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UM NEWS



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UM NEWS



May 31, 2012

MISSOULA –

The National Law Journal recently named University of Montana Assistant Professor Anthony Johnstone its Appellate Lawyer of the Week. Johnstone, who teaches constitutional law and related courses at UM's School of Law, earned the honor for his work surrounding the constitutional challenges to campaign finance laws in Citizens United and related cases.

In the 2010 Citizens United case, Johnstone wrote a brief for Montana and 25 other states urging the U.S. Supreme Court to leave state laws on corporate electioneering alone. He is now helping the state defend a constitutional challenge to Montana's 1912 Corrupt Practices Act in the case of American Tradition Partnership v. Bullock, pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Before joining UM's School of Law, Johnstone served as solicitor for the state of Montana. In that position, he advised and represented the state in constitutional cases. While teaching at UM he continued work on two cases before the Supreme Court, American Tradition Partnership and PPL Montana v. Montana, which was decided in February.

Johnstone also has clerked for Judge Sidney R. Thomas, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, and practiced litigation as an associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York City. He earned a bachelor's degree from Yale University and a juris doctorate with honors from the University of Chicago Law School.

Each week, the National Law Journal features in-depth analyses of critical issues affecting today's legal profession from well-known practitioners. The full article can be found at <http://www.law.com/jsp/nlj/PubArticleSCL.jsp?id=1202555936944>.

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Contact: Anthony Johnstone, assistant professor, UM School of Law, 406-243-6711, anthony.johnstone@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 30, 2012

MISSOULA –

Kayla Blackman, a recent graduate of The University of Montana, has been named one of 15 winners of the 2012 Gilder Lehrman History Scholar Award.

The award recognizes outstanding graduating college seniors who have demonstrated academic and extracurricular excellence in American history or American studies.

Blackman, who is from Billings, received a bachelor's degree in history at UM this year. She will enroll in the UM Department of History master's program this fall.

Blackman will join award winners from universities such as Yale, Purdue and Stanford June 8-11 in New York City for a series of special presentations in their honor. They will meet with eminent scholars and participate in exclusive behind-the-scenes tours of historic archives. Museum and archive visits will include stops at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New-York Historical Society and Museum of the City of New York.

Since 1994 the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History has promoted history education through an array of national programs. More information about the institute is online at <http://www.gilderlehrman.org/historyscholaraward>.

For more information about UM's history department, visit <http://www.cas.umt.edu/history>.

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Missouliau, Billings Gazette

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Contact: Diane Rapp, administrative associate, UM Department of History, 406-243-2231, .

UM NEWS



May 30, 2012

MISSOULA –

The Dublin City Ramblers, an award-winning folk band from Ireland, will headline the first-ever Philipsburg Celtic Festival on Sunday, June 24.

Also scheduled to play at the festival are The Montana ShamRockers of Polson and Dublin Gulch of Butte.

The concert will be held at the Winninghoff Park amphitheater in Philipsburg. Gates open at noon, and music starts at 2 p.m. Tickets purchased in advance are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for seniors, students and veterans. Children age 12 and under are admitted free with an adult. On the day of the show, tickets cost \$25.

All seating is grass, so concertgoers are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs. Free camping also will be available at the Sunshine Station in Philipsburg, and a horse-drawn shuttle will travel between camping areas, parking areas and the amphitheater.

Tickets are available at Rockin Rudy's in Missoula, Schnibble's Flowers in Philipsburg, Cavanaugh's County Celtic in Butte and online at <http://www.skytics.com/>.

The Dublin City Ramblers won the 2012 Irish Music Award for the Best Folk/Ballad Group.

Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Philipsburg Performing Arts Center and the Irish Studies Program at The University of Montana.

For more information, call Traolach O'Riordain, UM's Irish Studies Program director, at 406-544-0311 or email toriordain@hotmail.com, or call Highland Entertainment promoter Jim Adie at 406-859-0036 or email pbjim@montana.com.

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JH

Western Montana, dailies

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UM NEWS



May 30, 2012

MISSOULA –

The National Association of Television Arts and Sciences-Northwest Chapter recently awarded University of Montana senior Alexandra Schwier the inaugural Tricia Moen Memorial Scholarship.

NATAS, the organization that presents the Emmys, created this scholarship to honor Tricia Moen, a young producer at KOMO television in Seattle who died of cancer in 2011.

A panel of NATAS judges interviewed finalists for the scholarship in May and unanimously chose Schwier, a UM School of Journalism radio-television student, to receive the \$2,500 award.

In her interview, Schwier most clearly articulated the role of the producer in the newsroom and clearly expressed her admiration for Moen.

"Tricia Moen reminds me that you can never appreciate your producer and your newsroom family too much," said Schwier.

Schwier has honed skills as a producer at the Montana Television Network, where she has worked since high school, both in Bozeman and Missoula. She graduated from Bozeman High School in June 2010 and will graduate with honors in December from the University with a double major in Spanish and journalism, and a minor in Latin American studies.

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ALL

Local, Bozeman-area media

052812nata

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UM NEWS



May 24, 2012

MISSOULA –

What do President Barack Obama, Sen. Olympia Snowe and Oprah Winfrey have in common?

They, like more than 2.7 million children in America, were raised by grandparents or other relatives at some point in their lives. This longtime practice, known as kinship care, has become more prevalent in the past decade, which has seen an 18 percent increase nationally in children living with relatives or close family friends because their parents can no longer care for them, according to a new national KIDS COUNT report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. An estimated 9 percent of youth will live with extended family for at least three consecutive months at some point before age 18.

"In Montana, the number of children in kinship care more than doubled over the past decade, a period that also saw a reduction in the child population in the state," says Thale Dillon, director of Montana KIDS COUNT at the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at The University of Montana. "It is estimated that close to 4 percent of Montana children under age 18, or 7,600 kids, are in the care of relatives other than their parents."

The rise of this practice warrants immediate attention, according to the report, "Stepping Up for Kids: What Government and Communities Should Do to Support Kinship Families." Many family members and friends who take on parental responsibilities with their often-limited incomes struggle to meet the basic needs of children, a problem that could be alleviated with increased access to and awareness of government and community programs.

The new KIDS COUNT report details the types of challenges kinship caregivers encounter:

- **Financial:** They are more likely to be poor, single, older, less-educated and unemployed, which makes taking on such additional costs as child care and health insurance an extra burden. They often are unfamiliar with available government support programs or struggle to access them, particularly in the case of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, the primary federal financial aid program for low-income families.
- **Emotional:** They must contend with child trauma from parental separation and possible emotional and behavioral issues tied to abuse or neglect.
- **Legal:** They sometimes lack the necessary legal authority to enroll a child in school, access basic medical care or give medical consent. Requirements for becoming licensed foster parents, which aren't always applicable to kinship families, present additional hurdles to receiving the same benefits as nonrelatives taking in children.

In Montana, more than 800 children are in kinship care as foster children, and as such are the only ones who qualify for financial assistance. However, the state does have both educational consent and medical consent legislation in place that allow kinship caregivers to enroll children in school and make other educational and health decisions on their behalf with their parents' consent, and without having to obtain legal custody.

"Stepping Up for Kids"

details the various circumstances, which include death, child abuse or neglect, military deployment, incarceration or deportation, that lead extended family members to become primary caregivers. It also highlights recommendations for states and communities to take advantage of existing federal funding for these families and to strengthen them and help their kids flourish, avoiding greater costs down the road:

- Increase their financial stability through TANF-funded programs specifically designed to meet their unique needs.
- Remove barriers within the child welfare system through policies that formally seek to involve relatives in a child's care and reforms to foster-home licensing requirements.
- Establish laws and resources to bolster kinship families by promoting stable housing, access to child health care and community-based services for older relatives.

"Stepping Up for Kids" includes the latest kinship care data for every state, the District of Columbia and the nation. This information is available at <http://www.aecf.org/MajorInitiatives/KIDSCOUNT.aspx>.

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State, local

052312kids

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UM NEWS



May 22, 2012

MISSOULA –

The Montana Museum of Art & Culture at The University of Montana will premiere two new exhibitions on Thursday, May 31.

The exhibitions, “Cultural Homesteaders: Montana Institute of the Arts from the MMAC Permanent Collection” and “Edith Freeman: Montana Seasons,” will be displayed through Aug. 25. An opening reception for both exhibitions will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts and Radio/TV Center lobby at UM. The event is free and open to the public. Food and beverages will be provided.

“Cultural Homesteaders: Montana Institute of the Arts from the MMAC Permanent Collection” features selections from the Montana Institute of the Arts. Founded in 1948, the MIA was a statewide grassroots organization that tied together the relatively isolated practitioners of various arts and crafts across Montana through publications, an annual festival and travelling exhibits.

In 1954, the MIA began a collection of artworks solicited from member artists. The organization collected for more than 30 years during a time when there were few other collecting institutions in the state and none that focused exclusively on fine art. The MIA collection illustrates the history of the development of the arts in Montana during this time period. In 1994, this collection was transferred to the MMAC and is now part of its Permanent Collection.

MMAC curator of art Brandon Reintjes will present a public lecture, “The History of the MIA,” at 5 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24, in the PAR/TV Center’s Masquer Theater. Following the lecture, there will be a closing reception and gathering of MIA artists from 6 to 8 p.m. in the PAR/TV Center lobby.

“The MIA artists we have notified thus far about this exhibition have expressed appreciation and excitement about a reunion of sorts,” said MMAC Director Barbara Koostra. “Their positive response signifies the richness of the Montana arts community from the 1950s through the 1980s.”

Freeman (1913-1992) was a noted artist, rancher and teacher. She was born in **Broadview** and in 1919 moved to **Billings**, where she attended public schools and received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Eastern Montana College (now Montana State University-Billings). Freeman taught in a number of elementary schools throughout her 30-year career. Upon retirement, she began her second career as a printmaker. A master of reduction woodcut printing, she studied with noted Billings artist Isabelle Johnson.

Among many honors, Freeman was the recipient of the Montana Governor’s Award for the Arts in 1983 and also received an Eastern Montana College Distinguished Alumna Award. Her work is held in museum collections throughout Montana as well as in numerous private collections.

“Edith Freeman: Montana Seasons” is a traveling exhibition sponsored through the Museum and Art Gallery Directors Association-Montana, on loan from the Yellowstone Art Museum Permanent Collection.

MMAC’s hours are noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Friday. For more information call 406-243-2019 or go online to <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum>.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Digital images of select items included in the exhibitions are available upon request by calling 406-243-2019.

BK/jh
 Western Montana
 052212mmac

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UM NEWS



May 22, 2012

MISSOULA –

Montana Public Radio (MTPR) News Director Sally Mauk and MTPR Capitol Bureau Chief Dan Boyce received a total of four awards from the Northwest division of the Society of Professional Journalists. Part of the 2011 Excellence in Journalism Contest, the awards were announced May 19 in Portland, Ore., and Seattle.

Mauk won a first-place award for a general column in a medium-sized newspaper for her columns that are published twice-monthly in the Missoulian. Mauk often bases her columns on her on-air feature interviews on “Montana Evening Edition,” heard weeknights at 5:30 p.m. on MTPR.

Boyce won three awards, including first place in radio feature news reporting for his story on the 100th anniversary of the birth of legendary Montana-born television broadcaster Chet Huntley. Boyce traveled to Big Sky Resort, built by Huntley in the 1970s, to add dimension and depth to his profile. You can hear the story at <http://boycedan.wordpress.com/2011/12/09/chet-huntleys-montana-legacy/>.

Boyce received a third-place award for a series of stories resulting from his 2011 summer internship in Germany. He compared climate change perspectives by visiting a glacier in Germany and Glacier National Park, did an in-depth analysis of the German Beer Purity Law and how it's followed by one Missoula brewery, and profiled a German expatriate who lives in **Polebridge**.

Boyce also received a first-place sports reporting award for a news report produced during his tenure as a reporter with KBZK-TV in Bozeman, prior to joining MTPR. The story, “A Montana Marlin,” chronicled Boyce’s paddlefishing trip with his parents. KBZK is in the “121-210 markets” category, representing smaller stations.

The Northwest Region of SPJ includes Alaska, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. More than 2,100 entries from more than 250 news outlets and journalists were received for the contest. The Society of Professional Journalists (<http://www.spj.org>) is dedicated to the perpetuation of a free press as the cornerstone of our nation and our liberty.

MTPR broadcasts as a public service of The University of Montana and is heard on eight transmitters and multiple translators in western and central Montana. For more information visit <http://mtp.org>.

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WM/cbs
Local, Western Montana, Dailies
052212mtp

Contact: Sally Mauk, MTPR news director, 406-243-4075, sally.mauk@umontana.edu; Dan Boyce, MTPR capitol bureau chief, 406-444-9399, dan.boyce@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 21, 2012

MISSOULA –

It's only fitting that an evolutionary biologist is hard at work creating the next evolution of the textbook. University of Montana Professor Doug Emlen is creating a first-of-its-kind textbook that will be coupled with an iPad app to provide images, audio, video clips, and interactive graphics and exercises so college students taking courses in evolutionary biology have multiple ways to learn and — more important to Emlen — to retain the subject matter.

According to Emlen's publisher, recent studies have found as many as 90 percent of college students don't read their textbooks because the material tends to be dense and dull. So, Emlen and co-author Carl Zimmer, a renowned science writer and regular contributor to The New York Times, set out to change that.

With the backing of progressive publishing company Roberts & Company, Emlen and Zimmer were able to rethink the very nature of the textbook. Their goal was to create a tool that would not look or feel like the traditional desk-reference textbook. Instead, they went to work filling the pages of "Evolution: Making Sense of Life" with compelling narrative, conveying science through stories and illustrating the pages with commissioned, original artwork and colorful photographs.

"The book is grounded in examples, but the pages come to life," Emlen said. "We want this book to be fun to read and, more importantly, we want the content to stick in the minds of students."

The iPad application is where the real evolution is happening because students can interact with the material. They still can read all of the same text found in the print version, but after reading about, for example, the way mating male frogs attract females, they can pull up an island window audio player and hear the difference between what a female frog interprets as an attractive call and what she hears as a non-attractive call.

"The student is now in the mindset of the frog," Emlen said. "If they are thinking like a frog, good chances are they are retaining the information because they are having a memorable learning experience."

Like a traditional textbook, students can highlight information and take notes in the margins. However, the app can take that information and create custom study sheets where even the professors' notes and supplemental information can be integrated.

"This tool isn't just an electronic book," Emlen said. "It's a true application built with the interactive end user in mind."

Need a definition for term? Touch the word, and up pops the glossary definition. Want to see what two sparing elk look like in the wild? Pull up the video window to see the battle play out. Touch a photo and it becomes a slideshow of multiple examples. The list goes on.

This isn't the first project in which Emlen has been a pioneer. He also was the first person in the world ever to study the development of horns in beetles.

Emlen's beetle research and multidisciplinary approach have gained attention from the broader scientific community. That research still continues, but it's his passion for wanting to get students to read an entire textbook and feel a connection to the material that motivated him to spend the last two years taking difficult scientific concepts and making them accessible.

The textbooks will hit the bookshelves in August, and the interactive iPad app will follow in September.

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UM NEWS



May 21, 2012

MISSOULA –

While increased poverty rates among children and high school dropout rates have been the focus of much attention, positive changes such as decreasing numbers of automobile crashes and alcohol-related crashes involving drivers under age 18 were reported in the latest edition of the Montana KIDS COUNT data book.

Automobile crashes involving drivers in this age group have declined 64 percent between 2000 and 2010, and the alcohol-related crash rate for this age group dropped by 36 percent, according to the data book.

“The trend is in keeping with reductions in other alcohol-related risk behaviors, such as underage drinking, binge drinking and driving while intoxicated,” said Thale Dillon, director of Montana KIDS COUNT at The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research. “Smoking has also dropped considerably, while seat belt use has gone up.”

The 2011 Montana KIDS COUNT data book, an annual publication that provides detailed data on children and families in the state, emphasizes many of these improvements.

Public health-related successes include Montana’s adolescent immunization coverage, which increased by 20 percentage points over two years and earned Montana an annual award for most improved coverage for youths ages 13-17, Dillon said. Recent pertussis outbreaks across western Montana serve to underscore the importance of appropriate immunization for all age groups.

Another achievement for Montana is the success of the Healthy Montana Kids program, which combines the State Health Insurance Program and children’s Medicaid. The percentage of Montana children without health insurance has seen significant drops, especially for children under age 5, Dillon said. For this age group, lack of coverage went from 16 percent in 2000 to 9 percent in 2009. For children in poverty, the uncovered rate went from 24 percent to 16 percent. Healthy Montana Kids currently insures 35 percent of Montana children under age 19.

Montana has a way to go for its children’s well-being to be better than at least half the other states, Dillon said. Montana currently ranks 33rd in the national KIDS COUNT state-by-state ranking of child well-being indicators, which shows there are several areas in which Montana children experience conditions worse than the national average. Some of those areas include child poverty; children with no parent in full-time, year-round employment; idle youth; and teen death rate.

“However, it’s important to not lose sight of our accomplishments and positive changes,” Dillon said.

Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Montana KIDS COUNT is a statewide effort to track the status and well-being of Montana children by collecting, analyzing and disseminating data.

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 052112data

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UM NEWS



May 21, 2012

MISSOULA –

For the second consecutive year, University of Montana student Scott Halstvedt will spend his summer “flipping bits, not burgers” as a participant in Google’s Summer of Code.

Summer of Code is a program designed to give university undergraduates a chance to work with software communities to develop open-source projects. Students receive a \$5,000 stipend for their work, allowing them to gain crucial real-world experience in their field instead of working a job unrelated to their major to survive financially during the summer.

About 1,200 projects from around the world are accepted each summer, and fewer than 220 of those are from the United States.

Halstvedt, a computer science major from **Billings**, will work with the Natural User Interface Group, which focuses on hardware and software related to natural interactions. He will rewrite code for Community Core Vision, a tool that analyzes finger movement and position, allowing users to build large-scale interactive surfaces, such as massive public art installations and advertisements.

“My project is to work with several researchers around the world to rewrite CCV as a more general-purpose machine sensing solution,” Halstvedt said. “That is, instead of just having a fixed function and process, we aim to make CCV a platform for continued experimentation. ... We should be able to point at an object in the room and refer to it when speaking to the computer, and it should be able to understand the concepts behind spatial and symbolic representations as we do.”

Halstvedt said the best widely known example of the this type of programming is Microsoft Kinect, a motion-sensing device used with the Xbox 360 video game console that allows users to play without touching a game controller.

This is the second year Halstvedt will participate in Summer of Code. He worked on a similar project with the Natural User Interface Group in 2011, which inspired this year’s application.

“It’s been kind of a dream for me to get a paycheck with ‘Google’ on the top, so it was very surreal,” Halstvedt said.

Halstvedt, who said he’s been intrigued by computers since before he can remember, started writing code when he was in elementary school. He enrolled in college computer science courses while still in high school and educated himself online about code, design and math. He attended Rocky Mountain College and the University of the Pacific before transferring to study computer science at UM, where he also works part-time at the campus IT department.

Halstvedt said he’s known about the Summer of Code program since he was in high school and was disappointed he couldn’t participate then.

“I’ve had ambitions for most of my life to work at either Apple, Google or Microsoft making computers better and easier to use than what I saw growing up,” Halstvedt said. “The program piqued my interest because of its relationship to Google, almost certainly. And I am getting an opportunity to do radical stuff that is way more explorative than what most engineers at Google spend their time doing.”

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ALS
 Local, dailies
 052112code

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UM NEWS



May 18, 2012

MISSOULA –

University of Montana Presidential Leadership Scholarships have been awarded to 42 exceptional incoming UM freshmen. The scholarships recognize outstanding talent, academic performance, leadership and contribution to the community.

This year's scholarship winners were chosen from a field of more than 300 qualified applicants. Scholarship recipients become members of UM's Davidson Honors College and receive a four-year tuition waiver and an additional \$5,000 to \$7,500 per year.

"We have recruited an impressive group of students for this prestigious scholarship program," said James McKusick, dean of UM's Davidson Honors College. "These students will contribute to the entire campus in many and varied ways, and we expect tremendous accomplishments from them."

Montana's crop of 2012 Presidential Leadership Scholars are Mariah Forbes, Avon; Mercedes Becker, Belgrade; Justin Stevens, Big Sandy; Michela Jacobson, Billings; Margrethe Boyd, Claire Chandler, Joseph Desch and Caelan Simeone, Bozeman; McKinley Sangwin, Chester; Mikaela Koski, Columbus; Casey Shifflett, Corvallis; Brady Baughman, Frenchtown; Peter Breigenzer, Glasgow; Morgan Clapshaw, Jordan Frotz, Brianna McLean, Cecily Meade, Olivia Moulton and Meg Smith, Great Falls; MaryAnn Beach, Greta Hoffman and Miriam Krainacker, Helena; Jacob Kreamer, Jefferson City; Benjamin Mason, Kalispell; Morgan Luce, Laurel; Sydney Stivers, Lewistown; Michelle Nemetchek, Gilia Patterson, Tessa Richards, Lindsey Trent and Jenae White, Missoula; and Mary Mikeson, Stanford.

Eight Presidential Leadership Scholars will come to UM from other states. They are Alexandra Green of Clovis, Calif.; Simon Coffin of Los Gatos, Calif.; Cassidy Grotte of Sacramento, Calif.; Jeanette Murnane and Hope Radford of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Rennie Winkelman of Fort Collins, Colo.; Ian Anderson of Divernon, Ill.; Rebecca Collins of Cornelius, Ore.; Claire Robertson of Boerne, Texas; and Byron Boots of Shelton, Wash.

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JM/js

Local, dailies, hometowns

051812pres

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UM NEWS



May 18, 2012

MISSOULA –

Construction of the colossal dam at **Fort Peck** manifested the promise of America as the country faced an unprecedented Depression. Seventy-five years after its completion, the structure stands as one of the greatest achievements in the history of the West, and is the subject of a new historical documentary, "Fort Peck Dam," premiering at 8 p.m. Monday, May 21, on MontanaPBS.

In the midst of the Great Depression, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt set the stage to tame the mighty Missouri River and build, what was at the time, the world's largest dam. Winding through America's heartland, the Missouri was wildly unpredictable and characterized by extremes.

It was no surprise to see the mercury drop to 54 degrees below zero in the winter and climb to 115 degrees in the dry summers. The conditions were dangerous, the pay low and the housing inadequate. Over six years, 50,000 workers faced risky and dangerous conditions around the clock. Sixty men were killed during construction, six of whom still are entombed deep in the dam following a massive landslide in 1938.

The epic project, featured on the cover of the first Life magazine, embodies the wildest dreams about what we've become, and regrets about what we've done. The value system that existed when the dam was authorized gave little consideration to the destruction of natural habitats. There is an ever-growing debate about the management of water, the ecosystem and the role of large dams. Arid Western states already are considering the future of the commodity that is quickly becoming the new gold standard.

"Fort Peck Dam" tells the incredible human story of the era's dramatic achievement that was bold in design, daring in execution and far-reaching in its effects.

"Everybody knew what a massive project it was, but everybody was so thankful to have a job," said Joe Morin who worked on the dam. "It was a project that did everybody, for a huge radius surrounding Fort Peck, a lot of good."

Compiled from thousands of archival photographs and hours of film, mixed with stunning modern footage, the documentary will premiere in high definition and Surround Sound and will air again at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 24.

For more information, high-resolution photos and a preview, visit <http://montanapbs.org/FortPeckDam/> or <http://montanapbs.org/FortPeckDam/pressroom/>.

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NOTE TO THE MEDIA: Broadcast-quality video and audio clips are available upon request, as well as interviews or comments from the film producer and director. Call producer Scott Sterling at 406-994-6202 or email ssterling@montanapbs.org. For comments regarding the dam, call Michele Fromdahl, park ranger, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at 406-526-3493 or email michele.l.fromdahl@usace.army.mil.

SC/all

State

051812fbdm

Contact: William Marcus, director, MontanaPBS, 406-243-4154, william.marcus@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 18, 2012

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana's spectrUM Discovery Area will bring its popular "The Brain: A World Inside Your Head" exhibition to **Ronan** on Tuesday, May 22.

Students will participate in guided field trips of the exhibition in K. William Harvey Elementary School gymnasium.

"The Brain" features interactive science exhibits and activities exploring the wonders of neuroscience, including an EEG measurement station, a colossal brain and an activity in which visitors can move a ball using their own brain waves.

SpectrUM travels the state with a mobile science center featuring various interactive science exhibitions, including "Hands on Health" and "The Brain: A World Inside Your Head." Since 2007, spectrUM has visited dozens of counties and reservations across the state, including some of Montana's most remote communities.

"We travel hands-on science around the state, transforming gymnasiums and cafeterias into powerful science learning centers that help inspire Montana's next generation of scientists, health care providers, engineers and visionaries," said Holly Truitt, spectrUM director.

SpectrUM's visit to Ronan is sponsored by PPL Electric Utilities and the UM Center For Structural and Functional Neuroscience. Neuroscientists and staff from the center collaborated with spectrUM on the design and development of "The Brain."

SpectrUM Discovery Area in Missoula is located in Skaggs Building Room 166 on the UM campus. It's open to the public Thursdays from 3:30 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 per person.

Teachers who would like to arrange class field trips to spectrUM, which cost \$3.50 per student, can call 406-243-4828. To arrange for spectrUM to visit a school or organization, go to <http://www.spectrum.umt.edu> or call 406-243-4828.

###

HM/als

Local, Lake County Leader, Valley Journal

051712rnan

Contact: Holly Truitt , spectrUM Discovery Area director, 406-243-4872, holly.truitt@mso.umt.edu; Hannah Motl, spectrUM outreach coordinator, 406-243-4828, hannah.motl@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



May 18, 2012

MISSOULA –

Earlier spring snowmelt and rising air temperatures over the past 50 years have led to decreased late-summer stream flows in arid Western U.S. landscapes, a new study by University of Montana researchers suggests.

The study, "Impacts of climate change on August stream discharge in the Central-Rocky Mountains," was published May 15 in the international journal Climatic Change.

The study examined 153 streams throughout the central Rockies for changes in mean late-summer flow over the last half-century. It found 89 percent of watersheds have experienced substantial declines in stream flow, likely caused by longer and warmer summer temperatures.

This trend could pose serious future concerns for aquatic ecosystems in the region, said Steve Running, UM Regents Professor of Ecology and one of the study's authors.

"If a stream ceases to flow for even a few weeks a year, the aquatic ecosystem and fish populations can be devastated," he said. "And water management in the arid West will become even more difficult as summers grow longer."

The other UM authors are Jason Leppi of UM's Numerical Terradynamic Simulation Group, a division of the College of Forestry and Conservation, and mathematics Associate Professor Solomon Harrar. The team collaborated with Thomas Deluca, an environmental sciences professor at Bangor University in Wales.

The study is available online at <http://ntsg.umt.edu/>.

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ALS

Western Montana, dailies

051612strm

Contact: Steve Running, UM Regents Professor of Ecology, 406-243-6311, swr@ntsg.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



May 16, 2012

MISSOULA –

University of Montana faculty and staff looking to rent out their homes or find a place to rent now have access to an online feature allowing them to post and view listings by other UM employees.

The Off-Campus Renter Center, a service of the Associated Students of UM, and the Office of the Provost recently launched an online faculty and staff housing-exchange feature on the Renter Center Housing Finder website. It's available at <http://www.umt.edu/HousingFinder>.

Only UM faculty and staff can access and search the feature by logging on with their Net ID and password.

"Our hope is to assist faculty on sabbatical leave to rent their homes to other faculty and staff members," said Beki Hartmann, Renter Center director.

Faculty members who do not have a Net ID can request a guest ID by calling the Office of the Provost at 406-243-4689. Students will not be able to access the site unless they have a Net ID with an "e."

For more information, call the Renter Center at 406-243-2017.

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BH/als

Campus

051512fcst

Contact: Beki Hartmann, director, ASUM Off-Campus Renter Center, 406-243-2017, rebecca.hartmann@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



May 16, 2012

MISSOULA –

Television programs produced by students in the Department of Radio-Television in the School of Journalism at The University of Montana have earned Emmy nominations in four categories.

The Emmys are presented by the Northwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Thirty-three students working on UM News, a weekly update of campus news broadcast on the Montana Television Network, were nominated in the news, sports and cultural affairs categories. The 2011 student documentary "Connecting the 406" earned a nomination in the long-form nonfiction category. That program aired on MontanaPBS in 2011.

The Emmy Awards ceremony will be held Saturday, June 2, in Snoqualmie, Wash.

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JS

Local

050912tele

Contact: Denise Dowling, UM radio-television associate professor, 406-243-4143, denise.dowling@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 15, 2012

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana School of Business Administration and the Montana Academy of Distinguished Entrepreneurs (MADE) recently announced the winners of the 23rd Annual John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition, held May 10 in UM's Gallagher Business Building.

The top award went to UM business school MBA candidate and Montana native Charles Bateman for his business plan for Never Miss. His company provides an online tool to manage special-permit hunting applications for big-game hunters in North America. The subscription service guarantees hunters "never miss" an application deadline and provides options for financing to enable clients to increase the number of applications they submit, increasing their odds of drawing a tag.

During the 14-hour competition, an event designed to encourage Montana students to develop their business ideas and learn about entrepreneurship from business experts, 15 student teams competed in the semifinal round and four teams moved onto the final round to present their business plans to a panel of 26 judges and an audience of close to 250.

Student entrepreneurs competed in two divisions: high-growth businesses with the potential to attract public or private equity investments, and lifestyle businesses intended to provide entrepreneurs with autonomy, viable incomes and the opportunity to pursue what they love.

Support from several sponsors and private donors funded the \$28,000 prize purse and the students' competition expenses.

The award, division, prize amount, school, student names, hometowns, business plan names and descriptions are listed below.

- **First place – High-growth Business:** \$7,000, UM, Charles Bateman, **Great Falls**, Never Miss. Never Miss is an automated online special permit application agent and fee financier for big-game hunters.
- **Second place – High-growth Business:** \$3,500, UM, Jon Marchi, **Easton, Md.**; and Jake Pelczar, **Billings**, Kinetic Tech. Kinetic Tech designs, manufactures and wholesales tactical assault headlamps to be used by military and paramilitary forces.
- **Third place – High-growth Business:** \$1,500, UM; Ben Sokoloski, **Missoula**; Brint Wahlberg, **Missoula**; Suzanna Simmons, **Missoula**; Fresh Finds Market and Deli; Fresh Finds offers organic and natural foods provided by local and regional food vendors to the Missoula community.
- **First place – Lifestyle Business:** \$3,500, UM, Zack Boughton, **Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**; Annie Roberts, **Kodiak, Alaska**, Montana Wild. Montana Wild is a high-definition television series featuring young outdoor enthusiasts who hunt and fish across Montana.
- **Second place – Lifestyle Business:** \$1,500, UM, Paul Stock, **Eagle River, Alaska**; Next Level Athletics. Next Level Athletics provides customized athletic training to young athletes who want to compete at the collegiate and professional levels.
- **First place – Undergraduate Business Plan Award:** \$1,000, UM, Alyssa Komac, **Helena**, Montana Dog Food Company. Montana Dog Food Company manufactures and markets natural and nutritious dog food free of chemicals and additives.
- **First place – Elevator Pitch (90-second team presentation):** \$500; UM, Ben Sokoloski, **Missoula**; Brint Wahlberg, **Missoula**; Suzanna Simmons, **Missoula**; Fresh Finds Market and Deli.

The following special awards were given to teams or individuals based on specific criteria:

- **Overall Winner of Brandon Speth Passion, Poise and Charisma Award:** \$500, UM, Manuel Garcia Rodriguez, **Cordoba, Spain**, Cordoba Olive Oil. Cordoba Olive Oil produces and exports olive oil from Spain for distribution in the U.S.

- **Overall Winner of People's Choice Award:** \$500, UM, Ben Sokoloski, **Missoula**; Brint Wahlberg, **Missoula**; Suzanna Simmons, **Missoula**; Fresh Finds Market and Deli.
- **Overall Winner of Environmental and Social Responsibility Award:** \$500, UM, Micah Scudder, **Missoula**; Rachel Anderson, **Missoula**; Tradewood International. Tradewood International exports Montana wood products to Asian markets.

Presented for the first time in 2009, the Environmental and Social Responsibility Award recognizes the team with a potential venture that judges identify as one that most embodies the concept of the "triple bottom line": the importance of economic profit, as well as social and environmental benefits.

The People's Choice Award is given to the team that receives the highest score from the audience during the final round of the competition. Audience members select the winning team based on presentations and executive summaries provided by each team.

In April, faculty from higher education institutions across Montana nominated 29 student teams to be considered for the competition. The judges and coaches who serve before and during the event are venture capitalists, angel investors, bankers, successful entrepreneurs and corporate executives who donate their time and expertise to the competition.

MADE was founded by successful entrepreneurs with the goal to bring their experience to students and the classroom. In addition to the John Ruffatto Business Plan Competition held each spring at UM, MADE conducts an educational seminar series and honors influential entrepreneurs who demonstrate a commitment to Montana with the Pioneer in Industry Award.

For more information about MADE go to <http://www.business.umt.edu/DegreesPrograms/MADE.aspx>.

UM's School of Business Administration is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International, the most rigorous accrediting body for business-degree programs.

The school offers undergraduate programs in accounting, finance, international business, management, management information systems and marketing; graduate programs in management and accounting; and certificate programs in entrepreneurship and entertainment management. Experiential learning opportunities prepare students to address real-world business problems and deliver value to their employers in today's global economy.

For more information, visit <http://www.business.umt.edu>.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Photos of the students receiving the awards are available by calling Larae Hackney at 406-243-4830 or emailing larae.hackney@business.umt.edu.

HR/als

Western Montana, hometowns

051412ruff

Contact: Larae Hackney, special program coordinator, UM School of Business Administration, 406-243-4830, larae.hackney@business.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



May 15, 2012

MISSOULA –

A “Lunch Lady” with a local connection to the food she cooks, a harp maker with a loving connection to his muse and a telephone collector with connections galore are highlighted in the new edition of the travelogue program “Backroads of Montana,” which premieres at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 23, on MontanaPBS.

Producer Gus Chambers traveled to Greenfield School outside Fairfield, where an active farm-to-school program teaches students about food awareness, and the “Lunch Lady” fixes tasty meals from local farm products.

At Alamon Telco in Kalispell, producer Ray Ekness met company owners Peg and Frank Gebhardt. They have an impressive collection of vintage telephone equipment, from Montana’s first pay phone to solid oak phone booths. And, as Frank demonstrated to host William Marcus, many of them have working connections.

A nearly 60-year-old love story is at the center of producer John Twiggs’ profile of harp maker Wayne Hampton in Fort Benton. Twiggs also spends time observing the spring courtship rituals of Montana birds.

Marcus hosts the program from the grand-opening festivities for the new facility at the Big Horn County Historical Museum in Hardin.

“Backroads of Montana” is supported by grants from the Greater Montana Foundation, which encourages discussion of issues and trends important to Montana; the Montana Office of Tourism and The University of Montana.

“Backroads of Montana” is a production of KUFM-TV/MontanaPBS at The University of Montana. MontanaPBS is a collaborative statewide service of KUSM-TV at Montana State University in Bozeman and KUFM-TV at UM. Check local listings for channel information.

More information on the series is online at <http://www.umt.edu/montanans01/backroads.html>.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: High-resolution photos and graphics are available online at <http://montanapbs.org/BackroadsofMontana/pressroom/> and <http://montanapbs.org/BackroadsofMontana/episode136/pressroom/>.

WM/als

Dailies, weeklies

051412bckr

Contact: William Marcus, director, UM Broadcast Media Center, 406-243-4154, william.marcus@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 14, 2012

MISSOULA –

M. Sanjayan, lead scientist for The Nature Conservancy and a faculty affiliate in The University of Montana Wildlife Biology Program, has been named science and environmental contributor to CBS News.

In this new role, Sanjayan will provide insight into a broad range of scientific and environmental topics across multiple platforms and contribute to CBS News broadcasts, including “CBS This Morning” and “CBS Evening News with Scott Pelley.”

While his focus at the University is primarily research, Sanjayan also has taught international conservation within UM’s Wildlife Biology Program.

“He is one of the most articulate people I know,” said Daniel Pletscher, UM Wildlife Biology Program director. “He has the outstanding ability of explaining difficult scientific issues to the average layperson and scholar alike.”

As lead scientist at The Nature Conservancy, Sanjayan specializes in human well-being and conservation, wildlife ecology and environmental education. He travels extensively to assess conservation efforts and wildlife protection needs across the globe. He has published his scientific work in several journals including Science, Nature and Conservation Biology, and also has received widespread print media coverage, including in Vanity Fair, Men’s Journal, National Geographic Adventure, Outside and The New York Times.

Sanjayan’s television experience includes co-hosting documentaries for BBC, the Discovery Channel, PBS and National Geographic TV, including his critically acclaimed 2010 four-part series, “Powering the Future,” on the Discovery Channel. Filming on his new series for PBS and National Geographic TV begins this year.

Sanjayan is a sought-after speaker, with recent appearances at TED Global, International Women’s Forum, Aspen Environment Forum, Aspen Ideas Festival, Clinton Global Initiative and the Summit Series. He also is a Catto Fellow at the Aspen Institute and a senior adviser to the Clinton Global Initiative.

Sanjayan holds a doctorate from the University of California, Santa Cruz. He lives in Missoula and is an avid fly-fisherman.

###

BR/all

State

051112cbsn

Contact: Scott Mills, professor, UM Wildlife Biology Program, 406-243-5552, jscottmills@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 14, 2012

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana's seventh annual Day of Dialogue will be held Thursday, Oct. 25, at the University Center, and the organizing committee has issued a call for proposals for workshops, topics and presenters.

The free daylong symposium brings campus and community members together for lectures, performances and exhibits that encourage discussions about diversity.

Participants explore topics such as race, gender, ethnicity, ability/disability, religion, sexual orientation, class, social hierarchy and privilege. Day of Dialogue events are created by UM students, staff and faculty members and community members.

The day is an opportunity to showcase research, explore professional interests or share experiences related to topics of diversity. All campus members are encouraged to submit proposals. Priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate or model diversity through civil discourse.

Applications for proposals are available online at <http://www.umt.edu/dod>. The application deadline is Friday, May 25.

Applications can be submitted by mail to University Center 232, Attn: Day of Dialogue Proposals Committee, The University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812-0112. Applications also may be emailed to dayofdialogue@mso.umt.edu.

If you have any questions regarding your proposal, call Melissa Steinike, Proposal Outreach Committee chair, at 406-243-4734 or email melissa.steinike@umontana.edu. People also can call Peter Donaldson, Day of Dialogue student coordinator, at 406-243-5622 or email dayofdialogue@mso.umt.edu.

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BH/cbs

Western Montana

041212dial

Contact: Melissa Steinike, Proposal Outreach Committee chair, 406-243-4734, melissa.steinike@umontana.edu; Peter Donaldson, Day of Dialogue student coordinator, 406-243-5622, dayofdialogue@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



May 10, 2012

MISSOULA –

When Chris Cordingley, a University of Montana senior about to graduate with a degree in political science, saw a call for thesis submissions while browsing the Huffington Post website, he jumped at the chance to submit his.

"I happened to see the call for submissions on the same day I finished it," Cordingley said. "Then I got an email this morning saying it would be published. I was really excited about it, though pretty tired, too."

The website published the excerpt from Cordingley's thesis, "Healthy Roads, Healthy Schools: A Look Into the Effects of Transportation Infrastructure," May 9 in its "College" section. It's available at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christopher-cordingley/healthy-roads-healthy-sch_b_1499695.html.

The thesis examines whether access to public transportation affects access to health care and, in turn, school and workplace absenteeism. By examining current research and publications on the topic, Cordingley determined that better access to public transportation can lead to "better access to health care, increased graduation rates and higher job productivity."

Cordingley said he also plans to submit his thesis to several national conferences.

A student in UM's Davidson Honors College who will graduate as a University Scholar on Saturday, May 12, Cordingley plans to stay in Montana this summer and then hopefully get a job working on Capitol Hill or on a political campaign in the state.

"The opportunity to do new research on a topic that I found interesting will be something I will continue to take pride in," Cordingley said. "This project through the DHC, combined with the numerous research papers from the Political Science Department, made me feel comfortable turning a speculation into an academic project that I find meaningful to the betterment of society."

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ALS

Western Montana

051012hffp

Contact: Chris Cordingley, UM student, 406-594-1045, christopher.cordingley@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 10, 2012

MISSOULA –

The American College Dance Festival Association chose The University of Montana Dance Program to perform at the National College Dance Festival to be held May 24-27 at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, in Washington, D.C.

The biennial national festival showcases 30 dance pieces selected by adjudicators at regional conferences based on outstanding artistic excellence and merit.

After performing two pieces in March at the ACDFA Northwest conference at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, UM dancers were selected to perform at the national festival. While both pieces were eligible for selection, three renowned adjudicators chose "MEAT" to be performed on the national stage.

Missoula native and former UM student Brian Gerke co-choreographed the piece with his dance partner Steinunn Ketilsdottir for 11 UM dancers. Dancers include Clare Antonioli of Missoula; Collin Ranf of Lincoln; Roxanne Madler of Whitefish; Amanda Pool of Hamilton; Claire Christensen of Missoula; Allison Herther of Aberdeen, S.D.; Richard Cline of Cut Bank; Megan Mullowney of Billings; Regina Rawlings of Victor, Idaho; Kaitlin McEwen of Kalispell; and Brooke Carlisle of Hillsboro, Ore.

This is the second consecutive national festival for the UM Dance Program. At the 2010 festival, UM dancers performed "Prey," a piece created by internationally acclaimed choreographer Bebe Miller.

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ALL

Local, Western Montana, Hometowns

051012dnce

Contact: Peggy Nesbitt, assistant to the dean, UM College of Visual and Performing Arts, 406-243-4971, peggy.nesbitt@mso.umt.edu; Nicole Bradley Browning, associate professor, UM College of Visual and Performing Arts, 406-243-2682, nicole.bradleybrowning@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 09, 2012

MISSOULA –

About 150 high school students from Montana and Alaska will converge on The University of Montana campus for the eighth annual “Air Toxics Under the Big Sky” science symposium from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, in the North Underground Lecture Hall.

Hosted by UM’s Center for Environmental Health Sciences and Department of Chemistry, the event showcases student research projects on indoor air-quality issues, such as the effects different household heating sources can have on particulate-matter levels.

The symposium will feature oral and poster presentations on air-quality investigations the students conducted, giving them a chance to communicate their research findings to peers, teachers, University mentors and the public.

“Air Toxics Under the Big Sky” also provides opportunities for students to work alongside UM scientists to examine components of air pollution, giving them real-world experience to address problems relevant to their communities and to encourage further education in environmental and biomedical sciences.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the National Center for Research Resources, a division of the National Institutes of Health, provide major funding for the symposium, which serves as an important regional gathering for students, educators and community groups interested in raising public awareness of environmental health issues.

More information is available online at <http://cehsweb.health.umt.edu/education/k-12/air-toxics>.

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DV/als

Western Montana

050912tox

Contact: Diana Vanek, outreach coordinator, UM Center for Environmental Health Sciences, 406-546-4254, diana.vanek@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 09, 2012

MISSOULA –

Low-income and first-generation high school students will continue to receive crucial college prep assistance through 2017 thanks to a renewed grant to fund the TRiO-Upward Bound program at The University of Montana.

Joseph Hickman, director of UM's TRiO Programs, received a letter May 8 from the office of U.S. Sen. Max Baucus confirming the program received more than \$1.6 million in funding for the next five years.

TRiO-Upward Bound is a U.S. Department of Education program that serves high school students from low-income families and those from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor's degree. Its main goal is to increase the rate of participants graduating from high school and enrolling at and succeeding in higher education institutions. It is a component of the federal TRiO Programs, designed to identify and provide services for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"UM's TRiO-Upward Bound program has a long history of helping at-risk students, who do not normally attend college, prepare for college and succeed in their post-secondary education goals," Hickman said. "This announcement allows us to continue that legacy and assist students in Montana who need our program."

Established in 1966, UM's TRiO-Upward Bound program serves at least 75 students each year from Hellgate, Big Sky and Browning high schools. It provides all participants with academic-year support services at the high schools and a summer instructional program at UM. Qualifying students also are able to get a head start on college by enrolling in UM courses during the summer after their senior year through the Bridge Scholars Program.

More than 95 percent of UM TRiO-Upward Bound participants graduate from high school every year, and 75 percent pursue postsecondary education immediately after graduation. Nationally, only 24 percent of low-income and first-generation high school graduates immediately pursue higher education.

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ALS

Western Montana, Glacier Reporter

050812upbd

Contact: Joseph Hickman, director, UM TRiO Programs, 406-243-4202, joseph.hickman@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 08, 2012

MISSOULA –

For those who can't attend in person, The University of Montana will offer live online video of its 115th Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 12, in Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Video streaming will begin at 8:15 a.m., and the ceremony starts at 10 a.m. The video can be accessed at <http://umt.edu/commencement>.

Several campus classrooms will display the video live during Commencement. They are the North Underground Lecture Hall, Urey Lecture Hall, Clapp Building Room 131, Chemistry Building Room 123, Liberal Arts Building Room 11, Social Science Building Rooms 352 and 356, and McGill Hall Room 210.

More than 3,700 graduates and degree candidates are invited to participate in Commencement. Sheila Stearns, outgoing Montana commissioner of higher education and a 1968 UM graduate, will deliver this year's Commencement address. UM will present an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to A. Warren Wilcox, a Missoula native and UM alumnus who has played an active role in many local businesses and community organizations.

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CS/all

Local, Western Montana, dailies

050412strm

Contact: Ed Johnson, UM registrar, 406-243-2412, edwin.johnson@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 08, 2012

MISSOULA –

Thousands of people are flocking to eastern Montana and western North Dakota, looking for work in the Bakken oil boom. Towns like Sidney, Mont., and Williston, N.D., are struggling to deal with the increase in population, crime and traffic. Students in The University of Montana Department of Radio-Television traveled to the Williston basin this spring to document the boom and bring the story to viewers across the state.

“Boom! Behind the Bakken” will premiere at 7 p.m. Friday, May 11, in the University Center Theater. The screening is free and open to the public, and a reception will follow. The documentary also will air on MontanaPBS at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 17.

Thirteen students spoke with oil workers and landowners, bartenders and cops, school teachers and children to learn how the boom has impacted their lives. They met long-time locals who call the boom a double-edged sword, bringing both jobs and money along with drugs and crime. They met newcomers to the area, anxious for jobs but finding no place to live in the struggling towns.

For more information about the student documentary, visit <http://www.behindtheboom.com>.

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DD/js

Local, state

050712docu

Contact: Denise Dowling, UM radio-television associate professor, 406-243-4143, denise.dowling@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 08, 2012

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana's Central and Southwest Asian Studies Center will once again host an Arabic language and cultures summer immersion program for Montana high school students, thanks to a recent grant from the National Security Language Initiative.

The nearly \$100,000 award from the initiative's STARTALK program will allow UM Arabic Professors Samir Bitar and Khaled Huthaily to teach two levels of the language at the Montana Arabic Summer Institute.

The institute will offer one course for students who have no previous knowledge of Arabic (Level 1) and one for students who have studied the language before (Level 2). Students will develop both Arabic language skills and cultural knowledge and competence.

Courses are limited to 15 students each and will run weekdays June 18-July 13 for four hours a day. The UM center will pay for tuition, instructional materials and field trip transportation. Each student who successfully completes the program will receive five college credits and a \$50 stipend.

"This is our fifth year of receiving the STARTALK grant," Bitar said. "It's very important to our country and government to develop a pool of Americans who can learn this language and who can advance to superior levels, so they can build bridges between cultures."

Bitar said the UM institute already has several success stories to show for past grants, including graduates who received full-ride scholarships to study intensive Arabic in countries such as Morocco and Oman.

Established in 2006 by President George W. Bush, STARTALK is the National Security Language Initiative's newest component and seeks to expand and improve teaching and learning of strategically important world languages not widely taught in the U.S.

Montana students interested in applying should speak with a language teacher at their high school, call Bitar at 406-243-4385 or email samir.bitar@umontana.edu. Students who will be juniors and seniors during the 2012-13 school year are preferred, but younger applicants will be considered. The application requires an essay submission.

More information also is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/cswa/arabic>.

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ALS

Local, dailies, weeklies

050812arbc

Contact: Samir Bitar, UM Arabic professor, 406-243-4385, samir.bitar@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 08, 2012

MISSOULA –

MontanaPBS has earned 11 regional Emmy award nominations. The winners will be announced June 2 in Snoqualmie, Wash.

The Emmys are presented by the Northwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. MontanaPBS is a collaborative service of KUFM-TV at The University of Montana in Missoula and KUSM-TV at Montana State University in Bozeman.

"All of us at MontanaPBS are very proud of these accomplishments," said William Marcus, director of UM's Broadcast Media Center. "The Emmy nominations represent a great body of work."

The nominees are:

- **Arts/Entertainment – Program Special:** "Backroads of Montana: Harlo to Huntley"; William Marcus, producer; John Twiggs, producer; Ray Ekness, producer.
- **Health/Science - Program/Special:** "Clearing the Smoke: The Science of Cannabis," Anna Rau, producer/writer/editor.
- **Writer – Program:** "Clearing the Smoke: The Science of Cannabis," Anna Rau.
- **Documentary – Cultural:** "3 Miles an Hour"; John Twiggs, director/writer; Alison Perkins, co-producer.
- **Director – Post Production:** "3 Miles an Hour," John Twiggs.
- **Documentary – Topical:** "Facing the Storm: Story of the American Bison"; Daniel Dauterive, producer; Doug Hawes-Davis, producer/director; Rita Pastore, producer.
- **Promotion – Program – Campaign:** "Facing The Storm: Story of the American Bison –Promos," Daniel Dauterive, producer/director.
- **Director – Post Production:** "Without Words," Scott Sterling, producer.
- **Photographer – Program:** "Without Words" Scott Sterling and Michael Ballard, videographers.
- **Editor – Program:** "Without Words," Scott Sterling, video editor.
- **Audio:** "11th & Grant with Eric Funk," Jeremiah Slovarp, sound producer.

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CBS

State

050812emmy

Contact: William Marcus, director, UM Broadcast Media Center, 406-243-4154, william.marcus@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 07, 2012

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana College of Arts and Sciences recently announced the winners of its inaugural Richard Drake Award to honor written excellence in the humanities, specifically history, literature, philosophy, religion, politics and the classics.

David Baker, a senior history major from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and Craig Rigdon, a history graduate student from Wexford, Pa., received the first awards and \$750 each.

Students were invited to submit a paper dealing with any theme based on a humanistic discipline. Submissions were judged on the basis of excellence in writing, imagination in research and force of argument.

Baker's winning submission was titled "Minority Rules: How Being Black Saved Joan Little's Life and Unified Feminism." Rigdon won the graduate student prize with his submission, "The Flaming Front of History: The Historiographical Impact of Stephen Pyne."

One undergraduate and one graduate student will be eligible for the honor every year. The award, established this year with a generous donation from Helen Cappadocia, honors Drake, a UM history professor. Drake currently teaches modern European history and the history of terrorism.

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JM/all

Local, hometowns

050712drke

Contact: Jenny McNulty, associate dean, UM College of Arts and Sciences, 406-243-4458, mcnulty@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



May 07, 2012

MISSOULA –

Certain plant and animal species survived past ice ages tucked away in the complex terrain of mountainous regions. Scientists want to locate and understand these areas that harbored biodiversity despite significant population changes in surrounding areas. Studying these “refugia” will help inform predictions about the future impacts of climate change on biological systems.

Solomon Dobrowski, assistant professor of forest landscape ecology at The University of Montana, along with faculty from the University of Oregon and the University of Illinois, recently received a \$600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to reconstruct refugia locations and species migration routes in northern Idaho during the most recent glacial cycle. Dobrowski will receive \$167,000.

“By looking into the past to see how tree species survived climate changes, we can better understand what the future might hold,” Dobrowski said.

Dobrowski also is collaborating with Zack Holden, a scientist from U.S. Forest Service Region 1, who has deployed temperature-logging instruments throughout the region. Data from the instruments will help relate large-scale climate data to the microscale.

The researchers will investigate how and where mountainous terrain may have buffered two critical tree species, western red cedar and mountain hemlock, during past climate changes. They will use three interdisciplinary scientific approaches to locate both refugia and migration routes: DNA-sequencing to show the species’ migration pathways; paleoecological records of pollen to reveal what climate and plant species existed in the region during the coldest periods of the past 50,000 years; and historical models of climate and data on the climatic tolerance of the species to show where species were likely located.

This approach combines three distinct skill sets – genetics, paleoecology and landscape modeling – to train graduate and undergraduate students in biogeography. Results also will be shared in a curriculum workshop for high school science teachers in Oregon. Dobrowski will use the research and results in the summer landscape ecology class he teaches at UM’s Flathead Lake Biological Station. Those students spend two weeks in the field, including in Glacier National Park’s Avalanche Creek area, an example of a western red cedar refugia.

###

LS/js

Western Montana

050412refu

Contact: Solomon Dobrowski, UM assistant professor of forest landscape ecology, 406-243-6068, solomon.dobrowski@cfc.umt.edu; Leana Schelvan, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-6777, leana.schelvan@cfc.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



May 04, 2012

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana and Missoula County Public Schools will showcase several innovative and collaborative educational programs at a half-day conference titled “MSLAedu” on Wednesday, May 9.

Local academic leaders in both K-12 and higher education systems, as well as Missoula business professionals, will convene at the University Center from 8 a.m. to noon to see first-hand how education is being transformed by programs that exemplify UM’ strategic plan, “UM 2020: Building a University for the Global Century” and the school district’s “21st Century Model of Change.”

Both initiatives call for providing students with more engaged learning opportunities in real-world environments, challenging them to think critically and successfully navigate today’s global society.

During this unique four-hour conference, attendees will learn about innovative programs that represent collaborations and partnerships between K-12 and post-secondary educators. Many of these programs impact teaching models, transform classrooms and create new experiences for today’s students. More than 30 educators will share their work. UM President Royce Engstrom and MCPS Superintendent Alex Apostle will provide opening and closing remarks during the event.

A sample of the exciting programs that will be featured include the Montana Digital Academy, CREATE Missoula Festival, Montana Arabic Summer Institute, flipped classrooms, student engagement Web portal, Cell Phone Cinema project and more.

The conference will provide an opportunity for Missoula business professionals and leaders to share insights with educators about the importance of creativity and innovation in today’s business world and to make suggestions about how schools and universities can better prepare students for the 21st century workforce.

Local entrepreneurs will learn how they can be more involved in these educational programs, as well as understand how educators at all levels can adapt to the influences of the 21st century and global economy. The showcase of presentations will exhibit how the University and the Missoula school district are cooperatively laying the groundwork to produce graduates who are more creative and entrepreneurial.

Speakers will stimulate thinking and generate discussion about education for the “global century” and how educators can build creative capacity to further position Missoula on the leading edge of business and education.

For more information call Lisa Blank, UM professor of curriculum and instruction, at 406-243-5304 or Jane Bennett, principal at Willard School, at 406-728-2400 ext. 4750. The conference website is <http://www.mslaedu.org>.

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LB/cbs

Local

050412msla

Contact: Lisa Blank, UM curriculum and instruction professor, 406-243-5304, lisa.blank@umontana.edu; Lesli Brassfield, MCPS director of public affairs, 406-728-2400 ext. 1024, lbrassfield@mcps.k12.mt.us.

UM NEWS



May 04, 2012

MISSOULA –

A ceremony to rename the University Theatre in honor of former University of Montana President George Dennison and his wife, Jane, will be held at 3:30 p.m. Friday, May 11, on the steps of the theater.

Dennison, the longest-serving UM president, and his wife will be recognized for their contributions to the University, and they both will address the audience.

A memorial plaque also will be dedicated to Keith Dukes, a carpenter who was killed during the remodel of the theater. Dukes' widow, Traci, will be present at the event, along with her family and friends.

The ceremony will kick off with a performance by a quintet of student musicians, and a reception will follow. Stephen Kalm, dean of UM's College of Visual and Performing Arts, will emcee the event, and President Royce Engstrom will provide remarks and reveal new lettering on the theater.

Originally built in the 1930s as a student union, the building's construction was prompted by UM students to meet the campus need for a dance hall, large auditorium, larger bookstore and place to gather for relaxation and entertainment.

In 1956 the University opened a new student union, and the existing building became home to the art and drama departments, which until then had been squirreled away in the nooks and crannies of the University.

From 1996 to 1997, under Dennison's direction, the theater was renovated to accommodate more production capabilities. Since the first show in 1997, many artists have taken the stage, including Lucinda Williams, Emmylou Harris, John Prine, Lyle Lovett, Alison Krauss and Union Station, Greg Brown, Richard Thompson, Joan Baez, Taj Mahal, Widespread Panic, Ween, Sonic Youth, Leo Kottke, Jimmy Cliff, Modest Mouse, Pearl Jam, Steve Earle, Jimmy Vaughan and Doc Severinson.

Several famous actors and actresses got their start on the University Theatre stage, the most notable being Carroll O'Connor '56, who is best known for his television roles in "All in the Family" and "In the Heat of the Night."

The University Theatre has hosted lectures by Tom Brokaw, Sandra Day O'Connor and numerous other dignitaries.

Throughout its long history, Broadway shows such as "Grease," "Rent," "Cabaret," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Saturday Night Fever" and many others have been performed in the space.

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ALL

Local, dailies

050312name

Contact: Stephen Kalm, dean, UM College of Visual and Performing Arts, 406-243-4970, stephen.kalm@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 04, 2012

MISSOULA –

Fox News Channel recently named two University of Montana broadcast journalism students the winners of the network's College Challenge.

Alexandra Schwier of **Bozeman** and Kyle Schmauch of **Kalispell** produced a television news story on Montana's controversial wolf hunt that won the national contest.

Schwier, Schmauch and UM Professor Ray Ekness flew to New York City and appeared on FNC's morning entertainment news program "FOX and Friends" on April 27 to accept the award.

For winning the College Challenge, Schwier and Schmauch split a \$10,000 award. UM's radio-television department received a matching \$10,000 gift. Following the appearance on "FOX and Friends," the students took a tour of the FNC building and studios, met with network executives and interviewed for summer internships.

The winning submission can be viewed online at <http://www.foxnews.com/fncu/college-challenge>.

###

RE/all

State, Bozeman, Kalispell

050212foxn

Contact: Ray Ekness, professor, UM School of Journalism, 406-243-4088, ray.ekness@umontana.edu.

UM NEWS



May 04, 2012

MISSOULA —

The University of Montana's School of Extended & Lifelong Learning will offer an experiential learning opportunity unique in nature and curriculum this summer. The course, Discover the Crown of the Continent: A Glacier National Park Experience, will take participants on a three-day journey Monday through Wednesday, June 18-20, through areas of Glacier not often explored by the average park visitor.

UM geography lecturer Rick Graetz and scientists from the Glacier Institute will lead the noncredit course, giving participants an insider's view of Glacier National Park through their combined years of research, observation and first-hand knowledge.

Graetz, founder of Montana Magazine and American Geographic Publishing, is a writer, photographer and world traveler whose focus is the geography of each land he visits. Graetz also helped develop the Crown of the Continent Initiative, which seeks to "make important and interesting information about the Crown available to the general public in a variety of accessible forms."

In the same vein, course participants will stay at the Glacier Institute Big Creek Camp, located on the park's western border, and take day trips from there. The physical activity required is suitable for most people who exercise regularly. Hiking will be limited to less than 4 miles, though there will be opportunities for more strenuous hikes for those who wish to participate.

Discover the Crown of the Continent: A Glacier National Park Experience costs \$465, including all lodging and meals. It is a non-credit course, and space is limited. The course will begin at 9 a.m. Monday, June 18, so most participants will need to arrive at the Big Creek Camp by the evening of Sunday, June 17.

To learn more or to register for this once-in-a-lifetime experience, go to <http://www.umt.edu/ce/programs/glacier.aspx>.

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CM/als

Western Montana

050312crwn

Contact: Candi Merrill, program director, UM School of Extended and Lifelong Learning, 406-243-6431, candi.merrill@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



May 04, 2012

MISSOULA –

A University of Montana Dining Services student employee recently received a regional award for her outstanding work performance.

Jessica Maytum, who also was named UDS' Student Employee of the Year, received the 2012 Sam Brooks Student Employee of the Year award for the Continental Region of the National Association of College and University Food Services. She is a senior from **Chester, Calif.**, majoring in English.

Maytum earned the award, given annually to an exemplary food-service student employee from a regional institution, for her work and leadership at UM Concessions and the Cascade Country Store. She will receive a \$500 scholarship provided by the Sam Brooks Scholarship Fund.

"Once again, an outstanding UDS student employee has advanced to the NACUFS National Student Employee of the Year competition," said Mark LoParco, UDS director. "We are very proud of Jessica and her accomplishments and wish her well as she competes with the other fine students for the top honor."

A panel headed by the association's past president will select a national winner from the six regional finalists in early July. The national winner will receive a \$5,000 scholarship.

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JO/als

Local, hometown

050312seoy

Contact: Jerry O'Malley, director of marketing, University Dining Services, 406-243-6433, gerald.omalley@mso.umt.edu.

UM NEWS



May 03, 2012

MISSOULA –

Bill Neukom, an attorney who served as Microsoft's chief legal officer for 25 years and founded the World Justice Project, will speak at The University of Montana School of Law graduation and hooding ceremony this month.

The ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 19, in the University Theatre. It is free and open to the public.

"We are delighted that Mr. Neukom has accepted our invitation to speak at our graduation and hooding ceremony," said law school Dean Irma Russell. "I am grateful that this year's graduates, their families and our community can benefit from his experience and service."

As Microsoft's lead lawyer, Neukom headed the company's legal, government affairs and philanthropic activities. He served the American Bar Association in several capacities, including as its president from 2007 to 2008.

In 2006, Neukom established the World Justice Project, a multinational, multidisciplinary initiative to strengthen the rule of law worldwide. The project conducts research, develops a comprehensive rule-of-law index of countries and supports on-the-ground projects to enhance and extend the rule of law in the U.S. and around the world.

In 1995, Neukom, along with his four children, founded the Neukom Family Foundation, which supports not-for-profit organizations in the fields of health and human services, education, justice, and the environment.

###

ALS

Local

050312u/mls

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UM NEWS



May 02, 2012

MISSOULA –

Big trees 3 or more feet in diameter accounted for nearly half the biomass measured at a Yosemite National Park study site, yet represented only 1 percent of the trees growing there.

Andrew Larson, a University of Montana assistant professor of forest ecology, is part of the research team reporting this new finding.

"These trees are the elites of the forest," Larson said. "Just a few individual trees per acre, especially sugar pines, store a disproportionately large amount of the carbon in this forest."

Larson is co-author of a paper on the largest quantitative study yet of the importance of big trees in temperate forests. It was published May 2 in PLoS ONE, an online peer-reviewed journal, and can be found at <http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0036131>.

Larson's research partners included James Lutz and James Freund of the University of Washington and Mark Swanson of Washington State. The Smithsonian Center for Tropical Forest Science funded the research.

"As trees become very large, their ecological importance increases dramatically," Larson said. "They also become increasingly difficult to replace when lost to natural or human-caused mortality."

Trees in the western U.S. with trunks more than 3 feet across typically are at least 200 years old. Many forests that were heavily harvested in the 19th and 20th centuries, or those that are used as commercial forest lands today, don't generally have large-diameter trees, snags or large wood on the ground.

In 2009, Larson and other scientists reported that the rate of large-tree mortality had increased during recent decades in old-growth forests across the West. Scientists, including Lutz, also found that density of large-diameter trees declined nearly 25 percent between the 1930s and 1990s in Yosemite National Park, even though the area was never logged. Because of this, scientists have wanted to study a plot large enough to detect forest ecosystem changes involving large trees, including the effects of climate variability and change – possible culprits in the declines.

The new 63-acre study site in the western part of Yosemite National Park is one of the largest, fully mapped plots in the world and the largest old-growth plot in North America. The tally of what's there, including the counting and tagging of 34,500 live trees, was done by citizen scientists, mainly undergraduate college students, led by Larson, Lutz, Swanson and Freund.

The tally included all above-ground biomass such as live trees, snags, downed woody debris, litter and what's called duff, the decaying plant matter on the ground under trees. Even when big trees die, they continue to dominate biomass in different ways. For example, 12 percent of standing snags were the remains of large-diameter trees, but they still accounted for 60 percent of the total biomass of snags.

Live and dead biomass totaled 280 tons per acre (652 metric tons per hectare), a figure unmatched by any other forest in the Smithsonian Center for Tropical Forest Science network, a global group of 42 tropical and temperate forest plots that includes the one in Yosemite.

One implication of the research is that land managers may want to pay more attention to existing big trees, the co-authors said. Last year in Yosemite, for example, managers planning to set fires to clear out overgrown brush and densely packed small trees first used data from the study plot to figure out how many large trees to protect. Fire crews then reduced fuels near the base of large trees before igniting the prescribed fire.

"Before the fires were started, crews raked around some of the large trees so debris wouldn't just sit and burn at the base of the tree and kill the cambium, the tissue under the bark that sustains trees," Lutz said.

Another finding from the new work is that forest models based either on scaling theory or competition theory, which are useful for younger, more uniform forests, fail to capture how and where large trees occur in forests.

"The findings of Dr. Larson and his colleagues reveal the central role that science and research collaborations will play in guiding society through our common challenges in managing global carbon budgets," said James Burchfield, dean of the UM forestry college. "These types of discoveries will allow us to make better decisions about how we manage our forests, so future generations might continue to benefit from these extraordinary ecosystems."

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Suggested websites:

Facebook page for Yosemite plot:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Yosemite-Forest-Dynamics-Plot/117620576445>

Homepage for Yosemite plot:

<http://depts.washington.edu/yfdp>

SH/cbs

State

050212tree

Contact: Andrew Larson, UM assistant professor of forest ecology, 406-243-5532, andrew.larson@cfc.umt.edu, <http://www.cfc.umt.edu/rc/Details.php?ID=1710>.

UM NEWS



May 02, 2012

MISSOULA –

University of Montana students and members of the Blackfeet for Enrollment Amendment Reform, or B.E.A.R., will host a meeting at The University of Montana to inform community members of issues surrounding the tribe's potential enrollment reform.

The meeting will be held from 4 to 7 p.m., Thursday, May 3, in The Payne Family Native American Center's Bonnie HeavyRunner Gathering Place.

B.E.A.R. is working to amend the Blackfeet constitution, to extend enrollment requirements from minimum one-fourth blood quantum to documented lineal descent. Currently there are many descendants unable to vote on tribal issues because they are not formally enrolled members.

At the meeting, organizers will give presentations on B.E.A.R.'s purpose, enrollment reform, the nature of a secretarial election petition and how a secretarial election works. An open forum will follow the presentations, and attendees are encouraged to share their views regardless of their position.

The event is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served. Event organizers encourage non-enrolled Blackfeet Tribal members, University and Missoula community members to attend.

A petition will be available to sign requesting the Bureau of Indian Affairs begin the secretarial election process so that enrolled Blackfeet Tribe members can vote on amending the constitution. UM students interested in signing the petition but unable to attend can do so between 1 and 4 p.m. in the Native American center's Main Office.

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ALL

Campus, local

050112bear

Contact: Robert Hall, UM student and event organizer, 406-450-5354, geebuckseeseemim@gmail.com.

UM NEWS



May 01, 2012

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana's Entertainment Management Program will host the 10th annual Festival on the Oval from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Friday, May 4. The event serves as the finale for the program's semester-long Spring Thaw series.

The festival, which is free and open to the public, will feature entertainment, including a chance to soak UM instructors and students in a dunk tank from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., a giant game of musical chairs, a mini-golf course, sumo wrestling, a rock climbing wall and more.

Entertainment Management students will sell raffle tickets at the event for \$2 each. Prizes include two rounds of golf at the Ranch Club, Griz basketball season tickets, Big Sky Brewing Co. swag and more. Each ticket also includes a \$2 Good Food Store coupon.

Local vendors, including Thai Spicy, Big Dipper and Polka Dot Patties, will sell food, and Missoula band 3J Rap Sword will perform from noon to 1 p.m. Festival on the Oval supporters KBGA College Radio 89.9 FM, The Trail 103.3, Zootown Arts Community Center and BackCountry Rack and Skis will be on hand.

A division of UM's School of Business Administration, the Entertainment Management Program is dedicated to building community by producing high-quality events. The program connects students with the entertainment profession by providing real-world experience in and out of the classroom.

More information on Festival on the Oval is online at <https://www.facebook.com/events/157958967666564/>. More information on the Entertainment Management Program can be found at <http://www.business.umt.edu/degreesprograms/UMEM/About/Overview.aspx>.

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RZ/als

Local

050112fest

Contact: Rachel Zerger, public relations committee, UM Entertainment Management Program, 406-390-4905, umspringthaw@gmail.com.

UM NEWS



May 01, 2012

MISSOULA –

The University of Montana School of Journalism gave students a total of \$139,000 in scholarships and awards at the 2012 Dean Stone Awards Banquet on April 20.

The total was a record amount, Dean Peggy Kuhr said.

“Thanks to the continuing generosity of alumni and supporters of the J-school, we’ve been able to help students more than ever,” she said.

Kuhr announced two new funds for students. The Blumberg Fund, named for former dean and Professor Nathaniel Blumberg, will encourage students to pursue investigative reporting. Alum Rich Kaudy ’76 established the endowed fund to honor Blumberg as an outstanding, demanding and compelling professor. Blumberg, who died mid-February, was dean of the journalism school from 1956 to 1968 and a full-time professor until 1978.

The Thayer Fund was established by Dorothy “Marge” Thayer, a philanthropist, poet and career woman who died in Helena in 2011. She created the fund to honor her parents, Louis M. Thayer and Dorothy MacLane Thayer, and her father’s newspaper career in Butte and Helena. Proceeds from the fund will assist graduate students in the school’s master’s program in environmental science and natural resource journalism.

A total of 73 journalism and radio-TV majors and graduate students were honored at the Dean Stone Banquet.

“So many of our students do outstanding work for us and show great promise,” Kuhr said. “We’re proud to be able to help them in this way.”

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PK/als

Local

050112stne

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