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July 2010 news releases

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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UM NEWS



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UM NEWS



July 28, 2010

MISSOULA —

Four outstanding University of Montana graduates will receive 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards during UM Homecoming festivities in September.

Distinguished Alumni Awards are the highest honor presented by the UM Alumni Association. This year's award recipients are John Badgley of Edmonds, Wash.; Patrick Cheney of State College, Penn.; Joseph P. Mazurek of Helena; and Colleen L. McGuire of Washington, D.C.

The awards will be presented during a ceremony and reception at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24, in the University Center Ballroom. The public is invited to attend.

Badgley, who was born and raised in Missoula, earned a bachelor's degree in history at UM in 1952. He taught international relations and Asian studies at several universities, including Miami, Johns Hopkins, Cornell and Kyoto. In 1973 he founded the Institute of the Rockies, a public policy education organization. He also is a co-founder of the Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation.

While at UM, Badgley was a member of Phi Delta Theta and president of Silent Sentinel, a senior honorary society. He lettered in track during all four years at the University. He is a member of the Oscar J. Craig Heritage Society for planned giving to archives and special collections at UM's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library.

Cheney is Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Pennsylvania State University. A native of Great Falls, he earned a bachelor's degree in English at UM in 1972. He is the author and editor of 15 books and numerous essays on a variety of subjects that include William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe.

Cheney has received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and is a consultant for Oxford University Press and Cambridge University Press. While at UM, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. He currently mentors young athletes and scholars.

Mazurek received a bachelor's degree in business administration at UM in 1970 and a juris doctorate from the University in 1975. He has been active as a lawyer and politician in Montana, serving 12 years as a state senator and eight years as attorney general. He has worked across party lines to increase funding for K-12 education and for environmental and public health projects.

While at UM, Mazurek was a member and president of Phi Delta Theta and was the fraternity's Outstanding Graduate of 1970. He served as Associated Students of UM president and was a member of Silent Sentinel and Beta Gamma Sigma, a business honor society. In law school, he was associate editor of the Montana Law Review and a member of the Phi Alpha Phi legal fraternity.

McGuire, a 1979 UM graduate, is the first Montana woman to achieve the rank of brigadier general and the first woman ever to become provost marshal general of the U.S. Army and commanding general of the Army Criminal Investigation Command. She was sworn in as the Army's top law enforcement officer during a January 2010 ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Va.

After graduating from UM, McGuire was commissioned in the Military Police Corps. She served nearly 30 years of active duty in Germany, Somalia, Iraq and the U.S. While at UM, she was a broadcast journalism major, a member of ROTC and a cheerleader for the Grizzlies. She plans to retire in Montana.

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BD

Local, state, hometowns

072810daas

Contact: Susan Cuff, associate director, UM Office of Alumni Relations, 406-243-5211, susan.cuff@umontanaalumni.org.

UM NEWS



July 27, 2010

MISSOULA —

Montana ranks 32nd nationally in the 2010 Kids Count Data Book, a state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count program. The Data Book reveals that since 2000, Montana has improved on two of 10 measures affecting child well-being. Yet on five other measures, conditions worsened for Montana's kids. Conditions remained unchanged on one measure, and two others were not comparable to previous years.

The 21st annual Data Book is complemented by the expanded online Kids Count Data Center, which contains hundreds of measures of child well-being and allows users to create maps and graphs of the data at the national, state, county and city levels. To access all 10 indicators and other data regarding Montana's children and families, go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/mt>.

"Our goal is to expand people's understanding of the data and have them recognize that understanding data trends in child well-being, both good and bad, highlight challenges and opportunities for policy leaders, businesses and communities," said Julie Ehlers, Montana Kids Count communications director. "These rankings provide necessary information to recognize areas of concern and hopefully promote positive change for Montana's children and families."

Areas of note in the data include:

- **More high school drop-outs:** The share of teens ages 16-19 in Montana who were not enrolled in school and were not high school graduates increased from 7 percent in 2000 to 9 percent in 2008. Montana tied for 44th nationally — among the bottom 10 states — on this indicator.
- **Child poverty increases:** In 2008, 21 percent of Montana's children lived in poverty, up from 17 percent in 2000. Montana's child poverty rate is higher than the U.S. rate of 18 percent. (A family of two adults and two children were considered poor if their income in 2008 fell below \$21,834.)
- **Slight increase in percentage of low-birthweight babies:** The share of low-birthweight babies in Montana increased from 6.2 percent in 2000 to 7.2 percent in 2007. The state's 2007 rate, however, is slightly lower than it was a year earlier —suggesting a possible reversal of the long-term trend.
- **Montana performs better than the national average on four of the 10 indicators:**

Montana fared better than the United States as a whole on four indicators: the percentage of low-birthweight babies, infant mortality rate, teen birth rate and percentage of children in single-parent families.

The full report can be accessed at <http://www.box.net/shared/kfv1vs6e0s>.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private charitable organization dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children in the United States. The foundation's primary mission is to foster public policies, human-service reforms and community support that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families.

The Montana Kids Count program is funded through the Annie E. Casey Foundation and is a statewide effort to identify the status and well-being of Montana children by collecting facts about them and publishing an annual data book. More information and data is available at <http://www.montanakidscount.org>.

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JE/als

Local, dailies, weeklies

072710kids

Contact: Thale Dillon, Montana Kids Count, 406-243-5113, thale.dillon@business.umt.edu.

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UM NEWS



July 27, 2010

MISSOULA —

David Emmons, history professor emeritus at The University of Montana, will release his latest book, "Beyond the American Pale: The Irish in the West, 1845-1910," in August.

"Beyond the American Pale," published by the University of Oklahoma Press, explores Irish-Catholic immigrants' contributions to the development of the West during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It also disproves the traditional assumption that Irish-Catholic immigrants confined themselves to the industrial cities of the East and Midwest, using early Butte as a primary example.

"Butte was a complete antithesis of what the West was supposed to be; it violated every feature of the Western myth," Emmons says. "It was ethnically — which is to say culturally — diverse, densely urban, intensely industrial and loud with the shouts of discouraging words."

Emmons, who earned his doctorate at the University of Colorado, began teaching at UM in 1967. His areas of expertise focus on modern American history, including immigration, ethnicity and labor. He also is the author of the award-winning book "The Butte Irish: Class and Ethnicity in an American Mining Town, 1875-1925."

"Beyond the American Pale" already has received rave reviews. Author Kerby Miller called it "simply stunning: intellectually brilliant yet deeply personal, and based on a lifetime of learning and contemplation," while historian Walter Nugent says, "Emmons has ransacked a huge range of sources for this excellent and provocative look at the Irish in the American West — and the myths and realities surrounding both."

"Beyond the American Pale" will be available in bookstores and online starting Aug. 4.

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ALS

Local, dailies, specialized western

071910irsh

Contact: David Emmons, UM history professor emeritus, 406-243-2231, david.emmons@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



July 23, 2010

MISSOULA –

Only 48 percent of Montana students are ready for college mathematics, and only 30 percent are prepared for higher education science, according to 2009 ACT test data reported by the state Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

To address this issue, the state university system will host a meeting of the Montana Math and Science Teacher Initiative on Monday, Aug. 2, at the Carroll College Campus Center in **Helena**.

Free and open to the public, the event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is titled "Statewide Transformation in STEM Education." (STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.)

Featured speakers from 10 to 11 a.m. will include Gov. Brian Schweitzer, Montana State University President Waded Cruzado, University of Montana President George M. Dennison, Carroll College Dean Paula McNutt, and Howard Gobstein, a Washington D.C.-based official with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

"One goal of this meeting is to brainstorm ideas about how we can enhance mathematics and science education across Big Sky Country," Schweitzer said. "We also want to educate people about the important work that has already been done."

A 2005 federal report titled "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" from the National Academies outlined the critical nature for improved math and science education to the success of the United States. Montana responded to this challenge by forming the Montana Math and Science Teacher Initiative in October 2008.

MMSTI galvanizes K-20 administrators and policymakers to recruit, train, place and retain math and science teachers in the rural western United States. The organization also works to raise awareness of the importance of math and science education, to improve teacher professional development in those areas, to recruit students from STEM disciplines to become teachers and to continually assess improvement efforts.

Gobstein will give a lecture titled "The Importance of STEM Education and MMSTI" at 10:30 a.m. He is the executive officer and vice president of APLU's Office of Research, Innovation and STEM Education. He also co-directs the Science and Mathematics Teacher Imperative, a national APLU effort to transform middle and high school STEM education by preparing a new generation of world-class science and math teachers.

A full conference schedule is online at <http://www.umt.edu/urelations/imx/MMSTIagenda.pdf>. For more information, visit <http://mmsti.org>, call MMSTI state coordinator Tricia Parrish at 406-243-4405 or e-mail tricia.parrish@mso.umt.edu. Glacier National Bank donated \$1,000 to help fund the MMSTI meeting.

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CBS

Local, dailies, weeklies, Helena media

072310math

Contact: Tricia Parrish, MMSTI state coordinator, 406-243-4405, tricia.parrish@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



July 22, 2010

MISSOULA –

University of Montana mathematics Professor Bharath Sriraman was instrumental in the recent publication of “The First Sourcebook on Nordic Research in Mathematics Education: Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Denmark and contributions from Finland.”

Sriraman worked three years on the project that culminated in the 750-page sourcebook, the first of its kind and a major milestone for mathematics education research in the Nordic world.

The project involved more than 50 authors and is part of “The Montana Mathematics Enthusiast: Monograph Series in Mathematics Education,” published by Information Age Publishing.

The sourcebook provides the first comprehensive and unified treatment of historical and contemporary research trends in mathematics education in the Nordic world. It is organized in sections coordinated by active researchers in mathematics education in Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Denmark and Finland. Sections for each country include historical articles and examples of recently conducted research oriented toward the future.

“The sourcebook will serve as a standard reference for mathematics education researchers, policymakers, practitioners and students both in and outside the Nordic countries,” Sriraman said.

More information about the contents of the sourcebook is available online at

<http://www.infoagepub.com/products/First-Sourcebook-Nordic-Research-Mathematics-Education> and <http://www.math.umt.edu/TMME/Monograph10/MontanaMath10.pdf>.

For information about the entire monograph series, visit <http://www.infoagepub.com/series/The-Montana-Mathematics-Enthusiast-Series>.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: A jpg photo of the book cover is attached to this news release.

BD

Local, specialized western, dailies

072210math

Contact: Bharath Sriraman, UM mathematics professor , 406-243-6714, sriramanb@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



July 22, 2010

MISSOULA –

The public is invited to join The University of Montana Avian Science Center for a morning of bird banding at one of six upcoming events.

Participants will learn about the importance of riparian areas and the work done at the Avian Science Center. The events are free, and all ages are welcome.

The schedule is:

- **Tuesday, July 27, and Monday, Aug. 2**, Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site in **Deer Lodge**.
- **Wednesday, July 28, and Thursday, Aug. 5**, Maclay Flat near Blue Mountain in Missoula.
- **Thursday, July 29, and Friday, Aug. 6**, Valley of the Moon Nature Trail on Rock Creek.

Those who wish to experience the full two-hour program should arrive at either 7 a.m. or 9 a.m. Others can drop by anytime between 7 a.m. and noon. The banding stations will be staffed by Avian Science Center biologists.

Participants should wear shoes and clothes appropriate for hiking near riparian woodlands and bring water, sunscreen, a hat and bug repellent. Binoculars and cameras also are recommended.

The bird-banding activities are part of the center's Bird's-Eye View Education Program, and are supported by a grant from the state Natural Resource Damage Program. Learn more about the bird-banding program online at http://avianscience.dbs.umt.edu/projects/bird_banding.php.

For more information or to RSVP for the event, e-mail Kristina Smucker at kristina.smucker@mso.umt.edu or call 406-243-2035.

###

JS

Local

072110bird

Contact: Kristina Smucker, Avian Science Center assistant director and outreach coordinator, 406-243-2035, kristina.smucker@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



July 22, 2010

MISSOULA –

A short film made by recent University of Montana graduate Ali Tabibnejad is one of 100 entries competing for \$50,000 and the chance to become a feature-length movie.

Tabibnejad made "Untitled for James" earlier this year as his thesis project, then entered it in OpenFilm.com's first-ever "Get it Made" competition. The 19-minute movie features a cast and crew made entirely of UM students and was shot on campus, around Missoula and outside Kalispell. Tabibnejad earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in digital filmmaking from UM in May.

More than 100 films are competing in the first round of the contest. The public can view the entries at <http://www.openfilm.com>, and anyone with an e-mail address can create an account and vote for their favorite film during the month of July.

After public voting closes, the top six vote-getters will go before a panel of judges that includes film industry professionals James Caan, Robert Duvall, Mark Rydell, Scott Caan and others. The panel will select one winning film. The winner will receive \$50,000 cash and a \$200,000 financing contract to turn their short film into a feature film.

"Untitled for James" has been viewed more than 6,000 times and has been consistently among the top six vote-getters since voting began.

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JS

Local, specialized western

072110film

Contact: Ali Tabibnejad, filmmaker and UM graduate, ali.tabibnejad@gmail.com, .

UM NEWS



July 20, 2010

MISSOULA –

The Law Building at The University of Montana was evacuated Tuesday morning after a threat was e-mailed to a law school employee.

Campus and Missoula police officers arrived on the scene around 11 a.m. to evaluate the situation. The Law Building was evacuated, and it and the nearby Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center were searched. The streets around the Law Building were closed, and e-mail, Internet and phone text emergency notification systems alerted campus of the potential threat.

Officers learned the e-mail threat was without merit, and the area was declared “all clear” shortly after 1 p.m.

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CBS

Campus

072010thrt

Contact: Jim Foley, UM executive vice president, 406-243-2311, james.foley@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



July 20, 2010

MISSOULA —

The Building Futures Program, a community partnership of The University of Montana College of Technology, the Missoula Building Industry Association and the Flagship Program, will hold an open house for its student-built home from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 25.

The Bronze Level National Association of Home Builders Green Certified custom home, located at 2604 Roderick Way in Missoula, is valued at \$340,000. It has three bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms, with 1,484 square feet on the main floor and 742 square feet on the upper floor.

Raffle tickets for the home cost \$100 each and can be purchased at the open house. Those who buy a raffle ticket at the open house will be entered into a drawing for a free ticket.

Purchasers must be 18 or older, and prize winners must be Montana residents. The raffle drawing will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, at Farmers State Bank, located at 3130 N. Reserve St. in Missoula. Ticket purchasers need not be present to win.

UM strives for equal and full participation at all events. For more information on or to request disability-related modifications, call COT Associate Dean Alan Fugleberg at 406-243-7608 or e-mail alan.fugleberg@mso.umt.edu at least 48 hours in advance.

For more information, go online to <http://www.missoulastudentbuilthouse.org>.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For a photo of the house, e-mail alan.fugleberg@mso.umt.edu.

AF/als

Local, specialized western

072010hous

Contact: Alan Fugleberg, associate dean, UM College of Technology, 406-243-7608, alan.fugleberg@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



July 20, 2010

HAMILTON –

The steering committee for the Bitterroot College Program of The University of Montana will hold a meeting at 3 p.m. Tuesday, July 27, 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 members of the public to observe and participate at its meetings.

Agenda topics will include operational, educational planning and fiscal issues. The meeting agenda will be available Friday, July 23, on the BCP website 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.

The BCP Steering Committee is a collaborative group composed of local Ravalli County stakeholders, UM 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 will offer 18 UM College of Technology courses in the Hamilton area this fall.

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VC/bd

Local, specialized western

072010btrr

Contact: Victoria Clark, interim director, Bitterroot College Program of UM, 406-375-0100, victoria.clark@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



July 20, 2010

MISSOULA –

A diverse group of people and organizations who care about the Crown of the Continent are working with The University of Montana Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy to organize a conference that will celebrate and build upon the region's remarkable natural and cultural heritage.

The two-day conference – “Remarkable Beyond Borders: Shaping the Future of the Crown of the Continent” – is open to anyone interested in the past, present and future of the region. It will take place Thursday and Friday, Sept. 23-24, at the Bayshore Inn, Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta. Registration costs \$75 through Sept. 10 and \$100 thereafter.

The event celebrates the efforts of people and organizations to preserve the culture, heritage, communities and landscape of the region now and for future generations. Participants will assess the challenges and opportunities ahead and build relationships and knowledge to shape the future of the region.

Confirmed keynote speakers are Jack Nisbet, author of “Sources of the River: Tracking David Thompson Across Western North America”; Jonathan B. Tourtellot, director and geotourism editor, National Geographic Traveler; Darrell Kipp, director, Piegan Institute; and Lynn Scarlett, former U.S. deputy secretary of the interior.

The idea of an annual conference focused on the Crown of the Continent emerged at last year's summer retreat of the “Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent,” a forum for organizations and people who care about the region. This year's conference is the first in a series that will occur during the next four years in each of the four sub-regions of the Crown, which are formed by the Continental Divide as the north-south axis and the U.S.-Canadian border as the east-west axis.

Roundtable events are organized and convened by UM's Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy with the support of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the Sonoran Institute.

For more information, to register for the conference or to learn about sponsorship opportunities, visit <http://crownroundtable.org/2010conference.html>.

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BD

Local, state, tribal

072010crwn

Contact: Shawn Johnson, UM Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy, 406-457-8475, shawn.johnson@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



July 20, 2010

MISSOULA –

Five U.S. government employees recently were awarded Mike Mansfield Fellowships by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation.

The federal employees selected by a bi-national committee are:

- Amanda J. Eichelkraut, program analyst, U.S. Agency for International Development.
- Monterey R. Gardiner, physical scientist, technology development manager, U.S. Department of Energy.
- Melissa Muhammad, competent authority/tax treaty analyst, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Department of the Treasury.
- Andrew L. Winternitz, deputy director for Japan policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense.
- Tad Woolfe, deputy chief, Wing Current Operations, U.S. Air Force.

The Mansfield Fellows will develop an in-depth understanding of Japan and its government through a year of intensive, full-time Japanese language and area studies in the United States, followed by a year of practical work inside Japanese government ministries and agencies.

The Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program, now in its 16th year, is a two-year, government-to-government exchange established by Congress in 1994 to build a corps of U.S. government officials with substantial expertise on Japan. The Japanese language skills, government experience and contacts Mansfield Fellows acquire during the program make them a unique and valuable resource to their agencies when they return to U.S. federal government service.

"As the United States and Japan celebrate the 50th anniversary of their alliance, we recognize that the promise the partnership holds for the future depends in part on U.S. government officials with an in-depth understanding of Japan and its government," said Gordon Flake, executive director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation. "The Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program has been addressing this need for 16 years, and the latest group of Fellows is exceptionally well prepared to help the U.S. and Japan meet the challenges and opportunities ahead."

Since the fellowships were established, 96 fellows representing 22 agencies and departments of the U.S. government have entered the program.

The fellowships are administered by the Mansfield Foundation through an annual congressional appropriation, with the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs as grantor.

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that advances the late Montana Sen. Mike Mansfield's lifelong work to promote understanding and cooperation among the nations and peoples of Asia and the United States. The foundation has offices at The University of Montana, as well as in Washington, D.C., and Tokyo.

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MGE/js

Local, dailies

072010mans

Contact: Margo Grimm Eule, director of communications, The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, 202-347-1994, .

UM NEWS



July 16, 2010

MISSOULA –

University of Montana juniors Taylor Healy and Kurt Schiedermayer each finished ahead of nearly 500 other Army ROTC cadets in their regiments in the Army Physical Fitness Test, held this summer as part of cadet training at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Thousands of college students from around the globe converge at Joint Base Lewis-McChord each summer to attend Army ROTC's capstone training and assessment exercise – the 29-day Leader Development and Assessment Course. Each cadet must pass the APFT on their fourth day of training.

The test, which measures the student's strength and endurance, consists of sit-ups and push-ups, each timed over two minutes, and a two-mile run. Scores are aggregated into an overall official Army score. The Army standard maximum score is 300.

Healy, a UM sociology major from Fort Collins, Colo., scored 340 points. His achievement on the APFT placed him at the top of his 468-person regiment.

Schiedermayer is a UM forestry major from Philipsburg. He scored 351 points. His achievement placed him at the top of his 445-person regiment.

This year more than 6,300 ROTC cadets will attend LDAC in 14 ROTC regiments. Each 500-person regiment will undergo a 29-day cycle of progressive training, culminating in the regimental graduation ceremony.

LDAC is the single most important event in any cadet's student career. Successful completion of the training cycle is prerequisite to commissioning. Last year 4,300 second lieutenants were commissioned through ROTC.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Photos of the cadets are available by calling Maj. Jason Grider at 406-544-8408 or by e-mailing jason.grider@mso.umt.edu.

BD

Local, state, hometown

071510rotc

Contact: Maj. Jason Grider, UM Department of Military Science, 406-544-8408, jason.grider@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



July 14, 2010

MISSOULA –

University of Montana Assistant Professor Josh Lawrence recently was one of 40 in the nation to receive a New Investigator Research Grant from the Alzheimer's Association.

Lawrence received the grant for his research project to advance understanding of the consequences of selective nerve cell death in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and how those consequences may affect brain function.

The two-year, \$80,000 grant will support Lawrence's research on nerve cells in the region of the brain called the hippocampus. He and his team will study the activity of somatostatin-containing nerve cells affected by signals from acetylcholine-containing cells and what happens when those signals are lost. Both types of cells are especially vulnerable to cell death in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

"It is exciting to get this grant at this critical time when I am trying to gather and sustain resources to address this critical synaptic connection," Lawrence said. "The funding will enable me to sustain my research projects and position my lab to compete for larger federal grants that also have relevance to Alzheimer's disease."

Lawrence was among 84 investigators who received funding from the Alzheimer's Association for projects ranked by peer reviewers in an extremely competitive field of 815 applications. He earned a doctorate in neuroscience from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 2008, he was recruited by the National Institutes of Health Center of Biomedical Research Excellence for Structural and Functional Neuroscience at UM to join the faculty in the University's Department of Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

"The Alzheimer's Association Montana congratulates Josh and thanks him for his important work," said the association's Executive Director Suzanne Belser. "It is this type of research that will one day find a cure for Alzheimer's disease."

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research. Since 1982 the association has committed more than \$265 million to more than 1,800 best-of-field grant proposals.

Alzheimer's Association Montana is located in Billings. For more information, visit <http://www.alz.org/montana>, call 406-252-3053 or e-mail suzanne.belzer@alz.org.

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BD

Local, specialized western, dailies

071410alzh

Contact: Josh Lawrence, UM assistant professor, 406-243-6486, josh.lawrence@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



July 12, 2010

MISSOULA –

The NCAA has granted one more year of athletic eligibility to former University of Montana cornerback Jimmy Wilson. The decision was reached late last week.

Wilson, 23, was a member of the Griz football team from 2004 to 2006. In a jury trial last summer, he was acquitted of a murder charge involving an incident that occurred in the Los Angeles area in June 2007 – a charge he contended all along was a matter of self-defense. The 12-person jury unanimously agreed with Wilson. The original jury trial the previous year resulted in a hung jury (11 jurors voting not guilty and one guilty), after which the prosecution chose to retry the case.

This past year, Wilson has been employed and living in Southern California and spending time with his family. Earlier this year, Wilson contacted UM officials about re-enrolling in school and asked that a waiver be filed with the NCAA seeking restoration of his senior year. Thanks to the efforts of UM Associate Athletic Director Jean Gee, a strong case was made and approved by the NCAA staff.

"I thank God for the opportunity to further my education," Wilson said. "I am thankful to the coaches and Jean for helping me with the waiver process. I am excited I have the chance to compete again in the classroom and on the field as a Grizzly."

Wilson, a three-year starter at UM before his incarceration, was ineligible to return to Division I football because his eligibility under the five-year clock rule expired following the 2008 football season. NCAA bylaws state that once students enroll full time in an institution, they have five years to complete their seasons of competition.

"The NCAA has ruled in favor of Jimmy, and we support the decision," said UM Athletic Director Jim O'Day. "This will allow this young man to restore what he's been missing the past three years and follow his dreams both academically and athletically. The University is all about opportunity and second chances, and we are treating this matter no differently than we would for any student-athlete, whether from Montana or California. We will welcome Jimmy back into the Griz family with open arms and wish him success."

UM head football coach Robin Pflugrad agreed. "The more we researched and evaluated Jimmy's situation, it became obvious that Jimmy had made more than satisfactory progress in his responsibility of being a student-athlete at The University of Montana," he said. "Jimmy has unquestionably shown tremendous courage and strength of character in the past three years. I truly believe that Jimmy Wilson deserves the opportunity to pursue his educational goals. Our players and staff are excited about the news of bringing Jimmy back into the Grizzly family."

UM President George M. Dennison said, "The legal system has run its course, and we agree with the outcome that was achieved. We relish this opportunity to help this student-athlete get his life back on track with an education at The University of Montana."

O'Day adds, "If people knew the entire story, which was accurately portrayed in a special four-page article written by Roman Stubbs of the Montana Kaimin last winter, I'm sure they would agree with the NCAA's decision."

The Feb. 19 Kaimin story is online at http://www.montanakaimin.com/index.php/articles/article/gladiator_school/770.

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JO/cbs

Local, specialized western, dailies

071210wils

Contact: Jim Foley, UM executive vice president, 406-243-2311, james.foley@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



July 12, 2010

MISSOULA –

A new report released by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and The University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research regarding distance learning in Montana shows nearly 84 percent of the state's population, or about 520,000 people, age 18 to 64 have high-speed Internet available where they live.

This information provides the state with the first robust estimate of broadband Internet availability in Montana and highlights the strengths and weaknesses in high-speed Internet coverage and usage.

"I think this showcases that accessibility to online services is high but still not universal," BBER Director Patrick Barkey said.

There are certain categories of individuals who have markedly lower high-speed Internet availability at their homes. The fraction of American Indian households with high-speed availability in their residences is more than 10 percentage points lower than white households, although a higher fraction of American Indian households said they didn't know whether they had availability or not.

Lower-income and less-educated households also were more likely to not have high-speed service available. There also is less high-speed Internet access in eastern Montana than in other regions of the state.

"This information provides quantitative proof that while access is widely available, a digital divide still appears for Montana's lower-income, Native American, and rural populations," Barkey said.

BBER sampled more than 1,200 households in Montana to obtain the results, including both landline and cell-phone only households. The survey looked at consumer experiences in distance learning, as well as interest in engaging in additional distance learning specifically from the campuses of the Montana University System.

Identified in the survey were the academic program and work force development areas of greatest interest to consumers, the gaps in academic delivery that exist, the barriers to distance learning from the consumer perspective, the preferred type of distance delivery, and the manner and location consumers most often use to access the Internet. The survey can be downloaded from the MUS website at <http://mus.edu/online>.

BBER monitors economic and business conditions in Montana, providing information to individuals, businesses and government agencies across the state. For more information, visit <http://www.bber.umt.edu> or call 406-243-5113.

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Local, dailies, specialized western

071210bber

Contact: Patrick Barkey, director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113, patrick.barkey@business.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



July 09, 2010

MISSOULA –

University of Montana student Morgen Hartford left July 5 for a 1,200-mile, two-month benefit bicycle tour from Missoula to Portland, Ore.

Hartford organized the tour in memory of a teacher, Susann Hannah, and plane crash victims Sonny Kless and Brian Williams. All three died recently in accidents. Hartford's tour is designed to honor the contributions of those individuals.

Hartford recently completed a 700-mile bike tour through Montana with the Wild Rockies Field Institute, studying climate change, energy production and sustainable agriculture. Now embarking on his own journey, he plans to continue to explore the impact of climate change and sustainable techniques as he stops at farms, dams and military bases along his way to the West Coast.

Hartford is documenting his adventure and collecting donations through his blog at <http://wildandsacred.wordpress.com>. Proceeds from the tour will be split between two organizations, the Terra Madre Missoula Food Community and UM Climate Action Now.

For more information or to request an interview with Hartford, e-mail Patrick Rhea, Climate Action Now president, at patrick.rhea@umontana.edu.

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Local

070810bike

Contact: Patrick Rhea, president, UM Climate Action Now, 913-406-7800, patrick.rhea@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



July 07, 2010

MISSOULA –

Montana educators and their students can learn about the active layer of permafrost in the Arctic by following the blog of a teacher who is accompanying University of Montana Assistant Professor Anna Klene and a team of researchers to Alaska.

Trekking the Arctic to measure the temperature and properties of frozen ground is nothing new for Klene, who is a consultant on the Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring (CALM) program, administered by George Washington University Professor Nikolay “Kolia” Shiklomanov and University of Delaware Professor Frederick “Fritz” Nelson. Klene has been with the program since shortly after its inception in the mid-1990s.

This year, New Orleans high school teacher Josh Dugat will accompany the expedition as a 2010 PolarTREC participant. PolarTREC is a program sponsored by the National Science Foundation, which partners teachers with researchers in the Arctic and Antarctic to raise awareness of polar science in classrooms across the country.

In addition to participating in fieldwork, PolarTREC teachers design and implement content-specific curriculum that incorporates their experiences with their students back home.

Information about the CALM project is online at <http://www.udel.edu/Geography/calm/about/permafrost.html>. To follow the team on their journey, go online to <http://www.polarrec.com/expeditions/long-term-circumpolar-permafrost-monitoring>. For more information, e-mail jdugat@polarrec.com. Information about PolarTREC is online at <http://www.polarrec.com>.

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Local, state

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Contact: Anna Klene, UM assistant professor, 406-243-4347, anna.klene@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



July 02, 2010

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana College of Technology will hold free college prep classes for qualified veterans through the Montana Veterans Upward Bound program.

Classes in math, writing and basic computer skills will take place Monday through Thursday evenings at the COT campus, located at 909 South Ave. W. in Missoula. Start times vary from 5 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., and classes end no later than 9:15 p.m.

Orientation will take place from 5 to 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 13, in the COT Commons. A graduation ceremony will be held Thursday, Nov. 4.

For more information or to enroll, call 877-356-VETS or visit <http://www.vubmt.com>.

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Local, specialized western

070110vets

Contact: Mary Opitz, UM College of Technology Outreach, 406-243-7812, mary.opitz@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



July 06, 2010

MISSOULA –

The Building Futures Program, a community partnership of The University of Montana College of Technology, the Missoula Building Industry Association and the Flagship Program will hold an open house for the Student-Built House from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 11.

The Bronze Level National Association of Home Builders Green Certified custom home, located at 2604 Roderick Way in Missoula, is valued at \$340,000. It has three bedrooms and two and a half baths, with 1,484 square feet on the main floor and 742 square feet on the upper floor.

Raffle tickets for the home are being sold for \$100 each. They can be purchased at the open house. Those who buy a raffle ticket at the open house will be entered into a drawing for a free ticket.

Purchasers must be 18 or older, and prize winners must be Montana residents. The raffle drawing will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, at Farmers State Bank, located at 3130 N. Reserve St. in Missoula.

Ticket purchasers need not be present to win. For more information, call 406-543-4423 or go online to <http://www.missoulastudentbuilthouse.org>.

UM strives for equal and full participation at all events. For more information or to request disability related modifications, call COT Associate Dean Alan Fugleberg at 406-243-7608 or e-mail alan.fugleberg@umontana.edu at least 48 hours in advance.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: For a photo of the house, e-mail alan.fugleberg@umontana.edu.

AF/js

Local, specialized western

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Contact: Alan Fugleberg, associate dean, UM College of Technology, 406-243-7608, alan.fugleberg@umontana.edu.