challenges before it."

The search process to identify UM's next president will begin in the next several weeks. "I will do all I can to assist, but intend to stay out of the way," Dennison said with a smile.

He plans to write a history of UM during the next three years. He also will consider teaching opportunities as they present themselves.

A historian by training, Dennison received a bachelor's degree with highest honors in history from UM in 1962. He received a master's degree from UM in 1963 and a doctorate in history from the University of Washington in 1967.

Dennison came to Montana from Kalamazoo, Mich., where he served as the provost and vice president for academic affairs of Western Michigan University (1987-90). In earlier years, he spent time at the universities of Arkansas and Washington prior to 18 years at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

At Colorado State, he started as a history professor and then served in numerous other positions. He simultaneously held the positions of associate dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and associate dean of the Graduate School for International Development Studies. He also served as acting academic vice president, associate academic vice president and director of Admissions and Records.

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**Contact:** UM President's Office, 406-243-2311, .

# UM NEWS



January 04, 2010

As the nation heads toward economic recovery, it appears that job losses and unemployment rates during the recession were much higher for men than for women.

Roughly 1.7 million more men than women entered the ranks of the unemployed between March 2008 and March 2009, while the national unemployment rate for men was 9.5 percent compared to 7.5 percent for women.

How has this played out in Montana? And what are the latest economic trends and forecasts for the nation, state and local economies? In light of the recently announced closure of Smurfit-Stone in Missoula and the permanent closures of other wood products-related manufacturers, these questions have greater importance. They will be discussed at the 35th Annual Economic Outlook Seminar – “Economic Recovery: What’s Ahead for Men and Women Workers?” – headed to nine Montana cities during January, February and March.

The program is presented by The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research and features economic researchers and experts from throughout the Montana University System.

Professor Wendy Stock, chair of the Montana State University Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics, will discuss the recession’s impacts, economic recovery and work force issues.

BBER economists Patrick Barkey and Paul Polzin will present economic outlook forecasts for each seminar city, and industry experts will provide the outlook for Montana’s important industries: nonresident travel, housing, health care, agriculture, manufacturing and forest products.

Montana Kids Count will present a luncheon program on investments in early childhood education.

The seminar runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration costs \$80, which includes a proceedings booklet, lunch and a one-year subscription to Montana Business Quarterly, BBER’s award-winning business journal.

The seminar series begins in Missoula on Friday, Jan. 22, at the Hilton Garden Inn. Following is the schedule for other seminar cities:

- Helena – Jan. 26, Best Western Great Northern
- Great Falls – Jan. 27, Hilton Garden Inn
- Billings – Feb. 2, MSU-Billings, Student Union Ballroom
- Bozeman – Feb. 3, Best Western GranTree Inn
- Butte – Feb. 4, Holiday Inn Express
- Kalispell – Feb. 12, Hilton Garden Inn
- Lewistown – March 16, Central Montana Education Center
- Havre – March 17, MSU-Northern, Hensler Auditorium

For more information or to register for a seminar, visit the BBER Web site at <http://www.bber.umt.edu> or call 406-243-5113.

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**Contact:** Laura Felsch, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, [laura.felsch@business.umt.edu](mailto:laura.felsch@business.umt.edu).