June 2012 news releases

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HAMILTON –

People interested in working the Bakken oil fields of eastern Montana should attend a new class offered by the Bitterroot College of The University of Montana in Hamilton.

"Bakken Oil and Gas Field Basics" will be offered from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, July 13, or Friday, July 20. The one-day Bitterroot College UM course costs $55 for those registering by July 6 and $65 for those registering thereafter. It will be held in Classroom 1 at 274 Old Corvallis Road in Hamilton.

Call 406-375-0100 or visit http://www2.umt.edu/bcp/documents/BCPContEd-Registration.pdf to enroll.

The BC course is perfect for those wishing to start an oil industry career or simply learn about the current Bakken oil and gas boom. The class offers essential oil-patch terminology, as well as the fundamentals of oil and gas geology.

The course was developed by Plains Energy Technical Resources and originally was offered at Dawson Community College to workers in Glendive. It's a must for anyone interested in working in eastern Montana or western North Dakota. George Furniss, an adjunct geosciences instructor, will teach the class.

For more information visit http://www2.umt.edu/bcp/conted.aspx.

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CBS

State

062912bakn

Contact: Victoria Clark, director, Bitterroot College UM, 406-375-0100, victoria.clark@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

The University of Montana announced the launch of the Montana CleanTech Alliance during the Innovate Montana Innovation & Entrepreneurship Day held June 21.

MCA works to support and enhance growth in the clean-technology industry in Montana by increasing awareness of the state’s existing clean-tech sector. The alliance will help clean-tech companies create jobs, access capital, invest and improve their ability to compete in the global marketplace.

The alliance is a collaborative effort among the Montana World Trade Center, the BitterRoot Economic Development District, the Montana Angel Network and UM’s Office of Technology Transfer. Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer’s Office of Economic Development funded the initiative to launch MCA.

“The existing clean-tech industry cluster in Montana should be attractive to investors, researchers and other companies, especially given Montana’s high national rankings in business start-up activity, educational attainment, overall business climate and tax climate,” said Governor’s Office of Economic Development Executive Director Evan Barrett.

MCA will be part of UM’s Office of Technology Transfer and will support efforts to bridge the gap between the research community and entrepreneurs and the private sector to advance innovation within the Montana clean-tech industry.

“The Montana CleanTech Alliance is a wonderful platform upon which the University can collaborate with both research and private sector communities to stimulate research and economic growth in this expanding global market,” said Joe Fanguy, director of UM’s Office of Technology Transfer.

UM’s Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, which is funded by the National Science Foundation, will help support the MCA over the next several years. The outreach and workforce development effort under EPSCoR focuses on private sector collaborations in conjunction with the Montana Institute on Ecosystems.

For more information visit http://www.mtcleantech.org.

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JS

Local, statewide

062812tech

Contact: Nicole Hagerman Miller, Montana World Trade Center, 406-243-5856, nicole@mwtc.org; Joe Fanguy, UM director of tech transfer, 406-243-2148, joe.fanguy@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

As Americans prepare to celebrate the 236th anniversary of U.S. independence, Grateful Nation Montana will engrave the names of two more servicemen on the Fallen Soldier Memorial at The University of Montana.

The names of Sgt. James D. Riekena of Missoula (killed in action 2007) and Cpl. Antonio "Tony" Burnside of Great Falls (killed in action 2012) will be added to the memorial on Thursday, June 28. They will be the 41st and 42nd soldiers recognized by the memorial, which honors soldiers from Montana who have paid the ultimate price in service to their country while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Formed in 2007, Grateful Nation Montana facilitates college educations for the children of soldiers killed on active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. The organization gifted the Fallen Soldier Memorial to UM on Nov. 4, 2011.

“We mourn the deaths and celebrate the lives of these two fine young men by adding them in advance of Independence Day,” said David Bell, GNM co-founder and president. “They will join the names of our other Montana heroes so that future generations will always remember the sacrifice they made for our freedom.”

The Fallen Soldier Memorial features five larger-than life bronze statues surrounded by 42 12-by-24-inch granite tablets recessed in the ground that contain the name, branch, rank, years lived and Montana hometown of each fallen veteran. The memorial is adjacent to Don Anderson Hall and the Social Science Building on the UM campus.

Bob Jordan with Garden City Monument Services will engrave the names at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, and the process will take several hours.

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DB/cbs

State

062712engr

Contact: David Bell, Grateful Nation Montana co-founder, 406-240-9274, dbell@alpsnet.com.
MISSOULA —

University of Montana alumni with a passion for experiential education have created a variety of organizations serving students’ profound desire to get their hands dirty and work, play and learn outdoors.

Their programs complement traditional academic classroom learning with outdoor experience. Six distinct programs, all based in Missoula and primarily founded by alumni of UM’s Environmental Studies Program, allow students to engage in life-changing, hands-on field opportunities.

“Environmental Studies is exceptionally proud of our graduates,” said Len Broberg, director of UM’s program. “Alumni of the Environmental Studies program at UM have not only found careers for themselves and started businesses that create jobs in the community, but also have created outstanding learning opportunities for others in the process.”

Nationally, Missoula is a hub for experiential outdoor education. Not only is the town uniquely situated amidst diverse natural landscapes, but also the University has spawned creative thinkers bent on improving the effectiveness of education about topics ranging from watersheds to wilderness medicine. The School of Extended & Lifelong Learning (SELL) at UM partners with several of these programs to offer undergraduate credit.

For example, Northwest Connections offers Landscape & Livelihood, a field program that integrates natural history, conservation and community while studying the landscape of the Swan Valley. Melanie Parker (UM ’99) and Andrea Stephens (UM ’92) co-created this program 15 years ago and recently launched a new spring program called Wildlife in the West. In addition to teaching field courses, Northwest Connections works in the conservation policy arena, as well as conducting seasonal field work on forest carnivores, grizzlies, westslope cutthroat trout and more.

In addition to wilderness medicine courses, Aerie Backcountry Medicine developed the unique Semester in Wilderness Medicine, which takes place partly in Costa Rica, where students study travel medicine and swiftwater rescue, and partly in Montana’s Blackfoot Valley, where students train for avalanche rescue and complete their emergency medical technician certification. Dave McEvoy (UM ’98) co-founded Aerie while finishing his master’s degree in biology and working as a paramedic.

Wild Rockies Field Institute teaches college programs in Alaska, Yellowstone and across Montana, including the popular Cycle the Rockies course, during which students study climate and energy issues while biking across Montana. Three UM alumni – Matt Thomas (UM ’91), Dave Havlick (UM ’91) and Tim Bechtold (UM ’91) – founded WRFI, and many alumni instruct for the nonprofit.

Ecology Project International, co-founded by Scott Pankratz (UM ’00), offers field science and cultural exchange programs in Montana, Mexico, Costa Rica and the Galapagos Islands. Their unique programs partner U.S. high school students with peers and scientists from Central and South American host communities. Pankratz credits his experience at UM with helping him develop the foundation for EPI.

Missoula Outdoor Learning Adventures offers outdoor education programs in and around Missoula for all seasons and all ages, with an emphasis on youth. More than a decade ago, Porter Hammitt (UM ’95) recognized the need for more local outdoor education programs. Missoula Outdoor Learning Adventures now operates successful programs for local kids and UM students alike.

Watershed Education Network, co-founded by Wendy Sturgis (UM ’94), is “growing the next generation of watershed stewards.” WEN works with local schoolchildren to monitor stream health in the Missoula, Bitterroot, Clearwater and Swan Valleys. WEN also offers several opportunities for UM students to volunteer, work as interns and participate in stream monitoring projects. Each of these programs occupies a distinct niche in the outdoor education market and all employ UM graduates and offer courses and internships for UM students.

Because students have shown such enthusiasm for these experiential education courses, SELL has decided to make a sampling of the best courses available to the community starting next year. Noncredit versions of field courses are being designed for an audience that loves the outdoors and loves to learn but doesn’t need university credit. These courses, collectively called Experience Montana, will be available in 2013.

To learn more about these and other courses offered through UM’s School of Extended & Lifelong Learning, call Candi Merrill at 406-243-6431 or email candi.merrill@umontana.edu.
For more information from the UM alumni, email:

Melanie Parker, melanie@northwestconnections.org
Andrea Stephens, andrea@northwestconnections.org
Dave McEvoy, dave@aeriemed.com
Laurie Schleub, laurie@wildrockies.org
Scott Pankratz, scott@ecologyproject.org
Porter Hammitt, porter@missoulaoutdoors.com

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

Missoula businessman Jim Auger says his father instilled in him the significance of contributing on a local and personal level. Auger committed $2 million of his estate to the University of Montana School of Business Administration with his father in mind.

“I have come to realize how right he was,” Auger said of his gift, which will provide for undergraduate, renewable scholarships. These will be awarded to business majors and will cover tuition, fees and books for several students each year. Scholarship recipients will be required to volunteer a minimum of 120 hours each academic year with a charitable organization that provides services to underprivileged members of society.

“Through establishment of this endowment, it is my intention to inspire young people to engage in service to their communities,” Auger said. “In addition, I hope that the required volunteer service will help recipients develop a deeper compassion for those less fortunate and a lifelong commitment to elevate those in our society who are often marginalized.”

Auger, a 1982 graduate of the business school, says his UM education led him to a successful career as a corporate executive and eventually back to Missoula, where he co-owns the Dairy Queen on South Higgins Avenue, one of the community’s iconic restaurants. Auger has employed many high school and college students over the years at the Dairy Queen.

Through his endowment, he wants to give students more than financial support. He wants to give them the feeling that comes from helping someone else.

“What I would like to accomplish with this scholarship is to help open students’ eyes to that part of our society which is so much less fortunate than they are,” he said. “It is also my hope that these business students might come to understand that true success in the business world is measured by whether or not they made a difference.”

Business school Dean Larry Gianchetta says Auger’s gift is particularly meaningful because it comes from such a passionate donor who has wanted for many years to contribute significantly to the University.

“This gift is truly special, and it is a wonderful opportunity for our students,” Gianchetta said. “The whole notion of being good citizens through civic engagement is a huge part of educational growth.”

Auger hopes his gift will leave a legacy of well-educated business students and a community uplifted by the volunteer efforts of these students.

“Since becoming involved with the Higgins Avenue Dairy Queen, I have had the privilege to work with some of the brightest and hardest-working young people in Missoula,” he said. “Having no children of my own, this scholarship gives me a chance to say thanks.”

The UM Foundation works with alumni and friends to plan their legacy gifts. To find out how to make a meaningful contribution, call 406-243-2593 or visit http://SupportUM.org.

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Contact: Beth Hammock, UM Foundation vice president for strategic communications and marketing, 406-243-4609, beth.hammock@mso.umt.edu; Larry Gianchetta, dean, UM School of Business Administration, 406-243-6195, larry.gianchetta@business.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

Students in The University of Montana School of Journalism have produced a program focusing on sexual assault in the Missoula community, which will air on KUFM-FM Montana Public Radio at 7:30 p.m., Monday, June 25.

“The Footbridge Forum: Without Consent” originally aired this spring as a series of live programs on KBGA College Radio. The program educates listeners and a citizen panel on the issue of rape. Panelists then work toward solutions and offer those suggestions to people in a position to make change.

Students conducted research, produced stories and hosted the panelists in a wide-ranging discussion. Panelists ultimately came up with a list of suggestions for citizens, victims, students, athletes, agencies, administrators, law enforcement and the media. Those original programs have now been condensed to a one-hour program for air across western Montana.

The original programs can be found online at www.footbridgeforum.org along with a list of suggestions for various stakeholders.

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DD/ab
062112rdio
Western Montana

Contact: Denise Dowling, associate professor and chair, UM Department of Radio-Television, 406-243-4143, denise.dowling@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

During the India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue held June 12, in Washington, D.C., Secretary of State Hilary Clinton discussed the importance of growing relationships between the United States and India. The dialogue aimed to encourage vibrant and deep cooperation between the education sectors of the two countries.

The University of Montana recognizes the need to strengthen its relationship with India’s institutions of higher education, faculty and students, and can point to several recent accomplishments and activities:

- **UM awarded Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative program grant on June 12.**

  During the recent India-U.S. Higher Education Dialogue, Secretary Clinton announced UM as one of the four grant recipients in the inaugural round of the Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative program. The program’s primary purposes are to encourage mutual understanding, educational reform, economic growth and to develop junior faculty.

  The University’s successful $250,000 proposal, “Impacts of Climate Change and Changes in Socio-Economic Structure on Traditional Agriculture and the Development of Sustainable Communities Among Indigenous Populations,” will be carried out in partnership with Bangalore University over the next three years.

  UM, Cornell, Rutgers and the University of Michigan were the only U.S. institutions selected this year to receive an initial award.

  For more information on UM’s involvement in the Obama-Singh Knowledge Initiative call Gerald Fetz, acting director for UM’s Office of International Programs, at 406-243-5201 or email fetzga@mso.umt.edu.

- **UM teacher candidates head to South India for student teaching practicum.**

  UM recently established a partnership with Kodaikanal International School in Kodaikanal, India, to afford UM teacher candidates the option of conducting their 16-week, student-teaching practicum at that institution. UM students will begin student teaching at Kodaikanal in spring 2013.

  KIS is a boarding school that educates grades P-12. Students and staff from more than 30 countries share in a multicultural residential experience intentionally set within community life. The pupils of this school are diverse in ethnicity, economic status and religious beliefs. KIS combines a challenging academic program with a rich range of extracurricular activities. International baccalaureate and American curricula are offered to about 600 students.

  Three UM teacher candidates will join KIS in January, including elementary education major Stephanie Herther from Aberdeen, S.D., and secondary English teacher candidates Ashley Gaumer from Missoula and Rachel Dunn from Monroeville, Ala.

  The KIS student-teaching option is just one of the efforts recently undertaken by UM’s Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences to globalize teacher training.

  "Because we live in an interdependent world with a global economy, future teachers must be ready to compete in the global marketplace," said Nancy Marra, director of the Office of Field Experiences in the College of Education. “The College’s efforts correlate well with UM’s Global Leadership Initiative.”

  The initiative aims to provide students across campus the coursework, out-of-classroom experiences, guidance and the support necessary to become leaders for the global century.

  For more information on the UM and the KIS partnership, call Marra at 406-243-5581 or email nancy.marra@umontana.edu.

- **UM’s Global Grizzlies will complete a service project in New Delhi, India, this summer.**
Nine Global Grizzly students will be in New Delhi throughout most of June and into July. They have been placed in volunteer positions that focus on health-related projects.

As humanitarian ambassadors from UM, Global Grizzlies strive to bring aid to developing countries around the world. Its members also seek to gain invaluable experience outside the classroom.

As in previous years, the intent of this year’s Global Grizzlies trip is for participants to experience a new culture, language and country and also gain a new understanding and compassion for our world.

“The Global Grizzlies are excited to continue our tradition of service in a country with so much culture, diversity and history,” said Ben Demarois, Global Grizzlies student president. “India is a country we have talked about in the past, but to finally get the chance to volunteer in the country will be a great adventure. Hopefully, UM students will get the chance to change the lives of Indian people, as well as their own.”

The ASUM student organization is based in UM’s Davidson Honors College. For more information about the Global Grizzlies program, call Dean James McKusick at 406-243-2541 or email dhc@umontana.edu.

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UM’s Office of International Programs sends faculty members to India.

Five UM faculty members recently received support from UM’s Office of International Programs to conduct activities in India through its International Activity Funding program.

Faculty members submitted applications for funding to engage in short-term collaborative activities overseas. The faculty members chosen for India projects will supervise a UM student’s dissertation work, study and collect information from a film institute archive, attend a conference, conduct research and develop courses and opportunities for students.

“This support from International Programs will enable Curriculum and Instruction to expand opportunities for student teaching in India,” said Matthew Schertz, UM Education College professor. “This is an exciting opportunity for our students, and we look forward to the prospect of collaborating with other International Baccalaureate schools and universities in the world’s largest democracy.”

Traditionally, faculty and staff apply for the International Activity Funding program twice a year — once during spring semester and once during autumn semester.

For more information on the International Activity Funding program or to learn about other ways the Office of International Programs helps foster UM’s relationships with India, call Peter Baker, international program development officer, at 406-243-6142 or email peter.baker@mso.umt.edu.

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PB/all
Local, hometown media
061812idia

Contact: Peter Baker, international program development officer, International Programs, 406-243-6142, peter.baker@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

Radio-television students in the School of Journalism at The University of Montana recently earned four student Emmy awards.

The National Association of Television Arts and Sciences’ Northwest Chapter presented the awards at the Snoqualmie Resort and Casino on June 2. UM students took top honors in the news, sports, cultural affairs and long-form nonfiction categories.

Stories produced as part of “UM News,” a weekly news short aired on Missoula’s KPAX-TV, won in the news, sports and cultural affairs categories. The entries were compilations of stories aired during autumn semester and featured news involving UM students, faculty and staff.

The winning news entry included stories on coal trains, UM’s new veteran memorial and a magazine produced by homeless people. The winning sports entry featured cross-country runner Ani Haas’ return to running after a bear attack, the UM women’s soccer team and downtown Missoula’s Shred Fest. In cultural affairs, students earned an Emmy for stories that include UM’s inaugural Undie Run, a pumpkin hurling contest and a fair trade coffee enterprise.

Students generate story ideas and then research, shoot, interview, write and edit the video productions. Faculty members Denise Dowling and Ray Ekness advised the students.

The 2011 student documentary, “Connecting the 406,” won in the long-form nonfiction category. The documentary took a critical look at the impact of the Internet and technology on Montana. The film examines technology’s impact on schools, businesses and personal interaction around the state. Adjunct Professors Gita Saedi-Kiely and John Twiggs supervised the production.

UM students competed against other journalism students from across the Northwest including schools from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska and Montana.

UM senior Alexandra Schwier of Bozeman also was honored during the awards ceremony for winning the inaugural Tricia Moen Scholarship. The scholarship honors a student with the potential to excel in television newscast producing. Schwier has worked at the Montana Television Network since high school, both in Bozeman and Missoula.

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DD/all
State, hometown
061312emmy

Contact: Denise Dowling, associate professor and chair, UM Department of Radio-Television, 406-243-4143, denise.dowling@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

Jeffrey Good, a researcher in the Division of Biological Sciences at The University of Montana, was part of an international team that sequenced and analyzed the genome of the bonobo, a great ape species resembling chimpanzees that is closely related to humans.

The research was led by the Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany. Good began working on the genome project while completing postdoctoral research at the institute.

The new research was published June 13 on Nature magazine’s website at http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature11128.html.

“Our understanding of the biology of bonobos has lagged behind that of the other great apes, in part due to their remote and restricted distribution,” Good said. “In addition to providing general insights into human and great ape evolution, the bonobo genome also provides a powerful resource for future genetic studies on this endangered and seldom-studied species.”

Good said the genome sequence gives insights into the evolutionary relationships between the great apes and may help scientists understand the genetic basis of these traits.

The genome was sequenced from Ulindi, a female bonobo who lives in the Zoo Leipzig. Genome sequences already have been generated from all other great apes – chimpanzee, orangutan and gorilla – making this the final genome of a great ape to be sequenced.

The comparison of the genome sequences of bonobos, chimpanzees and humans show that humans differ by about 1.3 percent from both bonobos and chimpanzees. Chimpanzees and bonobos are more closely related, differing by only 0.4 percent.

Bonobo and chimpanzee territories in central Africa are close to one another, separated only by the Congo River. Researchers hypothesize that the formation of the Congo River separated the ancestors of chimpanzees and bonobos, leading to these distinct apes. Examination of the relationship between bonobos and chimpanzees shows a clean split and no subsequent interbreeding, which supports this hypothesis.

Despite the fact that on average the genomes of bonobos and chimpanzees are equally distant from human, analysis of the genome sequence of the bonobo revealed that for some particular parts of the genome humans are more closely related to bonobos than to chimpanzees, while in other regions the human genome is closer to chimpanzees.

Further research will determine whether these regions contribute in any way to the behavioral differences and similarities between humans, chimpanzees and bonobos. Bonobos, which together with chimpanzees are the closest living relatives of humans, are known for their peaceful, playful and sexual behavior that contrasts with the more aggressive behavior of chimpanzees.

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NOTE: Another Nature article on this research is here: http://www.nature.com/news/hippie-chimp-genome-sequenced-1.10822.

CBS
Local, Western Montana, dailies
061312apes

Contact: Jeffrey Good, UM biology assistant professor, 406-243-5771, jeffrey.good@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

Pearl Jam will perform Sunday, Sept. 30, in the Adams Center at The University of Montana. Special guest Mudhoney will open the show, which kicks off at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets will cost $55, plus fees. They will go on sale at 10 a.m. Friday, June 22, at the Adams Center Box Office, The Source in the University Center, Worden’s Market, Southgate Mall and the MSO Hub. They also will be available online at http://www.griztix.com or by calling 406-243-4051 or 888-MONTANA.

A ticket presale for active members of Pearl Jam’s fan club, Ten Club, began June 12 and runs through Thursday, June 14. Full details are at http://www.pearljam.com.

Pearl Jam’s Missoula show marks the band’s only U.S. non-festival date for 2012, as well as their last scheduled performance for the year. Earlier in the month, Pearl Jam will headline three U.S. festivals – Made in America, DeLuna Fest and Music Midtown.

Pearl Jam last performed in Missoula in August 2005, when they hosted a fundraising concert for Democratic politician Jon Tester, Pearl Jam bassist Jeff Ament and now-Sen. Tester both hail from Big Sandy, and their families are longtime friends.

Tester’s U.S. Senate campaign will offer premium ticket packages for the concert. Included in these premium packages are choice seats for the concert as well as admission to a preshow event with Tester, Ament and other members of Pearl Jam. Full details are available online at http://jontester.com.

Fans also are encouraged to participate in a first ever “Best Seats in the World” sweepstakes being sponsored by Tester’s re-election campaign. Fans can contribute $10 or any other amount to be automatically entered to win an opportunity to watch Pearl Jam’s show from a seat on stage, along with travel, hotel accommodations and meals, VIP passes to the show and admission to preshow events with Tester, Ament and other members of Pearl Jam. Full details are available on Tester’s website.

In 2011, Pearl Jam celebrated their 20-year anniversary with a destination weekend in Alpine Valley, Wis., and toured Canada, South America, Central America and Mexico. Pearl Jam also released the film “Pearl Jam Twenty” along with an accompanying book and soundtrack as part of the 20th anniversary celebration.

UM neither sponsors nor endorses any political candidacy or message at this concert event.

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CBS State

061212pjam

Contact: UM Productions, 406-243-6661, .
MISSOULA –

University of Montana senior Clark Hodges of Billings placed third in the national William Randolph Hearst Journalism Competition held in San Francisco earlier this month.

Hodges earned an all-expenses paid trip to the live competition by placing in a preliminary round in the radio reporting category. All five radio finalists were flown to San Francisco, given a topic, cab fare and one day to produce a radio story on privacy in the digital age.

Hodges explored the notion that mobile telephones have become more like wallets because of their ability to hold information about bank accounts, credit cards and passwords. Hodges spoke with people who had lost their phones and a cell phone company representative about how to protect information stored on a digital device. His work earned him a trophy and $3,000 at the culmination of the competition held June 4-8.

The Hearst Awards are known as the Pulitzer Prizes of college journalism and feature competitions in writing, photography, radio, television and multimedia. Students from accredited schools of journalism compete in contests throughout the academic year. Twenty-nine students were invited to compete in the 52nd annual national competition based on their performance in the preliminary competitions.

UM placed ninth overall in the year-long contest. The Hearst Journalism Awards program was founded in 1960 to provide support and encouragement for college journalism programs and students. More than $500,000 in prize money was awarded to students and their schools in the 2011-2012 academic year.

Hodges graduated from UM last month. He is the son of Jill and Dean Hodges of Billings.

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DD/all

Local, hometown

061212hodg

Contact: Denise Dowling, associate professor and chair of the UM Department of Radio-Television, 406-243-4143, denise.dowling@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

Jody Pavilack, associate professor of history at the University of Montana, has won an international award and a significant regional award for her book “Mining for the Nation: The Politics of Chile’s Coal Communities from the Popular Front to the Cold War.”

The book received the 2012 Bryce Wood Award for outstanding book on Latin America in the social sciences and humanities published in English over an 18-month period. The Bryce Wood Award is the highest book honor given by the Latin American Studies Association and is one of the most prestigious accolades a scholar of Latin America in the areas of humanities or social sciences can receive.

Pavilack accepted the award at the 30th International Congress of the LASA held in San Francisco in May. LASA is the largest professional organization in the world for individuals and institutions engaged in the study of Latin America.

In March Pavilack’s book also won the prestigious Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies Thomas McGann Award for outstanding monograph by a member.

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JS

Local

061212latn

Contact: Jody Pavilack, UM associate professor of history, 406-243-2234, jody.pavilack@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

Construction of the Otter Creek coal mine would significantly boost Montana jobs, household income and tax revenues as the Asian demand for the resource expands, according to an economic impact study conducted by economists Patrick Barkey and Paul Potzin of The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

According to the report, “The Impact of Otter Creek Coal Development on the Montana Economy,” construction of the Otter Creek mine proposed by Arch Coal, new rail development and related infrastructure represents a total investment approaching $1 billion.

During the permitting and construction phase, the project is expected to create 2,648 construction jobs in Montana in the peak building year, with most new jobs created in Eastern Montana, the study found. Statewide impacts on income for Montana households during the peak construction year would be similarly substantial, with $103.5 million of new personal income generated. In Eastern Montana total household earnings would increase more than 8 percent.

BBER’s study found that Otter Creek would generate substantial economic impacts during the operations phase as well. About 1,740 new permanent, year-round jobs would be created in the Montana economy while the mine is operating, increasing household income by $125.4 million per year. The overall state population would increase by 2,850 people and the school-aged population by more than 560 students.

Otter Creek mine operations would raise state and local tax revenue by almost $92 million per year, due to both coal-specific taxes and growth in the overall tax base, the study found.

BBER director and study co-author Barkey notes that though domestic markets are unlikely to provide significant growth for Montana coal, demand in China is projected to swell rapidly and drive Otter Creek’s fate.

“The anticipated increase in coal demand in China between 2010 and 2035 is more than twice the current U.S. production of coal, and Southeast Asia does not have sufficient capacity to satisfy this growth,” Barkey said. “Because Montana coal fields are closer to Northwest ports than those in Wyoming, Montana has a geographic advantage in serving fast-growing Asian markets.”

The Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the UM is a research center producing economic and industry data for Montana. For more information go online to http://www.bber.umt.edu/.

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

The spring edition of Montana Field Notes, a University of Montana e-publication filled with stunning photography, can be found online at http://issuu.com/caitlyn.walsh/docs/umfieldnotesspring12.

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 latest edition offers stories titled “Montana East of the Mountains,” “Keeping up with the College of Forestry and Conservation” and “The Lubrecht Experimental Forest.” It also features an article by former UM President George Dennison about how to rejuvenate the middle class and a book review of a work that describes Montana’s major mountain peaks.

Two editions of Montana Field Notes are published each academic year.

The 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.

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.
MISSOULA -

At The University of Montana, 3,094 students made the spring semester 2012 Dean’s List. To qualify for the Dean’s List, students must be undergraduates, earn a semester grade average of 3.5 or higher and receive grades of A or B in at least nine credits. No grades of C+, C-, D+, D, D-, F, NC or NCR are allowed.

To view the complete Dean's List for spring semester 2012, visit http://www.umt.edu/urelations/info/DeansListSpring2012.pdf

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NOTE: The UM students listed below made the spring semester 2012 Dean's List. A "**" in the "Honors" column indicates a grade-point average of 4.0. An "***" indicates a GPA of greater than 3.5 but less than 4.0 was earned.

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Contact: UM Registrar's Office, 406-243-2995,
MISSOULA –

Any day now two osprey chicks will emerge from their eggs, which have been diligently cared for by an adult pair nesting in their high perch above the Dunrovin Guest Ranch in Lolo.

For the past 10 years, this same pair has fledged one to three young per year. Now thanks to a partnership between The University of Montana and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the entire world can watch these iconic birds bring up their young.

When the Cornell Lab, a Cornell University-affiliated world leader in the study and conservation of birds, expressed interest in partnering with UM on this webcam project, Professor Erick Greene and researcher Heiko Langner were thrilled.

“These cameras are a way to engage the public and to have the entire world view the ospreys we are researching,” Greene said. “It is an incredible opportunity for the world to gain an intimate perspective of an iconic Montana bird.”

In fact, the Dunrovin Guest Ranch osprey, along with a pair nesting above Riverside Health Center along the Clark Fork River, have been “reality TV stars” for just about a year. UM’s Department of Geosciences hosts the cameras to help researchers study the way mercury moves through the food chain in the Clark Fork River basin.

It was the quality of the images from the two high-resolution cameras that initially grabbed the interest of the Cornell Lab. Charles Eldermire, BirdCams project leader at the lab, is charged with finding sites all over the world to expand the BirdCams project so that anyone can observe avian behavior during breeding season.

“Our bird cams offer an intimate perspective into the everyday lives of birds, providing something at once both ordinary and extraordinary,” Eldermire said.

A 2002 UM alum with a master’s degree in biology, Eldermire studied behavioral ecology of mixed-species flocks of birds with Greene and UM Professor Dick Hutto. Familiar with UM’s Project Osprey research and impressed with the Missoula-area webcam quality, the Montana ospreys were a great fit for his expanding program.

When Cornell picked up UM’s 24/7 video feeds last Friday, their highly trafficked site offered the entire world a rare glimpse of the nest’s happenings during this special season.

“We’ve had hundreds of daily viewers—some of them as far away as Australia and Japan,” Greene said. “Even schools are broadcasting the live feed to their entire student body.”

While the world looks on, the UM scientists are learning about the health of local rivers by studying what the ospreys bring back to the nest and feed their chicks.

Because of their top position in the food web, ospreys are useful indicators of local environmental conditions. Young ospreys only eat fish their parents catch within a few miles of the nest, so these young birds reflect the condition of the local fish population, which in turn are indicators of river health.

When the baby birds are about 25 days old, the researchers will use a roofing-lift vehicle to ascend to the nest to band the chicks and to collect very small blood and feather samples. The samples will be analyzed for environmental toxins back in Langner’s laboratory. The UM researchers partner in this effort with Rob Domenech, director of Raptor View Research Institute and a local raptor expert, and Dave Taylor, local roofing-business owner and citizen scientist.

So far the UM team is alarmed by what their studies have found. While the world might view the stunning Montana backdrop as pristine, Greene and Langner are discovering otherwise. They have found extremely high levels of mercury, a potent neurotoxin, in the osprey chicks along some parts of the Clark Fork River. Now their focus is to determine the long-term effects of these contaminants on ospreys and the ecosystem in general.

“We hope that these nest cams bring a larger awareness of overall river health to the folks watching,” said Greene. “Once citizens feel a connection to this species, we hope there will be a heightened desire for protecting the resource upon which they depend.”
The Dunrovin Guest Ranch hatchings can be viewed live online at [http://www.allaboutbirds.org/ospreys](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/ospreys). The Hellgate webcam’s live stream can be viewed at [http://www.cas.umt.edu/geosciences//faculty/langner/Osprey/montanaosprey4t/index.html](http://www.cas.umt.edu/geosciences//faculty/langner/Osprey/montanaosprey4t/index.html).

For more information about the Cornell Lab or the worldwide BirdCams project, email Eldermire at [nestcams@cornell.edu](mailto:nestcams@cornell.edu).

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Contact: Erick Greene, professor, UM Wildlife Biology Program, 406-243-2179, [erick.greene@umontana.edu](mailto:erick.greene@umontana.edu).
MISSOULA –

The Wilderness Institute at The University of Montana invites citizen monitors to help collect scientific data this summer from two wilderness study areas in the backcountry of the Lewis and Clark National Forest in central Montana.

The Citizen Science monitoring program will take place in the Big Snowy Mountains and Middle Fork Judith River Wilderness Study Areas. This year’s effort is in collaboration with the Lewis and Clark National Forest and completes the institute’s initial efforts to record the conditions in each of Montana’s seven congressionally designated wilderness study areas.

Experienced trip leaders will guide small groups of volunteers on backcountry trips throughout the study areas to gather data on invasive species, recreation impacts and wilderness character. The trips range from three to five days and will be held throughout July and August.

Trip locations and dates are:

- **Friday-Monday, June 29-July 2, Heart of the Middle Fork Judith:** Explore pristine tributaries in the heart of the Middle Fork Judith River WSA.
- **Saturday-Monday, July 7-9, Peaks in the Little Belts:** Enjoy stunning panoramic views from high peaks in the Little Belt Mountains.
- **Friday-Monday, July 13-16, Ridges and Canyons of the Middle Fork:** Traverse the high ridges and deep canyons of this spectacular river country.
- **Friday-Tuesday, July 20-24, Greathouse Peak and Beyond:** Explore the backbone of the Big Snowy Mountains and summit Greathouse Peak.
- **Thursday-Monday, Aug. 2-6, Big Snowy Mountains Ridge Walk:** Traverse the scenic spine of this island range, ice caves, creek canyons and more.
- **Friday-Sunday, Aug. 10-12, Peaks of the Big Snowy Mountains:** Summit Lost Peak and Lime Cave Peak while exploring the Big Snowies WSA.
- **Friday-Monday, Aug. 17-20, Crystal Lake and Devil’s Chute Cave:** Take in Crystal Lake, Devil’s Chute Cave and Crystal Cascades waterfall.

The U.S. Forest Service is tasked with maintaining the wilderness character of these areas but doesn’t always have the manpower to assess how the areas are faring, according to the institute’s Citizen Science Program Director Catherine Filardi. Since 2009, the institute has partnered with the Forest Service and local communities to document on-the-ground conditions in Montana’s wilderness study areas.

“Agencies struggle to get a handle on what’s going on across these large landscapes with fairly limited budgets, and citizen monitors can help fill in those information gaps by being the eyes and ears on the ground,” Filardi said.

“This year’s trips will visit two island ranges in central Montana while covering every trail mile within the two study areas,” Filardi said. “It’s a great way to get into the backcountry with a fun group of people while collecting information needed to care for these landscapes.”

This is the Wilderness Institute’s eighth year running Citizen Science projects in designated wilderness and wilderness study areas. During that time, the program has worked with more than 300 volunteers to conduct monitoring and restoration in seven wilderness areas and five wilderness study areas in Montana and Idaho.

Funding for the project is provided by the National Forest Foundation, the Forest Service and the Cinnabar Foundation.

More information about the Citizen Science Program and trip details is on the Wilderness Institute website at [http://www.cfc.umt.edu/w/citizen_science.html](http://www.cfc.umt.edu/w/citizen_science.html). To sign up for a trip, call 406-243-5361 or email citizenscience@cfc.umt.edu.
Citizen Scientists To Monitor Wilderness Study Areas - UM News - The University Of Montana

Contact: Flynn Marie, UM Wilderness Institute Citizen Science Program outreach coordinator, 406-243-5361, citizenscience@cfc.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

The University Center at The University of Montana invites campus and community members to submit proposals for The Catalyst–Student Leadership Conference 2012, which will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6.

Participants will learn how to transform group energy in any organization or situation. The conference aims to empower participants to use their leadership resources to be effective, personal leaders with a global perspective.

Organizers encourage faculty, staff, students and community members to share their experiences and knowledge about leadership by submitting a proposal to be a presenter. Presentations should be 50 to 90 minutes long and priority will be given to proposals that deliver a diverse range of topics within the four conference learning tracks. Learning tracks include:

- foundations.
- leaders as individuals.
- leading in a group.
- leading in a global perspective.

Applications for proposals will be open until Sept. 18. Instructions on how to present or to register for the 2012 conference can be found online at http://life.umt.edu/uc/ucsi/leadership/default.php.

The conference is free and open to all UM students and young leaders in the community, and lunch is included. Participants will submit a question or issues they would like to see addressed during the conference when they register so that presenters can cater accordingly.

The conference will be based on the Social Change Model of Leadership and will offer a variety of workshops for all levels and abilities. Attendees will be able to individualize their learning experience throughout the day by choosing which sessions to attend.

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Contact: Maureen Ward, program adviser, UM Griz Lead Program, 406-243-2005, maureen.ward@mso.umt.edu; Julie DeSoto, student coordinator, UC Student Involvement Network, 406-243-5622, julie.desoto@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA —

A Carousel for Missoula will hold the first-ever Griz Day at the Carousel on Saturday, June 16.

University of Montana Grizzly football players will be at the Carousel to meet and talk with fans from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The players will arrive on a staggered schedule, so there will be new faces throughout the event. Five athletes from the team will show up at 11 a.m., and then five more will replace those players at 1 p.m.

The UM Athletics Department and A Carousel for Missoula are providing a limited number of items to be given away to attendees. A silent auction including a signed football, a signed basketball from the men's team, and a signed photo from Marc Mariani will be offered.

"Jacob Haas, one of the Grizzly football players, came up with this idea to help the Carousel," says Theresa Cox, executive director of A Carousel for Missoula. "Lots of his teammates have agreed to be part of the fun and the UM Athletic Department has been very helpful.

"We are really grateful to Townsquare Media, Mountain Broadcasting and the Montana Marketing Group for helping us get out the word about the event. This town is crazy about its Grizzlies, and we want everyone to have the opportunity to meet their favorite football players."

Haas, a 6-5, 225-pound senior tight end, is a two-year letterman from Portland, Ore., who played in several games last season primarily on special teams, and then was forced to miss the last half of the 2011 season after suffering an injury.

"We expect 10 to 12 players to attend the event, and it will be a great chance for us to spend time with the kids in our community, and have them get to know us without our pads on," Haas said.

Contact: UM Athletics Department, 406-243-4749.
MISSOULA —

The University of Montana's spectrUM Discovery Area will host its Third Annual Weird Science Dance Party from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, June 8, in Missoula's Caras Park. Admission is free.

The event will feature live music from the Whizpops, Animal Wonders, WonderBrush face painting, Monte the UM mascot, G. Wiz the science guy, DJ HAuLi, spectrUM science experiments and much more.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

Proceeds from a silent auction featuring products and services from local vendors and businesses will benefit spectrUM's Science for All Scholarship Fund. Each year the fund allows more than 800 Montana school children in need to experience the wonder and magic of spectrUM. Money raised from last year's Weird Science Dance Party helped students attend spectrUM summer camps, field trips and science clubs! It also allowed the organization to expand K-12 outreach throughout rural and tribal Montana.

Weird Science Dance Party sponsors are Montana Radio Co., Lambert Family Chiropractic, the McCubbin Family, Optimystical Studio, Mamalode, Allied Waste, Missoula Pediatric Dentistry, Children's Dentistry of the Rockies, Western Montana Clinic and Heffernan Consulting.

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, visit http://www.spectrum.umt.edu or call 406-243-4828.

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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.
MISSOULA –

The University of Montana’s Mansfield Library will host a free workshop, “Grant-Seeking Basics with the Foundation Directory Online Professional” and “Proposal-Writing Basics,” from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, June 21, in Room 283 in the library.

Kief Schladweiler, coordinator of Cooperating Collections at the national Foundation Center, will lead the session. He will highlight the electronic and print resources available for free at the Mansfield Library.

UM’s library is a Cooperating Collection of the Foundation Center, a leading worldwide source of data, analysis and training on philanthropy.

Seating is limited and advanced registration is first-come, first-served. Registration is available online at http://www.lib.umt.edu/forms/grant/. Email linder.schlang@umontana.edu for more information.

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Contact: Linder Schlang, reference technician, UM Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, 406-243-5869, linder.schlang@umontana.edu.