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UM NEWS



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UM NEWS



July 29, 2011

MISSOULA –

Scientists from The University of Montana, Brigham Young University and the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station have received a \$450,000 grant from the Joint Fire Sciences Program to study linkages between fuels and fire behavior in shrub lands.

Principal investigator Carl Seielstad, a professor in UM's Department of Forest Management, will use laser scanners to build 3-D models of sagebrush and chamise shrub fuels.

"Relatively little scientific attention has been given to wildfire behavior in shrub lands of the interior West, even though they are some of most dynamic fuel beds in the region," Seielstad said. "Grasses and shrubs occupy about 75 percent of vegetated area in the western U.S., and these landscapes have experienced a seemingly large number of firefighting accidents."

Seielstad will work with Thomas Fletcher, a chemical engineer at BYU who is developing and testing fire models for shrub fuels in a state-of-the-art burn chamber. The team also will include David Weiss, a research forester from the Forest Service Fire Sciences Lab in Riverside, Calif., who has extensive experience in fire modeling of shrub fuels.

"The digital data taken from live vegetation is helping us build fire models that more successfully simulate how fire moves through shrub lands under a variety of conditions," Seielstad said.

Fire managers use information from fire models to make decisions about how to keep firefighters safe and to develop successful management strategies and fuels treatments. Fire dynamics are changing quickly in shrub lands because of invasions by exotic plants such as cheatgrass. By fundamentally understanding how fire moves through shrubs and grasses, it may be possible to anticipate these changes using fire models such as the ones developed in this study.

Seielstad is part of the National Center for Landscape Fire Analysis at UM, which links scientific and technological developments with wildland fire and land management. The Joint Fire Science Program is an interagency research, development and applications partnership between the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

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LS/js

Western Montana, dailies

072811fire

Contact: Leana Schelvan, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6777, leana.schelvan@firecenter.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



July 29, 2011

MISSOULA —

Registration is open for "Discovery in the Crown of the Continent: A Glacier National Park Experience," which is happening Sept. 23-26. Participants will be guided to remote locations within the park to study wildlife habitat, Native American history, climate change, forest fires and physical geography.

The four-day excursion will be spent at two locations in Glacier National Park: the forests of the McDonald Valley and the North Fork of the Flathead River. Instructors include University of Montana faculty member Rick Graetz and scientists from the Glacier Institute.

Complete program and registration information is available at <http://umt.edu/xls/landing/glaciexperience.aspx>. A stepped pricing structure is offered, so program fees vary depending on number of participants. The price includes all meals, lodging and transportation during the program. Participants will be responsible for their own transportation to the Glacier Park Field Camp. Academic credit is available at an additional cost.

For more information, email Clare Kelly at clare.kelly@mso.umt.edu or 406-243-6496.

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CK, aw

Campus, Western Montana, Dailies

072811glac

Contact: Clare Kelly, UM School of Extended and Lifelong Learning, 406-243-6496, clare.kelly@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



July 27, 2011

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, basic computer skills and writing will take place Monday through Thursday, Sept. 19-Nov. 10, at the COT campus, located at 909 South Ave. W. in Missoula. Class start times range from 4 to 6 p.m. and end no later than 7:30 p.m.

Orientation will take place from 5:15 to 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19, in the COT Dining Room. A graduation ceremony will be held Thursday, Nov. 10.

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

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ALS

Western Montana

072711vets

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

UM NEWS



July 27, 2011

MISSOULA —

Aaron Nigel Smith, star of the PBS Kids show "Between the Lions," will headline a benefit concert for Families First from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 20, at the University of Montana's University Theatre.

"This is a fun and affordable event that is sure to get the entire family rockin', rollin' and bouncing around," said Katie Ghen Simpson, marketing manager at Families First.

University Theatre doors open at 2:30 p.m., and families will be able to participate in activities such as tie dying, face painting and beading at 3:30 p.m. Tangled Tones & Friends will take the stage at 4:45 p.m., followed by Smith's performance at 5:30 p.m. Smith also will sign CDs after his performance.

Tickets are available at the MSO Hub Box Office, located at 140 N. Higgins Ave., or by calling Families First Children's Museum at 406-543-3300. The event is free for children under 1, \$12 for children between 1 and 12 or \$15 for those older than 12.

For more event information visit <http://www.familiesfirstmontana.org>.

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KGS/aw
local, western
072611lion

Contact: Katie Ghen Simpson, Families First marketing manager, 406-721-7690, katie@familiesfirstmontana.org; Thomas Webster, University Theatre director, 406-243-2853, thomas.webster@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



July 27, 2011

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana's Learning and Belonging Pre-School, a program of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, recently earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the country's leading organization of early childhood professionals.

"We're proud to have earned this mark of quality from NAEYC and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards," said Karen Martin, LAB Pre-School co-director. "NAEYC accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are receiving the best care and early learning experiences possible."

Only 8 percent of all preschools and early childhood programs in the country receive NAEYC accreditation. To earn accreditation, the LAB Pre-School completed an extensive self-study, followed by an on-site visit by NAEYC assessors. The preschool earned the highest marks possible in all of the NAEYC's 10 standard areas, reflecting the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development. This is a significant achievement, according to Roberta Evans, dean of the education college.

"Each year, more than 200 UM students participate in observation and clinical experiences in our early childhood facility," Evans said. "This high-quality program directly benefits enrolled children and their families. It also challenges our next generation of teachers and other human service professionals to set high standards and pursue excellence in their future work with children and youth."

The LAB Pre-School offers three-hour morning and afternoon programs Mondays through Thursdays at its facility in UM's Phyllis J. Washington Education Center. For more information about accreditation or enrollment for the 2011-12 academic year, call 406-243-4262.

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KM/als

Western Montana, dailies

072711prsc

Contact: Karen Martin, co-director, UM Learning and Belonging Pre-School, 406-243-4262, karen.martin@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



July 21, 2011

MISSOULA –

Registration is open for the second annual Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent, which will take place Thursday and Friday, Sept. 22-23, at the KwaTaqNuk Resort in Polson, Mont.

This year's event, "Crown of the Continent (*Natmuq̓in / X̓w̓cx̓w̓cut / Miistakists11*): Integrating Culture, Community and Conservation," is hosted by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council. The conference program features a variety of plenary, breakout and working-group sessions focused on the importance of integrating culture, community (including local economies) and conservation to effectively sustain communities and landscapes.

Speakers include Native representatives from tribes, bands and First Nations from across the Crown of the Continent region, as well as individuals who work on various local, regional and national initiatives that have direct bearing on the region.

The forum provides a chance for diverse groups of people and organizations to meet to discuss the past, present and future of the 18 million-acre region that encompasses Glacier National Park and spans the Continental Divide from the Elk River headwaters and Crowsnest Pass in Canada to Rogers Pass and the Blackfoot River drainage in Montana.

Registration and lodging information and a complete conference agenda are available online at <http://crownroundtable.org>. Registration costs \$100 until Sept. 9 and \$125 thereafter. For more information, call conference organizer Kim Davitt at 406-546-7979 or email kim@cnrep.org.

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BD

Western Montana, Dailies, Crown of the Continent-area media

072111crwn

Contact: Kim Davitt, UM Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy, 406-546-7979, kim@cnrep.org.

UM NEWS



July 21, 2011

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana invites alumni and friends to meet with UM's 17th president, Royce Engstrom, who will visit Sidney and Glendive on Tuesday, July 26, and Miles City on Wednesday, July 27.

Joining him will be UM Executive Vice President Jim Foley, Alumni Director Bill Johnston and UM Foundation Assistant Vice President for Development Curtis Cox.

The scheduled events are:

- July 26: Sidney, lunch at the Sidney Country Club, 16 Highway North, noon-2 p.m., \$5 per person.
- July 26: Glendive, reception at Madd Hatters Pub, 1316 W. Towne St., 6-8 p.m., includes hors d'oeuvres and no-host cocktails.
- July 27: Miles City, lunch at Miles Community College Cafeteria, 2715 Dickinson St., noon-2 p.m., \$5 per person.

Reservations are encouraged but not required. Call Jodi Moreau at 1-877-862-5867 for reservations to any of the three events. Engstrom's visit is sponsored by UM, the UM Foundation and UM's Office of Alumni Relations.

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JB/cbs

Billings Gazette; Sidney, Glendive, Miles City media

072111vist

Contact: Jodi Johnson Moreau, off-campus events coordinator, UM Office of Alumni Relations and Alumni Association, 406-243-6124, jodi.moreau@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



July 21, 2011

POLSON –

The University of Montana Flathead Lake Biological Station invites the public to a free open house from 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 2.

The biological station is located 17.5 miles north of **Polson** and 14 miles south of **Bigfork** along Highway 35 on the east shore of Flathead Lake.

Visitors will learn about Flathead Lake, observe the research done at the station, explore the facilities and take part in special activities.

This year's open house features research displays about North Fork Flathead River conservation, Flathead Lake monitoring and its food web, aquatic invasive species, shallow groundwater quality in the Flathead Valley, and remote sensing and geographic information systems. There also will be a demonstration of resources available on the station's website, including local weather observations and lake data. This year's event also will feature a geocaching activity called "Caching in on FLBS Natural Treasure" with treats for participants.

Boat tours and research demonstrations will take place at 1:05, 2:05, 3:05 and 4:05 p.m. At 3:15 p.m., UM's Bierman Professor of Ecology and FLBS Director Jack Stanford will give a presentation titled "What We Do at the Biological Station."

For more information about Flathead Lake Biological Station, call 406-982-3301 or visit <http://www.umt.edu/flbs>.

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MK/js

Western Montana

072111biol

Contact: UM Flathead Lake Biological Station, 406-982-3301, flbs@flbs.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



July 19, 2011

MISSOULA –

“Glacier Material: Scenes from the Pleistocene,” a work by Montana playwright and UM staff member Wendy Woollett, will air Friday, July 22, on Montana Public Radio.

Written by Woollett to celebrate Glacier National Park’s centennial, the play will air at 11 a.m. during “Free Forms.” The play was conceived in Glacier during a vacation Woollett took after a second cancer surgery. It features encounters with several hikers she met on the park’s trails.

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WW/js

Local

071911wool

Contact: Wendy Woollett, playwright and UM staff member, 406-243-2352, wendy.woollett@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



July 15, 2011

MISSOULA –

A recent study conducted by The University of Montana's Rural Institute gives Missoula businesses an overall grade of "B" for accessibility. The study's release coincides with the 21st anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which sets accessibility standards for businesses and public facilities.

To determine the grade, researchers observed nearly 300 businesses in Missoula and rated the basic elements of accessibility: designated parking, a safe and clear path to the business's entry, an accessible entryway and an open interior that allows access to a point of service for people using mobility devices, such as a scooter or walker. The businesses received a combined average score of 3.32 on a 4.0 scale to earn the "B" grade.

Different parts of town received different grades for their accessibility. According to the report, businesses observed in Southgate Mall, as well as many businesses that are part of a franchise or chain, earned "A" grades. In general, infrastructure maintained by private businesses, such as sidewalks and parking spaces, received higher grades than the equivalent infrastructure maintained by the city of Missoula.

"Missoula businesses should be congratulated for their efforts to make themselves accessible to people with disabilities," said Tom Seekins of the Rural Institute. "Missoula could improve its grade most easily by providing or increasing the number of signed and designated parking spaces near businesses. A potentially more difficult step would involve improving the safety of downtown routes to businesses where individuals may be exposed to dangers such as needing to go out into the street while on route to a business."

The Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities, the Rural Institute program that released the report, also completed a study on the accessibility of smaller towns in Montana. That report can be viewed online at <http://rtc.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/IL/ADACaseStudy.html>.

For more information call Seekins at 406-243-2654 or email ruraldoc@ruralinstitute.umt.edu.

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TS/als

Local, dailies weeklies

071511accs

Contact: Tom Seekins, UM Rural Institute, 406-243-2654, ruraldoc@ruralinstitute.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



July 15, 2011

HAMILTON –

The steering committee for the Bitterroot College Program of The University of Montana will hold its monthly meeting at 3 p.m. Wednesday, July 20, in the Human Resource Council Building Meeting Room located at 316 N. Third 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 and supplemental meeting materials will be available Monday, July 18, 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 emailing victoria.clark@umontana.edu.

The BCP steering committee is a collaborative group composed of 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 Ravalli County residents.

The BCP will offer more than 30 UM and College of Technology courses in the Hamilton area during autumn semester 2011.

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VC/js

Local, Bitterroot media

071511bitt

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

UM NEWS



July 12, 2011

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana has launched a new e-publication, Montana Field Notes, which can be found online at <http://issuu.com/crownofthecontinent/docs/umfieldnotesspring11>.

Montana Field Notes focuses on the diverse landscapes, ecology, history and culture of Big Sky Country and the important work being done by the University statewide.

The spring 2011 issue includes stunning photographs of Montana landscapes. Articles cover diverse topics such as UM Crown of the Continent studies, eastern and western Montana, UM's Flathead Lake Biological Station and West Yellowstone.

Two editions of Montana Field Notes will be published each academic year.

The new publication is produced by Rick Graetz, a UM geography faculty member, and Jerry Fetz, former dean of UM's College of Arts and Sciences and Davidson Honors College, with assistance from various writers and photographers.

Graetz and Fetz also created UM's popular Crown of the Continent e-magazine (<http://crown.umt.edu/E-Publications>), focused on the Glacier National Park region. The success of that initiative prompted them to create a publication that covers all regions of the state.

For more information, email Graetz at rick.graetz@mso.umt.edu or Fetz at fetzga@mso.umt.edu.

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CBS

Local, dailies, weeklies

071211crwn

Contact: Rick Graetz, Montana Field Notes publisher, 406-439-9277, rick.graetz@mso.umt.edu; Jerry Fetz, Montana Field Notes publisher, 406-546-5711, fetzga@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



July 11, 2011

HAMILTON –

After just two years of providing courses, the Bitterroot College Program of The University of Montana is growing so quickly it is expanding its facility. In fall 2009, the Hamilton-based BCP offered six college courses in which 29 students enrolled. This fall the program expects to enroll more than 200 students in 35 courses.

In addition to the BCP's college programming, during the 2010-11 academic year the BCP served more than 300 students seeking workforce training in computer applications and business planning. Plus, another 150 students participated in cultural enrichment programming offered through the BCP's lecture series, which included lectures on climate change, music appreciation and Montana history.

"There clearly is a demand in the Bitterroot for easier access to higher education opportunities," said John Robinson, chair of the BCP Steering Committee. "We're eager to grow and continue to provide additional services to our students."

The BCP delivered all its college and workforce training courses from two classrooms at the Ravalli Entrepreneurship Center. While initially sufficient, the two classrooms are no longer adequate to handle BCP's growing enrollment. UM has leased an additional 3,300 square feet of space at the center and will pay the costs of remodeling the new classroom space before autumn semester begins Aug. 29.

"With this expansion, we will have a dedicated computer classroom, a science laboratory and a lecture classroom," said Victoria Clark, BCP interim director. "We are excited to provide our students and our community with an improved learning environment to enhance their educational experience."

As in most college expansion projects, the BCP is counting on private support for part of the funding necessary to expand. The program has identified \$50,000 in equipment and furniture costs for which it is seeking the community's support. Individuals or businesses who make gifts at certain levels will have the opportunity to name rooms in the facility.

"This is the first fundraising effort for the BCP, and we're looking forward to getting a lot of people involved in growing the program," Clark said. "We think they will see the wisdom in investing in this invaluable community asset that directly impacts the county's economic vitality."

To give a tax-deductible contribution, call Clark at 406-375-0100, email victoria.clark@umontana.edu or make a donation online at <http://www.umt.edu/bcp/donations.aspx>.

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TJ/js
 Local, state
 071111bitt

Contact: Tara Jensen, associate director, events, UM Foundation, 406-243-5186, tara.jensen@mso.umt.edu; Victoria Clark, interim director, Bitterroot College Program, 406-375-0100, victoria.clark@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



July 01, 2011

MISSOULA –

Sept. 8, 2004, wasn't a stellar day for University of Montana researcher Dan Reisenfeld. That's when the sample-return capsule from NASA's Genesis space probe crashed in the Utah desert after a parachute failed to open.

Reisenfeld, a member of UM's Department of Physics and Astronomy, helped build the probe's solar wind concentrator, which gathered charged solar wind particles during a three-year journey in space to determine the composition of the sun with unprecedented precision.

The hard landing made a mess of the Genesis sample collectors. But six years later, NASA researchers have salvaged scientific results from the mission. The surprising findings are the cover story of the June 24 edition of Science.

"We didn't give up after the crash," Reisenfeld said. "The samples were analyzed by scientist Kevin McKeegan at (the University of California, Los Angeles). He's the main author of the Science article, but the folks responsible for building the instrument and capturing the samples are all co-authors. That's my connection. I also currently have a grant from NASA to continue analysis of the Genesis data."

The Genesis samples suggest the sun and its inner planets may have formed differently than scientists previously thought. The data revealed slight differences in the types of oxygen and nitrogen present on the sun and planets. The elements are among the most abundant in our solar system. Although the differences are slight, the implications could help determine how our solar system evolved.

The air on Earth contains three different kinds of oxygen atoms, which are differentiated by the number of neutrons they contain. Nearly 100 percent of oxygen atoms in the solar system are composed of O-16, but there also are tiny amounts of more exotic oxygen isotopes called O-17 and O-18. Researchers studying the oxygen of Genesis samples found that the percentage of O-16 in the sun is slightly higher than on Earth, the moon and meteorites. The other isotopes' percentages were slightly lower.

"The implication is that we did not form out of the same solar nebula materials that created the sun," McKeegan said. How and why this is remains to be discovered.

Researchers also unveiled detailed differences discovered in the amount of nitrogen on the sun and planets. Like oxygen, nitrogen has one isotope, N-14, that makes up nearly 100 percent of the atoms in the solar system, but there also is a tiny amount of N-15. Researchers studying the same samples saw that when compared to Earth's atmosphere, nitrogen in the sun and Jupiter has slightly more N-14, but 40 percent less N-15. Both the sun and Jupiter appear to have the same nitrogen composition.

For more information on the Genesis mission, visit <http://genesismission.jpl.nasa.gov>.

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CBS

State

07011nasa

Contact: Dan Reisenfeld, associate professor, UM Department of Physics and Astronomy, 406-243-6423, dan.reisenfeld@umontana.edu.